



Memorial honors two Vanguards

Story and memorial photo
By Mark Heeter

At a memorial service here today, the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, Vanguards, led the community in saying farewell to two of their Soldiers killed in Iraq April 16.

Sgt. Mario De Leon, 26, was killed by small arms fire, while Spc. Lucas Starcevich, 25, was killed by an improvised exploding device. Both men were on their second deployment and were prior service Soldiers



who returned to the Army.

"They are in a better place, but their families and friends live with the loss," said Capt. Rickey Torres, reading the remarks of Lt. Col. George Glaze, the Task Force Vanguard

commander. "They were men of honor and integrity."

"There is a member of my family in this platoon who is gone, and that is hard for me to accept," said Sgt. Timothy O'Brien, relaying the remarks that Sgt. Charles Quigley gave about De Leon at an earlier memorial service in Baghdad.

"Mario was my rock so often," said Quigley, who, who only six days prior to the attack, escorted his Soldier, De Leon, to

the promotion board.

"I was shaking, but he wasn't," Quigley said. "He aced it."

Sgt. 1st Class Philip Roberson read from the earlier remarks of Capt. Donald Johnson, including his instruction to look at the photograph of De Leon on the memorial display.

"Take a look at the soldier on the left here – Sgt. De Leon, a smile on his face, a good natured man, and always optimistic. He passed this to all of us, bringing smiles to our faces and lightened our spirits," he said.

"He was a friend, a brother, a son, a husband and a father. He was a family man," Johnson said.

Lt. Col. Robert Whittle, Task Force Guardian commander spoke to Starcevich's mother, who told the story about a military outfit he had as a child.

"He loved it so much, she had to wait until he was sleeping to wash it," Whittle said.

"I will always remember how Star would try to cheer you up when you were down," said Pfc. Stanley Via, who passed on remarks of Pfc. Avi Fishman.

"Losing Star is like losing a piece of you," Fishman said. "I didn't know Lucas Starcevich. I knew Star. Star we will never



Mourners reflect at the memorial display in Ledward Chapel.

forget you."

Staff Sgt. Larry Dishaw read the earlier comments of Capt. Patrick Camunez about Starcevich.

"It was because he was a great man that he was able to warm hearts and inspire courage," Camunez said.

De Leon is survived by his wife, Erika, son Keoni, mother Barbara, and older brothers, Gabe and Bruce.

Starcevich is survived by his father Bradley and stepmother Glenda, his mother Ava Tomson and stepfather, Richard, brother, Trenton, sister, Ariana Starcevich-Reyes, and fiancée, Christina.

Haager assures community of robust security posture



We want to re-assure the entire Schweinfurt and Leighton military communities that the USAG Schweinfurt aggressively reviews and executes our force protection anti-terrorism (AT) program and that we are committed to maintaining a robust security posture.

Recent media reports have caused some members of our community concern about

their safety. We want to assure everyone that force protection and safety are our most important programs. Our host nation partners are also aware of your concerns and continue to support our installations and housing areas.

We ask that, if you observe suspicious activity, please contact the military police at 354-6624 or 09721-96-6624.



News Briefs

Ledward main exit gate to temporarily close

Starting on Monday, May 7, Ledward main exit gate onto Niederwermerstrasse will be closed to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic for renovation. It will remain closed for several months. The construction is expected to last until mid-August. To accommodate this closure, the east exit gate will extend to 24-hour operations while the west gate will add an exit lane to the current entrance lane, providing two avenues of exit. Thank you for your understanding.

Newcomer's orientations

Are you new to Schweinfurt? Join the Newcomer's Orientation and Welcome (NOW) at Leighton or the Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS) at Ledward next week, May 7 – 11. These programs are designed to connect Family members, Soldiers, and civilians to the community resources and services. Call for more information, Schweinfurt: 354-6933 or 09721-96-6751, Würzburg: 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103.

Pottery market & May festival

Come browse hand-crafted pottery and ceramics from more than 30 artists at the Schweinfurt pottery market May 4 and 5

at the Schweinfurt market square from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Also enjoy musical entertainment at the city May festival by Mad Bob Duo from noon to 7 p.m. Friday.

How to parent a teen

Join the Schweinfurt Army Community Service (ACS) class *Parenting Teens & Loving It* May 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn how to parent your teen or pre-teen with skills taught through "Love & Logic." To sign up or for more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6751.

Community Update Forums

Attend the Community Update Forum (CUF) at Schweinfurt Elementary School May 8 or at the Würzburg Community Activities Center May 9, both from 6 to 8 p.m. Be informed about what is going on in your community.

Parents' Night Out respite care

Sign-ups begin Monday, May 7 for the CYS Parents' Night Out May 18 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to give yourself a break, take in a movie, or just relax at home. Children will be cared for at no cost to families. Open to children ages 6 weeks to 5th grade. Children must

be registered with CYS and reservations must be made in advance in person. Call for more information 354-6517 or 09721-96-6414.

Summer hire program

Apply for summer hire by May 18 to be considered for a job. Program runs from June 25 to August 3 and is open to youth ages 14 to 22. Pay is to be determined. Open to U.S. and local nationals. For more information, call the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) at 354-6450 or 09721-96-6450.

Resume 101

Attend Federal Resume 101 May 10 on Ledward Barracks from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to learn the basics of applying for a federal job. Or learn the basics of writing a civilian resume at the May 11 class on Leighton Barracks from 9 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call Schweinfurt: 354-6933 or 09721-96-6751, Würzburg: 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103.

Ballet classes available

Interested in learning ballet? Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at Leighton Barracks, Würzburg. Cost is \$35 per month for one class a week or \$60 per month for two classes a week. For more information, call 354-6460 or 09721-96-6460.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager
Command Sgt Maj. CSM Keith McMullen
Public Affairs Officer George Ohl
Command Information Officer Mark Heeter
Writer/Editors Kimberly Gearhart
Elvira Gladwell
Sandra Wilson
Scott Rouch
Roger Teel

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.



- 4 MAY --Principal's Coffee at 8:15 a.m. at Schweinfurt Elementary School.
- 5 MAY --Cinco de Mayo deployment hourly care, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., CDC Askren Manor. Call 354-6517.
--Legoland, no cost for transportation or admission. Call USO 354-6711.
- 7 MAY --Parenting Teens & Loving It! class, 6 to 8 p.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933/6751.
--Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS) for May begins. Classes run through Friday, childcare provided. Call 354-6933 for more information.
--Ledward main exit gate will close for renovation. East, West gates will open as 24 hour exits.
- 8 MAY --Community Update Forum, 6 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School Gym.
- 9 MAY --Community Update Forum, 6 p.m., Leighton Community Activities Center.
- 10 MAY --Mother's Day Brunch, Conn Club, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., call 354-6715 or 09721-96-6715.
- 11 MAY --Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration, 1:30-3 p.m., Schweinfurt Middle School gym.
--Mother's Day Tea, 3rd grade, Schweinfurt Elementary School.
- 12 MAY --Flea Market in Volksfestplatz benefitting the Bavarian Red Cross, begins 7 a.m.
- 13 MAY --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info, 353-8476.
- 15 MAY --Staying Lovers Through Deployment class, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933/6751.
- 16 MAY --Savings & Investing class, 9 to 10 a.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354/6933/6751.
--7 Habits of Successful Army Families, two days 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Conn Club. Call 354-6933.
--Dan Crow & Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony at Schweinfurt Elementary, begins 3 p.m.
- 17 MAY --Spring Carnival, 5-7 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School.
- 18 MAY --Parents' Night Out respite care, 6:30 to 11 p.m. Sign-ups begin May 7. Call 354-6517/6414.
- 19 MAY --SAS special Saturday opening, 9 a.m. to noon, "Asian-Pacific Heritage Month." Call 354-6974.
--Flea Market, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Schweinfurt Middle School. Call Diane Schmidt 354-6815.
--Prague Express, cost is \$50 per seat, passports required. Call USO 354-6711.
- 22-23 MAY --Environmental Awareness Days, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conn Recycling Center.
- 24 MAY --ACS "Lunch Bunch" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933/6751.
--Science Fair, Schweinfurt Elementary School, 3rd, 4th, 5th grades.
- 25 MAY --Local Youth of the Year ceremony, 6 to 8 p.m., Middle School Zone. Call 354-6308.
--Deadline for MLB Star Award application submission at Central Registration.
- 25-28 MAY --USO trip to Normandy/France. \$355 for two overnights with breakfast. Call 354-6711.
- 26 MAY --D-day Memorial 10k and family fun run, 9 a.m., Kessler Fitness Center. Call 354-6735.
- 28 MAY --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.
- 22 JUNE --USO shopping trip to Boleslawiec in Poland. Departs 6 a.m., returns 7 p.m. \$45 per seat. Last day to sign up June 18. Call 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711 for more information.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



German docs enjoy evening of partnership

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

While there might be a few differences between German and American healthcare systems, one thing remains the same across the cultural divide.

Both countries' doctors and medical staff love to bowl.

Lt. Col. Daniel Duecker, Schweinfurt Health Clinic commander, and his staff invited several local doctors to a tour of the clinic, followed by an evening of bowling at the Kessler Bowling Center Friday.

"I want to applaud them for their support of us," said Duecker, who noted that the health clinic has made nearly 700 referrals to local care providers in the first quarter of this year alone.

The doctors began the evening with a guided tour of the hospital, to give them a chance to see how the military cares for its patients, Duecker said. His clinic staff refers Soldiers, Family members and civilians to roughly 60 local doctors, he said.



Lt. Col. Kirsten Bautista, chief nurse at the Schweinfurt health clinic, explains documentation procedures to local doctors during the partnership event.

"These are the guys and gals that I go out and visit in their offices," he said.

Duecker and his chief nurse, Lt. Col. Kirsten Bautista, led the tour and explained everything from physical therapy and record keeping to the currently improving pharmacy.

"It works very good. What's good is how the clinic works," said Dr. Stefan Feiler, a local orthopedic surgeon, who was particularly interested in the x-ray capabilities.

Duecker wanted to thank the doctors for the somewhat special treatment that they give to the military community.

"A lot of people don't know that a lot of

German doctors will block time for same-day appointments for Americans," Duecker said.

Following the clinic tour, a bus carried the group to the bowling alley for an evening of relaxation.

Auctioned items benefit wounded warriors

Story and photo by Scott Rouch

The Würzburg Community Spouses' Club run is coming to a close.

Active at least since the early 1960s, the club will hold its final activity—a farewell luncheon—at the Leighton Community Activities Center May 10.

The group gathered April 19 at the Leighton CAC for a flea market and treasures luncheon and benefit, with

proceeds going to the Landstuhl Wounded Warrior Fund.

"We've been trying to leave a legacy for the Würzburg Spouses' Club, and we have many different things we're doing with our money. One of them was to have a social event and have all the money go to the Wounded Warrior Fund in Landstuhl because we heard they were in huge need," said Jennifer Hooker, WCSC president.

"It was a long hard decision for us to close this year, but we felt it would be better for the community for us to close in an upstanding and fine way than to go out next year unorganized and just close."

As well as providing funds for scholarships and charitable missions, WCSC runs the Leighton Thrift Shop. Hooker said the Bamberg Spouses' Club is in the process of becoming a private organization and will assume the responsibility for the store on Leighton Barracks.

Close to 80 attended the catered lunch and had an opportunity to pickup items via a silent auction and later a live auction.

Antiques for bid, auctioneered by WCSC vice president Sarah Seidler, included a sled, skis, cookie molds, Christmas tree stands and more. Hooker said members of the club traveled to as far away as Belgium and France to procure items for the auction.

An antique wooden wagon brought the largest bid of the day at \$225 and the club was able to donate a total of \$5,000.

WCSC donated its silver sets to Leslie Edens, honorary president of the Ansbach Spouses' Club and Mini-Delamarter-Lefebvre from Hohenfels.

Also at the luncheon was Chaplain (Col.) James Griffith, in charge of the Wounded Warrior Ministry Center at Landstuhl.

"Tanja Homas (WCSC vice president) got in contact with me and said that they basically wanted to take pretty much the whole proceeds of this auction and donate it to our Wounded Warrior Ministry Center," Griffith said. "We really are very appreciative of that, and it will go a long way toward doing some spot buys to help Soldiers that are in a time of need and their families."



Nikki Mulligan doesn't keep her bid secret as she raises her paddle confidently at the Würzburg Community Spouse' Club auction April 19.



Spouses get down and dirty in Dagger Brigade warrior challenge

Story and photos by Sandra Wilson

Dirt, cuts, scrapes, and bruises were displayed with pride by the spouses who competed in the first Dagger Brigade Spouses' Warrior Challenge last week.

For four days, spouses from all 2nd Brigade units competed for crossed daggers or "combat spouses' badges." Events included drill and ceremony, rifle marksmanship, a stretcher obstacle course, paintball, and hand grenade assault course.

"(We want) the spouses to get familiar with what their spouses are doing downrange, to bring the spouses together as a community so that they can talk with each other, (and) also (for) the command to see how the spouses are doing and interact with them," said Giouzelis. Capt. Laura Giouzelis, Task Force Guardian executive officer.

The event was designed to gain maximum participation from spouses in 2nd Brigade.

"The intent is to promote esprit de corps within the unit as a whole and you can see it in the tiger stripes on their faces, in their chants, on their t-shirts," said Cathy Burton, 2nd Brigade Family Readiness Group Leader and one of the coordinators of the event.

Burton feels that the warrior challenge fosters camaraderie. Her favorite display of spirit was in the brigade chants that the ladies sang as they marched and competed.

The friendly unit rivalries began at the dining-in in March. They hadn't planned to make the warrior challenge a scored competitive event until then, Burton explained.

The plans for the warrior stations ended up being adjusted due to the energetic spirit displayed by the spouses at the dining-in. The adjustments created a scoring mechanism at each station so that, in the end, a winner could be declared.

Some units even took study guides home to practice the drill and ceremony portion of the event, said Giouzelis. Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) and Family Readiness Liaisons (FRL) were asked to help in preparing for the warrior challenge.

Not only did the event become competitive, said Burton, but the course was created to be difficult.

"Unless you physically go through it, you can't imagine. It's a challenge to go through it. Simply showing up is not all of it. You



Toni McGee, 1-26 Infantry Regiment family member, part of the Combat Dolls, worms her way through the wired obstacle course Thursday morning as part of the Dagger Spouses' Challenge.

get bruises and cuts," said Burton.

Even so, through the camouflage and the dirt, smiles could be seen and laughter could be heard as teams marched from one event to the next.

When asked what she thought of the competition, Melanie Thornton, HHC 1-26 family member, said, "It's fun! I don't think I know what I'm doing, but it's really great, and I'd do it over and over again."

