



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the military community of Schweinfurt

Aug. 13, 2009



Survey seeks input about Covenant services

HQ U.S. Army IMCOM Europe Region
public affairs office

HEIDELBERG, Germany - Do you have an opinion you want to express to senior Army leadership about programs and services you receive at your garrison? Now's your chance.

The Aug. 15 unveiling of a new, online survey allows you to express your frank opinions about anything related to the Army Family Covenant and just what you think it's done or not done for you and your family since its inception two years ago.

"The USAREUR commanding general realizes that families in Europe have unique needs relative to our counterparts back in the States," said Lt. Col. Chris Farrell, special assistant to the commanding general, who is providing oversight to The Army Family Covenant Assessment. "The Army Family Covenant is making a difference for our Soldiers and families, and this survey will help us systematically improve support programs and services so we can do even better."

The survey will evaluate just how well the Army Family Covenant meets the needs and expectations of Soldiers and families in

Europe and to maximize positive outcomes for the future. The Army Family Covenant Assessment is the first initiative of its size and scope in the Army, and it is the first large-scale, integrated study of the Covenant's effectiveness within a major command.

Part of the holistic Army Family Covenant Assessment in Europe that began earlier in July with focus groups at seven Army Europe garrisons, the online survey will gauge community satisfaction with all aspects of Covenant-related programs and services: health care; housing; youth services; single Soldier programs as well as family, morale, welfare and recreation, and other quality-of-life programs.

"It is imperative we recognize that, after eight years of sustained combat operations, the needs of our Soldiers and families have changed and continue to evolve," Farrell added. "This assessment will help us get ahead of the bow wave on these changes."

"To say the Army Family Covenant is doing 'something' is simply not good enough," he continued. "To say we are helping it do the best possible things – the 'right things' – for the Army in Europe



An online survey is being held in Europe to evaluate the effectiveness of the Army Family Covenant when it comes to meeting the needs of Soldiers and their families. The survey can be accessed at <http://www.armymwr.com/fmwrc/AFC/survey.htm> starting Saturday.

family is our collective responsibility.

"This is true for all Soldiers and families across our Army," he concluded.

The simple survey takes only a few brief minutes to complete and can be accessed from any government or home computer at <http://www.armymwr.com/fmwrc/AFC/survey.htm>.

Have a voice in improving Covenant support to you and your family by participating in the survey.

Bible basics seminar offers practical skills to community



"When you pick up the Bible, you're picking up God's mind," said Chaplain (Capt.) Mijikai Mason at the Bible Basics seminar held at the Ledward Chapel Monday through yesterday.

The seminar was open to the entire community, and more than 80 adults attended over the course of the three days.

The purpose of the class was to educate the community about how the Bible was compiled, how get the most out of reading it, and how to apply it to life today.

"You want to know how to live wisely, here it is," said Chaplain (Capt.) William Harrison, talking about the benefits of reading the Bible.

According to Mason, the seminar served an additional purpose of exposing the needs and desires in the community so that the chapel can better tailor what it has to offer.

"The master plan includes more events of this kind," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stevan Horning. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)



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

Tonight - Saturday:

Open-air theater "Parisian stories" a musical comedy performs at the An der Oberen Saline in Bad Kissingen at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and weather forecast, call 0971-8048-444. In case of bad weather, the play will take place at the Kurtheater at 8 p.m.

Tomorrow - Saturday:

Chapel and Hill Fest (Bergfest) in Oberschwarzach Auf dem Hörnlein starts at 9:30 a.m.

Tomorrow - Monday:

Brunnenhoffest at guesthouse Zellertal in Uechtelhausen-Zell

Saturday:

"Holzblaser" serenade at the school in Uechtelhausen

Concert by Jr. & Friends at castle Hallburg near Volkach at 8 p.m.



Concert in the park of castle Werneck performed by the "Hergolshäuser Musicians" at 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday:



Street wine festival in Wipfeld

Red wine tasting at Weingut Gessner on Kirchsteig 2, Bergrheinfeld-Garstadt. Begins at 10 a.m.

Sunday:

Concert by "Be Bock" at castle Hallburg near Volkach at 11 a.m.

Tuesday:

Concert by "Mundox" at castle Hallburg near Volkach at 8 p.m.

Thursday:

Tour of baroque castle Zeilitzheim (Kolitzheim-Zeilitzheim). Check online at www.barockschloss.de.



Aug. 20 - 23:

Shakespeare comedy "A Mid-summer Night's Dream" performed at Burg Schwarzenfels near Sinnatal at 8 p.m.

Aug. 20 - 23:

Open-air theater musical comedy "The Taming of the Shrew" by Shakespeare performed at the An der Oberen Saline in Bad Kissingen at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are 15-18 euro. Call 0971-80701110 or go to sommerlust@stadt.badkissingen.de. In case of bad weather, the play will take place at the Kurtheater at 8 p.m.



LOOKING AHEAD...

Aug. 30:

"Nabucco" opera by Verdi at 7 p.m., recreation area Sennfeld. For tickets call 09381-40112 or 0931-600199859.

Sept. 12 - Oct. 2:

Nachsommer concert season, 10th anniversary. The trade mark of the festival is its "Crossover" program between classic, soul and jazz performed by national and international artists at SKF Hall 410 in Schweinfurt.



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...

Health clinic closed

The Schweinfurt Health Clinic will be closed tomorrow due to its organizational day. Regular hours of operation will resume Monday.

University open for registration until Aug. 21

University of Maryland University College Europe (UMUC Europe) announces Fall 2009 Session 1 open registration period until Aug. 21. Book awards of \$100 are available for active-duty enlisted servicemembers, their spouses, and family members, as well as increased scholarship funding which may now be awarded in amounts up to \$1,000. Students may use these awards in conjunction with additional benefits, such as Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, which offers up to \$6,000 in grants for educational funding, as well as military tuition assistance or applicable veterans benefits. For more information on registration, scholarships, book awards, and more, call the Ledward Education center at 09721-96-6383 or a UMUC Europe representative at 09721-96-6398.

Watch singing competition

Come to Rohr's Diner on Ledward Barracks tomorrow at 7 p.m. to cheer on your favorite vocal singer in the community as part of the Operation Rising Star Competition. The judges will award a "Spirit Award" for the best supportive unit or family readiness group (FRG). The prize is \$300 towards the winner's unit or FRG fund. Any unit or FRG may compete for the Spirit Award regardless of contestant participation.

German police seek assistance

The local German police are looking for witnesses who might have information about a shooting near the ice skating rink in Schweinfurt late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. Anyone with information, who was near the area during that time, or saw a parked silver Mercedes in the skating rink parking lot, is urged to call 09721-202-1866 or the military police at 09721-96-7000.

Vacation Bible School

Children ages 4 years old to fifth-grade are invited to join the week-long Vacation Bible School at Ledward Chapel beginning Monday. "Crocodile Dock" has fun in store for everyone and runs each day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers ages 14 to adult are also needed for the week. Please contact the chapel at 09721-96-1370.

Best-selling author visit

Come enjoy and evening of the arts with the best-selling author Gary Shteyngart who is visiting Conn Community Club Wednesday. The writing workshop begins at 5:30 p.m. and Shteyngart will read from his best-selling books "The Russian Debutante's Handbook" and "Absurdistan" at 7 p.m. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a poetry slam before the workshop. For more information, call 09721-96-1740.

Recycle center closed

The Askren Manor recycle center will be closed Saturday due to a German holiday. Recyclables will be accepted again during normal business hours on Monday.

Teen swimming

Teens are invited to join Club Beyond on a trip to the Silvana Schwimmbad Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. Call 0175-666-3339 or 354-8620 for a ride.

Schweinfurt



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Night at the Museum (PG)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Land of the Lost (PG-13)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	G-force (PG)
	7 p.m.	The Hangover (R)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	G-force (PG)
	7 p.m.	The Hangover (R)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Land of the Lost (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.	
	Friday Partly cloudy Lows 14 C / 57 F		Friday Partly cloudy Highs 21 C / 70 F
	Saturday Mostly cloudy Lows 13 C / 55 F		Saturday Partly cloudy Highs 24 C / 75 F
	Sunday Sunny Lows 17 C / 63 F		Sunday Partly cloudy Highs 29 C / 84 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 21 AUG** --Registration ends for Parents' Night Out childcare Aug. 31, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 22 AUG** --Tailgate flea market, motor park across from PX parking lot, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20 per vending slot, no tables provided. Call 09721-96-6205 to sell.
- Registration ends for dodgeball tournament at Finney gym Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. Call 354-8234.
- 26 AUG** --Women's equality day two-mile fun walk, Askren Commissary parking lot, 9 a.m.
- Love & Logic parenting class, Ledward Army Community Service, 5-7 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 27 AUG** --Book club meeting, Ledward Library, 5:15 p.m. Discussing "Quite a Year for Plums".
- 28 AUG** --Parents' Night Out child care for ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 31 AUG** --Kindergarten readiness camp begins at School Age Services, 9-11 a.m. Call 09721-96-6090.
- School begins at Schweinfurt Elementary, Middle, and Bamberg High School.
- 2 SEPT** --Registration ends for unit-level dodgeball league. Season starts Sept. 16. Call 09721-96-8234.
- Registration opens for community basketball. Season begins Oct. 1. Call Finney at 354-8234.
- 3 SEPT** --Teen magazine meeting, Ledward Library, 3 p.m. All teens invited. Call 09721-96-1740.
- 4 SEPT** --Registration ends for youth sports soccer ages 3 to 18. Call 09721-96-6822.
- Registration ends for youth sports flag football and cheerleading ages 10 to 15. Call 354-6822.
- 4-7 SEPT** --Adventure in Austria, Outdoor Rec trip: canyoning, rafting, hiking and more. Call 353-8080.
- 5 SEPT** --Splash Bash, Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Concert and fun for kids and adults.
- 6 SEPT** --Teen magazine meeting, Ledward Library, 3 p.m. All teens invited. Call 09721-96-1740.
- 8 SEPT** --Community update forum in the multi-purpose room at the elementary school, 6 p.m.
- Lunch 'n Learn, Ledward Library, 12:15 p.m. Bring own lunch & learn about Tumblebooks.
- Hired! 12-week term begins for apprenticeship program for teens age 15-18. Call 354-6970.
- 9 SEPT** --Career Status Bonus/Redux retirement briefing, Conn bldg. 40, 1-2 p.m. Call 353-8683/8693.
- Pre-transition briefing, Conn bldg. 40, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 09721-96-8683/8693.
- 12 SEPT** --National video game day, Ledward Library, compete in Rock Band tournament, 3 p.m.
- 16 SEPT** --Pre-retirement briefing Conn bldg. 40, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 09721-96-8683/8693.
- 16-18 SEPT** --American Red Cross wilderness first aid 16-hour course. Call 09721-96-1760 for details.
- 17 SEPT** --Teen magazine meeting, Ledward Library, 3 p.m. All teens invited. Call 09721-96-1740.
- 19 SEPT** --Munich Oktoberfest, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers trip, 6 a.m. Call 09721-96-8476.
- 20 SEPT** --Trip to Lichtenfels basket market with Crafts Studio. Departs 8 a.m., returns 6 p.m. 354-6903.
- 22 SEPT** --Lunch 'n Learn, Ledward Library, 12:15 p.m. Bring own lunch & learn about Tumblebooks.
- Registration ends for community basketball. Season starts Oct. 1. Call Finney 09721-96-8234.
- 22-23 SEPT** --Auditions for community theater comedy and drama "Quickies!" Abrams Center, 1 and 6 p.m.
- 23 SEPT** --Hispanic heritage month lunch, Ledward Library, 12-1 p.m. Free food.
- 29-30 SEPT** --Auditions for community theater comedy and drama "Quickies!" Abrams Center, 1 and 6 p.m.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Hit the road: Vacation tips for safe travel

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

The German state of Bavaria is in full-swing vacation mode, and USAG Schweinfurt officials offer tips for safe and enjoyable vacations, especially for those who plan to cross the borders into other countries.

“This is the time when a lot of people go on vacation, so I recommend that people inform themselves about the location, so they can enjoy it better,” said USAG Schweinfurt safety officer Eddi Sauer, who offered basic travel safety and health tips.

“With your car, check out your car beforehand. If you can, go to a repair place and have it checked out. Make sure you check your fluid levels, lights, do a quick safety inspection before you leave,” Sauer said.

An experienced traveler, Sauer also recommends rest breaks for long road trips and urges drivers to ensure they are well-rested before setting out on their journey.



Whether traveling by planes, trains or automobiles, vacationers are reminded to plan ahead and think about safety before departing.

“And you have to sleep enough before you go. That’s a prerequisite,” he said, adding that a clear plan fosters safe driving.

A different but very necessary type of planning is required for travelers who are leaving the country, especially to exotic or relatively remote locations, according to Tonya Heinbaugh, USAG Schweinfurt

security manager.

“I tell people to make sure they visit the State Department Web site,” to obtain the latest travel alerts and travel warnings, Heinbaugh said.

Heinbaugh also strongly recommends travelers register with the U.S. embassy in their destination, purely for accountability in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. To visit countries that are without a U.S. embassy or have a travel warning, travelers need first to obtain the approval of the General Officer Senior Mission Commander.

The anti-terrorism link from the USAG Schweinfurt home page has a useful link called “Travel Central,” which can be found by clicking the “Anti-terrorism” link, followed by clicking “Travel Central.” The site includes a traveler’s checklist with requirements.

Visit the USAG Schweinfurt home page at www.schweinfurt.army.mil.

Life saving aid essential to Soldiers

Story and photo by Capt. Stephen Short
172nd Infantry Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HUSAYNIYA, Iraq – Soldiers assigned to a small base in Husayniya can rest easy because qualified medical professionals are ready to help in an emergency as well as train them to be life-savers.

One doctor and two medics are the staff of the aid station, and they can face a wide range of injuries in a given time period.

“A call came from the U.S. Embassy that an American citizen was in a hospital with serious injuries, so we rolled out quickly,” said Sgt. Garrett Poole, noncommissioned officer in charge of the aid station.

Training is an important mission for U.S. Soldiers and the brigade places emphasis on the Blackhawk First Responders certification, which gives any Soldier more than what is required to be a certified combat lifesaver.

Maj. Logan Kratt, Company C, 172nd Support Battalion physician, deployed for the first time as a medical provider officer in charge at FOB Kalsu.

“I think you are as trained as possible when you get here, but the hard part to train for is the emotion that is involved with dealing with a trauma,” Kratt said.

Training that Soldiers receive has been set to a standard that simulates realism and repetition to help combat stress and emotion that can overwhelm the care provider.

“Fortunately, in most traumatic situations the training takes over, and medics are trained to be confident as possible in any situation,” Kratt said.

Official mail room moves to Conn



Patrick Sherman (right), official mail manager in Schweinfurt, hands packages to Gabriela Castillo during the official mail room’s last days of operation in building 206 on Ledward. The official mail room is closed tomorrow and will reopen Monday in its new location in the Post Office, building 55 on Conn Barracks.

“This is just the latest step in a three or four year process” of consolidating all of the mail facilities in Europe, said Charles Schnepfe, Army in Europe official mail manager, who came to visit Schweinfurt yesterday.

The hours of operation for the official mail room at the new facility are Monday through Friday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)



Charlie Co supports Iraqi army with Shabaniyah

**Story and photo by Pfc. Bethany Little
172nd Infantry Brigade**

HASWAH, Iraq – Soldiers of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment assisted their Iraqi counterparts by providing support during the Iraqi pilgrimage for the holiday of Shabaniyah.

Shabaniyah is the religious celebration of the birthday of the Shiite Imam Mohammed al-Mahdi where Iraqis make a pilgrimage from all over Iraq to the holy city of Karbala.

These pilgrimages, made by nearly three million Muslims, have been targets for criminal activity in the past, to include bombings and shootings.



Maj. Akeem Major, 2nd Battalion, 31st Iraqi Army Brigade briefs his officers about the areas patrolled during the Shabaniyah holiday. In previous years, the pilgrimages to Karbala have been targets for criminal activity such as bombings and shootings.

This year, 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, 31st Iraqi Army Brigade took the lead with the support of C Co to maintain the safety of the pilgrims on their way to Karbala.

“We provided the Iraqi army with support during the week of Shabaniyah just in case something happened and they needed our help,” said 1st Lt. Ernest Lee, platoon leader, C Co, 2nd Bn, 28th IN.

“The Iraqi Army really didn’t need us this week, things were pretty quiet,” said Spc. Johnathan Cogden, infantryman, C Co, 2nd Bn, 28th IN. “They took the lead on the patrols by deciding what to do, where to patrol and what check points to inspect.”

Since June, American forces have been entirely in a supportive role for Iraqi forces. U.S. forces have been assisting with missions such as support during the Shabaniyah holiday.

“We’ve built the best partnership with the Iraqi army,” said 1st Sgt. Richard Mitchell, C Co, 2nd Bn, 28th IN. “We will go anywhere and provide security where ever we are needed.”

Opportunities available for fitness instructors

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

How about getting paid to stay in shape?

The USAG Schweinfurt sports and fitness program officials are looking for certified fitness instructors to boost their programs.

“It’s a lot of fun and helps you get in great shape,” said Kevin Van Horn, manager of the Kessler Fitness Center, while one of his fellow staffers was leading a spinning class.

“We’d love to get somebody in right now for step aerobics, but nobody’s certified for step aerobics,” Van Horn said, adding that variety in the offerings and the time slots brings in more customers.

“If we can get more

instructors in, different days, offer more classes, five days a week, maybe even something on the weekends,” he said.

In addition to the certification to teach a fitness activity, candidates must meet

other pre-requisites, according to William Comeford, sports programmer with the USAG Schweinfurt community recreation division.

“To be a fitness instructor you have to have a fitness certification, you have to have CPR and first aid, you have to have insurance to cover the liability,” Comeford said.

Still, more than that, he added, instructors must have another special skill.

“You have to be a motivator and a person who interacts with the participants,” he said. “The main thing is someone who can motivate them.”

For information about becoming a sports and fitness instructor, call 09721-96-8234.





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Unit Level Dodgeball Exhibition
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Register Aug 20-Sept 2. Aug 27, 6 p.m.
Season starts Sept 16. Register Aug 19-25.

For more information, call 09721-96-8234 / DSN 353-8234 or email william.cameford@eur.army.mil or david.coldwell@eur.army.mil.