



President gives McGinnis medal to parents

Story and photo by Carrie McLeroy

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 2, 2008) -- Spc. Ross McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in a White House ceremony Monday morning.

His parents, Tom and Romayne



McGinnis, shared the small stage in the East Room with the president to receive the nation's highest military honor on their son's behalf. He became the second Soldier serving in Iraq to receive the medal.

McGinnis was serving as an M-2 50-caliber machine gunner with 1st Platoon,

Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment supporting combat operations against insurgents in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad. On Dec. 4, 2006, 1st Plt. was gearing up to patrol the streets of the area and deliver a 250-kilowatt generator to provide increased electricity to its citizens.

The youngest member of his platoon at 19, McGinnis manned the 50-caliber machine gun on the last Humvee in the six-vehicle patrol. He sat on the gunner's strap facing the rear to provide security for the patrol. An insurgent on a nearby rooftop lobbed a fragmentation grenade into the vehicle. Sgt. 1st Class Cedric Thomas (platoon sergeant and truck commander); Staff Sgt. Ian Newland (squad leader); Sgt. Lyle Buehler (driver) and Spc. Sean Lawson (medic) were combat-locked inside the vehicle.

McGinnis yelled, "grenade," to allow his crew to prepare for the grenade's blast. Instead of leaping out the gunner's hatch to safety as he was trained to do, McGinnis threw his back against the radio mount where the grenade had landed, covering the

grenade and absorbing most of the blast.

"By that split-second decision, McGinnis lost his own life, and he saved his comrades," Bush said.

Following the ceremony, McGinnis' parents expressed their pride in their son and sadness of their loss. The Soldiers who called him brother and friend voiced their appreciation for his sacrifice.

"Ross did what he did for his buddies, and actually he's done that all his life," Romayne said. "It didn't surprise us when we found out all the details of what had happened. That was Ross."

When asked how their son should be remembered, the parents spoke about how he was a normal kid, who when called upon, did what he thought was best for his buddies.

"The only thing you've really got to remember about my son is that he did the right thing at the right time," Tom said. "Because his life was very short, it wasn't an exciting story until it got right to the end. He just made the right decision when it was required."

New region director joins IMCOM-Europe team

By Ray Johnson
IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Installation Management Command-Europe (IMCOM-E) welcomed its new region director, Diane Devens during a May 29 ceremony on the parade grounds of Campbell Barracks.

Keeping her remarks brief on an unseasonably hot spring day for Germany, Devens said her focus would remain on supporting Soldiers and family members, using successful programs and policies already in practice.

Labeling her transition "smooth," Devens said she looked forward to visiting garrisons located throughout the command as quickly as possible.

Addressing several hundred event attendees, Maj. Gen. John MacDonald, deputy commander of IMCOM, called Devens and Russell Hall, whom she replaced, "two very talented civilians who have worked hard, who have made huge contributions to (the Army's overall) readiness."

"You should be extremely proud that you are leaving your present regions a better place for Soldiers, civilians and family members," MacDonald said to the two senior executives. "You

have contributed greatly in supporting an Army at war; an Army that is undergoing tremendous change; an Army that is in persistent conflict."

Complimenting Devens as "a caring and dedicated leader," the general said he knew her as "forthright and fair, always letting people know where she stands on the issues ... she understands the Army and what a good quality of life means to our (communities)."

Devens is replacing the only director that IMCOM-Europe has even known.

"It's bittersweet memories," Hall declared. "How do you leave something that has been a part of your life; that you've literally raised from infancy?"

Now charged with taking on a new organization, Hall firmly believes "there is nothing IMCOM can't accomplish for Soldiers and families; we (have) proven it time and time again under the most demanding circumstances.

"History will judge there is no higher calling, and no greater privilege than serving Soldiers and their families."



Devens



News Briefs

BOSS paintball tourney

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a paintball tournament Sunday at the Conn paintball field. The cost is \$50 which includes the paintball marker, all equipment, and 1,000 paintballs. For more information, or to sign up call 353-8476.

Arts and crafts contest

The deadline for entry into the Army Arts and Crafts contest is June 30. There are 11 categories to choose from. For contest guidelines and more information go online to <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/artsandcrafts/contest.asp>. To enter go to <https://artscrafts.fmwrc.army.mil> and log on with AKO username and password.

Golf tournament

Morale Welfare Recreation is holding a golf tournament in Loffelstertz. This takes place Saturday beginning 8:30 a.m. To register or for more information call Finney Fitness Center at 353-8234.

Learn how to hula

Army Community Service (ACS) will hold an "I Can Do It" Hula dancing class Tuesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in classroom 2 of the Ledward ACS. For more information, call ACS at 354-6399.

Schools' farewells

In honor of the closing of Wuerzburg American High School and Middle/Elementary School, a closing ceremony will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. between the main entrances of both schools. To send regards or thoughts for the elementary/middle school email Kristie.Mashburn@eu.dodea.edu or for the high school email Robert.Claus@eu.dodea.edu.

Last day for taxes

The Schweinfurt Tax Center, located in Bldg. 30 on Conn Barracks, will close for the year tomorrow at 4 p.m. Clients will be accepted on a walk-in basis from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Call ahead for availability at 353-8992.

Baby training

Army Community Service (ACS) holds Birth n' Babies classes parts I and II June 12 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Learn about pregnancy, nutrition, labor, delivery, breastfeeding and newborn care. To sign up, or for more information, call ACS at 354-6933.

Holocaust play

USAG Schweinfurt Community Theater presents the play "And Then They Came for Me" at the Abrams Center today, tomorrow, and Saturday at 7 p.m. Afterwards, guest speaker Eva Schloss will share. Tickets at the door are \$10 adults, \$7 students k-12.

Army's birthday

The commander of USAG Schweinfurt invites the community to celebrate the Army's 233rd birthday at Ledward's Andrus Garden on June 12 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Play women's tennis

The last day to register for the Women's Recreational Tennis League is tomorrow. This is open to all women in the Schweinfurt community who are over 18 and not in high school. For more information, call Finney Fitness Center at 353-8234.

Be informed

There will be community update forums Tuesday at Schweinfurt Elementary School and Wednesday at the Leighton Community Activities Center. Community attendance is encouraged. Forums begin at 6 p.m.

Fuel card briefing

In addition to the usual updates, the Schweinfurt community update forum will include a fuel ration card briefing. Got questions? Get answers at Schweinfurt Elementary School Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Proper flag disposal

Community members can drop off old or damaged American flags at Schweinfurt Middle School information center until June 13. The flags will be properly disposed of in a Flag Day ceremony the following day.

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.



- 10 JUNE** --Smooth Move Seminar, Ledward Education Center, 9 a.m. to noon. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 11-12 JUNE** --BOSS Olympics: volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, softball, flag football at Kessler field, 1 p.m.
- 12 JUNE** --Schweinfurt Elementary and Schweinfurt Middle School, last day of school.
--Last day of operations for Leighton JAG office.
--Dealing with the media, Yellow Ribbon Room, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 13 JUNE** --Last day of operations for Leighton customs office.
--Perfect timing seminar for teens, Yellow Ribbon Room, 10-11 a.m.
- 14 JUNE** --Super Saturday, SAS and CDC, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., call 354-6517.
- 15 JUNE** --Father's Day. Give your dad something special.
- 16 JUNE** --Volunteer Orientation, Yellow Ribbon Room, 10-11 a.m., call ACS 354-6933.
--Beginning of fathers week, bring photo to Ledward library for display.
--Beginning day of Camp Olympus for SAS summer camp. Call 354-6974.
- 17 JUNE** --Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) meeting, Finney Rec Center, 2 p.m., 354-8476.
--Important decision making for teens, Yellow Ribbon Room, 1-2 p.m.
- 20 JUNE** --Daddy Basic Training, Ledward ACS, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 354-6933.
- 24 JUNE** --Couples Communication, Ledward ACS, 2 to 4 p.m., call 354-6933.
--Seven steps to getting out of debt, Ledward ACS, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 25 JUNE** --Communication skills for kids class, Yellow Ribbon Room, 11 a.m. - noon. Call 354-6933.
- 26 JUNE** --Job Search Strategies, Ledward ACS, 2 to 4 p.m. Call to sign up at 354-6933.
--Ledward library adult book club meets to discuss "Eat, pray, and love" at 5:15 p.m.
- 27 JUNE** --Ledward Lunch Bunch, meet at Ledward ACS, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Smooth Move Seminar, ACS building, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933
--ADD/ADHD Support Group, ACS building, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
--Parents' Night Out, SAS and CDC, 6:30-11 p.m., call CYS central registration at 354-6517.
--Community Scrapbook Crop, 299th Classroom Conn Barracks, Call 016092177325.
- 30 JUNE** --Last day of service for Customs, POV inspection, and AFCU on Leighton Barracks.
- 4 JULY** --Fourth of July Celebration, Kessler Field. Live music by "Seven Dust", fun run, salute to the flag ceremony, food, and fireworks.
- 7-11 JULY** --SNAPS orientation, new comers awareness program. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 9 JULY** --Final day of service for Leighton Vet Clinic.
- 9-10 JULY** --Dramatization about John Wesley and St. Patrick by Roger Nelson, Ledward Chapel, 7 p.m.
- 13 JULY** --Schweinfurt Commissary will close at 4 p.m. for shelving upgrades/installation.
- 14 JULY** --Schweinfurt Commissary closed for shelving upgrades/installation.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Radon mitigation follows garrison-directed testing

By Mark Heeter

Upon receiving results of radon diagnostic testing conducted in Askren Manor, Ledward and Conn Barracks in October 2007, the USAG Schweinfurt swiftly undertook the recommendations for reduction of the gas in several locations.

The garrison proactively initiated the test to validate the results of an earlier test and to determine the best way to reduce radon, according to Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander.

“If you don’t know where you are, you can’t know where you’re going,” said Haager, who directed his environmental division to conduct the testing. “That is why we asked to have this study done.”

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that has been proven to cause lung cancer in humans, according the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Not everyone exposed to elevated levels of radon develops lung cancer, according to the EPA, which publishes material related to the gas.

Radon reduction systems – including the two methods now implemented in Schweinfurt – can reduce radon levels in a building by up to 99 percent, according to the “Citizen’s Guide to Radon,” published by the EPA and available at www.epa.gov/radon.

“We wanted not just to find whether, but really why,” radon was present in the basement of the child development center, one of the sites tested, said Lothar Rueckert,

chief of the environmental division in the USAG Schweinfurt directorate of public works (DPW).

Testing of the first-floor areas of the CDC, most commonly used by staff and children, produced normal, safe radon levels, said Klaus Koch, the USAG Schweinfurt project point of contact.

Of particular interest for the safety of staff and students were previously reported radon levels in the Schweinfurt Elementary School. Testing devices were installed in the school over a five-day weekend, and the results correlated to an important tip that housing and environmental staffs continue to offer.

“People need to open their windows,” Rueckert said. The final report on the Schweinfurt testing noted the direct correlation between radon levels and the air exchange caused by opening of doors and windows.

“One can clearly see a drop in radon levels when the school is occupied and teachers open exterior windows as well as a marked increase during the evenings and weekends when windows are typically closed,” according to the report.

“As noted previously in this report, indoor radon levels can be significantly reduced by increasing fresh outdoor air,” the findings continued.

“There are no U.S. regulations mandating specific radon levels for indoor residential environments, only guidelines

for remediation,” according to the report. And remediation has been the focus of the garrison’s efforts since the results were returned.

Exceeding recommendations, the DPW has installed two air cleaners in the child development center, according to Koch. Additionally, soil pressure is being treated in 13 other locations, employing another effective method of reducing radon levels, Rueckert said.

Additionally, Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) authorities were quick to accept the recommendations for remediation in the elementary school.

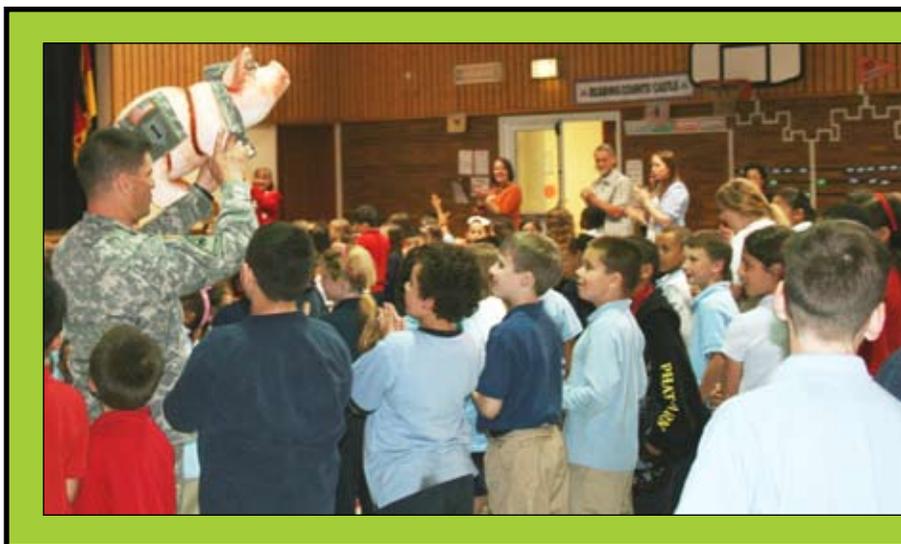
“We will do what is needed to do for remediation in Schweinfurt,” said Ed Atterberry, DoDDS-Bavaria assistant superintendent, noting that the district has combated radon effectively in schools in the past.

“Right now we are mitigating it by directing that the windows stay open at the top,” Atterberry said.

“Depending on the level, the EPA recommends varying types of responses,” said Jose Tovar, facilities program manager for DoDDS-Europe, noting the widely accepted method of ventilation currently at the schools as an effective treatment.

“In the long-term, we look ahead to permanent courses of action,” Tovar said.

For extensive information about radon, visit the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/radon.



Wilbur the pig gets promoted to sergeant

The Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES) mascot, Wilbur the pig, was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant and awarded a 1st Infantry Division Combat patch by Lt. Col. Steven Hite, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery commander for Wilbur’s work with 1-77 FA in Baghdad. Wilbur also got an updated uniform, ditching his out-of-specs Battle Dress Uniform to the new Army Combat Uniform.

Hite, left, took the newly-updated Wilbur on a march through the assembled SES students after the promotion ceremony, allowing the children to congratulate Wilbur on a job well done. (Photo by Staff Sgt. David Crabill)



WAHS says goodbye to PALS

Story and photo by Lindsey Cole

When the lunch bell rings for students at Wuerzburg American High School (WAHS), it's a time to socialize, eat, or catch up on homework. For the PALS (Peer Action Leadership Society), it's a time to make new friends and enjoy a free meal.

The idea, proposed by a parent, spurred on a partnership between WAHS and Schweinfurt and Leighton Child and Youth Services teen centers which resulted in the forming of PALS in 2005. The aim of the club was to help incoming WAHS students meet people and introduce them to what the school had to offer.

"Whether they are coming or going, our job is to make the transition a positive experience. Over time the program has not only become a 'welcoming group' but also has given the students a chance to be involved with their community, school, and have a great social experience at the same time," said Donna Hilley, coordinator of PALS and director of Schweinfurt teen center.

Parents and faculty know that it's difficult for military children to be moved from school to school and begin a new social life each time.

"PALS has been great, it goes right along with the Military

Child (Education) Coalition," said Walt Seely, WAHS principal. The coalition aims to implement programs for the challenges faced by highly mobile military children.

"When I first arrived at the school I didn't know anyone, the first person who talked to me was someone from PALS. It made me feel much more comfortable. The friends I made there have been my friends since," said junior Daniel Soto-Perez, vice president of PALS.



Senior Amber Manchester and junior Daniel Soto-Perez decorate the traditional PALS cake with their creativity.

Throughout the school year PALS activities are sponsored by the Schweinfurt teen center, the Parent Teacher Student Association, and the WAHS student activity fund. These sponsors also host a traditional end-of-the-year barbeque which is designed to celebrate academic, personal, and group accomplishments of PALS participants. Last Friday, the students who attended the barbeque favored the idea of the PALS program being brought to all Department of Defense Dependent Schools.

"It helps a lot of students come together and be integrated. It supports teens through tough times like when our parents get deployed. The volunteers at

PALS ... constantly want to help with anything they can. It's a great idea and should be brought to more schools," said sophomore Dianna Bennett, president of PALS.

Keep banned foodstuffs out of USA

Take care in packing out household goods

By Robert Szostek
USEUCOM Customs PAO

MANNHEIM, Germany – Personnel shipping household goods to the United States this summer should be careful when packing the contents of their kitchen, agriculture officials advise. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection issues fines of \$300 to \$1,000 to first-time offenders who ignore the strict rules that apply to sending food products stateside.

"Red meats, sausages, pâtés and salami can harbor disease viruses — even if canned — and are therefore barred from import," said Jane Levy, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) attaché to the U.S. European Command. Even pasta or soup

mixes that contain dried meat are not allowed, she added. Foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) are examples of diseases that need to be kept out of the USA this way.

Fresh fruits and vegetables may also not be sent to the U.S. because they can contain the eggs of voracious pests. The Mediterranean fruit fly is a good example of a bug that can hide in citrus fruit to beat our defenses.

However, you can ship processed fruit and vegetable products such as canned fruit, olive oil, mustard and canned or processed sauces. Dried herbs and spices, roasted coffee, roasted nuts, cured cheeses, cakes, candies and cookies are also okay,

Levy added. There are no restrictions on fish and mushrooms either.

To find out more about importing food, plant and animal products into the United States, visit the USDA website at http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/xp/cgov/travel/clearing/agri_prod_inus.xml.





There's nothing funny about drinking and driving Comedy show drives the message home

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Barbecues, fests and fun in the sun. Summer is on the horizon, and the USAG Schweinfurt safety office and Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) aim to keep it safe this year.

"We know there will be a lot of barbecues, a lot of fests, and a lot of daylight where people are going to be out and about. And there will be a lot more drinking," said Gerry Warner, alcohol and drug control officer.

"For us, our focus is on substance abuse," she said.

To kick off the "101 Days of Summer" campaign, ASAP brought in comedian Bernie McGrenahan, who, yesterday, completed a three-day tour in Schweinfurt talking to community members about the dangers of substance abuse. Grafenwoehr is his next stop.

Safety and ASAP officials have coordinated an attack on drunken driving, passing out single-use Breathalyzers as well as advice.

"We have enough to provide one Breathalyzer for each Soldier," said Andrea Dowdy, program assistant, adding that the handouts are well-used by local units.

"It's very important for them to make up their minds up front how they will get home," said Eddi Sauer, USAG Schweinfurt safety officer, adding that some people are fooled into thinking they can drive after drinking.

"You might think it might be okay, but it isn't okay. It's that little bit that makes the difference," he said. "The good thing is that there is very good public transportation available."

"They may think the cab is going to cost them a lot," but the price of a cab ride is no comparison to the penalties for drunken driving, Warner said.

One important reminder from Maron Yusuf, ASAP risk prevention manager: People under the age of 21 are prohibited from driving with any trace of alcohol in their blood.

A concentrated effort is underway to target training and prevention where units

need it the most, according to Yusuf.

"You look at incidents quarterly and you put it together to highlight any issues that units might be having, and you target your prevention efforts at their needs," he said.



McGrenahan

Auf Wiedersehen

Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, presents a rare garrison belt buckle to Justin Mitchell, his deputy commander, at Mitchell's farewell celebration on Conn Barracks today. Scores of guests from throughout the community showed up to honor, thank and celebrate with Mitchell, who weaved together in his remarks the three things that guide his life – God, family and country. Mitchell, who arrived in Schweinfurt with his wife, Michelle, and their two children in September 2002, heads to the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. (Photo by Mark Heeter)





First-graders make clay into artwork

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Since the end of April, a process similar to the amazing transformation of caterpillars into butterflies took place in the Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES) art classroom. But instead of butterflies emerging from cocoons, clay soap dishes were emerging from a kiln.

In a unit of study on the craft of ceramics, SES students learned how their pieces of clay—shaped, fired and glazed—could be transformed into a beautiful work of art.

“I teach the kids the entire process,” said art teacher Angela Oliverson, who is a third generation artist in her family. “(It) can be compared to a life cycle of a morphing animal, such as a butterfly.”

The students will receive their final “super butterfly” soap dish this week. But the work that went into the creation of the piece of art is much more than one might suspect.

The first-graders took on the challenge with their fifth-grade mentors and started out with a lump of clay.

“I’ve been doing (ceramics) since (kindergarten). I’m really experienced,” said fifth-grader Paige Dasalla, explaining how her previous knowledge in the art was helpful in teaching the first-graders.

“My favorite part was slamming the clay on the table to flatten it out so the first-graders could put their hand in it,” said fifth-grader Seth Hardy. The handprint in the clay served as a personalized decoration.

After the completion of the clay shaping, the piece went into

the kiln and was fired at a high temperature. The uncolored soap dishes came out ready to be patted with glaze.

“It’s not just art—it’s science,” Oliverson said. “You can be creative with the colors, but when it comes to putting them on, you have to follow the rules.”



Students gather around their art teacher, Angela Oliverson, to see how the clay is painted with glaze before working on their own pieces.

The glaze was brushed on and the soap dishes looked “kind of funky,” said Oliverson, but the last firing in the kiln produced the shiny green and white soap dish that the children could proudly take home.

AFTB brings instructors on board with training

By Mark Heeter

The Schweinfurt community just got a little heavier in Army Family Team Building (AFTB) instructors. And Staff Sgt. Stephen Domingos got a little heavier in the brain.

“They (students) come out of this course empowered. I’m telling you. It’s like gaining 10 pounds of muscle in your brain,” Domingos said, just before he and four classmates completed

AFTB instructor training at the Yellow Ribbon Room Friday.

Domingos, family readiness leader for the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, enrolled in the class as part of his master plan to learn and teach as much as he can.



Small

“I wish I would have done it 14 years ago, because it would have made me an effective leader. It’s just incredible what you learn,” he said. “You learn about yourself, and you learn how to deal with other people.”

Reeling off some of the terms and details he has learned in AFTB – audio, visual and kinesthetic learning – Domingos plans to aim his teaching first at his battalion’s Soldiers, followed by family members.

“We can’t empower someone without knowing what it’s like to be in that position. We can’t tell a family member to attend AFTB and not know what it is,” he said, explaining his desire to attend the class as

the battalion’s family readiness leader.

AFTB has something to offer the entire Army family, especially during and surrounding a deployment, according to Sarah Small, the AFTB master trainer who facilitated the instructor training.

“It’s almost like a prevention tool, or intervention,” Small said, encouraging people to look at AFTB classes and module training before they actually might need it.

“It’s very important during a deployment,” she said. “You see people waiting until after things start rolling or they’re in a crisis, before they try to come and get help.”

For more information about AFTB, call Army Community Service at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.



Domingos



Orientation required for SAS summer camp

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Schweinfurt School Age Services (SAS) will kick off summer camp programming June 16. Kids will explore Camp Olympus, in honor of the summer Olympics being held this year. But before children can enjoy the cycling, volleyball, baseball, and swimming fun, parents must attend a camp orientation, held every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

“We do things a little differently during summer camp. Payments change, and are made weekly, rather than on the 1st and the 15th,” said Bobbie Jones, Schweinfurt SAS director.

In order to reserve a space for your child in the summer camp, parents must pay the weekly fee by Thursday of the week prior. Failure to do so can result in a late fee of \$5 or possibly missing out on that week of camp.

When attending orientation, parents are asked to sign permission slips for field trips and indicate which weeks their children will attend.

“Signing the permission slip does not guarantee a space for the week. To do that, you must pay for that week,” Jones cautioned.

Hourly care is available during summer camp as well, at a rate of \$3 per hour. All Child and Youth Services patrons with children in first- through fifth-grades are entitled to five hours of free monthly care. Patrons whose sponsor is deployed, and those

in Warrior Transition Units or Wounded Warrior status can receive additional care hours.

“The important thing with hourly care is that parents can only use it two days per week and that we need at least 24 hours notice,” Jones said. Additionally, unlike weekly payments, which include entrance fees for field trips, parents of children in hourly care must pay entrance fees when dropping off their children.



Bobbie Jones, SAS director, discusses summer camp plans with parents.

SAS will be open from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, as usual, during summer camp, although camp activities will, for the most part, run between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

“If that changes, like if a field trip needs to leave earlier, we will post notices in advance,” Jones said.

During this week’s orientation, parents expressed concern about keeping track of so many children on field trips to places like the zoo or a fun park. Jones assured parents that children are well-advised of plans, and that staff is diligent about accountability.

“But if you’re worried, come out on the first field trip with us, and see for yourselves. You’ll have to pay your own entry fees, but we’ll pack you a lunch,” she said.

For more information about the summer camp program, contact SAS at 354-6974 or 09721-82181.

Leighton celebrates Asian Pacific heritage month

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. John Queen 69th ADA Public Affairs Office

The community activity center on Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg was alive with the sound of South Pacific island music May 30 as more than 100 members from the small military community there turned out to honor Asian Pacific American Heritage month.

The event was a festive celebration that showcased an array of unique sights, sounds, and tastes from several Asian Pacific nations.

“They put on a great presentation,” said Spec. Joseph Bonner, a generator mechanic from Headquarters Battery 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. “It kind of gave you that feel of being on a tropical island, and you got to see an aspect of a culture that we don’t learn too much about.”

The grand ballroom of the community center was bejeweled with a tropical flare

of long grass bunting, tiki-torches, bright colorful flowers and seashells.

Guests were treated to an ensemble of traditional South Pacific dances, a Guam warrior “stick battle”, fire twirling and a spread of Asian Pacific food that was topped off with a roasted pig.

Command Sgt. Major Iuniasolua Savusa, United States Army, Europe’s Command Sergeant Major and a native of American Samoa attended the event as the guest speaker.

In his speech, Savusa talked of the trial and tribulations faced by members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an Army unit composed of Japanese Americans that served in Europe during World War II. He told of how the Soldiers overcame racism and prejudice to become recognized as the most highly decorated units in the Army. Those Soldiers became the lifelong inspiration for one young man that would become the forerunner in the transition and modernization of today’s Army, retired

Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki.

“I am an American Samoan – but above all I am an American and a Soldier,” he said during his speech. “I embrace my identity in hope that others will learn to embrace and cherish our inherent diversity.”



Charlene Sanchez-Licciardi instructs Command Sgt. Major Iuniasolua Savusa in some of the finer points of the hula dance.