

Bavarian News

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Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

July 12, 2006

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Middle school nearing completion

Parents urged to complete student registration

Story and photo by **ADRIANE FOSS**
Bavarian News editor

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr middle school students will kick off the new year with a new school.

Construction of the temporary learning cottages across from the post's community mailroom is on schedule and expected to be complete by Aug. 1, according to Steve Vojtecky, the garrison school liaison officer.

Internet connections, furniture, and other equipment will go into the building beginning Aug. 1. Teachers will report on Aug. 23, five days before the start of the 2006 school year.

While the construction of Grafenwoehr Middle School is well on its way to being complete, Vojtecky said student registration is not. He said garrison schools have reported that registration is running much lower than expected.

"What we are finding is that many people have registered online. That starts the process but doesn't finish registration," said Vojtecky.

He said registration must be completed in person so that the schools can obtain original signatures, updated shot records and contact information, current orders, and additional forms.

See **COMPLETE** Page 16



The learning cottages will consist of 30 classrooms and covered walkways.

Community treated to July 4th festivities

Story and photo by **CASEY THOMAS**
Staff writer

One of America's most fêted holidays did not pass without due recognition July 4th.

Community members celebrated the United States' 230th Independence Day with a Fourth of July Block Party, hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

The annual taste-of-home celebration took place at the Grafenwoehr Bowling Center and included a traditional barbecue, karaoke, sports activities, and fireworks.

Family and friends socialized over ribs, hamburgers, and hot dogs cooked on the green next to the bowling center. Attendees gathered inside the bowling alley and at the horseshoe pit for tournament competitions, and the crowd enjoyed music provided by a deejay from a stage where novice singers could try their hand at performing.

It was an ideal day for families who miss the uniquely American tradition.

Francisco Lorenzana, who has lived in Germany for eight years, was grateful for the get-together.

"It is nice to come here and celebrate the Fourth with friends" he said.

The evening came to a close at 11 p.m. after a half-hour fireworks display.



Young and old alike turned out for USAG Graf's July 4th celebrations.

2SCR Soldiers joined 12th Panzer Brigade troops June 29 for a pilgrimage that kicks off a week-long bergfest in Amberg. The 2SCR and its sister unit, the 12th Panzer Brigade, will train together at Grafenwoehr.



2SCR partners with German sister unit during pilgrimage

Story and photo by **CASEY THOMAS**
Staff writer

Twenty-one Soldiers from the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment partnered with 600 troops from the German army's 12th Panzer (Tank) Brigade during a pilgrimage in and around the nearby city of Amberg June 29.

The four-kilometer march was the beginning of what is expected to be a lasting partnership for the German and 2SCR Soldiers who will share military tactics and techniques on U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr training grounds.

"The Strykers are a very mobile unit, and we are looking forward to training with them," said Col. Bernd-Dieter Koslowki, the 12th Panzer rear detachment commander.

"These Soldiers volunteered to participate in this event and wanted to get the flavor of Germany," said 2SCR spokesperson Maj. Jon Pendell.

Throughout the march, Soldiers stopped for rest and prayer as a German army chaplain conducted a constant mass with the help of loud speakers tooted by German troops.

Although this was the first joint march for the newly arrived 2SCR Soldiers, the pilgrimage is an annual event that takes place in Amberg and ends with a city-wide bergfest at the famed Mariahilfberg church.

Crowds travel from several of the surrounding villages and gather for the kickoff of the week-long event.

The pilgrimage dates back to when the Black Plague was rampant in parts of

Germany. Citizens would travel to the church, which sits on a hill as a beacon, to pray for relief and attend Holy Mass.

The tradition continues as community members continue to gather at the church once a year to partake in Holy Mass, each day of the week's festivities focusing on various individuals or groups, including the Virgin Mary, women, children and Soldiers.

Sausages, beer, and other refreshments, are provided to travelers attending the fest, which has become a popular attraction in Amberg, where the 12th Panzer Brigade is headquartered.

"This was a great opportunity to see and experience one of the traditions this country has," said 2SCR Soldier Spc. Michael Breaux. "Germany is so full of character."

NEW BEGINNINGS

Soldiers learn Deutsch basics

by **JODI WARD**
Staff writer

Eight hours a day for four days. That's how long 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers will have to get smart on the German way in the garrison-sponsored Head Start program.

Head Start, contracted to Central Texas College, teaches participants German culture and language basics.

Since the first wave of 2SCR Soldiers and families arrived at Vilseck, the Head Start program has gone into overdrive.

"We normally teach four classes per week but because of the Strykers, we are up to 10 a week," said David Baker, the local program manager.

To accommodate the increasing number of Soldiers, Head Start classes have recently been moved to Vilseck Elementary School.

"When the students need it back, the classes will be moved to the Combined Arms Training Center, and then back again to the Education Center," said Baker. "The brigade consists of about 3,500 Soldiers and they will all go through

See **HEAD START** Page 16

Spouses get head start on culture

by **JODI WARD**
Staff writer

Welcome to Bavaria is a three-day newcomer orientation program sponsored by Army Community Services.

The program consists of workshops to help ease the move to Germany for spouses.

"Sometimes the Soldier goes to (events) and the info just doesn't filter down to the spouse," said Vicki Cunningham, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. "So this is a 'Head Start' for the spouse."

Like the Soldier's Head Start program, spouses will be taught conversational German as well as German history and local culture.

On Day 1, instructors educate participants in greetings, cultural differences, and adaptations.

German language survival class kicks off Day 2, followed by various post community service speakers, including personnel from Family Advocacy, New Parent Support, WIC, and the Exceptional Family Member program.

Day 3 covers how to read a menu, fun things to do in the area, employment and volunteer

See **WELCOME** Page 16

Q&A

What travels are you looking forward to while in Germany?



Cassidy Fisher
"I want to go to the Black Forest and also to see the castles."



Pfc. Jesus Gutierrez
"I am looking forward to visiting France, but also to traveling throughout Germany."



Pvt. Charles Greston
"I am looking forward to traveling all around ... but mainly to Paris, France, and Italy!"



Pvt. Chris Stanley
"I'd like to see all of the castles, and Oktoberfest, of course!"



Sarah Bode
"I'm just excited to be in Europe, so everywhere! It's such a great opportunity to see the world!"



Amy Shick
"I hope to go to Italy for the architecture and, of course, for the food and wine!"



Dawn Mills
"I would like to visit the Czech Republic and go to the small town my grandfather is from."



Pvt. Kenny Capps
"Oktoberfest, and I'd like to go to the World Cup final, but we'll see..."

Command Message

Community asked to pitch in, help keep area up to standard

As the one-year anniversary of my command rolls around, I hope everyone enjoyed the 4th of July celebration. Now I guess the question is when will the hot weather end?

I invite everyone to visit the local swimming areas. Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Eschenbach, and other cities provide a great swimming experience for our community.

Grass cutting

Most of you have noticed the general lack of grass cutting by the garrison. In fact, we just finished our last cut of the Grafenwoehr housing area.

As part of continual cost avoidance measures, we were unable to renew grass cutting contracts for the Grafenwoehr housing area and the training area between Vilseck and Grafenwoehr. Because it was a different contract, we were able to retain the contract for the Vilseck housing area.

USAG Hohenfels suffers from the same grass cutting issue. What this means is the limited number of dedicated USAG Grafenwoehr grass cutters (a total of six) cannot keep up with demand.

Therefore I am relying on you to take responsibility for the exterior of your homes. Cut the grass, remove weeds, and throw away your trash.

Self Help has lawn mowers that can be signed out for short periods of time. I encourage all of you to help me reinforce pride in how our homes and the community look.



Boyle

Rumor control

Perhaps it is because we live in such a small community, but you would be amazed at the rumors that seem to spread like wild fire.

None are true, and some are only loosely based on factual information.

Some of the recent ones that I have heard are as farfetched as gang rape, armed robbery, suicide, and murder.

Like every community, there are individuals who do not meet community standards and are dealt with. **But the rumors I have listed above have not happened – and I would be the first to know if they did.**

It is unfortunate that people or groups are labeled before they even become part of our community. All I ask you to do is consider the source when rumors arise and don't continue spreading them.

Frankly, responding to rumors wastes garrison staff time and slows us from continuing to support the community.

Gate changes

A recent review of force protection measures has allowed us to modify access to our posts. This ensures we remain fiscally responsible and, most importantly, continue to provide security to the community.

Based on the latest review, the following changes to the gates will occur beginning Aug. 1. There is no change to the overall threat status and there is no degradation to security by adopting these new gate access standards. Rest assured that we continually modify our Random Access Measures and other security processes to keep the community safe.

Should we need to, we will adopt more

stringent safety measures.

■ GATE 1 GRAF: Inbound 6-9:30 a.m. on weekdays; from 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. outbound daily; for pedestrian use only the remainder of the time.

■ GATE 3 GRAF: Inbound and outbound from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. daily; closed the remainder of the time.

■ GATE 6 GRAF (by the Grafenwoehr Army Airfield): No change.

■ Gate 9 GRAF (Burger King Gate): Inbound and outbound from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. daily; for pedestrian use only the remainder of the time.

■ Gate 4 VILSECK/GRAF (Tanzfleck Gate): Inbound and outbound from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. daily; closed the remainder of the time.

■ Vilseck: No change to the gates.

In short, vehicles must use Grafenwoehr's Gate 6 after 9 p.m. daily.

In closing, I'd like to point out elements of the USAG PT and Recreational Activities Policy letter. It describes the rules in place for physical training, road marching, and wheeled sports (bicycle, inline skates, skateboard, or kick-scooter).

In addition, it describes the rules for swimming pools and trampolines in government-owned or leased housing and the swimming and ice skating restrictions in our community area. To access all of the community policy letters, visit <https://intranet/grafenwoehr.army.mil/policies/garrison.htm> from a dot.mil computer.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Military wife understands deeper sense of beauty

Commentary by
MERI RETTINGER
Director of CinCHouse.com

I have never been surrounded by more beautiful women than military wives.

They are short, they are tall. They are skinny, they are plump. They are blondes, brunettes, red heads, and everything in between.

I will admit, I have not always been this open-minded with myself when it comes to beauty. I remember running out before my first spouse club meeting to buy a new push-up bra. While breastfeeding is great for the baby, it is not always best for mamma's physique. As I grabbed my purse and ran out the door, my husband yelled after me, "You are going to be late!"

"I have 45 minutes, it is plenty of time," I replied.

"They are not going to be looking at your chest, they want to know your ideas on beefing up the group," was his comeback.

"Do you think they'll really hear my ideas when they see my right A-cup looking down at the floor and my left B-cup staring straight at them?" I asked.

"Ha! You're going to have a shirt on! It's not like you're going to be sitting there naked!" he said.

"Ha! You have no idea. That's exactly what I feel like when I meet new people, like I'm naked." I fired back.

We blew each other kisses and I stopped on the way and replaced my old bra for a new and

improved version with a crazy name that read something like "Breast Enhancer 2003."

Upon arriving I instantly noticed the differences between all of the women. It was the most diverse group of ladies I had ever seen in one room. After my first "Hello" I forgot I was wearing the Breast Enhancer 2003.

I'm sure we have all heard the logic before: Society associates looking beautiful with being valuable. I have never held other people up to this magnifying glass, so why do I do it to myself?

Did I really think that my spouse club would not value my ideas because of what I looked like? Would I not value any ideas that came from them because of their looks?

Of course not!

Why, then, do so many women spend mega millions on creams, surgeries, cosmetics, and four inch pumps?

I don't think it's fair for me to answer this question for everyone, but I do think it has more to do with ourselves and not so much with who we are trying to impress.

Again, we think looking beautiful makes us more valuable in some sense. What we really need to focus on is what makes us valuable, not what makes us beautiful.

I'm valuable because I can hold down the family fort for two days to 18 months when my husband deploys.

I'm valuable because I am a wonderful, wife, daughter, and sister to my family.

I'm valuable because I am the

world's best mom in my husband and children's eyes.

I'm valuable because I understand the relationship my husband has with his military career and respect that.

I'm valuable because I use my experiences to help others feel more at ease with their new military lifestyle.

I'm valuable because I did not lose my mind when the military took my husband away and I had to give birth without him.

A couple of years ago I could not have made the above list. If I'd tried it probably would have started out something like: I am valuable because I have pretty eyes.

Now, I can toot my own valuable horn forever, and I am sure you can, too. As a matter of fact, I really hope that you will.

When I left the spouse club meeting that night I couldn't help but feel how valuable our time was that we spent together.

That's when it really clicked. The value of those women to me was priceless... beautiful!

I didn't care if they were short, tall, plump, skinny, blonde, brunette or red-headed; that would not get me through this deployment.

What would be the knowledge, experience, and open arms they possessed, that we all possess.

This is what makes military wives the most valuable, beautiful women to me.

As the director of CinCHouse, Rettinger oversees the content and communications for the nonprofit community based around the theme of military family education and support.

(Dog) Gone... But Not Forgotten!

by McKinsey

In 1873, druggist John Colgan of Louisville, Kentucky introduced "Taffy Tolu," the first chewing gum.

In 1929, U.S. Senator Reed Smoot sponsored legislation to place tobacco products under the jurisdiction of the Federal Drug Administration. "What is the bill which the Nation pays for this huge tobacco consumption? In terms of premature death, disease, or ill health...of losses started by smoking, the sum is incalculable." The legislation was defeated.

In 1951, Swedish industrialist Ruben Rausing invented the milk carton.

In 420, or thereabouts, St. Augustine warned of the "peril of pleasure" in plainsong, a form of religious chant developed in Europe. He feared he was more moved by the music itself than by the content.

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1st Inf. Div. bids farewell to Germany

by **SpC. STEPHEN BAACK**
American Forces Press Service

The U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, known as the "Big Red One," bid farewell to its host country of Germany at Victory Park on Leighton Barracks, Wuerzburg, July 6.

The colors of Big Red One are scheduled to be unfurled at Fort Riley, Kan., Aug. 1, and the division will assume command and control of its units now there.

Among other duties, the division is slated to take on the mission of training foreign security forces training teams in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Despite numerous deployments to distant countries within the past 10 years, Big Red One soldiers have built lasting relationships with German friends and colleagues. For many, the ceremony marks a bittersweet day.

"When I think about the division leaving

“We are humbled to have been so fortunate to study our profession on the ground that was fought to bring back freedom and democracy to this great continent.”

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker
1st Inf. Div. commander

Germany and returning to the states, I can't help but be saddened just a little," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, 1st ID commanding general. "Like many of you, I've spent a large part of my military life here in Germany. We will miss the culture, the people, the partnerships, the opportunity to travel, and even the challenges associated with leading troops overseas.

"Serving in Europe has also afforded our leaders the opportunity to visit battlefields and walk the ground where our forefathers fought

during World War I and World War II," said Hunzeker. "We are humbled to have been so fortunate to be able to study our profession on the ground that was fought to bring back freedom and democracy to this great continent."

Though first established in 1917 during World War I, the division moved to Germany for the first time immediately after World War II and remained here until 1955, when it first moved to Fort Riley.

Since that time, the Big Red One has answered the call to fight in Vietnam, operations Desert

Shield and Desert Storm, before returning to Germany for the second time April 10, 1996.

Within the last 10 years, the 1st ID has played key roles during peacekeeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II from February 2004 to February 2005.

"The Big Red One is privileged to have served more than 43 cumulative years on European soil," Hunzeker continued.

"Thousands upon thousands of 1st Infantry Division veterans, from almost every era in our history, have shared in the experience of living and serving alongside our friends and neighbors in this great country.

"The fond memories," he said, "that we have all had serving in Europe help to forever link us to the group of veterans who are very proud to have worn our patch and to the generations of Germans who have shown us hospitality for so many years."

Register for Military Idol competition

by **TIM HIPPS**

American Forces Press Service

Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines can now register for a shot at becoming the second Military Idol.

The Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation program is based on the premises of Fox's "American Idol."

Contestants - whether they're from an active, Guard or Reserve component - must be on active-duty military status and assigned to the hosting installation.

There is an exception for Soldiers not assigned to the installation, but they must provide their own transportation.

Competition will run Aug. 1 through Sept. 30 on 33 Army installations and camps in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Belgium, Germany, and Korea.

Local winners will qualify for a chance to advance to the Army-wide finals Oct. 28 through Nov. 6 on Fort Belvoir, Va.

Check with your local installation for a schedule of the Military Idol competition near you.

Application forms and contest rules are available on the Internet at www.militaryidol.com.

Applications must be submitted to local MWR offices on hosting installations. Only vocalists need apply - the contest is closed to musicians, comedians, dancers, poets, etc.

Installation-level prizes include \$500 to the winner and a chance to be among the dozen who will compete during



2005 Military Idol winner Sgt. William Glenn (center), an Alabama National Guardsman then stationed in Darmstadt, Germany, receives the winning check from Sgt. Maj. Willie Wilson of the Army Community and Family Support Center.

Photo by Kristy Davies

finals week at Fort Belvoir, along with \$500 for the winner's unit funds. Local runners-up will receive \$250, and third-place performers will get \$100.

The Military Idol grand prize is \$2,000 for the winner with \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third.

Sgt. William Glenn, an Alabama National Guardsman was the first Military Idol when he was stationed in Darmstadt, Germany. Now in medical hold on Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., recovering from a spider bite, he plans to turn over the crown to the second annual Military Idol winner.

"One thing they can't ever take away, and I mean this from the bottom of my heart: I'm honored to be the very first Military Idol," said Glenn, a military policeman. "Whether my face ever hits another newspaper or whatever, I have that honor. That's a proud accomplishment."

Glenn offers advice to Military Idol competitors.

"Have yourself well-prepared when you get ready to come to the competition," he said. "Even if it's on the installation level, try to get your music prepared and have a good time

and have fun.

"If you are the installation winner and you have to go to the finals, make sure all your music and everything you need you have instead of trying to scrounge for it at the last minute," he said. "And get a lot of good practice time and be comfortable with the song you're singing."

"Find your favorite song, something you do very well with, not just a popular song."

The 2006 Military Idol contest is sponsored by Armed Forces Vacation Club.

Stolen VA laptop turned in to FBI

by **STEVEN DONALD SMITH**

American Forces Press Service

The stolen Department of Veterans Affairs laptop computer and hard drive containing the personal information of more than 26 million veterans were turned in to the FBI June 28, the Veterans Affairs secretary said before Congress June 29.

Reports indicate that the FBI has made a preliminary determination that data contained on the computer and hard drive has not been accessed.

There have been no reports of identity theft or other criminal activity related to the stolen computer, R. James Nicholson told the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

He added that the VA would still honor its promise of free credit monitoring for a year.

An unnamed individual turned over the laptop and hard drive to FBI officials in Baltimore. No persons are in custody at this time, officials said.

The laptop and hard drive were stolen from the Montgomery County, Md., home of a VA employee on May 3. Government officials do not believe the data on the laptop was the target of the burglary, and consider the break-in a random theft.

Clubs offer affordable weekly condos to ID cardholders

by **LUKE ELLIOTT**

Army News Service

Department of Defense ID cardholders are eligible for weekly condominium rentals at 3,500 resorts in 80 countries worldwide.

Provided by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and sponsored by Resort Condominium International, the Armed Forces Vacation Club offers space-available condominiums for \$299 a week.

The program gives Soldiers and other DoD workers affordable accommodations in condominiums that would otherwise go empty, according to Verlin Abbott, RCI director of

AFVC.

While the program provides low-cost accommodations to vacation resorts across the globe, Abbott stressed that the condos are "space available" only.

"Don't expect to go to Virginia Beach on the Fourth of July. Go about this with the same approach as a Space-A Hop (flight)," Abbott said, adding that the best time to search for a condo is 45-55 days out.

For such high-demand areas as Hawaii, Las Vegas and Key West, users rarely see openings until a couple of weeks out, especially during peak seasons.

For each reservation booked using a post

identification number, the installation MWR program receives \$25 from the club.

"This money helps add to welfare and recreation programs for Soldiers," said Elvira Franco, manager of the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"I'm often asked, 'What are the dues?'" said Abbott. "If you're wearing a uniform, you've already paid your dues. We hope all Soldiers get a chance to take advantage of the program - they deserve it."

The AFVC is available to active-duty and reserve members, adult military dependents, retired service members and their families, Department of Defense civilians, non-

Munitions found in Iraq meet WMD criteria, officials say

by **SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY**

American Forces Press Service

The 500 munitions discovered throughout Iraq since 2003 and discussed in a National Ground Intelligence Center report meet the criteria of weapons of mass destruction, the center's commander said June 29.

"These are chemical weapons as defined under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and yes ... they do constitute weapons of mass destruction," Army Col. John Chu told the House Armed Services Committee.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is an arms control

agreement which outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It was signed in 1993 and entered into force in 1997.

The munitions found contain sarin and mustard gases, Army Lt. Gen. Michael D. Maples, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said. Sarin attacks the neurological system and is potentially lethal.

"Mustard is a blister agent (that

actually produces burning of any area (where) an individual may come in contact with the agent," he said. It also is potentially fatal if it gets into a person's lungs.

The munitions addressed in the report were produced in the 1980s, Maples said. Badly corroded, they could not currently be used as originally intended, Chu added.

While that's reassuring, the agent remaining in the weapons would be very valuable to terrorists and insurgents, Maples said. "We're talking chemical agents here that could be packaged in a different format and have a great effect," he said, referencing the sarin-gas attack on a

Japanese subway in the mid-1990s.

This is true even considering any degradation of the chemical agents that may have occurred, Chu said. It's not known exactly how sarin breaks down, but no matter how degraded the agent is, it's still toxic.

"Regardless of (how much material in the weapon is actually chemical agent), any remaining agent is toxic," he said. "Anything above zero (percent agent) would prove to be toxic, and if you were exposed to it long enough, lethal."

Though about 500 chemical weapons - the exact number has not been released publicly - have been found, Maples said he doesn't believe

Iraq is a "WMD-free zone."

"I do believe the former regime did a very poor job of accountability of munitions, and certainly did not document the destruction of munitions," he said. "The recovery program goes on, and I do not believe we have found all the weapons."

The Defense Intelligence Agency director said locating and disposing of chemical weapons in Iraq is one of the most important tasks servicemembers in the country perform.

Maples added searches are ongoing for chemical weapons beyond those being conducted solely for force protection.



Maples



The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is a program sponsored by the United States Armed Forces in **high schools**. It instills in students in United States secondary educational institutions the value of citizenship, service to the **United States**, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.

JROTC 2006



Eurocamp teaches lifelong lessons

Story by SUSANNE BARTSCH
Contributing writer



Grafenwoehr Training Area was once again the site of the U.S. Army Europe/Department of Defense Dependent Schools' Cadet Leadership Challenge for the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

One hundred and twenty-two cadets including 10 British students and 22 U.S. and three British active duty and reserve Soldiers serving as cadre spent June 19-28 at Camp Aachen mastering a number of challenges including drownproofing, land navigation, urban orienteering, drill competitions, rope and obstacle courses, and canoeing on the Wiesent River.

There, the climbers faced their fear of heights 10 meters above ground on the pumper pole, the wall, and several bridges (rope, wire, log, and swinging).

Team work and support was crucial to successfully completing each obstacle.

Canoeing posed many challenges, including staying safely in the canoe while avoiding trees and rocks in and around the river.

One of the highlights of this year's summer camp was a visit with the German army's 5th Company, 112th Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

For the first time in eight years, a German Army unit participated in the camp and offered a briefing and hands-on display of their Marder Fighting Vehicle and tank recovery vehicle.

During the Leadership Reaction Course, cadet squads were given missions such as crossing a simulated destroyed bridge with various equipment using only items provided and staying out of range of the simulated mine field.

The object of the mission was to teach the cadets cooperation, show them how to find solutions, and to teach cadet leaders how to successfully lead their units.

It didn't always happen that way. Occasionally, a hard-charging cadet would insist on carrying out the mission using his or her way and the novice cadet leader would allow the cadet to carry on. But that's all part of the learning experience during the camp.

Each task was supervised by cadre, who critiqued the cadet teams on mission success.

Team leaders changed with each task. At the obstacle course, the officer-in-charge of the course briefed cadets during a walkthrough before allowing them to conduct a practice run.

In addition to manning the obstacles, cadre made sure the cadets used the obstacles safely. Finally, the cadets conducted a timed run for bragging rights.

The camp ended with a parade and awards ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Field House, where cadets were recognized for their motivation, physical prowess, and leadership abilities.

Awards were presented by the ceremony's keynote speaker, Gen. William E. Ward, United States European Command deputy commanding general.

Cadet Toni Serpa from Wuerzburg High School received the Distinguished Graduate Award. Cadet Jacqueline Gentile from Vilseck High School was named Honor Graduate. British cadet Joseph Marshall of the Bristol Army Cadet Force won the Most Improved Cadet Award for Alpha Company's 1st Platoon.

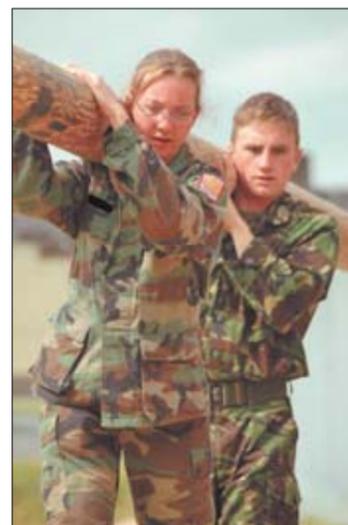
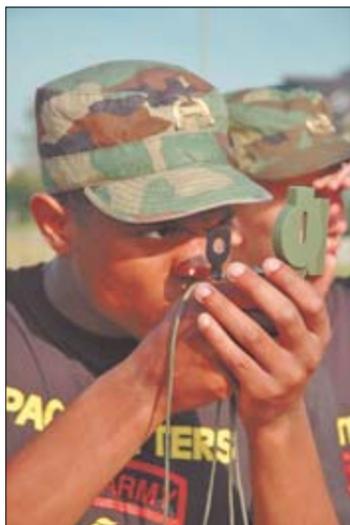
A total of 21 cadets were recognized in the following additional categories:

- Most Improved
- Outstanding Leadership
- Spirit & Inspiration
- High PT Score
- Commandant's Award

AWARDS:

- **Distinguished Graduate:** Toni Serpa, Wuerzburg High School
- **First Runner-up Distinguished Graduate:** Giovanni Vidal, Hanau High School
- **Second Runner-up Distinguished Graduate:** Brenna Goodman, Wuerzburg High School
- **Honor Graduate (outstanding leadership):** Jacqueline Gentile, Vilseck High School
- **Commandant's Award (outstanding attitude and effort):** Audrianna Bustoz, Baumholder High School

Photos by David Schwab



Home at last

Garrison Soldiers gains U.S. citizenship

by JODI WARD
Staff writer

After a long, arduous process, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Spc. Douglas Brammer was sworn in as a citizen of the United States June 29 at the U.S. embassy in Frankfurt, Germany.

Born in France to a Dutch mother and British father, Brammer finally has a place to call home.

Because he lived in France for only two months and moved frequently because of his father's job as head of the European Space Agency, he said his French citizenship was retracted when he turned 18, leaving him without citizenship in any country.

At age 5, Brammer's mother

remarried an American and moved to a small town outside Columbus, Ohio. At age 20, he applied for his citizenship and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

He said enlisting in the Army felt like a normal thing for him to do, given that he had spent most of his life in the United States.

Brammer, who has deployed to Kosovo and Iraq, said he applied for citizenship several times because the (citizenship and immigration center) "lost my application four times, and every time you get deployed you have to add more to it."

But his time and effort paid off on last month when he and 14 other service members, including U.S. Soldiers from Cuba and Africa, became American citizens.

After a brief swearing-in ceremony, Brammer said little has changed.

"I really don't feel that different now because I grew up in the States. I don't remember anything else, he said. "If anything, I'm glad it's over."

Lou Stagger, a U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Family Readiness Support assistant, accompanied Brammer to the ceremony.

"This was a special thing and a unique opportunity," said Stagger. "It's not everyday you get to watch as someone becomes a new citizen. I'll always cherish my experience from that day."

Brammer said after his enlistment ends in December he will return to Ohio, where he plans to attend college.



Photo by Lou Stagger

USAG G Soldier, Spc. Douglas Brammer gained U.S. citizenship June 29 at the U.S. embassy in Frankfurt.

Sgt. Maj. O'Reilly leaves legacy of love

by Spc. MIKE ALBERTS
3rd Bde., 27th Inf. Div.

The famed and beloved honorary sergeant major of the 27th Infantry Regiment died of natural causes June 23 at age 91.

Hugh O'Reilly's humanitarian efforts have been chronicled in newspapers and magazines around the world, and his story inspired the 1955 Columbia Pictures film "Three Stripes in the Sun."

O'Reilly's military career spanned 30 years from 1932 through 1962. He fought in both World War II and the Korean War.

But it was Christmas Eve of 1949 that forever marked O'Reilly's life and made him an inspiration for generations to come.

That June, O'Reilly was ordered to Japan and stationed with the 25th Infantry Division's 27th Infantry Regiment at Camp Sakai.

Come Christmas, O'Reilly was one of a few Soldiers who attended a holiday party at the Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka.

The devastation suffered by the orphanage because of the war, and the heavy toll on the children there, touched O'Reilly's heart.

The next day he took up a collection from the Wolfhounds, an offering that he presented to the orphanage on New Year's morning.

O'Reilly came to know the orphaned children well, and for the next six months he spent five

hours a day helping the sisters repair the orphanage. Soon, Wolfhounds began collecting funds for the Holy Family Home orphanage on a regular basis.

Soldiers of the 27th Inf. Regt. still donate to the orphanage and continue to show O'Reilly's compassionate spirit.

"Today is a tribute to a great Soldier, husband and public servant to the international community," said Lt. Col. Richard Wilson, battalion commander, 1-27 Inf. Regt., during a June 28 ceremony honoring O'Reilly.

"He fully blazed the Wolfhound victory trail and allowed Soldiers of our regiment to gain a better appreciation of what it means to truly serve our great nation," said Wilson.

"He will always be remembered and will never cease to be an inspiration. Although he is no longer physically with us, he continues to provide a lasting impression on our hearts and our moral code," he said.

"He fueled my fire and passion for this

unit," said Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich, battalion commander, 2-27 Inf. Regt.

"He would sit in my office with a yellow notepad filled with stories of countless Wolfhound exploits in and out of warfare. He would ask me now and again to get a Soldier to type these stories into the computer so that he could include it in the Wolfhound Reflections," said Meyerowich, who was so overcome by respect for O'Reilly that he often recorded the stories himself.

"The Wolfhound relationship with the Holy Family Home orphanage would not have



U.S. Army photo

Sgt. Maj. Hugh O'Reilly started a tradition of helping the Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka, Japan, in 1949.

survived these 65 years without the passion of Sgt. Maj. O'Reilly," he continued. "Wolfhounds were ordered to the Christmas celebration that winter morning in 1949. But what got them there is not nearly as important as what kept them there, and that was Sgt. Maj. O'Reilly.

"As a commander of this storied unit, I feel truly blessed to say that I personally knew Sgt. Maj. O'Reilly."

O'Reilly is survived by his wife, Yuko; daughter Maria; and five sons Hugh, Thomas, Sean, Patrick and Peter. The funeral and interment were held yesterday at Schofield Barracks Cemetery.

“Wolfhounds were ordered to the Christmas celebration... But what got them there is not nearly as important as what kept them there, and that was Sgt. Maj. O'Reilly.”

Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich
2-27 Inf. Regt.

Lean Six Sigma assignments open for IMA DLAMP candidates

IMA-E press release

Opportunities exist for Installation Management Agency Defense Leadership and Management Program participants needing specific developmental expertise by taking Lean Six Sigma assignments.

"These opportunities give DLAMP participants the chance to exhibit the hard work and dedication to principles and strategies that can transform the installation business," said Rosye Faulk, deputy deployment director for IMA's Business Improvement Lean Six Sigma program.

"Lean Six Sigma, which has been embraced Armywide, has proven that it is possible to achieve dramatic and positive results in cost, quality, and time by focusing on process improvement," she said. "This is why we are deploying Lean Six Sigma at IMA, and we need strong professionals to ensure the program's continued success."

DLAMP personnel can apply for one-year assignments with IMA's Lean Six Sigma program. Positions available include:

Lean Six Sigma finance analyst:

There are one or two openings in Arlington. DLAMP participants will work with Resource Management personnel to define the resource management role in the Lean Six Sigma process and to define the rule book for project validation.

The purpose of the finance role is providing an independent and objective evaluation of the financial benefits projections and the actual results achieved by Six Sigma Projects.

Assignment will include Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training and certification.

Lean Six Sigma black belt (in training):

There are 16 openings to serve as Lean Six Sigma black belts within IMA. Positions will be located at IMA headquarters and at IMA regions.

Travel to garrisons to work with the garrison leaders and staff may be required. The assignment will include Lean Six Sigma black belt training and certification.

Key responsibilities include driving projects for key business outcomes; collecting data to help identify root cause problems; leading cross-functional teams from directorate and special staff officers to identify improvement options; conducting cost and benefit analyses; implementing process improvements; working with other key stakeholders to ensure changes are implemented; and setting up monitoring mechanisms to ensure improved performance.

Participants act as change agents for IMA, advocating measurement, accountability and applying a Lean Six Sigma-disciplined approach to process improvement.

Lean Six Sigma program manager:

There is one opening for the Lean Six Sigma program manager at IMA headquarters in Arlington. The assignment will include green belt training.

Black belt training may be provided based on the operational tempo of the position.

The program manager is responsible for supporting the Lean Six Sigma deputy deployment director mission to deploy the Lean Six Sigma program.

Key responsibilities include driving projects for key business outcomes; collecting data to help identify root cause problems; leading cross-functional teams from directorate and special staff officers to identify improvement options; conducting cost and benefit analyses; implementing process improvements, working with other key stakeholders to ensure changes are implemented; and setting up monitoring mechanisms to ensure improved performance.

The program manager is the change agent for IMA, advocating measurement, accountability and applying a Lean Six Sigma disciplined approach to process improvement.

"Lean Six Sigma will be an integral part of our future and closely tied to our continued success," said Faulk.

"Being part of this growing team of professionals within IMA during the initial

Justice Jottings

At an Article 15 hearing June 5, a 40-year-old male sergeant was found guilty of driving while drunk. He was ordered to forfeit \$1,015 per month for two months, serve 14 days of extra duty, and was restricted for 14 days.

At an Article 15 hearing June 9, a 22-year-old male specialist was found guilty of wrongfully using ecstasy. He was reduced to PV2, ordered to forfeit \$717 per month for two months, ordered to serve 45 days of extra duty, and was restricted for 45 days.

At an Article 15 hearing June 9, a 23-year-old male specialist was found guilty of wrongfully using ecstasy on two occasions. He was reduced to PV2, ordered to forfeit \$717 per month for two months, ordered to serve 45 days of extra duty, and was restricted for 45 days.

At an Article 15 hearing June 23, a 21-year-old male specialist was found guilty of assaulting two Soldiers with a dangerous weapon, communicating a threat, and drunk and disorderly conduct. He was reduced to private first class and ordered to forfeit \$850 per month for two months.

At an Article 15 hearing June 27, a 25-year-old female sergeant was found guilty of wrongfully using marijuana and attempting to substitute urine in an attempt to cover up her use of the illegal substance. She was reduced to specialist, ordered to forfeit \$1,015 for one month, given extra duty for 30 days, and given an oral reprimand.

At an Article 15 hearing June 27, a 28-year-old male sergeant was found guilty of driving while drunk. He was reduced to specialist, ordered to forfeit \$1,015 per month for two months, and given extra duty for 45 days.

deployment will demonstrate your leadership and forward thinking," he said. "Additionally, research shows that the combination of training, education, and progressively responsible hands on experience produces effective executives."

DLAMP participants should coordinate with their mentors to determine if one of these opportunities is needed for professional development.

For more information, contact Bill Eggers at 703-602-0612 or bill.eggers@hqda.army.mil or Faulk at 703-602-2478 or rosye.faulk@hqda.army.mil.

Lean Six Sigma Training

HQAMC offers the following training opportunities:

- July 31-Aug. 4 Green Belt Training
- Aug. 7-11 Master Black Belt Training
- Aug. 21-25 Green Belt Training (RESCHEDULED)
- Aug. 21-25 Black Belt Training
- Dec. 4-8 Master Black Belt Training
- Dec. 11-15 Green Belt Training

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Pay attention to construction signs for new traffic routes

Due to ongoing construction at Grafenwoehr, motorists are asked to pay attention to road detour and closure signs for safe driving!

Motorists can find more information, including maps with detailed traffic flow patterns, in the garrison weekly E-newsletter and on the Command Information Channel.

Book appointments online at Vilseck Health Clinic

Did you know you can book medical appointments at the Vilseck Health Clinic without ever using the phone? Appointments can be booked online at <http://www.tricareonline.com>.

For information on how to set up a user account, e-mail Capt. Emily Stehr at Emily.stehr@us.army.mil.

Place your free ad in the Bavarian News online

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News.

Fill out the form at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>. Be sure to include a contact phone number.

Youth Ministry serving Vilseck and Grafenwoehr

MCYM/Club Beyond is a chapel-sponsored youth ministry serving the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr communities.

It offers a place to belong for junior high and high school students.

Come and check out the programs:

HS Club
Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Vilseck Chapel Fellowship Hall
Jr. High Club
Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m.
Vilseck MHS, Home Economics Room

Small groups are available. Contact Club Beyond for dates and times.

For interested adults, volunteering with Club Beyond can be the adventure of a lifetime. We'll match the job to your gifts and abilities.

For more information, call Aretta at CIV 0160-9876-9678 or e-mail aretta.zitta@graf.eur.army.mil.

Summer afghan sale ongoing

Afghans with representation of Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels landmarks can be purchased at your local Red Cross Office.

Cost: one to three afghans, \$40; three or more afghans, \$35.

Join Protestant WOC for Restore My Heart study

Are you looking for a way to draw close to God? If so, join the Protestant Women of the Chapel for a wonderful bible study called Restore My Heart by Denise Glenn.

This study will run through Aug. 17. Meetings are held every Thursday morning at the Graf Girl Scout Hut, Bldg. 122 from 9-11:30 a.m.

Free childcare is provided.

For more information contact Kristen at CIV 09641-925814.

Vilseck Post Exchange, shoppette has new hours

Effective immediately, the following hours are in effect:

Rose Barracks Shoppette: Monday to Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Main Exchange: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MCSS: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed on Sunday.

Concession Mall: Hours vary from store to store. See vendor for hours.

Revised shuttle bus schedule

The revised bus shuttle schedule can assist you in traveling to the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck posts, and to 2CR Integration and In-processing sites on Vilseck.

Shuttles run to and from 11 communities surrounding the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck areas.

You can find the bus schedule for

your area posted at the bus stop nearest you. If you need help finding the bus stop nearest you, call your sponsor or the garrison DOL at CIV 09641-83-4347 / 6223 or DSN 475-4347 / 6223.

Grafenwoehr, Vilseck Town Hall Meeting Slated July 19

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr will hold its quarterly town hall meeting July 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the Vilseck post theater. This is the place to find out what's going on in your community, ask any questions, and give your feedback.

Veteran's Affairs briefing slated July 19 at Vilseck

The briefing will take place from 9 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 378. The briefing is open to everyone. Registration is required.

Learn about VA programs, including:

- Home Loan Guarantees
 - Disability Compensation
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Training
 - Montgomery G I Bill
- Contact ACAP at DSN 476-2055 to reserve a seat.

Vacation Bible School begins July 31, register by Saturday

Our Lady of the Woods and Wilderness Catholic Community invites you to attend Vacation Bible School at the Vilseck Chapel from 9 a.m. – noon, July 31 to Aug. 4.

Kindergarten and up. Please register by Saturday by contacting Corinna Todd at michael_corinna@hotmail.com or Annelie DeJesus at annelie341@hotmail.com.

2006-7 School Registration for Vilseck Elementary

Registration deadline is Aug. 1 for children going into Sure Start through fifth grades.

Registration office hours: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday, closed noon - 1 p.m.

Office phone: CIV 09662-83-2812 or DSN 476-2812 – Registrar – Tracy Kellar

Please bring the following documents to registration:

- Sponsor's orders listing child's name as a dependent, and any extensions of DEROS
- Original birth certificate or passport
- Student social security number (card preferred)
- Original immunization records
- Student Records including report cards and/or address/phone number of previous school.

Additional Information: New Sure Start & Kindergarten students will need a physical exam prior to taking required immunizations. Contact the Vilseck Health Clinic at 476-2936/2882 prior to taking immunizations.

Christian home educators support group meets in Graf

Grafenwoehr Garrison Christian Home Educators Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Grafenwoehr Post Library between 6 and 8 pm.

Come and receive support, share resources, knowledge and your wisdom.

For more information, contact Dawn Sovinsky at CIV 09608-923-733 or terry.dawn@asamnet.de

Vilseck Family Readiness Center open daily

Family members from 2SCR, deployed units and Soldiers TDY here can now use the FRC to e-mail their loved ones back home or downrange. The center will be open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily.

Send up to five minutes of streaming video to loved ones, morale calls down range, VTC by appointment, FRG meeting room and more.

Location: Bldg. 273, Vilseck
Phone: DSN 476-3940 or CIV 09662-83-3940

American Red Cross 2006 Summer Schedule

- July 22, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adult CPR & First Aid, Vilseck Office Cost: \$30.00
- Aug. 2-3, 8:30 a.m. - noon Babysitter's Training, Vilseck Office Cost: \$35.00
- Aug. 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Volunteer Orientation, Vilseck Office

■ Aug. 19, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adult, Infant, & Child CPR, Vilseck Cost: \$30.00

■ Aug. 22-23, 8:30 a.m. - noon Babysitter's Training, Vilseck Office Cost: \$35.00

Pre-payment is required for all health and safety classes. Stop by the Vilseck or Graf office to make payment by check or money order.

For more information, call the Vilseck Office at DSN 476-1760.

State primary elections set Tuesday, July 25

Tuesday: Georgia
July 25: Oklahoma

Federal post card applications are available at www.fvap.gov or contact your voting assistance officer, Ms. Schedl, in Bldg. 244, DSN 475-6753.

Join the AAFES Buddy List

Be the first to find out about AAFES specials, sales, events, and special news of interest sent directly to your e-mail inbox weekly.

You can stop by any customer service desk to apply, or e-mail Chris Litch at litchc@aafes.com.

Volunteers sought to welcome 2SCR Soldiers, families

We are looking for volunteers to serve as greeters for the new 2SCR Soldiers and families.

If interested, contact Vicky Cunningham or Kay Simpkins at Army Community Services, DSN 476-2650.

Plan for Gate 6 delays (near airfield) through July 21

Expect delays at Gate 6 from July 17-July 21.

The installation of new guard shack and other security upgrades will reduce Gate 6 to one lane.

Gate 6 is the east gate by the airfield, North of Camp Aachen.

Finance Office closed in Graf, Vilseck, Hohenfels

All finance offices will be closed on Friday with the exception of 2SCR processing at Bldg. 670.

For information, call Capt. Stephen Ramella, DSN 476-3498.

German-American Motorcycle Association

The Oberpfalz German-American Motorcycle Association will meet July 20 and every other Thursday at 6 p.m.

Meet, exchange information, plan rides and gain experience with local veteran riders from the Grafenwoehr/Vilseck area. Meet at the Thai restaurant across from the Grafenwoehr Schwimmbad.

Fine dining is available and coffee is free with the purchase of an entrée. Call 475-1470 for more information.

CYS sports, school physicals offered July 29, Aug. 6

The Vilseck Health Clinic will offer health assessments for CYS, sports, and school physicals for children 4-18 years of age on July 29 and Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call DSN 476-2936 for an appointment.

Vilseck Fitness Center hours change beginning Monday

In order to support the enhanced needs of the increasing Vilseck troop population, the hours of the fitness center are changed as follows:

Monday to Friday, 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ATEC scheduled July 19

The Community Antiterrorism Executive Committee will be conducted July 19 at 1:30 p.m. in B-227, Yesterdays Club in Vilseck. The ATEC will be chaired by Col. Brian Boyle, commander of the USAG Grafenwoehr.

The purpose of the ATEC is to provide a forum to share force protection and security information to the community.

The target audience is commanders, directors, and agency managers who are part of the Grafenwoehr Training Area and Vilseck communities.

Request attendance from directorates, each tenant unit and agency, or next in charge.

For more information, contact Maj. Gillespie, DPTMS Plans and Operations, DSN 475-8828.

Hohenfels Briefs

Confidential marriage, family therapy available

Social Work Services (Bldg. 747) offers ongoing professional therapy for individuals, families, and couples.

You have a "Right to Privacy."

Jacque Cummings, LMFT, is the Marriage, Family Therapist at Hohenfels for ongoing confidential counseling.

Everyone has a time in his or her life when they feel "stuck."

Couples find themselves under stress and unable to communicate effectively or amenably at times.

Therapy is a way to get the help you need to move past that bumpy place.

A therapist who becomes familiar with you and your needs and one you can trust is vital to that healing process.

Call for an appointment: DSN 466-4625 or CIV 09472-83-4625.

Reserve space today in motorcycle safety class

To reserve a class space for MSF Motorcycle Safety Classes at Hohenfels, call DSN 475-1470 or e-mail:

safetygraf@graf.eur.army.mil

Experienced Rider Course: July 26

Experienced Rider Course: Aug. 22

Basic Rider Course: Aug. 23-24

Experienced Rider Course: Sept. 26

Note: USAREUR requires that all motorcyclists complete the Experienced Rider Course MSF training, if their last MSF card is over three years old.

Youth Taekwon-Do kicks off this week at post gym

It's that time of year again. New sessions of our all time favorite Taekwon-Do began July 1.

This martial art class is tailored to the student's age and skill level. The students will begin practicing basic patterns and forms, kicking, blocking, striking and punching.

Children can expect a development of athletic abilities, self-awareness as well as improvement of self-defense capabilities.

Sessions are held every Sunday from 3 - 4:30 p.m. at the Post Gym. Cost of class is \$120 for three months or 12 classes.

For more information, please contact CLEOS at 466-2078.

Gym, fitness center closure

The Post Gym, Bldg. 88, will be closed Saturday. The Olympia Fitness Center will be closed Sunday for semi-annual cleaning.

Tennis lessons for 8 to 15-year-olds beginning today

What better way to enjoy the summer than being outside doing something fun. Namely, tennis classes!

Students can learn proper stands, form and grip, backhand, forehand, and serve during the classes which emphasizes fun, fitness, and friends.

The cost of the course includes the tennis equipment so all you have to bring is yourself.

Classes will be held every Wednesday beginning today at the USAG Hohenfels tennis courts.

The cost is \$75 for eight weeks. For more information, call CLEOS at 466-2078.

Tiger Fields grass off limits for unslated activities, PT

Unscheduled activities on Tiger field are causing a great deal of damage to the field.

Effective immediately, the grass portion of Tiger Field is off limits to unscheduled activities including PT.

In order to get approval to use the field, a request must be submitted to the garrison commander or high school principal.

Please note that running PT on the track is allowed during PT hours. These restrictions affect only the grass portion of the field.

Friends, family of substance abusers invited for help

Do you have a loved one who has a substance abuse problem? Do you know of someone who has a problem? Can't understand what's going on?

You are not alone! Come to a place that can help you and your loved ones find solutions and understanding for the problems you face on a daily basis.

There are no obligations and NO ONE HAS TO KNOW YOU ARE HERE.

Visit the Hohenfels Family Life Center, Bldg. 743, across the street from the commissary, Mondays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. E-mail alCloza@hotmail.com for more information.

Fiesta Vacation Bible School scheduled Aug. 21-25

The Hohenfels Religious Support Office will sponsor Fiesta Vacation Bible School Aug. 21-25, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Registration forms can be submitted electronically to

Kathy.elmore@us.army.mil or Kathy.elmore@us.army.mil or dropped off at any Chapel facility. Call Kathy Elmore at CIV 09498-90-5046 or the Hohenfels Religious Support Office at DSN 466-1570 for more information.

Youth Sports summer camps in session through August

Due to customer demand, the Hohenfels Youth Sports Camps are now open to 7-year-olds.

Camps will be run for youth ages 7-9 and for youths ages 10-12. Also due to customer demand, the Youth Sports camps are open to all School Age Services children. SAS will provide free transportation to and from all camps.

SAS kids can attend the camps free of charge because their SAS fees cover the camps.

For more information, call DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2488, or contact SAS.

The schedule is as follows:

Week 2 (Monday - July 21)

■ Baseball Camp for ages 7-9 at the Commissary Field from 10 a.m. - noon.

■ Girls Softball Camp for ages 10-12 at the Commissary Field from 1 - 4 p.m.

■ Bowling Camp for ages 8-9 at the Bowling Center from 10 a.m. - noon.

Week 3 (July 24-28)

■ Basketball Camp for Ages 7-9 at the Post Gym from 10 a.m. - noon.

■ Wrestling Camp for ages 10-12 at the SAS Gym from 1 - 4 p.m.

Week 4 (July 31 - Aug. 4)

■ Tennis Camp for Ages 10-12 at the PX Tennis Court from 9 a.m. - noon.

■ Soccer Camp for ages 10-12 at the Commissary Field from 1 - 4 p.m.

Week 5 (Aug. 7-11)

■ Flag Football Camp for Ages 10-12 at the 1-4 IN Field from 9 a.m. - noon.

■ Cheerleading Camp for ages 10-12 at the Post Gym from 1 - 4 p.m.

Week 6 (Aug. 14-18)

■ Volleyball Camp for Ages 10-12

■ Baseball Camp for ages 10-12 at the Commissary Field from 1 - 4 p.m.

■ Basketball Camp for ages 10-12 at the Post Gym from 1 - 4 p.m.

■ Bowling Camp for ages 10-12 year olds at the bowling center 9 a.m. - noon.

Need someone to walk the dog, mow the lawn, or babysit the kids?

Or are YOU looking for a summer job?

Place your search in the Bavarian News FREE classifieds!

Visit www.rlehner.de/milcom/bn/free.html, or call DSN 475-7113 today!

“I’m not German, I’m Bavarian” Culture 101: Free State of Bavaria rich in tradition, independence

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Artikel 1 der Verfassung des Freistaates Bayern: Bayern ist ein Freistaat. Die Landesfarben sind Weiß und Blau. Das Landeswappen wird durch Gesetz bestimmt.

Article 1 of the Constitution of the Free State of Bavaria: Bavaria is a Free State. The state colors are white and blue. The state Coat of Arms is determined by law.

Bavarians are a people who are extremely proud of their heritage.

A great part of the local population will freely tell you that they are Bavarians first and Germans second. After all, “we could be our own country, but we are kind enough to stay with the rest of Germany.” As a “Freistaat” (free state), Bavaria, along with the two other Freistaaten in Germany “Sachsen” (Saxia) and “Thuringen” (Thuringia) boasts a special standing.

The word Freistaat indicates that the land is not ruled by a monarch, but by free citizens in the form of a parliamentary democracy.

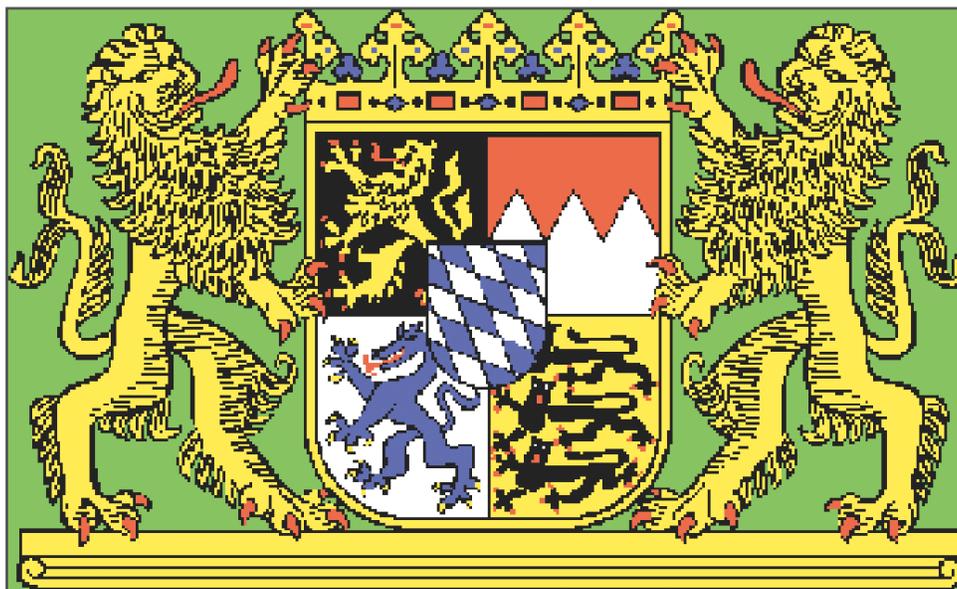
The common assumption that the state’s title emphasizes a special independence from the rest of the country is mostly correct.

Each of the 16 German states is a territorial state, not a nation state. The three states that officially use the term Freistaat therefore emphasize their independence, which means that they yield certain competences to the Union but are still their own state.

Additionally, these states were Free States as far back as the Weimar Republic. All other states were created from the provinces of the free state of Prussia and therefore do not have their own state tradition. For this reason, they chose not to use the term Free State.

I am sure you have seen the coat of arms of Bavaria many times as it is widely known and loved. It was introduced on June 5, 1950, with the Coat of Arms of the Free State of Bavaria Law.

Bavaria’s state colors are white and blue (like the sky over Bavaria).



The symbolism of the widely known Coat of Arms of the Free State of Bavaria was introduced in 1950.

The symbols depicted in the coat of arms are deeply entrenched in Bavarian history. I hope you enjoy learning about the background of these symbols. The different elements of the Great Bavarian Coat of Arms have the following meaning:

The Golden Lion

Originally, the golden lion on a black field was the symbol of the Counts Palatine on the Rhine. After Bavarian Duke Ludwig was granted the fiefdom of the Palatinate in 1214, it stood for centuries as a symbol of the old Bavarian and Palatinate Wittelsbachs.

Today the upright rampant lion symbolizes the region of Upper Palatinate, the Bavarian state where Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels are located. The capital of this Regierungsbezirk (administrative region) is Regensburg, but you also find the cities of Weiden and Amberg located under this administration.

The Franconian Rake

The second field is divided by three red prongs rising from the white (actually silver) background. This rake emerged in 1350 as a coat of arms in some areas of the Bishopric of Würzburg and on the seals of the Prince Bishops.

Today it represents the administrative regions of Upper, Middle, and Lower Franconia. The capital of Oberfranken (Upper Franconia) is Bayreuth with the cities of Hof and Bamberg falling under the same jurisdiction.

The capital city of Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia) is Ansbach. You will also find the tri-cities of Nuernberg, Fuerth and Erlangen here.

Lastly, the capital of Unterfranken (Lower Franconia) is Wuerzburg. Aschaffenburg is another big city in the northern Bavarian region. Franken (Franconia) is known as the most productive wine region of Bavaria.

The Blue Panther

At the bottom left of the third field you will find an upright rampant blue panther on a white (actually silver) background.

It was originally in the coat of arms of the Counts Palatine of Ortenburg before being adopted by the Wittelsbachs House.

Today it represents the regions of the Lower and Upper Bavaria (Niederbayern and Oberbayern).

Landshut is the capital of Niederbayern. It was founded in 1204 by Duke Ludwig I of Bavaria. The administrative capital of Oberbayern is also the capital of Bavaria -

Muenchen (Munich).

Ingolstadt, Rosenheim, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen are also located in this region, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Bavaria.

The Three Lions

In the fourth field, three black lions stand on a golden ground. Arranged one above the other, they are looking directly at the viewer.

They were taken from the old coat of arms of the Hohenstaufen, the former Dukes of Schwaben (Swabia).

On the Bavarian coat of arms they symbolize Swabia with its capital of Augsburg. Kempten and Lindau are also located in Schwaben.

The White-And-Blue Shield

The shield of white and blue fimbriated shield was originally the coat of arms of the Counts of Bogen and adopted in 1247 by the Wittelsbachs House.

The white and blue fimbriated shield is indisputably the emblem of Bavaria and today symbolize Bavaria as a whole.

Along with the People’s Crown, it is officially used as the Minor Coat of Arms. You will find this shield’s pattern used in many decorative items representing Bavaria and its culture, from flags to tablecloth and napkins to beer steins.

The People’s Crown

The four coat fields with the shield in the center are topped with a golden crown. The golden band is adorned with precious stones and decorated with five ornamental leaves. This crown appeared for the first time in the coat of arms in 1923 to symbolize sovereignty of the people after the dropping out of the royal crown.

The Lions holding the crest

The two lions on either side holding up the crest continue a tradition dating back to the 14th century.

I hope this information gives you an insight into the Bavarian Coat of Arms. Bavarians are very proud of it and its history.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.

Summer harvest the right time for Träubleskuchen

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News
Food & Culture columnist

This is the time of year when fresh fruits are in season and are used by German bakers in abundance to create delicious summer treats.

You will find Erdbeerkuchen (strawberry cakes), Kirschkuchen, (cherry cakes), Rhabarberkuchen (rhubarb cakes), and many more in the local Bäckerei (bakery) and Konditorei (pastry shop).

German housewives like to use the bounty nature provides them in their own backyards. One of the most common fruit-bearing bushes in German gardens is one that yields either “rote oder schwarze Johannisbeeren” (red or black currants).

Another Bavarian term for currants is “Traeuble” (little cluster), as they grow in bunches much like grapes.

These berries are usually available in the store from July to September. You can also find them in the frozen food section of many grocery stores.

Currants have long been a staple in the kitchens of Europe’s finest chefs. They have always been popular in Great Britain, Scandinavia, France, Germany, and Russia.

Of all berries, black currants have the highest concentration of vitamin C (about three to five times more than an average-sized orange). They contain useful amounts of vitamin B6, vitamin E, potassium, copper, iron, and soluble fiber.

Currants are also sources of calcium, pectin and fruit acids. They are also said to increase appetite and strengthen your immune system, as well as support your digestive system with their fiber and pectin.

Black currants have a rather acidic flavor, and the red variety is only slightly sweeter. The most common use, therefore, is in jams, juices, or cakes.

If you don’t mind the tart sensation, you can also toss them into a fruit salad or sprinkle them on yogurt.

Germans often prepare red currant sauce to serve with wild game, lamb, and poultry dishes. The berries are also popular for use in liqueur (“Cassis” is made from black currants) and in the famous German “Rumtopf” (rum pot).

Last but not least, the colorful bunches of berries make a stunning garnish.

It is best to use fresh currants immediately. Red currants keep in the refrigerator for about three days, and the shelf life of black currants is even shorter. However, you may freeze currants without much loss of

texture and taste.

Currants should be washed while still on the stem, and the berries should be removed with a fork.

The following recipe is my favorite way to serve red currants. It showcases the berries in a sweet and nutty meringue on a simple pastry.

You may use fresh or frozen berries. It is also very tasty if you use a mixture of berries (like strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and black berries).

Feel free to adjust the sugar content of the fruit filling to your tastes and according to the fruit you use.

I hope you and your family enjoy healthy red currants or any other summer berry in this sweet treat. It goes well with a nice cup of German coffee.

Guten Appetit!

Träubleskuchen

2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 egg
¾ cup sugar
1 ½ sticks (¾ cup) butter or margarine
4 cups red currants fresh or frozen (or equal amount of mixed berries)
5 egg whites
2 ½ cups confectionary sugar



Courtesy photo

Summertime is the perfect time to serve up a freshly baked berry dessert.

1 ½ cups ground almonds

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
In a large bowl, mix flour, baking powder, egg, sugar, and butter or margarine. Pat dough into a Springform pan and pull up on the sides to about a 1-inch height. Prick dough several times with a fork.

For the filling, beat egg whites until they are very stiff. Continue beating, slowly adding confectionary sugar to the bowl. Carefully fold in the ground

almonds and fruit (if using frozen berries, do not thaw first). Gently fill Springform pan with berry mixture.

Bake for 40 - 45 minutes. Turn off oven and let cake stand in cooling oven for 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

Yield: 12 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil.

Somewhat unusual sand skiing a must-try sport

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News culture columnist

The kids are out of school and you may be looking for something fun to do in the area while the weather is nice.

Germans will take advantage of the sunshine and visit a Freibad (public outdoor pool). Most Americans are familiar with the "Waldbad" in Grafenwoehr, but I would like to introduce you to another somewhat unusual leisure activity in the area.

It is located in Hirschau (only 15 minutes from Vilseck and 25 minutes from Grafenwoehr) and is called Monte Kaolino.

You can't miss it as its special feature, the "Monte Kaolino," is visible from afar.

The "white giant" is a 120-meter high man-made mountain consisting of 32 million tons of quartz sand and the only sand mountain in the world with a lift operation.

The mountain has a 40 percent incline and the run is 220-meters long, which makes it perfect as the site for the European and World championships in sand-boarding, sand-skiing, and Big-Foot events.



For a small amount (adults 2 Euros, kids 1 Euro), anybody can take the lift to the top. Once you arrive at the top, you can enjoy the breathtaking view across the land from the observation deck before you have fun walking or running down a giant sand hill where you sink in with every step you take. You can also rent sand skis and descend the hill skiing in your bathing suit.

Monte Kaolino's origin can be traced back to 1901. For the local porcelain and paper production, the mineral kaolin is extracted by surface mining in Hirschau (you can see a mining site on your way to the location).

Large amounts of quartz sand are the byproduct of this process. During the early days of the mining, the



Monte Kaolino is located in neighboring Hirschau.

people of Hirschau did not know how to market the vast amount of sand so they decided to pile it up outside of town. Up to 1,000 tons was deposited daily. However, the mountain has not grown since 1995 after a company that could use and sell the sand was discovered.

It should be no surprise that a local son (Martin Goetz from Amberg) invented sand skiing in the early '50s when he could no longer wait to enjoy his favorite winter hobby.

He developed special skis for the new sport and in 1956 the Ski Club Hirschau was formed. This is probably the only ski club in the world that originated from summer skiing operations on sand.

If you are not interested in skiing, you can still have fun at the Monte



Kaolino.

At the bottom of the mountain, you will find a heated outdoor pool and beach area. It is not very modern, but you will find a large pool for swimmers, a smaller one for non-swimmers, as well as a kiddie pool. There is also a jumping tower.

Plenty of grass and sand areas around the pools invite visitors to enjoy sun or shade, or you can pretend you are on the beach and take advantage of the beach volleyball field.

Feel free to bring a picnic meal and stay all day. Visitors can also camp on the neighboring campground.

The pool at the Monte Kaolino is open from mid-May to mid-September from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The pool fee is 2 Euros for adults and 1.50

for kids. You can purchase a 10-visit pass for 15 Euros per adult or 10 Euros for kids.

A season pass for adults runs 22 Euros and 12 Euros for kids. A family season pass is 44 Euros.

If you go:

Directions from Grafenwoehr:

Take 299 towards Vilseck and Amberg. Bypass the turn to Vilseck and continue on 299 until just before the village of Grossschöenbrunn. There, take the left turn indicating six km to Hirschau.

Once you enter Hirschau, stay on the main road. Take a left at the second traffic light (a four-way intersection), and then follow the road signs to Monte Kaolino.

Directions from Vilseck:

Exit the main gate and head toward the town of Vilseck. In Vilseck, take a left through one of the town gates and proceed across the market square. Just before you exit the town, you will see a right turn indicating the way to Hirschau. Once you enter Hirschau, stay on the main road. Take a left at the second traffic light (a four-way intersection), and then follow the road signs to Monte Kaolino.

Garrison Grafenwoehr MWR programs win IMA awards

IMA-E press release

Nineteen Morale Welfare and Recreation programs from the Installation Management Agency Europe Region have been selected to compete with other Army recreation programs worldwide.

MWR officials say the programs that won this year's regional awards in Germany, Belgium and Italy stand a good chance of taking top honors in the annual awards program in August.

The 2006 IMA regional awards recognized outstanding individuals and programs that have provided noteworthy MWR recreation activities at Army garrisons in Europe. MWR officials base their predictions of success in Army-wide competition on last year's performance.

The following individuals and programs have been selected as regional winners and now move on to All-Army competition:

■ Outstanding Garrison Recreation Program, Medium-size community: **USAG Vicenza, Italy**

■ Outstanding Recreation Employee of the Year: Vance V. Penn, Sports and Fitness Director – **USAG Darmstadt, Germany**

■ Friend of Recreation John Beamish, **USAG Vicenza, Italy**
Gail Hauserman, **USAG Hessen, Germany**

Don Reichert, **USAG Benelux, Belgium**
Robert D. Snell, **USAG**

Grafenwoehr, Germany

■ Recreation Career Award Charles J. Decelle, Auto Skills Manager – **USAG Vicenza, Italy**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Arts & Crafts
Medium: **USAG Heidelberg, Germany**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Auto Skills

Medium: **USAG Vicenza, Italy**

Large: **USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Entertainment

Medium: **USAG Heidelberg, Germany**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Library

Small: **USAG Garmisch, Germany**

Medium: **USAG Bamberg, Germany**

Large: **USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation

Medium: **USAG Mannheim, Germany**

Large: **USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Recreation Center

Medium: **USAG Wiesbaden, Germany**

■ Outstanding Recreation Program – Sports & Fitness

Medium: **USAG Vicenza, Italy**

Large: **USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany**

Bavarian News Health Corner

Don't spoil summer fun with unsafe food practices

by Capt. MATTHEW PERRY

USAG G Environmental Science Officer

As I stepped out of my house this past weekend for a leisurely bike ride with my family I was greeted by the wonderful aroma of wildflowers that grow around our little neighborhood.

As we boarded our bikes, strapped the kids in the back seat and headed off, I caught another wonderfully familiar aroma.

This scent brought back fond memories of family gatherings, sunburns, and lots of potato salads. It was the smell of a barbecue. This past weekend was one of America's most popular barbecue weekends, the 4th of July.

So, I thought it would be fitting to write a little about food safety as the summer gets hotter and the urge to fire up the grill gets harder to suppress.

It is estimated that over 76 million people each year get sick from eating bad food. Of these, 325,000 people require hospitalization and around 5,000 people die.

The most common place to get food poisoning is in your own home, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Of the reported food-borne outbreaks, 39 percent occurred at home, 33 percent at restaurants, 8.7 percent at schools, and 5.2 percent at camps, churches, and picnics.

There are multiple things that can make food unsafe to eat: bacteria, viruses, parasites, chemicals (cleaning

agents, pesticides, etc.) and physical objects (metal or glass chips, etc).

The vast majority of food contamination cases are from bacteria, and the three major culprits that contaminate food are *E. coli* O157:H7, *Campylobacter*, and *Salmonella*. These bacteria are commonly found in the intestinal tracts of warm blooded animals. Therefore, the first line of defense in preventing food contamination is good personal hygiene.

This includes proper hand washing and maintaining a clean work environment. This may be difficult for those of us who consider grilling an outdoor sport. When preparing and storing the food, make sure to do it completely indoors and covered.

Be sure to start any cooking project by washing your hands with soap and water and completely drying with a clean towel. Be sure you cook in a clean environment by sanitizing cooking instruments, countertops, and other food contact surfaces before and during the cooking process. This is particularly important for cutting boards and utensils. Changing between activities include a trip to the sink for thorough hand washing.

Once the food is ready to grill, be sure to cook it at the right temperature. Different foods require different minimum cooking temperatures and times (see box). Improperly cooked food is one of the most common reasons for food-borne illnesses.

Once properly cooked, the foods should be kept outside of what is called the "Temperature Danger Zone." This is a temperature range between 40-140 degrees F and very favorable for bacterial growth.

If food does enter this zone, it should be reheated to 165 degrees F before being served.

After being in the zone for four cumulative hours, it is recommended that the food be discarded. Cold leftovers, if maintained at the proper holding temperature of below 40°F, can be retained for up to 24 hours.

Hot leftovers, if maintained above 140 degrees F, can be retained for up to five hours. Beyond this time, both the cold and hot leftovers should be discarded.

Don't let improper hygiene and cooking practices make your summertime grilling an unpleasant experience.

Practice food safety by washing your hands frequently, working in a clean environment, and be sure to prepare, cook, and store your foods at the proper temperatures for the proper time.

- Poultry, stuffed foods, leftovers — 165 °F for 15 seconds
- Pork roasts/chops, ground beef and eggs — 155 °F for 15 seconds
- Beef and lamb, fish and seafood, made to order eggs — 145 °F for 15 seconds

Schoomaker: Army, Marines need funds to fix worn equipment

by STEVEN DONALD SMITH

American Forces Press Service

To successfully prosecute the war against terrorism, the U.S. military needs additional funds to maintain its equipment, the Army chief of staff told Congress June 27.

"To prevail in the long struggle we are now engaged, we must maintain our readiness by resetting those who have deployed through a disciplined, orderly reconstitution of combat power," Army Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said before the House Armed Services Committee. "Our Soldiers' effectiveness depends upon a national commitment to recruit, train, equip and support them properly."

Equipment "reset" actions include repair and replacement of worn hardware. "In simplest terms, our reset program is designed to reverse the effects of combat stress on equipment," Schoomaker said.

The high demand of fighting the war on terror has put a major strain on Army equipment, Schoomaker said, and he pointed to the harsh operating environments in Iraq and Afghanistan as taking a heavy toll on equipment.

In Iraq, crews are driving tanks more than 4,000 miles per year, five times more than the

expected annual usage of 800 miles, he said.

Army helicopters are experiencing usage rates about three times higher than the programmed rate, and trucks are operating five to six times their programmed rate, he said.

"This extreme wear is further exacerbated by the addition of heavy armor kits and other force protection initiatives," he said. "The compounding effect of increasing tempo and severe operating conditions in combat is decreasing the life of our equipment."

Schoomaker said that since Sept. 11, 2001, the Army has reset 1,900 aircraft, more than 14,000 track vehicles, almost 110,000 wheeled vehicles, and thousands of other items. By the end of fiscal 2006 in three months, the Army will have placed 290,000 major items into reset.

About 280,000 major pieces of equipment will remain in theater and will not be reset until a troop drawdown is implemented, he added.

Schoomaker said the Army has been historically under-resourced. "There were about \$56 billion in equipment shortages at the opening of the ground campaign in Iraq in the spring of 2003," he said.

At the height of World War II, defense expenditures exceeded 38 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. Today defense

expenditures account for about 3.8 percent of the GDP, and are projected to shrink, he said.

"We are going in the direction of our NATO allies," Schoomaker said.

He stressed that this trend must be reversed, and the Army's plan to reset its equipment falls in line with its transformation strategy.

"Reset is a cost of war that must not be borne at the expense of our modernization efforts," he said. "We must not mortgage the future readiness of the force by focusing our resources solely on the current challenges."

The Army's requirement for reset in fiscal 2007 is \$17.1 billion. This includes the \$4.9 billion that was deferred from the Army request for fiscal 2006.

In accordance with the White House's Office of Management and Budget and Defense Department policy, the Army relies on supplemental funds to pay for its reset program. This is because current reset costs are directly tied to damage and wear from contingency operations. But these funds do not cover general reset costs.

"There is an invalid belief on the part of some that the Army is getting well on supplemental funding," Schoomaker said. "That is an incorrect statement. Supplemental funding is paying for

the costs of the war. It is not correcting the hole in the force that existed at the start of the war. That must be paid for under our base program."

The Army expects the requirement beyond fiscal 2007 to be about \$13 billion per year, Schoomaker said, and emphasized that whatever goes unfunded in one year carries over to the following year, which increases that year's requirement, "and thus reducing readiness of the force."

Also testifying June 27 was Marine Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, who also emphasized the need for more money to fix worn equipment.

"We need to provide proper resources for these great young men and women (in uniform) that we have out there, and ensure we maintain the best fighting force the world has seen," Hagee said.

As of Oct. 1, 2005, the Marine Corps estimate to reset its equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan was \$11.7 billion, he said.

Though \$5.1 billion was approved in this year's supplemental budget, the Marine Corps still needs the rest of the money, said Hagee.

"Our top line for FY 07 is \$18.2 billion," he said. "Obviously, there is no way that we could absorb the reset costs in our top line."

Hohenfels shuts out Grafenwoehr, 27-10

Story and photo by KATHY JORDAN

Contributing writer

A triple eliminator tournament was held at the Vilseck Triplex Ball Field June 30 through July 3.

Eight teams competed in the four-day event. Hohenfels' 1/4 Infantry faced off against Grafenwoehr's civilian team during the final game.

Hohenfels defeated the civilians 27-10 to take home the title after a seven-inning play.

Grafenwoehr took an early lead, closing the first inning 5-0, but Hohenfels caught up and stayed neck-and-neck with Grafenwoehr through the second inning.

Hohenfels had a breakout third inning that notched their score up 13 points, a lead they kept for the remainder of the game.

Grafenwoehr's Frank McKoy and Donald Bunn each had a home run.

Hohenfels' Tom Louis, Jeff Norman, and Joe Shipp each had two home runs.

"It was a great tournament," said Tony Lee, the recreation program chief.

"We had a couple of teams that came to play from other areas, and we enjoyed them coming to play. Everybody had a good time," he said.

The 2006 Army Europe MWR softball unit level championship will be held Aug. 3-6 at Grafenwoehr starting at 10 a.m.

Contact your local MWR for more information on the championship.



Grafenwoehr shortstop Donald Bunn charges toward the ball during a championship game against Hohenfels' 1/4 Infantry team at the Vilseck Triplex June 30-July 3.

Cheerleading camp set Sept. 1-3

DoDDS-E press release

Kaiserslautern High School will host a Universal Cheer Association Cheerleading Camp over the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-3.

This camp is open to all prospective high school cheerleaders across Europe, and all schools sponsoring a cheer team in the fall are encouraged to attend.

The material covered is current and highly informative. Participants can expect to learn cheers, sideline chants, dances, partner stunts and safety techniques, and to leave the training

with better skills and techniques.

Training also covers teamwork and how an individual contributes to the success of a team.

DoDDS-Europe has sanctioned this event, but it will be at no cost to DoDDS-E, which will not provide transportation or other funding for the participants or trainers. The cost of this camp is \$100 per student.

A Coaches Camp will run simultaneously. Topics covered will include cheerleading goals and objectives, holding tryouts and selecting a team, choreography, competition preparation

and a range of others.

It is a valuable, safety-oriented clinic for all adults involved in cheerleading. The cost is \$30.

The Universal Cheer Association is the largest cheerleading camp and competition company in the world, conducting over 1,100 camp sessions each summer in over 450 locations in the United States and Europe.

For more information, call Jane Varalli, the Kaiserslautern High School cheer coach at DSN 489-7541 or CIV 0631-54354, or e-mail jane.varalli@eu.dodea.edu.

AFN ending radio play-by-play sports

Staff report

The Department of Defense announced July 5 that American Forces Network will stop broadcasting play-by-play sports on radio later this summer.

The decision to discontinue live play-by-play sports on radio was based upon a series of Department of Defense worldwide audience surveys of military members and civilian employees stationed overseas, which showed the preference of viewers to watch sports, rather than just listen to them.

"Over the last year, there have been numerous changes to AFN radio," said Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs, the AFN-Bavaria station manager. "Everything is being done based on audience surveys. Music isn't changed and programs aren't taken off the air unless it's to improve the quality for our listeners."

"That's why I encourage people to participate in surveys or take the time out to let their local AFN station know what programming will make them happy," she said.

The impact of live sports on overseas local affiliate radio schedules was also factored into the decision.

"AFN audiences prefer to watch the greater variety of sports on television rather than listen to them on the radio," said Robert Matheson, director of broadcasting at the AFN Broadcast Center in Riverside, Calif.

"When radio sports coverage comes on, most listeners tune out. Our mission is better served when the largest possible audience tunes in to non-sports programming and spends more time listening."

AFN radio play-by-play sports broadcasts were, as recently as 10 years ago, broadly listened to. Since then, AFN television sports coverage has expanded exponentially.

"More and more sports fans have been turning to AFN television for the greater variety of sports," Matheson observed. "We used to air only one or two TV games a week. Now, since the introduction of AFN-sports and recently AFN-xtra, our multiple AFN television services, including AFN-prime, carry nearly 80 events a week."

Most play-by-play sports on AFN Radio ended with the conclusion of the NBA Championships.

Some motor sports programming will remain on AFN radio's schedule in order to complete their seasons, with the Sept. 9 NASCAR Nextel Cup race from Richmond International Raceway scheduled to be the final AFN radio sports play-by-play broadcast.

"We signed agreements with the Motor Racing Network and the Indy Racing League before reassessing our approach to radio sports," Matheson said.

"We'll honor those agreements."

DoDDS-E announces teacher of year nominees

DoDDS-E press release

The five DoDDS-Europe District Superintendent's Offices have announced the selection of their 2007 Teacher of the Year nominees.

Bavaria DSO — Stephan Zappey is a German immersion teacher for the early childhood grades at Patch Elementary School in Stuttgart, Germany.

He joined DoDDS-E and the faculty at Patch in 2001.

Heidelberg DSO — Karen Van Balen teaches fourth grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Heidelberg, Germany.

She began her DoDDS-E career at Würzburg Elementary School in 1970.

Isles DSO — Barbara Lee has been an educator for 30 years and has taught at Lakenheath High School, Lakenheath, United Kingdom, since 1993.

She teaches algebra, geometry and math analysis.

Kaiserslautern DSO — Jacqueline Gustafarro is a literacy coach at Wetzel Elementary School, Baumholder, Germany.

She has been DoDDS-Europe teacher for 25 years and has been at Wetzel since 2002.

Mediterranean DSO — Vicki L. O'Brien teaches physical education and health at the Livorno Unit School, Camp Darby, Italy. She has taught for DoDDS for 17 years.

The five will be among DoD educators around the world to be considered for selection as the representative of the Department of Defense Education Activity at the national level of the program.

Winners are invited to Washington, D.C., for the final round of selection and to meet senior educational and political leaders.

Winners will not be announced until the spring.

DoDDS-Europe participates in the National Teacher of the Year program through an invitation extended to DoDEA by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

It is underwritten with the assistance of corporate sponsors.

For more information on the CCSSO and the National Teacher of the Year Program, visit http://www.ccsso.org/projects/national_teacher_of_the_year/.

The mission of the National Teacher of the Year program is to recognize and honor contributions of the American classroom teacher and to focus attention on excellence in teaching.

It is an opportunity for DoDDS-E to highlight the significant role its teachers play in the lives of students whose parents serve their nation overseas.



Zappey



Van Balen



Gustafarro



Lee



O'Brien

Winners will be invited to Washington, D.C. for the final round selection and to meet educational and political leaders.

Flag football officials clinic set July 25-29 in Schwetzingen

IMA-E press release

Western Kentucky University veteran sports official Steve Rey, a member of the Intramural-Recreational Sports Branch, has been selected to present the 2006 Flag Football Officials Clinic at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Training and Development Center, in Schwetzingen, Germany, July 25-29.

The yearly clinics prepare garrison officials to officiate clinics at their installations for Installation Management Agency-Europe MWR Child and Youth Services and other military programs.

During the training, clinic attendees will learn the current flag football rules, points of emphasis and field mechanics.

The clinic will culminate with a written test and practical examination which consists of on the field officiating during the 2006 IMA-E MWR Flag Football Tournament at Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen.

The tournament begins July 29 at 9 a.m.

For information on becoming a sports official, contact Tom Hlavacek at the MWR Training and Development Center at DSN 379-7693 or Tom Benson at the Heidelberg Sports Office at DSN 373-6460.



Rey

Head Start offers basics of language, culture

Continued From Page 1

Head Start, so this is pretty intense."

Under normal circumstances, Head Start is a five-day class that includes a trip to Amberg, where Soldiers are given an opportunity to test their new knowledge.

"Because of the large numbers, logistically it doesn't work to make the trip," said Baker.

And the program schedule isn't the only change Head Start is undergoing to accommodate the new troop population. The

instructor staff has increased from two to 10, with an additional five instructors on call.

"They've been great," said Baker. "They're the real stars of this program."

Head Start graduate Sgt. Maj. Lance Dyckman agrees.

"Our teacher, Frau Kuhn, was very effective because you could bring up a specific situation and she would enlighten you with her perspective as a German," said Dyckman.

Despite the heavy student load and many changes that the program is undergoing, the

Soldiers will still receive a comprehensive introduction to Germany.

"They will learn a little bit of language, a little bit of culture, a little bit of history," said Baker. They will also learn "how to set up a telephone and Internet account, ask directions, order food, and do so politely.

"The most valuable information," said Dyckman, "was on operating systems, specifically, how to validate bus and train tickets, and things like that.

"If we didn't learn the right way to do these

things we could end up with a fine or just an embarrassing situation," he said. "If you truly want to save yourself some grief, spend the time and take the course."

"I mainly want to learn about the culture," said Spc. Cody Wehmeyer, "so I don't go out and make a fool of myself."

Head Start is open to spouses on a space-available basis. However, due to the large number of Soldiers who will take seats in the Head Start program, spouses are urged to sign up for the Welcome to Bavaria program.

Complete registration crucial for new school year

Continued From Page 1

"What we want to avoid is everyone rushing to the schools at the last minute, or even on the first day of school," said Vojtecky.

Although the schools are open through the summer, parents are encouraged to call their child's school before visiting due to varying lunch and office hours.

Last-minute registrations could result in students not being placed in the courses they want or not being able to begin school on time.

"The other dilemma that students

may face," said Vojtecky, "is that if they don't have the required documents and the school tells parents that early enough, it will give them a few weeks to get shot records, orders, or whatever paperwork they need.

"And if students have special needs requirements, the earlier the school can be advised of that, the better the child's education can proceed," he said.

The number of classes the middle and high school will have is based on a master schedule, which is based on the number of students that have registered. Accurate counts cannot be

made without a relatively accurate registration count, said Vojtecky.

Parents should also turn in free and reduced lunch applications as soon as possible as eligibility letters will be mailed out beginning Aug. 1.

Parents can register their children at the school they will attend.

Middle school students (grades six through eight) can register at the Grafenwoehr Elementary School.

At the time of registration, parents can pick up their child's class schedule and supply list. Supply lists are also posted at the Main Post Exchange in Vilseck.

Parents should also stop by the School Bus Office located at the Vilseck Elementary School.

The new Grafenwoehr Middle School will consist of approximately 30 classrooms with covered walkways. Vojtecky said he recently toured the building and he thinks parents will be pleased with the accommodations.

The temporary middle school will be used for approximately 18 months, after which the faculty and nearly 300 students will move to the permanent middle school in the Netzaberg community, also currently under

construction.

Vojtecky said the Netzaberg school is expected to be completed by January 2008.

Construction of a new school bus lane, which will be shared by the Grafenwoehr elementary and middle schools, is expected to be complete by Aug. 28, the first day of school.

Renovation and construction at Vilseck High School will last through summer 2008.

Construction of an annex at the Vilseck Elementary School will be complete by July 2007.

Welcome class available for 2SCR spouses

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information from ACS, and a final German language survival class.

In addition to the classroom instruction, three trips to local communities are scheduled. Spouses may go on to test their knowledge or simply enjoy the area outings.

ACS will send groups to Amberg July 21 and Aug. 15, and to Weiden Aug. 4.

And if anyone needs more motivation to sign up, Cunningham said there is a free raffle for participants.

"We are giving away three \$50 savings bonds, one for each month. On the last class of each month a winner will be chosen. Just learning about the area we live in and the cultural differences are the most important things," said Cunningham, who has lived in Germany for 22 years.



Cunningham

Welcome to Bavaria is free of charge and held at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Classes are from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. Free childcare is offered for participants.

Upcoming classes are as follows:

July 18-20	July 25-27
Aug. 1-3	Aug. 8-10
Aug. 15-17	Sept. 12-14
Sept. 19-21	Sept. 26-28

To register for the program or one of the local trips, call or visit ACS.

Those who require childcare should register as early as possible. Childcare will not be available for the Aug. 8-10 class.

Officials study Supreme Court decision

by DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

Last month's Supreme Court decision specifically invites the administration to work with Congress to change the law so it can try some detainees through military tribunals, senior officials from the Departments of Justice and Defense said June 29.

The Supreme Court ruled 5-3 that military commissions for detainees charged with war crimes would violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice and four Geneva Conventions.

While ruling against military tribunals for detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as they currently stand, the court's decision notes that "nothing prevents the administration from going to Congress to seek the authorities it feels are necessary," an official told reporters via teleconference.

In fact, Justice Stephen Breyer offered "an implicit invitation" encouraging the administration to do so, he noted.

President Bush said this morning he would explore this option in hopes of determining a way forward.

Defense and Justice officials called the Supreme Court ruling "a very significant decision" and said they are studying it to assess its full implications.

"The Supreme Court has spoken," an official said. "We are carefully reviewing that decision."

In the meantime, "all options are on the table" regarding the next course of action, an official said.

Today's decision directly affects only 14 detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Ten of them were already facing commissions on charges of violating the laws of war.

Charges had been prepared for another four detainees, but they had not yet been arraigned, a defense official said.

However, officials said the decision could ultimately affect 40 to 80 detainees who are expected to be charged in the future.

Nothing in the decision takes issue with the detention of some 450 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, officials emphasized.

"The court recognizes that this is a unique conflict against a unique enemy and in fact a dangerous one," an official said.

"The court was not questioning" the right to

detain these enemy combatants during hostilities, he said.

White House Press Secretary Tony Snow issued a similar sentiment during the June 29 White House briefing.

"Nobody gets a 'get out of jail free card,'" he said of the decision.

Snow acknowledged that the war on terror poses new considerations. "This is a different kind of war and I think it creates a different kind of legal atmosphere," he said.

The June 29 decision was based on the case Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, filed on behalf of Salim Ahmed Hamdan. A former driver and bodyguard for al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Hamden was picked up in Afghanistan in late 2001 and turned over to U.S. officials. He has been detained at Guantanamo Bay since 2002.

Hamdan challenged the legality of the U.S. government trying him for alleged war crimes before a military commission under a presidential order. Hamdan argued that he was entitled to a court-martial convened under the U.S. Code of Military Justice or a civilian trial before a federal judge.

Army Career and Alumni Program Web sports new look

ACAP press release

Staying in tune with Army Transformation, the Army Career and Alumni Program has transformed its ACAP On-Line Web site to meet the changing needs of its various audiences.

This transformation gives the Web site a more modern look and provides eight user paths, each tailored to a specific client population.

The paths are Army leaders, the active duty component, Army Reserve component, retirees, Army veterans, DA civilians, family members, and employers.

ACAP leaders point out that reasons behind the new look and specific paths are more important than the changes themselves.

The primary reason is to improve service to all users by giving them faster and more direct access to information they seek.

Another reason is to erase the perception of some that ACAP had tended to follow a "one size fits all" approach in reaching out to constituent client populations.

Still another is the desire to more accurately reflect ACAP's basic mission to provide full employment assistance services while providing basic information and making appropriate referrals for other transition assistance.

The redesign essentially places all client groups on equal status as group members follow tailored paths to satisfy their information needs.

The transformed ACAP On-Line adds an Army Leaders path that explains the program from the leader's perspective.

In addition to giving leaders basic information about ACAP, this path enables leaders to read or download a special PowerPoint presentation that provides a more

detailed "Army leader perspective on ACAP."

The Web site redesign also highlights a feature designed for users who want more guidance as they research transition and job assistance information.

That feature, the Personal Coach, appears only on the Active Component path and guides the user more precisely through the various transition steps.

ACAP On-Line can be accessed at www.acap.army.mil. It complements the 36 ACAP centers and 18 satellite offices worldwide that provide transition and employment assistance services to more than 70,000 transitioning personnel annually.

Persons familiar with the Web site see it as a valuable Army tool that enables Soldiers anywhere in the world to access essential transition information.

Army holds hurricane response exercise based on lessons learned

by STEVEN DONALD SMITH

American Forces Press Service

Incorporating the lessons learned from last year's devastating hurricane season, the Army held a hurricane response exercise at Fort Belvoir, Va., June 28.

"We're practicing and rehearsing what task each command would have to execute as they go through their operational mission," said Army Col. Kenneth Madden, the Army officer in charge of the exercise.

The exercise was held in the Wells Field House and was hosted by the Army Operations Center.

Participants included various Army commands, the National Guard Bureau, U.S. Northern Command, the Joint Director of Military Support and the Defense Logistics

Agency. A Federal Emergency Management Agency representative also was present.

The exercise highlighted where Army resources, such as personnel and equipment, are located and how to coordinate these resources to better respond to a hurricane. Streamlining the response process will enhance the mission capability, Army officials said.

"Basically, we are working to simplify the process so that we can streamline some of our efforts differently than pre-Hurricane Katrina," said Edwin Murphy, a Defense Logistics Agency action officer.

The DLA responsibility is to support FEMA in the areas of homeland defense and natural disaster response. The agency examines what the response requirements are, such as food, water and tents, and how to get these resources to the people who need them.

The exercise included a giant floor map that showed where all the Army resources are located.

"The map is like big chess board," said Army Lt. Col. Anthony Dellabersano, an Army Corp of Engineers watch officer. "It allows us to position assets on the ground and to see what's in play. What we're trying to do here is put in place what reactions the Army needs to have in response to a Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricane."

Dellabersano explained that the Army plays a backup role to the states' National Guard units in responding to domestic disasters. If FEMA determines they need additional help, they will look to regular Army.

Even though the conditions of each natural disaster differ, it is important to examine what went wrong with the previous disaster response to prepare for the next. Sherry Wainwright, a

FEMA assessment analyst, said.

"We had to come up better ways to do things," Wainwright said.

She said FEMA is much more forward-leaning than it has been in the past. For instance, as soon as a storm pops up on the radar screen, FEMA begins notifying the public, "so everyone starts to think preparedness."

"We had to figure out what communications packages we had to push forward," said Madden. "If the balloon goes up, they'll know where to go to get the information that's required."

Before active duty troops can operate domestically, the president must declare a state of emergency and authorize their use under Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

"What we've done here today is look at what we need to do if Title 10 is authorized," said Madden.