



ETG bids Wuerzburg farewell

by Roger Teel

The Europe Region Transformation Group (Nord Bayern)(Provisional), known as the ETG, transferred its reporting authority and responsibilities to U.S. Army Garrisons Ansbach, Bamberg and Schweinfurt at ceremonies Wednesday, April 4, in Franconia Park on Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg.

The three regional Army garrisons now report directly to Installation Management Command-Europe (IMCOM-Europe) headquarters. The transfer of authority effectively eliminates a level of command for basic support operations provided by the ETG.

ETG commander Col. Russel Santala and former Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Ford cased the ETG's colors as IMCOM-Europe director Mr. Russell Hall officiated.

Lt. Col. Tammy McKenna (USAG Ansbach), Lt. Col. Mark Gatto (USAG Bamberg), and Lt. Col. Tony Haager (USAG Schweinfurt) stood next to their command guidons on the parade field during the ceremony.

Addressing a chilled, wind-blown audience of nearly 120 invited guests, dignitaries and members of the command, Santala noted his organization's close ties to the host nation community and the many friendships that have been formed over the

years.

"This ceremony recognizes the 60-year history of U.S. Army garrison operations in Wuerzburg," he said.

He paid homage to the command's German hosts, several of whom were in attendance.

"Our successes have been achieved in partnership with our host nation friends, most notably the government of Lower Franconia, Wuerzburg county, and the crown jewels of Lower Franconia – the beautiful communities of Wuerzburg, Kitzingen and Giebelstadt. You have provided a wonderful environment for all members of U.S. forces and have created lifetime memories for thousands of American Soldiers and their families."

Hall, outlining the significance of the transition, said, "Today's transfer of authority brings Ansbach, Bamberg and Schweinfurt garrisons in line with other direct report garrisons. In so doing, we are taking another step toward achieving the standard garrison structure now used throughout the Army."

He also paid tribute to the ETG.

"This organization has been a stabilizing element for many people during a sea of change and Army transformation over the years, providing unparalleled basic support



Scott Rouch

Col. Russel D. Santala, Europe Region Transformation Group (Nordbayern) (Provisional) commander and Command. Sgt. Maj. Ralph Ford roll up the ETG colors before casing them.

operations to hundreds of thousands of Soldiers, civilians and family members stationed in Lower Franconia."

Wuerzburg has been reorganized nine times and had such distinctions as the Wuerzburg Military District, the Franconia District, the U.S. Military Community Activity-Wuerzburg, the Marneland Area Support Group, the 98th Area Support Group, USAG-Franconia and the ETG.

Harvey Barracks closure ends American presence in Kitzingen

by Scott Rouch

The American presence in Kitzingen came to an official close March 29.

Harvey Barracks was signed over to the German government after representatives from both sides toured the facility one last time and one day after a similar procedure took place at Kitzingen's Larson Barracks.

"I worked here for 25 years, that's why there are tears in my eyes," said Michael Gunther from the Europe Region Transformation Group (Nord Bayern) (Provisional) Directorate of Public Works.

Gunther, along with Hans Wirth, a real estate property specialist for the ETG, chained and padlocked the gate after the final vehicle exited the installation just past noon.

Gregor Neeb, a German real estate property specialist based out of Wuerzburg, previously worked for 14 years with the U.S. Army and has been a part of 16 installation closures.

"The buildings are in good shape, it's a shame there's no need right now for these facilities," he said from Harvey's former Centre Court.

All that is left is for the Germans to pay the tab for the installations. ETG DPW chief Steve Donnelly presented German representatives a bill for \$96 million for Harvey Barracks and \$67 million for Larson Barracks.

Donnelly explained the bills were for years of work over and above normal things. He said the government would not expect a check but that the funds would be diverted to things such as the buildup in Grafenwoehr.



News Briefs

Bus Service Changes

Effective April 30, bus services will be decreased. Transportation on the weekends will no longer be available. This change is being done in order to ensure that USAG Schweinfurt is meeting regulatory requirements while attempting to meet our customers' desires. Bus services from Conn to Ledward and Würzburg will not change.

Bowling Tournament sign-ups

IMCOM-Europe Army Bowling Championships will be held April 18-20 at the Kessler Bowling Center. This event will be open to all authorized military and civilian bowlers aged 18 and over in the European region. Submissions must be received by April 11. For more information, contact Bobby Boggs at 354-6332 or 09721-96-6332.

Ledward main gate maintenance

The Ledward barracks entrance gate is scheduled for maintenance on the morning of April 10. The normal entrance lane will be closed and all traffic will be redirected through the outbound lane. Maintenance should be complete and normal operations should resume that afternoon. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Easter sunrise service

The USAG Schweinfurt will hold an Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 8, 6:30 a.m. Please join us for a community sunrise service at Ledward Chapel to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Childcare will be available. For more information, call 354-1570 or 09721-96-1570.

Misa Catolica en Español

Ledward Chapel 1er Sabado de cada mes a 6:00 p.m. (Habrá un potluck despues del Servicio) Servicio conducido por: Padre Juan Zbigniew Para mas informacion llamar a : Maria Branyan, Tel 0160-4911835

BOSS Meet & Greet

Kick off your spring fun with Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) April 19 from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks. Meet your local BOSS representatives and tell us what you think. Transportation will be provided from Wuerzburg Soldiers.. Call 354-6270 or 350-6305 for more information.

Finance office closed

Due to a change of command ceremony, the delta detachment, 39th Finance Battalion offices will be closed the morning of April 18. Services will resume at 1 p.m.

Leave donation program

Dionne Taylor, a NAF employee of the USAG Schweinfurt Child Development Center, is suffering chronic illness requiring her absence from work to receive treatment. She has applied for and has been accepted to participate in the NAF Volunteer Leave transfer Program which allows NAF employees to donate annual leave to the account of Ms. Taylor. Please call for information, 351-4460.

Health Clinic open

The Health Clinic is open for training holidays, and will be open April 6 and 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SY 07-08 Registration

- Schweinfurt Elementary School
 - April 18-20, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Packets home April 16.
 - Kindergarten packets available after April 9.
- Schweinfurt Middle School
 - April 17-19, 8 a.m. to noon
 - Packets home soon
- Wuerzburg High School
 - April 19, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Abrams Club
 - April 20, 8:15 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 3 p.m., WHS.

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.



- 6-15 APR** --Club Beyond travels to Slovakia for a week-long service project. For info call 0160-331-9404 or email beth_bailey@yahoo.com.
- 7 APR** --April Fool's Family Fun Run, Kessler Fitness Center, 9 a.m. Easter egg hunt to follow.
- 8 APR** --Easter Bowling at Kessler Bowling Center. Easter egg hunt and free shoes until 5 p.m.
- 10-12 APR** --Teen Center spring break trip to Garmisch, \$60. Call for more info., 354-6732.
- 11 APR** --VA Briefing at Ledward Movie Theater, 8 a.m. to noon. Contact ACAP to register 354-6019.
--Autism Panel Discussion, 1 p.m. Abrams Center, childcare available. Call 354-6933.
- 14 APR** --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.
--Spring into Fitness Aerobathon, Leighton Fitness Center, 10 a.m. until you're done!
--Deployment hourly care, Leighton CDC, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in support of Aerobathon.
- 15 APR** --Flag Football tournament with Middle School/Teen Center. Call 350-6694.
- 19 APR** --WCSC Luncheon and Benefit Auction, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Leighton CAC. Proceeds benefit the Landstuhl Wounded Warriors Fund.
--B.O.S.S. Meet & Greet party. 3- 9 p.m., Finney Recreation Center, Conn Barracks.
- 20 APR** --Parent's night out from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Register in The Commons. Sign up begins April 9.
--USAG Schweinfurt Volunteer recognition ceremony, 10 a.m., Conn Club.
--Schweinfurt Scrapbooking Crop, 299th Classroom, CMR building, Conn Barracks. Call 09721-96-6141 for more information.
- 21 APR** --Kinder Olympics, Dickman Field, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free for participants 2-19 years old.
- 26 APR** --ACS "Lunch Bunch" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 27 APR** --SES Skate Party and PTA Board elections, 4-6 p.m., SES parking lot.
- 28-29 APR** --WCSC Schoolhouse antiques sale, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wuerzburg Middle School Gym. Proceeds benefit "Homes for our Troops."
- 29 APR** --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.
- 30 APR** --ACS German language 4-week class begins. Call ACS to sign up 354-6933.
--Family Game Night, Leighton CAC, 6-10 p.m.
--Take Back the Night Walks, Victory Park and Askren Manor, 6 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 3 May** --Spanish Club presentation, 5 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School gym.
- 11 May** --Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration, 1:30-3 p.m., Schweinfurt Middle School gym.
- 22-23 MAY** --Environmental Awareness Days, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conn Recycling Center.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Training area allows exercise across Bavaria

Story and photos by Mark Heeter

The U.S. Army Europe Training Support Center (TSC), Schweinfurt, has everything from protractors and training aids to a rotary-wing drop zone and 6,815 acres of land.

“There’s this myth that goes around United States Army, Europe, that units can’t train at home station, so we were stunned when we got up here and found this place,” said Lt. Col. Jody Petery, from the Joint Maneuver Readiness Training Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels.

For the past three weeks, Petery, the Task Force Grizzlies senior observer-controller, has been evaluating the 173rd (Airborne) Brigade’s mission rehearsal exercise, including a large chunk of the training at Camp Robertson training area, north of Schweinfurt.

“This training area is about as good as anything we’ve seen anywhere else,” Petery said, noting that Camp Robertson is one of several maneuver areas used for the exercise, including Bonnland, the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site near the Hammelburg infantry school.

And the planners obtained maneuver rights to traverse the countryside between Schweinfurt and Hammelburg – a 35-by-15-kilometer swath, he said.

“So the actual training space is bigger now than what’s available even at Hohenfels, because we go from Schweinfurt

to Bonnland and everything in between,” Petery said.

“Area Mike (near Schweinfurt) is exceptional, and the area of Bonnland is probably about six times bigger than any MOUT site, any urban area we have at Hohenfels,” he added.

That ability to use Camp Robertson was not lost on the training Soldiers, either.

“I think it’s absolutely fantastic that the exercise can stretch the command and control system of the brigade and the squadron,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, commander of the Schweinfurt-based 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment.

All the players on the battlefield, which stretched from the German-Austria border to northern Bavaria, were connected through the 173rd Brigade headquarters, which was established at the JMRC.

“It’s a terrific training event that JMRC has put together in conjunction with the Schweinfurt garrison to support our MRX,” Kolenda said.

The staff of the TSC, Schweinfurt, go as far as they can to meet units’ training needs, and they ask their counterparts around Europe for assistance when necessary, said Daniel Cintron, chief, TSC, Schweinfurt.

“There’s a lot of units that don’t know our capabilities right now,” Cintron said.

“Camp Robertson is a good example. A lot of units don’t know that we have a certified obstacle course, rappelling towers, mess area and ammo point. We have an area that we do maintenance here. We also have this place set up as a forward operating base,” he said.

The TSC, Schweinfurt also hosts a fully certified course for air-assault, pathfinder, expert infantryman badge and expert field medical badge.

Last year, Soldiers logged roughly 86,000 training man-days at Camp Robertson and the Victory Training Center, according to Cintron.



A Soldier gives instructions to his team before entering a building for clearance.

Camp Rob prepares CAV

Preparing for its mission to Afghanistan, the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, completed its mission rehearsal exercise this week.

The training took them from the Schweinfurt training area to Bonnland, an urban-warfare training area in the Infantry School at Hammelburg.

“The focus of our training is the new counterinsurgency doctrine, which is to protect the population,” said Capt. Kevin Calkins, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry public affairs officer.

Protection also involved offensive combat operation, he said.

“As this is for a combat deployment, we do have to train on Soldier skills, combat actions and tactics,” he said.

“They understand that people are the critical element in a counterinsurgency,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, 1-91 CAV commander.

“It’s important that we conduct ourselves that is respectful of the country we’re operating in,” he said.

During one scenario in the mock village of Wormamay in Camp Robertson, Kolenda’s Soldiers swiftly followed a cordon-and-search mission with humanitarian assistance.

“We’re prepared to go to Afghanistan. I’ve been in the Army almost 20 years, and I have never seen a more dedicated group of professional Soldiers,” Kolenda said.



While their comrades continued to fight mock insurgents, a group of Soldiers search the personal effects of an enemy fighter they chased into the woods in Camp Robertson.



Schweinfurt celebrates military kids

story and photos by Kimberly Gearhart

The Month of the Military Child got off to a colorful, fun-filled start Saturday, March 31 in Askren Manor. Girl and boy

scouts served as color guard for a parade that included a fire truck, marching band, beauty queens, and hundreds of children from the Schweinfurt community.

Lt. Col. Robert Whittle opened the festivities, thanking the children of Schweinfurt for all they do to support their deployed loved ones. He then quickly stepped aside as the kids rushed into the School Ages Services building to enjoy their day.

Breanna Brooks got her face painted. Steven Denman practiced his fire fighting skills. Jody Dean and Marisol Corbett won new bikes from Andrews Federal Credit Union, which sponsored the event, and kids everywhere enjoyed games and gathered prizes.

Kimberly Hickey, USAG Schweinfurt Outreach Director, said this year's Kinderfest may have had the biggest turnout ever. Of course, she had to speak up to be heard over the sound of running, jumping, laughing children. The after count confirmed Hickey's estimate, with between 950 and 1000 attendees.





Answers for questions about Autism

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Many parents fear the worst when their child is diagnosed with autism. Having the stereotypical label “not normal” presents a challenge that no one chooses, and as a parent, it’s something you would rather not hear.

In order to quell those fears and answer questions of parents, family members, and educators, ACS has scheduled a panel discussion with local experts April 11 at 1 p.m. in the Abrams Center.

Among the panelists will be Kurt King, family advocacy program manager at Army Community Service (ACS), who was 42 when first diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome, or high-functioning autism.

While sitting in an office waiting room, King had stumbled upon a magazine article about autism. After reading the sidebar called, “The Geek Syndrome,” he was amazed to find that it seemed to describe him.

“It seemed as if these authors had quietly been observing the timeline of my

life. Issues I had had, and still have, were described in crystalline clarity,” he said.

He decided to get a professional diagnosis at the hospital. They found the diagnosis was rather easy, he said, as King thoroughly exceeded diagnostic criteria.

But that didn’t stop him from living life to the fullest. And now more intrigued by the subject, he continues his personal research on autistic spectrum disorders.

King says that attending the panel discussion will help people to identify autistic characteristics and understand autism.

Jennifer Litchfield, behavior modification therapist for children with autism and Asperger’s, will also be part of the panel on Wednesday.

“It is necessary for everyone in a community to understand this spectrum disorder. No one has to be a subject matter expert, but understanding is necessary for total acceptance,” she said.

Parents, teachers, and aides should attend the panel to learn about autistic behaviors and how they are often linked to the child



King

trying to communicate, Litchfield said.

“Knowing (the behaviors) and understanding the proper methods to deal with (them) will enhance the child’s ability to learn what is being taught at home and/or in the classroom as well as teaching them how to cope with transition and change,” she said.

A support group has also formed through ACS for families wanting to talk on a regular basis about autism. It meets the last Friday of each month.

Elementary school book fair promotes reading variety



Sandra Wilson

Schweinfurt Elementary School students browse the available book selections at a scholastic book fair this week. Books ranging from Dr. Seuss favorites to the Lord of the Rings trilogy were available for purchase.

Local “Nightmare” terrorizes Tim Allen with “Wild Hogs”



courtesy photo

As part of the “Wild Hogs” movie promotion in Germany, our own Dave “Nightmare” Coldwell (right) joined Tim Allen, John Travolta, and Ray Liota in a motorcycle ride in Munich April 2.