



15th Engineers stand up in Schweinfurt

Story by Lindsey Cole
and Kimberly Gearhart

It has been 17 years since the colors of the 15th Engineer Battalion have flown. Yesterday on Conn Barracks, they were unfurled once more during an activation ceremony officially bringing the 15th EN to Schweinfurt.

Lt. Col. David E. Hurley, Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley J. Houston uncased the colors of their command, with a little help from the battalion's last acting Command Sgt. Major, retired 1st Sgt. Charles M. Twardzicki, linking the engineers' past and present.

Army transformation has mandated many changes to the face of the Army in Europe. With bases closing and brigades moving both out of Germany and to new posts within it, an activation here serves as a reminder that not all changes are directed at downsizing.

"It's really a breath of fresh air to see the battalion come to life here in Schweinfurt," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, V Corps commander, noting recent ceremonies marking moves, deactivation, or deployment.

Hurley, who commands the fledgling battalion, is faced with a flock of new Soldiers, many fresh out of basic training.

"It's a challenge for them to come to a unit with no experience," he noted. Battalion leadership is working to reorganize internally, to insure that its leadership assets are used effectively, Hurley said.

One Soldier, Pfc. Harrison Jones, feels the unit is ready for the challenge.

"My chain of command is top notch. As we activate, I expect new opportunities, new adventures," he said.

And although adventure may not be forthcoming, deployment is likely in the near future.

"We ... will once again



Lindsey Cole

Lt. Col. David E. Hurley Jr., left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley J. Houston, 2nd Right, attach streamers to the battalion guidon with the help of the battalion's last Command Sgt. Maj., retired 1st Sgt. Charles M. Twardzicki, right.

bring (the battalion) back to life in order to get the unit and Soldiers ready for combat. Make no mistake about it," Hunzeker said.

Citing his battalion's lengthy history, Hurley concurred with Hunzeker's assertion.

"The 15th Engineer battalion has been called on to fight for its principles time and again. I believe that somewhere in the Pentagon there's an instruction that reads: 'face a war, activate the 15th Engineer Battalion,'" he said.

Reset means action-packed months ahead

Extended hours, additional activities put in place

By Mark Heeter

The business recreation division of the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, has many new hot deals spread around the Schweinfurt community. Several programs and activities are part of the reset program for the re-deploying Soldiers, although all are available to all ID card holders, according to David Luellwitz, Business and Recreation Division chief.

The Finney Fitness Center has extended its hours until midnight Fridays and Saturdays through September. Morning and evening spinning classes are offered

weekly at both locations.

The auto crafts shop has expanded hours on Sundays through September, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also at auto crafts, free bay usage will be offered Tuesdays through September. Free assistance to jump start autos in storage is offered as well.

At the Crafts Studio on Ledward Barracks, patrons can take \$10 off on all crafts classes and free family ceramics and pottery through September.

The Kessler Bowling is offering free bowling every Wednesday through September and free batting cage usage every Thursday through September, as part

of reset activities for Soldiers returning.

Outdoor recreation on Conn Barracks offers free paint ball offered every Saturday through September from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, outdoor recreation offers specials throughout the summer, including trips to Europa park, rock climbing, high roping, white-water rafting and more.

Throughout the fall, many special activities, from go-kart racing and pool tournaments to free trips and gaming tournaments, will be available through Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers at Finney Recreation Center.

Call each facility for more information.



News Briefs

German events

A beach soccer event with live music will be held in Grafenrheinfeld at the Kirchplatz tomorrow, beginning at 7 p.m. The ballroom orchestra of Bad Kissingen will also perform a night concert in the Rosengarten beginning tomorrow at 9 p.m. in Bad Kissingen. A wine fest will be held tomorrow through Monday at Peterstirn, off B286 toward Mainberg/Shonungen.

FRG training

Schweinfurt Army Community Service (ACS) will host Family Readiness Group and Leader training Monday-Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Barracks. This three-day seminar helps volunteers and rear detachment commanders by making them aware of what community resources are available to them. For information or to register call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Hip-hop violins

Black Violin, a group formed by two classically-trained violinists and a DJ for back-up, will bring their special, modern, hip-hop flavored twist on violin music to Schweinfurt tomorrow beginning at 7 p.m. in the Finney Fitness Center. This free concert is one of the many Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Division offerings during the Summer of Concerts.

Learn to swim

Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) offers Baby and Me, and beginners swimming courses. Classes take place at the Schonungen swimming pool. The Baby and Me classes are for children 4-18 months and their parents. Cost is \$50 with classes starting July 23 ending August 13, every Wednesday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Beginner's swimming is for children ages 5-18 years and the cost is \$60. Classes will run every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. from July 29 to August 8. For more information call SKIES 354-6414 or 09721-96-6414.

Get together for lunch

Army Community Service (ACS) hosts the Lunch Bunch, a monthly family-oriented outing at German restaurants around the area, and is an excellent opportunity to polish your German skills, or to explore the area with a knowledgeable German-speaking guide. The next Lunch Bunch outing takes place next Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call ACS 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Custom Made for you

Rhythm and Blues recording artists Custom Made will perform Thursday July 24 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks. This free concert is yet another in the long line of summer concerts sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

Europa Park trip

Join the USAG Schweinfurt Outdoor Recreation center for a trip to Europa Park, Germany's largest amusement park. Trip is \$10, and entry fee to the park is 31 euro. For more information about the park, visit <http://www.europapark.de/lang-en/c51/default.html>, or to register, call 353-8080.

Rakoczy Festival

The annual family-friendly Rakoczy Festival will be held in Bad Kissingen July 25-27. The festival kicks off Friday, July 25 at 7 p.m., with live music, food, and beverages being offered up around the downtown area. A big feature of the event are actors dressed as historical figures, a hot air balloon illumination Saturday, July 26 at 10 p.m., and a parade Sunday, July 27 from 2:30 to 4 p.m., after which the historical figures will be available for autographs with the children. A fireworks display will cap off the event Sunday night, beginning at 10 p.m.

Frame Shop hours

The Frame Shop on Ledward Barracks will be closed beginning Tuesday and will remain closed through August 15, due to the proprietor's annual vacation. Completed work can still be collected through the Crafts Studio, also located on Ledward Barracks in building 203. To coordinate the pick-up of completed frames, please contact David Haywood at the Crafts Studio 354-6903 or 09721-96-6903..

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 web site 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 e-mail: 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 JULY** --Custom Made concert, Finney Fitness Center, 7 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- Club Beyond high school paintball field trip, 1 to 4 p.m. Call 01603321498.
- Lunch Bunch, meeting point Ledward ACS, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 25 JULY** --Asperger's and Autism Support Group, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- 26 JULY** --Mainberg winefest begins at 5 p.m. with live music beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- 27 JULY** --Bad Windsheim - Museum Fest, Arts and Crafts Studio field trip. Call 354-6903.
- Burg Schweinstein fest at the Wildpark, 11 a.m. to close.
- Mainberg winefest begins at 10 a.m. with live music beginning at 3 p.m.
- 28 JULY** --ADD & ADHD Support group, Ledward ACS, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- Mainberg winefest begins at 5 p.m.
- 29 JULY** --Bulk Trash pick-up, Askren, Yorktown, leased housing. Put items out by 7 a.m.
- Local community service project, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.
- 30 JULY** --Building your portfolio, Yellow Ribbon Room. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 31 JULY** --Book Club Meeting, "Suite Francaise," Ledward Library 5:15 p.m. Call 354-1740.
- First Impressions seminar, Ledward ACS, 2 to 4 p.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
- Fest in the Bauerngasse, downtown Schweinfurt begins at 2 p.m.
- 1 AUG** --Teen Summer Stress Buster, open to all teens, Kessler Field, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Fest in the Bauerngasse, downtown Schweinfurt begins at noon with 2 p.m. karaoke.
- 2 AUG** --Citizens fest, Georg-Wichtermann-Platz downtown Schweinfurt, begins 10:30 a.m.
- 3 AUG** --Outdoor Recreation climbing trip to the Steinwand in the Rhoen. Call 353-8080.
- 4-8 AUG** --Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 5 AUG** --Field trip to Palm Beach, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.
- 7 AUG** --Go Kart field trip, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.
- 8 AUG** --Holiday Park, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.
- 8-10 AUG** --Club Beyond High School camping trip to Little Switzerland. Call 01603321498.
- 9 AUG** --Super Saturday Respite Care, Call Child and Youth Services Registration 354-6414.
- 11-13 AUG** --Bamberg High School transition program. Call 354-6460.
- 12 AUG** --Club Beyond Middle School Shopping trip to Graf. Call 01603321498.
- 16 AUG** --Outdoor Recreation trip to Europa Park. \$10 plus 31 euro entry fee. Call 353-8080.
- 17-17 AUG** --Club Beyond high school leadership retreat. Call 01603321498.
- 19 AUG** --Europa Park, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.
- 22 AUG** --Parent's Night Out, School Age Services and Child development center, call 354-6517.
- 29 AUG** --Outdoor Recreation white water rafting in Austria. Returns Sept. 1. Cost is \$99. 353-8080.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Thrift Store helps community help itself

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

The Thrift Store on Ledward Barracks is open for business with new, more convenient hours, and a wide variety of items available for sale.

The Thrift Store, operated by the Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club (SCSC), sells donated or consigned gently-used items, with proceeds returned to the community in the form of Welfare Grants from the club, said Carol Haager, SCSC president.

Welfare grants can be awarded to individuals in need of assistance buying food or paying for school, for example, or organizations looking to fund group functions or event t-shirts.

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and the 1st and 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. Donations are accepted at any time, and consignments are accepted Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“If they call ahead on Thursday or Saturday and let us know, we can usually accommodate them,” said Alexandra Stanard, manager of the Thrift Store. Consigned items are sold for the customer, with 25% of the sale going to the store, and 75% to the consigning party.

Throughout the year as inventory make-up changes, the guidelines for what will be accepted on consignment changes as well. For example, winter clothing and transformers are not being accepted right now, due to space constraints and inventory levels. A sign posted at the consignment window alerts patrons to which items may not be consigned at any given moment.

“The Thrift Store is self-sustaining, and does not receive

financial assistance from the U.S. Army or non-appropriated funds,” Haager said, noting that aside from the manager and one cashier, the work involved in maintaining the store is handled largely by volunteers.

Volunteering at the Thrift Store has its advantages as well. The SCSC will provide up to 20 hours of child care per month for volunteers working in the store, and Family Readiness Groups with two or more volunteers can earn \$50 rewards.

“We also track volunteer hours, they get credit through the local volunteer programs,” Stanard said.

And of course, volunteers at the Thrift Store get first shot at consigned and donated items, she added.

For more information, call the Thrift Store at 09721-96-6723.



Diana Nash browses baby clothes for her 7-month-old daughter Crystal at the Schweinfurt Thrift Shop on Ledward Barracks.

Wuerzburg graduate teaches youth unique art

Story and photo by Lindsey Cole

Young artists living overseas sometimes experience limitations in the availability of art programs. Last week in accordance with the Youth Center’s Camp Challenger summer program’s “Art of Life” week, Jessica Allison, a 2006 Wuerzburg American High School graduate, visited the Schweinfurt Youth Center and volunteered to teach art classes.

Allison focused on styles called Manga and Anime which originated in Japan. Most fans can recognize it by the characters’ big eyes and unique faces.

“It’s not like American cartoons,” she said.

Allison became interested in this type of art in elementary school.

“I really liked the cartoon Sailor Moon, seeing that kind of female hero. I figured

being that kind of hero was impossible, so the best I could do was draw!” she said.

The type of art is very well known, however participation varies because it’s so



Jessica Allison and Dustin D’Adda add to their group project, a comic book.

unique. There have been participants who have floated in and out of the class, but the ones who are enthusiastic and hunger for

the knowledge have been there from start to finish.

“Some people think art is boring, to us it’s a fun place where you can express yourself with people you have something in common with,” said Camilla Huettner.

“It helps that we have very interesting and very fun teacher,” added Anna Moskowicz.

Last week the group worked on a big comic book, working as a team effort. Each person, with the guidance and help from Allison, made their own comics and placed them into a scrapbook format.

“This is a great example of how we try to integrate community resources into enhancing our program to cater to our kids,” said Debra Brock.

“I love this program ... you can get better, and get opinions from others,” said Dustin D’Adda.



Partnership strengthening in Schweinfurt

By Mark Heeter

The quest for knowledge crosses national borders and military uniforms – and makes NATO a little bit better, one soldier at a time.

Nadine Steindorf and Fabian Rasch, warrant officer cadets in the German air force and army, respectively, are training with



Steindorf

the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade, which is preparing to deploy to Iraq.

“We’re here to support the allies. If that’s what they

want us to do, they can come here to train with us,” said Michael Cormier, the 172nd SIB partnership officer.

Cormier, who has known Rasch for several years, took a request from the infantryman last year.

“When he became a cadet, he asked me if it would be possible to do an on-the-job training here in Schweinfurt, either at the brigade or one of the battalions,” Cormier said.

“My intention was to increase my speaking knowledge for operations, because the NATO standard operating language is English,” said Rasch, who has been spending his four-week stint with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment.

Steindorf, who spent a year training in Fort Bliss, Texas, echoed Rasch’s sentiments about serving with other nations’ militaries – and practicing English.

“It’s one of the most important parts of the German military to work with different

nations,” she said. “I know my job in the German air force, and I want to get more experience.”

Steindorf is spending two weeks in Grafenwoehr with the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, following two weeks with the unit in Schweinfurt.

“I want to get the experience of how the Americans work,” she said.

Rasch has focused his interest on the preparations Soldiers and units undertake before a deployment – as well as the combat-tested American Soldiers.

“They just came back and are very experienced, and they know pretty much what is going on, and it is good to see how it works,” Rasch said. “They’re pretty young and have much more experience than a 21-year-old German soldier.”

Both American and German militaries take something valuable from such exchange programs, Cormier said.

“I think the benefit is for both. He (Rasch) gets his hands



Rasch

wet on interoperability training to see how the U.S. Army functions getting ready to a major exercise then onto Iraq. And the US Soldiers just get the benefit of having a NATO ally training with them. I mean it’s joint.”

The opportunity is not lost on Steindorf and Rasch.

“I’m living it for four weeks, and that’s more than any lesson can give me. You can learn everything, but you can’t feel it. So I learn a lot just by talking to corporals, to sergeants,” Rasch said.

Tourney provides a chance to relax, win prizes

Story and photo by Lindsey Cole

Last Thursday, the Schweinfurt Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program gave Soldiers here a chance to “Unleash your Master Chief” during an XBOX 260 Halo tournament at Finney Fitness and Recreation Center.

Halo 3 is a first-person shooter video game. The game story involves the waging of an interstellar war led by the human “United Nations Space Command” against the “Covenant,” a collection of alien races in 26th century.

Halo players take on the role of “Master Chief,” a cybernetics-enhanced super soldier fighting for humankind. The player fights with the assistance of Master Chief’s Marines and allied alien “Elites.”

“It’s cool playing the game as a Soldier, but it also helps form more of a bond between you and your friends,” said Spc. Dean Kincaid.

Halo 3 features weapons, vehicles and other objects and aspects that weren’t featured in the previous Halo installments.

“I think that the game is cool, it helps keeps my Soldiers out of trouble. When I know they’re playing the game, I know they’re not out doing something stupid,” said Sgt. Carlos Elleb jokingly.

The game itself is visually stimulating, even for those not playing.

“I’m not here to play, but I really like to watch! It’s very entertaining,” said family member Angel Castaneda.

The tournament, sponsored by the Stars and Stripes Gamer Magazine, gave Soldiers

an opportunity to play one of their favorite games and win prizes at the same time. The first place received an XBOX 360 elite gaming system, second place received a \$250, and third a \$100 gift card.

Top prize went to Pfc. Robert Wilson, a self-proclaimed huge Halo fan.

“Yeah it’s pretty big deal because there’s more to it than people realize because they keep coming out with new stuff for the game...I’m pretty focused when I play,” but it’s more fun when the players play well because it brings more of a challenge, he said

“(Halo) makes the time go by faster while being over here away from home ... it’s fun,” said Pfc. Jacob Hawk.

The next Halo 3 tournament is scheduled for Sept. 9 in the Finney Rec Center.



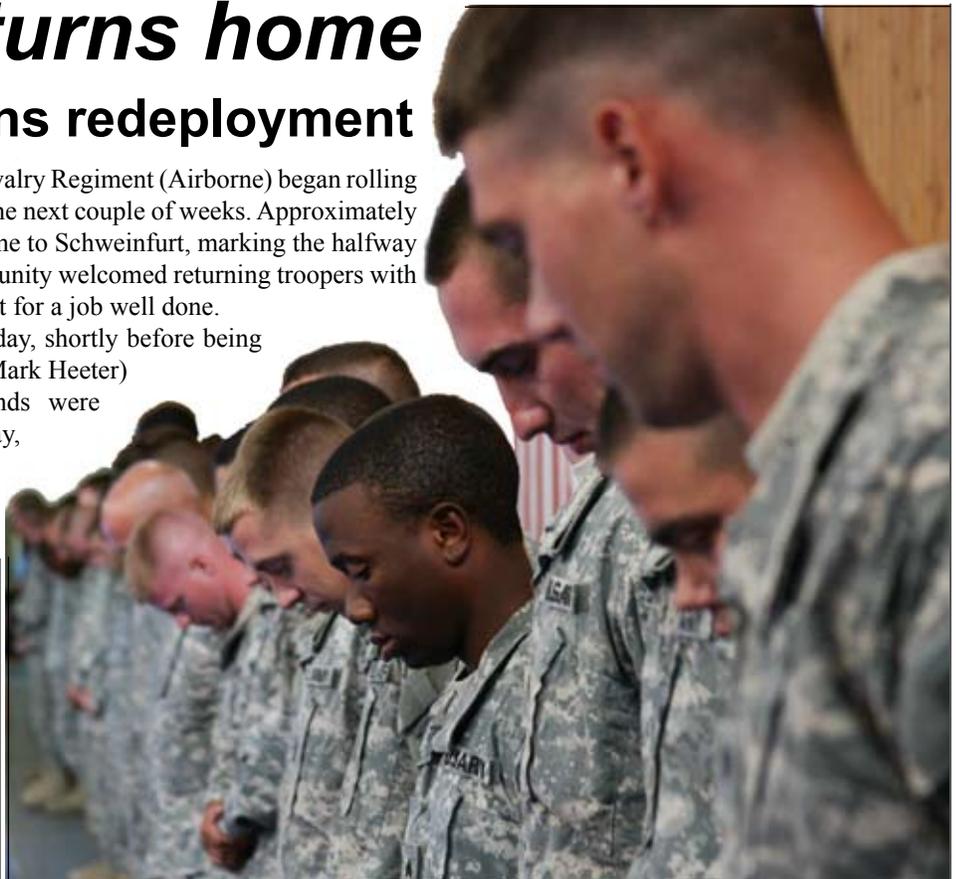
1-91 CAV returns home

Main body begins redeployment

The main body of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) began rolling in Saturday, and will continue to arrive over the next couple of weeks. Approximately 270 Sky Soldiers have completed the trip home to Schweinfurt, marking the halfway point for the 500-strong squadron. The community welcomed returning troopers with reverent prayer, enthusiastic hugs, and respect for a job well done.

Troopers bow their heads in prayer Saturday, shortly before being released to their families. (photo at right by Mark Heeter)

Spouses, girlfriends, children and friends were on hand in Finney Fitness Center Tuesday, welcoming their loved ones back after a long 15-month deployment. (photo below by Lindsey Cole)



R-E-S-P-E-C-T spells reduced stigma, more choices

By Kimberly Gearhart

Soldiers and family members seeking behavioral health care in Schweinfurt have myriad options for care and treatment: Military Family Life Counselors, Social Work Services, psychiatrists, psychologists, chaplains, and now, thanks to the RESPECT-Mil program, their primary care providers.

The Re-Engineering Systems for the Primary Care Treatment of Depression and PTSD in the Military (RESPECT-Mil) program trains primary care physicians to screen patients for behavioral health issues, and treat them in a primary care setting.

“The Army is doing a lot more as far as trying to reach out and find Soldiers who are having issues but are reluctant to seek mental health care due to the historical mental health stigma within the military,” said Dr. (Maj.) David Johnson, psychiatrist at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

With RESPECT-Mil, patients answer questions in a survey format during primary

care visits, and the results are discussed in the same setting. Patients demonstrating symptoms of depression or post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can be identified and treated, without necessarily having to self-report to behavioral health.

“A lot of Soldiers with PTSD and depressions were not getting the care and treatment they need and deserve,” said RESPECT-Mil administrative assistant Garcia Onax.

According to the Deployment Health Clinical Center’s web site, patients are “less likely to fall through the cracks” in the health care system with the implementation of RESPECT-Mil.

“Screening all Soldiers and getting their doctors to talk to them about mental health” is a critical step to treating the increased number of Soldiers with mental health problems, Johnson said.

“The cycle of deployments that we’re in has generated a lot more mental health problems in Soldiers who might otherwise

never have seen me,” he added.

The Department the Army and the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSJ) have both taken steps toward addressing the rising need for behavioral health care and toward reducing the stigma perceived by those seeking such care. The Army has done so in part by implementing chain teaching programs about PTSD and mild traumatic brain injury, and the OTSJ through the creation of RESPECT-Mil.

Schweinfurt, Grafenwoehr, and Vicenza currently support RESPECT-Mil care facilitators in Europe, having launched the first phase of the program over the past six months.

For more information about RESPECT-Mil, speak with your primary care doctor or visit <http://www.pdhealth.mil/respect-mil.asp>. Other behavioral health resources are available at <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil>, including the PTSD chain teaching program and video tools for helping families deal with deployments.