



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

March 22, 2007



NCO honored as great Soldier, friend

By Sandra Wilson

Staff Sgt. Karl Sotopinedo was carrying out his duties Feb. 27 when he was attacked by small arms fire. March 21, the Schweinfurt community gathered for a memorial ceremony in honor of him. It was a time of remembering Sotopinedo's love for serving with the military and his friendship with his comrades.

Sotopinedo was only five years old when first inspired to become an American Soldier. As a child, he lived in Panama while Operation Just Cause unfolded. From a hiding place in the jungle, he saw U.S. Soldiers sneak by and paratroopers rain from the sky.

"The little boy from the streets of Panama grew up to be a big U.S. Soldier. In fact, he was the biggest Soldier in Alpha Company," said Chaplain (Capt.) Seth George as he spoke of Sotopinedo during the memorial ceremony in Iraq.

"He chose to use his adult life to fight for the freedom from which he benefited as a child. He chose to fight for the freedom of other children who stand in streets in places like Iraq and Afghanistan—for kids whose futures appear bleak due to the oppression

of dictators and terrorists," George said.

Many people remembered Sotopinedo's friendship. He was a friend to all, said Lt. Col. George Glaze, commander, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. Glaze used words like confidence, candor, and cool under pressure, when speaking about Sotopinedo.

"If a picture says a thousand words, then that smile says a million," Glaze said.

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Buchan, from Bravo Company 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry in Ramadi, remembered Sotopinedo as an outstanding soldier.

"If I had to take only one Soldier into combat it would be him, and I know that in that four man stack he would have my back along with whoever he was serving with," Buchan said.

Not only did Sotopinedo's caring friendship permeate those around him, but his humorous side also provided encouragement.

"Few people are afforded the rare opportunity to experience such dear friends that touch your life in a such special way as him," said members of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry regiment, in a group statement celebrating Sotopinedo's life.



Sotopinedo

"We will always carry the memories in our hearts... For some it was his awesome physical strength or his dedication and pride to serve in the United States Army. For others it was the laughter we found in his stories of being a cheerleader in college or wearing his pink shirt to the clubs," said Capt. Brian Hartman, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry.

SMS Idols dance, play piano, and even sing

Photos by Sandra Wilson



Schweinfurt Middle School held the second annual Idol contest March 20. Fifteen diverse entrants competed, and three walked away with trophies. First place went to a dancing trio (above): sixth-grader Jaquya Bradford and seventh-graders Erika Davis and Krystle Suetopka. Second place went to sixth-grader piano-playing Daniel Reynolds (left). Ahmad Ali Nur (inset) sang his way to third.



News Briefs

SES Craft Fair

The Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES) PTA will hold a Craft Fair March 31 in the SES multipurpose room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local craftsmen will display their wares. Come see what your community has to offer.

Mom and me pottery class

The USAG Schweinfurt Crafts center on Ledward Barracks is offering six-week pottery classes beginning March 23 or 24. Cost is \$65 for each parent/child pairing and includes all materials and instruction. Call 354-6903 or 09721-966903 for more information.



ODR hiking trip

USAG Schweinfurt Outdoor recreation will host a one day hiking trip March 24 to Fichtelgebirge and Franconia Switzerland. Enjoy this spectacular hike through the famous rock garden and Devil's Cave. The hike is easy but not stroller-friendly. Trip departs at 8 a.m. and will return by 6 p.m. at the Outdoor Recreation office on Conn Barracks, Bldg 50. For more information, call 353-8080 or 09721-96-8080.



Daylight Savings Time Begins

It's time to Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time begins March 25 here in the European Union. Remember to set your clocks forward before you go to bed Saturday night—especially your alarm clock!

AER campaign runs through May

This is your chance to help the Army Emergency Relief fund with its ongoing mission to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. Be a part of "Soldiers helping Soldiers." Contact your unit coordinator for more information or to get an allotment form. Civilians may donate by cash or check through the S-1, 09721-96-1550. Donations are tax deductible, and 88 cents of every donated dollar goes to helping Soldiers and their families through the rough spots.

Red Cross open house

The local Red Cross will hold an open house March 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., wrapping up Red Cross Month with a chance to show everyone what Red Cross has to offer. Stop by the Red Cross office and learn about the ways we can help you and how you can help us! We are located in the basement of building 206, Ledward Barracks. Call 09721-96-1760 for details.

Memorial Ceremony

The memorial ceremony for Spc. Marieo Guerrero of A company, 1-18 infantry, and Pfc. Alberto Garcia Jr. of C company, 1-26 infantry, will be held March 27 at 10 a.m. at the Ledward Chapel. The uniform for military attendees is duty (ACUs), and for civilians it is business casual. An open reception will be held in the Ledward Chapel fellowship room afterward.

Upcoming Red Cross lifesaving courses

- March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Adult CPR/AED with Infant & Child CPR, Würzburg
- April 21 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Standard First Aid with Adult CPR/AED, Schweinfurt
- April 28 from 8 a.m. to noon
Standard First Aid, Würzburg

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.



- 24 MAR** --USO Shopping express trip to Cheb. \$30 per seat. Call 354-6711 for more information.
- Family Friendly Trip, Polish Pottery shopping. Sign up in advance, call 354-6715.
- Racquetball tournament at Kessler fitness center for ages 18 & older. Call 354-6735.
- Miss Middle School Zone pageant, 6 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6308.
- Teen Center all-area lock-in, register by March 14. Call 354-6732.
- 25 MAR** --Family Day at Kessler bowling center. Games \$1.50 for adults & \$1 kids 17 and under.
- Stores downtown on will be open Sunday on the Marktplatz.
- 30 MAR** --SMS/MSZ youth dance, 6 - 9 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6308.
- 31 MAR** --American Red Cross class: Adult, infant, & child CPR with adult AED in Leighton Yellow Ribbon Room, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call to sign up 354-1760.
- Kinderfest, Askren Manor, from 2 to 5 p.m. Kick off the Month of the Military child!
- Bowling Championship team try-outs. Kessler Bowling Center. Sign-ups begin at 10:45.
- Spring Craft fair at Schweinfurt Elementary School, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 1 APR** --Easter market trip to Mardorf, call Arts and crafts for more info., 354-6903.
- 5 APR** --Easter egg hunt, Leighton CAC, 6 p.m. Free food, candy, and fun!
- 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.
- 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!
- 19 APR** --WCSC Luncheon and Benefit Auction, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Leighton CAC. Proceeds benefit the Landstuhl Wounded Warriors Fund.
- 20 APR** --Parent's night out from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Register in The Commons. Sign up begins April 9.
- 21 APR** --Kinder Olympics, Dickman Field, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free for participants 2-19 years old.
- 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.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



PWOC, helping local women in need

Second in a series

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

When the dog has decorated the kitchen with the contents of your trash can and screaming, yelling, and pounding feet echo through the house after you've told the kids 39 times to quiet down, who do you call? Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC).

Outside of their weekly Wednesday gatherings at the chapel, there are several PWOC initiated programs to help a mother in need of a break.

"Right now especially because of the deployment year, they don't have to be going through the deployment alone," said Christina Gomer, Programs Director and Treasurer for Schweinfurt PWOC.

Because of the pressing need for free short-term childcare during daily errands, women have gathered together to adopt a buddy system. The "system" provides women with a temporary baby sitter. The woman who volunteers her time, or simply the "buddy," can sit with your child in the clinic waiting room or even in the car while you finish what needs to be done.

Another similar program is the "PWOC Baby sitter's Club." While this one tends

to be longer chunks of time, its purpose is still for women to have time off, and is available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

With the arrangements made in advance, women can drop off their children for the six hours of free childcare. As long as the women who take advantage of this service are willing to babysit on another occasion, the club is available to them.

PWOC also offers help in emergency situations. They have offered to provide meals for anyone in the community who finds themselves in an emergency.

Women put their hands to work to make ten freezable meals to be stored as long as six months. PWOC will deliver a meal to any community member who is unable to cook for themselves or their family because of illness, injury, or birth of a child.

"In the past when we had someone in the hospital and they needed a meal, we've always had to call someone and



The "meal ministry" is just one way PWOC strives to help the community and one another.

they usually had to make the meal ... Now, whenever anything comes up, we can just ask someone to pick it up at the chapel and add a bread or salad to it, and it'll be a lot easier," said Amanda Clark, President for Schweinfurt PWOC.

So instead of using chocolate to soothe those moments of stress and busy-ness of life, why not give the chapel a call and ask about what PWOC can do for you?

Community youth's fencing skills duel-y noted

By Mark Heeter

Twelve-year-old Kendrick McIntyre wanted to try something a little different.

Enter the epee.

"I like that it's not really a common sport, and I like how it's in the Olympics," McIntyre said, referring to one of his hobbies: fencing.

McIntyre, who fences for the Turngemeinde (TG) Schweinfurt 1848 e.V., began at the age of seven.

"My mom researched it, and when I saw the sword fighting, I thought it would be something I like," said McIntyre, as he explained in detail the difference between epee, foil and saber techniques.

"When I was, like, nine, I started going to tournaments," he said, recalling that he was scared and had butterflies the first time around.

Despite having to face older children, he quickly



Photo by John McIntyre

overcame his nerves.

"There was one Schweinfurter there, from the TG, and I whooped him pretty good," on his way to a fourth place finish, he said.

And the whoopings keep coming. McIntyre recently took fifth place at the Bavarian youth championship, after taking the bronze medal the previous two years.

McIntyre estimated that he sometimes has to get through 20 or 30 competitors in a tournament.

"The hardest part is the tricks and getting them. You have to think a lot," McIntyre said of his strategy, which he hones at twice-weekly practices.

Still, for McIntyre, it's about having fun.

"It's a good, fun sport. You want to have fun and you want good sportsmanship. When you get used to it, you'll rock at it. I did," McIntyre said with a smile.



1-91 trains like it's real in Camp Rob

Photos and story by Kimberly Gearhart

We approached the gate to find a razor-wire serpentine and a stop sign. After pulling to a stop, and seeing that no one was coming through the other way, we continued on.

Suddenly, three Soldiers in full battle gear were in motion, guns up and ready, two fanning out to flank the car, one directly in front of us shouting "Stop" and holding up one hand, clenching his fist.

The questions were fast and direct. Do you have identification? What's your business here? The Soldier on the passenger side relayed answers back and barked questions of his own.

It struck me that although I was sitting just outside Camp Robertson, one of Schweinfurt's training areas, I wasn't in Germany anymore.

I was entering Afghanistan.

The 1st Squadron, 91st

Cavalry will deploy to Afghanistan later this year, but for the moment, they've transformed Camp Robertson into a little Afghanistan, complete with an Afghan village and native-speaking role players.

"This training teaches the Soldiers how to gather intelligence and how to interact with the locals," said Sgt. 1st Class Frankie Harris, from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels, who was on hand as Observer/Controller for the simulation.

Upon leaving the village, Soldiers face more role players, both combatives and non-combatives. Small groups of "farmers" populate the area where intelligence suggests there may be insurgent threat.

"We're trying to teach them that not everyone's a bad guy on the battlefield and make sure they identify what they are

shooting at first," Harris said.

Simulated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are hidden along the convoy paths, and "insurgents" hide among the tree lines with rocket propelled grenades (RPGs). Avoidance, suppression, and recovery techniques are paramount for troops on the move in the battlefield.

Troops in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) aren't immune to attack either.

"This morning, we did an incoming drill to simulate an enemy mortar attack. In the TOC, we have to keep everything running, even under attack," said Pfc. Travis Sandlin, who is facing his first deployment.

"It really helped us get a grasp of how you have to react. You can't hesitate," he said.

That level of realism is what the CAV is striving for, in hopes to better prepare the Soldiers for what is to come.

"We're preparing our Soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan. We've had to change our mindset due to the change in mission," said platoon leader 1st Lt. John Meyer.

In order to affect that mindset change and prepare Troopers for a new battlefield, 1-91 CAV has pulled out all the stops. When others need help, they "call in the Cavalry." So who does the Cavalry call?

Everyone that can.



1-91 Troopers splash through mud puddles and scan for insurgents during training exercises at Camp Robertson.



1-91 CAV Troopers are sighted in on their Afghan mission, thanks to intensive, comprehensive, and focused training.



Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Stockdill (left) briefs his platoon prior to a React to Contact exercise at Camp Robertson March 21.

In addition to JMRC teams, a detachment from the 364th Civil Affairs Brigade flew over from the states to observe and make recommendations.

"They've got so many great assets here. I've been really impressed by the level of readiness and high morale," said Capt. Chip Sell, from 364th Civil Affairs.

The Civil Affairs team will not deploy with the Schweinfurt Soldiers, but some civilian members training with the CAV will, including some retired law enforcement officers like Bill Powers. Powers and others like him will help the Soldiers interpret intelligence from a law enforcement point of view.

"We will be primarily working with military intelligence and S-1, trying to meld together the incoming operation," Powers said. Powers has the added value of having spent time in Afghanistan before and hopes that his area and cultural knowledge will be helpful as well.

Soldiers are training on everything from mounted and dismounted group movements, intelligence gathering, to air assault missions and cultural considerations.

"We're rolling everything up into one. It's been really good. The guys are getting a lot out of it," said Staff Sgt. David Benoit, platoon sergeant with Charlie Troop, 1-91.

Training in Camp Robertson will continue through the first week in April.



Press conference highlights 2nd BCT success

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Keith Laird, 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs

Col. J.B. Burton, Commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, (2nd BCT), currently assigned to the Multi-National Division - Baghdad, answers a question from a member of the Pentagon Press Corps.

The press conference was conducted live with the reporters asking questions and Burton answering them via satellite from Camp Liberty, Iraq, March 16.

This press conference was the first of several that will be conducted by senior leaders of the Dagger Brigade over the coming months in order to highlight the significant successes enjoyed by the unit as a result of the new security plan in Baghdad.



Day spa opens inside Finney

Conn Barracks now hosts the Day Spa as part of the AAFES effort to support our community. Located upstairs in the Finney Fitness Center, the Day Spa opened last week and offers an array of services such as manicures, massage, and more.

Spa hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Call to make an appointment at 09721-473-3698.



Sandra Wilson

Anna Chernyavski, day spa employee, practices her manicure skills on Aleisha Goodwin, contractor manager of the new facility.

Civilians S-T-R-E-T-C-H their limits with fitness program



Sandra Wilson

Megan Stockdill, learning impaired aid at Schweinfurt Elementary School, stretches to her limit for the Civilian Fitness Program assessment as Sean Colvin, Finney Fitness Center worker, measures her flexibility in the sit-and-reach.

This year's Civilian Fitness program was off to a great start as participants in Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg participated in fitness assessments. The Civilian Fitness encourages employees to work out and get fit. Next enrollment is in the fall.