



2-28 IN Soldiers awarded Silver Stars

Story and photos by Kimberly Gearhart

Staff Sgt. Octavio Nunez will tell you that he didn't do "anything special." Spc. Jarrod Taylor will insist others deserve the recognition. The crowd gathered at the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry memorials on Ledward Barracks Tuesday and the new Silver Star medals pinned to both Soldiers' chests tell another story.

Taylor and Nunez, both members of what is now the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, were awarded the military's 3rd highest award for valor, the Silver Star, for what the award citations describe as "incredible acts of gallantry" during a complex attack on their combat patrol May 14, 2007 in the Adhamiyah neighborhood of northeast Baghdad, Iraq.

A combat patrol

The patrol started like any other, with a convoy of trucks covering ground in Adhamiyah, one of the most volatile areas in Baghdad. Nunez recalled that they had already encountered one improvised explosive device (IED), but as they'd not

suffered much damage, the patrol continued mission.

"We were always receiving contact," Taylor noted.

The second IED would change lives.

Nunez, in the first truck, asked his gunner to scan the area and see if anyone was hit. The gunner reported that the second truck of the convoy was on fire.

"But I didn't think he meant on FIRE. There were flames coming out of the turret, the doors ... the guys jumping out were on fire," Nunez said.

Taylor, who was in the last truck, and Nunez were among the first to react in attempts to save the wounded.

"We reacted the way we were supposed to react. We did everything we could," Nunez said.

'Heroic' risk

Taylor ran to assist, and found Pfc. Andrew Catterton, who was badly burned, in shock, and without his body armor.



Staff Sgt. Octavio Nunez, left, and Spc. Jarrod Taylor earned Silver Stars for their actions in response to a catastrophic IED attack May 14, 2007.

Taylor shielded Catterton from enemy fire with his own body, moving Catterton to the safety of another truck for treatment and evacuation.

Then Taylor went back.

Staff Sgt. Juan Campos was lying close to the burning vehicle, and Taylor "heroically risked his life a second time" running through enemy fire and risking injury from munitions and explosives "cooking off" from the stricken vehicle,

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Wuerzburg HS JROTC stands for final inspection



Cadet Capt. Timothy Wright, left, A company commander for Wuerzburg High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or JROTC, reviews his troops, including Cadet Cpl. Boris Oros-Guzman, center, during an in-rank formal inspection.

The high school's JROTC program has historically obtained the rating of "Honor Unit with Distinction," indicating a 96% or better success rate on unit reports, knowledge, and formal inspections.

The last iteration of the 11th JROTC Battalion, known as the Wolfpack Battalion, was no exception. When the school closes this June, the JROTC tradition of excellence in Wuerzburg will close as well, but on a high note—with honor and distinction. (Photo by Cadet. Maj. Amanda Biggins)



News Briefs

AFCU information

Andrews Federal Credit Union, Wuerzburg branch will hold an information session May 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. detailing the branch closing and offering relocation and financial advice. Refreshments will be offered, and giveaways are planned. For more information, call 350-6229 or 0931-705-860.

High school registration

Representatives from Bamberg High School will be available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) to register those students in the Schweinfurt community who may be attending Bamberg High next school year. For more information, call SMS at 354-6813 or 09721-96-6813.

Dachau memorial site

The garrison and brigade Equal Opportunity offices will host a free bus trip to Dachau Concentration Camp May 2. Buses will depart from Conn Barracks bldg. 1 and Ledward Barracks bldg. 206 at 5:45 a.m. and return around 7 p.m. The trip is open to Soldiers, families, and DoD civilians 17 and older. For more information or to register call Sgt. 1st Class Corbett at 353-8043 or 0171-164-0821 or Sgt. 1st Class Hilton at 354-6051 or 0170-908-4269. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday.

Tricare Plus

In an effort to concentrate treatment efforts at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic on Soldiers and their family members, future enrollments in the Tricare Plus program will not be accepted after Wednesday. The Plus program allows non-Tricare Prime candidates to receive priority care as if they were Prime enrollees.

The choice to end further enrollment in the program is in line with the clinic's recent move to more closely follow priority care guidelines in an effort to more efficiently utilize care resources. Community members who are already Prime enrollees will still be able to take advantage of the program, as the decision is only to halt further enrollment.

For more information, contact the Schweinfurt Tricare Enrollments Office at 354-6687 or 09721-96-6687.

Family Palooza

Come celebrate military families and children Saturday during Family Palooza from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Askren Manor. Family games, photos, art, pony rides, face painting, displays, a parade, and more are planned for this Morale, Welfare and Recreation event. Additionally, the military police will be on hand to compile ident-a-kid kits and the SKIES program will hold demonstrations related to classes currently being offered in the community.

A Little Miss and Mister Kinderfest pageant will be held from noon to 3 p.m. in conjunction with the event.

Auditions held

Auditions for the community theater production of "And Then They Came for Me" will be held in the Abrams Entertainment Center Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Actors and production volunteers are needed. For more information, call Garland Travis at 0162-296-2776.

Volunteer recognition

The USAG Schweinfurt will host its annual volunteer recognition ceremony tomorrow from 10 a.m. to noon in the Conn Club. This year's event is 70s-themed, so grab your leisure suit or platform shoes and help celebrate and honor the people that make Schweinfurt the community it is.

German weekend events

A large flea market to support the Bavarian Red Cross will be held in the Volksfestplatz Saturday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. A classic car show will be held in Prichsenstadt (south on B 286) Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Schweinfurt Brauhaus brewery beer festival runs 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Pick up free flowers

It's time for the spring enhancement of the Schweinfurt military post housing areas. Come to the Askren Manor recycling center Tuesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to pick up a set of flowers. One set, containing a flowering box, five plants and soil, will be issued per family in government housing.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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

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

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

Information and photos included in this

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

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

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

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



- 2 MAY**
 - Parenting with Love & Logic, 9 to 11 a.m., Askren Manor SAS. Call 354-6933 to register.
 - Dachau Concentration Camp tour, free bus trip departs 5:45 a.m. from Conn bldg. 1 and Ledward bldg. 206. Deadline to sign up is April 30. Call 353-8043 or 0171-164-0821.
 - Bulk Trash pick-up in Askren, Skyline, Victory Drive, Yorktown, and leased housing.
- 3 MAY**
 - Pottery Market in the Schweinfurt Marktplatz 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 3-4 MAY**
 - Volksmarches in Bamberg, 7 a.m. to noon. Follow IVV signs to starting point.
- 4 MAY**
 - Traditional crafts market fieldtrip with Arts & Crafts Studio, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 354-6903.
- 6 MAY**
 - Parenting with Love & Logic, 9 to 11 a.m., Askren Manor SAS. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 9 MAY**
 - "Keeping in touch" class, Leighton/Ledward teen centers, 4 to 5 p.m. Call 354-6933.
 - Parenting with Love & Logic, 9 to 11 a.m., Askren Manor SAS. Call 354-6933 to register.
 - Dinner & family movie night sponsored by PWOC, Ledward chapel, 5 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. movie. Free childcare for ages 4 and under. The community is invited to attend.
- 10 MAY**
 - Flea Market, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., bldg 10, Leighton (old furniture store). Call 354-6715.
- 11 MAY**
 - Mother's Day Brunch, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Conn Community Club. Call 354-6715 to reserve.
 - Mother's Day Dinner, 3 to 6 p.m., 172nd Brigade dining facility.
 - Vineyard hike with stop at local fish fest, \$10 for guide & transportation. Call ODR 353-8080.
 - Classic car show/rally, Schweinfurt Marktplatz, noon to 1:45 p.m.
- 12 MAY**
 - Unit level softball sign-up deadline. Season begins May 19. Call Finney Gym at 353-8234.
 - Pentacost, German holiday. German stores and some concessionaires closed.
 - Sign-up deadline for USO trip to Potsdam on May 17, leaves at 3 a.m. Call 354-6711.
- 13 MAY**
 - Patchwork quilting class, Arts & Crafts Studio, 6-8 p.m. \$35 for 6 sessions. Call 354-6903.
 - Bulk Trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, and leased housing.
- 14 MAY**
 - Speed Dating with the USO, Rohr's Cafe. 7 p.m. Sign up at USO by May 12.
- 17 MAY**
 - 1-77 FA chili cook-off, Kessler gym, noon. To sign up as a contestant, call 09367-982-688.
 - Granger Smith free country music concert, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 7 p.m.
- 21 MAY**
 - Basket-making workshop, Arts & Crafts Studio, 6 p.m. Materials provided. Call 354-6903.
- 22 MAY**
 - The 2008 Army Soldier Show, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 7 p.m.
 - Corpus Christi Day, German holiday. German stores and some concessionaires closed.
- 23 MAY**
 - CYS facilities closed for Memorial Day training holiday.
- 27 MAY**
 - Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, and leased housing.
- 30 MAY**
 - Community scrapbook crop, 172nd classroom next to Conn Barracks CMR, 6 p.m.-midnight. \$10 for dinner, hourly door prizes, and instructional class. Call 09721-96-6141.
- 31 MAY**
 - D-Day Fun Run, Kessler field. Registration 7:30-8:30 a.m., run begins at 9 a.m.
- 1 JUNE**
 - Sign-ups begin for June 27 Parent's Night Out from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Call 354-6517/6414.
- 6 JUNE**
 - Rock im Park music festival, Nuremberg. Contact SATO Travel for ticket information.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Elementary school partnership builds friendship

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) and local German schools have forged a friendship over the past 25 years. Each year, German fifth-graders visit American elementary schools, and the invitation is reciprocal. Monday was one of those special partnership visits.

Two fifth-grade German classes from Bad Koenigshofen Gymnasium came to see what school life was like for fifth-grade American kids at Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES).

“Interaction between American students and German students is good because it helps fight prejudice,” said Norbert Schmitt, the founder of the partnership which started with Wildflicken American elementary school, continued to the DoDDS in Bad Kissingen, and is now hosted by SES.

Schmitt first began the partnership between the Germans and Americans because he “noticed that the American community was very separated from the German community.” His aim was to “forge some friendships” between the two. Since its beginning, the partnership activities have extended from students to teachers and parents as well.

The two German classes arrived at SES in the morning, took a tour of the school, visited various classrooms like art and music, ate lunch, and participated in physical education with Maya Agamaniuk’s fifth-grade class.

“My favorite part is that we get to interact with the Germans. They don’t even know some of the games we play. It’s cool to teach them what we do,” said fifth-grader Breana Brooks.

As some kids played jump-rope together, others participated in a game of American football.

“They never play American football. This is totally new to them,” Schmitt said about the German students. But when they all ran for the ball, there was no obvious distinction between the two nationalities— it was just a group of kids playing a game.

“(The partnership) is a wonderful thing. They get to know what they only learn from books in our school,” said Claudia Hager, a volunteer chaperone and German teacher.



A group of German fifth-graders gather around the students of an SES music class to hear and see how music is taught in an American classroom on Monday.

Army extends cap on Family Readiness Group accounts

By William Bradner
FMWRC Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The amount of money Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are allowed to have in informal funds was recently raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000, regardless of the echelon of command or number of people in the unit.

FRGs typically use informal funds to host unit outings, events or social activities including parties or other events, providing snacks and childcare at FRG meetings, and printing FRG newsletters. The funds are all donated or raised with typical fundraising events such as bake sales and silent auctions.

“Units felt that \$5,000 did not give them enough flexibility to meet all of their needs,” said Delores Johnson, director

of family programs at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC).

The focus of FRGs is mutual support, not fundraising, but for the larger units, hosting a welcome home celebration or “Family Day” can easily cost more than the \$5,000 cap. The more robust FRGs were making hard choices, limiting their activities and curtailing fundraising to remain within regulation.

As part of the Army covenant, child care for FRG meetings and activities is available by contacting either the Army Community Service or the Child and Youth Services.

“Child care for meetings and activities is easily one of the FRG’s largest expenses, and now those costs do not have to come from their informal FRG funds,” Johnson said. “That will also free up limited funds

for other activities.”

“This is a natural step forward in delivering the promise of the covenant to our Soldiers and Families,” Johnson continued.

“We’re empowering the FRGs to make their own choices about funding and how they’re going to support their units.”

In response to requests from FMWRC and other Army commands, the Secretary of the Army signed Army Directive 2008-1, titled “Increase in Family Readiness Group Informal Fund Cap,” March 7.





Community gathers to “Take Back the Night”



Nearly 60 community members gathered for the Army Community Service-sponsored “Take Back the Night” walk last night. The event began with a proclamation against sexual assault, read by Chris Isom and was followed by a brief history of “Take Back the Night,” read by Isom’s daughter, Alyssa. Participants were given turquoise ribbon pins, informational brochures, and whistles as tokens of their commitment to oppose sexual violence in our communities. Those who attended then marched through the Askren Manor housing area in a show of support for the community and victims of sexual violence everywhere. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

SILVER

according to his award narrative.

Taylor was struck by shrapnel from an explosion inside the burning truck as he began to move Campos. The impact knocked him down. Taylor, rather than retreating to cover, regained his footing, placed himself between Campos and the enemy forces, and pulled Campos out of harm’s way.

Taylor suffered burns to his hands in his attempts to evacuate Campos. He refused treatment until after he saw his charge evacuated by helicopter for medical treatment. But Taylor says he’s no hero.

“The real heroes are the ones on (the 1-26 IN) memorial,” he said. One of those names belongs to Campos, who succumbed to his wounds 18 days later in a hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

‘Gallant actions’

Nunez ran toward the flaming vehicle and encountered Sgt. Terry Fleming engulfed in flames. Nunez tackled Fleming to the ground so that the flames could be extinguished. “Despite intense fire from enemy sources,” the narrative reads, Nunez was able to pull Fleming to the relative

cover of a nearby vehicle.

Then he went back to aid in evacuating Pfc. Omar Avila, whose shattered legs and burns made moving him difficult.

Under attack from all sides, including the ammunition exploding inside the burning vehicle, Nunez not only pulled Avila to cover but also lifted the much-heavier man into the truck.

Then Nunez went back—a third time.

The flames were too intense, and Nunez had to be pulled away by his lieutenant.

“Staff Sgt. Nunez’s gallant actions, courageous leadership, and willful risk of his own life saved the lives of two severely wounded Soldiers,” his narrative reads.

“I don’t think I did anything special. Campos would have done the same thing. Hartge would have done the same thing,” Nunez said. Spc. Nicholas Hartge was killed in the explosion that day.

Mystifying valor

“Folks are mystified about valor ... in the civilian world because they don’t really understand it. They get excited about it, but they wonder what makes two men in contact, in chaos, run back in to contact and chaos and save a friend,” said Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade



Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, left, hugs Spc. Jarrod Taylor after awarding Taylor the Silver Star.

commander, under whose command Taylor and Nunez serve.

Sinclair and brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McClaffin pinned the Silver Star awards on Taylor and Nunez, officially honoring their “actions of heroism.”

“We know what this award is,” Sinclair explained, “because we know what valor looks like. We know what it looks like when someone puts the lives of their fellow Soldiers above their own.”