



Hail to the chief



Surrounded by each service's senior enlisted advisor, President Barack Obama addresses the audience at the commander in chief ball in Washington Tuesday. The ball honored American servicemembers, families, the fallen, and wounded warriors. More than 5,000 men and women in uniform provided military ceremonial support during the presidential inauguration and ball. (Photo by DoD U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley)

2009: Year of the Noncommissioned Officer



Army leadership has declared that 2009 will be the Year of the NCO, as a way to recognize and honor the countless contributions of the noncommissioned officer corps to the Army and the nation for more than 200 years. Throughout the year of the NCO, the pages of the "Schweinfurt Dispatch" will include a broad series of news and feature stories about NCOs, to include pieces devoted to each of the ranks of the NCO corps, personal stories, and guidance for young Soldiers to follow, offered by senior NCOs throughout the Schweinfurt community and tied together by the purpose of recognizing the "backbone of the Army."

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

"No one is more professional than I." The fifth word of the NCO Creed – professional – is the first word that comes to mind when 1st Sgt. Hassan Wilson wants to describe an NCO.

"An NCO is a leader of Soldiers, a standard bearer, a leader that has no boundaries," said Wilson, first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt. "A leader of Soldiers on and off the battlefield."

Wilson, with more than 17 years in the Army, started out like every other recruit

NCO, see page 7



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 jester speeches and show dances of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt, 8 p.m.



Ice hockey game – Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs vs. Peissenberg Eishackler at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Saturday:



Costume ball at the Kulturhalle in Grafenrheinfeld at 7 p.m.

Fasching performance including jester speeches and show dances of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt, 8 p.m.



Meyer's flea market at DJK Gym in Schweinfurt at 7:15 a.m.

Tonight - Saturday:

Evita musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (songs in English, dialogues in German) performed at the city theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 from 7:30 – 9:15 p.m. For tickets call 09721-510 or 09721-51475.



Friday & Saturday:

Afrika, Afrika a totally different, magical circus event held in Wuerzburg at the S. Oliver Arena at 8 p.m. For tickets call 0931-55554 or e-mail www.argo-konzerte.de.



Sunday:

Fasching performances of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt, 8 p.m.

Ice hockey game – Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs vs. Pfronten Falcons at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Jan. 30:

Fasching performance of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt, 8 p.m.



Fasching performance of the "Antöner Narrenelf" at the parish hall of St. Anton in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Jan. 31:

Anniversary concert – 375th anniversary of the Celtis School and 20th anniversary of the Celtis Big Band at the city theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475.



Fasching performance of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt, 8 p.m.



Fasching performance of the "Antöner Narrenelf" at the parish hall of St. Anton in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Costume ball at the parish hall in Bergrheinfeld, music by "Forever" at 8 p.m.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager
Public Affairs Officer George Ohl
Command Information Officer Mark Heeter
Writer/Editors Elvira Gladwell
Sandra Wilson
Emily Athens

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

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

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

Information and photos included in this

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

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

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

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1400/6381 or (09721) 961400/966381.



News Briefs

Take the lead

Learn to lead effectively at the "Take the lead on leadership" class Friday 10 to 11 a.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. Offered by Army Community Service (ACS), this class can help you assess what type of leader you are. For more information, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Preventive maintenance

Prolong the life and reliability of your auto by taking the Preventive Maintenance course Jan. 29 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Auto Skills Center on Conn Barracks. Experienced mechanics are waiting to answer your questions and provide assistance. For more information, call 09721-96-8224.

Computer classes

Army Community Service offers a computer class on basic MS Excel II Monday, PowerPoint Wednesday, and introduction to MS Access Jan. 29. All classes are held in the bldg. 206 computer lab from 8:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call 354-6933.

B.O.S.S. wants your input

Want to help plan events for single Soldiers or just give your input into how things run? Attend Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers' council meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday at Finney Recreation Center at 2 p.m. and all single Soldiers are invited to attend. For more information, call 09721-96-8476 or 353-8476.

Learn about Rev. King

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the Ledward Library is featuring a display with books, bibliographies, webliographies and more. Stop by before Sunday to check your knowledge on the Civil Rights Movement and enter a quiz. For more information, call 09721-96-1740 or 354-1740.

Join adult book club

The community is invited to attend the adult book club at Ledward library on Jan. 29 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss, "The City of Fallen Angels," by John Berendt. Coffee, tea, and treats will be served. For information or to join, call 09721-96-6487.

SAS winter olympics

Parents and children can go for the gold and participate in the Winter Olympics offered through School Age Services (SAS). Games are tomorrow from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Children must be signed up to participate. For more information, call SAS at 09721-82181.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Please put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before. Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle. For more information, call the SORT coordinator at 354-6201 or 0162-270-9403.

Treasurer training

Are you a treasurer within your family readiness group or interested in learning the responsibility of financial management within an organization? Come to the treasurer training Monday 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. For more information or to sign up, call Army Community Service at 09721-96-6933.

Schweinfurt



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Soul Man (R)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Twilight (PG-13)
Saturday-	3 p.m.	The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	Twilight (PG-13)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Madagascar 2 (PG)
	7 p.m.	Benjamin Button (PG-13)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Soul Man (R)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.	P.M.
 Friday Cloudy with rain Lows -3 C / 30 F	 Friday Cloudy with rain Highs -1 C / 37 F
 Saturday Mostly cloudy Lows -2 C / 28 F	 Saturday Cloudy with snow Highs 0 C / 32 F
 Sunday Mostly sunny Lows -2 C / 28 F	 Sunday Mostly sunny Highs 1 C / 34 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 30 JAN** --Asperger's & Autism support group meets at ACS, 10 a.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 1 FEB** --Super Bowl party, Finney Recreation Center begins at 6 p.m. Call 09721-96-8476.
--High school movie night at Club Beyond 6:30-8:30 p.m. For information, call 0151-1052-5836.
- 2 FEB** --Pre-Valentine card & video station, Ledward Library, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 09721-96-1740.
--Deadline to register as delegate for Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) conference Feb. 24-26. For more information, or to register, call 354-6933.
--Beginner's German starts, Mon-Wed-Fri 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 11 sessions. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 2-6 FEB** --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program (SNAPS) offered by ACS. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 6 FEB** --Deadline to sign up for Outdoor Rec ski trip to Dolomites, Italy Feb. 13-16. Call 354-8080.
--Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to KisSalis Spa in Bad Kissingen Feb. 7. Call 353-8476.
- 12 FEB** --Equipment orientation class at the Auto Skills Center, 2 p.m. Call 353-8224 for information.
- 13 FEB** --Deadline to register for spring soccer. Open to youth ages 3-15. Call 09721-82181.
--Deadline to sign up for Parent's Night Out child care Feb. 20, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Call 354-6414.
--High school all area lock-in, Ledward Teen Center, 8 p.m.-8 a.m. Call 09721-96-6732.
- 14 FEB** --Valentine bake sale in front of PX from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by C Btry, 1st Bn, 77th FA.
--Come "cover everything in chocolate" at Ledward Library from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 354-1740.
--"Sweetheart Bowl" at Kessler Bowling Center. Call 354-6332 for more information.
- 17 FEB** --Point of Contact (POC) training in the Yellow Ribbon Room 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 19 FEB** --Black history month lunch time, Ledward Library. Call 09721-96-1740 for details.
--Federal Resume Writing 101 class, Ledward bldg. 206, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
--Spouse Survival Skills class in the Yellow Ribbon Room 10 - 11 a.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 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 10 - 11 a.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. 354-6933.
- 24 FEB** --Watch fasching parade in downtown Schweinfurt, call to sign up for the noon bus at 354-1740.
- 25 FEB** --Military Saves Campaign at the Conn Club 6 - 7 p.m. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 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.
--FRG Roundtable discussion 6 - 8 p.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. Call ACS at 354-6933.
- 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.
- 3-5 MAR** --Schweinfurt volleyball clinic at Kessler Fitness Center 6-8:30 p.m. E-mail william.comeford@eur.army.mil or kevin.vanhorn@eur.army.mil for more information.
- 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.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Community honors American icon

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

The name means many things to many people in all corners of the world, from preacher to activist, from Nobel Laureate to nonviolent resistor, from trailblazer to hero. The name and the man transcend history while he also helped create and mold history in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., honored in a special celebration in Schweinfurt Jan. 15, has become synonymous with Birmingham, Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery, Memphis and the March on Washington. But there was so much more.

“In his short life, Martin Luther King was instrumental in helping us realize and rectify those unspeakable flaws which were tarnishing the name of America,” said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Hilton, on what would have been Dr. King’s 80th birthday.

Hilton, the USAG Equal Opportunity advisor, noted that Dr. King was swept onto the world stage at precisely the right

moment in American history.

“Black Americans needed a Martin Luther King. But above all, America needed him,” Hilton said.

With President Reagan’s signature, Dr.

a day for all people to remember the struggle that we had to become equal, not only African-Americans but all nationalities, races and genders,” said USAG Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee, the keynote speaker at the event, held with a standing-room only audience in the Community Club on Conn Barracks.

Spc. Jon Conerly offered a rendition of Dr. King’s “I have a dream” speech, widely regarded as one of the most important speeches in American history.

Yulanda Reynolds, an employee with the USAG Schweinfurt and too young to have witnessed Dr. King’s work personally, related some of the experiences of her father, who experienced the segregation “common to southern blacks.”

“He experienced the back door service, the colored-only facilities and the back-of-the-bus rides,” Reynolds said, before focusing on how she has personally benefitted along the path that Dr. King



Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee speaks at the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

King’s birthday became a federal holiday in 1983, and since Dr. King’s assassination in Memphis April 4, 1968, the celebration of his life has fully crossed the racial divide.

“A lot of people think this holiday is for African-American people. But it is not. It is

KING, see page 6

Eighth-graders challenged with year-long project



AVID tutor, Gina Feldt (right), helps eighth-grade students Jonathan Williams and Alison Sprosty with a portion of their year-long project. Students work in teams to solve problems and complete the plans for their business.

Story and photo by Emily Athens

Eighth-grade students at Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) are challenged as they work on their year-long business project of creating a Family Fun Night Café.

To strengthen their education, Troy Purdin, a SMS teacher, has focused more on assigning practical projects giving students a sense for the real world.

“I want to integrate real type projects. I want them to be able to have pride in their work and to do quality work,” Purdin said.

Using technology to implement the business plan, students generated spreadsheets, calculated costs, and created menus. Eighth-graders then signed up to work different jobs throughout the event scheduled for March.

“We have learned a lot of entrepreneur skills like how to start a restaurant which I like,” said eighth-grader Jonathan Williams.

Students have visited restaurants in the community to learn about opening a private business. They will continue their business enterprise throughout the year with other activities including a field trip to downtown factories.



AFAP conference to better community

Story and photo by Emily Athens

The Army Family continues to grow, and with growth inevitably comes change.

A large amount of these positive transformations within the Army are a result of the Army Family Action Plan, or AFAP.

AFAP has been an effective program for over 25 years providing a network of communication between local communities and the senior Army leadership. It has played an integral part in countless improvements made Army wide, including bettering family readiness groups (FRGs), launching the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), and creating more jobs, to name a few.

"It's a tool for the community to assess problems and voice their concerns to the Army leadership, so the leadership can then address the problems and solve them," said Katy McClelland, program manager for AFAP.

To maintain the program's momentum, an annual conference is held to assess the

community's needs within a proactive atmosphere. In Schweinfurt, the AFAP conference will be Feb. 24 – 26 at the Conn Community Club.



McClelland

"Every single issue submitted by the community is addressed at the conference. We have different work groups that handle certain issues. There's a housing work group, medical and dental work groups, etc. so it's broken down by representatives of the demographics of the garrison,"

McClelland said.

These work groups must go through each issue selecting two to three they deem most important. Subsequently, they must follow a series of steps to ensure a solution to the problem is proposed, McClelland explained.

"They have to reword each issue and come up with a title that explains in very few words what the problem is ... and find how this affects us and why it's a problem. Then they give a recommendation of how they think the problem can be fixed," she

said.

As a result of the conference, immediate changes can be initiated and according to Hal Snyder, director of Army Community Service (ACS), this conference allows everyone to have a voice in making changes at the local level, at the IMCOM Europe level, and at the Army level.

"There have been issues that have generated out of Schweinfurt that have gone all the way up to the Army level which shows that it doesn't matter where a good idea is generated, it will go to the senior Army leadership to make the change," Snyder said, emphasizing that the process is not a complaint process but a way to address the issue and immediately move forward with it.

Issue boxes are placed around the garrison awaiting your input. Furthermore, the deadline to register to be a delegate at the AFAP conference is Feb 2. Additional volunteers are needed to help set up and to assist in managing the work groups by facilitating, transcribing, and providing issue support. For more information, call ACS at 09721-96-6933.



From left, Spc. Robert Beggs and Pvt. Patrick Ouellette watch from the sidelines as Sgt. Kent Kelsey dodges balls from the other team. Finney Fitness Center held a dodgeball tournament Feb. 8 for all I.D. cardholders. Join in Schweinfurt's "Sports of all sorts" with volleyball, racquetball, and soccer clinics and tournaments coming in March. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

KING forged.

"I am a product of all that Dr. King dreamed and accomplished," she said, having not attended segregated schools, while appreciating the virtue of nonviolence and the power of education.

"And because of his fight for the basic rights and privileges not only for black Americans but for all citizens, I can envision and realize my own dream," Reynolds said.

Lee, on the other hand, broke from his script to tell how he, as a young boy in Georgia, remembers the day his school was desegregated.

"The path that I took, I had to go through a neighborhood that I had never been through before. When I got there, I was met by little children, throwing rocks, calling me names," he said. "It was a terrible experience."

Lee turned to his mother for guidance and was met with a message that was not unlike that of Dr. King.

"She said, 'Son, don't worry about it. If you think everyone is like that, don't believe it. Don't hate everybody because of what a small number of people are doing,'" Lee said.

Before turning over the podium to Angela Hunter, who led the crowd in singing the civil rights movement anthem, "We Shall Overcome," Lee capped his remarks with a phrase that Dr. King often used in his writings and speeches.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



Education center provides help needed for college

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Have you ever wondered how the education center chooses what college classes to offer in the community? Whether it's pushing for that associates degree or heading toward your bachelor or master's degree, you, the student, play a key role in determining the classes available each term.



Fields

"Right now I'm in the process of gathering data for the needs assessment. I'm really encouraging everyone to complete our survey so I can grasp what the community wants and what their needs are," said the new education services specialist, Veronica Fields, who arrived in Schweinfurt only weeks ago.

By filling out the short survey about your college educational goals, the Schweinfurt Education Center hopes to meet the demands of the community beginning as soon as the fall semesters. The survey can be taken online at <https://secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/HQDASURVEYS/Surveys/availablesurveys.aspx> under the Ansbach/Katterbach link or a hardcopy can be filled out at the center itself.

Some may find themselves hesitant to express educational

goals because of the financial burden associated with college. Fields encourages all I.D. card holders to learn about the financial aid options available for further education. With the assistance of the education center, students can fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, as a first step toward possible grants, scholarships, and student loans.

"Everybody can find something – it may be small amounts of money, but businesses are always looking for tax breaks and through scholarships they are willing to give this money away," Fields said.

"Soldiers can apply for scholarships as well," she said, explaining that even though they get 100 percent tuition assistance, scholarships may be awarded to help pay for their books or other educational materials.

Fields also recommends completing the FAFSA concurrently with taxes this spring. The financial aid application requests some of the same paperwork used in filing taxes, and having it readily available makes the process easier.

For those wanting to continue their education through a school back in the U.S., the education center provides assistance to keep goals on the right track.

"Our counselors, myself, my test examiners are here for the community. We don't work for any particular college," Fields said. "We're here as a service to help them reach their college goal ... whatever's best for the student is what we try to achieve."

NCO who has began the journey with basic combat training. And he was led there by a recruiter – an NCO.

"It's the total spectrum," Wilson said of the responsibilities of being a noncommissioned officer – father, mother, counselor, and confidant.

"NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq," according to the narrative posted on the Army's "Year of the NCO" home page at <http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>.

And while battlefield leadership and gallantry have been hallmarks of the NCO corps for more than two centuries, there is more to it than that, according to one Soldier on his way to joining the ranks of the noncommissioned officer.

"(The sergeant) is not there for material things. He's not there to get respect that



Staff Sgt. David Mansell prepares materials for a class for Soldiers about map-reading. The responsibility for training Soldiers rests largely on the shoulders of noncommissioned officers.

he doesn't deserve. He's there to earn the respect as a sergeant," said Spc. Brannon Jones, a military policeman and the 2008 USAG Schweinfurt Soldier of the Year.

A warrior with just over three years in the Army and a deployment to Iraq under his belt, Jones learned firsthand what "right" looks like while deployed. His squad leader, the son of a Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam – an NCO, led

and taught his Soldiers by example through tough situations.

"He was one of those guys who you respected a lot. When we were sleeping he would be working," Jones said.

"We got into situations, when at the time, all I knew was to pull the trigger. I knew where the fire was coming from, and I knew to contact the enemy. That's all I could think about," he said. "However, he's making calls that, later on, I see he was playing a chess game out there, and I'm like, 'How does this guy gain his composure in that situation to make tactical, intelligent moves against the enemy?'"

While Wilson recalls a first sergeant who would meticulously check vehicles and barracks rooms in an effort to get to know his Soldiers as thoroughly as possible, and while Jones makes the clear distinction between a leader and a boss, the noncommissioned officer corps continues to drive on, leading from the front, calling those behind to "Follow Me."



ACS eases transition for newcomers

Story and photo by Emily Athens

New members of the community can hit the ground running with the orientation program offered by Army Community Service (ACS). Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program (SNAPS) is designed to familiarize new arrivals with the Schweinfurt community and surrounding areas.

“Especially with deployments, we want the spouses to feel comfortable within the community. We want to take out the fear,” said Beate Williams, SNAPS program coordinator.

Open to all members of the community, SNAPS is a week-long program that provides speakers, tours, and coping strategies.

“I want to show them how to save, how to budget, where to get a VAT, how to get downtown, and where to shop,” Williams said, naming only a few of the many topics she covers throughout the week.

“We have all kinds of support networks. They need to know what kinds of services are available for them,” she said.

Newcomers can really benefit from the wide range of information they receive and it is a great way to transition into a new community, Williams explained.

“Based on the agenda, we’ll get a nice feel for the base and take a tour downtown. The class provides an addition you wouldn’t normally get,” said David Blakeman, who arrived Dec. 31 and attended the SNAPS classes.

As a result of the program, Williams hopes newcomers will be encouraged to get out of the house and explore their surroundings.



Beate Williams introduces herself to the class on their first day of Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program (SNAPS) earlier this month.

“People wait a lifetime to come to Europe. There are so many fun things to do, so take advantage,” she said.

SNAPS classes are offered again Feb. 2 – 6. For more information, call ACS at 09721-96-6933.

Officials outline penalties for fuel card violators

By Robert Szostek
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

The recently introduced Army and Air Force Exchange Service fuel card system eliminates the need for authorized U.S. personnel in Europe to buy and fill out gas coupons for their fuel purchases. Officials with the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal said the automated features of the system also make it much easier for customs investigators to check when people pump gas without authorization or go over their fuel ration limit.

“Since the use of the fuel card began earlier this year, customs investigators have been able to stop suspected fuel ration violators,” said Fred Evans, chief of customs services and investigations at the USAREUR OPM. To boost the enforcement effort against fuel ration abuse, U.S. Forces Customs-Europe has set up a special fuel violation task force.

Using the fuel card database, investigators receive daily reports on several kinds of violations and can see when and where fuel was pumped. PMO officials said people who exceed their monthly fuel ration limit make up nearly 65 percent of the 1,500 violations uncovered to date.

People who go over their ration allowance will receive up to two warning letters, officials explained. Subsequent violations

may result in an official military police report documenting a police investigation of possible unlawful activity.

“In an effort to protect duty and tax-free gas privileges, U.S. Forces Customs is strictly enforcing compliance,” Evans went on.

“We will identify each and every violator and take the necessary action to prevent abuse.”

In addition to penalties under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and administrative action, anyone abusing the system may also face German fines and penalties that result in a German police record, PMO officials said. Sustained abuse could eventually result in violators losing their tax-free fuel privileges and having to

buy gas at economy prices.

“Fuel card holders have a responsibility to know their fuel ration balance before pumping gas,” Evans added.

Check the receipt you get from the gas station or ask an AAFES associate to check the ration allowance left for that month if you don’t know your balance.

Fuel purchase policies for eligible AAFES patrons in Europe, including information on violations and procedures for requesting supplemental fuel rations can be found in Army in Europe Regulation 600-17 available online at www.hqusareur.army.mil/rmv/regulations/aer600-17.pdf.





The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer



No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

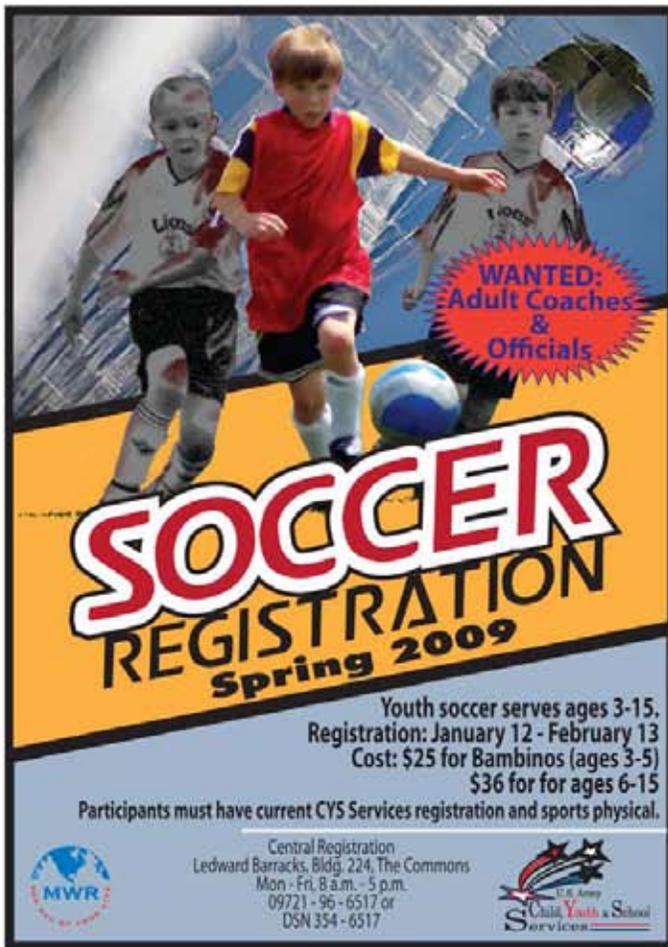


Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.



Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!





WANTED: Adult Coaches & Officials

SOCCER

REGISTRATION

Spring 2009

Youth soccer serves ages 3-15.
 Registration: January 12 - February 13
 Cost: \$25 for Bambinos (ages 3-5)
 \$36 for for ages 6-15

Participants must have current CYS Services registration and sports physical.

Central Registration
 Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224, The Commons
 Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 09721-96-6517 or
 DSN 354-6517

MWR
 U.S. Army
 Child, Youth & School
 Services

Movie Night

at the Library

January 27, 5 p.m.

In association with Film Movement, the library presents independent films on DVD.



From the acclaimed director of *Broad and Tall*

DAYS AND CLOUDS

WINNER
 BEST ACTRESS
 2008

A Baka Script Production

MWR
 ALL OF YOUR LIFE

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



TEXAS HOLD'EM
 NO LIMIT

Finney Recreation Center
 Ramon's Sports Bar

Pre-Texas Hold'em Tournament & Dealer Training

January 25, 6 p.m.

Texas Hold'em Tournament

February 1, 6 p.m.

\$25 Dinner Fee (buy in) for each Texas Hold'em Tournament.
 Open to adult ID cardholders.
 MWR employees may not play.

Bldg. 64, Conn Barracks
 CIV 09721-96-8476 or DSN 353-8476

MWR
 ALL OF YOUR LIFE



Auto Skills Center

Auto repairs, tune-ups and regular maintenance don't have to be pricey. Do it yourself! Experienced mechanics are waiting to provide assistance.

Automotive Support, Spouse Awareness Program (ASSAP)

January 29, 2 p.m.
 Preventive Maintenance
 Prolong the life and reliability of your auto.

February 12, 2 p.m.
 Equipment Orientation
 Explore the different equipment at the Auto Skills Center

February 26, 2 p.m.
 Passive Restraints
 Learn about airbags and how infants should be secured in your automobile.

All classes are free and open to ID cardholders. For more information, call 09721-96-8224 or DSN 353-8224.

MWR
 ALL OF YOUR LIFE