



Community welcomes home Soldiers



The Schweinfurt community welcomed home more than 350 Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade Blackhawks who returned from a yearlong deployment to Iraq Saturday, Oct. 31 and Sunday, Nov. 1. (Photo by Mark Heeter)
For more photos, see page 5 and 6 or visit www.flickr.com/photos/schweinfurtpao.

Engineers return from successful deployment in Bulgaria

Story and photo by Emily Athens

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series dedicated to the 15th Engineer Battalion deployment in Bulgaria.

About 25 Soldiers from the 15th Engineer Battalion, based out of Schweinfurt, deployed to Bulgaria in June to link up with Joint Task Force – East, a multi-national task force designed to strengthen relationships between the United States and Bulgaria and Romania. Having returned last week, the Soldiers bring back memories of a job well done.

“The mission was to fix up schools. We fixed plumbing, sinks, tiling, did electrical work, light fixtures, outlet receptacles,” said Pvt. Andrew Gonzales, 902nd Company, who was tasked as an electrician while in Bulgaria.

Soldiers of the 15th EN Bn worked side-by-side with the Bulgarian military, U.S. Navy Seabees, and local contractors building, renovating, and improving not only the quality of

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Maj. Dennis Salcedo, of 15th Engineer Battalion, is greeted by his daughters, Tabatha Nicole, 10, and Mariennis Dacet, 16, upon arrival Thursday, Oct. 29 from a deployment to Bulgaria supporting the Humanitarian Civic Mission with Joint Task Force - East.



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

Ice Dome in Schweinfurt

Hours of Operation:
Mornings 10 a.m. to noon on Monday through Friday. Afternoons 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Evening times are 8 to 9:45 Monday through Wednesday. Saturday: 2-4 p.m. & 8-9:45 p.m. Sunday: 9:30-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-4:30 p.m. Entrance fee is 3 euro for adults and 2 euro for children ages five to 18. Ice skate rental is 2.50 euro.



Fri., Nov. 6:

Chris Barber & Band perform at the Stadthalle in Schweinfurt, 8 p.m. Tickets sold at the door.



Tango Amaratado Duo perform Tango Argentino at the Brauhauskeller, in the Schweinfurt market square, 9 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 6 - Sat., Nov. 7:

Traditional parish fest in Hesselbach.

Sat., Nov. 7

Country and Linedance night with the band "Country Blend" at the "Mehrzweckhalle" in Heidenfeld at 8 p.m.

Flea market at Wirsingstrasse 13 in Schweinfurt, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Flea market at "Druckerei Hitz", Graben 22 in Schweinfurt, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Flea market - Toys and sports articles at the Catholic parish hall in Werneck 2 - 3:30 p.m.



Sun., Nov. 8

Ice hockey game - The Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs against the Bayreuth Tigers at the Ice dome in Schweinfurt at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.



Fri., Nov. 13:

Ice hockey game - The Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs against the Pfaffenhofen Ice Hogs at the Ice dome in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Fri., Nov. 13 continued:

Beauty and the beast festival including the bands Leaves' Eyes, Atrocity, Sirenia, Elis and Stream of Passion at the Stadthalle in Lichtenfels at 7 p.m. For tickets visit the web at www.starticket.ch



LOOKING AHEAD...

Mon., Nov. 16:

"The Picture of Dorian Gray" play performed by the American Drama Group Europe at the Schweinfurt Theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-51510 or go to www.schweinfurt-theater.de.



Fri., Dec. 4:

Uriah Heep, a legendary English Hard Rock Band performs the very Best of 2009 at the "Stadthalle" in Schweinfurt at 9 p.m. Rock classics by Uriah Heep are "Lady in Black", "Easy Living", "Stealin", and much more. Tickets are available at the Schweinfurter Tagblatt, book store "Collibri", ticket hotline at 09721-548810 or www.sw-concerts.de.

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 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.



This week...

Traffic delays

Expect traffic delays Monday, Nov. 9 beginning around 9:30 a.m. when entering the Ledward main gate. Vehicles entering Ledward will be diverted to enter through the outbound lane. The gate will be closed to outbound traffic and drivers are asked to use the south exit gate during this time.

Mail pick-up

A high volume of mail has begun to come into the Consolidated Mail Rooms, or CMRs. The mailroom storage areas are filling quickly. Please check your mail and pick up your packages each day.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Thursday, Nov. 12. 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 SORT at 0162-270-9403.

Commissary open

The Schweinfurt Commissary will be open during normal hours Wednesday, Nov. 11, a federal holiday.

Community theater auditions

The Schweinfurt community theater seeks males and females for the upcoming presentation of "The Rocky Horror Show." Auditions are Tuesday, Nov. 10 through Thursday, Nov. 12 at 1 and 6 p.m. at the Abrams Entertainment Center. No acting or singing experience required. For more information, call 354-6225/6216 or 0162-296-2776.

English as second language

English as a second language level II classes begin Monday, Nov. 9 and Tuesday, Nov. 10. Two classes are available, teaching the same material, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. for six weeks until Dec. 16 and 17. To sign up, call 09721-96-6933.

Flea market and craft show

A community flea market and fall craft show are held Saturday, Nov. 7. Stop by the flea market at Schweinfurt Middle School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, shop arts and crafts at the Schweinfurt Elementary School's multipurpose room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holiday dinner

All Army Adjutant General Corps and Human Resources Personnel and their guests are invited to the AG and HR professionals 2009 holiday dinner at the Ramstein Air Base Officers' Club, Saturday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person. RSVP no later than Friday, Nov. 20 by calling 0631-413-8492/8496.

Free bowling

In honor of military family appreciation month, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program offers two complementary games for Soldiers' family members at the Kessler Bowling Center on Friday, Nov. 6 from 11 a.m. to midnight. Free shoe rental is included.

Schweinfurt



Thu., Nov. 5	7 p.m.	Julie & Julia (PG-13)
Fri., Nov. 6-	7 p.m.	Julie & Julia
Sat., Nov. 7-	4 p.m.	Where the Wild Things Are (PG)
	7 p.m.	Gamer (PG)
Sun., Nov. 8-	4 p.m.	Where the Wild Things Are (PG)
Mon., Nov. 9-	7 p.m.	Gamer (PG)
	closed	
Tue., Nov. 10-	closed	
Wed., Nov. 11-	7 p.m.	Final Destination (R)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.	
	Fri., Nov. 6 Partly cloudy Lows 2 C / 36 F		Fri., Nov. 6 Sunny Highs 8 C / 46 F
	Sat., Nov. 7 Sunny Lows 3 C / 37 F		Sat., Nov. 7 Mostly cloudy Highs 8 C / 46 F
	Sun., Nov. 8 Mostly cloudy Lows 5 C / 41 F		Sun., Nov. 8 Cloudy rain Highs 6 C / 43 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



Community 6 week outlook calendar

- Fri., Nov. 13** --Sign up deadline for Super Saturday Childcare Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Available for parents of children ages 6 to fifth-grade. Cost is \$16 per child. Call 09721-96-6417.
--The "Relationship Cure" class at Army Community Service, 9-11 a.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- Tue.-Thu., Nov. 10-12**--Auditions for "The Rocky Horror Show" at the Abrams Entertainment Center at 1 and 6 p.m. For information call 0162-296-2776 or email garland.travis@eur.army.mil
- Sat., Nov. 14** --BOSS Texas Hold'em tournament at Finney Recreation Center, 7 p.m. Call 09721-96-8476.
- Tue., Nov. 17**--"Becoming a Love & Logic Parent" class at School Age Services, 9 to 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
--Treasurer training in the Yellow Ribbon Room from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- Thu., Nov. 19**--Winter roadside emergencies class, Conn Auto Skills center, 6 p.m. Call 353-8224.
--Geomaris indoor pool trip with Outdoor Rec., 5-8:30 p.m. Call 09721-96-8080.
--Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) meet n' greet, Finney Rec Center, 1-5 p.m.
--Family readiness group roundtable discussion in the Yellow Ribbon Room, 6-8 p.m. 354-6933.
--Army Community Service "Lunch Bunch" meets 11 a.m.-2 p.m. To sign up, call 09721-966933
- Thu., Nov. 19-Sat., Nov. 21**----Community theater performs Quickies "Hold Me" by Jules Feiffer, Abrams Center, 7 p.m. For tickets, call 0162-296-2776.
- Sat., Nov. 21** --Parents' Day Out child care, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. Deadline to sign up is Nov. 13. Call 354-6414.
--Turkey trot fun run, Kessler gym, 9 a.m. Open to ages six to adult. Register day of event from 7:30 a.m. or call 09721-96-6735.
--Kessler Bowling Center hosts a turkey bowl tournament, 1 p.m. First-third place win turkeys.
- Wed., Nov. 25**--Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers pre-Thanksgiving party, 6 p.m., Finney Rec Center.
- Thu., Nov. 26**--Schweinfurt dining facilities will serve a Thanksgiving meal 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$5.95 for E-4 and below, and \$7 for E-5 and above.
- Thu.-Sun., Nov. 26-29**--Ski trip to Austria with Outdoor Rec. Cost is \$299. To sign up, call 09721-96-8080.
- Fri., Nov. 27** --Asperger's and autism support group at Army community Service, 10-11:30 a.m. 354-6933.
- Sat., Nov. 28** --Video game tournament at Ledward Library, 3 p.m. For more information, call 354-1740.
- Sun., Nov. 29**--Ledward Crafts Studio trip to Hohenrother Advent Bazaar at Reineck. Call 09721-96-6903.
- Mon., Nov. 30**--ADD and ADHD support group at Army Community Service, 10-11:30 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- Thu., Dec. 3** --Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meet n' greet, Finney Rec Center, 1-5 p.m.
--Library book club meeting at 5:15 p.m. Coffee, tea and treats will be served. Call 354-6487.
- Fri., Dec. 4** --Last day for donations to the Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas. Call 09721-96-1770.
- Sun., Dec. 6** --Community tree lighting in the Andrus Garden, in front of bldg. 206, 4:30 p.m.
- Tue., Dec. 8** --Parent education classes at the Child Development Center, 4:30-6 p.m. Call 09721-96-6281.
- Thu., Dec. 10**--Boys and Girls Club of American fine arts exhibit at School Age Services, 5:30 p.m. 354-6974.
- Sat., Dec. 12** --Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers day trip to the Stuttgart Christmas market. Families are also welcome. Sign up by Wednesday, Nov. 18 by calling 09721-96-8476.
- Wed., Dec. 23** --Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, BOSS, Christmas dinner at Finney Rec Center, 6pm



Family reintegration takes communication, understanding

By Emily Athens

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series dedicated to the reintegration of Soldiers following a deployment.

Soldiers returning from a deployment must reintegrate back into a normal military routine away from combat, but while they adjust to all the changes within the Army environment, they also often face changes on the home front.

"I think the most difficult aspect of a Soldier reintegrating is adjusting to the huge change that comes all at once. Literally overnight everything changes— their work environment, living quarters, even the climate— and it's a lot for them to process," said Carolyn Hudson, family member of the 9th Engineer Battalion who, with four children, is coping with a third deployment alongside her husband.

The Army strives to ease the sudden transition of Soldiers back into everyday life following combat deployments. The Schweinfurt community alone houses numerous agencies and resources ready and willing to support families readjusting to life together. Unit chaplains, the Behavioral Health clinic, and Army Community Service all stand by to help the returning Soldiers and their families. But first, healing wounds and moving forward starts with the family and, the best medicine is communication.

"Soldiers and their families need to be prepared for any challenges put before them when reintegrating and communication

is most important. Growing together is what makes it easier," said Chaplain (Maj.) Sam Dunaway, unit chaplain for the 9th EN Bn and 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment.

Dunaway, who has endured three deployments with his family, explained the possible challenges of reintegrating back into a home to include changes that have occurred during the duration of a deployment, role reversals, understanding what each other has gone through, and emotional strife.

"It's important to recognize that both were involved in their own battles. Coming back together ... they need to find balance. Talk to each other, support each other, reconnect," he said.

The balance, Dunaway said, comes from understanding the needs of each partner.

"Men need honor, respect, trust and devotion while women need safety, security, cherishing, and companionship. Understanding this is tremendous," he said, adding that because of these differing needs, families are encouraged to be flexible, accommodating, uplifting and patient.

Whether this is the family's first deployment, fifth deployment, with children, or without, Dunaway stresses that preparation, communication, and understanding are the key components to a healthy and successful reintegration.

According to Hudson, everyone can intentionally influence the reunion with their Soldier and head in a positive direction; it just takes a little "grace and understanding."



Above: Staff Sgt. Adam Smith, Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, reunites with wife, Renee, and daughter, Addison, during the welcome home ceremony Sunday, Nov. 1 (Photo by Emily Athens). Right: Spc. Bryan Koch, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, gets a welcome-home hug from his wife Rebecca, and children, Christopher, 12, and Autumn, 8, in the Finney Recreation Center Saturday, Oct. 31 (Photo by Mark Heeter).

Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate) will continue to return home in the coming weeks after a yearlong deployment to Iraq.





Welcomed with open arms



Clockwise from top left: Soldiers of Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, march into Finney Recreation Center Sunday, Nov. 1 during the welcome home ceremony. Family members wait in the crowd, donning patriotic colors and waving flags as cheer for their Soldier returning. Spc. Drew Tedford greets his wife, Kinsey, after entering the Finney Recreation Center. From left, Cpl. Rodrigo Alvarez, Spc. Adam Campbell, and Sgt. Michael Dean, Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battallion, salute the American flag during the playing of the National Anthem.



Schweinfurt Soldiers endure Outstanding Warrior Week

Story and photos by Mark Heeter

Soldiers with Company C, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, took part in Outstanding Warrior Week exercises in the Schweinfurt training areas Monday, Oct. 26, through Friday, Oct. 30.

“Basically, it’s a crawl, walk, run. This is Soldiers’ stuff that we need to do and they need to accomplish,” said Lt. Col. Dwayne Dickens, 44th ESB commander, shortly before joining seven of his Soldiers to form a team on the Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes.

The week included weapons ranges, individual warrior tasks and battle drills, according to Maj. Tyler Oxley, 44th ESB executive officer.

“It’s just one of those things that separates the expeditionary signal battalions apart from our strategic brethren,” Oxley said. “We really do have to have those tactical skills. We do have to be able to go out and employ our weapons systems well and be able to operate in a field environment.”

Conquering the individual tasks is the crawl ahead of the walk and run, which will come during company- and battalion-sized exercises, according to Dickens.

“The tasks are individual tasks, but at the end, it’s a team, collective effort,” said 2nd Lt. Mendola Nash, the officer in charge

of organizing the STX lanes.

“They actually go out in eight-man teams, so they have to work together. They have to build that team cohesion, because if they don’t it’s not going to work,” Nash said.

The week was filled with rehearsing, drills, and after-action reviews, giving Soldiers and their leaders many opportunities to develop – and react under stress, Nash said.

“We allow them to build as leaders, to make that decision, and to execute. And then we tell them how they can make it even better,” she said, adding that the urban-site training was the most beneficial, according to comments she received from the Soldiers.

Everything from hand-and-arm signals to first aid and moving in a formation to an objective was evaluated, and scenarios included unforeseen stressors.

“As a leader on the battlefield, as an NCO, you’re going to have to be able to handle stress. You’re going to have stuff you can’t control,” said Capt. Mathew Brenan, Company C commander. “As long as you keep moving through, making decisions, nine times out of 10, you’re going to make it alright.”

“So we’re stressing them, raising the drama and letting them deal with it in a controlled matter, letting them take one bite out of it at a time, using the tools the Army gives them,” he said.



Clockwise from left, Sgt. Alex Rodriguez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, a range cadre, checks the target to help 2nd Lt. Nicholas Isles, Company C, 44th ESB, zero his weapon. An eight-Soldier team sets out on its Situational Training Exercise. 44th ESB Soldiers take their positions on the firing line.



Outdoor recreation announces ski, snowboard trips

By Nathan Van Schaik

Ski and snowboard season is here, and staff members at USAG Schweinfurt Outdoor Recreation Center released the 2009-2010 ski and snowboard trips schedule.

The ski and snowboard season, which extends from November to March, weather-permitting, includes trips to Sölden, Austria Nov. 26-29, Flachau, Austria Jan. 15-18, and Dolomites, Italy Feb. 12-15. Weekly trips to the Wasserkuppe in the Rhoen—a local favorite and only an hour's drive from Schweinfurt—also made the grade. Trips to the Rhoen run every Saturday night beginning in December, or whenever snow conditions permit.

"We chose these sites based on years of experience," said Christian Hofstetter, Outdoor Recreation director. "I'm a snowboarder by heart and I like to try different areas. I tested many sites out and feel that these are the best areas."

ODR kicks off the season with a four-day trip to Sölden, Austria over the Thanksgiving weekend. Seats are still available and a price tag of \$299 covers transportation, lodging, breakfast, dinner, and ski and snowboard equipment.

"Sölden has a glacier area which is huge. And also by the end of November, they open up the lower elevation," Hofstetter said.

"I'm going to Sölden to relax, which is a good thing over the Thanksgiving holiday" said Staff Sgt. Nathan Moore of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Schweinfurt. "I know Outdoor Rec does great

things."

Recent Sölden ski reports indicate that as much as 50 cm, or about 20 inches, of snow have already blanketed parts of the slopes.

"Lots of ski runs with plenty of snow. Good for all levels of riding," Hofstetter said of Sölden.

Beginners and experts alike are invited to enjoy the trips. "We cater to all levels," Hofstetter said.

All trips cost \$299 and local trips to the Wasserkuppe cost \$29. ODR provides a wide range of ski and snowboard equipment and is located at Bldg. 50 on Conn Barracks. To book a reservation, call 353-8080 or 09721-96-8080.



View from Apartment Sonnhof overlooking the Austrian Alps in Flachau, Austria, site of an upcoming ski trip. (Photo by Christian Hofstetter)

H1N1 vaccine set to arrive in Bavaria in mid-November

By Jennifer Walsh, BMEDDAC PAO

VILSECK, Germany – The Bavaria Medical Department Activity expects the first shipment of H1N1 vaccines to arrive in the Bavaria footprint in mid-November.

"Once your local clinic receives the H1N1 vaccines, they will issue a message to the community that explains which shipment has arrived, who is eligible and when you should go in for your vaccine," Woodring said.

This information will be distributed through local garrison channels via email messages, local newsletters and Armed Forces Network radio and television.

The vaccines from Novartis are mandatory for all active duty personnel. The priority list for the Novartis vaccine is deployed or deploying Soldiers, followed by uniformed healthcare providers and all other active duty personnel.

The vaccine from Sanofi-Pasteur is licensed for anyone more than 6 months old and will be available for all non-active duty beneficiaries.

"Since we are going to have shipments of the Sanofi-Pasteur vaccines arriving at different times, we have to prioritize which groups of people will receive this vaccine

first," Woodring said.

The target groups for the Sanofi-Pasteur vaccines include: pregnant women; children between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old; caregivers and families of babies who are less than 6 months old; and people between the ages of 25 and 64 who have medical conditions that put them more at risk.

"The one thing I want to stress is that both sets of vaccines have been rigorously tested and both are effective at preventing the H1N1 virus," Woodring said.

After the majority of the target groups are immunized, the vaccine will be made available to other non-active duty beneficiaries

However, Woodring believes immunizing children against H1N1 should be at the top of every parent's to-do list.

"Kids are the super shedders," Woodring said. "They can spread the virus quickly to others and children as a group have not recovered as well as their older counterparts from this virus."

Children between the ages of 6 months up to 10 years old will need two H1N1 vaccine shots about a month apart to be fully protected, said Woodring. Children 10 years and older, as well as adults, will

only need one vaccine to be fully protected against this virus.

"The H1N1 injectable vaccines are specifically made to combat the H1N1 virus. The seasonal flu vaccine does not protect you against this new H1N1 virus," Woodring said. "Likewise, the 2009 H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine – it is intended to be used alongside the seasonal flu vaccine."

The Europe Regional Medical Command announced today that the H1N1 flu vaccine is scheduled to arrive at medical treatment facilities in Europe next week and WILL FIRST be administered to uniformed personnel and individuals with validated medical conditions that place them at high risk. Additional H1N1 vaccine shipments will arrive in Europe in stages, according to the ERMCM release. For the complete announcement, go to http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/news/archives/newspage_606.htm. For more up-to-date H1N1 news, visit the USAG Schweinfurt homepage at www.schweinfurt.army.mil under community info vault.



President Proclaims Military Family Month

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama pledged his support of military members and their families and said Americans have a “solemn obligation” to preserve their well-being in his proclamation declaring November as Military Family Month.

The proclamation reads: “No one pays a higher price for our freedom than members of our Nation’s military and their families. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers are deployed, military families endure with exceptional resilience and courage. They provide our troops with invaluable encouragement and love, and serve our Nation in their own right. During Military Family Month, we honor



the families of our Armed Forces and thank them for their dedication to our country.

“Though only a small percentage of our Nation’s population, our troops bear the great responsibility of protecting our people. They, along with their families, serve us every day with courage and dignity. Ensuring that military families receive the respect they deserve and the support they have earned is a top priority for my Administration.

“The strength of our Nation is measured not just by our success on the battlefield, but also by our ability to support those families who have made so many sacrifices for us. Time and again, military families have shown their heart in the face of adversity. We have a solemn obligation to ensure that while our men and women in uniform discharge their duties, we do all we can to

promote and preserve the well-being of their families. We must also support the families of our wounded warriors and our fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy.

“This month, we celebrate the tremendous contributions of military families, convey to them our deepest respect and appreciation, and recommit ourselves to their support.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our Nation.”

BULGARIA

schools, but the quality of life for children, including projects at a Kindergarten in Padarevo and an orphanage for the disabled.

“You see the little kids, and it’s heartbreaking because they are still kids and deserve better,” said Spc. Christopher Lemay, 902nd Engineer Company, who was tasked as a plumber.

Their work was part of the Humanitarian Civic Assistance Mission, an ongoing movement to build positive relationships and improve living conditions for local nationals, while providing training opportunities for participating service members, explained Capt. Jennifer Gonser, who worked as the headquarters commandant throughout the deployment.

In addition to the construction efforts, the Soldiers collected money to give back to those in need.

“We got together and went around asking, ‘Who wants to donate?’” Lemay said, adding that for Padarevo alone, they collected 900 Bulgarian leva, or almost \$700.

Furthermore, 2,300 Bulgarian leva were collected, over \$1700, for the Medven Orphanage where Soldiers bought new mattresses, computers, toys, and much more.

“We knew we wanted to do an outreach program. We wanted to get out and have people see us in more than just a military role. They were surprised we would help them ... surprised it was all for them,” Gonser said.

But the acts of kindness didn’t stop there.

Family members of the 15th EN Bn, in partnership with Schweinfurt-based chaplains, conducted a drive to collect clothing, toiletries, school supplies and other things of the sort to send to Medven for the orphanage.

“We received 32 boxes for the disabled children at the orphanage. People were floored. We handed it directly to the kids and they were in tears. They never get that kind of help,” Gonser said.

After building schools, providing relief, and meeting training requirements, 15th EN Bn Soldiers return from a successful deployment. Mission accomplished.

Officials sign fuel ration card agreement for Germany



MANNHEIM, Germany -- Col. David B. LeMauk of the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal, and Juergen Hartlich, chief of the Customs and Excise Department at the German Federal Finance Ministry, signed the final arrangement governing use of the fuel ration card available to eligible U.S. forces members at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, Oct. 30.

The finance ministry customs department agreed to expand the range of authorized customers to include U.S. embassy and consular personnel and U.S. Mission in Germany government vehicles; NATO International Military Headquarters personnel stationed in Germany and NATO IMH duty vehicles, and -- in exceptional situations -- other personnel not covered by the Status of Forces Agreement. The system’s automated data collection also makes it easy for customs investigators to detect fuel ration abuse.

For more information, visit the AAFES web site at www.aafes.com/germanyfuelcard. (Story and photo by Robert Szostek, USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal Public Affairs)



BFS

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT

**Finney Rec Center | November 14
7 p.m.**

\$25 Dinner Fee (buy in) for Tournament. Pre-registration encouraged or Register on site.



MWR

Finney Recreation Center • Bldg. 54, Camp Barracks • CIV 09721-96-8476 • DSN 353-8476

November Happenings

@Kessler Fitness Center

Bootcamp Spinning
Tuesday & Thursday
12 - 12:30 p.m.

Aerobics
Tuesday & Thursday
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Circuit Training
on Request

KESSLER FIELD
BLDG. 451
CIV 09721-96-8785
DSN 354-4735

Turkey Trot

ADULT 5K & 10K
EYE SERVICES
2h, 3h & 5K
FREE

November 21, 9 a.m.
Open to ID cardholders ages six+
Pre-register at fitness centers or on-site at Kessler 8:30 a.m.

MWR

Get in the Christmas Spirit!

Stuttgart Christmas Market
December 12

With a tradition of over 300 years, and its attractive offerings of Christmas goods, the Stuttgart Christmas Market is among the most splendid in all of Europe. Transportation cost €22 per person. Depart at 8 a.m. Sign up by November 18. Trip requires minimum 30 people to proceed.

BFS

Finney Rec Center
Camp Barracks, Bldg. 44
CIV 09721-96-8476
DSN 354-8476

MWR

NFL SUNDAY Starts November 8
6:30 p.m. - Midnight

FOOTBALL

YOUR TICKET TO THE GAME

Patio Bar @Conn Community Club

Big Screen Action
Drinks & Munchies
Free Post-Event Shuttle to Ledward

DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Open to age 18+
Questions? Call CIV 09721-96-8476
DSN 353-8476

BFS

MWR