



## Cavalry unit, garrison team up for deployment

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

With the clanking of hammers nailing chock blocks into one end of the train car, a crane parked near the rail head on Conn Barracks gently placed a huge container down on the other end of



Lt. Col. Everett Spain, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt commander, left, and Steve Grandison, plans and operations chief with the garrison Directorate of Logistics, lend a hand to securing equipment during the rail head operations of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne).

the flat bed Friday.

The Airborne Cav is on their way.

“They couldn’t have done it without us. We couldn’t have done it without them,” said Steve Grandison, chief of plans and operations for the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Logistics, referring to the Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne).

The Soldiers, joined by staff members from several garrison agencies, loaded their equipment in the Installation Staging Area (ISA), an early step in the upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The partnership between the deploying unit and the garrison is nothing new, said Eddi Sauer, USAG Schweinfurt safety manager, turning to Sgt. Charles McKee, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, who was the noncommissioned officer-in-charge on-site Friday.

“Last week he came by to check on the safety procedures,” Sauer said, adding that he or his safety-office colleague must be on hand for all rail-loading operations.

“I’ve got to have my guys safe,” McKee said, before noting that, while a challenge, cross-agency coordination has been a success for the squadron.

“The garrison agencies are working perfectly,” he said. “I made it a point to work with them early to build the relationships.”

## Wounded warrior, wife share experiences with community

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

One hundred twenty-nine pints of blood poured into Lt. Col. Greg Gadson’s body in the single night that Soldiers, doctors and a vast team of others brought together by a roadside bomb fought together to save his life.

“I am here today because my team saved my life. And I like to say it twice. I am here today, sitting here on the stage, or walking through the room, because my team saved my life,” said Gadson, joined on the Ledward Theater stage by his wife, Kim, for a talk with the Schweinfurt

community Tuesday.

Gadson, a four-year letterman as a football player at West Point, talked at length about teams, especially the one comprised of his Soldiers that night.

“They were, and are, exactly like you all in the crowd,” he said, made of Soldiers from all walks of life. “That team worked together every day and, on one special night, they made a difference in saving my life.”

“It was medical personnel. It was Soldiers, people doing what they were trained to do, putting all their effort into me being

here. I’m living proof of the nation’s commitment of people in uniform’s commitment that we’re behind you,” he said. Gadson was headed back to his headquarters in Iraq, May 7, 2007, after having attended a memorial service for two fallen Soldiers earlier in the day, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

“In a moment (my life) changed. And so I recognize how fragile life is. So, like I said, tomorrow’s not promised. So let’s make the most of every day,” said Gadson, who lost both legs above the



Lt. Col. Greg Gadson, who lost both legs in an improvised explosive device attack in Iraq in 2007, shares a moment with fellow artilleryman, Capt. David Evetts, commander of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, at the Ledward Theater Tuesday.

**GADSON, see page 9**



# 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](http://www.schweinfurtserver.de/user/tourismus/Neu/stadtplan_EN_Endversion_2008.pdf)

### Tonight:

**Japanese drumming art** performed by Uzume Taiko at SKF Hall 410 in Schweinfurt at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door 30 minutes prior to the start of the concert.



### Tomorrow:

**Concert "Play Bach"** by the Jacques Loussier Trio at SKF Hall 410 in Schweinfurt at 7:30 p.m. Tickets sold at the door 30 minutes prior.

**Open church night** in Schweinfurt. All churches are open from 7:30 to 11:45 p.m.

**"Beat" night** at the Parish fest in Grafenrheinfeld starting at 9 p.m.

### Saturday:

**Reunification Day** - German Holiday. All stores downtown will be closed.

**Model flea market** at the Flughalle Aero Club Schweinfurt (located at Flugplatz Schweinfurt-South between Gochsheim and Sennfeld) starting at 11 a.m.



### Saturday continued:

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



**"Christiane Dehmer Band"** performs at castle Hallburg (near Volkach) at 11 a.m. Tickets are sold at the door.

**Parish festival** - live music, traditional dances and costumes, local specialities.

**City and Youth Orchestra** concert at the market square in Rothenburg beginning at 2 p.m.

**"The Master Draught of 1631"**

Historical Play at the townhall in Rothenburg at 3 p.m.



**Flea market** with children's clothes and toys at the parish hall in Uechtelhausen from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

### Sunday:

**Village Market** in Michelau at 10 a.m.

**Thanksgiving festival** and parade in Gochsheim, am Plan at 1 p.m.

**Thanksgiving festival** and parade in Sennfeld, am Plan at 1 p.m.

**Thanksgiving festival** including tours and special exhibitions at the Schloss-Scheune and at the Kirchplatz (church square) in Schwebheim 2 - 6 p.m.

**Village market** in Michelau at 10 a.m.

**Thanksgiving parade** in Heustreu, with the world's largest "Harvest Crown" at 1:30 p.m.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### Oct. 17:

**Dance theater** "Black Grace" from New Zealand performs, Schweinfurt Theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-51510.

### Oct. 23:

**Ballet "Don Quixote"** performed by the ensemble of St. Petersburger Ballet Theater Boris Elfman, Schweinfurt Theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-51510.

### Oct. 31:

**Black gospel performance**, "Total Praise," Congress Center in Würzburg at 8 p.m. For tickets go to [www.getgo.de/total\\_praise](http://www.getgo.de/total_praise)



## 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](mailto: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...

## Register for Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts is now taking registrations. Meetings have already begun, but the fun is still ahead. Registries received by Oct. 28 will receive a patch. Call 01751690349 or email [schweinfurtgirlscouts@yahoo.com](mailto:schweinfurtgirlscouts@yahoo.com).

## Conn Barracks main gate

Maintenance on the Conn Barracks main gate will occur Tuesday. Expect delays while traveling in or out of the main gate on Conn Barracks.

## Holiday greetings to be recorded

Send a televised greeting to your hometown for the holiday season. The Joint Hometown News Service is coming to the Schweinfurt Main Exchange Tuesday to tape a personalized message from you and your family to broadcast in the U.S. Recordings will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and servicemembers from all branches of service, their family members, and Department of Defense civilians are eligible to participate.

## Racquetball tourney

Join the community racquetball tournament Oct. 10 at the Kessler Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration for the tournament is open now until Oct. 8 to male and female ID cardholders age 18 and older. Participants receive a free T-shirt and top three winners in each division get awards. Call the fitness centers at 09721-96-8234 or 09721-96-6735.

## Coffee lounge grand opening

The Ledward Library introduces its newest addition to its renovations to better serve the Schweinfurt community. Come to the grand opening of the new coffee lounge Tuesday from 12 to 1 p.m. Sip some java and check out some of the library's best additions.

## Photo buttons

Interested in wearing a photo button of your returning Soldier? Get a photo button made at the PX now until Wednesday anytime from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$5 per button or \$6 per scanned photo button. Photos can also be brought in on a USB stick.

## Recycle centers closed

The recycle center on Askren Manor will be closed Saturday. Residents are not to drop trash during this time but wait until normal operating hours resume Monday.

## New to Schweinfurt?

Are you new to the community? Sign up for Army Community Service's Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses, or SNAPS, held Monday through Oct. 5. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

## Learn German language

Learn how to speak basic German phrases at the Army Community Service Class at the Ledward Yellow Ribbon beginning Monday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 09721-96-6933.

## Correction

Please note a correction in the Sept. 24 edition of the Schweinfurt Dispatch. The child in the photo featured on page nine should be correctly identified as Jacob Robinson-Blakeman.

**Schweinfurt**



Tonight-	7 p.m.	The collector (R)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Whiteout (R)
Saturday-	4 p.m. 7 p.m.	Whiteout (R) Orphan (R)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Whiteout (R)
Monday-	7 p.m.	Orphan (R)
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	The ugly truth (R)

## Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.	P.M.
 <b>Friday</b> Partly cloudy Lows 7 C / 45 F	 <b>Friday</b> Mostly cloudy Highs 13 C / 55 F
 <b>Saturday</b> Partly cloudy Lows 8 C / 46 F	 <b>Saturday</b> Mostly cloudy Highs 14 C / 57 F
 <b>Sunday</b> Mostly cloudy Lows 12 C / 54 F	 <b>Sunday</b> Mostly cloudy rain Highs 12 C / 54 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 9 OCT --“Bowling out stress” sponsored by ACS, Kessler bowling center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Two free games and shoe rental in recognition of domestic abuse awareness month. Open to all.
- Emergency placement care (fostering) class, Army Community Service, 9-11 a.m. 354-6933.
- 10 OCT --9-pin bowling tournament at Kessler Bowling Center, 1 p.m. Call 09721-83391 or 354-6332.
- 10-11 OCT --Trip to textile market in Michelstadt with Crafts Studio. Call 09721-96-6903 to reserve seat.
- 12 OCT --Trivia contest at Ledward Library, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Test knowledge about the new world.
- 13 OCT --Bulk trash pick up for Askren, Yorktown, and government leased housing.
- Sponsorship training, 9-11 a.m. Call Army Community Service at 09721-96-6933.
- 14 OCT --Surviving your Adolescents parenting class, 1-3 p.m. Call Army Community Service 354-6933.
- 15 OCT --Community theater presents “The Way of All Fish,” Abrams Center, 7 p.m. Reserve 354-6225.
- Registration open for dodgeball tourney Oct. 30, Finney fitness center, 6-8:30 p.m. 354-8234.
- 17 OCT --Breast cancer awareness 5k run, Kessler Fitness Center, 9 a.m. Pre-register 7:30-8:15 a.m.
- 19-23 OCT --Unit level flag football championships, at Gold Field on Conn, 6-8:30 p.m. 09721-96-8234.
- 22 OCT --Vehicle winterization course: rust prevention, Conn Auto Skills center, 6 p.m. Call 353-8224.
- Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) meet n’ greet, Finney Rec Center, 1-5 p.m.
- 23 OCT --Parents’ Night Out, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Sign up now. Cost is \$16. Call 09721-96-6414 to register.
- “Fireproof” PG movie drama, elementary school MPR, 7 p.m. Bring own snacks & drinks.
- Health care benefits awareness table set up at PX featuring preventive medicine services, Army public/community health nursing, and nutrition care, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- 24 OCT --Day trip to Rhoen with Outdoor Rec, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$20. Enjoy rollercoasters, beer, and museum. Call 09721-96-8080.
- 29 OCT --Library book club meets at 5:15 p.m. to discuss “Finding Nouf” by Zoe Ferraris. 354-1740.
- 30 OCT --Health care benefits awareness table set up at PX featuring TRICARE, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- 31 OCT --Day trip to Pottenstein with Outdoor Rec, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$20 Enjoy Devils Cave, smoked fish and rollercoaster. Call 09721-96-8080.
- Halloween bash with costume contest for children & adults, Ledward Library, 5 p.m.
- Garrison trick-or-treating hours on Askren, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Halloween bowling, Kessler bowling center, 6-8 p.m. Costumed customers get first game free. Enjoy disco lights, music, and free candy.
- 1 NOV --Crafts market trip to Lauterbach with Crafts Studio, departs 8 a.m. Call 09721-96-6903.
- 5 NOV --Vehicle winterization course: winter driving, 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.
- 9 NOV --English as a second language, level II, six-week courses begin and meets Mon/Wed from 5 to 7 p.m. and Tues/Thurs from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 19 NOV --Winter roadside emergencies class, Conn Auto Skills center, 6 p.m. Call 353-8224.
- 21 NOV --Parent’s Day Out child care, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. Call 354-6414.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Fire department stresses need for fire safety

By Sandra Wilson

A fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States every 22 seconds, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In 2008, 83 percent of all fire deaths occurred in homes. An estimated \$15.5 billion dollars in property damage also occurred last year.

Many fires can be prevented through education, said Hans Wolf, USAG Schweinfurt fire chief.

"Everybody should be aware how easy fires can start," Wolf said. "It happens to everyone."

Education is stressed the most in October as the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 approaches. The President of the United States proclaims the fire prevention week to be

observed from Sunday to Oct. 10 this year, to encompass the Oct. 9 Chicago remembrance.

The 2009 theme, "Stay fire smart. Don't get burned," highlights burn awareness and prevention.

"Mostly when we talk about fire prevention, people just hear 'fire,'" Wolf said. But this year, the theme draws attention to hazards in the home that can cause injury.

"This is not just relating to fire," he said. When care is not taken, people can be easily burned by curling irons, stoves, hot water or other liquids, and more.

Even more caution should be taken when little kids are present. Pots and pan handles

should be turned away from the edge of the stove or counter and other potentially hot appliances should be attended to or away from the reach of a child, according to Wolf.

Burn injuries result in hundreds of thousands of emergency room visits a year, according to NFPA. Burn injuries can lead to serious scarring or even death.

October is also the beginning of the

decorating season, starting with Halloween and running to New Year's celebrations. Decorations should be wisely hung and adorned in homes away from candles, radiators, and other electrical appliances.

"You can buy at the PX decorations that are fire resistant," added Peter Mayer, deputy fire chief for USAG



## Fire prevention events

- **Sunday** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Open house and display of fire fighting equipment at the Conn fire station
- **Monday** 10 a.m. Display of fire truck and fire fighting equipment at the Child Development Center, Askren Manor
- **Tuesday** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Schweinfurt Elementary School students tour Conn fire station, educational information and games provided all day
- **Wednesday and Oct. 8** from 9:15-11:30 a.m. Fire drill and fire fighting demonstration at Schweinfurt Elementary School with city fire department of Schweinfurt
- **Oct. 9** at 2:30 p.m. Display of fire truck and fire fighting equipment at School Ages Services, Askren Manor
- **Oct. 10** from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Open house and display of fire fighting equipment at the Conn fire station for community

Schweinfurt.

In the cooler months, burning candles in the home becomes more frequent. Careless placement or use remains one of the leading causes of house fires, Wolf said, next to cooking fires.

Taking time to learn about fire safety in the home and having

proper safety measures in place can drastically reduce the incidence of injury and death due to fires and burns.

USAG Schweinfurt Fire Department encourages participation in the fire prevention week by attending events to receive free gifts and educational materials.



Mayer

## Partnership continues with 1-91 CAV and town of Niederwerrn



Peter Seifert, Mayor of Niederwerrn, speaks to leaders from the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), who visited the town hall yesterday for a discussion about the local German political and financial structure.

The unit and town established an official partnership in early 2006. (Photo by Mark Heeter)



# 'It takes a community' to prevent domestic abuse

By Sandra Wilson

October serves as the month to raise awareness about domestic abuse, and this year's theme of leadership focuses

victim, starts with education and an understanding of what community resources are available.



Yellow Ribbon Room Coordinator, Brittney Simmons, decorates her T-shirt in recognition of domestic abuse prevention month. (Photo by Nathan Van Schaik)

on making the right choice by acting to prevent it. Prevention, whether it's directed toward the person acting out or the

“Domestic violence is kinda scary. ... You have your cases where it is a Soldier that doesn't know how to handle their anger and doesn't know how to direct it ... to someone that's really a wife-batterer,” said Regina Moore, USAG Schweinfurt sexual assault coordinator and victim advocate.

“There's victims of abuse of all kinds,” said Billy May, Family Advocacy Program specialist. “It's the breakdown of the relationship— it's not just physical abuse.”

Acts of abuse can occur in many forms and often have roots unknown to the person

who is acting out, according to Moore.

“You have a lot of Soldiers that come back from (downrange) that are very angry and don't know why,” Moore said. In these cases, “You can get them a lot of help.”

“These folks have to be willing to make that change,” May added, about how those seeking help must be open to making adjustments in their way of thinking and living.

One of Moore's goals is to increase community awareness of the resources that are available. Anger management classes are available as well as other outlets to learn how to manage the emotions that can lead to abusive acts. For victims, a variety of options are also available.

“I would like to at least be able to offer every victim

services. If they choose not to have it, that's fine. But I would prefer to offer it than them not know we're here. And that's what we run into a lot—a lot of people don't know we're here,” Moore said.

Army Community Service (ACS) hosts a variety of events this month starting with creating T-shirts in the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room for the observance. The craft continues through today and tomorrow from 2 to 6 p.m. The awareness month will officially kick off in the Ledward Commons with a cake-cutting and proclamation Tuesday at 11 a.m.

“Bowling out stress” will take place at Kessler bowling center Oct. 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees will receive two free games and shoe rental.

For more information, call ACS at 09721-96-6933.

## Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas drive set to kick off

U.S. Army Europe press release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – This year's Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas program kicks off October 5 and continues through December 4. Schweinfurt cake-cutting will take place in the Main Exchange Monday at 11:30 a.m.

According to campaign officials, CFC is the only authorized solicitation of federal employees in their workplaces, and offers employees the opportunity to donate to thousands of charitable organizations. The program dates to the 1960s and strives to consolidate charitable solicitations and give donors a means of donating by payroll deduction.

The CFC-Overseas program raised more than \$15.8 million during its 2008 campaign.

Contributors can fill out a pledge card with a representative who serves as the CFC “keyperson” for their unit or organization, complete a pledge card online, or donate online by credit card.

The pledge assistant is not an online contribution, but generates a pledge form that must be printed and given to the keyperson for the donor's organization.

Credit card donations are online. The contributor goes through the same pledge assistant process to select a charity, opts to make a one-time or monthly recurring donation, then completes the transaction immediately by entering valid credit card information.

When making donations, contributors can designate that their pledges go to support specific charities. Overseas donors can also contribute to one special program -- the Family Support and Youth Programs initiative.

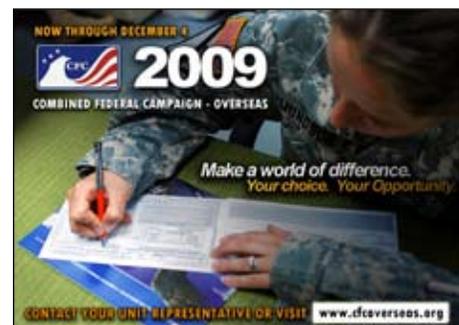
One hundred percent of donations

made to FSYP go directly to overseas military communities to help fund child care, emergency assistance, recreation, community education and other quality of life programs and facilities, and enable overseas locations to offer free or reduced-cost programs.

The U.S. Army community in Europe received nearly \$93,000 in funds from the FYSP program

following last year's CFC-O campaign.

More information on the program and opportunities to donate will be available from unit or organization representatives during the campaign or at any time by calling USAG Schweinfurt directorate of human resources at 09721-96-1770. More information about the CFC-O can be found at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).





# 9th Engineer NCO wins leadership award

## U.S. Army Europe press release

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Two U.S. Army Europe noncommissioned officers have been selected by the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) as winners of this year's Strickland Educational Leadership Award (SELA).

1st Sgt. John Gutierrez, 43, of Houston, is the first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, in Schweinfurt, Germany. Gutierrez is currently deployed to Iraq with the 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Sgt. 1st Class Lumanai Snow, 32, of Pago Pago, American Samoa, served as the personnel NCO-in-charge of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment's Regimental Support Squadron, in Vilseck. She is currently en route to her new duty station in Hawaii.

Gutierrez and Snow are two of the three NCOs selected for the award from candidates Army wide.

AUSA plans to present the awards during the organization's annual conference in Washington, D.C. in October.

The SELA is awarded each year to NCOs who exemplify the Army's vision of shaping future leaders through education and mentorship, said Command Sgt. Major (Ret.) Jimmie Spencer, AUSA Director of NCO and Support Programs.

The Larry Strickland Educational Leadership Award honors the memory of Sgt. Maj. Larry L. Strickland, a victim of the Sept. 11th terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Strickland had served as the sergeant major for the Army's office of the deputy chief of staff for personnel.



**1st Sgt. John Gutierrez, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, teaches a dinner time class to deployed Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq. Gutierrez is currently deployed with the 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He teaches both lunch-time and dinner-time classes. He is one of three Soldiers to receive this year's the Sgt. Maj. Larry Strickland Educational Leadership Award.**

# FRSTs to provide ongoing family readiness group support

## By Emily Athens

Support for Army families has grown over the years with the formation of numerous groups, agencies, and resources at garrisons around the globe. Among these came the development of Family Readiness Support Technicians, or FRSTs, a position formed in response to an Army Family Action Plan issue.

The intent was for FRSTs to serve in different units across the Army, offering additional family readiness support during a deployment.

Over the years, as the position evolved, the need for their presence in brigades and battalions Army-wide became all too apparent. Effective today, a number of FRST positions will attain permanent status and some will gain an extended term, in an effort to improve the family readiness system, explained Sonya Brown-Lathan, Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA) program manager for United States Army-Europe (USAREUR) who provides direction and oversight to all FRSTs.



**Hillyer**

"(FRSTs) provide support and are not assistants to commanders or FRGs. The intent is to provide a uniform administrative staff capable of supporting commanders and volunteer family readiness group leaders across the Army. But a strong FRG leader is still critical to the success of any FRG," Brown-Lathan said.

According to Brown-Lathan, the FRSA program began in 2003 to address the challenges volunteers and unit leadership may face in managing FRGs throughout repeated deployments. Later, in

2006, the Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command (FMWRC) established a plan that would standardize the program Army wide, authorizing brigades and battalions full-time FRSTs but only as temporary or term positions, she said.

Now, with the FRST position authorized to be assigned on a permanent basis, units can expect an enduring level of support, regardless of deployment status.

"It enables us to provide ongoing support to families, especially during a deployment, and it takes a lot of pressure off FRG leaders and senior FRG leaders. By being here, we're allowing them to focus more on individual spouses within the battalion," said Sean Hillyer, FRST of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery.

The FRSTs, who just attended training in Mannheim Sept. 21-23, work hard to provide support to FRG leaders and family members while meeting the vision and goals that the command wants, said Teresa Burns, FRST for the 15<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion.

"We provide answers to any issues and improve the readiness of family members before a deployment," Burns said, in regards to her current responsibilities with the non-deployed battalion.

"It's all about communication. ... We're here ... to answer questions, highlight calendar events, maintain rosters, suggest good places to shop locally, discuss what's available in the community," said Ron Mihalko, 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer FRST.

After long hours and the hard work of numerous collaborative efforts of USAREUR, FMWRC, and multiple civilian personnel centers throughout Europe, the FRSA program continues to improve.

"Together we have been working diligently to make this happen. It is really a positive thing for the program," Brown-Lathan said.



# Find the perfect gift for Soldiers returning, departing

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Soldiers are coming home soon to many 172<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade (Separate) families, and for others, Soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 91<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) are just about ready to ship out for their downrange tour. Family members, friends, or relatives may be racking their brains at this very moment to figure out how best to welcome home or send off their Soldier.

Schweinfurt's Ledward Craft Studio encourages the community to come check out its offerings in the secret treasure trove of a center very near to the installation's health clinic.

"Here, one's problem might be trying to settle on the project to do because there are so many options," said Betty Haywood, volunteer at the crafts studio.

One of the standard welcome home crafts is making a large banner to hang. The studio offers four-inch letter cutouts that can be easily used with almost any material: fabric, foam board, paper, felt, and more.

"This method is almost fool-proof," said David Haywood, director of the arts and crafts program, explaining that many techniques can prove to be very weather-resistant if the banner is posted outside.

Framing certificates and awards can serve as another gift for the Soldier and doesn't require a large time commitment to complete. If using a shadow box for a frame, crafters can place memorabilia like an Army combat uniform cap or beret in the frame. Framed items can also be more personalized by having engravings made.

When more time is to be had for the creative process, crafters

can opt to make a ceramic gift for their Soldier and paint it in a personalized manner.

"We've got over 3,000 molds ... from little chess pieces up to big steins," David said, also displaying the popular smiley soldier ceramic figure.

Scrapbooks and related materials are also available in abundant supply at the studio for gift-givers to record their Soldier's time downrange or the time spent away from family.

For gifts traveling with a departing Soldier, other things need to be taken into account.

"It has to be fairly portable," David said. "In the field, they can't have something that's too bulky."

Portable gift ideas are often the quickest to make as well. Photos can be brought in to be printed onto pillow cases or T-shirts.

Buttons with personal photos or a lock of hair can be created in a matter of minutes. Small rocks can be painted or written on for the Soldier to pocket during his time away. Children can leave their hand imprints in clay as special memorabilia.

"People get the most warm-fuzzies when they're involved in the process" of making the gift, Betty said. But nevertheless, if time is running short, the studio can also make a chosen craft for you with the additional cost of labor.

For more ideas, call the crafts studio at 09721-96-6903.



Smiley Soldiers remain a popular craft item to give to loved ones.

# Single Soldiers gather for September B.O.S.S. Meet n' Greet

Story and photo by Nathan Van Schaik

Representatives and interested members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) convened for a Meet n' Greet at the

Finney Recreation Center Sept. 24.

The purpose of the event was to welcome into the community single Soldiers, either new to Schweinfurt or returning from deployment. The event provided them the opportunity to get acquainted with such on-base facilities as Army Community Service, the Army Substance Abuse Program, the suicide and sexual-assault prevention programs and the social work services.

The aim of the event brought Soldiers from their battalions to a relaxed atmosphere, according to Spc. David Houser, Schweinfurt BOSS president.

"This gives them a chance to meet their unit's reps and see what services are available," Houser said.

"It was jamming with lots of participation from the units," said

Spc. Robert Beggs, BOSS president of the 15th Engineer Battalion.

Soldiers participated in video game tournaments and a pool tournament donned with the infamous "drunk goggles." Constructed of mere plastic and rubber, drunk goggles induce varying levels of dizzying intoxication.

The goggles were among the most beneficial features of the event, according to Spc. Efrain Nieves of the Warrior Transition Unit.

"I know Soldiers drink, and I'm usually the driver when we go out. Those goggles were a wake-up call for a lot of Soldiers," Nieves said.

Further meet and greet forums are scheduled for Oct. 22, Nov. 19, and Dec. 3. BOSS is hosting a Texas Hold'em Tournament Nov. 14 and a free Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 25. All events are held at the Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks.



Spc. Efrain Nieves of the Warrior Transition Unit (left) and Spc. Towana Dove of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (right) compete in a Wii tournament at last week's BOSS event.



# USO2GO kit brings relief to Soldiers

Story and photo by Pfc. Bethany Little, 172nd SIB

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – Television sets, gaming systems, comfortable furniture and music equipment are all items found within the Morale, Welfare and Recreation centers throughout 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment area of operations in Wasit Province.

The equipment was originally set up for the battalion while located on Contingency Operating Base Summers.

“At Summers we had nothing for the Soldiers,” said Master Sgt. Todd S. Biggins, operations sergeant major, 1st Bn, 77th FA. “So I researched on the internet and found the USO2GO kit, filled out the necessary paperwork and got the items sent to COB Summers.”

The program, driven by the United Service Organizations, is a way to bring the comforts of home to deployed Soldiers.

There are eight programs to boost morale of deployed service members within the USO2GO kit. The programs have different comforts of home included such as furniture, snacks, games, athletic equipment, phone cards, music equipment, gaming systems and movies.

“We haven’t received all of the programs yet, but we’re expecting them soon,” said Biggins, a Columbia, S.C., native. “Most of the programs are here, like the gaming systems, the athletic kits, all of the furniture, games, snacks and music equipment.”

The USO created the USO2GO kit to meet the needs of the

military in deployed areas where a facility could not be created or maintained by the USO. Contents of the programs are mailed to the point of contact for the requesting unit.

“My favorite activity is playing flag football,” said Pfc. Damien L. Robinson, supply clerk, 1st Bn, 77th FA and native of Baltimore, Md. “If Master Sgt. Biggins hadn’t put in the request

for the equipment when we were at COB Summers we wouldn’t have anything to do or be able to relieve stress.”

“Master Sgt. Biggins always takes care of Soldiers,” said Sgt. Philip W. Coffelt, mechanic, 1st Bn, 77th FA. “He’s everything that a noncommissioned officer should be, and this is a great example of how he looks out for the Soldiers in his formation.”

The equipment from the programs moved with the unit when they arrived at Forward Operating Base Delta earlier this year. With the move to FOB Delta, the unit’s main mission is to conduct Iraqi support and sustainment missions.

“My hope is to leave the equipment here so the Soldiers replacing us have the opportunity to relax as my Soldiers did,” said Biggins.

“This project shows he really cares about us,” said Sgt. Yvonne S. Mayberry, human resource clerk, 1st Bn, 77th FA and native of El Paso, Texas. “I’m really happy that he took the time out of his busy schedule to make sure that we have some of the comforts of home to help us relax.”



**Pfc. Damien L. Robinson, supply clerk, and Sgt. Philip W. Coffelt, mechanic, both of 1st Bn, 77th FA, play video games from the USO2GO kit after a long day of work at FOB Delta in Iraq. There are eight programs to boost morale of deployed service members within the USO2GO kit.**

## GADSON

knee.

Kim Gadson talked about the challenges they have faced along with their two children, and urged the audience to build, maintain and improve a network of friends to help in that time of need.

“I know that each of you has a very similar Army Family, whether you are a servicemember or a civilian in the community,” she said, adding that professional help has been an important part of their physical and emotional recovery.

“I would encourage you to get other assistance if you need it,” she said. “Your own trauma is very personal to you, and you don’t need to compare it with anybody else’s trauma. But sometimes you do need some help.”

The Gadsons followed their presentation by taking questions from audience members, several of whom were fellow wounded warriors seeking some advice and guidance from someone who has faced the challenge of getting better.

“Just remember it’s your mission to get better. That’s your aim point,” Lt. Col.

Gadson said. “A lot of times, getting better is not getting back to where you were before ... that may be impossible. You’ve got to understand what the new better is going to be, the new normal is going to be.”

A critical junction during Gadson’s physical recovery came with overcoming a fear of falling.

“A lot of times we’re afraid to try things because we’re afraid to fail,” he said, explaining what he had to tell himself to overcome his fear. “I’m not going to be afraid to fall. I am going to fall. That is part of my existence.”



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