



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

May 8, 2008



Best Opportunities for Schweinfurt Soldiers Schweinfurt BOSS program wins best in Europe

By Kimberly Gearhart

At this year's European conference, the USAG Schweinfurt's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program has been named the best in Europe for its innovative programming, drive

for community involvement, and focus on Soldier wellness and recreation.

The Schweinfurt program also took second place in the event category for the "This One's For You," or TOFU, series which ran monthly from September 2007 through March

2008.

"TOFU was just one project in our larger reintegration program," explained BOSS president Pvt. Justin Holt. The events combined training programs aimed at helping Soldiers cope with reintegration and recreational activities, games, and concerts.

"Several agencies like Army Community Service and Army Substance Abuse Program came by and gave classes on budgeting, alcohol awareness, and reconnecting with your friends and families," Holt explained.

The TOFU program, though presented by BOSS, was open to any Soldier that felt he or she needed help in adjusting to life after war.

"This program was designed to help Soldiers deal with reintegration and combat

stress in a healthy, fun-filled way," said Silvia Joiner, who acts as an advisor to BOSS from the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program.

"The environment was nice, more relaxed, than the type of post-deployment briefings Soldiers get with their units. A lot of times they are more comfortable speaking up and asking questions than they would be with their command there," Holt said.

Although the TOFU series is complete, the BOSS program in Schweinfurt is still in full swing. Each battalion has a representative and most have a centralized information board to post events, advertise contact information, and accept suggestions.

"We have bimonthly meetings, on the first Tuesday

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Like the Soldiers taking part in a "This One's For You" event last fall, the Schweinfurt BOSS program stretched for the prize, and won, being named best installation program in Europe. (photo by Sandra Wilson)

Military mom supports Soldiers, inspires others to give

By Kimberly Gearhart

In pledging to better support its families, the Army has acknowledged that it is the strength of military families that make the Army Strong motto more than just a catchy slogan. Military moms, in particular, demonstrate that strength while also stretching the conventional definition of family.

Solveig Stetson's husband is retired U.S. Navy Reserve Commander John B. Stetson IV. Her sons John B. Stetson V, Eric, and Scott serve as officers in the Air Force, Army, and Navy, respectively. Solveig herself has served as a military spouse and mother, but her dedication to the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the U.S. Armed Forces does not stop at

those of blood relation.

"Wherever our sons are deployed, I always send care packages that they can share with others," Solveig said.

Maj. Eric Stetson, Solveig's middle son, serves with the Blackhawk Brigade here in Schweinfurt. When the brigade recently returned from Iraq, Solveig asked Eric to get names of Soldiers still in theater to whom she could continue to send support. When those Soldiers also returned, Solveig again turned to Eric for names.

Eric put Solveig in touch with Grete Timmons, a Family Readiness Group co-leader with the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment.

"I had mentioned that the CAV was looking, specifically, to raise money in

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Solveig Stetson



News Briefs

Mother's Day dining

The Conn Community Club is hosting a Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$12.50 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12. To reserve a space, call 354-6186.

There will also be a Mother's Day dinner at the 172nd dining facility on Ledward from 3 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$5.40 for family members of E-5 and up and \$4.50 for family members E-4 and below. There will be a special surprise for every mom and an inflatable obstacle course for children.

Attend Update Forum

There will be a Community Update Forum (CUF) at Schweinfurt Elementary School Tuesday at 6 p.m. Leighton's CUF will take place at the Community Activities Center Wednesday at 6 p.m. If you have questions or concerns regarding the community, this is a chance to have them heard.

Enjoy a free movie

United Service Organization (USO) is hosting a free special movie at the Ledward Theater Saturday at 1 p.m. This event is open to all I.D. card holders. There is free admission and refreshments at this showing of "National Treasure II," and small items for children will be given away. For more information, call USO at 354-6711.

Travel to Potsdam

United Service Organization (USO) is offering an express trip to Potsdam May 17. Sign up deadline is Saturday. The tour will depart at 3 a.m. and cost is 89 euros. This is one of Germany's most beautiful cities. For more information call USO 354-6711.

Learn a new craft skill

The Ledward Crafts studio is offering patchwork and quilting classes starting next week. These classes will take place in the Ledward Crafts Studio, bldg. 203, each Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$35 for six sessions. Come and learn a unique craft skill. For information, call 354-6903.

Enjoy movie night

Protestant Women Of the Chapel (PWOC) hosts a free dinner and family movie night at the Ledward chapel tomorrow. Dinner begins at 5 p.m., and the movie, "Facing the Giants," starts at 7 p.m. Free childcare for ages 4 and under is provided during the movie. The entire community is invited to attend.

Speed date

United Service Organization (USO) hosts a free speed dating session Wednesday at 7 p.m. If interested, sign up by Monday. If you're single and looking this is a great opportunity to meet others. For more information, or to register call USO at 354-6711.

Hike through vineyards

Outdoor Recreation (ODR) will host a vineyard hike in Zeilitzheim, with a stop at a fish festival in Rothlein, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 and includes a guide and transportation. For more information, call ODR at 353-8080.

Shop at flea market

There will be a flea market on Leighton barracks, bldg. 10 (the old furniture store next to the movie theater), Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop for bargains, clothes, appliances, or just browse the goods for last-minute Mother's Day ideas.

Play softball

Finney Fitness Center is holding sign-ups for unit-level softball, and Monday is the last day. All participants must be U.S. I.D. card holders. The season begins May 19. Take this opportunity to get involved with a fun recreational sport. For more information, call 353-8234.

Cannonade and colors

The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade will case their colors, saying farewell to Wuerzburg in preparation for their move back to the U.S. Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the former Victory Gardens Park on Leighton barracks. The brigade wishes to notify Leighton residents that during the ceremony, a 15-shot volley will be fired, and residents should not be alarmed.

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.



- 15 MAY** --Grafenwoehr/Vilseck school registration, Conn Club, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
--Grafenwoehr/Schweinfurt shuttle service begins. Buses will leave Schweinfurt bus stops for Grafenwoehr beginning at 7 a.m., and return as late as 5 p.m. See posted schedules.
- 16 MAY** --Fuel ration card overview briefing, 11 a.m., Ledward Theater.
- 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.
--Asian heritage celebration with dances, food & displays, Ledward Library, 11 a.m. to noon.
- 21 MAY** --Basket-making workshop, Ledward Crafts Studio, 6 p.m. Materials provided. Call 354-6903.
--Live jazz concert at Kurgaten Cafe in Bad Kissingen, 8 p.m.
- 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.
--Schweinfurt Volksfest opens 5:30 p.m., fireworks at 10:30 p.m.
- 24-25 MAY** --Schweinfurt Commissary case lot sale during regular opening hours.
- 25 MAY** --Free "Crash Dance" concert at Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 6 p.m.
- 26 MAY** --Memorial Day Ceremony, 172nd Brigade HQ flagpole, 11 a.m. Free food and drinks, Conn Community Club terrace available at noon.
--Ladies' Night at the Volksfest, most rides 1 euro, 6 p.m. to midnight.
- 27 MAY** --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, and leased housing.
- 28 MAY** --Sponsorship Training, Schweinfurt ACS, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933 to register.
--Family Day at the Volksfest, from 2 to 8 p.m. all tickets half price.
- 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.
- 30-31 MAY** --MWR Bazaar, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 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.
--MWR Bazaar, Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 2-6 JUNE** --SNAPS orientation for newcomers, Schweinfurt ACS, free childcare. Call 354-6933.
- 4 JUNE** --Investing class for teens, Schweinfurt Teen Center, 6-7 p.m. Call ACS at 354-6933.
- 6 JUNE** --Rock im Park music festival, Nuremberg. Contact SatoTravel for ticket information.
--Wuerzburg High School, last day of school.
- 12 JUNE** --Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg Elementary and Middle Schools, last day of school.
- 14 JUNE** --Super Saturday opening at SAS and CDC. Sign-ups begin May 14. Call 354-6517/6414.
--Annual Disco Boat Ride, Wuerzburg boat dock, 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Call 0151-1492-9582.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Blackhawks build cohesion, find the magic

Story by Kimberly Gearhart

A ten-mile road march carrying 25-30 pound packs in the small hours of the morning. A 24-hour day filled with rope bridges, assault weapons, obstacle courses and blistered feet. Described this way, the Blackhawk Magic event starts to sound a bit like the Expert Infantry Badge course or a bad day of basic training.

Until you see the rank of that Soldier slogging through the water obstacle.

“Company commanders and the 1st Sergeants, battalion senior staff members, command sergeants major, and senior brigade staff



Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, right, leads his brigade and battalion leaders into Salzburg, Germany to seal a bond of shared history and friendship. (courtesy photo)

took part,” explained Lt. Col. Eric Timmerman, deputy commander of the Blackhawk Brigade.

Senior staff got back to basic Soldiering in an event designed “to build esprit de corps” among the leadership of the battalions within the brigade, according to Maj. Eric Stetson who handles brigade public affairs.

“We got to see ourselves all together sharing a physically and mentally challenging unit event. You can’t recreate that by sitting around and talking; using your craft, and seeing how the Soldiers to your left and right lend their experiences. We came together and were greater than the sum of our parts,” said Timmerman.

Blackhawk Magic wasn’t only about the “shared hardship” Timmerman described, however. In addition to some serious Soldiering tasks, participants took time to recall and honor the history of the Blackhawk Brigade itself.

“Our legacy unit, the 86th Infantry Division, fought their way to Salzburg (Germany) during World War II,” Timmerman said.

So, on April 24, the Blackhawks marched back into Salzburg and presented the mayor of the town with a plaque set in stone commemorating the town’s shared history with the brigade.

“The people from the town came out to see us. There were people there that were of an age that meant they were at least kids during World War II, when we were there before. It was kind of emotional,” Timmerman said.

“We let them know that this lineage has returned to Europe.”

STETSON

order to prepare single Soldiers’ rooms with sheets and toiletries,” Eric said.

“My husband John and I felt very strongly that there should be a better welcome home and some creature comforts” for the returning CAV Soldiers, Solveig said.

What started as a letter to a few friends asking for donations became something



Solveig Stetson, left, poses with Master Sgt. Domingus Lee, who is wearing the iconic Cavalry Stetson hat. (courtesy photo)

of a “chain e-mail,” and Solveig began to receive input from people she’d never met.

“(Many) expressed their gratitude for knowing how to help. I think more people would help if they knew the way,” Solveig said, noting that increased security measures can be daunting to those that wish to send assistance.

During a visit to Schweinfurt last month, Solveig presented the CAV rear-detachment with the funds she’d collected, as well as a special gift from the Stetson family—a miniature Stetson hat and a letter from Solveig’s husband John, the great-grandson of the creator of the iconic Cavalry Stetson.

“I do not think that we have done anything extraordinary, but do encourage others to help in any way they can ... Our military is guarding the freedom of our country, and helping and giving hope to many people around the world,” Solveig said.

“Anything we can do to support their efforts and thank our military for their service is not too much.”

BOSS

and the last Thursday of the month, usually. Representatives come, and I encourage them to bring Soldiers as well,” Holt said.

“This organization is about Soldiers, and Soldiers need to help us make it happen,” he said.



Holt

Holt went on to note that the program is a volunteer, not a “voluntold,” organization, and he wants those Soldiers who are interested in and excited about the changing face of BOSS to come out and help make it happen.

For more information about the program, to make suggestions, or to inquire about becoming a BOSS representative, contact Holt at 353-8021 or e-mail justin.d.holt@us.army.mil.



AFTB challenges battalions to learn, win

By Sandra Wilson

Army Community Service (ACS) hosts the Army Family Team Building (AFTB) Unit Challenge from now until July 4. The challenge began in April, but it's not too late to begin participating and gaining points for your battalion. By attending specified classes offered by ACS, Soldiers can earn promotion points as well as bring their battalion one step closer to victory.

But it's not just a Soldier thing. The classes are available for families as well, and points for the battalion can also be accrued by family members.

"It's a challenge to each battalion to get ... the highest percentage of people through AFTB classes," said Jennifer Litchfield, ACS program manager.

The winning battalion will be announced at the Fourth of July celebration, she said.

In addition to advancement in the competition, these classes provide benefits to participants.

"AFTB is here to see that the Army Family is equipped to endure and withstand whatever is thrown our way," said Sarah Small, AFTB instructor and master trainer.

AFTB has three levels of classes to address various areas of Army life. Level one and two are focused on personal growth and explore community resources, acronyms, the Army mission, expectations, time management, and more. Level three is designed for professional growth with an emphasis on leadership and conflict resolution. Classes can be taken in any order and don't have pre-requisites.

"There's something in it for everybody. It's all interactive. It's very empowering," Litchfield said.

"As a spouse and a Soldier, you need to know these things. As a community we should take advantage of (the classes) because you learn something new from each class," said Tyran Baker, ACS program support person as well as an

AFTB instructor.

For those who can't spare several days for the three AFTB classes, specific two-hour modules have been extracted to form shorter one-subject classes offered both during the day and in the evening.

"I've got 23 instructors who are just really excited about teaching them," Litchfield said.

These classes are aimed at those who may have a tighter schedule or for those who are only interested in certain subjects. But regardless of the subject or length of the class, all are designed to prepare Soldiers, family members, and the community for everyday living and deployments as well as define realistic expectations between the Army and its members.

"The Army didn't say life would be easy but did make resources available to us to assist us in times of need," Small said.

Call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933 for a description of each class or to register.

AFTB classes

- Spouse Survival Skills**
May 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
May 19, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Taking the Lead**
May 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
May 22, 5 to 7 p.m.
- No Problem**
May 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
May 28, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Successful Relationships**
June 9, 9 to 10:30 a.m.
June 16, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- For the Last Time**
June 11, 9 to 11 a.m.
June 27, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Dealing with the Media**
June 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m.
June 19, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- Perfect Timing (for kids)**
June 13, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Important Decisions (teens)**
June 17, 1 to 2 p.m.
June 19, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Alphabet Soup for Kids**
June 23, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Ain't No Thang**
June 24, 11 a.m. to noon
- Whad'ya Say?**
June 25, 2 to 3 p.m.

Schweinfurt ES science fair proves to be hair-raising fun

Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES) students proved their science chops during the school's annual science fair last Friday. At right, fourth-grader Geoffrey Hite uses his head, and a big white balloon to demonstrate the effects of static electricity for SES Assistant Principal Beverly Erdmann. (photo by Bob Voce)

