



Daggers to talons: 172nd SIB activates



Col. Jeffrey Sinclair exchanges his Big Red One patch for the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 172nd Infantry Brigade as Soldiers change the ceremonial banners behind him.

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

The 2nd “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division, has sheathed its daggers, and is pulling out talons instead. During an activation ceremony Monday in Schweinfurt, the brigade officially became the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), the “Blackhawks.”

The change was visible throughout the Schweinfurt community, as not only the brigade, but individual battalions, took on new names, replacing signs and symbols throughout the garrison.

The change itself could be seen and heard in Finney Fitness Center, where the official casing of the colors of the Dagger Brigade—and the uncasing of the Blackhawk colors—was followed by the distinct sound of change in the new Army.

The sound of hundreds of Velcro patches being changed.

The removal of “The Big Red One” patch was emotional for many, given the history of the 1st Infantry Division and

the individual significance it holds for the Soldiers who have fought under its colors.

Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, now Blackhawk commander, acknowledged the “tremendous legacy” of the Dagger Brigade and the 1st Infantry Division, which will now pass “out of the European Theater and back to Fort Riley, Kansas.”

“The 2nd Brigade colors represent blood, sweat, the loss of friends, and also an emotional center of gravity for those who have served under them,” he went on to say.

For a brigade so hard-hit in its most recent deployment, that blood, sweat, and loss forged a bond between them, one that will continue under the new colors of the 172nd Infantry Brigade. The 172nd Infantry Brigade itself has a history of recent, protracted service in Iraq, connecting the two brigades in spirit as well as in body.

“These (new) colors also represent blood, sweat, the loss of friends, and an

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Wuerzburg clinic to reduce, focus services

By Anne Torphy, Bavaria MEDDAC PAO

Effective May 15, Wuerzburg Health Clinic will begin focusing services on Soldiers and family members assigned here.

“The changes for the Wuerzburg Health Clinic are due to Transformation of the Army in Europe and the eventual closure of Leighton Barracks,” said Col. Theresa M. Schneider, commander, Bavaria MEDDAC.

The clinic will transition to patient visits for Soldiers and family members assigned to Leighton Barracks, operating Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Soldiers and family members who have had appointments at Wuerzburg Health Clinic but are not stationed at Leighton Barracks should seek care on their installation. The TRICARE Service Center can assist.

Since, retirees often have long-term health issues that require specialty care or regular visits to a physician, they should make sure to contact a health benefits advisor at 350-6142 or 0931-889-6142 who will work with them to find primary care physicians in the local German community.

“Bavaria MEDDAC is dedicated to the continuity and safety of health care for retirees,” Schneider said.

The health benefits office is located on Leighton Barracks in Building 39, Room 6. Monica Page, chief, referral management for Bavaria MEDDAC, is also available by calling 350-7385 or 0931-889-7385 to assist retirees with selecting physicians.

The Wuerzburg Health Clinic will close its doors on July 31.

Patients who have records with the Wuerzburg Health Clinic should stop by to Building 24, Room A3 on Leighton Barracks and make a request for one copy via the DA Form 5006. Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

Individuals who need emergency care should continue to call 19222 or the Military Police at 350-6548 or 0931-889-6548.

“We will continue to keep our beneficiaries updated on the changes through various media channels, and our website,” said Maj. Terry Moren, clinic commander. The clinic web address is <http://www.wuerzburg.healthcare.hqsareur.army.mil/wuerzburg.htm>.

The health clinic can be reached at 350-7787/7788 or 0931-804-7787/7788.

Do you watch SMC-TV? Let us know at mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil



News Briefs

Scrapbook with friends

Join the Schweinfurt military community scrapbook crop in the 299th classroom on Conn Barracks (next to the CMR) Friday from 6 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$10 and includes dinner, door prizes, and a free instruction. Please call 09721-96-6141 or email wendy.sledd@us.army.mil.

Bus to final WHS play

Free bus transportation from the Schweinfurt Commissary parking lot will be provided Saturday in support of the final performance by WHS drama. Bus will depart at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. show. Bus will stay through the performance and provide return transportation as well.

Single Soldiers' dinner

Single soldiers are invited to a free dinner and a chance to win prizes sponsored by the United Service Organization (USO). This event is held at Rohr's diner and will begin at 7 p.m. Come by Ledward USO office to get your ticket!

German holiday notice

Most German stores will be closed Friday and Monday in observance of the Easter holiday. This includes US government offices that are closed German holidays

Free computer classes

Do you need to learn more computer skills? Or do you know the basics of Microsoft applications but want to learn more advanced techniques? Army Community Service (ACS) is offering free computer courses.

Classes are held in Ledward building 206, third floor computer lab and run from 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of each class. For more information, or to sign up, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

- Monday – Basic Excel I
- Tuesday – Basic Excel II
- Wednesday – Power Point
- March 27 – Access

Plan your spring break

Plan ahead for spring break. Join United Service Organization (USO) on a one-day Czech Republic trip, April 5 or an extended vacation to Slovenia April 4-9. Deadline to sign up is March 28. For more information, call USO at 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711.

Civilian resume class

Army Community Service is holding a class to help Civilians learn the basis of writing a resume. This is taking place on March 27 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Education Center on Ledward Barracks. If interested call ACS 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Easter Events

- Easter sunrise service at Ledward Chapel Sunday at 7 a.m. Free childcare is provided.
- Easter egg hunt on Ledward in Andrus Gardens at 3 p.m. or in Wuerzburg at the CAC at 2 p.m.
- Dinner, Ledward DFAC, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$5.40, \$4.50 for E-4 and below. There will be face painting for the kids, and the Easter Bunny too.
- Brunch and dinner at the 172nd DFAC from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$4.40 for brunch and \$5.40 for dinner, \$3.80 and \$4.50 for E-4 and below.

Register for college

Registration for the University of Maryland (UMUC) next term has begun and will end March 28. Central Texas College (CTC) registration ends March 31. Sign up for online or face-to-face classes. For more information call UMUC 354-6398 or CTC 354-6206.

Bulk Trash

Bulk Trash will be collected in Askren, Yorktown, and leased housing areas Tuesday. Only bulk items too large for vehicle transport will be collected. Place items at usual collection point no later than 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, but no early than Monday night. For more information, call the garrison SORT office at 354-6201 or 09721-96-6201.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager
Command Sgt Maj. CSM Keith McMullen
Public Affairs Officer George Ohl
Command Information Officer Mark Heeter
Writer/Editors Kimberly Gearhart
 Elvira Gladwell
 Sandra Wilson

The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 27 MAR** --Civilian resume 101 class, Ledward ACS, 2-3:30 p.m. Call 354-6933 for more information.
- ACS Lunch Bunch, meet at Ledward ACS, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 354-6933 for more info.
- Book club meeting for "The Human Stain", Ledward library, 5:15 p.m. Call 354-1740.
- Breast feeding support group meeting, Ledward ACS, 12 to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 28-30 MAR** --Vogelschuss carnival opens, 6 p.m, Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz. Runs through April 6.
Open: Monday – Saturday 2 p.m. – midnight, Sunday 1:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
- 28 MAR** --Couples communication, at Leighton ACS, 2 to 4 p.m. Call 350-7103
- Women's History Month class, Rohr's diner, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Call 350-6813.
- 29 MAR** --Farmers produce market and petting zoo, Schweinfurt Market Square, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 31 MAR** --Deadline to sign up for USO spring break trip to Slovenia April 4-9 or trip to Czech Republic April 5. For more information about trips, call 354-6711.
- Beginners Conversational German, Leighton ACS, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 350-7103.
- Women's History Month class, Rohr's diner, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Call 350-6813.
- Deadline to sign up for April 5 Czech republic day trip. Call USO 354-6711.
- 3-5 APR** --"Madame Butterfly" opera performance in Italian, Schweinfurter Theater, Rosbrunnstr. 1, 7:30 p.m. each day. Call 09721-510 or 09721-51475 for tickets.
- 3 APR** --Hula dancing, Ledward CYS gym, 4 to 5 p.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 4 APR** --Beginners Conversational German, Ledward ACS, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 7 APR** --Bike and skateboard tips and safety, Kessler skate park, 4 to 5 p.m.
- 7-9 APR** --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses, 9 a.m. daily. Call 354-6933.
- 8 APR** --Wild park children's trip, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Leighton ACS 350-7103.
- 10-11 APR** --American Red Cross Babysitting Course with Infant & Child CPR, Red Cross conference room building 206, Ledward Barracks, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$45.00. Call 354-1760.
- Sign-ups begin for May 10 CYS Super Saturday respite care. Call 354-6517.
- Kinder Music session, Friday Apr 11, Leighton CDC 10 to 11 a.m. call ACS 350-7103.
- 12 APR** --Retiree Appreciation Day, building 40, Conn Barracks, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 14 APR** --Auditions for April 19 "Robin Hood" children's play. Askren Manor SAS. Call 354-6974.
- Spring enhancement deadline for DPW supply requests. Call (SHIP) 354-6853 in Schweinfurt or 350-7212 in Wuerzburg.
- 18-20 APR** --Fishing license class, outdoor recreation, call for more information 353-8080.
- 19-20 APR** --B.O.S.S. Texas Hold 'Em tournament, Finney Rec Center, 2 p.m. For more info, call 353-8476.
- 25-27 APR** --USO trip to Amsterdam/Keukenhof flower parade, 89 euro per person. Call 354-6711.
- 26 APR** --Community Family Festival, noon to 4 p.m., Askren Manor.
- 1 MAY** -- Hula dancing Wuerzburg Child Development Center, 4 to 5 p.m.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Caution! Men at work! Construction means upgrades in all corners

By Mark Heeter

The dust hasn't settled yet. And it probably won't for quite a while.

"Before you get a nice facility or something nice, there's always some construction," said Tim Snyder, director,

USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works (DPW), as he described some of the more than 100 construction projects underway all over Schweinfurt.

Although brigades change names and patches, units remain deployed, and a huge number of Soldiers come and go through military communities, construction around the installations is constant – and for the better, according to Snyder.

"It looks bad, things get torn up before they get better, so bear with the DPW as they go a round and tear things up. It will be nicer when we get done," he said.

On Ledward Barracks, building 242 has undergone its facelift, but improvements to the interior continue. And a better bus stop is on the way.

"We are improving the PX mall and parking area, which is scheduled

for completion this summer," Snyder wrote in a statement.

"We are also continuing to improve the facilities for the Soldiers and Families in community. We recently completed the conversion of a warehouse to the new Personnel Transition Assistance Center (PTAC) on Conn Barracks," he added.

Yes, the PTAC, a former warehouse that underwent its own massive reconstruction last year, is filled with dust and noise while an elevator is installed this week.

While improvements to the training areas, family housing, motor pools, and garrison facilities continue, the list of projects is flexible and changes with Army and community needs.

"We have a master plan. In theory, we try to keep five years' worth of projects, try to look out five years and put together a list of projects that the community needs and see how we can improve quality of life, where we can," Snyder wrote.



Work continues in the PX parking lot for a bus stop upgrade, one of many projects in the community.

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emotional center of gravity to whomever stands under them," Sinclair said.

The 172nd Infantry Brigade shoulder sleeve insignia currently represents the brigade's most recent status as an Alaskan unit, showing mountains and the Big Dipper. The new Blackhawks are working on redesigning the patch to reflect its current place in the European command.

Regardless of its colors, insignia, or name, brigade Soldiers in Schweinfurt are a "band of brothers," said Sinclair, quoting Shakespeare's *Henry V*.

"For he today that sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother." And the blood and sweat of Soldiers will always transcend the colors under which they march.

AER: Soldiers taking care of their own

By Mark Heeter

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) has a 66-year, \$3 million history of helping the Army take care of its own. And Schweinfurt has played a significant role in that history, according to Tony Davis, AER program manager with the Army Community Service.

"We make sure we provide financial assistance in need," Davis said, in the form of interest-free loans, grants or a combination of the two.

AER, a nonprofit organization dedicated to emergency financial assistance for Soldiers and their families, can help with payment of travel, food, rent, utilities, transportation, medical and dental, funeral, and personal needs when applicable.

AER also sponsors a scholarship program for military spouses, children and survivors.

"The approval has to be done through the company commander, and they're turned into Mr. Davis over at ACS," said Mike Sleeper, the manager of the AER fundraising campaign running until May 15.

"It's a program where the Army takes care of its own through donations, from Soldiers, civilians, all members of the Army team," Sleeper said.

In 2007, the USAG Schweinfurt disbursed more than \$300,000 in grants and loans, according to Davis. And pulling in more than \$60,000 in donations, Schweinfurt had the second-highest total in the

Army, he said.

"It was very beneficial to the Soldiers' family members while they were deployed," Sleeper said, noting that 242 loans and 22 grants were allotted last year.

"The biggest benefit of this program is if people walk out of here with a smile on their face. It benefits the community as well as the command to see that we're making a difference in the community," Davis said.

If Soldiers or families think they might need to seek financial assistance, they should first inform their chain of command and seek their unit representative, according to Sleeper.

For more information, call Davis at 354-7071 or 09721-96-7071, or visit the AER website at www.aerhq.org



Rain, snow, sleet, floods, and Taliban

No challenge too great for Bravo Troop mechanics

Story by Staff Sgt. Brandon Aird
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Mechanics from Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), complete numerous odd jobs beside their average nuts and bolts mechanic work in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

The mechanics are stationed at Forward Operating Base Keating located in a valley between a junction of two snow-melt fed rivers in the Hindu Kush Mountain Range.

Vehicle roll overs, flash floods, road wash outs, rock and snow avalanches are just a few of the hazards that make maintaining vehicles a challenge.

During the winter months, both Taliban extremist and Coalition forces are forced to stay near their homes and bases, or face battling the elements.

“One of the things about the snow, when it fell, it made things very difficult around here,” said Spc. Larry Gonzales, a 33-year-old construction and vehicle repair

mechanic from East Los Angeles, Calif. When the snow receded, Soldiers on FOB Keating were able to start on projects, which previously were hindered by the snow.

Gonzales and Spc. Nathan Bolt-Ray, a mechanic in Bravo Troop, worked on a HUMVEE that was damaged during a previous fire fight Feb. 22.

“We’re replacing the radiator in the HUMVEE,” said Bolt-Ray, who’s originally from California. “The radiator took shrapnel from a RPG (rocket propelled grenade) during a fire fight.”

Bravo Troop, according to Bolt-Ray, has only taken the Troop’s HUMVEE’s out a handful of times.

“As you can see by the bullet holes in a lot of these vehicles trunks, they’ve taken quite the beating,” explained Bolt-Ray. “The roads... I guess you can call them that also take their turn beating on the vehicles.”

The two mechanics worked through the day, and by night fall were able to fix the radiator. Without any more vehicles, to fix the two mechanics went back to their odd jobs around the forward operating base.

A few days later, the fork lift broke down on the landing zone during an air resupply mission. The two mechanics from California grabbed their tools and went back to work.



Paratroopers from Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), recover a vehicle out of a river during the summer near Forward Operating Base Keating in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan 2007. The road gave way during a patrol causing the vehicle to roll over.

mechanic from East Los Angeles, Calif.

During winter more than four feet of snow fell in the valley. Combat Outpost Warheit, which over looks FOB Keating, had over eight feet of snow. The snow made movement extremely difficult.

“Mobile wise, air wise, water wise- everything was freezing up,” explained Gonzales. “The fuel even started to gel.”

CAV egg-celence!

Lillie Kefalas, 4, gets a helping hand with an Easter surprise from her mother, Tracey, during the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Easter party at Kessler Field Saturday. Roughly 100 family members turned out for the event, meeting the Easter Bunny and collecting goodie-filled Easter eggs. (Photo by Mark Heeter)

