



Community mourns dedicated NCO

By Mark Heeter

The Dagger Brigade and Schweinfurt military community gathered yesterday for a memorial service in the Ledward Chapel to honor 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Ray McKinney, who died of a gunshot wound in Baghdad, Iraq, July 11.

McKinney, 40, was the senior noncommissioned officer in Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, and was on his second deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom at the time of his death.

“How can words describe a man’s life and how he has affected so many people’s lives,” asked 1st Sgt. Kevin Floyd, in remarks conveyed at the chapel service by Staff Sgt. Lamont Baeringer.

Floyd, who met McKinney when they were both staff sergeants at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., identified Soldiers’ favorite two pastimes for the cadre at JRTC: drinking and

fishing.

“We did a lot of both,” he said. The old friends were re-united in Schweinfurt in 2003, when Floyd helped McKinney get assigned to the Blue Spaders.

“Jeff and I shared many of the same ideas about both Army and family,” Floyd said, recalling how the two fought together in their first OIF rotation.

“I watched him take it to the enemy on a daily basis,” he said, noting that his old friend was one of the first people to come and visit him when he lost four Soldiers to a vehicle-borne improvised exploding device.

“Those who really knew Jeff know how generous he could be,” Floyd said.

“I will never forget how he touched my life,” he added. “He was always there, through the best of times and the worst of times.”

Capt. Jesse Greaves, who shared the company leadership positions with

McKinney, called him “well-loved and well-respected,” in a eulogy read at the service by Capt. Jacob White



McKinney

“The relationship between a commander and first sergeant is often the closest and most difficult to develop, Greaves said.

“No matter what, 1st Sgt. McKinney was a role model,” he said. “The world is a better place because of his dedication and sacrifice.”

McKinney is survived by his wife, Christina; his sons, Jeremy and James; his mother, Kay Watson; and his father, Charles

Pace offers Families gratitude, explanations

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke with a standing-room only crowd of about 400 Soldiers, Family members and civilians at the Community Club on Conn Barracks Friday.

After spending time in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pace stopped in Schweinfurt to talk to the Families of Soldiers whose combat tours were extended from 12 to 15 months earlier this year.

“I owe you that. I owe you an explanation about how I got to the point where I made the decision, the recommendation to the secretary and the president to extend to 15 months,” he said, after taking the first few minutes of the town hall meeting to express his sincere gratitude to everyone there for their service to the country.



Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, answers a question during the town hall meeting here Friday.

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News Briefs

Housing hours change

Customer Service at the Leighton Barracks Housing Office, will change effective August 1, 2007. After this date, housing representatives will be available on Leighton Barracks by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Schweinfurt Housing Office, 354-6448/6712 or 09721-96-6448/6712.

Autism support group

A support group for those living with and autism, either in themselves or a family member, meets the last Friday of every month at the Ledward Army Community Service Center from 10 a.m. to noon. The next meeting will be this Friday. Come meet others who understand what you're going through, and learn more about available resources. Childcare is available with early registration. Call 354-6933 for more information.

CAV call-in with AFN

Members of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry will call in Monday morning at 7 a.m. to speak with Sgt. Jonathan McDonald of AFN radio. Turn your dial to AM 1143 and hear the latest news about the Airborne Cavalry straight from the Soldiers' mouths. This weekly show will feature 1-91 once every four weeks.

MSZ and SKIES move

Leighton Youth Services will be moving from Bldg 77 to Bldg 153. The 1st official day of business in Bldg 153 will be August 6. The new telephone number will be 350-6828, or 0931-889-6828. Hours will remain the same. Leighton SKIES Program Classes will be moving from Bldg 77 to Bldg 153. The 1st official day of classes in Bldg 153 will be August 6. Class hours will remain the same. Please continue to pay for classes at Schweinfurt Central Registration or Leighton Child Development Center.

Casting Call

The USAG Schweinfurt community theater will hold an open casting call Wednesday and Thursday next week at 6 p.m. in the Abrams Club. Male and female actors, as well as production staff are needed. The play "Last Respects" is to be entered in the One Act Play Festival in Heidelberg. No experience necessary. Call 0162-296-2776 for more information.

Coaches' clinic

The USAG Schweinfurt will host U.S. Soccer Federation associate trainer Bob Bausum for a series of clinics to train soccer officials August 2-4 at Ledward Gymnasium. Classes will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thurs. and Fri., and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Officials must be 18 years or older, but the clinic is free. Call 354-6882 for more information.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk Trash pickups will be conducted Tuesday in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village and all government leased housing. There are NO pickups scheduled for Ledward Barracks, Conn Barracks or any of the training areas. All residents must ensure that bulk trash items are outside by their trash collection point prior to 7 a.m. Tuesday. Do NOT put items out earlier than Monday. Any questions please call the SORT Coordinator Brad Posey, 354-6201 or 09721-96-6201.

USO needs volunteer

The United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) is looking for an Information and Referral Volunteer. Successful applicant will be a US ID card holder with strong customer service skills, experience is a plus. German speaking skills are not required but preferred. Please contact the USO Schweinfurt at Ledward Barracks, inside the Café Rohr for an application.

First BOSS meeting

The USAG Schweinfurt Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program will have its 1st meeting Thursday, August 2, 3-5 p.m. in the Finney Recreation Center. This is your opportunity to shape your BOSS program, as well as meet your representatives and colleagues. For more information, contact BOSS president Jonathan Conerly at 354-6184.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 31 JULY** --Habits of Successful Investors class, Ledward 9 to 10 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 1 AUG** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Experiencing Fruitful Relationships 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
--Smooth Move seminar. Ledward ACS, from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 2- 4 AUG** --Soccer officials clinic, Finney Fitness Center, from 5 to 8 p.m. Thurs. and Fri., and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6822 for more information.
- 3 AUG** --Teen Summer Stress Buster, Kessler Field, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 354-6933 for info.
- 6 AUG** --Leighton Youth Services and SKIES program begin service in bldg. 153. Call 350-6828.
- 7 AUG** --Coaches meeting for unit level soccer, Finney Fitness Center. Call 354-6822.
- 9-12 AUG** --Bike and Music weekend at Geiselwind, concerts and motor shows. Call 09556-18-18-1.
- 9 AUG** --Ledward ACS "Lunch Bunch," from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 10 AUG** --Last day to register for fall sports at Central Registration in The Commons or Leighton Barracks Child Development Center.
- 11 AUG** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Live country music, featuring line dancing instruction starting at 6 p.m.
--Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive, from 1 to 6 p.m., Askren Manor, during Street Party.
--DES Bike Rodeo, from 9 a.m. to noon, SES parking lot, then parade to MWR Street Party.
--USO Legoland Trip. Cost is 25 euro for adults, 12 euro for children. Call 354-6711.
- 13 AUG** --ABCs of the FRGs, from 9 a.m. to noon, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
--Relaxation Training, from 9 a.m. to noon, Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- 13-17 AUG** --Vacation Bible School, Ledward Chapel, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-register by calling 09727-909-516.
- 14 AUG** --Children's sports physicals, given after noon at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic. Call 354-7901.
--Invest with Confidence seminar, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- 17 AUG** --Parents' Night Out, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Registration begins August 6. Sign up in person at Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks or the Leighton CDC.
- 20 AUG** --Registration deadline for unit level flag football. Register at Finney Fitness Center.
- 21 AUG** --3-C Problem Solving, from 12:30 to 4 p.m., Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- 22 AUG** --Leighton ACS "Lunch Bunch," from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 350-7103 for information.
- 27 AUG** --First day of school for Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle Schools and Wuerzburg Elementary and High School Freshmen (28 AUG, grades 10-12).
- 27-29 AUG** --Army Family Team Building Instructor training, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ledward Education Center. Call 354-6933 to enroll.
- 28 AUG** --Couples' Communication, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 29 AUG** --Love and Logic 7-week course begins, from 9 to 11 a.m. SAS building, Askren Manor. Call 354-6933 to register.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



My cauldron runneth over!

Potter mania casts spell on Schweinfurt

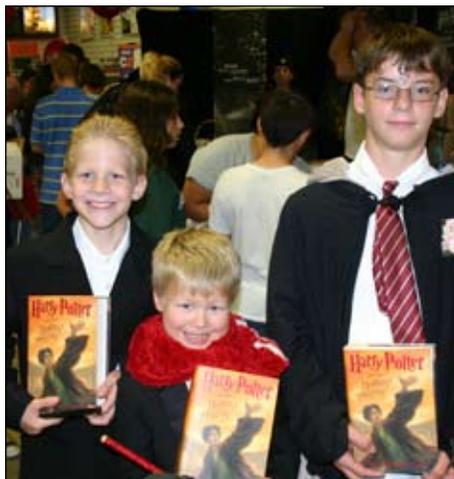


A cauldron, left, flows over with steam, just as the Ledward Shoppette flowed with excitement early Saturday morning for the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final installment of the wildly popular J.K. Rowling series. The first Pottermaniacs showed up outside the door with

garden chairs at 10:30 p.m. to stake their claim on the book.

During the event, fans snapped 105 of the 300 copies that were shipped to the store in time for the 12:01 a.m. release (below).

Many fans dressed up for the occasion (center). Fans, from left, Jack Timmerman, Charlie Timmerman and Blaze Jacobi show their Potter spirit, portraying Draco Malfoy, Ron Weasley, and Harry Potter during the release party at the Ledward Shoppette Saturday morning. (Photos by Mark Heeter)



MEDDAC slides to win



USAG Schweinfurt Community Sports and Fitness hosted the USAG Schweinfurt Unit-Level Softball Championships July 21 and 22 at the Leighton Dawson Softball Sports Field. Six teams participated in the tournament—1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, DENTAC, MEDDAC, 69th ADA, Wuerzburg 715th MPs and Schweinfurt 714th MPs. The MEDDAC team (pictured here scoring against the 715th MPs) defeated 69th ADA for the Championship title with a score of 10 to 6. The MEDDAC Unit-Level Softball Team will represent the USAG Schweinfurt at the IMCOM Unit-Level Softball Championships August 1-5 in Darmstadt, Germany. (photo by Dave Coldwell).

Legal training program

The Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning the Fall of 2008 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility. This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active Federal service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test. Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before 1 November 2007. Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact their local Staff Judge Advocate for further information.



Annual festival offers fun close to home

The annual Rakoczy Festival will be held in Bad Kissingen July 27-29. The festival kicks off Friday night at 7 p.m. Actors dressed as historical figures, a hot air balloon illumination, and a parade are just some of the highlights. Fireworks will cap off the event Sunday night, beginning at 10 p.m. Other highlights include:

Friday, 27 July 2007

- 7 p.m.–midnight live music
- 10 p.m. Illumination of the Saale

Saturday, 28 July 2007

Luitpoldpark:

- 9:30 p.m. “Lions’ Dance” Taiji and Sword performance
- 10 p.m. Balloon illumination

Regentenbau/Max-Littmann-Saal:

- 7:30 p.m. Ball with Price Rakoczi
- 8 p.m. entrance of historical characters, Polonaise

Sunday, 29 July 2007

- 2:30 - 4 p.m. Parade with music
- 10 p.m. Fireworks



MNC-I Commander visits 1-18 Dragons



Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno (left), commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, re-enlists Sgt. Jeremy Degraw, a flight director with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Derry, N.H., and Spc. Oscar Tovar, a medic with HHC, 1-18 Inf. from Palm Springs, Calif., at the Dragons’ Lair Dining Facility on Forward Operating Base Falcon July 21. The Vanguards of 1-18 Inf. from Schweinfurt, Germany, are currently attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

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“For you, every day, you’re worried about whether you’re husband’s safe,” he said, addressing the spouses.

Pace brought with him Command Sgt. Maj. William Gainey, his senior enlisted advisor, and Col. (Ret) H.C. “Barney” Barnum Jr., Medal of Honor recipient and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Reserve Affairs).

“Thank you from a grateful American,” Barnum said. He described what he had seen last week in Ramadi, Iraq, where part of the Dagger Brigade is located.

“We are making great strides there. Believe me,” he said.

“This reminds me of the teamwork it takes on the field of battle,” Barnum said, referring to the family and support network the military has today.

Pace talked about the plan to lengthen combat tours and how it developed last year among top leaders in the Department of Defense. He likened the less frequent change-outs of units to a kitchen calendar.

“You change it once (monthly) instead of every week,” he said.

“The fact is, the troop plus-up has made a difference,” Pace said, adding that many local leaders in Ramadi, where he walked the streets last week, have renounced violence. “They have chosen to team up with your husbands, and that has made a difference,” he said.

Following his 10-minute opening remarks, Pace opened up the floor for an hour of questions and answers. He faced more than a dozen questions about a gamut of topics, including the tour-extension length, dwell time following deployments, education opportunities, mental health facilities, and the future of Schweinfurt within the global basing strategy.

At the end of the town hall

meeting, the Chairman left enough time to shake hands with, and give coins to, every person in the club.

Pace visit spawns reunion



Air Force Staff Sgt. Myles Cullen, a photographer on the Joint Staff who traveled to Schweinfurt with Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had a special reason to stop in Germany. It was the first time since last Thanksgiving that he had seen his sister, Susan Leiphart, and her 10-month-old daughter, Emma. Leiphart, stationed in Schweinfurt with her husband, welcomed the chance to see her brother, who enjoyed spending a little quality time with Emma before heading home. (photo by Mark Heeter)



Anvil helps forge victory from ambush

story and photo by Spc. Micah E. Clare
82nd Airborn Division, 4th BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE BERMEL, Afghanistan — Up until the ambush, the early morning ride across the barren landscape of eastern Afghanistan was tranquil.

The air conditioner was double-timing to cool the passengers including Sgt. Roy Heinicke, the truck commander, his driver Pvt. Mar Paguio, and gunner Spc. Preston Stone.

Their mission was to ride out with the Afghan National Army (ANA) to a series of villages north of the base to deliver humanitarian aid, gather intelligence and conduct assessments. Nothing new for the cavalry scouts of 3rd Platoon, Anvil Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the “Death Dealers.”

The morning silence was broken by the muffled sound of a dull thud in the distance.

“Did you hear something up there?” Heinicke called up to Stone in the turret.

“It might have been an explosion. I couldn’t tell,” Stone replied.

Heinicke’s vehicle was still at the backside of a hill which blocked his view of the forward group. Beyond the hill, however, the terrain abruptly became a stretch of sharp rises and dips with trees obscuring anything farther than 100 feet.

“We’re taking small-arms contact up front,” a voice crackled through the radio. “We’ve got two downed ANA vehicles.”

As if on cue, successive bursts of explosions and automatic weapons fire were heard ahead.

“Get up on that ridgeline,” Heinicke shouted at Paguio, who gunned the engine.

As everyone else lurched up the steep embankment, the vehicle carrying the platoon medic could be seen rushing to aid any wounded ANA.

Spc. Jayme Pohovey, the medic, opened his vehicle door at the site of the downed ANA vehicle. The gunner behind him opened fire providing cover fire.

The medic knelt next to a wounded



After launching a grenade, Staff Sgt. Brent Adams, a scout section leader from the 3rd Platoon, Anvil Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, reaches for another round while sprinting to his vehicle when a torrent of automatic weapons fire erupted from a nearby hill in Bermel district, Paktika province, Afghanistan, July 16.

ANA officer, pulling out his aid bag, oblivious to the heavy fire around him. The Afghan officer had a gaping stomach wound.

“You’re going to be alright,” Pohovey said trying to sound reassuring as he cut away the man’s shirt.

ANA soldiers fanned out around the convoy, providing cover for Pohovey.

Enemy weapons fire had largely died down after the Army gunners began firing back.

Moving forward by sections, they slowly began gaining ground on the retreating insurgents, and established a defensive position on the ridgeline.

It had been quiet for about an hour, but an Afghan lieutenant wasn’t convinced. His men made their way down the slope.

Suddenly, shots rang out again, ricocheting close to the mortar team and several scouts. A concentrated burst of machine gun fire sent whizzes and cracks right past them as everyone ran for cover.

“Contact,” yelled Staff Sgt. Brent Adams, a scout section leader, as he launched a grenade, then reloaded while taking cover

behind his vehicle.

On the far side of the ridge, Heinicke had been standing behind the hood of his vehicle when several well-placed rounds flew over his head.

“They were just waiting up there,” he said to Stone, ducking behind the hood. “They aimed those shots.”

Stone was searching for positive identification of the enemy. He had to be careful, because the ANA were now streaming up the hill.

When the smoke finally cleared, the machine gun-fire stopped. The insurgents had fled.

When Soldiers recovered the body of an insurgent who had been shot, he was identified as a low-level Taliban commander, responsible for a unit of about 30 to 40 men.

“We really turned it around on them,” Heinicke said. “What was meant as an ambush turned out to be a victory!”

The Soldiers wouldn’t be back in time for dinner that night, but everyone from 3rd Platoon would be coming back safe and sound.