



Schweinfurt Dispatch



Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

September 27, 2007

Yellow ribbons prepare to invade Schweinfurt Organizers look for help hanging 4,500 ribbons Monday

Story and photo Mark Heeter

Twelve thousand five hundred yards of yellow ribbon. \$15,000 worth. Seven main hubs on two kasernes and two housing areas. Five-and-a-half hours.

With mathematical precision, Cathy Burton, Capt. Chad Ramskugler, and their fellow organizers have figured out just what it will take to hang up 4,500 ribbons on trees, fence posts, and balconies throughout Schweinfurt Monday.

There is one more important number in the equation: 350 volunteers.

"Each ribbon is for a Soldier," Ramskugler said, referring to the approximate number of Soldiers from the Dagger Brigade Combat Team who will

soon begin their way back to Schweinfurt from Iraq.

"We plan to keep them up through the welcome home celebrations and through January," Burton said.

Prospective volunteers are asked to contact their Family Readiness Group for details about where to report Monday morning. The event kicks off at the Staging and Operations Centers (SOCs) at 8:30 a.m.

"They will receive a briefing about proper bow-tying techniques," Burton said, noting that it is harder than one might think.

Stairwell coordinators are being "tied"



Cathy Burton and Capt. Chad Ramskugler demonstrate proper yellow ribbon hanging techniques with the first ribbon, hung in the garrison headquarters building.

into the project in the housing areas. "We would love to see a yellow ribbon on

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B.O.S.S. invites Soldiers to de-stress in a fun way

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Bungee run, jousting, Velcro wall, video games, a band, and food. Does it sound like another Askren Manor Street Fest? It's not. This event is specially designed for Soldiers. Whether new to Schweinfurt or just returning home from downrange, "This One is For You."

That is what Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or B.O.S.S., is calling their new program taking place at Finney Fitness Center each month through February.

"We're trying to create an atmosphere where it's a lot of fun [in order] to show the Soldiers that you can have fun without substances... We also want to put a face to the agencies and break the stigma of receiving services," said Gerry Warner, alcohol and drug control officer, at the first B.O.S.S. event last Thursday.

A whole slew of agencies will participate in the monthly events, including Army Community Services; Social Work Services; Community Health; Family Life Chaplain; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; and the Army Substance Abuse Program.

"[The fun activities] provide a healthy way for Soldiers to cope with

stress while exposing them to... mental health providers," said Angela Hunter, health promotion coordinator. "We want to make sure when they come back from downrange that they are getting formal as well as informal counseling."

Pfc. Jonathan Conerly, president of the B.O.S.S. Strong program, explained how inundated the Soldiers are with briefings and that he wanted to make the B.O.S.S. program approach communication of information differently.

"I fell asleep half the time in briefings," said Conerly. "We want to educate the Soldiers as much as possible in a fun way," he said.

While the Soldiers mill about and try their hand at the various competitive activities, professionals from each agency engage them in conversation and explain what they have to offer.

The events aim to raise awareness about what Soldiers need to deal with when they return from downrange. The setting is also designed to educate and offer services for prevention of combat stress.

These B.O.S.S. reintegration events run through February with the next one occurring October 18 from 3 – 7 p.m. B.O.S.S. requests that the commands release Soldiers to attend the events so as to make it their place of duty.



Pvt. David Hayward of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment (left) and Spc. Chris White of 299th Forward Support Battalion race for the bean bags while strapped to the bungee run at B.O.S.S.'s "This One is For You" event Sept. 20.



News Briefs

AAFES changes

• Café Italiano will no longer be coming to Schweinfurt, as previously planned, and plans are now being made to find a replacement concession to serve the Schweinfurt military community.

• Effective Oct. 6, the hours of operation at the Leighton Shoppette will be 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• Effective Oct. 6, Taco Bell on Leighton Barracks will cease operations.

• Effective Oct. 1, the Dry Cleaning and Tailor Shop next to the Post Office on Ledward Barracks will reopen.

Represent your alma mater

Wuerzburg High School is holding a college fair Nov. 14 from 4 – 6 p.m. and needs your help. If you would like to represent your alma mater with a table of materials, please call counselor Maribeth Clarke at 350-7230 or 0931-889-7230 or email Nancy.Reichert@eu.dodea.edu. Assistance will be provided to obtain materials from your college.

CMRs open Saturday

Due to the increased volume of packages arriving from Iraq in advance of the Dagger Brigade Combat Team's return, the consolidated mail rooms 457 (Ledward) and 464 (Conn) will open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until further notice.

B.O.S.S. meet & greet kicks off tomorrow

Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or B.O.S.S., for the Meet & Greet kick-off at Finney Fitness Center tomorrow starting at 5 p.m. Learn what B.O.S.S. is all about and make some new friends. For more information, call Sgt. James Smogonovich 354-6270 or 0170-725-6464.

Day of Play on Saturday

Middle school students are invited to attend the Middle School Zone's World Wide Day of Play from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday with free gifts from Nickelodeon. Call 354-6308 for more information.

ACS offers reunion briefings

Join Army Community Services (ACS) for its reunion briefings in October. Attend the next class: Spouse Battlemind Training at Schweinfurt's ACS on Ledward from 6 – 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

SAEDA training offered

The community is invited to attend the Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army (SAEDA) training session at the Ledward Theater Oct. 4 at 9 a.m. for local nationals and 10:15 a.m. for U.S. citizens. This training is hosted by 66th Military Intelligence and USAG Schweinfurt.

MWR goes to Oktoberfest

Join MWR for a free bus ride to Munich's Oktoberfest Saturday. Bus departs Wuerzburg at 7:30 a.m. and Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz at 8 a.m. Bus will leave Munich for return trip at 10 p.m. the same day. For more information, or to sign up, call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305.

Sell your wares

Would you like to get rid of stuff that has been cluttering your house for ages? Call about purchasing a table at Schweinfurt Middle School's (SMS) flea market Oct. 13. Half a table is \$10 and a full table is \$20. Market is located in the SMS gym and runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with time for set-up and tear down before and after. Call Diane Schmidt at 354-6815 or 09721-96-6815.

Support group meets

Come to the Deployment Support Group at Ledward's Army Community Services every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. It is open to Soldiers and spouses to share thoughts, exchange coping strategies, and voice concerns. No appointment necessary. For more information, call 354-6933.

Wuerzburg vehicle registration reopens

Wuerzburg vehicle registration reopens Oct. 1 and will operate Mon, Wed, Fri from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 350-7472.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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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.



- 28 SEPT --B.O.S.S. Meet & Greet kick-off 5 p.m. at Ramon’s Sports Bar. Call 354-6051 for more info.
--Holiday Greetings recordings, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in front of the PX on Ledward.
- 29 SEPT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Oktoberfest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 29-30 SEPT --Schweinfurt Commissary Case Lot sale, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 1 OCT --Wuerzburg vehicle registration reopens, M, W, F from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
--Recycling center hours expand at Askren, Conn, and Ledward.
--“Spouse Battlemind Training” ACS reunion briefing, 6-7:30 p.m., Ledward ACS 354-6933.
- 3 OCT --German holiday: Unification Day, German concessionaires on post will be closed.
- 4 OCT --SAEDA briefing, 9 a.m. for local nationals, 10:15 a.m. for U.S. employees, Ledward Theater.
--“Reunion and Children” ACS reunion briefing, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ledward ACS 354-6933.
--Schweinfurt Elementary School skate party, 4-6 p.m. For more info. call 354-6734.
- 6 OCT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Dresden, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
--Leighton Shoppette operating hours change. Will close at 9 p.m.
- 8 OCT --Columbus Day, American federal holiday.
- 9 OCT --Community Update Forum, 6-8 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School gym.
--“Reunion and Children” ACS reunion briefing, 6-7:30 p.m., Ledward ACS 354-6933.
- 10 OCT --Community Update Forum, 6-8 p.m., Leighton Community Activities Center.
--“Happiness after the Homecoming” ACS reunion briefing 6 – 7:30 p.m., Ledward ACS.
- 11 OCT --“Spouse Battlemind Training” ACS reunion briefing, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ledward ACS.
- 12 OCT --“Wee can do it” success series, scrapbooking, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Leighton CDC/SAS.
“Happiness after the Homecoming” ACS reunion briefing 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ledward ACS.
- 19 OCT --B.O.S.S. Creepy 70s Party 5 p.m. at Finney Sports & Leisure Center.
--Harvesting Family Memories, ACS brief, 6 to 8 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 20 OCT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Nachmann Krystal Factory, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
--B.O.S.S. Salsa Fever concert, Finney Fitness Center, beginning at 5 p.m.
- 26 OCT --Harvesting Family Memories, ACS brief, 6 to 8 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 31 OCT --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Frankenstein’s Castle in Darmstadt. Call 350-6305.
--Reformation Day, German Holiday, concessionaires closed.
- 1 NOV --All Saints Day, German Holiday, concessionaires closed.
- 2 NOV --Thankful to be a Military Family, ACS brief, 6 to 9 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. 354-6933.
--Teacher work day, no school for DoDDS students.
- 3 NOV --MWR Family Friendly Trip to the Black Forest, free transportation. Call to sign up 350-6305.
- 8 NOV --Shop Safety class at Auto Skills Center, Conn Barracks, 1 p.m., 353-8224.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Waste, recycling hours modified

By Kimberly Gearhart

After much review, certain changes regarding waste management have been enacted.

Residents in Yorktown will have their 120 liter trash containers, which are serviced weekly, replaced with 240 liter containers that are serviced every two weeks. This money-saving initiative will help keep more money in our community for family programs and improvements.

Brad Posey, SORT Coordinator, notes that while it is important for all residents to recycle consistently and put only regular trash items in garbage containers, it becomes more important when garbage is collected less frequently.

Also, in order to better support the community during redeployment, the USAG Schweinfurt recycling centers will be expanding service hours at all locations. With these changes, the hope is that our garrison recycling and trash issues may be resolved and that the hectic time of redeployment may be eased.

In addition to extending hours at the

manned facilities, the Ledward Barracks facility near the east gate will be manned in an effort to assist Soldiers living on Ledward during the redeployment.

“A full time employee at the Ledward recycle center [can] receive all of the excess and see that it is recycled,” said Posey.

In previous years, units on Conn had an easier time handling recycling and waste during redeployment because of the manned center on Conn and the assistance facility employees offer in making sure that items are properly sorted he added.

The Ledward center will be manned from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday from Oct. 1 until Dec. 15.

The recycling center on Conn Barracks will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday beginning Oct. 1 and continuing through March 2008.

Likewise, Askren Manor’s facility will enjoy new hours during this time frame, opening at 5 a.m. and closing at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and opening 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday.

For any questions regarding sorting or recycling, call 354-6201.

Play at SAS in the morning



Collin Bolick, 12 months, plays with the toys in the School Age Services (SAS) gym. ACS sponsors a children’s play morning Tue and Thu at Askren Manor SAS 10-11:30 a.m. and Wed on Leighton Barracks, bldg 88 from 12:30-2 p.m. Parents can bring children from birth to three years old to play and learn new skills. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

Wuerzburg celebrates the U.S. Constitution



Autumn Alford (left), Sure Start student, and a crew of Yankee Doodle first-graders watch the Constitution Day assembly at Wuerzburg Elementary/Middle School on Sept. 21. About 300 students, teachers, parents and community members took part in the celebration where students recited the Constitution’s history and sang songs of American heritage. The high school JROTC color guard opened the program, posting the national colors.

The assembly was the culmination of a week of study as teachers incorporated many activities highlighting the Constitution in social studies, language arts, reading, math, art, and music. Primary coordinators of the event were teachers Kristie Mashburn, Val Stiglicz, and Karen Sipes. (Photo by Roger Teel)



Stay safe with force protection measures

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Terrorists depend on you. "How much information can we get from this one person," said Rita Reilly, anti-terrorism officer here, about what goes on in the mind of a terrorist.

Terrorists use multiple "weak links," or people who take no precautions when sharing possibly sensitive information. By doing so, terrorists can put together a picture that will help them to do their planning.

Antiterrorism training is only part of the force protection plan in place to help keep Soldiers and Family members safe. Individuals play an integral role in safeguarding information and knowing how to keep themselves and their Families safe.

One way to increase personal security is getting to know your neighbors. Seen as a friendly gesture, it is also a way to have more than one set of eyes watching out for your home when you go on vacation.

"Germans are very good at neighborhood watch even though it's not an established program here," said Kelly.

Blending into the environment is also

key in keeping a low profile. Kelly recommends not hanging an American flag from your residence when living overseas. Changing your car's U.S. license plates to German plates is also a simple measure. And shredding personal information before disposal deters any information gathering by an outside source.

Learning the customs of the country you live in helps with the blending in as well.

"Stay alert, follow rules, and be aware," said Jose Vazquez, also an anti-terrorism officer with the USAG Schweinfurt.

Apart from personal responsibility, the military performs constant security checks. Many of them are scheduled randomly to avoid predictability. Military police regularly walk through base housing;



The German K-9 unit uses their dogs to inspect vehicles for various restricted items at the entrance gates of Schweinfurt's military facilities. Inspections are done randomly in order to maintain safety on all military establishments.

barriers and hidden cameras are in numerous locations; and there is 24 hour surveillance around the perimeter of each military establishment.

"Security is not a convenience," said Kelly, in response to those who have gotten irritated with the delays caused by vehicle inspections.

Safety takes extra time, but is well worth it, he said.

Open house orients parents



Pinkie Hall

LaKeisha Little holds a Schweinfurt Middle School shirt up to her sixth-grade son Darien Newton at the middle school's open house Sept. 13. Parents had the opportunity to meet teachers, explore classrooms, and learn about clubs and after school activities available to their middle school students. DoDDS curriculum, expectations and standards were covered with new students and parents, and the school's new principal, Dr. George Carpenter was on hand to answer questions.

VIPs walk through commissary



Sandra Wilson

Richard Page (center), chief operating officer from Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) headquarters in Virginia listens to Schweinfurt commissary grocery manager, Michael Rodriguez (right), as he talks about the operations of the facility with Store Director Larry Weathers (left). Three senior executive officers visited the commissary today to talk about its renovations, management, and future role in the Schweinfurt military community.



Domestic violence affects everyone

By Mark Heeter

Some of the signs can be clearly visible. Others might be hidden behind a mask of normalcy, eating away at the victim from inside.

Domestic violence awareness and prevention month begins Monday, and the USAG Schweinfurt ACS is taking the lead on educating the community on the facts about domestic violence.

The theme of this year's campaign is "Army Strong is Family strong. There is no excuse for domestic abuse," according to Kurt King, ACS Family Advocacy Program (FAP) manager.

"Family advocacy offers a spectrum of services. It uses an education model, rather than a treatment model," said King, whose team will have displays, brochures, flyers and pamphlets sprinkled across the USAG Schweinfurt footprint throughout the month, beginning Wednesday evening at the Kessler bowling lanes.

But more than printed material, ACS, FAP and the other community agencies are on standby to combat any domestic discord.

"We've always been in the background, and we're always available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Somebody's on-call all the time," King said.

"The success of any program is built on the relationships, and in terms of domestic violence, it's critical that the agencies work together," said Hal Snyder, ACS director, citing cooperation with chaplains, social work services, the command group, law enforcement, legal assistance, and other agencies throughout the garrison.

Snyder also spoke of the potential effect of parental domestic violence on children – and the effort that goes into its prevention.

"I think it's important to point out that any time there is conflict between parents, there are real impacts on children, and that any time we have the opportunity to remind folks that there's help and assistance, that if it's caught early, it doesn't have to be a career-ender. Steps can be taken to improve the quality of life for all involved," he said.

The "career-ender" fear prevents many victims from stepping forward for help, according to King. But for the past year or so, the Army has given victims the

opportunity to file a restricted report.

"By restricted, we mean that the flow of information is restricted. It doesn't alert the chain of command or law enforcement. It allows people to get the treatment they need without triggering an investigation," he said.

For more information about domestic violence, look for displays and information through October, or call 354-6435 or 09721-96-6435.



New ACS Travel Corner provides traveling tips

By Sandra Wilson

Need some ideas of where to travel? Or perhaps you have a list of desired locations, but you just don't know where to find lodging or the best sights.

Army Community Services (ACS) has designed binders overflowing with brochures, travel guides, maps and other information about popular vacation destinations. Each binder covers regions of Germany as well as surrounding countries including Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, France, Switzerland, and much more.

"I hope people go somewhere, pick up flyers, and [help] expand the library," said

Monika Goodman, information and referral manager at ACS, who worked to compile the information into the binders.

If you're looking to ski on a tight budget, the Bavarian Forest near the Czech border offers competitive rates. Good deals on shopping can be found in the Czech Republic and Poland. Beach lovers are encouraged to visit northern Germany, and those interested in nature and hiking can find their paradise in southern Germany. For a getaway from the cold winter months, Spain and Italy offer mild temperatures for sight-seeing and relaxation.

Currently, the binders are located through Ledward's ACS in the nearby hallway,



Pvt. Ruben McClain of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Squadron, 18th Infantry Regiment, and wife Kryn check out the new ACS travel corner binders to get tips on planning vacations. (Photo by Koreen August-Hines)

but there are plans to move it permanently into the Commons.

make it a growing travel corner for the community," said Hal Snyder, ACS director.



Dagger Brigade tops 1,000 reenlistments

By Sgt. 1st Class Keith Laird
2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — One year into its 15-month deployment, Soldiers continue to reenlist with the 2nd “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Infantry Division, in Iraq. The brigade reenlisted its 1,000th Soldier on Sept. 8: Spc. Matthew Adams, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

Gen. David McKiernan, the commanding general of U.S. Army-Europe and 7th Army, was the reenlisting officer during a visit to Baghdad.

“Our mission as leaders, at every echelon, is to retain quality Soldiers to ensure that our Army is well-prepared for its enduring mission to fight and win our nation’s wars,” said Col. J.B. Burton, the Dagger Brigade commander.

While supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dagger Soldiers continue to reenlist in record numbers. The brigade began the fiscal year with a reenlistment ceremony Oct. 4, 2006, for 82 Soldiers who chose to stay “Army Strong.”

Since then, the Dagger Brigade has averaged 20 Soldiers reenlisting every week for the past year. More than \$9 million in bonuses has been distributed as a result.

Forty-three percent of reenlisting Dagger Soldiers chose to remain at their present duty station within the brigade for their next enlistment.



Spc. Matthew Adams, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, has his photo taken with Gen. David McKiernan, the commanding general of U.S. Army-Europe and 7th Army, and Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, the senior non-commissioned officer in USAREUR. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Rodney Martin, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment)

“That percentage shows that Soldiers are proud to be part of the Dagger Brigade,” said Master Sgt. Robert Staley, the brigade’s senior career counselor. “It is also an indicator of high morale.”

“Of the many reasons the vast majority of Soldiers reenlisted... [was] because of the stability that comes after the deployment,” said Sgt. 1st Class Cole Arnold, a brigade career counselor.

The Dagger Brigade also earned the “Commanding General’s First Strike Retention Award,” given by Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., the commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, to the first brigade to meet their retention goal for the fiscal year. The award this year is even more significant because there are 12 brigades working for the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, instead of only six.

“Army-wide, our brigade was one of four brigade combat teams to reach 1,000 reenlistments this year,” said Staley, “That is a remarkable achievement and I take pride in saying that the Dagger Brigade has the finest retention team in the entire Army.”

RIBBONS

Continued from page 1

each balcony,” Burton said.

The idea began earlier this year and kicked into high gear, according to Burton, when local Family member Denise Higgins and her mother, Arrie Harvey, were able to secure a company to provide the miles of ribbon necessary to complete the task. “They were very willing to give us a good deal,” Burton said.

“And we decided it was best to get the ribbons out before the first unit returns,” Ramskugler said.

While units from the brigade, as well as the 1st

Squadron, 91st Cavalry, have been able to drum up some volunteers, more are needed, according to Burton and Ramskugler.

People without an FRG who are willing to volunteer should write to chad.ramskugler@eur.army.mil for more information and details about how they can help.

The event will take place rain or shine, and organizers request that participants bring their own scissors, comfortable shoes and clothing, water, and a bag or rucksack as a carry-all.

Meet your unit to hang ribbons 8:30 a.m. Monday

- **1st Bn, 7th FA**
Askren Manor housing area, across the street from the recycling center
- **9th En Bn**
Ledward Barracks, gazebo by building 202
- **1st Bn, 26th In**
Ledward Barracks, Under awning at battalion headquarters building
- **Team Patriot and 1st Sqdn, 91st CAV**
Yorktown Village, gazebo at Kessler Field
- **1st Bn, 77th AR**
Battalion headquarters building
- **1st Bn, 18th In**
Battalion headquarters building
- **299th Fwd Supt Bn**
Battalion classroom by the Conn Consolidated Mail Room (CMR)