



Reset conference establishes standards

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Representatives from Installation Management Command, Europe (IMCOM-E) and the United States Army Garrisons (USAG) of Schweinfurt, Bamberg, and Vicenza met in Schweinfurt last week to develop a plan for reintegrating the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, whose Soldiers, currently serving in Afghanistan,

live spread among the three garrisons in two different countries.

More than that, however, the DA (Department of the Army) Reset Conference was a forum for testing new ideas and developing new standards of care for Soldiers returning from deployments. The pilot program, being tested with the 173rd redeployment, is designed to eventually be applied Army-wide.

USAG Vicenza deputy commander.

Representatives from all three garrisons met to share ideas and develop standards of care to be offered by the garrisons to Soldiers upon their return.

Issues under discussion ranged from creature comforts like bagged lunches for Soldiers disembarking from flights out of theater to how to deal with implementing the seven-day reintegration program in a timely manner for large groups of Soldiers.

“We are working with our brother and sister garrisons, and pulling out the best ideas so that we can offer the best support,” said Justin Mitchell, USAG Schweinfurt deputy commander.

Although Citron noted that any time a program is implemented across a wide range of disparate areas, “you have to adjust it for your community,” the goal of the standardization is no less critical to insuring quality Soldier care.

“These Soldiers should expect a high level of service from us. The better we can make it for the Soldier, the better. It’s one less stress they will have when they come home,” Mitchell said.



Justin Mitchell, deputy commander for USAG Schweinfurt, right, and Renee Citron, deputy commander for USAG Vicenza, lead a group discussion during the DA Reset Conference.

“I really strongly feel we want to establish one standard for every Soldier no matter where they are,” said JoAnn Chambers, IMCOM-E chief of staff.

Currently, Soldiers returning from deployment are handled differently from garrison to garrison both in Europe and in the United States.

“We’re concerned about the level and quality of service and care the Soldiers get without a standard guideline,” explained Renee Citron,

All hands on deck for Vacation Bible School

By Mark Heeter

Ahoy, mates!

Vacation Bible School (VBS), sponsored by the USAG Schweinfurt Religious Services Office, is on the horizon and set to sail here July 21-25. Voyagers and volunteers on this year’s journey should not be fooled by this year’s nautical VBS theme: “Calling all heroes: The pirates who don’t do anything.” There will be lots of doing.

An earnest search for captains, shipmates and first mates – sailor speak for “volunteers” – is underway, according to Patricia Wiedemer, VBS director.

“We’re quite reliant on

adults who have experience with children,” she said, adding that experience is not required.

In fact, according to David Kessler, USAG Schweinfurt religious education director, anyone in middle school or older is eligible to volunteer for VBS, held for children 4 to 10 years old.

“They’ll get the opportunity to make lifelong, eternal impact on the lives of these children,” Kessler said, noting that at least 70 to 80 volunteers will be needed to plan, organize, and execute the VBS.

“We can always use more,” he said. “There is an opportunity for anybody who loves kids to join in.”

Children, broken into small groups, will spend the mornings taking part in Bible theater, island games, and a new science lab program that shows the crossroads where science and faith actually come together, according to Wiedemer.

“Each group is like a little family unit,” she said, adding that kids from different age groups will comprise the groups – led by their captains.

Kessler and Wiedemer will host a non-mandatory volunteer orientation at the Ledward Chapel today at 5 p.m. Further training will likely be available



Last year’s VBS had a cowboy theme. This year, it’s pirates in the chapel. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

in early July and again just prior to the VBS, according to Wiedemer, giving those unable to attend today plenty of time to join the crew. For more information, call the chapel at 354-1570 or 09721-96-1570.



News Briefs

Play bingo

Bravo 9th Engineers hosts a bingo night on Wednesday at the Yellow Ribbon Room beginning at 6:30 p.m. A single card package is \$5, and a double card package is \$8. Winner of the last game receives the \$75 jackpot for a cover-all in 45 numbers or less. All other games have great prizes, and food will be served.

Holiday heads up

The German holiday Corpus Christi Day, is observed May 22. Some German stores and concessionaires will be closed.

Watch heritage dances

Join Schweinfurt Middle School students Saturday in an Asian Pacific Heritage month performance at Ledward library. The performance begins at 11 a.m. The library also has assorted food and a book display in honor of Asian-Pacific heritage. For more information call Ledward Library at 354-1740 or 09721-1740.

Cook and eat chili

1-77 Field Artillery has a chili cook-off at Kessler gym Saturday beginning at noon. Bring your best ready-to-serve chili or enjoy family fun. This event is open to the entire community. To sign up as a contestant or for more information, call 09367-982-688 or email herdalumni@hotmail.com.

Fuel ration card briefing

A fuel ration card overview briefing is offered tomorrow at the Ledward theater at 11 a.m. Come learn about how the new gas card system will replace coupons. This briefing is open to the entire community.

Listen to live jazz

Come listen to a live jazz concert in Bad Kissingen at the Kurgaten Café, Wednesday beginning at 8 p.m. Enjoy a coffee or dessert while relaxing with the music.

2008 Soldier Show

Celebrate 25 years of performances by attending the 2008 Army Soldier Show at the Finney Fitness Center May 22 at 7 p.m. Spend an evening listening to quality song and dance put on for the Soldier by the Soldier.

Travel to France

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of Catholic military pilgrimage, take a trip to Lourdes, France. It departs on Wednesday and returns May 26. For more information, contact the Ledward chapel at 354-1570.

Enjoy country music

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation presents country singer Granger Smith in concert at Finney Fitness Center, Saturday at 7 p.m. Enjoy a free show by this talented country singer.

Go on a field trip

Join the Crafts Studio on a field trip to the Alsfeld Museum and flea market. Transportation is provided and departs Sunday at 8 a.m. and returns 6 p.m. For more information, call 354-6903 or 09721-96-6903.

Attend OB orientation

Army Community Service offers an "OB Orientation" class for expecting parents Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon. Learn about pregnancy, nutrition, resources in the community, birth registration, and delivering in a German hospital. For more information call 354-6933 or 09721-6933.

Learn to make baskets

The Crafts Studio holds a basket-making workshop beginning Wednesday at 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 – 15 for materials. For more information, call the studio at 354-6903 or 09721-96-6903.

Visit Paris on a budget

Tomorrow is your last chance to sign up for United Service Organization's (USO) weekend trip to Paris. Bus departs Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz at 8:30 p.m. May 23 and returns the evening of May 25. For only 149 euro, enjoy the highlights of Paris including the Arc de Triomphe, Pantheon, Notre Dame Cathedral, Eiffel Tower, and more. Call USO for more information at 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711.

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.



- 23 MAY** --CYS facilities closed for Memorial Day training holiday.
--Schweinfurter Volksfest opens at 5:30 p.m., fireworks at 10:30 p.m.
- 24-25 MAY** --Schweinfurt Commissary case lot sale during regular opening hours.
- 25 MAY** --Free “Crash Dance” concert at Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 6 p.m.
- 26 MAY** --Memorial Day Ceremony, 172nd Brigade HQ flagpole, 11 a.m. Free food and drinks, Conn Community Club terrace available at noon.
--Ladies’ Night at the Volksfest, most rides 1 euro, 6 p.m. to midnight.
- 27 MAY** --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, and government-leased housing.
- 28 MAY** --Sponsorship Training, Schweinfurt ACS, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933 to register.
--Family Day at the Volksfest, all tickets half price from 2 to 8 p.m.
- 29 MAY** --Bunco game night, Finney Recreation Center, 6 p.m. Call to register at 354-8476.
--Ledward library adult book club meets to discuss “Water for Elephants” at 5:15 p.m.
- 30 MAY** --Community scrapbook crop, 172nd classroom next to Conn Barracks CMR, 6 p.m.-midnight. \$10 for dinner, hourly door prizes, and instructional class. Call 09721-96-6141.
- 30-31 MAY** --MWR Bazaar, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 31 MAY** --D-Day Fun Run, Kessler field. Registration 7:30-8:30 a.m., run begins at 9 a.m.
--Ledward Crafts studio field trip to night flea market in Coburg, 5 to 10 p.m. Call 354-6903.
- 1 JUNE** --Sign-ups begin for June 27 Parent’s Night Out from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Call 354-6517/6414.
--MWR Bazaar, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
--Ledward Crafts studio field trip to flea market in Sickendorf, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 354-6903.
- 2 JUNE** --Free 12-session German language class begins, Ledward YRR, Mon-Wed-Fri 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 2-6 JUNE** --SNAPS orientation for newcomers, Schweinfurt ACS, free childcare. Call 354-6933.
- 4 JUNE** --Investing class for teens, Schweinfurt Teen Center, 6-7 p.m. Call ACS at 354-6933.
- 5 JUNE** --Beginning of free Thursdays at the Conn paintball field. Call 353-8080 for more information.
- 5-7 JUNE** --Community play, “And They Came for Me”, Abrams Center, 7 p.m. Call 354-6225.
- 6 JUNE** --Rock im Park music festival, Nuremberg. Contact SatoTravel for ticket information.
--Wuerzburg High School and Wuerzburg Elementary/Middle School, last day of school.
- 7 JUNE** --MWR golf tournament, Loffelstertz Golf Course, 8:30 a.m. Call 353-8234 to register.
- 12 JUNE** --Schweinfurt Elementary and Schweinfurt Middle School, last day of school.
- 14 JUNE** --Annual Disco Boat Ride, Wuerzburg boat dock, 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Call 0151-1492-9582.
- 26 JUNE** --Job Search Strategies, Ledward ACS, 2 to 4 p.m. Call to sign up at 354-6933.
--Ledward library adult book club meets to discuss “Eat, pray, and love” at 5:15 p.m.
- 30 JUNE** --Deadline for Department of the Army Arts and Crafts contest. Go to <https://artscrafts.fmwrc.army.mil> or call the Ledward Crafts Studio at 354-6903.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Boy scouts honor D-Day veterans

By Sandra Wilson

Forty-five Schweinfurt Boy Scouts and their family members joined nearly 3,500

other participants from all around Europe at the April Boy Scouts Spring Camporee in Normandy.

honor veterans followed by a boat tour of the D-Day landing sites. The evening was ignited with a bonfire, and scouts received their earned awards and badges.



Boy Scout Jacob Bautista, lays a carnation in the Normandy American Cemetery in honor of a soldier from Missouri who died during D-Day. (Photo by Joe Bautista)

Saturday began with a two-hour service project to clean-up the sands of Normandy, resulting in the collection of numerous piles of garbage. Afterwards, an opening ceremony took place at St. Laurent next to the 1st Infantry Division monument to

On Sunday, the Camporee was closed with a wreath-laying ceremony and memorial service at the American cemetery followed by a private gravesite ceremony for the scouts and their families.

“It was so inspiring to see these young men and their families participating in such a solemn but memorable experience,” said Joe Bautista, scoutmaster of Schweinfurt’s Troop 55.

The opening and closing ceremonies for the Camporee were attended by French dignitaries, a three-star navy general, veterans, and scouts from France and the United States. In addition, an unexpected visit by a U.S. Army veteran of D-Day gave the opportunity for scouts to meet a hero of the war.

Safe swimming the key to a happy, healthy summer

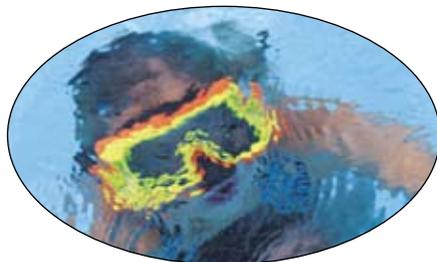
By Mark Heeter

The weather has broken, and many people are setting out to go swimming, but before they do, Eddi Sauer, USAG Schweinfurt safety officer, has some advice.

“All the swimming pools in our area are safe. I would say 99 percent of the drowning accidents have been in unsupervised areas,” Sauer said.

“That’s why all the lakes in the area are off-limits. They’re even in USAREUR off-limits areas,” Sauer said.

People wishing to take to lakes and rivers for other aquatic sports, like rafting or sailing, may do so while wearing an approved life preserver, he said.



The American Red Cross, which facilitates lifeguard training in the United States, has published a list of 12 general water safety tips, available at www.redcross.org, under “Health and Safety Services.”

First and foremost: learn to swim.

“The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around water is learn to swim,” according to the Red Cross.

“Everybody should learn it, and they should start early,” Sauer agreed, adding that the vast majority of Germans learned to swim as

children. That, he said, leads to a fundamental difference between lifeguards as Americans generally know them and those working German pools.

“Our lifeguards are trained lifeguards, but they have a different function. They are there more for discipline, or if someone cuts their foot, as the Red Cross first aid guy,” Sauer said.

Sauer was quick to emphasize one safety rule above all others.

“In all the accidents I have seen, with the exception of one, there was always, always alcohol involved,” he said, urging swimmers to avoid alcohol.

“A lot of people, when they are overheated and perhaps have been drinking something, they jump in the lake to cool off,” he said.

For more information about water safety or approved swimming areas, call the safety office at 354-1670.

Swimming Areas

Authorized

Ocean borders with life guards
All swimming pools including:

Kerschensteiner
Silvana

Indoor city pools in:
Werneck

Sennfeld
Schonungen

Unauthorized

Open water areas such as:

Lake Grafenrheinfeld
Lake Sennfeld
Lake Wipfeld
Knetzgauer Bucht
Shonunger Bucht



New bus service takes Soldiers, families to Grafenwoehr

By Sandra Wilson

Starting today, there is an easier way to get to Grafenwoehr to do business. Schweinfurt Department of Logistics Transportation office has now instituted a bus route between Schweinfurt and Grafenwoehr available to all I.D. card holders.

The intent of the route is to provide an easy and cost-free mode of transportation to Soldiers and family members who are in the process of moving to Grafenwoehr, according to Hubert Guggenbichler, transportation officer.

“If you have business to do up there, you can use it if you are an I.D. card holder,” he said.

The brigade move to Grafenwoehr has called for multiple trips to Grafenwoehr for some Soldiers and families. The shuttle service was created for just that purpose.

“We’re really excited about it. It’s another example of the USAG Schweinfurt supporting the brigade move to Graf,” said Maj. Maurice Alsing, 172nd Brigade logistics officer. “The Soldiers and family members can see the facility they’re moving to (and don’t have to use their own POV (privately owned vehicle).”

The bus routes are funded by the USAG Schweinfurt and provided primarily for Soldiers and family members. Civilians are allowed to use it on a space-available

basis.

“Taking care of Soldiers is top priority. Funding-wise, (the garrison and the brigade) are from two pots of money; whenever we can work together, it’s a victory,” said Alsing.

There are three pick-up points in Schweinfurt: Ledward main bus stop, Askren commissary, and Conn at the bus stop #2 near building 40. Two busses, leaving at staggered times, are scheduled to run seven days a week, including holidays. They leave Schweinfurt in the morning, drop off passengers at the Grafenwoehr commissary, and then return to Schweinfurt in the afternoon.

“Christmas is the only day it doesn’t run,” Guggenbichler said.

The two routes provide “maximum service for the morning and afternoon,” Guggenbichler said.

The busses do not allow pets, but there is ample room for baby strollers and car seats. Each direction is expected to take approximately two and half hours of riding time.

The service can also be used by Soldiers and family members already in Grafenwoehr, provided that they don’t mind spending the night in Schweinfurt to catch the bus back the following day.

For a bus schedule, call Transportation Motor Pool at 353-8481/8386 or 09721-96-8481/8386, or see posted schedules.

Third-graders celebrate moms



Sandra Wilson

Jo’el Colon-Torres hands his mom, Alba Torres, a flower to say, “I love you,” after his Mother’s Day Tea performance.

Last Friday, the third-grade classes at Schweinfurt Elementary School put on a special event for the moms in the multipurpose room. Each class sang a song or recited a poem dedicated specially to their mothers. At the end, each child came out with a flower to present, and the moms lined up to enjoy the spread of food made in their honor.

69th ADA cases colors, prepares for move to Texas



Col. Joseph Fischetti, commander of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and Sgt. Maj. David Gonzales, the brigade’s acting command sergeant major, prepare the units colors for casing during a ceremony at the former Victory Gardens Park on Leighton Barracks in Wurzburg May 13.

After serving more than half century in Germany, the brigade is furling its colors for its move to the heart of “Cav Country” at Fort Hood, Texas, in August. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. John Queen, 69th ADA PAO)



Clinic event allows German providers an inside peek

By Kimberly Gearhart

Ensuring that Americans receiving care in host nation facilities know what to expect, are comfortable, and well-treated is a priority for military health clinics in Europe. The flip side of that, ensuring host nation providers are knowledgeable and comfortable with their American counterparts and the expectations of their American patients, is also very important.

Last Friday, the Schweinfurt Health Clinic staff hosted a barbeque and clinic tour for approximately 75 host nation providers, many of whom had never been inside the American medical facility.

“Getting them inside the clinic helps them understand our capabilities,” explained Lt. Col. Daniel Duecker, clinic commander.

Providers were taken through the clinic after hours Friday for a brief overview of services offered.

Although the clinic has the capacity to handle a large number of appointments per day, “we’re an ambulatory clinic. That’s why (host nation providers) are so

American patients, said that the tour was the most exciting part of the event.

“I want to see the clinic, see what the patients who come to me have available to them here,” she said.

Guests were also introduced to incoming clinic commander Lt. Col. Patrick Denman, who will officially take command in a ceremony on Ledward Barracks tomorrow.

“The timing of the event worked out perfectly to introduce Denman,” Duecker said.

Although Denman had no official role during the event, Duecker made sure to make introductions and familiarize the German providers

with the new command.

“Having a personal relationship with our providers is so important. If you don’t have that, you can’t pick up the phone and say ‘hey, I’ve got a problem, can you help me fix it?’,” Duecker said.



Kimberly Gearhart

Capt. Patrice Stange, right, discusses the Occupational Therapy clinic’s capabilities with host nation providers who took a tour of the clinic with Sgt. 1st Class Tyron Sutton, second right.

important,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tyron Sutton, patient advocate at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic. Ambulatory clinics do not have the capability to provide in-patient care.

Dr. Sabine Vogel, one of the host nation providers who handles obstetrics of

Schweinfurt Middle Schoolers perform spring concert



Directed by Rebecca Brashier (front), Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) chorus performed together for the first time at the SMS Spring Concert Tuesday evening. The choir has been singing together since the end of January.

Flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets and more composed the musical talent of the SMS beginning and intermediate/advanced band. Beginning band, with its 48 instrumentalists, boasted 16 trumpet players. Since the winter concert, the band has increased its six-note repertoire and performed with their new skills on Tuesday.

Intermediate/advanced band went from 40 players down to 22 within the last few months due to the PCS, but they played without notice. They wrapped up the evening with five songs and a medley of popular songs including “Stop in the Name of Love,” and “I’ll Be There.” (Photo by Sandra Wilson)