

CRUSADER

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Ansbach • Bad Kissingen • Bamberg • Giebelstadt • Illesheim • Kitzingen • Schweinfurt • Wuerzburg



Scouts burn Old Glory in a somber, respectful manner

See Page 10

Postage rates go up



Postage rates increased July 1 on first-class letters and other classes of mail. The first-class mail rate increased from 34 cents to 37 cents. Post cards are now 23 cents; priority mail is now at the one-pound rate of \$3.85. A new 3-cent stamp will be used to make up the difference from the 34-cent stamps. For other rates or more information, contact your local Army Post Office.

Prevent fraud

Interpol has issued a worldwide advisory detailing the West African Advanced Fee Fraud, or West African 419 Fraud. Investigations have identified common themes that include large sums of money to be paid out of the Nigerian government bank. The writers say they are government officials and will share proceeds in excess of \$35 million dollars. Should individuals receive this e-mail, don't respond, but delete it. For more information, go to www.met.police.uk/fraudalert/419.htm or send an e-mail to cid137@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil.

Take online classes

The Army has created one of the most innovative programs of higher education in the world – Army University Access Online, or eArmyU. It provides access to education for enlisted soldiers across the globe, helping them further their professional and personal goals. It supports the goal of transforming the military into an objective force capable of responding to the diverse and complex demands of the 21st century. For more information, log on to www.earmy.com.

Don't wait in line

Avoid waiting in lines during the high travel season at your local SATO travel office by using the alternatives. You can make your travel arrangements by fax, by phone, by e-mailing your request to stuttgart@satotravel.com, and through the Internet at www.satotravel.com. If you prefer to make your arrangements in person, travel agents are available in local offices Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, contact your SATO office.

Avoid retirement scam

The Army Benefit Center-Civilian, or ABC-C, has reported a potential scam that focuses on retirement. Individuals call, claiming their company has a government contract to provide retirement counseling. The Office of Personnel Management and ABC-C do not contact employees or annuitants by phone and request personal information. Employees who are contacted should ask the caller to clearly identify him- or herself, the name of the company the caller represents, and the purpose of the requested information.

AFN gets new e-mail address

If you would like to contact American Forces Network, or AFN, to request a spot or announcement about events within your community, e-mail AFN Wuerzburg at its new address: afnwuerzburg@afn.wuerzburg.army.mil.

Unit picnic changes

The 98th ASG Chaplain's Unit Ministry Team anniversary picnic in Giebelstadt has changed to Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call SFC Esaias Jackson at 351-4213 or (0931) 2964213.

Hospital parking a sticky mess

by Roger Teel

U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

As most visitors will agree, parking at the U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, is a sticky situation.

The scarcity of spaces has long been a problem, one that several hospital commanders have grappled with in the past.

Current commander Col. Ray Tomkins looks at the issue with an eye to the future.

"The good news is we've funded a study to prove we need more parking. We're looking at

building park decks and adding spaces that overall will add about 250 parking spots," Tomkins said recently. "So we've taken the first step."

"The bad news is that these spaces – if the project is approved by Congress – won't be available for three to five years," he added.

Until then, parking will be scarce for everyone, and those parking improperly will be stuck, literally, with insufficient parking.

The recent repaving of the staff parking area severely impacted the number of available spaces and raised the issue to new heights. With

the number of parking spots diminished, due, in part, to some staff members parking in patient parking areas, many vehicles were improperly parked in emergency access areas, no parking zones, and even in handicapped parking areas.

This is where the issue gets sticky.

Hospital security officer Joseph Albina is responsible for regulating parking at the facility. He and his team monitor the parking lots throughout the day, correcting staff members who park in patient parking areas and ensuring parking is being done properly.

See **PARKING** on Page 11



Lisa Eichhorn

Caps off – we're finished

Graduates of Ansbach American Middle/High School celebrate with the traditional tossing of the caps just after they received their diplomas at an evening ceremony June 7. The 22 graduates had the opportunity to say a few words to those people who helped them most throughout their school careers. Some of the testimonials thanked parents and family members; some thanked the makers of video games and Sesame Street. The students now depart Ansbach, some going to college, some planning to join the military, and some pursuing other goals.

Preferences handy for job applicants

by Mark Heeter

CRUSADER

Although the process of applying for appropriated fund, or AF, positions might be a daunting task, what happens behind the scenes at the civilian personnel advisory center, or CPAC, during the selection process is equally challenging.

"First, you have a referral list for a Department of the Army Civilian, or DAC, position. Then you have different categories. And within those categories, preferences apply," said Uschi Mauder, human resources specialist with the 98th ASG and 280th BSB CPAC.

In some cases, veterans and military spouses have preference over other qualified candidates, depending on the list the selecting manager

chooses to employ.

At an absolute minimum, managers looking to fill a permanent, appropriated fund position will receive a competitive referral list.

"That would always be USAREUR employees or USAREUR-serviced employees in the organization of the directorate with the vacancy. That's the minimum area," Mauder said.

On such a competitive list, candidates with military spouse preference are followed by those with family member preference, family members without preference, and those applying under the Veterans' Employment Opportunity Act, or VEOA.

"Whether the manager wants it or not, these individuals will show up on the referral list,"

Mauder said.

A selecting manager can simultaneously request a list from sources other than the competitive-eligible list. For example, these other sources could include a list of candidates under the Veterans' Readjustment Act, or VRA.

"Even though a manager is required to get the competitive-eligible list, he is not required to make a selection from that list if he, at the same time, gets the VRA list," said Cheryl White, 98th ASG CPAC civilian personnel officer.

"A manager may or may not, at his choosing, select from a VRA list," White said, adding that some veterans are not clear on the managers' use of different lists in the selection process.

See **APPLICANTS** on Page 6

Tick time lasts until fall

by Olivia Feher

CRUSADER

Tick season, which lasts from spring through early fall, is in full swing in southern Germany.

Although it's rare, being bitten by one of the tiny blood suckers can result in body weakness, Lyme disease, or early summer meningitis.

The best way to avoid ticks is to stay away from the places where they live. Ticks are often picked up by people and pets during walks in tall grass or woods.

Children and pets are especially susceptible because they're closer to, and more likely to roll about, on the ground. On the whole, only a small percentage of the critters actually carry a disease.

"The sooner a tick is removed, the less risk there is of disease. The tick has got to be sucking blood for several hours before disease is transmitted," said Dr. Jim McLauchlan, a veterinarian with the 72nd Medical Detachment, Wuerzburg.

McLauchlan recommends using an anti-tick liquid, which is available at vet clinics and is effective for about four weeks.

"After removal of a tick, 99 percent of the time there will be nothing more than a bump, which is an inflammatory reaction. It's normal and works to eject any leftover parts of the tick," McLauchlan said.

Pets should be treated with the anti-tick liquid on a regular basis. It's waterproof and also helps prevent spreading disease.

This treatment doesn't prevent ticks from being picked up. Rather, it shortens the time the tick remains on the animal and kills the tick when it feeds.

For more information on ticks, call the veterinary clinic on Leighton Barracks at 350-7429 or (0931) 8897429, or the U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, family practice clinic at 350-3740 or (0931) 8043740.

Community focus

What we say to ATMs
Most people who talk back to ATM machines aren't giving compliments.



Source: BMRB Int'l for NCR By: Elaine Nicholas

Stay safe – swim only in authorized areas



Feedback: The backbone of a community's relationship to its citizens

The old saying that you can't fix something if you don't know its broken is certainly true when you're running a community, regardless of its size.

While we have self assessment processes, listening to our citizens lets us know what our community strengths and weaknesses are, and where customer dissatisfaction lies. Knowing where the unresolved issues are allows us to tackle them immediately and then adjust for the future.

While some may view feedback mechanisms as producing only negative input about performance of service, which could be held against the organization concerned, I see this as a shortsighted view. We need to know how our service agencies are perceived by our customers so that we can be sure we're on the right track.

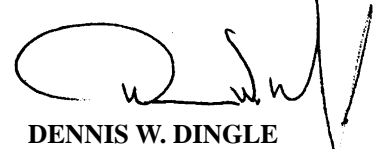
We already have several good methods for providing feedback - town hall meetings, single soldier forums and organization customer feedback forms in each of the service organizations. I encourage you to take advantage of these as appropriate. Additionally, there are hot lines in each base support battalion

where community members can call with their comments, whether positive, constructive, or critical.

My charter to supervisors and managers is simple: Be receptive to feedback from staff and customers, and respond to it. And we have to get beyond "waiting for it to show up at our door", we have to solicit it. We have to find out what's not working as well as it should and make it better.


Results of this system, and that it works, can be seen throughout the 98th ASG communities. Your input is necessary, so please take the opportunity and continue to help us serve you better.

Means of communication only work if we use them.
Team of Teams!



DENNIS W. DINGLE
Colonel, Air Defense Artillery
98th Area Support Group Commander

Thumbs up - Thumbs down

 Thumbs up to **Marnie Keller, Andy Bailey, Michelle Higgins and Angie Carrisalez** for their assistance in my classroom. Each of them volunteered many hours this school year and I am grateful for their help and support.

Karee Hodge and her 20 first-graders, Kitzingen

Thumbs up to the entire staff of the **U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, and dental facilities** for making the June 1 Retirees Health Day a very rewarding experience. Everyone there, from military to civilians, donated their personal time to ensure military retirees receive at least an annual checkup. You are true professionals.

Thomas Marlett and Michael Warner, Wuerzburg

Thumbs up to the **Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Jenny's Schnitzel House, Andrews Federal Credit Union, Coca-Cola, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division**, for sponsoring the May Day Mad Dash on May 4. Their enormous donations made the event a success. Thank you, committee members, for all of your hard work organizing the event, and a special thanks to 1st Military Police Company and all other volunteers for providing your time and expertise the day of the run.

Nicole Campbell, Wuerzburg

Thumbs up to **Tony Dingman**, a computer technician in the Schweinfurt community, for his assistance in getting our computers back on line during a critical time where we had participants waiting to be seen at our Women, Infants, and Children overseas office. He was professional, knowledgeable, and very responsive to our needs. I also want to thank his supervisor, **Ronnie Brown**, for allowing him to address our issues immediately.

Jenny Roper, Schweinfurt

Thumbs up to **Mike Parker**, a clerk at the clothing sales store on Leighton Barracks, for

his professionalism. His politeness is impeccable.


James Joyce, Wuerzburg

Thumbs up to the **Adler Club staff**, who helped make Company B, 299th Forward Support Battalion's „Couples' Night Out“ a great evening. They stayed late with us and were absolutely wonderful.

Joey Klein, Schweinfurt

Thumbs up to **everyone involved** in the "Cinderella" production held April 18-19 at the Abrams Entertainment Center. The production was well produced and beautifully performed by the actors.

Fred Conrad and Nancy Dauber, Schweinfurt

 Thumbs down to the **travel section** at the finance office on Leighton Barracks. Whenever I have to turn in a travel voucher, the attendant is rude, slow, and ignores customers that are waiting, either by talking on the phone or shuffling papers. It has taken me up to three times to drop off forms.

Elaine Nicholas, Wuerzburg

Thumbs down to **certain parents** for trying to pull rank at a recent 235th BSB baseball tournament in Katterbach. Our coaches and umpires are volunteers. The behavior you exhibited was unacceptable to everyone. It's only a baseball game. The kids were having fun in whatever they were doing.

Parents of junior baseball players in Ansbach

* * *

"Thumbs up - Thumbs down" is about people who do a good job. It's also about people who need to be more considerate of others. This column is not about institutions, units, agencies or situations that could be subject to legal action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Submissions must be brief and include the writer's name and telephone number and include the first and last name of the person identified. The identity of the submitter will be published along with the comments.

Send comments to Thumbs up-Thumbs down: CRUSADER; 98th ASG PAO; Unit 26622; APO AE 09244. Or bring them to room 216, building 208, Faulenberg Kaserne, Wuerzburg. Phone-in submissions will not be accepted.

Fun for some too noisy for other residents

Many people are affected by noise, and especially during the summer months, noise complaints increase. We must be aware that excessive noise enjoyed by some can make life miserable for others. The letter printed below was sent to the Crusader and shows just how much noise can impact on quality of life.

Living in the city has its benefits. Public transportation is readily available, fresh bread is just right down the street, as well as a variety of restaurants. However, with the good comes the bad, namely traffic and loud music.

Living on a street with heavy traffic with approximately 15,000 vehicles in a 16-hour period makes living a loud affair. Our homes mean so much to us that moving is not an option, especially when we have lived here most of our lives.

What makes us angry is, in addition to the traffic, we have to endure the unnecessary noise terror that comes from cars and stereos of both American and German drivers.

When you are caught in a traffic jam or standing at the intersection, and this is not just in the vicinity of a military installation, you hear this terrible roar; a roar that comes from loud music and causes pain not only in the ears, but in the body as well. Neither sound-proof windows nor walls can ward off this kind of noise.

On warm days, when we like to open our windows, and perhaps sit on the deck and enjoy the day, it's more than unbearable.

When we have asked drivers to please turn down their music, even two days after Sept. 11, we get a cheeky grin and all of a sudden no one even understands English, or German for that matter.

We would be very happy to do without this daily volksfest atmosphere. We just want con-

sideration. How are we supposed to defend ourselves?

It is a known fact that noise makes people ill. It's odd and surprising that we did not encounter this type of noise pollution while traveling in the United States.

If this unnecessary noise would stop, then all residents living on busy streets could enjoy a better quality of life.

Have consideration for your neighbors. Turn your stereo down while stopped at an intersection; turn your stereo down while traveling down crowded streets. Not everyone likes to hear music that loud, and how would you feel if we were to come to your residence and blast music at you?

A solution must be found where drivers conduct themselves in a way where others are not negatively affected. On German roads this is a law. In German neighborhoods, even where American live, it's the law. One must not make excessive noise.

Christine Boos
Wuerzburg Resident

(Editor's note: This means no loud music or noise at any time, especially during quiet hours which are after 10 p.m. and before 7 a.m. It also means you can't cut your grass or recycle on Sundays. If you persist in breaking the law and being inconsiderate of others, you will more than likely receive a visit from the German authorities.)

Street talk: What's the one thing you've always wanted to do but haven't done?

Photos by CRUSADER staff



Sharon Lutes, family member, Barton Barracks, Ansbach

"I've never learned how to swim, but have always wanted to be able to. Especially now that we're in Germany with all the indoor pools available."



SFC Ernest Kellogg, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 279th BSB Warner Barracks, Bamberg

"I have always wanted to sit in a National Basketball Association locker room, say a little prayer, thank my mom, and go out and win the game."



SSgt. Christopher Jackson, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt

"This actually is not a hard question, but it's a hard question to answer. I'd say racing in the Baja 1000, which is desert racing. That would be a lot of fun."



Robert Baker, Cashier, Leighton Movie Theater, Leighton Barracks, Wuerzburg

"Skydiving, because there isn't anything better than jumping out of a plane... with the parachute."



PFC Michael Wyman, 212th Military Police Company, Barton Barracks, Ansbach

"I have always thought going to the moon to play golf would be cool. I mean how many people could say they've done that, so that's what I've always wanted to do."



Charles Jordan, Bamberg American High School teacher, 279th BSB Warner Barracks, Bamberg

"One of the things I have always wanted to do is take my family on a Caribbean cruise."



PFC Ryan Letts, 38th Personnel Service Battalion, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt

"I'd probably like to take a trip to, like, Spain. I've heard good things about it."



Patty Snell, family member, Company A, 7th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Illesheim

"Go to Hawaii. It seems like a beautiful place to visit. I would go to the beach and check out the history of the islands."

CRUSADER

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Beware of caterpillars



Local health officials warn that reddish-brown caterpillars, currently living in numerous numbers around the Ansbach area, can cause a severe allergic reaction if close contact is made. Although the caterpillars are harmless looking, they have long white hairs that when inhaled can cause allergic reactions like asthma, inflammation of the throat or burning of the skin. The caterpillars cling together in what look like white, spider-like nests on oak trees. The environmental office from the City of Ansbach has blocked off dangerous areas with red and white tape, in coordination with the fire department. The caterpillars have been seen in Eyb, Wannenberg, am Klängenweiher, on B14 at Obereichenbach across from Soldier's Lake, on Meinhardswindener Strasse in Ansbach, and at the sports field at Elpersdorf-Mittelbach. For more information, call 467-2717 or (09802) 832717.

Join theater workshop

The 235th BSB offers a youth theater workshop entitled Puppets and Performance. The workshop for youth age 10-14 is July 8-19 from 10 a.m.-noon. A second workshop for youth age 6-9 is July 15-19 from 10-11 a.m. Those participating will build their own puppets and then create a story, which will be performed in the community. The price for the workshop is \$10 per person to cover expenses for materials. For more information, call 468-7636 or (0981) 183636.

Dine and dance

Enjoy a night of dining and dancing at Eddy's in the Von Steuben Club on Bismarck Kaserne Friday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$4 and includes a beverage. July events include teenagers' night July 12, soul night July 19, and country and western night July 26. For more information, call 467-2925 or (09802) 832925.

Be a star

Compete in this year's Battle of Bands contest Aug. 31 and the Stars of Tomorrow talent contest Sept. 1. Contests will take place daily at 2 p.m. For information, call Viki Hanrahan at 468-7636 or (0981) 183636.

PEP it up

Army Community Service, or ACS, in Ansbach sponsors the People Encouraging People, or PEP, program July 15-18 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. The program includes classes on German customs, Army family team building, and a trip to Nuernburg on the train. Child care vouchers are available. To make your reservation, call 467-2883 or (09802) 832883.

235th BSB

The Crusader, 235th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in building 5257, Barton Barracks, telephone 468-7649 or (0981) 183649. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 235th Base Support Battalion, CMR 463, APO AE 09177.

Internet web site address <http://www.ansbach.army.mil>

The 235th BSB hotline is 468-7800 or (0981) 183800. The patient liaison number is (09841) 83512.

235th BSB
Commander Lt. Col. Parker Schenecker
Public Affairs Officer Frauke Davis
Journalist Lisa Eichhorn

Do Apache pilots own the night?

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

They own the night, that's what Apache pilots from 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry, say. But do they? That's what a German army air defense artillery, or ADA, unit wanted to find out.

On June 12, the German army's 4th Battalion, 81st ADA, from Passau, set up in the woods near the town of Boxburg to see exactly who really does own the night.

From all accounts it was tied.

But according to all who participated, the first-ever training exercise between the two units proved to be invaluable to them both.

"This is the first time we've ever set up to fight against American attack helicopters. Most of our soldiers have never seen one on the ground, let alone in the air. It's great for us to have a chance to learn about the tactics that are used by the pilots and what kinds of things they look for when they're hunting air defense artillery. We're very pleased the American Army wanted to train with us," said Capt. Alois Wagner, vehicle commander.

The unique thing about the German army is that most of the troops are conscripts who serve approximately nine months on active duty. Wagner added that going through continuous training cycles makes doing this kind of training even more important.

"We are so busy training our young soldiers



Lisa Eichhorn

This German Gepard air defense artillery vehicle, waits for the arrival of AH-64 Apaches during a training exercise.

on the basics, we don't often get to do this kind of realistic training with them. So this is invaluable for them and for those of us that are career soldiers," he added.

Pilots were just as excited about the opportunity to train with the host nation's army.

"This is great training for us. We're out on new terrain in an area we don't normally use and

are looking for a real target. This training gives us the kind of experience we need to fight effectively in a real battle," said CWO 4 Leonard Eichhorn, standardization instructor pilot, 2nd Sqd., 6th Cav.

"Plus, we get to work with our partners from the German army, and that spirit of cooperation has been just terrific," he said.

Former Soviet children take day trip to airfield

Learn speaking and listening to English

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

It's usually difficult for children to move to a new country. Learning a new language and a new culture can be overwhelming.

For a growing group of children who moved to Germany from the former Soviet Union, it's not only German they have to learn as part of their schooling, but English as well.

To help a few of these children learn to use their English, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Katterbach Kaserne, invited some students from the Luitpold school in Ansbach to come to the airfield. There, they had the opportunity to look at AH-64 Apache helicopters, plus spend the day speaking and listening in English only.

According to the children's interpreter, Margrit von Einsiedel, many of them come from families of ethnic Germans who lived in Russia.

"After the Berlin Wall came down in 1990, their families immigrated back to Germany. But

because their primary language had been Russian, they had to learn German first. They are now learning English just like regular German students," she said.

The children appeared to enjoy the opportunity to mingle with American soldiers as much as they did using their English language skills.

"Boy, there are lots of switches in a helicopter. I liked using my English today. Talking to the pilots was a little hard because I don't know a lot of their Army words," said 12-year-old Alexander Dreiling, who moved to Germany from Russia six years ago.

"We had a great time with the kids today. I think bringing them here helped them not only learn to use their English, but also helped them understand us a little more. Many of the children were amazed they were on an American Army post. If we can help them understand us and see us in our environment, it can help our community relations a lot," said CWO 2 Paul Carpenter, Company C, 1st Bn., 1st Avn. Rgt.

"This was the most interesting day of my life. I never thought in my life I would be on a U.S. Army post. I liked it very much," said 13-year-old Artur Gotzfried.



Lisa Eichhorn

This lucky German boy gets to try on a survival vest worn by American pilots.



Lisa Eichhorn

Ready for take off

Col David Pate, front, 4th Brigade commander, Katterbach, and his co-pilot give the thumbs up as they do last minute checks for Pate's final flight in an AH-64 Apache helicopter. Pate's flight took more than an hour and upon his return, the Ansbach Fire Department awaited him for the traditional soaking commanders get as they turn over control of the brigade.

New military reading room opens in Ansbach

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

Having a quiet place to go to read and learn more about the history of being a soldier was the intent behind creating the new military reading room at the Ansbach Library.

The day before the Army's birthday, June 13, soldiers and family members gathered for the official opening of this very special library addition.

"I think it's very fitting that we have the grand opening of this room on the eve of the Army's birthday because this room was created to give soldiers an opportunity to learn about the Army's rich history. We've taken all the books from the library that dealt

with military history and placed them in this room. It has been specially designed just for soldiers," said Michael Arden, library manager.

"I saw a room like this at another library and thought we could do something like this here. The room was very underused, so we decided to turn it into what you see today," Arden added.

There are comfortable chairs and conference tables to make it a place where soldiers can take a few minutes and relax. It is also perfect for units to take advantage of when having professional development for their soldiers.

"The only way we can get better in the job we do as soldiers is to study the past so that we can get better for the future. That's

what this room is for," said Lt. Col. Parker Schenecker, 235th BSB commander.

Heading up the project were library volunteers Nancy and Dale Wright, along with their son Nathan, who spent hours going through library books to find those that would fit into the new room.

"We spent most of our spare time here lately, going through the books and getting the room ready. I think it has turned out really great," Nancy said.

For more information on the military reading room and how to reserve it, call Arden at 468-1740 or (0981) 1831740.

Commander takes reigns



Gawkins
Lt. Col. Patrick Gawkins took command of the 38th Personnel Services Battalion June 18, replacing Lt. Col. Barry Swain. Prior to moving to Bamberg, Gawkins was the military secretary to the Operations Directorate Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. Gawkins was born in Aberdeen, Md., and raised in Vernon, N.Y. He and his wife, Diane, have two daughters, Mary Catherine and Colleen.

Groove to music

Listen to the sounds of Elder Ernest Dorsey and the Tahillah Word Project, a gospel musical, at Bamberg's Congress Hall July 20 at 8 p.m. Cost per person is \$15 or €17. For more information, call SFC Marcus Dixon at (0951) 3029698.

See magic shows

Attend several magic shows at Geyerswoorth Castle July 18 and 19 at 8 p.m., and enjoy a musical, magic light show at Bamberg's Maximiliansplatz July 20 at 8 p.m. For more information, call (0951) 201030.

Play bingo

Play bingo with American Red Cross staff at the Whispering Pines Lodge July 17. Dinner starts at 5 p.m., ticket sales at 6 p.m., and games at 7 p.m. For more information, call 469-1760 or (0951) 3001760.

Follow the leader

Attend an Army Family Team Building leadership course at Preston Hall July 9 at 9 a.m. For more information, call Army Community Service at 469-7777 or (0951) 3007777.

Attend command change

Lt. Col. Steven Bullimore will take command of 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, on Centaur Field July 10 at 1 p.m. He is replacing Lt. Col. Mark Mueller. Bullimore was previously assigned to Joint Task Force Civil Support and served as the operations officer and director of training and exercises. He and his wife, Carla, have four children, Max, 14, Mattie, 12, Hilary and Jake, both 9.



Bullimore

Coal to gas change alters skyline

Landmark falls to natural gas tower

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

Bamberg's skyline is changing – the 180-foot red and white striped tower, a landmark at Warner Barracks since 1986, will be torn down in July.

The tower will be dismantled as the heating plant converts from coal to gas. A 60-foot stainless steel tower required for the natural gas system will be erected in the landmark's place.

"The coal heating plant originally built in 1957 is the last of its kind on a U.S. Army installation in Europe," said Juergen Engeter, 279th BSB Directorate of Public Works, or DPW, utilities division chief. He noted that although the coal system was upgraded in the 1980s, a change was inevitable.

The Bamberg City Works' construction crew dismantled the coal boiler system and installed one of three gas boilers last month. Approximately 6,000 tons of coal was burned annually to heat 1,000 homes and 200 facilities on Warner Barracks. The conversion from coal to gas is more environment-friendly.

"Both environmentally and economically burning coal is not feasible any more – it's time



Cheryl Boujnida

The 279th BSB staff watch as heating plant workers assist with the installation of one of three 27-ton boilers.

to modernize," said David Thompson, DPW deputy director. He stressed the new natural gas system will heat housing units and facilities more efficiently and reduce utility costs.

"Until 2000, our coal supply came from the

United States and shipping costs were extremely high. For the past two years, France was the prime exporter and shipped coal via barge, and then it was transported to the installation by rail," Thompson said.

Tone down language in public places

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

Has language gotten out of hand?

Whether standing in line, paying for merchandise, or quietly searching for an evening movie, someone next to you always seems to be using four-lettered words in casual, everyday conversation.

"I find it very offensive when people use swear words in front of me and my family. If you are in a public place you should watch the way you talk and behave accordingly," said Sgt. Crescenio Lamas. He stressed young children should not have to tolerate another person's disregard for manners.

"Even though my children are older, there are many impressionable children listening. As adults, we should set an example," he said.

Gloria Medrano is unaccustomed to hearing profanity used socially and is protective of her 3-year-old daughter.

"When Crisddy hears those types of words, she starts repeating them and she may think it's acceptable conversation," she said.

Medrano's husband, David, is not as strongly opposed as his wife Gloria is, but he is concerned.

"If I'm with guys all day, it's not offensive. But when I'm with my daughter, it's inappropriate. I have not had to ask anyone to refrain from using swear words, but if I have to, I will," he said.

Ana Chambers takes a different approach to curbing offensive language. "I just block it out and tell my daughter Alexia not to repeat what she hears," she said.

People using curse words are unaware of their actions' impact.

"Most often people are not directing their thoughts to strangers – they are just communicating with one another. But it's still awful to listen to," said Mary Thompson, family advocacy program education specialist.

She stressed Hollywood movies are a factor in setting standards.

"More children are viewing PG13-rated movies today as opposed to G-rated movies. The PG13-rated movies could be G-rated if language was toned down and profanity was deleted.

"Using good judgment and being conscious of their environment can help people avoid using profanity in public," Thompson said.



Cheryl Boujnida

Alexia Chambers, 8, gives a thumbs down-motion to people using profanity in public.

279th BSB

The Crusader, 279th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in building 7089, room 423, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, telephone 469-7581 or (0951) 3007581. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 279th Base Support Battalion, Unit 27535, Warner Barracks, APO AE 09139.

The 279th BSB hotline is 469-4800 or (0951) 3004800. Patient liaison number is (0951) 3007492.

Internet web site 279th BSB:
<http://www.bamberg.army.mil>

279th BSB
Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Hill
Public Affairs Officer Renate Bohlen
Journalist Cheryl Boujnida



Elaine Nicholas

Talking up the town at a radio broadcast

Right, Spec. Kimberly Antos, Armed Forces Network, or AFN, broadcaster, chats with Lt. Col. Timothy Hill, 279th BSB commander, during a broadcast of "The Source" radio show in Wuerzburg. "The Source" focuses on highlights in Bamberg's community and provides key information to residents and listeners. To keep abreast of community happenings, tune into the next AFN source radio show, located at 1143 on AM frequency, Aug 21 from 8-9 a.m.

Bamberg soldier nabs prestigious engineer award

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

SFC Paul Davis is getting more attention than he likes.

Davis, an 82nd Engineer Battalion soldier, was awarded the 2001 Lt. Gen. Samuel Sturgis Medal for his outstanding contributions to military troop construction and for demonstrating technical and leadership abilities. Despite winning the well-known engineer award, Davis is modest about his success as platoon sergeant of the assault and obstacle platoon.

"I'm not big on personal awards or flaunting anything. This is more about my platoon than it is about me. They deserve just as much recognition – I'm just a soldier who enjoys doing his job well," Davis said.

The Sturgis Medal is named for Lt. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis Jr., former Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army, and is awarded

annually to active duty enlisted members of the Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard since 1974.

"This is really a prestigious award. SFC Davis is an outstanding leader and trainer. He was the driving force behind the planning, implementation and execution of a solid maintenance program improving the readiness of a fleet of difficult equipment to maintain," said CSM Michael Balch, 1st Inf. Div. Engineer Brigade.

He stressed Davis' equation for success is simple. "Set the example in all things in all areas," Balch said.

The nomination packet included information on Davis' platoon, training, management philosophy, quality of life enhance-

ment, maintenance, soldier education plan, personal accomplishments, and contributions to military engineering.

Key Army leaders wrote letters of endorsement on Davis' behalf.

"SFC Davis' reputation as a leader and as a soldier exceeds everything we expect of today's professional. He has instilled a sense of pride in his operators, and his excitement for his job stands out for others to emulate," wrote Gen. Montgomery Meigs, USAREUR Commanding General.

Davis has directly impacted soldiers and the readiness of his platoon.

"SFC Davis does not tolerate shoddy maintenance. He believes that you do it right the first time. If I could sum him up in one word, it would be persistent. He is persistent at being the best, especially in maintenance," said Sgt. Jonathon Harmon.



Davis

CAV changes command



Chevallier

Lt. Col. Jim Chevallier took command of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, in a ceremony on Conn Barracks June 4, replacing outgoing commander Lt. Col. H.R. McMaster. Chevallier, who was commissioned in 1984, served with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Chevallier served as an observer-controller at both the National Training Center and the Joint Readiness Training Center. Chevallier and his wife, June, have two daughters.

Build self-esteem

The 280th BSB Child and Youth Services host a class for parents, titled "Building Your Child's Self-Esteem," at the child development center in Askren Manor July 16 from 6-7 p.m. Parents of children of all ages are invited to come to learn techniques and tips for helping their kids. For details, call 354-6517 or (09721) 966517.

Library sets events

The community library on Ledward Barracks has two special events planned for its Summer Reading for Children program. Face painting will be the highlight July 10, and a special magician's program takes place July 17. The summer reading program is from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Take training

The 280th BSB offers its annual training program about Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army. The briefing will be presented in German July 10 and in English July 12. Both sessions are at 2:15 p.m. in the theater on Ledward Barracks.

USO trip set

The Schweinfurt United Service Organization, or USO, sponsors an express trip to Amsterdam July 12-14. The bus departs from the USO on Ledward Barracks July 12 at 9 p.m. and returns early July 14. The trip includes visits to a wooden-shoe factory, cheese farm and a diamond factory. Optional excursions are also available, including a trip to Anne Frank's house. To reserve a seat or for more information, call 354-6711 or (09721) 966711.

Get some class

The 280th BSB Army education centers on Ledward and Conn Barracks offer many educational opportunities, from college courses to skills testing. Call 354-6383, 353-8308 or (09721) 966383 for more information.

280th BSB

The Crusader, 280th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in Robertson Hall on Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, telephone 354-6381 or (09721) 966381. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 280th Base Support Battalion, CMR 457, APO AE 09033.

The 280th BSB hotline is 354-4800 or (09721) 964800.

Internet web site 280th BSB:
<http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>

280th BSB
Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Gorrell
Public Affairs Officer George Ohl
Journalist Mark Heeter

Teachers retire after 70 years

by Mark Heeter
CRUSADER

It's always a race to the first, biggest and most fish when Larry and Marty Garske hit the water.

"He usually gets the first, but I usually get the biggest. I know how to hook the big ones," Marty said.

She and her husband will have a lot more time for fishing contests now that they have retired from their Schweinfurt American Elementary School classrooms after teaching for a combined 70 years.

Most of those years were spent with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, or DoDDS.

"We're not retiring because we're tired of the kids. We still enjoy teaching after all these years," Marty said.

"But we both feel it's time," said Larry, who arrived for his first DoDDS assignment in Wiesbaden in 1967.

Marty taught for about 15 years in the Los Angeles School District before coming overseas.

"I came over to Europe for a vacation and met somebody from DoDDS and decided I wanted to do that," she said of teaching in Heilbronn for

'We've had good parents and we really appreciate them.'

— Larry Garske

seven years before coming to Schweinfurt 10 years ago.

"We've had good classes, and we've had good parents and we really appreciate them," Larry said.

One of the secrets to a good relationship with parents and students is accessibility, he added.

"We give our home telephone number, and that's a big factor. This takes care of problems right away, and that communication has really helped us," he said.

Each of them was certified to teach several subjects to most age groups, from elementary through high school; however, they chose to remain with fifth-graders.

"We find this age — fifth grade — is a lot of fun. They understand what you're saying," Marty said.

One never knows how a fishing contest is going to turn out, either.



Mark Heeter

Larry and Marty Garske sign students' yearbooks following their last day on the job.

Children get a sure start at school

Early education helps

by Bergen Riby

Schweinfurt American Elementary School

Sure Start was established in 1991 for families living and working at military installations overseas. Modeled after the Head Start program, Sure Start offers a comprehensive approach to early childhood education that involves both children and families.

Schweinfurt American Elementary School, or SES, has two Sure Start teachers who allow their

classes to mingle with one another while leaving time for small group and individual activities.

The students interact with other children and adults as they learn through play activities. Solving puzzles, painting and cooking are just a few of the activities during the Sure Start school day, allowing children to solve problems, follow directions, and work with others.

Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child's learning and are required to volunteer regularly.

A child enrolled in Sure Start should be 4 years old by October 31 and a dependent of an

enlisted servicemember.

Families interested in enrolling their children in the program should also meet one or more of the following criteria: single parent household or dual-military family; sponsor deployed for three or more months of the school year; a parent whose primary language is not English or who did not graduate from high school; four or more children close in age; an older sibling with a disability, or the prospective student was of low birth weight. Applications are available at the SES office. For details, call 354-6734 or (09721) 81893.

APPLICANTS

From Page 1

"I think what confuses a lot of vets is that they seem to think, 'I'm a ten-point veteran; therefore, they have to take me.' Not true," White said.

Veterans' preference applies if the manager requests and uses the VRA-eligible lists; however, it does not apply if the manager elects to use the list of competitive-eligible candidates, according to Mauder.

"The veterans' preference applies under the VRA. It does not apply to the competitive sources. So, if the VEOA candidate shows up on the referral list, veterans' preference does not apply," Mauder said.

One rule affecting VRA appointments and one affecting military spouse preference changed last year in USAREUR.

Department of Defense, or DoD, regulation dictates that applicants may claim military spouse preference only once; however, the European Command, or EUCOM, sought an exemption to that rule.

"DoD came back and granted them the exception for a two-year period on a test basis," White said, explaining that the trial period expires in April 2003.

"Under this test, they no longer lose military spouse preference for temporary jobs. Once they accept or decline a permanent position, though, they lose it," White said.

Eligibility for VRA appointments also underwent a significant change last year.

"Now, you can only get one VRA appointment. Once you're appointed under VRA, you cannot be appointed again in USAREUR," White said.

Many of the rules, including preferences and selection procedures, are different to non-appropriated fund, or NAF, positions, according to Mauder.

White offered some advice for applicants as they prepare their resumes under the RESUMIX system.

"They need to make sure that, when they do their supplemental data sheet, they check out what preferences they are eligible for," she said.

According to White, wizards are available to help with that determination at the Civilian Human Resource Management Agency, or CHRMA, web site at

<http://www.chrma.hqsareur.army.mil>.



Mark Heeter

Units celebrate Army's birthday

Against a background of soldiers in formation, a flag detail cases the colors and the Prisoner of War flag during a retreat ceremony to celebrate the Army's 227th birthday in Andrus Garden on Ledward Barracks June 14. To open the ceremony, Lt. Col. Benjamin Everson, executive officer for the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, delivered a speech to the formation, which included soldiers from the brigade, the 280th Base Support Battalion, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, and tenant units. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service provided a birthday cake for the ceremony.

Siblings reunite, stay together at Ft. Monteith

by Spec. Patrick Rodriguez
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Kevin Albrechts, a 10th Mountain Division soldier, and younger brother Spec. Judson Albrechts, a 1st Infantry Division soldier, recently had an informal family reunion and their own 'transfer of authority' as the younger brother got off a bus in Kosovo to serve in a Kosovo Forces rotation.

Kevin Albrechts is a hull mechanic in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, or HHC, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Benning, Ga. Judson Albrechts is a scout in HHC, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Their meeting was not entirely unexpected.

"I knew he was in Kosovo and I'd be coming, but I did not know if we would be on the same base or if I would get here in

time," Judson said.

Judson said it was 'kind of weird' seeing his brother in Kosovo, carrying a weapon and wearing sergeant's stripes.

"I was standing at parade rest, out of habit," he said. "Then we gave each other a quick hug and started talking."

Their banter was filled with talk of home and family.

"We talked about things we would like to do back in the States," Judson said.

This isn't the first time one brother has traveled a long way to see the other.

When Judson graduated from basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., in May 2000, Kevin traveled more than 2,400 miles by train from Fort Lewis, Wash., to spend eight hours with his younger brother during graduation.

They also had a brief reunion recently in Germany — when Judson reenlisted in order to come to Kosovo.

"My tour in Germany was up in May, so I would have had to go home," Judson said.

Kevin had a part in the reenlistment ceremony.

"I held the colors for him. I was very happy for him and proud of my brother," Kevin said.

"He is a great soldier; he is a great guy," Kevin added.

The brothers will not have to wait another six years before they see each other again. When this rotation is complete, Judson will ship to Fort Riley, Kansas, where Kevin has just been assigned.

"At Fort Riley, we can live in the same house and go hunting and fishing together," Kevin said.

Act out

Join the Act I community theater by auditioning for its first production, "June Groom," at the Cantigny Club, Leighton Barracks, Wuerzburg, July 15-17 from 7-10 p.m. Scripts will be available at 6 p.m. Nine parts are open for ages 25-60. For more information, send an e-mail to Misskey719@aol.com.

Have a nice sundae

Join the 417th BSB Child and Youth Services for an old-fashioned country fair and ice cream social at Giebelstadt Army Airfield July 13 from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call 355-8362 or (09321) 3058362.

Find adventure

The 417th BSB Outdoor Recreation Center and Youth Services have a new program that helps local youth have a fun-filled summer. The Youth Adventure Program offers activities like skeet shooting, golfing, fishing and cycling. For more information, call 355-2812 or (09321) 7022812.

Visit museum



The 1st Infantry Division Museum is open and offers an interactive history of the 1st Infantry Division. Museum hours are the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and Mon-Fri from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is free, no flash photography is allowed, and the museum is stroller friendly. For more information, call the curator, Laura Thek, at 350-7337 or (0931) 8897337.

Thek

and the museum is stroller friendly. For more information, call the curator, Laura Thek, at 350-7337 or (0931) 8897337.

Share the magic

Join the 417th BSB libraries and share the magic of reading with various programs. To sign up or for more information, call your local library.

Attend seminars

Take a stress and anger management seminar at the Leighton Barracks Army Community Service July 31 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A couple communication seminar is offered July 24 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call 350-7103 or (0931) 8897103.

Go shopping

Go shopping in Poland July 13 and buy beautiful pottery at great prices. Cost for the trip is \$45 per person and includes transportation. Passports are required. For more information, call 355-8629 or (09321) 3058629.

417th BSB

The Crusader, 417th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in building 109, Harvey Barracks, telephone 355-8575 or (09321) 3058575. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 417th Base Support Battalion, Unit 26124, APO AE 09031.

The 417th BSB hotline is 355-8999 or (09321) 3058999.

Phone numbers for patient liaisons are: Kitzingen, 355-8415 or (09321) 3058415; Wuerzburg and Giebelstadt, call the 67th Combat Support Hospital, 350-3874 or (0931) 8043874.

417th BSB
Commander Lt. Col. Russ Hall
Public Affairs Officer Gabriele Drake
Journalist



Norbert Schmitt

NATO troops fly skies over airfield

Paratroopers from German Air Defense units LeFlarak 100 and LeFlarak 300, air defense batteries from Wuppertal and Kassel respectively, get their parachutes ready on the flight line and prepare to board a United States Air Force C-130 Hercules and a German C-160, both of which are transport planes. German soldiers who took part in the NATO Air Defense Exercise Clean Hunter participated in a supporting exercise Black Sky June 10-21 at Giebelstadt Army Airfield. The planes took the troopers to a nearby drop zone where the German paratroopers made four jumps.

Veterans share war, battle stories

by Spec Kris Steward
69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

When the noncommissioned officers, or NCOs, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade visited the woodlands of the Ardennes, France, the site of the Battle of the Bulge, they may have expected to get a little tutoring about the largest battle of World War II. What they didn't expect was the rare opportunity to hear the heroic tales of a few living Army legends.

"We were listening to stories about them, but we never thought we'd actually get to meet them," said SSgt. Gregory Lambey, senior tasking NCO for 69th ADA, as he described meeting a handful of war heroes he and his comrades had just traveled six hours from Germany to learn about.

"It was truly memorable," said Lambey as he displayed his latest collection of autographs — signatures from men such as John Gatens and John Schaffner, veterans of Battery A, 106th Battalion, 589th Field Artillery, who fought in and survived the Bulge.

Gatens, a veteran of Battery A, was making his fourth trip back to Belgium to visit the site where he and his battle buddies fought in what was dubbed the "Alamo Defense" of December 1944.

Gatens told a crowd of 40 attentive 69th ADA NCOs his unit's mission was to hold down the German 2nd Panzer Division so American

airborne soldiers could make their way toward Bastogne, Belgium.

"We did a good job, but we paid for it," Gatens said. Gatens' battalion lost more soldiers than any other American division in the war — 641 soldiers were killed in action while 1,200 were wounded. The Germans captured more than 7,000. Gatens was one of them. He says he barely survived the next four months as a prisoner of war.

"Sometimes I had wished they had shot me," Gatens said.

Gatens was liberated April 23, 1945. His weight had dropped to only 100 pounds. When he finally returned home, he never told anyone he had been held captive. It wasn't until the 1980s when the media gave accounts of hostages and other POWs to a sympathetic American public that he finally told his own story.

CSM Douglas Piltz, 69th ADA, thanked Gatens for his courage and resilience.

"He (Gatens) told me I was the first person to thank him for what he had done for our country. It was the war to end all wars, and not to be thanked for that — I was surprised," Piltz said.

SSgt. David Strang, chaplain assistant for 69th ADA, said walking the actual ground where so many soldiers engaged in combat sharpened his perspective about the stamina of soldiers during the Bulge.

"They stood against the tyranny of the times for the cause of freedom for future generations," said Strang.



Spec. Kris Steward

Delbert J. Stumpff of Kansas signs an autograph for MSgt. Pablo Perez of HHB, 69th ADA, at the site of the Battle of the Bulge.



MSgt. Larry Lane

Showing troops, public, children the Avenger

The Day of the Ground Forces "Bahna" is one of the biggest presentations by the Czech Republic army. The exercise has taken place annually since 1990 in the Bahna Military Training Area. Its aim is to make the public aware of the high standard of military units of the pre-war Czechoslovakian army. Spec. Joshua Kinard, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, describes to Czech soldiers and children how the Avenger system works. Visitors had the opportunity to work the controls of the Avenger during the presentation.

New Army program helps soldiers gain certification

U.S. Army News Release

The U. S. Army has added a new component to its GI to Jobs Program that will assist soldiers in understanding and obtaining certification for civilian jobs when they leave the service.

"Some 67 percent of Army enlisted soldiers serve in military specialties related to civilian occupational areas that are subject to certification and licensure," said Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, adjutant general of the Army.

Those soldiers now have a web site, called Army Credentialing Opportunities On-line, or COOL, where they can learn what civilian certifications relate to their military occupational specialty, or MOS, career field and how to obtain them.

"This new web site explains differences between military and civilian training and certification requirements, and it does so in easy-to-understand language," said Sgt. Maj Jack Tilley.

"The program and the web site tell soldiers exactly what they need to do to begin and complete the certification process in their MOS," he added.

Under this initiative, soldiers will know what is necessary to complete certification or licensure requirements for jobs related to approximately 100 MOSs.

All MOS-applicable credentialing examinations are clearly identified and articulated, by MOS, to ensure success.

Some occupations have certain professional and technical standards. The process of meeting these standards and earning official recognition (in the form of credentials, licenses or

certificates) is called credentialing.

Private and government organizations set credentialing standards to ensure that individuals meet the standards for their profession.

"This is good news for soldiers, but great news for the nation as well," Frost said.

"The Army offers the best training in the world, and when you add extraordinary experience, additional study and leader development, the country will benefit from GI to Jobs with exceptionally qualified veterans for the 21st century workforce," Frost said.

Visit the COOL web site at www.ArmyEducation.Army.Mil/COOL.

Scouts ceremoniously burn Old Glory



Photos by Roger Teel

Scout leader David Janney sounds Taps.



David Janney places the first quadrant of the flag in the fire as Drew Janney, Jim Redmon and Steven Blose stand ready to add the other pieces.

by Roger Teel
U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

As local Girl Scouts folded the hospital's national flag during a retreat ceremony last fall, one of them noticed a small tear in the colors.

"What happens now," she asked. "Will it be fixed?" The group's leaders scratched their heads and said, "Hmmm, not sure, but let's find out."

Their search led to a flag burning. In a June 6 ceremony, Wuerzburg Neighborhood Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 62, Brownie Troop 733, Daisy Troop 8 and others permanently retired the national colors that flew over the hospital on Sept. 11.

"Retiring Old Glory is an official ceremony," said local Scout leader David Janney who officiated the ceremony.

"It's important that Scouts learn the proper way to retire the

colors in a somber and respectful manner," he added. The Scouts first learned to cut the flag into quadrants, leaving the field of 50 stars intact to represent the union of the 50 states. The scouts read a ceremonial script that reflected on the symbolic importance of the colors.

As the Scouts cut the flag, leaders started a small fire. As the scouts recited the words, the quadrants of the colors were placed in the incinerator.

As Janney played Taps, the group fell into a state of solemn reflection. They stood watch until the flag's ashes were cold and placed in a tin for burial on the hospital grounds.

"This year, the Brownies have been working on citizenship and patriotism, especially since Sept. 11. They've learned the history of the flag, participated in a retreat ceremony and now the retiring ceremony. I think they've come away with something important," said Brownie leader Marti Blose.



Girl Scout Mykela Everts makes the first cut as Old Glory is put to rest. Nickolas Wholean, left, and Steven Blose hold the flag's corners, and Catherine Prais waits to make the second cut.

AFRC goes the extra mile to offer a big day out

Professionals offer all kinds of sports

by Corey Henderson
AFRC Marketing

Lots of exciting summertime activities and beautiful weather made for a fantastic "Big Day Out" at the Armed Forces Recreation Center, or AFRC, Garmisch resort June 15.

Guests spent the day trying out free recreation opportunities at AFRC's Hausberg Lodge. Professional recreation staff offered hiking and biking tours, indoor rock climbing, rappelling

lessons and golf lessons. "AFRC hosted the 'Big Day Out' to provide guests with a full showcase of what we have to offer with the opening of summer recreation at the Garmisch and Chiemsee resorts," said Richard LeBrun, AFRC Resorts in Europe general manager.

The day started early with a busload of guests taking advantage of the free hike to the Partnach Gorge in Garmisch. Guests rode the gondola partway up the climb and hiked back down through the beautiful gorge.

Throughout the day, guests filled the Hausberg Lodge for a chance to try rock climbing and

rappelling. Instructors from AFRC's mountaineering school directed the adventurous guests as they scrambled up the indoor climbing wall and rappelled out the second-story window.

Attendees also had the opportunity to talk to AFRC recreation experts about all other activities offered at the Chiemsee and Garmisch resorts.

Many guests took home great prizes during several drawings throughout the day. Jack Wolf-skin tents, North Face backpacks, a mountain bike, K2 T-shirts and several HM scooters were given away, along with several "Weekend for Two" prizes at Chiemsee, a two-day windsurfing

course and gift certificates. In perhaps the most exciting giveaway, Stuart Palkovic from Kitzingen won a tandem paraglide ride. Just minutes after AFN Bavaria announced Stuart's name, he strapped himself into a harness and drifted nervously yet calmly through the air high above Garmisch.

"This was my first time paragliding. I came this weekend to see Garmisch and stay at the campgrounds, I really didn't expect to win anything," Palkovic said.

Call 440-2548 or (08821) 52066, or visit the AFRC website at www.afreceurope.com for more information.



Pvt. 2 Joseph Alger, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

Medal of Honor recipient visits

World War II Medal of Honor recipient Walt Ehlers, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, shares a story with 1st Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. John Craddock, right, at the 1st Inf. Div. Museum on Leighton Barracks June 13.

Use the safe way to keep in touch with our military

eMOM News Release
BiBi Melguizo, public affairs officer from eMail our Military, or eMOM, attended the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion's, or CABs, Eighth Annual Soldiers' Ball representing eMOM.

eMOM is a free service providing a safe way for civilians to continue the tradition of "Any Service Member" mail with a much more personal touch.

eMOM directly supports our troops with e-mails, cards and letters.

It's an opportunity to let America's military know how much they are appreciated. At the web site, visitors can join the e-mail campaign and participate in a number of support projects ranging from sending free e-mail to ready-made care packages that can be sent at a moment's notice.

"It was wonderful to meet so many of our local heroes and offer our support," Melguizo said.

Melguizo spent the evening enjoying the festivities and speaking to those in attendance about eMOM.

Melguizo was invited to attend future functions with the 478th CAB by the family readiness organization.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Maney, Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, was the distinguished guest speaker at the ball.

He posed for photos with Melguizo and was interested in hearing about the campaign.

"I was truly honored to be able to speak with General Maney about what we are doing" Melguizo said.

General Maney presented Melguizo with the general's coin as a token of appreciation.

Visit the web site at www.emailourmilitary.com.



New commander takes over at ERMC



Granger

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Elder Granger took command of the Europe Regional Medical Command, or ERMC, June 26 in Heidelberg. The outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Richard Ursone, moves on to become Assistant Surgeon General for Force Development and Sustainment at U.S. Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In his previous assignment, Granger was Acting Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection, Office of the Army Surgeon General. He is also a former commander of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Presiding over the ceremony was Lt. Gen. James Peake, Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command and Army Surgeon General.

Join community-based wellness program

Sign-up now for a community-based family member wellness program in Schweinfurt and receive free child care. "Everybody's Well" is a series of workshops taking place Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants learn about physical fitness, nutrition and family wellness. Child care is available if participants meet basic requirements. For details on scheduled workshops, child care and meeting locations, call Lt. Col. Fred Pond, community health nurse at 354-7015 or (09721) 967015.

DENTAC command passes

In a colorful and splendid June 14 ceremony, the reins of command of the Wuerzburg Dental Activity were passed from Col. Ronald Hayes to Col. Michael Cuenin at Leighton's Victory Park. Cuenin, accompanied by wife Denise, daughter Gwen, and sons Paul and John, hails from Lynnfield, Mass. He has served the Army (six years with the Big Red One) as a clinician and teacher for more than 21 years.



Cuenin

Soldiers triumph, acquire badge

by Roger Teel
U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

The week of June 16 started with bright sunshine, warm temperatures and 416 Expert Field Medical Badge, or EFMB, hopefuls in the Klosterforst training area near Kitzingen's Harvey Barracks.

By Thursday, the list had been whittled to 92. After an early Friday morning 12-mile road march with full ruck that had to be completed in three hours, 70 soldiers laid claim to what is arguably the most difficult badge in the Army.

The two-week EFMB training and testing were hosted by the 1st Infantry Division's Division Support Command. Capt. Victor Suarez and SFC Brian Whelan, the officer and NCO in charge of the test site, coordinated DISCOM's top-notch support.

"This was a good system here in Kitzingen. The DISCOM ran a great EFMB, and I'm glad I came here. We had great instructors and everyone supported us fully," said Spec. Nathan Sisson, Darmstadt Health Clinic.

Sisson said he had heard all the horror stories,

how lane evaluators jealously protect the badge, how you can easily get tripped up by an off-the-wall question.

"The hardest thing for me was the road march. While it's a physical event, a lot of it is mental. You have to keep pushing. If you slow down it can kill you, and if you stop, you're done," he said.

Sgt. Alicia Puccia, 47th Forward Support Battalion, Baumholder, made it across the line with 45 seconds to spare. She was radiant as she accepted congratulations from everyone she knew.

"This was my sixth attempt to get the badge," she said. Last year Puccia made it through all the testing lanes, only to fall three minutes short on the road march. She wasn't about to let that happen again, she said.

Sgt. Michael Hand, 67th Forward Surgical Team, Giebelstadt, was success-

ful on his second attempt to get the badge.

"The commo lane was the hardest," Hand said.

"I did the Nijmegen march last year, so I knew what I was going for. I'm not a fast guy. I have short, stubby legs. But I made it," he said.

Spec. Joseph Brooks, also 67th Forward Surgical Team, Giebelstadt, found success on his second EFMB attempt.

"It was a week of survival. All the tests are tough and stressful. All it takes is one mistake to put you out, and that's what makes it stressful."

Would he encourage others to take the EFMB challenge?

"If you're an Army medic, you have to try to get this badge. It's a credibility thing. It doesn't make you more or less of a medic, but it helps by giving you confidence in your ability to do your job," Brooks said.



Brooks



Hand



Roger Teel

Retirees get fit at health fair

The 5th annual Retiree Health Fair at the U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, drew 97 eligible beneficiaries June 1. The oldest retiree to attend was 93-year-old Mike Kallifut from Schweinfurt. Kallifut was 32 when he was drafted into service during World War II. Hospital soldiers, such as SSgt. Monina Ancheta, right, assisting Minna Treece and Anna Ashcraft from Wuerzburg with registration, volunteered for the Saturday event.

Hospital receives its accreditation

News Release
U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

The U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg and its Educational and Developmental Intervention Services received accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, or JCAHO, during a survey conducted in May.

Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's health care.

To become accredited, a hospital is evaluated by a team of experienced healthcare professionals and must demonstrate compliance with a set of rigorous national healthcare standards as well as a total commitment from the top down to

providing quality care on a day-to-day basis.

"Everyone in the organization worked very hard to achieve this recognition," said Col. Ray Tomkins, hospital commander.

"JCAHO accreditation is a great accomplishment. I'm proud of the staff and their dedicated efforts to continuously improve the quality and safety of the care they provide," he added.

PARKING

From Page 1

If Albina finds an illegally parked vehicle, he slaps a luminous orange sticker on the driver's side window that denotes the infraction. It's a gooey, adhesive sticker that is not easily removed.

"If a car is illegally parked, I have to do my job," Albina said when asked for comment.

Warnings to the staff are becoming more stringent. Those who repeatedly park in patient parking areas may have their driver's license revoked, according to Tomkins, who would only invoke that penalty as a last resort.

However, viable alternatives and solutions for the parking dilemma are constantly sought. Capt. Michael Coe, the hospital's B Company commander, heads a newly formed process action team that is examining the issue.



Tomkins

"It's bad - at times very bad," he said of the situation.

His team has suggested a shuttle bus run regularly through Leighton housing areas.

"This would be good, but who pays for it and who operates it?" Coe asked. The Wuerzburg Area Support Team is trying to find a volunteer to drive the hospital's 25-passenger bus.

"The long and the short of it is there are just more cars than spaces, and everyone has the right to a car," Coe said. "There may be more and better ideas out there and I'd

be happy to review any productive suggestions. If patients or employees wish to comment, they can fill out a comment card or drop a letter in one of the suggestion boxes located in the hospital," he added. But there could be a better way.

David Shogren, a registered nurse now serving as hospital educator within the mobilization, education, training and security division, said he walks 30 minutes from his apartment to work every day and encourages other staff members to do the same.

"Americans seem to think it is their right to have a parking space adjacent to the building where they work. We have clearly become a society that wants every convenience," he said.

"I cannot believe people drive to work at the hospital from their quarters in Leighton Barracks. It's a 10-minute walk, and from what I've seen, we all could use the exercise."

A former paramedic with emergency rescue experience, Shogren has no sympathy for people who park illegally.

"I have seen illegally parked cars pushed out of the way by emergency vehicles on several occasions. If this happens, the car owner doesn't have a leg to stand on. There's no way they can make a claim for repairs, and they will probably be ticketed, too," he said.

Albina said he and his staff will continue to monitor the parking tendencies of the staff and continue to stick the ugly orange sticker on violators' windows.

Tomkins said he will continue to remind the hospital staff to park off the installation if staff parking is unavailable.

"And I hope our patients continue being patient as we work through the construction of new spaces that ultimately will end the shortage of hospital parking," he said.