



Honoring a *Blue Spader*



An honor guard salutes their fallen comrade during "Taps" at the end of the memorial ceremony for Spc. Nicholas Hartge.

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

The 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and the Schweinfurt community gathered at the Ledward Chapel Friday to honor Spc. Nicholas Scott Hartge, 20, who died May 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using grenades and an improvised explosive device.

Hartge, a member of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, grew up in Rome City, Ind., and enlisted in

the Army just after high school graduation in 2005.

"It took him no time to distinguish himself as a hard worker and a good Soldier," said Sgt. Shawn Ladue, who served in Iraq with Hartge for four months before being wounded and returning to Schweinfurt.

Hartge began his stint with the Blue Spaders as a driver and radio/telephone operator, which, although troubled Hartge, did not stop him from performing well, Ladue said.

"He came here to be an infantryman, not a radio jockey," Ladue said. Still, "he

jumped in feet first and made it his personal mission to have the best track in the company."

He originally wanted to attend the United States Military Academy and, though unsuccessful on his first attempt, quietly took the placement test for the academy's preparatory school while home on rest and recuperation leave earlier this year.

"I gladly wrote a letter on his behalf," said Lt. Col. Eric Schacht, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment commander, in remarks relayed at the memorial ceremony by Capt. Jacob White.

Hartge chose not to complete the application, knowing that, had he been accepted, he would have to leave his fellow Blue Spaders in July.

"Almost everything about him was unique," said Capt. Cecil Strickland at the memorial service in Baghdad May 22.

"Nick was a funny, kind and warm-hearted man," Schacht said, noting that he was extremely proud to be an infantryman and member of the "Scallywags" platoon.

"The Army doesn't give you values. It develops values you have from your parents," Strickland recalled Hartge having told him once in a conversation.

Hartge is survived by his father, Scott, mother and stepfather, Lisa and Dave Abbott, sister, Elise, and stepbrother, 1st Lt. Ryan Abbott.

120 turn out for screening

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

One hundred and twenty members of the Schweinfurt community are life-savers—or are at least willing to be.

Representatives from the C.W. Bill Young/DoD Marrow Donor Program were on hand at Saturday's Street Festival to talk to community members about registering as bone marrow donors, but the turnout surpassed all expectations.

"Often, people don't want to talk to me about donating until it affects them personally," said Stefanie Robinson, European coordinator with the donor program.

See Marrow, Page 5



Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Army Chief of Staff, and his wife, Sheila, address a group of spouses on Conn Barracks Friday. Casey visited Schweinfurt to explain his seven main initiatives and to thank the spouses for their service and support. (Photo by Mark Heeter)



News Briefs

Family Friendly Trip

Take a trip to Neuschwanstein Castle with MWR June 16. Visit one of King Ludwig II's castles, and see the building that inspired the Disney's Cinderella castle. Transportation is free, and pick ups will occur in Schweinfurt and Würzburg. Bring euro for lunch. For more information, call 350-6305.

Reduced services

The 39th Finance Battalion will provide limited services June 8, due to an inactivation and reactivation ceremony. Customer Service, In and Out processing, and Separation sections will be operational but with reduced staffing. For emergency financial service, please call 354-1730/6367.

Memorial ceremony

A memorial ceremony for Ssg. Virgil Martinez, of B Battery, 1-7 Field Artillery and Pfc. Clinton C. Blodgett, of A Company, 1-18 Infantry, will be held on Monday, June 11, at 1 p.m. at the Ledward Chapel. The uniform for military attendees is duty (ACUs), and for civilian attendees it is business casual. Immediately after the ceremony, an open reception will be held in the Ledward Chapel fellowship room. The community is invited to attend.

Well-being survey

Calling all civilians, retirees, and spouses. Please take the opportunity to tell us what you think about this USAREUR community. Fill out a well-being survey today through June 15. Call 354-6763 for survey locations.

Flea Market & Fun Fair

USAG Schweinfurt Morale, Welfare & Recreation is hosting a Ledward Family Fun Fair and Flea Market Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in front of Rohr's Diner. In addition to live music, BBQ, and bouncy castle fun for the kids, take this opportunity to set up a table as part of a community flea market. Have you been planning to have a yard sale but keep putting it off? Did you do some spring cleaning and find yourself with a storage area full of last year's baby clothes? Display your wares at this MWR Flea Market. For more information, or to reserve a spot, call 354-6762 or 354-6186.

Progressive perspectives

The USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Service Center on Ledward Barracks will host a series of classes on depression and anxiety management Wednesdays through August. These seminars are free of charge, and child care will be provided with a week's notice. The next class, "When you look at it that way" will be June 13, and teaches you to change the way you look at events to reduce stress. Call 354-6933 for more information.

Army birthday

Join us as we celebrate the Army's 232nd birthday June 14, 4:30 p.m. in Andrus Garden. Years of hard work, dedication, and tradition have forged the Army as it is today. Be a part of that on this special day and join us in the garden.

I've been framed

Learn how to mat and frame your own photos during a free framing class June 12 at 1 p.m. in the Wood 'n' Frame shop. All instruction and materials are free for this one-time class. Call 354-6933 for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS

We in the USAG Schweinfurt Community would like to congratulate all of this year's graduating seniors. As you walk the line tonight, we want you to know how proud of you we all are. Although some of your parents may not be with you during this celebration, they are proud, as we are, of everything you've accomplished and look forward to seeing you all succeed in everything that you have yet to imagine. This is your day, make it shine!

Update Forum

The next community update forums will be held June 12 in Schweinfurt and June 13 in Würzburg. Got questions about what's going on in the community? Come get answers!

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.



- 9 JUNE** --Seligenstadt Medieval Fair, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call Crafts Studio 354-6903.
--MWR Street Family Fun Fair and Flea Market, Ledward Barracks in front of Rohr's Diner, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 354-6762 to reserve a flea market spot.
- 10 JUNE** --Ziegenhain Salatkirmes, 1728 traditional folk event, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 354-6903.
- 11 JUNE** --Fall sports registration begins at Central Registration: football, soccer, cheerleading.
--SNAPS orientation begins, Ledward ACS, call 354-6933 to register.
- 12 JUNE** --Free framing class, 1 p.m. at the Wood 'n' Frame Shop. All materials provided. 354-6933.
--Community Update Forum, Schweinfurt Elementary, 6-8 p.m.
- 13 JUNE** --Community Update Forum, Leighton Community Activities Center, 6-8 p.m.
- 14 JUNE** --Army birthday celebration, Andrus Gardens, Ledward Barracks, 4:30 p.m.
--ACS Lunch bunch, meet at Ledward ACS, 11 a.m., call 354-6933.
- 16 JUNE** --Parents Day Out Respite Care, Leighton & Schweinfurt 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sign-ups begin June 4. Call 354-6517 or 09721-96-6414 Schweinfurt or 350-7762 or 0931-889-7762.
--Family Friendly Trip to Neuschwanstein Castle, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
--Best ball golf tournament, Loeffelsterz golf course, call 354-6264.
- 18 JUNE** --Baseball Clinic, Kessler Field, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 354-6822 for more information.
- 19 JUNE** --Baseball Clinic, Leighton Barracks, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 354-6822 for more information.
--Middle School Zone trip: Geiselwind Amusement Park, call 354-6308 or 09721-87465.
- 21 JUNE** --Middle School Zone trip: go kart racing, call 354-6308 or 09721-87465.
- 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. Passport required. Call 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711.
- 23 JUNE** --Family Friendly Trip to Europa park. Transportation free, bring euro for entry fees. Call 350-6305 for more information.
- 26-28 JUNE** -- "7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families" class, Leighton CAC, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Call 350-7103 or 354-6933 to register.
- 30 JUNE** --Horseshoe tournament with BBQ & music by Texas Rooster, Conn Club, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 4 JULY** --Independence Day Celebration, Kessler field, 2 - 11 p.m.
- 7 JULY** --Family Friendly Trip to Strasbourg, France, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- 10 JULY** --Free Paintball lessons at the Conn Paintball field, 1 p.m. Materials provided. Call 354-6933.
- 14 JULY** --Music on the Patio, Leighton CAC. BBQ, bounce activities, live music. Call 350-6305.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



'Hey mom! Look at me!'

Hundreds turn out to kick off the summer season with MWR

Story and photos by Kimberly Gearhart

Crowds packed Askren Manor in Schweinfurt June 2 for an all-day Street Party sponsored by the Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) division.

Children were treated to a variety of inflatable fun, ranging from one of the largest inflatable slides in Europe to a giant purple dinosaur, in whose mouth children scrambled like little, defiant snacks.

Older, more daring children took a turn at bungee jumping, bouncing and turning flips on four large trampolines, tethered to stretchy cords and yelling "Hey mom, look

at me!"

The Street Festival, the first of four planned through this summer, was an excellent opportunity for community members to get out of their homes and have a good time without really having to travel.

"We figured that by having it in the housing area, more people would have the opportunity to come. They don't have to worry about packing up the kids in the car; they can just walk over," said Garland Travis, MWR Entertainment director.

The party kicked off at noon, and before long, hundreds of children were getting their faces painted, trying their hands

at a tennis ball toss, and enjoying the mild weather.

Although rain threatened for most of the day, the crowd never thinned. Exact numbers were hard to estimate, given that the event was free, but organizers estimated that between 800 and 1,000 people came out for the festival.

"Everyone seems to be having a good time. We got to try it all out, and it is really fun," said Silvia Joiner, USAG Schweinfurt recreation specialist with MWR.

The next street festival will be held July 21 and will feature Latin music. Festivals are planned for August and September as well.



Left, Sierra Clower, 10, sails as high as the treetops on the bungee/trampoline ride at the Askren Manor Street Festival. Right, children climb into the jaws of danger—or at least into the jaws of fun.

Local Boy Scout earns highest honor

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

It wasn't too long ago that Boy Scout Troop 62 in Würzburg wasn't even sure they'd be around for another year. Now, with a new Scoutmaster in tow, Troop 62 is not only hanging on, but it is going strong, promoting several scouts through the ranks June 2 at the Leighton Chapel.

For one scout in particular, the promotion ceremony meant much more than a new pin on his sash. Christian Wiedemer earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor a Boy Scout can attain, and

Sunday's Court of Honor ceremony was his.

"Only about two percent of all the boys who enter scouting achieve the Eagle Scout rank," explained James Larsen, who, along with new Scoutmaster Jonathan McDonald, is responsible for the continuing Würzburg scout presence.

Wiedemer is unique even among those few Eagles. At 15, he is considerably younger than most other Eagle candidates. Additionally, Wiedemer is actually a Ca-



Patricia Wiedemer does the honor of pinning her son, Christian, with the rank of Eagle Scout during Sunday's Court of Honor ceremony in the Leighton Chapel in Würzburg.

See Scout, Page 6



First lightning goes back to school

Artillerymen take on second renovation project in 2 months

By Capt. Matthew Angliss

BAGHDAD – A school in western Baghdad re-opened after coalition forces and local community leaders sponsored its renovation.

Three months ago, the teachers at the Al Swaib School in western Baghdad were working under increasingly trying conditions. Their classrooms were overcrowded, the roof leaked in several places and school supplies for their students were scarce, at best.

When leaders from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment took responsibility for the security in the area nine months ago, they sat down with the local leaders and discussed the community's concerns.

"They immediately identified their education program as the most important issue in their area," said Capt. Timothy Lynch, a former platoon leader in the battalion.

When the battalion walked through all of the schools in the area to meet with the teachers and students, they instantly recognized issues and problems in the structures which they could help to improve over the coming months.

"Not long after that, a contractor came to us who listened to our proposed plans



Capt. Matthew Angliss

Capt. Chris Piskai, the battalion intelligence officer for 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, talks with local children at the Al Swaib School in western Baghdad.

for renovation," remembers Capt. Warrick Craig of 1-7 FA. Craig was one of several officers who helped to first put the project into motion.

"The contractor, Sheik Saad, was a lo-

cal sheik who told us he would employ 40 other men from the area as workers to complete the job."

The battalion is familiar with these types of projects to improve the local infrastructure and employ the nearby communities to carry out the work. This is the second school renovation they have financially assisted in the past two months.

"You really can't understand how good we have it as Americans until you come to a place like this," said Capt. Christopher Piskai, the battalion's intelligence officer. "These computers may be the only ones the students at this school will have the opportunity to use during their education."

"Instead of having a classroom with 40 to 50 kids inside having to struggle to maintain everyone's focus, students now benefit from a little more personal attention," Piskai said.

All of these things help to improve the educational setting at the school which, Lynch said, will improve the quality of education for nearly 450 students at the school.

"These are just great examples of people coming together to improve their communities and giving us the privilege to be a part of it," he said.

Marrow, From page 1

Recently, military dependents, children, in Wiesbaden and Stuttgart were diagnosed with leukemia.

Capt. Eric Fowler, USAG Schweinfurt Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) commander, helped organize the drive, which was sponsored by the HHC Family Readiness Group, the Red Cross, and the Health Clinic.

The local Army Community Service Center donated gift certificates for all registering donors as well.

"So many of us in the military community can no longer donate blood due to deployments or living situations. I was looking for something else we could do to help, and Cheryl Dean (Red Cross station manager) suggested bone marrow," Fowler said.

Getting donors to register can be difficult given the fact that donating has a reputation for being painful.

"But registration is painless, just a cheek swab," Robinson quickly pointed out.

Many of Saturday's donors were parents with young children. Parents are not a close

enough type match to be able to donate for their children, but they can help others.

"I look at my daughter, and she's not diagnosed with anything, but I think of all the others that are. That's why I do this," Fowler said.

In order to donate in Europe, volunteers must register as part of a drive. Fowler and Robin-



Capt. Eric Fowler swabs his cheek.

son hope to hold another one in Schweinfurt in August.

To find out more about marrow donation or to locate drives around the world, log on to www.dodmarrow.com.



Battalion commander returns and recognizes volunteers

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

299th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) gathered together May 16 on Conn Barracks to celebrate their dedicated volunteers.

"It's not how much time that you put in. It's the fact that you're helping," said Lt. Col. Keith Sledd of 299th FSB, who was home from Iraq on R&R.

That evening, many Family members and Soldiers were awarded certificates for hundreds of hours volunteered. Bronze, silver, and gold standings represented the number of hours given.

Tom Casarez, a silver recipient with 255 hours in the past year, said he likes volunteering because he's in school and can't be pinned down by the hours of an official job.



Wendy Sledd pins Jose Casarez for over 250 hours of volunteer service, while Lt. Col. Keith Sledd presents his certificate of appreciation.

"It helps our unit out and gives me a chance to do something," Casarez added.

He often volunteers with his 11-year-old daughter, Maya. This past December, Casarez dressed up as Santa for pictures at the PX and Maya was his sidekick elf. The team also helps out with decorating for battalion events.

"If people didn't volunteer, a lot of things wouldn't get

done," said Maya who earned a gold youth award for 198 volunteer hours.

Frank Brenneman, a retired sailor, was also recognized. He received a gold award for 791 hours of service. The battalion photographer, he takes many pictures at unit events. Brenneman also spent more than a year as a Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader.

"I just like seeing the smiles that people give when you help out. And it saves the government a lot of money," he said.

Brenneman's wife, Spc. Samantha Brenneman, gave 757 hours and also received a gold award at the ceremony. Her hours are spent writing newsletter articles, setting up potlucks, helping out in the local German community, and much more.

Scout, from page 4

nadian citizen and was granted special permission by the Boy Scouts of America to join.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, Wiedemer had to progress through the scouting ranks, earning merit badges demonstrating everything from his ability to skate to his dedication to world conservation.

To become an Eagle Scout, candidates must earn at least 21 badges (Wiedemer has 27), demonstrate leadership within the troop and community, and they must plan and complete a community service project.

Wiedemer's project involved repairing and refurbishing two rooms at his German school. After weeks of planning and coordination, Wiedemer led his troop through two days of repairing, painting, and renovations.

Once complete, candidates must submit a project report, go before a review board, and demonstrate superior dedication, faith, and fortitude.

"It is impossible for a boy to achieve this rank alone," Wiedemer said, thanking his friends and Troop members for their hard work and dedication.

Wiedemer also thanked his family "for loving and supporting me and for paying for all the camp-outs."

Eagle Scouts, although they have reached the pinnacle of the Boy Scout rank progression, are not through being Scouts. Eagles serve as leaders within the troop, guiding other scouts and often become community leaders as they grow out of Scouting and into the adult world.

For Wiedemer, engineering is the key to his educational future, but for now, he's a proud Eagle and determined to serve well.

Thrift shop leadership changes hands

By Roger Teel

Realizing that Army transformation was changing the local environment, the Wuerzburg Community Spouses' Club (WCSC) decided last summer that it would cease operations June 1.

However, the WCSC board wanted to have as normal a year as possible, and their efforts allowed them to give more than \$102,000 in scholarships and welfare donations to the local community.

The WCSC board also wanted to keep the Leighton Thrift Shop open as long as possible, so they searched for another spouses' club to take over thrift

shop operations.

The Bamberg Spouses' and Community Club accepted the offer.

Members of the two groups met in the thrift shop June 1 for a change-of-ownership ceremony. It was the Wuerzburg club's last official act.

"We want to thank the Bamberg Community Spouses' Club for stepping up and getting all the paperwork completed to keep the Leighton Thrift Shop operating for our community," said Jennifer Hooker, WCSC president.

She added that the Leighton Thrift Shop hours will remain the same and still needs shoppers, donators, and consignors.



Judie Davis

From left, Sebrena Pitts and Leslie Smith of the Bamberg Spouses' and Community Club, and Jennifer Hooker, president of the Wuerzburg Community Spouses' Club, sign a document to transfer the WCSC's Leighton Thrift Shop operation to the Bamberg club.