



## Honoring a Vanguard team: *Standing together to the end*

**Story and photo  
by Mark Heeter**

Spc. John Derek Flores loved Spam and rice.

"To him, there could not be a better meal," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Colleary, who read the remarks that Spc. Aaron Patterson gave at a Baghdad, Iraq, service honoring Flores and Staff Sgt. Felix Giovanni Gonzalez-Iraheta.

Gonzalez-Iraheta and Flores, teammates in the maintenance section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, died May 3 from injuries suffered in a mortar attack. A memorial was held in their honor in the Ledward Chapel May 14.

"When the mortar hit, this team died just as they had lived: together," said Chaplain (Col.) James Brown, Task Force Guardian chaplain.

"Staff Sgt. Gonzalez and Spc. Flores were a great team," Brown said, noting that their relationship was "fueled by mentoring and competition."

Sometimes that competition spilled into their shared love on Spam, a can of which Flores once sneaked away from his team

leader and enjoyed in the motor pool.

"He was a competitive person by his nature," Patterson said, who also recalled that Flores loved to play his guitar.

"Flores was a well-respected Soldier and friend," who respected both his peers and his noncommissioned officers, Patterson said.

"He was happy and wanted everyone around him to be happy with him," he said.

Gonzalez-Iraheta, a native of El Salvador who attained his long-standing dream of becoming an American citizen in April 2006, was on his second deployment to Iraq.

"Sergeant Gonzalez was honest, loyal and funny," said Staff Sgt. Donald McHattie, as he relayed the comments Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dino Ceballos gave at the Baghdad service.

"Gonzo, as we called him, became a box of knowledge," who "could read any kind of schematic he came across," Ceballos said.

"I trusted him with my life," he said.



**A team of rifleman honor the fallen after rendering honors to the fallen during Monday's memorial ceremony.**

Gonzalez-Iraheta, who has been nominated for the Bronze Star with valor device, saved his brother when they were young, said Lt. Col. Robert Whittle, Task Force Guardian commander.

"He was a hero long before he was a Soldier," Whittle said.

Gonzalez-Iraheta is survived by his wife, Janet, daughters Celina and Annabel, his mother Christine Wertz, and mother-in-law Cindy Kazuo. Flores is survived by his wife Charlene and daughter Chloe.



## Sky Soldiers depart

Sky Soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 91<sup>st</sup> Cavalry said their goodbyes and marched out of Finney Fitness Center May 12 and 13 to board busses for the first leg of a trip that will take them over 3,100 miles away from home and Family to fight in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The Army's only Airborne Cavalry, 1-91 will serve as part of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne, bringing safety and security to the people of Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda reminded Families that although their Soldiers will be thousands of miles away, the Families left behind will always "be in our hearts."

*Photo by Kimberly Gearhart*



## News Briefs

### Geldersheim gate construction

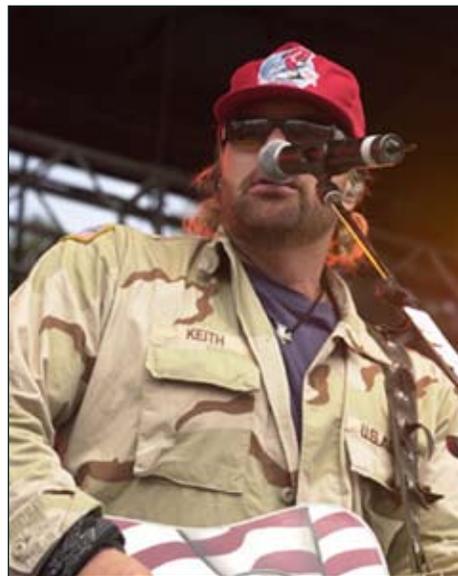
On May 24 and 25, all inbound traffic at the Geldersheim Gate on Conn Barracks will be routed through the outbound lane and around the search tent. The commander has directed that this area be paved and graded in an effort to improve negotiation of the barrier system. This may cause delays, but we appreciate the community's understanding and cooperation in this matter.

### SAS Summer Camp

The USAG Schweinfurt School Ages Services on Askren Manor will hold parent orientations for summer camp beginning May 22. In order to enroll your child in summer camp, you must attend one of these orientation sessions. You will fill out enrollment forms, field trip permission slips, receive supply lists, and also learn what your fees will be. Call 354-6974 for more information.

### Conn Recycling Center closed

May 22 and 23 are Environmental Awareness Days for the USAG Schweinfurt. Due to events this day, the former TAC site on Conn Barracks will be closed to contractors and in-house personnel from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on these dates. We appreciate your understanding. For more information, call Mr. Rückert 354-6795.



### Toby Keith in Concert

Country-music superstar Toby Keith visits Wiesbaden, Germany, May 25 for a concert. Show will begin at 3 p.m. on Wiesbaden Army Airfield in Hangar 1034.

### IMCOM-E postpones contests

While IMCOM-Europe understands the important role that community events such as Battle of Bands and Stars of Tomorrow have on the morale of Soldiers and Family members, several factors outside of the command's control have forced postponement of this year's competitions. These factors include the cancellation of the Department of the Army level competition for this fiscal year as well as time demands of on-going deployments and realignments, resulting in an insufficient number of bands

and soloists expressing an interest in taking part in a Europe region event at this time.

### Memorial Day ceremony

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (2<sup>nd</sup> BCT) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will conduct a Memorial Day ceremony Thursday, May 24, at 11 a.m. in the Dagger Garden on Conn Barracks (by the flag pole). The community is invited to attend. There is a BBQ to follow on the lawn behind Conn Community Club. Please RSVP to Michael Cormier at 353-8904.

### Würzburg vet clinic hours change

Beginning May 21, the Würzburg Veterinary Treatment Facility operating hours will be twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make appointments for the Würzburg Veterinary Treatment Facility, call the Schweinfurt Veterinary Treatment Facility on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays at 353-8359 or 09721-96-8359.

### Half-price book fair

The Wuerzburg Elementary School Parent, Teacher, Student Association invites the whole community to a half-price book fair at the school tomorrow from 2 to 4 p.m. The book fair offers titles for the whole family, from pre-school picture books to adult self-help titles. And all books are half-price!

## 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](mailto: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.



- 18 MAY** --Parents' Night Out respite care, 6:30 to 11 p.m. Sign-ups begin May 7. Call 354-6517/6414.  
--Summer Hire application deadline.  
--Würzburg Elementary School PTA bookfair, 2-4 p.m., WES PTA room.
- 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.  
--Family Friendly Trip to Legoland, call 350-6305 for details.
- 22 MAY** --Couples' Communication class, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Leighton ACS, call 350-7103.  
--First SAS summer camp parent orientations, 10 a.m.  
--Smooth Move Seminar, 9-11 a.m., Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- 22-23 MAY** --Environmental Awareness Days, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conn Recycling Center.
- 23 MAY** --ACAP Veteran's Affairs Briefing, 8 a.m. to noon, Ledward Theater. Call 354-6019.
- 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.  
--Memorial Day ceremony, 11 a.m., Dagger Garden, Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt.
- 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.  
--Deadline for Term V registration with Central Texas College.
- 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.
- 29-31 MAY** --Army Family Team Building Level I, 9 a.m. to noon, Yellow Ribbon Room. 354-6933.
- 30 MAY** --Relaxation technique class, 10 a.m. to noon, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- 4 JUNE** --Würzburg Shoppette hours change to 7 a.m. through 11 p.m., 7 days a week.
- 5 JUNE** --Würzburg Mega Mall will begin Wed. through Sun. operations.  
--Würzburg PX will begin closing at 7 p.m. rather than 8 p.m. Wed.-Friday.
- 8 JUNE** --Würzburg Middle School closing ceremony, 1 p.m., WMS.
- 11 JUNE** --Fall sports registration begins at Central Registration: football, soccer, cheerleading.
- 22 JUNE** --USO shopping trip to Boleswawiec 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.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Half-marathoners finish what they start

By Scott Rouch



**Scott Rouch**  
Cyndi McLean and 10-month-old Shawn run the iWelt Half Marathon in Würzburg May 13.

There was a buzz of anticipation in the Talavera parking lot May 13 as a group of 20 runners prepared for the iWelt Half Marathon Wuerzburg.

The group, nicknamed Bavarian Footprint, had been training for this day since January in a program started by Capt. Cyndi McLean, Wuerzburg Medical Department Activity physical therapy chief.

“Because of the deployment and then subsequent extension, I thought this would be a great (way) to spend the time,” McLean said.

A smaller-than-usual clientele at the clinic caused by moves and deployments allowed her some extra free time to pursue her goal of performing in such an event, McLean said.

The group, mostly from Wuerzburg in the MEDDAC and Dental Activity, trained six days a week, Mon-Fri with long

runs on Sunday.

They were sponsored by the Wuerzburg Community Spouses Club and the Wuerzburg Health Services Auxiliary, who paid for team running shirts and registration fees.

Training as a group had its benefits in addition to the day off after the race and a three-day pass for later.

“There’s always someone to keep you accountable-- sometimes you don’t want to get up and run,” said Neil Moody, whose wife, Megan, couldn’t wait for the race to begin.

The training proved to be professionally beneficial to Carlos Rodriguez-Rosado, from the patient administration division at the MEDDAC.

“The last PT test I almost maxed,” he said, giving credit to the training group for improving his performance.

While McLean said the group had some super runners

in it, the program was aimed at novice runners.

“We were running three sometimes four times a week and that’s it,” McLean said.

“Everything else was rest days, cross-training days, muscle strength days, things like that. You don’t have to kill yourself to run a half-marathon.”

The runners got a break from overcast skies and blowing winds that dotted the Franconia area for the week prior to the race, with sunny skies and cool morning temperatures-- optimal conditions for a race.

Courtney Williamson from the DENTAC, like the rest of the team, was happy just to finish the run.

“(Finishing is) all I wanted to do, I didn’t care if I was the last person, as long as I went through the finish line I was happy. And I got flowers from my husband.”

# SMS celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Last Friday, visitors to Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) were adorned with colorful leis and ushered into the gym to watch the forthcoming celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage.

“Our goal is to promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding and to foster positive growth in developing (our Asian) identity,” said Lily Bagtas, SMS nurse and coordinator of the event.

After the advanced band introduced the show with Chinese and Japanese ensembles, a number of students performed dances reflecting the history and culture from various Asian Pacific traditions.

The Chinese Slipper Dance was performed by the youngest group of the entire celebration with dancers as young as 6 years old.

Three Philippine dances tested the agil-

ity of each performer as some danced on a six-inch wide bench, others danced with lit candles in each hand as well as one on top of their head, and still others jumped in and out of snapping bamboo poles as a reenactment of animals hopping through farmer traps.

A karate exhibition gave Tae Kwon Do students an opportunity to show off their moves as well as bust through solid wood boards with their hands or feet.

Three middle school students artfully moved their arms and hips in two dances from Guam and Tahiti. A mother and daughter performed a Hawaiian dance bringing to mind images of a tropical island with its clear blue waters and white sands.

Other performances included a colorful Korean Fan Dance, a Korean duet played on the piano, and as a grand finale, the Chinese Dragon Dance.

Throughout the entire celebration, each



**Children perform the Korean Fan Dance.**

group displayed specific regions through their dress and costumes.

“What I like especially this year is the team effort,” said Dr. Eldrenna Durham, principal at SMS. “It took a lot of hard work and effort to pull off this show.”



# Spouses' club ends run in Wuerzburg

Story and photo by Scott Rouch

May 10 marked the end of the Wuerzburg Community Spouses' Club (WCSC).

Its final activity-- a farewell luncheon at the Leighton Community Activities Center-- showed what the club was ultimately about.

The charitable organization's luncheon, was highlighted by the donation of \$15,000 in scholarship money to eight graduating students from Wuerzburg American High School.

WCSC also gave the Schweinfurt Spouses' Club \$10,000 to use for the high school in the 2007-08 school year.

All in all, the club was able to donate \$102,000 for the 2006-07 year.

"Just to look at thousands of kids over the years who have gotten to do things they might not have been able to do without the generosity, it's amazing. It really is," said Principal Walt Seely.

WCSC president Jennifer Hooker touted the club's accomplishments but acknowledged that the timing was right to disband.

"It was a hard decision to say it's our last year, but it was a good decision," she said.

A common theme ran through the room during the luncheon.

"I live on the economy, so I love the socialization," said Cynthia Trevino, who has been attending events for four years. "Not being military, it's a great way to meet other spouses in the community."

"I go to everything," said Patricia Delaney, a member of the scholarship committee.

Elsa Bennett, the membership and hospitality chair, felt privileged to be on the board.

"It's been great. I met a lot of nice people

and I'm honored and proud to be able to do [this] for the community," she said.

The spirit of the club will be carried on by Kelly Brock. She is looking for a group that can "informally" hang out together.

Brock can be reached at [Kelly.brock@us.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.brock@us.army.mil).



Eight Wuerzburg American High School students received a total of \$15,000 in scholarships from the Wuerzburg Community Spouses' Club May 10. From left to right: Diana Rosslerova, Kirsten Brewster, Candice Hall, Katherine Riley, Kent Barrios, Eric Trevino, William Whitmire and Don Smith standing in for his son Zachary.

# Wuerzburg PWOC gathers for final meeting

By Sandra Wilson

Word is out that Leighton Barracks is scheduled to close by the fall of 2008. Along with that comes a lot of changes and goodbyes for the people remaining on the base. On May 2, the Leighton Chapel's Protestant

Women of the Chapel (PWOC) said one of those goodbyes.

"The closure of Würzburg PWOC is a sad occasion. Do not let today be the end, but rather the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your spiritual journey," said Claudia Ladd, president of the Würzburg PWOC.



Anne McWright

Chaplain (Maj.) Randy Brandt makes the declaration of closure at Würzburg's final PWOC meeting. Linda Cummings, Kristina McCloskey, and Claudia Ladd use candles to symbolically "pass the torch" to the Schweinfurt PWOC leadership.

Ladd emphasized that even though Leighton will no longer have their own PWOC, Schweinfurt has welcomed all to join their

growing chapter at Ledward Chapel.

"Do we tell God how big our problems are, or do we tell our problems how big God is?" guest speaker Victoria Robinson asked, addressing how Christians should cope with change and transition. Robinson was last year's European PWOC President.

"Let's make a commitment to finish well for the glory of God," Robinson said.

USAG Schweinfurt Chaplain (Maj.) Randy Brandt invited the executive board members from both Leighton and Schweinfurt to the front for the closing ceremony. The Leighton board members used lit candles to light the candles of those from Schweinfurt to "pass the

torch."

"(This is) an incredible celebration of some incredible work done by some incredible women," he said, praising the positive effects PWOC participants have had on the community at large.

Brandt announced that the ladies at Leighton Barracks would hold a satellite PWOC Bible study group for the people remaining in Würzburg in conjunction with the new leadership in Schweinfurt.

Adriana Garcia was selected as the official satellite study liaison. For those staying in Würzburg, she is the contact for PWOC activities and studies.

To join in a Bible study, email Garcia at [adrianucci73@yahoo.com](mailto:adrianucci73@yahoo.com).