



Corporal: Point of entry into the NCO corps

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of stories and items devoted to noncommissioned officers that will continue throughout the Year of the NCO.

By Mark Heeter

The rank is synonymous with leadership and was one of the original five ranks of the noncommissioned officer corps in 1775, the year the United States Army was born.

While much has changed in the Army in the past 234 years, one critical piece of the organization endures: the corporal.

Ask a corporal, ask a command sergeant major, what their fundamental role as NCOs is, and the answer might be the same.

"(It's) taking care of making sure that their Soldiers are well-equipped and they've got everything they need to have," said Cpl. John Mayhle, a human resources specialist with the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment.

"As far as the NCO in general, they take care of the Soldiers. They train the Soldiers and keep them mentally and physically fit," he said.

Fast forward 20 years into his career, and the answer might be the same for Mayhle, who has held his current rank and responsibilities since November 2007.

"Once you pin on that rank of noncommissioned officer, the responsibilities are the same – from corporal all the way up to com-

mand sergeant major," said USAG Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee. "The bottom line is you need to take care of Soldiers."

While some junior Soldiers do not know everything that goes into wearing those two stripes, corporals are responsible for individual training, personal appearance and cleanliness of Soldiers, and are frequently small team leaders, according to the Army "Year of the NCO" home page.

They must learn their new roles and responsibilities, while developing their personal leadership styles – sometimes a delicate trick, according to Mayhle.

"It is a little bit complicated, if you will, being the same (pay grade as specialists) but at the same time being an NCO," Mayhle said.

The line is clear, though, according to Lee.

"A corporal is taking on the responsibilities of an NCO. A lot of Soldiers ... really don't know the job of a corporal," Lee said.

"Yes, you are an NCO. The Soldiers you select to be a corporal, you know their potential to be a good NCO," he said, adding that he expects corporals to learn from their experience and be better sergeants.

"They already have that experience that you need to teach,



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Training takes aim at mastering the art of customer service

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Many of the nearly 200 smiling faces who work in the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) have completed mandatory training on customer service, and the rest are well on the way.

"No matter how bad a day you're having, it can always get better when a customer walks through the door," said Jason Lawor, a library technician and graduate of the one-day Operation Excellence (OPEX) training for all DFMWR employees.

The attitude carries the day, said Nancy Sieber, DFMWR training coordinator and main instructor for both the employees' and managers' training.

"I think it's the attitude you choose to have," Sieber said, describing the potential flashpoint when a customer and service provider meet one another on a bad day.



These training aides in the "Operation Excellence" program remind employees about the value of a smile when with customers.

"Either you're going to have a good day or you're not. And it's up to you to have a good day," she said.

The courses are fundamentally about obtaining – and retaining – customers in DFMWR facilities, Sieber said.

"The focus of the OPEX is to provide excellent customer service within our fa-

cilities, based on the fact that we are a business. Whether we are government-paid or not, we are still a business," she said.

Like many communities, the USAG Schweinfurt has a customer base with a lot on its mind, according to Sieber.

"We emphasize the fact that we're in a deployed state. And our employees have spouses who are deployed as well as our customers who have spouses who are deployed," she said, noting that such employees must deal with their personal tensions while attending to the customers'.

Training topics are different for the employees' and managers' sessions, but both courses remind the DFMWR team that they are just that – a team.

When assigning students to groups, Sieber deliberately breaks up "cliques" to capitalize on the diversity of services, and

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SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

Events and activities in the local communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS VISIT:
www.schweinfurtserver.de/user/tourismus/Neu/stadtplan_EN_Endversion_2008.pdf

Tomorrow:

Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 at 7:54 p.m.

Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at St. Anton parish hall in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.



Saturday:

Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 at 7:54 p.m.

Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at St. Anton parish hall in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.



Saturday continued ...

Flea market at Wirsingstrasse 13 (near the train station) in Schweinfurt from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Meyer's flea market at the TG (sportsclub located on the bottom of the hill to the Silvana pools) at 7:15 a.m.

Children's clothes and toys market at Kindergarten Christuskirche

Sunday:



"Power of Africa" musical performed at the Schweinfurt Theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 in Schweinfurt at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-510.

Sunday continued ...

Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 in Schweinfurt at 3 p.m.

Children's clothes and toys market at Sportsclub SV Oberwerrn and the kindergarten in Dittelbrunn, 2 – 4 p.m.

"What a wonderful world" concert

performed by the Louis Armstrong Revival Band at the Max-Littmann-Hall in Bad Kissingen at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 0971-8048444.



Feb. 19:

Symphony orchestra of Bamberg concert at the Schweinfurt Theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-510.

Fasching dance at the Catholic parish hall in Bergtheinfeld with the band "The stair climbers" at 8 p.m.

Feb. 21:

Symphony orchestra of Bamberg concert at the Schweinfurt theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-510.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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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 354-1400/6381 or (09721) 961400/966381.



News Briefs

Bake sale Saturday

Come to the Valentine bake sale in front of the PX Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Baked goods are provided by Battery C, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery.

Sign up for a night off

Do you need a night away from the kids to hang out with friends or relax at home? Sign up now for the next Parent's Night Out event Feb. 20 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Deadline to sign up is tomorrow. The cost is \$16 for children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. For more information, call central registration at 354-6517 or 09721-96-6414.

Food handlers' training

If you serve or work with food in anyway, you are requested to come to the food handlers' training taught by preventative medicine at Ledward Chapel Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. The training will last 45 minutes and there will be free refreshments and child care upon request. For more information, call 09721-96-6860.

Fasching in Ebenhausen

Ebenhausen has invited the families of USAG Schweinfurt to dress in costume and take part in their annual fasching parade Feb. 22 at 12:30 p.m. Free transportation departs from School Age Services on Askren Manor for families of registered youth between first- and 12-grade. Deadline to sign up for transportation is Feb. 19. Call 09721-96-6974. So dress in a fun costume and represent your community in this wonderful cultural experience.

Free dinner & movie

The community is invited to enjoy a free dinner, dessert, and movie at Ledward Chapel Feb. 19. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall and the movie, "Fireproof" will be shown at 6 p.m. Free child care is available on the premises.

Surf&Turf meal tomorrow

The community is invited to enjoy a "Surf & Turf" meal at Conn consolidated dining facility bldg. 20 tomorrow between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Costs are \$4.25 per plate for civilians, E-5 and above, spouse, and children; \$3.65 per plate for E-4 and below, spouse, and children.

Library lunch

Stop into the Ledward Library Feb. 19 for a lunch in celebration of Black History Month. Enjoy food at no charge from 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tutors needed for academic subjects

Army Continuing Education System (ACES) Education Center in Schweinfurt is looking for volunteer academic tutors to assist students in basic academic skills. For more information or for an application, call 09721-96-1760.

Shoppette adjusts holiday hours

The shoppette on Conn Barracks, normally open 24 hours daily, will open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday.

Valentine bowling

Bring your sweetheart to the Kessler Bowling Alley Saturday for free bowling all day long for the "Sweetheart Bowl". Call 09721-96-6332 or 354-6332.

Schweinfurt



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Nothing like the holidays (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Paul Blart: Mall cop (PG)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	Paul Blart (PG)
	7 p.m.	Four Christmases (PG-13)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Paul Blart (PG)
	7 p.m.	Four Christmases (PG-13)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	The day the earth stood still (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.
	Friday Cloudy snow Lows -4 C / 25 F	
	Saturday Partly cloudy Lows -8 C / 18 F	
	Sunday Cloudy snow Lows -5 C / 23 F	

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 20 FEB** --Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Dachau Feb. 28, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 09721-96-8476.
--Effective management of volunteers class, Yellow Ribbon Room 10 - 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 21 FEB** --Bucky Covington concert 7 p.m. at annual winter community event, Finney Fitness Center.
- 24 FEB** --Watch fasching parade in downtown Schweinfurt, call to sign up for the noon bus at 354-1740.
--Bulk trash pick-up from Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out before 7 a.m.
--Treasurer training class, Yellow Ribbon Room 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
--Basic MS Excel II class, Ledward bldg. 206 computer lab 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--B.O.S.S. council meeting open to community, Finney Rec Center, 2 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- 24-26 FEB** --Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference, Conn Community Club. Volunteer at 354-6933.
- 25 FEB** --Military Saves Campaign seminar, Conn Club 6 - 7 p.m. Call 354-6933 for information.
--Free computer class: MS Power Point, Ledward bldg. 206, 8 a.m.-12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 26 FEB** --Vehicle passive restraint class, Conn Auto Skills Center, 2 p.m. Call 09721-96-8224.
--Lunch Bunch meets 11:00 a.m. at ACS to enjoy a cultural meal in Schweinfurt. Call 354-6933.
--Book club meeting at Ledward library 5:15 p.m. Discussing "Run," by Ann Patchett.
--Breastfeeding support group meets at Ledward ACS noon-1 p.m. Call 354-6933 for details.
- 27 FEB** --Asperger's and Autism support group 10 a.m. to noon at ACS. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 28 FEB** --Jr. NBA/WNBA Triple Play youth basketball games, Ledward Gym, 9 a.m. Come support.
- 2-6 MAR** --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program (SNAPS) at ACS. To sign up, call 354-6933.
- 3-5 MAR** --Schweinfurt volleyball clinic, Kessler Fitness Center 6-8:30 p.m. Open to I.D. card holders.
- 4 MAR** --Registration ends for unit level volleyball season, Kessler Fitness Center, Mar. 18 - Apr. 20.
--Parent-Teacher Association meeting open to community, elementary school 2:30 p.m.
- 5-7 MAR** --"School House Rock Live!" performances, time TBA. To reserve tickets, call 354-6225.
- 6 MAR** --Registration begins for unit level soccer. To sign up, call Finney Fitness Center at 353-8234.
--Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Lego Land Mar. 14, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- 11 MAR** --Registration ends for racquetball shootout, Kessler Fitness Center, Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 12-14 MAR** --"School House Rock Live!" performances, time TBA. To reserve tickets, call 354-6225.
- 13 MAR** --Deadline to sign up for Super Saturday child care Mar. 21, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 14 MAR** --Flea market, elementary school MPR, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by 9E Alpha Co.
- 20 MAR** --Registration ends for unit level soccer season Apr. 8 through May 18. Call 353-8234.
--Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Neuschwanstein Mar. 28, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- 25-27 MAR** --Soccer clinic, Finney Fitness Center, 6-8:30 p.m. Tournament Mar. 28, 6 p.m. Call 353-8234.
- 27-29 MAR** --Annual spring bazaar by Schweinfurt Community and Spouses Club, Finney Fitness Center.
- 28 MAR** --Miss/Mister Schweinfurt pageant hosted by spouses club. Details TBA.
- 1-2 APR** --"Christ in the Passover" Protestant Women of the Chapel special program, Ledward Chapel. Community is invited. Wed 9 a.m. & Thu 5:30 p.m. Free child care on premises.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



100!

First-graders and their teachers led the celebration marking the 100th day of the school year at Schweinfurt Elementary School Tuesday. Students switched classes for different activities throughout the day and capped off the milestone with a party.

Clockwise from right: Patrick Berg designs a decorative footprint to be hung in the hallways. Students gather around to watch teacher Mrs. Ballinger sprinkle sparklies on their footprints. Daniel Hudson strings together 100 Cheerios for a necklace. Mr. Yarbrough's class proudly display their freshly created 100-day fans. Finally, Daryl Midgley and Joella Amba put all those Crayons to good use. (Photos by Mark Heeter)





Red Cross, dental clinic team up to offer training

Story and photo by Emily Athens

The American Red Cross (ARC) and the Schweinfurt Dental Clinic are proud to offer dental assistant's training to military dependants over the age of 18. Beginning in March, the program is free and will equip participants with new skills and abilities that could turn into job opportunities.

"I think this is important because being a military spouse your career often comes second to the military member. And this affords them the opportunity to develop a career no matter where they are," said Cheryl Dean, ARC station manager.

The program includes instructional training Mar. 23 through Apr. 3 followed by 200 hours of practical, clinical training.

According to Sgt. Maria Martinez, non-commissioned officer in charge of the dental clinic, the hands-on training will teach students to make impressions, conduct X-rays, handle and clean instruments, and provide chair-side dental assistance during treatment of patients, to name a few.

"After the program, when you come here to be a dental assistant, it doesn't mean the education just stops. Whatever you want to do, you learn. If you want to learn about oral surgery, we teach you, or pediatrics, we have it," Martinez said.

Each dental assistant will be tasked to a dentist to work alongside, getting cross-trained into different areas of dentistry starting

with the basics, explained Lynette Jones, a current dental assistant at the clinic who went through the program in 2004.

"I would definitely recommend this program to spouses who are at home or even those in the medical type field. It keeps up your credentials. This is one way to get in the system ... it's beneficial to learn CPR, basic lifesaving skills, and basic administrative care for personnel," said Lynette Jones, explaining that during the program she learn her strengths and weaknesses to help decide what her next step should be.

"A lot of people have been asking for the program so we have this just because we want to get more people involved ... you can always volunteer," Martinez said.

"The program offers superb training by excellent dentists at the clinic," Dean said. Applications are available at the ARC until Feb. 27. For more information, call 09721-96-1760 or 354-1760.



Dr. Sara Steien (left) a dentist at the clinic, looks at X-rays with dental assistant Lynette Jones.

CORPORAL

mentor, coach the Soldiers," he said.

Under the guidance of his leaders, Mayhle is testing himself to find his own leadership styles, like most corporals.

"I've definitely learned different techniques of being an NCO," he said, referring to "softer and stronger techniques. I haven't really chosen a side, but I like the middle."



Mayhle

Turning to Mayhle, Lee seized the opportunity for a mentoring moment.

"Whenever you tell a Soldier, a subordinate, that you are going to do something, even if you can't do it, you need to follow up and say that you can't do it for some reason," Lee said. "Don't ever leave a Soldier hanging out there."

The kind of lesson a command sergeant major might have learned as a corporal.



Capt. David Evetts, right, commander of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, publishes the orders awarding the Army Achievement Medal to Sgt. Thomas Bailey, middle, who received the award from Lt. Col. Eric Stetson, left, Tuesday. Bailey was recognized for his actions and for leading his fellow tenants in an evacuation from a fire that swept through their apartment complex Dec. 20, 2008. Bailey also received a commander's coin and certificate of appreciation from USAG Schweinfurt Commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Haager. (Photo by Mark Heeter)



Teachers masquerade in Venice for Carnivale

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

A crew from Armed Forces Network paid a special visit to the home of a Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) teacher in January. With lights set up all over the living room and video camera rolling, they intended to portray the extraordinary hobby of several local teachers: costume-making for Venice, Italy's Carnivale season.

"It's a different kind of craft," said Nancy Dauber, SMS teacher. "It's not like fasching here or not like New Orleans."

The word "costume" may bring to mind outfits worn by teenagers on Halloween, but these particular Carnivale costumes are nothing of the sort. In fact, they take up to a year to construct and sew, some with 20 meters of fabric and nearly half as much fancy trim.

Shopping for materials takes them from florist shops to hardware stores, including browsing some flea markets and dollar stores. They have even found formal dresses on clearance that serve as foundations for a few of their costumes.

"Some people that don't understand think we're crazy," Dauber said, explaining how their type of shopping may seem odd to people who know nothing of their craft. "We're like kids in a candy shop."

Ideas are gleaned from everywhere to help visualize the end product of their costumes. Dauber once found a Barbie photo in a waiting room magazine that had a look she wanted to capture.

"It's (about) the glitz. That's what catches the photographer's eye," said middle school teacher Karen Rose, explaining that many professional photographers attend Venice's Carnivale each year to build up their galleries of masqueraders.

This weekend, the teachers will take one or two costumes to Venice, and in the early morning hours as the sun is rising, they



Hidden underneath her costume, Sara Maka (right) adjusts Karen Rose's costume as they try on their outfits for Venice Carnivale. They will travel to Venice, Italy this weekend to wear them.

will poise themselves with dozens of other masqueraders near the docks of St. Mark's Square.

Over the years, the teachers have gained enough recognition for their costumes that they have received invitations to other cities and countries— some including expenses paid travel and accommodations.

While they claim the hobby of costume-making to be a lot of fun, sometimes wearing them can be a lot of work.

"You sweat a lot. When we went to Zurich, we were in our cos-

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TRAINING

service providers, within the organization and to build strong teams.

"Because we're so diverse, I don't group them with their co-workers," Sieber said. "Everyone has someone different that they deal with."

The notion of interconnectivity among the employees – and customers – was not lost on Lawor, who believes the training should be required across the board.

"Everybody is somebody else's customer," he said. "Treat other people as you'd like to be treated."

Something else ties the USAG Schweinfurt employees together, Sieber said.

"The majority of them, I have found, enjoy their job. They enjoy the people in the community, and it makes them feel good if they can make a difference," she said.

Distinguished visitor comes for Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, USAG Schweinfurt Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, in cooperation with the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) office, has invited Lawrence Self, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management, National Institutes of Health, (NIH) to the Schweinfurt community.

Self was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in January 2001 while serving as the deputy director for civil rights at the Department of Commerce. On Aug. 6, 2001, he moved to his current position. Some of his responsibilities include administering NIH's EEO and Diversity Management

programs.

"I entered the EEO field because the dynamics of human relations have always interested me," Self said when asked why he chose the career.

In addition to speaking at the quarterly training for managers and supervisors, Self will visit Ledward library Feb. 19 for the Black History Month luncheon open to the community from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. On the same day, he will also give a 20-minute presentation about this year's

theme at the Equal Opportunity Black History Month exhibit in the teen center gym from 1-3:30 p.m.



Self



Ready Army: Emergency kits

**USAG Schweinfurt
Force Protection Office**

To fully prepare your family for an emergency, get one or more emergency kits that include enough supplies for at least three days. Keep a kit prepared at home and consider also having kits in your car, at work and a portable version in your home ready to take with you. These kits will enable you and your family to respond to an emergency more quickly. Your various emergency kits will be useful whether you have to shelter in place or evacuate.

Portable Emergency Kit

- Take this kit with you when you are ordered to evacuate.
- Place items in a designated area that will be easily accessible in the event of an emergency.
- Make sure every member of your family knows where the kit is.



- If you are required to shelter in place, keep this kit with you.
- Consider adding enough supplies to last two weeks.

Workplace Emergency Kit

- This kit should be in one container to be kept at your work station in case you must evacuate from work.
- Make sure you have comfortable walking shoes at your work place in case you have to walk long distances.

- This kit should include at least food, water and a first aid kit.
- Make sure you include your family's communications procedure.

Vehicle Emergency Kit

- In the event that you are stranded while driving, keep this kit in your vehicle at all times.
- This kit should contain at a minimum food, water, a first aid kit, signal flares, jumper cables and seasonal clothing (coats, rain gear).
- Make sure you include your family's communications procedure.

For a complete listing of necessary and recommended items for emergency kits, check out "Ready Army" online at <http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/>

Tobacco cessation program to begin Tuesday here

By Emily Athens

Studies show that millions of Americans smoke cigarettes, and of these smokers, four in five are either actively trying to quit or want to quit. For those individuals motivated to giving up the habit of using tobacco, the Schweinfurt Health Clinic has the right program to help move towards success.

"The (tobacco cessation program) is designed to assist and offer support to anyone trying to quit whether they chew, dip, or smoke," said Maj. Vernell Jordan, chief, Army public health nursing, Bavaria-West.

Beginning Tuesday, the program consists of six sessions, meeting every Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. until Mar. 2. Classes will meet at the health clinic at the check-in desk. Another six-session program will begin Apr. 14 and run until May 19 for those community members who can't attend the earlier class.

"Statistics show us that support in conjunction with the smoke aid, proves a better success rate, so we want to provide that here," Jordan said, noting that smoke aids are any supplement used to assist in quitting.

Jordan explains that the program is offered in an effort to promote healthy living, emphasizing how quitting the habit will prolong and enhance an individual's life. It's also important to realize the main component that causes a clean break from bad habits such as using tobacco.

"Patches, gum, pills ... none of those make you quit. You are the driving force. Only you can stop you from smoking, chewing,

or dipping," Jordan said.

Prior to the start of the course, participants must go through an intake process where a healthcare provider will assess their health history to ensure they can be prescribed the type of quit aid they request.

"We want dedicated people. People who are serious about taking this class because we're going to be serious in supporting them and helping them through it," Jordan said, explaining how the health promotion coordinator will track their progress 30 days, three months, and six months after the conclusion of the program.

Jordan also stresses the fact that no one within the program is a failure.

"If someone falls down, if someone smokes, they just need to get back up and start the quitting process tomorrow. I want them to stop thinking of themselves as being failures," she said.

According to Jordan, students must draw from the support of the class and their strong will to say, "I am doing this for me."

"It's time to quit, no ifs, cans, or 'butts' about it," said Capt. Catharina Lindsey, Army public health nurse in Vilseck.

To sign up, call the health clinic's central appointment line at 354-7901 or 09721-96-7901. Class is limited to the first 15 people who register.



Jordan



Reading to kids is key to literacy

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Starting kindergarten may be a monumental day in any child's life, but every year, 35 percent of American children begin school without the language skills they need to learn to read, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Web site.

The significance of reading to children at a young age is paramount to the success of any child in school, AAP emphasizes, and what parents do pre-kindergarten is crucial. To stress the importance of reading aloud to children, the Ledward Library offers a children's story hour every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

"One of the things we noticed ... is that literacy is so important. We hope that starting this young, we can help the kids be more literate, because it affects every corner of their lives," said volunteer storyteller Alison Koralewski.

Alison and her husband, David, were sent by their stateside church to Schweinfurt and took on volunteering at the library for the story hour each week. Their backgrounds include work as librarians.

"We're just interested in seeing that the kids have a good time and learn to appreciate the books," David said.

"Stories originally come from inside of people," he said, and they help kids understand that as well.

Picking up a few story books, David sat in the kids' corner at the library, and the children gathered around to listen, and even participate at times, during the storytelling. Once the stories were finished, the kids moved to the craft table to use their artistic side.

With 18 grandchildren back in the U.S., they see themselves as "surrogate grandma and grandpa." Their audience ranges between 18 months to 5 years old with as many as eight kids some days. Stories and crafts are a mixture of levels to appeal to all of the ages.

The weekly story hour is only a sampling of some of the things that parents can do at home with their children to promote childhood development and enhance family bonds before beginning formal education in a school setting.

"It is important to read out loud. (The



David Koralewski (right) reads to a group of children at the Ledward Library story hour yesterday.

children) will automatically connect the words they hear with the pictures they see. Their vocabulary and their future reading skills will easily develop," said librarian Christine Willis.

"I was very grateful that (the Koralewskis) arrived in Schweinfurt," Willis said.

"They immediately jumped in and the program continued. There was almost no interruption in service," with the weekly story hour, she said.

Road repair provides relief



Soldiers of Company A, 9th Engineer Battalion, performed much needed maintenance Feb. 3 on an Iraqi road outside of Abu Hassan while Iraqi Army Soldiers provided security. The road is a shortcut for Iraqi citizens to travel from various villages to bigger cities like al-Hillah and Karbala. "Many of the bad areas on the road forced local nationals to walk around leading them close to the dangerous rail road tracks," said Cpl. Bracy Bahm. (Photo by Pfc. Bethany Little, 172nd IN)

CARNIVALE

tumes for seven or eight hours. Our masks get really soft from all the sweat," SMS teacher Sara Maka said about one of their trips to Switzerland.

But even so, the attention and celebrity status gained by wearing such a costume is a thrill, they said. In the light of fame, they remain anonymous with no clue given to onlookers of their true identity behind the masks.

"Most of the people that (wear costumes) are not young—we are the younger ones," Rose said, adding that they were given the opportunity to meet other masquerad-

ers out of costume. Many times while in costume they have been mistaken for local Italians and hardly ever assumed to be American, she said.

Holding that element of surprise is one of the attractions that keeps the teachers coming back for more each year, and several others have joined in the festivities.

They've been participating in the event for so long now that they begin making new costumes for the next year immediately after they return from Carnivale.

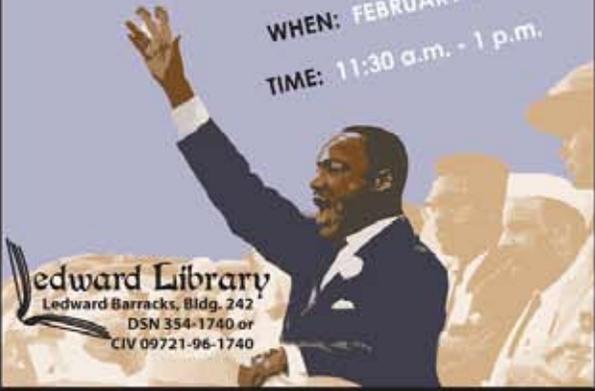
"I can't imagine not doing it," Dauber said.

"It's a great hobby; it's fun," Rose said.

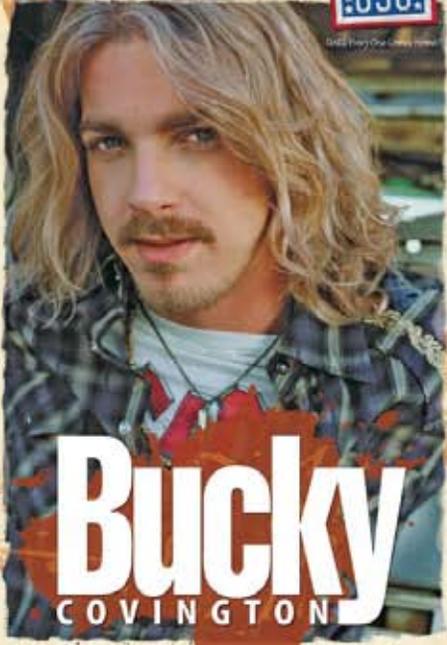



BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON
 IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, THE LIBRARY INVITES YOU TO ENJOY A SPECIAL MEAL PREPARED BY OUR VERY OWN COOK.

WHERE: LEDWARD LIBRARY
WHEN: FEBRUARY 19
TIME: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Ledward Library
 Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 242
 DSN 354-1740 or
 CIV 09721-96-1740

Bucky COVINGTON

Date: February 21 Time: 7 p.m. Place: Finney Fitness Center

USO Worldwide Strategic Partners




Valentine's Day Sweetheart Bowl
 February 14
 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.

Your sweetheart bowls for free all day long!




For more information, call DSN 354-6332



WINTER 2009 TRIPS

FINNEY REC CENTER BOSS TRIPS

Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64
 CIV: 09721-96-8476
 DSN: 354-8476

TRIP 'N with BOSS

February 28
 Dachau
 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Cost is €35 for transportation; bring Euros for food!

March 14
 Lego Land
 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Free transportation; bring Euros for entry fee.

March 28
 Neuschwanstein
 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 Cost is €37 for transportation, plus €9 entry fee to castle