



# Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

Sept. 18, 2008



## Commander looks back on mission

By Mark Heeter

*Note: Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry commander, offered an operations briefing from the unit's recently completed mission in Afghanistan, in his headquarters yesterday. This article is the first of a three-part series taken from the operations briefing.*

While the nomenclature "N2KL" might appear sophisticated and futuristic, it was on the other end of the planet from sophistication in mid-2007.

Nangahar. Nuristan. Kunar, Logwar. N2KL was the abbreviation for the border provinces in eastern Afghanistan that comprised the 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) area of operations (AO) during the recently completed deployment.

"When we got there in June of 2007, this was one of the most highly contested areas in the country," particularly in the north, said Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, commander, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, during a mission briefing explaining the squadron's slice of the 15-month deployment.

The "Airborne Cav," primarily stationed in northern Kunar and eastern Nuristan provinces, encountered high levels of contact, large groups of enemy fighters early on.

According to Kolenda, Afghan society had "fallen apart" and "collapsed" in this region and was teeming with militants who were ready and very willing to fight.

About 190,000 people, about 60 percent of whom were less than 25 years old and largely illiterate, created a vast pool of tens of thousands of potential fighters, Kolenda said.



**Staff Sgt. Brent Adams, a scout section leader from Anvil Troop, reaches for another round while sprinting to his vehicle under a torrent of weapons fire from a nearby hill. The Airborne Cav faced a well-established insurgency in N2KL. (photo by Spc. Micah E. Clare)**

"The really heart of the matter was socio-economic dislocation," Kolenda said, detailing the absolute lack of infrastructure and systems to help the locals escape the grip of militants, who were well-funded and well-armed.

"The young men would listen to the militant leader and not the elders and the moderate

mullahs, so the radicals really gained control of the military-age population. It's hard to visualize, unless you've been there. There's no business," he said.

No health care system. No education system.

"The kids didn't have

**CAVALRY, see page 7**

## SAS open house gives parents peek into care

By Sandra Wilson

Many people may not realize that Schweinfurt has an alternative to standard childcare, baby-sitting and school for their children. School Age Services, or SAS, located behind the elementary school on Askren Manor, is a treasure-trove just waiting to share its secrets with fun for kids and sighs of relief for parents.

SAS hosts an open house Tuesday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. for community members interested in discovering the valuable nuggets available to their children through the programs offered there.

"They can come and look at their leisure," during open house, said Bobbie Jones, SAS director.

"(SAS) is a great opportunity for children. We give them social interactions that they may not get at school ... in a wonderful setting and there are so many things that we offer that they may not have a chance to do at home," she said.

SAS stands apart from average childcare because children can participate in a large variety of activities at the center. A full-sized gym, as well as an outdoor area on the premises offers numerous sports for kids wanting to run off steam. For the studios, there is a homework center complete with a technology lab where children can get adult assistance on school work.

"(The kids) treat it like it's a little vacation from school. Some of them, as disciplined as they are ... they get right

into homework mode ... It's a place they can go where there are a lot of friends around, so even the ones that do choose to (do) homework, I don't think they really feel like they're missing out," said Jeanette Jones, training specialist at SAS.

Arts and crafts are offered for the creative minds as well as science fun, music with Donny Vox, and drama. Children can also opt for learning to properly care for pets with the SAS guinea pigs and rabbit or acquire cooking skills in the snack room.

"I don't think a lot of people realize what we do here ... people think it's just baby-sitting," said Erin Worley, child and youth program assistant. "(The kids) get a

**SAS, see page 6**



# SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

## Events and activities in the local communities

### Tomorrow:

**Hockey** – Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs versus Hassfurt Hawks at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt at 7:30 p.m. Shuttle Service from street fest to Ice Dome is available.



### Tomorrow & Saturday:

**33rd street festival** – The largest open air festivity in Schweinfurt offers a variety of music and entertainment, programs for children, and special offers at



local stores in Schweinfurt's downtown pedestrian zone from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**Saturday**, the street festival continues with World Children's Day and a variety of performances at the market square from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the children. Other festivities continue in the pedestrian area until 11 p.m.

### Saturday:



**Oktoberfest** through Oct. 5  
The world's largest and most famous fair takes place in Munich.

### Saturday & Sunday:

**Volksmarch in Kuetzberg** - Walks begin at the equipment hall of company Schmitt in Kuetzberg. Starting fee is 1.50 euro or 3.80 euro for a trophy.

**Saturday**, five or ten kilometer walks take place from 2 to 7 p.m. with a torch march from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Sunday**, five, ten or 20 kilometer walks take place from 7 a.m. to noon.



**Medieval festival** in Bad Kissingen at the ruins of Botenlauben Castle. Watch the count and countess arrive with fanfare. Enjoy medieval music and dancing.

### Sunday:

**Concert** by Two Voices and Two Trumpets at Castle Hallburg near Volkach at 11 a.m.



**Traditional beer and wine fest** called "Hoffest" at Kaltenhof in Mainberg.

**Parish fest** in Schonungen at 10 a.m.

### Flea Markets

#### Saturday

##### Schweinfurt:

Wirsingstrasse 13, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.

##### Gochsheim:

Fritz-Zeilein-Hall, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

#### Sunday

##### Mainberg:

Kaltenhof, 1 p.m.

##### Poppenhausen:

Werntallhalle, 1-4 p.m.

##### Hesselbach:

Parish hall, 2 -4:30



### Sept. 27



**Lower Franconian Trade Fair**, UFRA, begins at the Volksfestplatz in Schweinfurt, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

## 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](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.



# News Briefs

## Fitness assessments

Fitness assessments for the Civilian Fitness Program and Walk for Freedom will be held in Finney Fitness Center tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Civilian Fitness Program allows employees up to 3 hours per week paid time off to exercise and get fit. Call 353-8234 for more information.

## Daddy basic training

The Schweinfurt Army Community Service will offer Daddy Basic Training tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. New dads and dads-to-be are invited to learn the tricks of the parental trade. Call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933 for more information or to register.

## Fuel coupon extension

Esso stations in Germany will continue to accept fuel ration coupons dated to expire Sept. 30 through Dec. 31. After the new year, only the fuel ration card will be accepted for gas purchases. Unused coupons may be submitted for refunds through Sept. 30, 2009.

## Support the team

Come support the Bamberg High School football team Saturday night. An activities bus will provide free transportation from the bus stop next to the traffic circle on Askren Manor at 5:30 p.m. and will return after the game. Students traveling alone must supply a permission slip when signing up. Sign up at central registration by close of business tomorrow.

## Appreciation day

The USAG Schweinfurt Morale, Welfare, and Recreation will host a Soldier and Family Appreciation Day Wednesday from noon to 8 p.m. in the Conn Club. Inflatables, games, and live music are just a few of the many ways in which this community would like to offer a big thanks for the services you perform for this community and the nation.

## Summer of concerts

Wrap up the summer of concerts with a contemporary and rhythm and blues performance by Off the Wall Tuesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. in the Finney Fitness Center. The concert is free of charge and is open to U.S. ID card holders.

## Bulk trash

Bulk trash items will be collected Tuesday morning. Place items next to regular collection point by no later than 7 a.m. but no earlier than Monday evening. Bulk items are those non-recyclable items too large to transport in a vehicle. For more information, call 354-6201.

## Hispanic heritage month

Celebrate Hispanic heritage month with free lunch at the Ledward Library Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Enjoy traditional Latin menu staples and take time to explore the many books the library has on Hispanic history, languages, and heroes. For more information, call 354-1740.

## Invest wisely

Army Community Service (ACS) offers classes weekly to help community members navigate their military community, family life, and finances. Wednesday, ACS will offer Investing for Future Wealth, a class on wise investment strategies which will help you secure your financial future, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ACS classes are free of charge and open to the community. For additional information, call 354-6933.

**Schweinfurt**



|            |                     |                                      |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tonight-   | 7 p.m.              | Hancock (PG-13)                      |
| Tomorrow-  | 7 p.m.              | Death Race (R)                       |
| Saturday-  | 3:30 p.m.<br>7 p.m. | Hell Boy 2 (PG-13)<br>Death Race (R) |
| Sunday-    | 4 p.m.              | Journey to Center Earth (PG-13)      |
| Monday-    | 7 p.m.              | Death Race (R)                       |
| Tuesday-   | closed              | closed                               |
| Wednesday- | 7 p.m.              | Death Race (R)                       |

## Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

| A.M.  |   | P.M.  |
|---|---|---|
|  | <b>Friday</b><br>Partly cloudy<br>Lows 4C / 39F   |  |
|  | <b>Saturday</b><br>Partly cloudy<br>Lows 6C / 43F |  |
|  | <b>Sunday</b><br>Partly cloudy<br>Lows 8C / 46F   |  |

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 26 SEP --Sign up deadline for Women’s Recreational Volley Ball at Finney Fitness Center.  
--Asperger’s and Autism support group meets, Ledward ACS, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- 27 SEP --Free BOSS bus to Munich for Oktoberfest. For more information, call 353-8476.  
--AAFES fuel ration card system down from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sept. 28.
- 28 SEP --Outdoor Recreation high ropes course, \$10, for more information call 353-8080.
- 29 SEP --ADD & ADHD support group meets, Ledward ACS, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- 30 SEP --Anger Management session 1, Ledward ACS, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.  
--Couples Communication, Yellow Ribbon Room, 1 to 3 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 2 OCT --Halo XBOX 360 tournament, Finney Recreation Center, begins at 6 p.m. 353-8476.  
--Skate party, Schweinfurt Elementary parking lot with DJ & hotdogs, open to all ages, 4-6 p.m.
- 3 OCT --Fall fest & community showcase, Kessler field, from 2 to 10 p.m.
- 4 OCT --Free transportation to the Holiday Park Hassloch. Bring Euro for admission. Call 353-8476.
- 6-10 OCT --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS) at ACS, Mon-Fri, free childcare. Call to sign up at 354-6933.
- 13 OCT --Columbus Day, U.S. federal holiday.
- 14 OCT --Bulk trash pick-up at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing.
- 15 OCT --Building and area coordinator meeting, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Ledward Theater.
- 16 OCT --“This One’s For You” Boss event, Finney Fitness Center, 1 to 5 p.m. Music, food, games.
- 16-18 OCT --Community theater presents “The Game” by Louise Bryant, Abrams Center, 7 p.m.
- 17 OCT --Parents’ Night Out, childcare 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Sign-ups open now. Call 354-6414.
- 18 OCT --Cancer awareness fun walk/run, 5 kilometers, begins at Kessler gym. Call 354-6735 for details.  
--Community flea market, Schweinfurt Elementary, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables open for those wishing to sell, e-mail [lisacubanks@yahoo.com](mailto:lisacubanks@yahoo.com) for more information.
- 21 OCT --Pool tournament at Finney Recreation Center. Starts at 6 p.m. Play for prizes.
- 22 OCT --Pastries for Parents, Schweinfurt Elementary, 7:30 a.m. Breakfast with child in cafeteria.
- 23 OCT --Commissary closed for an organizational/training day. Will reopen 10 a.m. the following day.
- 23-31 OCT --Red Ribbon Week observance “Step it up: A call to action!”
- 25 OCT --Trip to Frankenstein Castle in Darmstadt. Call to reserve a seat at 353-8476.
- 26 OCT --End of daylight saving, turn clocks back one hour at 2 a.m.
- 28 OCT --Bulk trash pick-up at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing.
- 30 OCT --Ledward Library adult book club, 5:15 p.m. Coffee, tea, and treats served. Call 354-1740.
- 31 OCT --No school for students, teacher workday.  
--Harvest Festival open to the community, Ledward gym from 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
--Halloween night at Ledward Library, 5 to 10 p.m. Watch scary movies and play eerie games.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Simple precautions can avoid lost mail

By Kimberly Gearhart

Lost or delayed mail is a headache with which everyone can sympathize. Christmas presents that arrive in January or special packages that just never arrive can frustrate even the calmest of people.

For members of the U.S. military, who move more frequently than most, mailing boxes ahead of a move is a standard practice. Many of those packages may become lost in the system as Soldiers move from station to station or as last-minute assignment changes occur.

The military postal service (MPS) agency has instituted guidelines to reduce the occurrence of lost and dead mail related to Soldier moves.

“You were always required to put your order in packages when PCSing ... If for some reason your address gets torn off of your package, we want to be able to find

you,” said Charles Jones, Schweinfurt postmaster.

Additionally, MPS suggests placing a standard-sized sheet of paper inside of every package which details the sender and recipient addresses in a clearly legible hand. If a package becomes lost, it is forwarded to the nearest dead parcel office. Personnel are then authorized to open packages in an attempt to determine ownership, Jones said.

“If there is nothing in there with their names ... it is highly unlikely they’ll ever recover that package,” he added.

Jones also suggests using special mail services which help track and account for packages such as insurance and certified or registered mail. Anything sent via MPS can be tracked just like packages using the postal service in the United States.

“Without one of these services, all we can do is wait” for mail to arrive, Jones



Jones

said. If it never does, often the mailer must simply resend. In the case of purchases, the recipient is out the cost of the item.

If you have been waiting for more than 60 days for a package, the MPS agency has an e-mail servicing system which can help. For more information, visit <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/lostmail.htm>.

## 10 School bus rules



1. Obey the driver or adult.
2. Enter and exit the bus safely and always show your bus pass.
3. Stay properly seated and use seatbelts when available.
4. Keep your hands, feet, and other body parts to yourself.
5. Do not throw things
6. Put nothing out of the window.
7. Remain quiet and do not disturb the driver or others
8. No profanity, indecency, smoking, prohibited items, or vandalism.
9. Do not eat, drink, or chew gum.
10. Be responsible, be safe.

## Ration card outage

**Mainz Kastel, Germany** –The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) will have a scheduled system outage that will bring the complete Esso Ration Card System down between 10 p.m. Sept. 27 and 6 a.m. Sept. 28.



During this eight-hour block, customers will not be able to purchase fuel on or off post, nor will AAFES be able to issue cards. Ration card account management services will also be down during this time.

This outage is necessary to make updates to the system.





# SCSC touts open rolls, community involvement

Story and photo by Emily Athens

The Schweinfurt Community and Spouses Club welcomed 47 new members Thursday night at its annual membership drive held at the Conn Club. Numerous games, a variety of food, and many items for sale kept participants busy while they mingled.

The SCSC is a service organization that provides a variety of social, cultural, and educational activities for members as well as tremendous financial support to many organizations and individuals within the community. Last year, the SCSC contributed \$50,130.13 to the Schweinfurt community and hopes to do the same, if not better, this year.

Additionally, SCSC members gain a resource that allows them to stay connected with a committed group of people who share the common goal of giving back to the community. Membership is open to military personnel of all ranks, civilian U.S. and NATO ID card holders, their spouses, and family members 18 years and older.

"I have never been a part of this kind of organization before and was surprised to learn it welcomes anybody in the military community. So I am excited because I will get to know a lot of people and it sounds like it will be a lot of fun!" said Nichole

Fougner, who joined the club during Thursday night's drive.

"I keep joining because I enjoy the fellowship with other women and giving back to the community. It's great to make new friends and work together with others," said Lisa Eubanks, SCSC board representative who has been with the organization as a member for two and a half years.

SCSC strives to have even more community involvement throughout the year.

"With the deployments, PCSs, and all the change in unit locations, (the club has) gotten smaller," said SCSC President Carol Haager.

However, Haager anticipates more involvement once block leave ends and the new year begins. Once the brigade deploys, the club is prepared to accept an influx of members.

"We always want more membership and one of our big goals this year is to recognize volunteers in the community," she said, referencing one goal of the SCSC: recognizing worthy organizations and individuals throughout Schweinfurt.

The club will host their next event Oct. 17 and expects a good turnout, inviting members to bring their spouses or a guest. Anyone interested can join throughout the year by e-mailing [scscmail@gmail.com](mailto:scscmail@gmail.com) for a membership application.

## Would you like cheese with that wine?



Wining—without the "h"—is a favorite pastime at Schweinfurt's bazaars. The weekend's bazaar in Finney Fitness Center hosted vendors offering a variety of wines and others offering wine's undying companion: cheese. Furniture makers, rug sellers, and art brokers were also present, offering Schweinfurt residents everything from Army-themed prints to zodiac-sign jewelry.

Vendor bazaars happen multiple times throughout the year and are open to U.S. ID card holders. Items are sold tax-free and allow you to take home a little taste of Germany without taking the Value-Added Tax home, too. (Photo by Kimberly Gearhart)

## SAS

lot of life skills. We do a lot of educational activities."

SAS services are offered to children between first and fifth grade. Before school care is available for the working parents from 5:45 to 8 a.m., and after school care is provided from 2:20 to 6 p.m.

Another of the many golden nuggets of SAS is that each child in the community is offered five free hours of services every month.

"And with the deployment coming up, if your spouse is deployed, you'll actually get an additional 16 hours," every month at no cost, Bobbie said.

Beyond the free hours offered, the cost is a \$3 per hour, and the monthly rate can average out to even less.

SAS services are not only a good load of fun for the kids but can also make parent's errands, appointments and meetings easier to accomplish.

"Even if you don't need something on a regular basis, you can give your child an opportunity every once in a while to get that interaction," Bobbie said.

For more information about SAS, attend the open house or call 354-6974.



# Saturday is kids' day in Schweinfurt

By Lindsey Cole

American holidays exist for mothers, fathers, and grandparents, but what about the kids? The USAG Schweinfurt will celebrate a day dedicated to youth Saturday. The annual Boys and Girls Club of America National Day for Kids will be held in the teen center from 9 a.m. to noon.

Many games and activities will be offered, such as an inflatable pillow fight, bungee run, jump house, basketball shoot, and more. Face painting and various giveaways will also take place as well as

an opportunity to participate in interactive video games. When energy levels run low, a barbeque lunch is available.

In addition, attendees can expect to watch young martial arts students from the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills perform a demonstration.

"We're very excited about this day, and we hope that the kids will make it out of bed ... to come and enjoy this ... because they work hard. It's a safe and fun event for everyone— plus everything is free," said Donna Hilley, youth center director.

Community agencies will have tables set

up to field questions and offer information to kids and parents. Among the participants will be Andrews Federal Credit Union, Army Community Service, the American Red Cross, the middle school, and more.

A visit from the fire department will accent the morning with a truck demonstration and a hands-on learning experience for the youth.

Although the day is designed for youth up to age 18, the entire community is welcome to attend. Parents and community members are also encouraged to volunteer by calling the youth center at 354-6732.

## CAVALRY

notebooks or pens. They would write letters and numbers on a patch of dirt with a stick or at the one chalk board propped up against the tree. That's the education system," Kolenda said.

The call of the insurgent took hold.

"That is very compelling for these young men who have no other social or economic opportunity. The insurgency has all of the advantages with the people in the state of the economy and to thrive," Kolenda said.

The young men rose to fight

for a number of reasons: some fought to support an ideology; others took up arms because their fathers had fought the Soviets; still others fought for sport. One thread tied them together.

"The one commonality in all this is that they all fought for money," Kolenda said.

This thirst for money led to a struggle between traditional power of the elders and village leaders versus the new power of the militants, he added.

The Americans took note of money splitting sharply those who wanted to fight and those who wanted to support the fledgling Afghan governments.

"The majority of (fighters)

come from traditionally poor families," he said. "As long as the elders could not compete with the socio-economic opportunity provided by fighting, then their power is going to continue to decline, and the power of the militant leaders is going to continue to rise."

As Kolenda put it, the powder keg was land, livestock and offspring (a traditional Afghan sign of socio-economic status) versus guns, money and violence.

This dangerous situation early in the deployment was compounded by broad, deep, and difficult animosities between and among districts, villages, and individuals, according to Kolenda.

"This culture is very difficult to penetrate in a way that you are able to understand the background behind the conflicts and the drama and the interpersonal, tribal, clan frictions," he said, noting that Americans had an extra disadvantage – the requirement to remain objective.

"You've got all of these different groups that have all of these issues with one another, which leads to more and more friction. And if we're not very,

very careful they will draw us into that friction," he said.

One other major obstacle – literally – presented additional challenges to the cavalymen and their comrades.

"Those mountains are no joke," he said. "The mountains don't phase (the Afghans), because they've lived with them all their lives."

Though they rose to the challenge, he said, negotiating those mountains was no easy task for his troopers.

"Walking up and down these mountains with, you know 70 to 100 pounds of gear is a significant emotional event," he said. "It's extraordinarily difficult and in some cases impossible."

At the end of the day, though, the early stages of the Airborne Cav deployment was devoted to driving back a determined enemy.

"Very well-trained, very well-armed, very good at what they do," said Kolenda, recalling the first summer U.S. forces campaign ever in that treacherous area.

"That's what we walked into," he said.

**Next week:**

**The squadron approach to counterinsurgency**



Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Pedraza scans for possible enemy positions in the mountains. Terrain such as this proved challenging. (photo by Sgt. Brandon Aird)



**2008 Annual Community Showcase**

US ARMY GARRISON SCHWEINFURT

Showcase 2-6 p.m.

Friday, October 3

Entertainment 6-10 p.m.

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SEPT. 23 7 p.m.

**FINNEY FITNESS CENTER**

**CONN BARRACKS**

Soldier & Family

**Celebration**

September 24

12-8 p.m.

Conn Club

**DONNY VOX BAND**

Musical Guests

**Rob Ryan**