



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

July 24, 2008

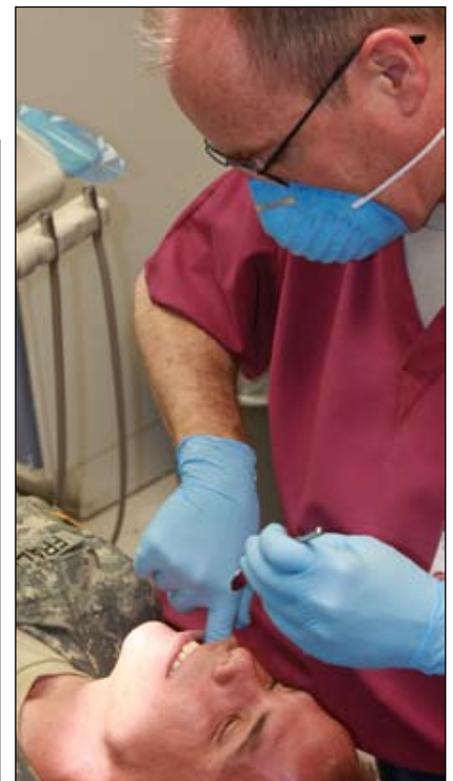


Mission complete

Troopers continue journey home to Schweinfurt

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment have continued to pour into Schweinfurt over the past several days, drawing an end to their 15-month deployment to Afghanistan to a close. Below, hundreds of well-wishers turned out at the Finney Fitness Center to welcome home more than 100 Soldiers yesterday.

For many members of the "Airborne Cav," the reintegration, or reset, process is well underway. Right, Army Community Service, the religious services office and a host of other agencies from throughout the Schweinfurt community provide resources to returning Soldiers and their families. Below, right, Dr. (Lt. Col.) James Wood, commander of the Schweinfurt dental clinic, performs a post-deployment checkup on Spc. Richard Fraley, who returned last week. (Photos by Mark Heeter)



Commander lays out mission for newest battalion

By Mark Heeter

How does the Army re-constitute and build a unit that has been inactive for nearly two decades?

Bring in a leader who has done it before.

"You feel like every decision you make will set precedent and be lasting," said Lt. Col. David Hurley, commander of the eight-day-old 15th Engi-

neer Battalion. Hurley served as executive officer for a battalion that was activated at Fort Benning, Ga.

"You put traditions in place. All those little things, not falling in on what the last guy did, you're developing that. You take the best of those previous units and try to bring those in," Hurley said.

Laying out his unit's makeup and mission, Hurley de-

scribed it as still in the skeleton-crew stage, receiving new Soldiers and equipment every day. The battalion is roughly 30 percent filled – today.

"You get your structure in place, receive it into the community, build this unit, and start to develop this training strategy for people and equip on ground," he said.

One of the unit's first priorities is to establish its own cul-

ture and identity, right down to the company mottos, according to Hurley, who has been in Schweinfurt for about three months.

"They've had to develop that culture, that identity, from scratch, and so it is special," he said of his commissioned and noncommissioned officers, who have joined the unit from a

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News Briefs

New Garrison CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee is the new command sergeant major for the USAG Schweinfurt and serves as the senior enlisted advisor to Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander.

Lee, a 25-year veteran, arrives in Schweinfurt following his most recent assignment at Fort Stewart, Ga. A native of Freeport, Texas, Lee has held every leadership position from supply sergeant to command sergeant major.

Lee holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Excelsior College, and his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.



Lee

ADD and ADHD Support Group

Schweinfurt Army Community Service (ACS) offers an Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) support group monthly, and the next meeting will be Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet others living with ADD or ADHD, learn about available resources, and increase your support network. Childcare is available for those registered with Child and Youth Services. Call ACS for more information or to register 354-6933.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash will be collected Tuesday in Askren Manor, Yorktown, and Schweinfurt area leased housing. Place bulk items at regular collection points by no later than 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, but no earlier than Monday night. Bulk items are those non-recyclable items too large to transport in your vehicle.

German events

Bergrheinfeld-Garstadt will host a wine fest Saturday behind the old Rathaus. Also Saturday, the Schweinfurt farmer's market will be open in the Marktplatz from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Schweinfurt Wildpark will host the 4th annual Stadtwald and Burg Schweinstein fest Sunday beginning at 11:15 a.m. and continuing throughout the day with pony rides, plays, and live music.

Seeking two Soldiers

On June 29 around 7 p.m., two Soldiers in the vicinity of Sennfeld intervened in an emergency, issuing Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to a German national until paramedics arrived. The victim's family credits these Soldiers with saving the man's life and wish to thank them. Although the Soldiers' information was collected at the scene, it is no longer available.

In an effort to assist the family in their search, we are asking that anyone with information regarding the identity of these two Soldiers please contact the USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs Office either by phone at 09721-96-1400, by e-mail at mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil, or by stopping by our office, located in bldg. 206 on Ledward Barracks, in Room 111.

License plates

In order to register or re-register a privately owned vehicle, and to receive the German plates (SW or NEW), you must have your insurance company provide a new double-white card.

In most cases, a simple phone call to your provider the day before you plan to register is enough, but for smaller or German insurance companies, the process may take several days. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time prior to the registration expiration.

Also, all automobiles with HK or AD plates must re-register prior to Dec. 31, 2008 and receive the new local Schweinfurt or Grafenwoehr plates (for those moving to that area).

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.



- 31 JULY** --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.
--Registration for unit level flag football begins. Ends Aug. 25. Call 354-6264 for information.
- 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 AUG** --National Chocolate Cookie Day at the Ledward Library, check it out!
- 4-8 AUG** --Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 5 AUG** --ABCs of the FRGs class, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 354-6933.
- 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.
--High Ropes Course, Rhoen Mountains, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call Outdoor Rec. Cost \$10, 353-8080.
- 10 AUG** --Ledward Crafts Studio trip, Lyonisher Museum in Roth, departs 8 a.m. Call 354-6903.
- 11-13 AUG** --Bamberg High School transition program. Call 354-6460.
- 12 AUG** --Schweinfurt Community Update Forum, Schweinfurt Elementary School, 6 p.m.
--Club Beyond Middle School Shopping trip to Graf. Call 01603321498.
- 15 AUG** --Daddy Basic Training, Ledward ACS, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 16 AUG** --Outdoor Recreation trip to Europa Park. \$10 plus 31 euro entry fee. Call 353-8080.
- 15-17 AUG** --Club Beyond high school leadership retreat. Call 01603321498.
- 17 AUG** --Outdoor rec Climbing Trip to Rhoen Mountains, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost \$10, call 353-8080.
--Ledward Crafts Studio trip, Klein Sassen Art Festival, departs 8 a.m. Call 354-6903.
- 18 AUG** --Computer Basic and Windows XP class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 19 AUG** --Europa Park, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.
--Basic Word I Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 20 AUG** --Basic Word II Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 21 AUG** --Basic Web Design Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 22 AUG** --Parent's Night Out, School Age Services and Child development center, call 354-6517.
- 23 AUG** --Teen Center trip to Czech for shopping, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call the teen center 354-6732.
- 25 AUG** --Basic Excel I Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 26 AUG** --Play Morning moves back to Askren SAS, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Call 354-6933 for information.
--Basic Excel II Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 29 AUG** --Outdoor Recreation white water rafting in Austria. Returns Sept. 1. Cost is \$99. 353-8080.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Before that new personnel system gets here...

...Personnel Services Delivery Redesign is the current standard

By Mark Heeter

Army transformation does not simply refer to installations closing and units moving; rather, it also refers to changes in the way some business gets done.

Military personnel actions, for example.

"In Schweinfurt, it used to be in building 215 on Ledward Barracks, and people used to go there to take care of certain types of actions," such as personnel matters and issuance of military identification cards, said Vic Roman, Military Personnel Division (MPD) supervisor with the USAG Schweinfurt directorate of human resources.

"Now everyone in the community knows, it's in building 40," Roman said.

Something changed, however, when the personnel services delivery redesign (PSDR) was introduced in 2007.

Everything is not in building 40. PSDR was created to allow unit personnel sections the ability to execute military personnel actions themselves, rather than having to rely on the community agencies to process Soldiers' actions.

"That was the whole purpose of it, so the commander could have visibility of all the human resources functions right there where they are," said Rhonda Hawes, MPD chief.

"PSDR, I think, is a better way of life, because you're taking care of your own, rather than relying on outside agencies," said Capt. Karen Obeng-Dompreh, 172nd Infantry Brigade assistant adjutant.

The system, which requires unit personnel sections to complete many of the tasks that used to fall to the community personnel services battalion, comes ahead of the

recently announced implementation of Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS).

DIMHRS will de-centralize many processes even further and will place more responsibility on the Soldier to track and update his or her personnel records.

"They need to embrace this now, because DIMHRS is going to eliminate a lot of these little systems that they've got. They're going to have to get familiar and comfortable with a brand new system," Hawes said. "Everything is falling back on the Soldier being a responsible individual."

Local units have been trained on the PSDR and are now embracing it, Obeng-Dompreh said.

"We're doing some brush-up training that will help them," she said.

Garrison environmental division benefits from summer hire

By Kimberly Gearhart

The Summer Hire program offers family members between 14 and 22 years of age an opportunity to obtain job experience and help prepare them for their future education or career goals. Far from being a one-sided program, however, summer hires are often a boon for their employers, too.

Take for example Marissa Rago, who is doing clerical working in the USAG Schweinfurt environmental division offices.

"She is perfect. She's professional and motivated. Summer hires don't always have a good reputation," but that reputation is not always deserved, said Lothar Rueckert, environmental division chief and Rago's supervisor.

"When you have a good strong worker like Marissa, you can focus more on your own work," he added.

Rago is a clerical summer hire, performing office work such as filing and copying. Rueckert also has her working on a PowerPoint training presentation and doing Internet research. Other summer hires do manual labor or child care tasks.

"I thought being a summer hire would be a good opportunity to see how it is to work in the real world," said Rago, who thinks she would like a career in public relations or advertising. She has a long time to think about it, though: Rago just completed the eighth grade.

Perhaps being young is a benefit, in Rueckert's office at least. Internet-savvy like most students today, her skills turned what would have been hours of research into a quick few minutes.

"I gave her a few keywords, and she came back with 10 pages of material—saved me hours of my own time," Rueckert said.



Marissa Rago, one of the local summer hire employees, works on a training presentation for the Environmental Division. (Photo by Lindsey Cole)

Working in a busy office was something of a surprise for Rago, who expected a much quieter environment.

"It's not a one-person show, and everyone has to contribute to keep the office going," she said.

The summer hire program is coming to a close Aug. 1, and Rago will be moving to Grafenwoehr with her family. Rueckert is already lamenting the loss.

"When you have a summer hire like here, there are so many benefits. There will be so much to do with her gone," he said.



Mariners moving in

By Lindsey Cole

Every summer in Schweinfurt, Vacation Bible School (VBS) gives community children a chance to develop stability and faith while having fun through games and activities. For more than 20 years, families from all over the community have been encouraged to participate.

Each year a different theme is featured. This year's theme came from the popular children's Veggie Tales film "The Pirates who don't do Anything!" Dressing like the characters from the movie, singing songs, playing games, and doing pirate-centric arts and crafts are all part of this year's VBS fun.

Children are divided into groups according to age, the with program designed for children ages 4 to 10. A typical day at VBS begins with songs, a clip from the movie, a pirate skit, and a message from "Pirate Pat."

"In order to bring the message of God and to expand the knowledge of those who have already heard God's word. Introduce the message for those who have not heard it and give the message of Christ's love," said Patricia Wiedemer, VBS director.

"For some of these kids, it's their first VBS. They come out of here excited; kids just love the program ... It makes an eternal impact on the kids, and they take it home and to school,"

VBS, see page 6





GI Bill in the works, Soldier assistance available

By Kimberly Gearhart

The passage of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, signed into law June 30, has generated a lot of press, and a lot of questions, over the past few weeks. The new GI bill is still largely in the planning stages, however, and not set to take full effect until Aug. 1, 2009.

"We are already getting a lot of questions about it," said Jamie Reilly, Schweinfurt education services officer.

Because many legal and procedural issues need yet to be hammered out, many of those questions have no solid answers, Reilly said. The best place for the most up to date GI bill information is straight from the source: <http://gibill.va.gov>.

However, Soldiers seeking to take advantage of educational benefits have myriad other options available to them, including some they can use while still on active duty. Tuition Assistance (TA) is one such option.

"GoArmyEd. Every Soldier needs to know about GoArmyEd," Reilly said, noting that the education center on Ledward is well-equipped to walk Soldiers through the process of signing up to use their TA, although Soldiers can use any computer with Internet access to access GoArmyEd.

In order to use their TA, Soldiers and their commanders must sign and submit a Statement of Understanding (SOU) to the Education Center. The SOU is good for a year, and must be renewed for TA to continue.

Soldiers who plan to take classes when they deploy should insure their GoArmyEd account is set up and their SOU is signed and on file prior to deploying, since there are no education centers in Iraq, and those in Afghanistan are limited to the higher-population areas.

Renewal of the SOU for Soldiers downrange requires only a commander's initials, and can be e-mailed to the education center for processing, said Shalyn Moore, educa-

tion center administrative assistant. Moore and Reilly added that over the past few years, they have gotten plenty of experience helping deployed Soldiers via e-mail.

"E-mail correspondence is a savior for a lot of service members," said Andrew Lang, University of Maryland University College (UMUC) field representative for the Ledward Education Center. Deployed Soldiers use the Internet for online courses, keeping up with their educational goals, even in a war zone.

Signing up for TA through GoArmyEd, even if you are unsure of your ability to take classes downrange, is a smart choice, according to Moore.

"It's about being prepared. If you've already signed up, there are less obstacles to overcome" when you decide to start taking classes, wherever you are," she said.

For more information about TA, GoArmyEd, or furthering your education, stop by the Education Center in Bldg. 242 on Ledward Barracks, or call 354-6383.

15th

number of sources.

The 15th Engineer Battalion is a construction effects unit, primarily focused on construction projects. The Soldiers, for example, include carpenters, plumbers, electricians, surveyors and equipment operators.

"Our long-term mission is to support construction in whatever shape or form is required of us, deployed or in Europe," Hurley said.

"We can handle number of combat engineer missions, but that's not our primary focus. So we can do demolitions and obstacles, but our guys are more trained toward construction sites," he said.

Still, many tasks are common to all engineers and Soldiers, he said. And as a brand new unit without a solid long-term training calendar, Hurley has allowed his Soldiers to focus their training efforts on common tasks.

"The good thing is, because we don't have a lot of big training on the schedule, we can focus on a lot of individual Soldier tasks and let them build as the unit builds," he said.

Meanwhile, the engineers have also supported other local units, role playing as civilians on the battlefield or opposing forces.

"That's exciting to have that fresh start," Hurley said of the relative flexibility of creating a new unit.



VBS

said David Kessler, director of religious education for USAG Schweinfurt religious support office.

Kessler and Wiedemer made it clear that VBS could not take place without all of the volunteers. Each year they have just the right amount for the program to take place, they are grateful.

"This is my third year doing VBS, and I'm very grateful to be a part of this... I get to play a pirate which is great interaction with the kids; if I was just Specialist Conerly, then it wouldn't be as fun for them to come and talk to me. It's good to bring fun to the families, especially in a community like this where we deploy so much," said chaplain's assistant Spc. Jonathan Conerly.

Although VBS ends tomorrow, children and families are welcome to explore the other programs offered year-round at the Ledward Chapel. For more information, call 354-1370.

