



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

March 29, 2007



Schweinfurt bids farewell to 'quiet' warriors

Story and memorial photo by Mark Heeter

One was called quiet. The other was referred to as under the radar.



Guerrero

Guerrero during the memorial service honoring the fallen Dagger Brigade Soldiers at the Ledward Chapel March 27.

"They were both described as quiet professionals who were liked by everyone in their unit and were devoted to their families," Brown said.

Garcia, from Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, "Blue Spaders," was killed by an improvised exploding device (IED) while on combat patrol east of Baghdad March 13.

Guerrero, from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, "Vanguards," was killed by an IED in Baghdad March 17.

Staff Sgt. Shawn Busch read the remarks that Garcia's squad leader, Sgt. Jacob Richardson, gave at an earlier memorial service in Iraq.

"He was a Soldier that made an NCO's job a little easier. Alberto loved the physical part of being a Soldier," Richardson said.

"He was a fast learner, who enjoyed learning as much as he could," said Richardson, who taught Garcia a few chords on his relatively new hobby: the guitar.

"For a beginner, he played extremely well," he said.

Following each mission, Garcia would always take care of his equipment in preparation for the next, said Capt. Cecil

Strickland, whose earlier remarks were conveyed by Capt. Jacob White.

"And when he squared away his equipment, he would go to the gym and square away his body, even if it was 3 a.m.," Strickland said.

Guerrero was remembered by his comrades as a Soldier who could "light up a room" when he came in.



Garcia

"He was a dear friend, he was a loving husband, he was an honorable son to his parents, and to his fellow Soldiers a brother," said Capt. Robbie Johnson in remarks presented by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Robertson.

"We can only hope that we find ourselves worthy of a friend like Marieo," Johnson said.

According to Capt. Rickey Torres, who read the remarks of Lt. Col. George Glaze, Task Force Vanguard commander, Guerrero was "doing what he loved – leading the way."

Garcia is survived by his mother, Maria Alverado, and sisters Veronica Downs and Mercedes Nawrot. Guerrero is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and mother, Cheryl Lynn Martinez.



Nicki Moser offers her condolences in the guest book before the memorial service.

Month of the Military Child kicks off with Kinderfest

Story by Kimberly Gearhart

April is the Month of the Military Child, a time when the military community celebrates its youngest members. This year, the USAG Schweinfurt is kicking the month off a day early with Kinderfest on March 31 from 2 to 5 p.m. on Askren Manor.

Kinderfest will kick off with a parade through Askren Manor. The parade will start at the East access gate to the housing area, which is closed on weekends.

The parade will include a fire engine from the local Directorate of Emergency Services, a float, the local pageant winners, local boy and girl scouts as a color guard, and the Ebenhausen German marching band. All attendees are invited to march in the parade

as well.

In case of inclement weather, the parade will be cancelled, but Kinderfest will go forward as planned, indoors.

The main bulk of Kinderfest activities will take place in and around the School Age Services building. Activities include face painting, a fire extinguisher training activity, and a K9 demonstration with the military police.

"The kids really get a kick out of the dogs," said Kimberly Hickey, USAG Schweinfurt Child & Youth Services (CYS) outreach director.

Door prizes will be awarded as well. In addition to small toys and games, two bicycles were supplied by event sponsor Andrews Federal Credit Union.

See KINDERFEST, page 4



News Briefs

Calling all actors

USAG Schweinfurt Community Theater needs to fill parts for the production, "And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank." Males, females, youth, and extras are needed as well as production help with costumes, stage management, publicity, and set construction. Call or email Garland Travis at 0162-296-2776 or garland.travis@us.army.mil.

Egg hunt

Hunt for eggs at the Community Activities Center on Leighton Barracks April 5 at 6 p.m. In addition, enjoy free snacks, candy, and photos with the Easter Bunny! For details, call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305.

Flowers in Amsterdam

Travel with the Schweinfurt USO to Amsterdam for the flower parade April 20-22. The trip costs \$105 for adults and \$100 for children. Call for more information 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711.

Preschool parenting made fun

Join this special "Parenting with Love and Logic" course designed especially for parents of young children ages 0-6 years.



Mark Heeter

Justin Mitchell, USAG Schweinfurt deputy commander, goes for the green at the new Community Bank automatic teller machine (ATM) next to the Kessler Bowling Center. Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, and Debra Shellhammer, Schweinfurt branch manager, cut a ceremonial ribbon to unveil the machine yesterday.

Course takes place at School Age Services on Askren Manor April 2 from 10 a.m. to noon. Learn tips to handle common parenting issues and put the fun back into parenting. Call ACS for more information 354-6933/6751 or 09721-96-6933/6751.

Red Cross course Saturday

Attended the American Red Cross course in the Leighton Yellow Ribbon March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Course will teach standard first aid with adult, infant, child CPR and adult AED. Call for more information or to sign up 354-1760 or 09721-96-1760.

Craft Fair on Saturday

Shop at the spring craft fair in Schweinfurt Elementary School multipurpose room March 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Peruse collections of homemade arts and crafts to find unique treasures.

USO trips

Join USO on one of their trips over the Easter weekend. April 6-11 travel to Lloret De Mar, Spain for \$379, which includes three overnights. Or April 6-8 go on the Hamburg Express for only \$119 per adult or \$113 per child. Call USO for more information 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711.

Last chance Easter market trip

Join the Arts and Crafts Studio on their last trip of the season to the Easter market in Mardorf by Marburg. Trip departs from the crafts studio on Ledward at 8 a.m. and returns around 6 p.m. Sign up fee \$5. Call for more information 354-6903 or 09721-96-6903.

German language class

Learn how to speak in German at Leighton's four-week beginning German class located in building 14. The class is Mon, Wed, and Fri from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and begins April 2. Call 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103 for more information or to sign up.

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

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.



- 30 MAR** --SMS/MSZ youth dance, 6 - 9 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6308.
- 31 MAR** --American Red Cross course 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call to sign up or for more info. 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!
- 6-11 APR** --Trip to Lloret De Mar, Spain with USO, \$379. Call for more info. 354-6711.
- 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!
 --Schweinfurt SAS opening theme "Spring Olympics," 9 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6974.
- 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.
- 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.
- 26 APR** --ACS "Lunch Bunch" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 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.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Renovation, move promises service improvements

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

What do you have if you take 27,285 square feet and combine them with little cubes of paper cut out and stuck onto the floor plan? You have the garrison commander devising his plan to improve the in-and-out processing (IOP) center as it prepares to move its new home.

“I did a bunch of cubicle research, then I cut them out. Every cubicle in here is going to be manager-sized, in accordance with the standard cubicle office space that most organizations go with,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander.

What began as a deployment center for the highly active and deployed units in the Schweinfurt community has turned into a project that is about halfway completed and will consolidate all the IOP functions.

“The first time you come into a community, you need to be welcomed by a world-class entity, shop, and that’s the intent of this place,” Haager said, following a walk with his staff through the building 40 on Conn Barracks.

The center will give Soldiers and their families one-stop shopping, as Haager called it, which will include the ID card and passport sections, personnel, finance, and likely a medical-and-

dental screening area. The idea is to mirror the centers that some of the larger CONUS posts have.

Referring to the Personnel Services Delivery Redesign (PSDR) initiative at the Installation Management Command, Haager said the new building’s intent meets the goal.

“We have a quality service now, but we’re improving it and it’s going to ease the Soldiers’ transition into and out of the community,” said John McIntyre, the USAG Schweinfurt director of human resources who will oversee several of the center’s tenant units.

“One, our troopers deserve it and, two, this is good for our community,” Haager said.

As construction crews continue to hammer out the details for the next few months, Haager instructed the support units to report their needs to him, and he will accommodate them where possible.

“We’re being creative with how we’re executing this. This is a phased operation,” he said, explaining that phase one is middle floor, which has more square footage alone than all of building 215.

“Building 215 wasn’t meeting the needs. We weren’t serving the Soldiers and families,” McIntyre said.

The building renovation is expected to be complete in June or July.



A construction worker trowels cement in one of the doorways in building 40, which will be the in-and-out processing center.

KINDERFEST

From page one

The event is open to all children and families in the military community, not just those who are registered with CYS.

“We in Child and Youth Services don’t just focus on our registered children. We focus on all the children in our community,” Hickey said.

Kinderfest, with all of its fun and games, is more than just another CYS activity.

“It is really about celebrating our kids and acknowledging that they have a huge roll in supporting our deployed Soldiers,” Hickey said. That supporting roll extends to the whole family, and parents too can benefit from the Kinderfest.

“This year, Kinderfest is even more important to our community because of ... the deployment. Kinderfest gives us an opportunity to unite as a community. Some parents who never attend an FRG meeting or other activities will meet other adults at Kinderfest and develop new friendships and expand their support networks during this difficult deployment,” said Wendy Sledd, Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader for 299th Forward Support Battalion.

The Kinderfest theme this year is “Children Abroad

Celebrating Freedom.” Children in the military community in Europe live in an environment where moms, dads, and friends are rotating through deployments and constant moves. Their strength, and the strength of the family as a whole, is pivotal in the success of the Soldier.

“With Kinderfest, the focus is on the children, but it’s really about the family,” Hickey said.



Mark Heeter

Kinderfest sported a game of limbo for the kids that attended the festival last year. The focus of the event has always been on the children of the community.



Veterinarians promote responsible puppy love

Important tips to know before buying a pet

Before purchasing a puppy you should take into consideration that this new “member” of your family means a relationship and a commitment for many years. To make this a pleasant experience for everyone it is important to make the right decisions from the beginning when purchasing the puppy.

Puppies from a “bad” breeder often become problem dogs later on, tending to be aggressive, snappy or skittish. Local veterinarian Dr. Hermann Stein suggested a few tips on how to determine that you have a good, responsible breeder.

Puppies should be purchased directly from the breeder. Before buying a puppy we recommend visiting the breeder to get to know his dogs and their environment. There is a difference between a hobby breeder and a professional breeder.

Professional breeders are required to have a license in accordance with animal protection laws. Such breeders are inspected by the responsible veterinary office on a regular basis. You can also



Sandra Wilson

Healthy puppies from reputable breeders are friendly and playful, like Nutmeg here, not skittish or aggressive.

check for breeders’ club membership.

Recently, advertisements from breeders from other countries have been published to attract Americans by offering puppies for less than German breeders charge. However, these puppies are sometimes undernourished or poorly bred and sickly. Recently, Dr. Stein has seen an increase in the number of such puppies brought to his office by concerned American owners.

The puppy should have had several treatments for worms and should have had at least one vaccination before being released to the owner. Follow-up vaccinations should be completed by a veterinarian. This preventative measure is very important for the health and well-being of your pet and your family.

The local veterinary treatment center, located on Conn Barracks, can assist with vaccinations and basic care. Be sure your pet’s shots are current, as this can affect not only your pet’s health but your ability to take your pet with you when you PCS. Call 353-8359 or 09721-96-8359 in Schweinfurt, 350-7429 or 0931-889-7429 in Wuerzburg.

Plan ahead: activate your GoArmyEd account now

Story by Kimberly Gearhart

Effective May 1, 2006, the Army implemented GoArmyEd, a system for active duty Army Soldiers to access their tuition assistance (TA) benefits 24 hours a day.

“GoArmyEd is the Army’s new way of processing TA funds,” said Gina Lampe, education services specialist for USAG Schweinfurt.

The new system is a web portal that allows Soldiers to access their tuition assistance yearly balances, register for classes through participating colleges or universities, and track their education history.

“It doesn’t take but five minutes to register,” said Jamie Reilly, education services officer in Schweinfurt.

Under the old system, Soldiers had to submit a Statement of Understanding (SOU), signed by their commander, allowing them to use their TA every time they registered for a class.

GoArmyEd eliminates that repetitive hassle by requiring a SOU only once per year.

Once set up in GoArmyEd, much of the Soldier’s educational needs can be handled through the portal. The initial set-up, however, will require the assistance of the Soldier’s local Education Center.

“Soldiers complete a one page application online and can print

out their SOU to have it signed. Then they can come see us and complete activation,” Lampe said.

Part of the activation includes choosing a home college and degree plan, but Lampe stressed that these choices can be changed at a future date if the Soldier changes his mind.

“If you’re undecided, then we can enroll you in a two-year general education program,” Reilly added. Such two-year degrees cover the core curriculum without committing to a specific discipline and are highly transferable.

“Not all Soldiers inquire about education until they need to. It’s easier to communicate with the Soldier now versus later when he is downrange,” Lampe said. Many deployed Soldiers find that they have time to study while downrange but aren’t set up with GoArmyEd.

Establishing a GoArmyEd account without the benefit of a local Education Center can be difficult, involving a lot of paperwork, faxes, and phone calls. If the account is already activated, then registering for classes is easy and can be done online.

Lampe plans to be on hand at the upcoming pre-deployment briefings to encourage enrollment, but Soldiers need not wait in order to start the process. Simply log on to www.GoArmyEd.com, click on “new users,” and fill out the application. There is even a downloadable SOU to give to your commander.