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Children test their range from silly to serious while auditioning for a rendition of "Little Red Riding Hood"

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Medical officers battle it out to be named ERMC's Best Junior Officer

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# Bavarian News

www.grafenwoehr.army.mil

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Garmisch, Schweinfurt and Ansbach

May 9, 2012

## Clinic asks patients for patience

Changes will make process more efficient

By Douglas DeMaio

Bavaria Medical Department Activity Public Affairs

VILSECK, Germany — The health clinic here began transitioning to a new patient-focused model of health care April 30, which will deliver a more proactive, collaborative care experience and improve overall health and access for community members.

The Vilseck Health Clinic is implementing a Patient Centered Medical Home model, which is a patient care model used by many hospitals in the civilian sector.

"We are trying to change our way of thinking, which has kind of been the same for about the last 20 years," said Dr. Gary Kulka, a family physician and the primary care medical director for the clinic here. "Army medicine has really moved forward with this model in the last 18 months, so there are a growing number of clinics stateside that are now Patient Centered Medical Homes."

PCMH has been adopted by primary care and family practices for more than a decade, Kulka said. The model focuses on patient care by the entire medical professional team. A team of medics, nurses, physician assistants and other health care providers all work together collaboratively to provide coordinated, proactive medical care for a single patient and their family.

The focus will be on the best way to meet the patient's needs for restoring and maintaining their health, Kulka said. PCMH makes use of an entire team of professionals, as well as technology to help patients communicate their concerns, which then allows for the team to develop and implement a plan of care together.

"PCMH adds significant, unique, medical capabilities to the clinic's services," said Lt. Col. Chris Rheney, the Vilseck Health Clinic commander,

See CLINIC, page 17



Children go for a spin on the swings, one of the many rides featured at this year's German-American Volksfest in Hohenfels, April 27.

## On top of the world

Local community celebrates friendship at German-American Volksfest in Hohenfels

Story and photos by Mark Iacampo

USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

HOHENFELS, Germany — Dirndls and lederhosen were in fine fashion as Hohenfels opened its gates for the 42nd Annual German-American Volksfest, April 27-May 1.

The event is intended to strengthen ties between the Hohenfels Military Community and the surrounding towns by bringing the people together in an atmosphere of fun and festivities.

"Every year for the past 42 years we have opened our front door to renew old friendships and welcome new friends into our home and celebrate the outstanding partnership between our communities," said Lt. Col. John J. Strange Jr., U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels commander. "We're proud to be members of the Bavarian community."

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Col. Jeffrey Martindale, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander, taps the ceremonial keg under the expert eye of Weltenburger Bier Queen Julia Aschenbrenner.

## 15th Eng. Bn. remembers quiet, diligent Soldier

Story and photo by Nathan Van Schaik  
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Two separate memorial services were held to honor Spc. Bernard Hill Jr., a unit supply clerk attached to the 15th Engineer Battalion.

Hill was killed in a traffic accident, April 24, when his vehicle, along with two other vehicles in the convoy were struck from behind by a large cargo truck on Autobahn A73 just south of Bamberg.

More than 400 fellow 15th Eng. Bn. Soldiers attended the first service, held at Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater, April 28, while Soldiers and community members packed the Ledward Chapel here, May 1.

At both services, Soldiers close to Hill recalled memories of a selfless Soldier, a man of few words and as a loving father, husband and friend.

See HILL, page 17

## \$85 million upgrades to beef up clinics

By Douglas DeMaio

Bavaria Medical Department Activity Public Affairs

VILSECK, Germany — Seven projects totaling about \$85 million are expected to bolster medical and dental care at military treatment facilities in Bavaria.

A new \$37 million dental and primary care health clinic in Katterbach, Germany, and a similar \$34.7 million add on to the facility here are two military construction projects that will improve services and enhance amenities for beneficiaries in the Bavaria Medical Department Activity footprint.

"I think the beneficiaries will appreciate the changes over the course of the next few years in these various clinics," said Maj. Travis D. Pamenter, BMEDDAC's acting deputy

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## INSIDE

### Making their mark

The Army recently made two moves that have expanded opportunities for women. See page 16.

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## Garrison survey is already in full gear on Facebook

Staff Report

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs would like your help in making our community better.

From now through May 18, the community can participate in a command information survey and provide input on the ways news and information are developed and delivered.

The survey is available at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, the garrison's Facebook page and via a link in the community newsletter.

At press time, more than 100 community members had weighed in to tell us what they think. Don't be the last person in your office to take the survey. Your opinion matters.

## Smiles all around

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Spc. Ricky Higginbotham poses with his wife, Dina, and sons, Dwayne (right) and Daron, as Gaby Rounds takes their picture during a welcome home ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center, here, April 27.

Higginbotham and 260 other "Blackhawks" from the 172nd Infantry Brigade returned home after serving in Afghanistan as part of International Security Assistance Force.



Photo by Michael Beaton



# ACAP aims for future success

Soldiers deliver for the Army and for the nation. I've seen it throughout my career, never more so than during my time in Iraq. So when you decide it's time to move on to the next stage of your life, it's only right that we should have a plan, prepare together, and then execute with energy to ensure success.

That's why we have the Army Career and Alumni Program. Whether your next stage includes a job, school, continued service with the Guard or Reserves, or all three, ACAP will help you and your family prepare for a successful transition.

Today, there is unprecedented support for transitioning Soldiers and veterans at federal, state and local levels. Hiring our Heroes, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce initiative, is a great example. Their job fairs bring together a whole range of organizations, including private industry, the Department of Labor, the Veterans Administration, the Small Business Administration and state workforce commissions, all focused on connecting transitioning Soldiers and veterans with employment opportunities.

The same idea is behind Hero 2 Hired ([https://h2h.jobs/sign\\_in](https://h2h.jobs/sign_in)). This Army website helps transitioning Soldiers and vets connect with 50,000 employers who have vowed to employ them.

ACAP is there to help you learn about and make the most of these and other opportunities.



The key is to get to ACAP early — at least 12 months out for separating Soldiers or two years out for retiring Soldiers. Talk with an ACAP counselor about your goals — continuing military service, getting a job, going back to school or starting a business, and lay out a plan to get there.

For transitioning Soldiers looking to enter the civilian job market, it's good news to hear about employers lining up to participate in job fairs on our installations — 92 employers at a Fort Polk job fair in January, 75 at Fort Jackson March 6, and 122 at Fort Campbell March 21-22, to name recent examples.

It's even better news to hear the success stories that come out of these events. For example, employers made at least 300 job offers during Fort Campbell's job fairs in September, and the ACAP office is still hearing from Soldiers who received a job offer then. ACAP offices regularly support these events on our installations and success stories come out of every one.

Of course, this great news is predictable. You have an incredible skill set, leadership, adaptability, ingenuity and

dedication, before we even get to the technical skills. Employers recognize that you bring something extra to the table — we know that when they meet you, they will want you.

Thank you to the great teams — the folks at ACAP and our Department of Labor and Veterans Administration partners, who are helping transitioning Soldiers reach their goals.

What you do — polishing resumes and interview skills, researching opportunities, and building connections — is invaluable to helping Soldiers translate their Army experiences into success after the Army.

Thank you, also, to all the leaders doing right by our transitioning Soldiers. We're looking for concrete outcomes for all transitioning Soldiers — a solid resume and measurable progress towards their goal, whether a job offer, a business plan, or an acceptance letter from a school. With your involvement and support, we all win. Thank you for setting Soldiers up for success. That's a real example of taking care of Soldiers.

Thank you for your service. Support and defend!

*Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter  
Commander, Installation  
Management Command*

## Dangers can exist for office jobs, too

**By Kettely Darden**  
*Employee Assistance Program (EAP)*

Most people go to work every day unaware that certain threats may occur. Unless that person works in a hazardous occupation that is known for certain hazards, most of people think of their job locations as relatively safe environments. However, the truth is, all workers are subject to some level of risk and some more than others. This risk is workplace violence or hostile work environment. Most employees don't give it much thought, and hopefully have never experienced it firsthand, but we hear about these reports all the time.

A well-publicized example is a shooting that occurred in Seal Beach, Calif., in October 2011 when a man walked into a hair salon where his estranged wife worked at the time and shot several people, including her, to death. Or the event that hits home to all the hearts of the Army family, the shooting at Fort Hood in 2009. The individuals at these scenes were at work when those tragic events occurred. There are countless other stories. For these reasons, workplace violence is a poignant topic that deserves attention by all supervisors and employees.

The Department of Labor notes that workplace violence incidents are the fourth leading cause of occupational injuries and the leading cause of death for women in the workplace. Workplace violence may occur inside or outside of the workplace. It can come in the form of threats, verbal abuse, bullying, physical assaults, and sometimes even homicides. The violent perpetrator may be a co-worker, supervisor, customer, a relative of an employee, or anyone entering the workplace.

The most common form of violence is verbal abuse. Workers may experience verbal abuse from a dissatisfied customer or another employee. Sometimes the employee may be a witness of another co-worker losing his or her temper with someone. Some workers don't view this as violence, but it is an aggressive action and it could escalate depending on the person mental status. A person can sometimes de-escalate the situation by using effective conflict resolution skills with the individual or calling someone in a leadership position to address the individual. Whatever you do, don't ignore it, act!

If you are unaware of how you should address a real or potential violent act in the workplace, talk to your employer about it and know the agency's policy on workplace violence. What prevention measures have been established? If you are a supervisor and don't have a policy for workplace violence, consult with various agencies such as safety department for guidance on creating the policy.

It is also important for supervisors to discuss with all employees which behaviors are not tolerated in the workplace and provide training on preventing workplace violence. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers employees and supervisors training on how to prevent workplace violence and other trainings such as conflict resolution or communication skills. Again, the threat of workplace violence is real, but you can do something to protect yourself and others.

For more information on how to prevent workplace violence or other related training, contact the Employee Assistance Program at DSN 475-5122 / 476-2503, CIV 09641-83-5122 / 09662-83-2503.

## Safety is in hands of community

**By Tom Janis**  
*USAG Hohenfels DPTMS*

Getting lost in a foreign country is not as likely these days with the advent of mobile phones with navigation software. During my first trip to Vicenza, Italy in 1989, I surely would have appreciated that technology. Lacking it, I fell back on recognition skills — I looked for U.S.-style vehicles, English road signs, and other indicators which might help me arrive at the post camping grounds after having driven for so long. Not surprisingly, bad guys use the same recognition skills when picking their targets.

When I really consider how far technology has come, it would be easy to assume that bad guys would rely solely on Google maps to reconnoiter their targets or victims. We know that thieves are exploiting geotagging, which is the process of adding geographical identification to photographs, video, websites and SMS messages.

It's the same as adding a 10-digit grid coordinate to everything you post on the Web.

However far we advance with technology, one thing terrorists still rely on is boots on the ground when it comes to pulling surveillance on targets. From an operational standpoint, there simply is no substitute for having eyes on the potential target.

And that, my friend, is where we can prevent them from carrying out their

attacks on U.S. forces overseas and at home.

One thing terrorists are really bad at is surveillance. The news we witness regarding terror attacks has evolved to lone-wolf or home-grown violent extremists (HVE) being our primary threat. The exceptions are the September 2001 or Mumbai attacks. Detecting a lone-wolf practicing surveillance is a bit more problematic when considering that person's signature. One face in a crowd is hard to detect in relation to a group pulling surveillance.

### Situational awareness

Let's consider a term that can be used to identify hostile or terrorist surveillance. TEDD stands for time, environment, distance and demeanor. What that means is if a person sees someone repeatedly over time, in different environments and at a distance, or someone who displays poor surveillance demeanor, then that person can assume he or she is under surveillance.

Paying attention to the details of your surroundings (what we anti-terrorism officers call practicing good situational awareness) does not mean being paranoid or obsessively concerned about security. Situational awareness is not only important for recognizing terrorist threats, but it also serves to identify criminal behavior and other dangerous situations.

Situational awareness is more than a skill, it is a mindset. A lot of us live off



of military installations overseas. Our communities are not gated and someone is probably not checking ID cards in order to allow or prevent folks near us. Situational awareness allows us a layer of defense, if we are alert and report suspicious activity, which keeps our family and friends safe.

Awareness has been described as five

See **VIGILANCE**, page 14

## Stay vigilant, report suspicious activity

**By IMCOM Europe Public Affairs**  
*News Release*

**Incidents involving threats to children have been reported in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. Installation Management Command officials are asking everyone to stay vigilant and report suspicious activities to the authorities.**

**The safety of our families is a priority for Installation Management Command Europe. We are aggressively working to resolve these threats and are using all of our available resources to track down those responsible.**

**Save these numbers:**

- **Joint Task Force TIP Line: CIV 0171-7455382.**
- **For emergencies off post call 112; 112 is the European emergency number, reachable from fixed and mobile phones, free of charge, everywhere in the EU.**

### That Guy.com



### Bavarian News

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All editorial content is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office and the final decision on whether content will run rests with the managing editor.

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray



# Local Kinderfest celebrations focus on fun



From left: Entranced by Ooblick, Keyara Philpot, 8, and Briza Hernandez, 9, find it difficult to leave the Rose Barracks School Age Center booth. Ooblick, which is made with corn starch, water and little food coloring, makes for a peculiar sensation. "It felt like it was glue when you put it on your hands and when you open up your hands like water," explained Hernandez.

## Grafenwoehr kids get a green message with fun

Story and photos by **Chelsea Bissell**  
Staff Writer

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Kinderfest, Grafenwoehr's annual blowout honoring the Month of the Military Child, surpassed expectations during this year's event, April 28.

Lana Muzzy, director of Outreach Services for Child, Youth and School Services, and the woman behind the day's magic, insisted that although Kinderfest is always a success, this year's event enjoyed a boost of attendance and better overall organization.

"This year was one of the best because of the large facilities, more marketing and good weather," she said. "We had a lot of families."

In fact, roughly 600 visitors poured into Grafenwoehr Field House in order to visit booths sponsored by community organizations to play games, get their faces painted, show off their artistic abilities and win prizes.

With this year's theme of "Go Green," Kinderfest activities largely focused on the environment and nature. Children received bookmarks made from old cereal boxes, excavated special rocks from mounds of sand and crafted butterflies from coffee filters and clothespins.



Alex and Abby Deem, ages 8 and 7, show off their face paint.

The recycling branch of the Directorate of Public Works, however, outshone them all with its conservation-centric activities and dedication to the green message.

They made recycling fun by pitting children against each other to see who could sort a bag filled with a newspaper, plastic and other recyclable materials into their respective bins first. Each competitor then received a small flag touting recycling before moving on to take a quiz on conservationism. Finally, the children could redeem their flags for small toys and prizes, rewarding them for all their hard work.

While they sought to inform participants, DPW remained one of the most popular booths among children, who would crowd around yelling instructions as their peers struggled to sort their recyclables.

"We try to educate them at a young age so they can go home and teach

their parents," said Helmut Mueller, waste management official.

Each organization represented at Kinderfest played-off their expertise when crafting their activities. Children queued up to get their fingerprints taken by the military police while the dental clinic showed participants proper brushing technique on alligator teeth. The Boy Scouts helped youngsters fish for lollipops by attaching the candy to the ends of fishing poles and, outside, the Grafenwoehr Fire Department helped kids with tiny fire hoses aim streams of water through the windows of a miniature burning building.

Other stations such as the balloon animals, professional level face painting and a bouncy house simply focused on having fun.

For the parents, Kinderfest offered a welcome reprieve from other, unimaginative events geared toward children. Roxanna Parga, mother of two, approved of the "outstanding variety" of activities at the festival.

"Too many people stay stuck on coloring books and movies," she said.

Isaiah Perez, 4, who excelled at the card game "Memory" at the Army Community Service booth and won a sticker as a prize, claimed his favorite part of the day was getting fingerprinted by the military police. Nevertheless, he was proud of his success at the card table.

"My mom didn't help me and I did it right," he said.



From left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth McKoy, Gabriella Klohe, and Lt. Col. John J. Strange Jr., Hohenfels garrison commander, cut the cake at Hohenfels' Kinderfest, April 20.

## In Hohenfels, military children let loose

Story and photo by **Heather Gunn**  
Contributing Writer

HOHENFELS, Germany — On a surprisingly sunny afternoon at the Hohenfels' Kinderfest, April 20, hundreds of children raced around in a cacophony of sound and activity, while volunteers and employees of Hohenfels' Child, Youth and School Services managed the "chaos." Hohenfels' youth had a wealth of activity in stations featuring coloring art projects, fishing for prizes, bouncing inside an inflatable house, sno-cones and many other activities.

But not all the smiling faces in the colorful crowd were children; Hohenfels Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John Strange Jr. was all smiles, too. In a moment of quiet between cutting the cake and sharing in the excitement of the diaper derby, Strange spoke to the families.

"The Kinderfest is one of the events that has punctuated and hallmarked the celebration in Hohenfels for the Month of the Military Child. Its success is due to the Family, Morale and Welfare Program, its outstanding leadership, and the volunteers here today."

Strange said he understands what life is like as a military child. In addition to being a military brat in the '80s when the Month of the Military Child was instituted under the tenure of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Strange is

a father to two teenagers.

And though times have changed, military children still experience similar challenges and continue to make sacrifices.

"I have always felt good about the Army and the way they have taken care of the families, that may not always be a shared experience, but I think that we are moving toward it," Strange said. "The Army is making a lot of decisions right now to try and support military families."

As a reminder of the family's importance to the Army, Strange brought along a coin given to him by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, which states, "The Strength of our Nation is Our Army, the Strength of the Army is the Soldier, and the Strength of the Soldier is the Family."

Through programs like Hohenfels Kinderfest (and the many other services for military families offered through CYSS throughout the year), Strange said he is constantly reminded of the support of the military community for its youth.

"These children are a source of pride and honor to us all and it is only fitting that we take time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children," Strange said.

"The Month of the Military Child and events such as this Kinderfest help us to pay tribute to these military children who also serve and sacrifice on behalf of their country as much as their parents do."



Avery Joy, 13, mimes stealing and eating a cookie during the auditions for Missoula Children's Theater's production of "Little Red Riding Hood." Due to a memorable audition, Joy ended up with a central role as Ranger Rooney and an assistant directorship.

## Young thespians vie for spots in 'Little Red Riding Hood'

Story and photos by **Chelsea Bissell**  
Staff Writer

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — On April 30, 47 children boldly proclaimed "I am a pickle and I like it" and mischievously insisted "There aren't any worms in your soup," to an audience in Grafenwoehr Field House.

These silly statements served as part of the two-hour audition process for Missoula Children's Theater's rendition of "Little Red Riding Hood," which staged on the morning of May 5. All 47 hopefuls made the cut to fill out a character-heavy play.

Calida Davis and Katie Murk, MCT's Europe representatives and the play's directors, led an audition lively enough to put nervous children at ease while still maintaining a diligent order.

Murk chalked up their success with the

children to "the big energy we have. We are so big and ridiculous and they like to watch what's going on."

With exaggerated gestures and dramatic voices, Davis and Murk captivated their young audience even when discussing their expectations of commitment and what they were looking for in actors.

The directors had three criteria for casting: kids with "loud, clear voices"; big, expressive bodies and faces, because "small faces are boring"; and, most importantly, kids who listen and follow directions.

Lined up from shortest to tallest in a horseshoe shape, the theater hopefuls showed off their acting chops through the simple task of stating their first name, last name and age. Some sobbed out their credentials, others acted meek, while others boldly declared their

See ACTORS, page 17

## Mr. ASAP benches heavy message

### Dale notches another victory in weightlifting belt

Story and photo by **Chelsea Bissell**  
Staff Writer

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — With 30 years of competitive weight lifting under his belt, John Dale, otherwise known as "Mr. ASAP," proved impossible to best during the Army Substance Abuse Program's latest awareness event, April 20.

Soldiers and family members gathered in the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center as they competed to out-bench press Dale and learned about the negative effects of substance abuse on both community and athleticism.

"We're providing the knowledge to the Soldiers while still having fun," explained Dale. "We bait them there with the physical fitness challenge and then give them information."

The event, titled "Beat Mr. ASAP," pitted Soldiers and family members' strength against Dale's. Dale, who powerlifted competitively during his 24 years in the Army, was confident he couldn't be beat at his own game.

"I'm not going to bench first," he said. "I might discour-



John Dale, aka "Mr. ASAP," bench presses 475 pounds without breaking a sweat during the "Beat Mr. ASAP" competition, April 20.

age participation."

The competition was divided into three rounds: women's repetitions, men's repetitions and maximum bench. To start off the event, the ladies battled for the most repetitions benching 85 pounds. Jessica Aguirre easily bested her opponents and won first place with 11 reps.

Aguirre, a fitness enthusiast who called the gym her "second home," attributes her success to friend, supporter and weight trainer Jackie Reddinger.

"She's really been guiding me through this process," said Aguirre.

For the men, the weight was ramped up to 225 pounds. Sgt. Abimael Carrasquillo, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Line Cargo Transfer Company, pumped out 23 repetitions to snag first place.

The maximum weight competition started at a whopping 315 pounds, which Mr. ASAP and his main challenger, Sgt. Derrick Bell, 574th Quartermaster, easily put away. The weight

was increased 100 pounds to 415. Again, both Mr. ASAP and Bell completed the lift.

Then, with the weight at 455 pounds the fun and intensity surged. Bell pointed into the onlookers, shouting, "This is for the little guy," before trying and failing to complete his one, heavy hoist. During his turn, Mr. ASAP let out a cry of "Get some! Hooah!" while successfully lifting the bar up and into its notch.

Mr. ASAP then rounded-out the maximum weight portion benching 475 pounds unchallenged.

While Mr. ASAP proved unparalleled in his strength, Bell earned the first place trophy for maximum weight benched, the prize he sought to obtain.

"I was going to win. I was going to bring it back for all the mechanics," said Bell.

The competition drew most of the crowd, but the aim of the event was to promote overall

See DALE, page 14



# Job Shadow Day provides new skills for youth

Story and photo by  
**Mark Iacampo**

*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

HOHENFELS, Germany — The Joint Multinational Readiness Center Aviation Observer Controller Team, The Falcons, opened the airfield to students from Hohenfels Elementary School as part of a new take on Job Shadow Day, April 17.

“We wanted to welcome the community and the youth and expose them to the importance of education — math, science and English — and see how that applies to some of the jobs that they might be interested in,” said Sgt. 1st Class Donald B. Mathews, operations NCO. “Future aviators, air traffic controllers, all these jobs stress the importance of education. We’re here to have fun today, but also with the underlying message that school is important.”

Divided into small groups, students from third through sixth grade toured seven stations around the airfield, where subject matter experts explained various jobs and duties of the Falcon team.

“We wanted to give them an idea of what we, as Falcons, do on a daily basis,” said Sgt. Jordan E. Schultz.

Schultz and several pilots shared details on the Lakota LUH-72 helicopters, helping children don flight vests and helmets, and even climb



**Aaliyah Ortega practices CPR on a dummy at the medevac station during the Job Shadow Day hosted by the Falcons observer/controller team, April 17.**

into the cockpits to try out the controls.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher B. Rowley headed up the medevac section, where volunteers got some hands-on experience with emergency medical techniques.

“I show them how to relieve blockage with the Heimlich maneuver, show them how to do a little CPR,” Rowley said. “We’ve got some injuries represented on these CPR dummies and we’re showing them some basic bandag-

ing, as well.”

Many children seemed particularly impressed with the Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) on display especially when Spc. Jonathan Pacheco drew a parallel between his job and something with which most youth today are very familiar.

“Basically this is a gigantic computer that we can fly,” Pacheco said. “It’s a multimillion dollar aircraft in control of what’s pretty much a PlayStation controller.”

At the Humvee station (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) Sgt. 1st Class Everett E. Colby demonstrated communications technology, and students took turns speaking to each other via radio in three different vehicles.

“We also have a radio up in flight operations, and these two (Humvees) are mimicking aircraft. So they’re talking as if they’re trying to take off or go on a mission and flight operations is returning with dialogue,” Colby explained.

On the other end, students in “The Tower” learned safety procedures, and how to communicate via colored floodlights with aircraft that may have lost their radio.

“The tower was my favorite because you could communicate with other students,” said fifth-grader Isaiah Davis-Reed.

Other stations included aircraft maintenance, refueling vehicles, and the fire department’s brand new crash/fire rescue vehicle.

“We wanted to do something different this year,” said Sharron McKinney, school liaison officer. “Some of the questions I heard the kids asking, you could tell they were totally engaged.”

“They were so psyched that they got to do it,” agreed fifth-grade teacher Jeanette Fry. “It was the absolutely most incredible experience these kids could have gone through.”



*Photo by Mark Iacampo*

**HOHENFELS, Germany — “I don’t know but I’ve been told, Tiger Cubs are good as gold!” Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Dixon gets some help from second-grader Emma Mack as students from Hohenfels Elementary School learned to march, salute and perform drills as part of K-2nd grade Job Shadow Day, April 18.**

**Children also watched demonstrations with the 527th Military Police K-9 unit, as military working dogs sniffed out hidden drugs and detained fleeing “suspects.”**

## Job fair pairs spouses, employers

Story and photo by  
**Chelsea Bissell**  
*Staff Writer*

VILSECK, Germany — Those looking for a career change, extra money or a diversion flooded the Multipurpose Building on April 24 for the annual ACS Job Fair.

Reminiscent of a tag sale, potential employees crowded outside the building doors in the rain well before the starting time of 10 a.m., anxious to network and hand out resumes.

An annual event in the Bavaria Military Community, ACS focused this year’s fair on spouses as well as local job opportunities. Rhani Ellis, Employment Readiness Program manager, explained that past job fairs were often tainted by U.S.-based companies who showed up with no intentions of hiring job-seekers stationed in Europe.

This year, however, ACS invited only local, Army-centric companies who could offer reasonable expectations of employment.

“By being community based, it’s more personal and more intimate,” said Ellis.

Representatives from Subway, Netzberg Elementary School, the commissary, Child, Youth and School Services, Service Credit Union and the tech-based contracting company, Raytheon were present.

Though the event sought to benefit job seekers, the fair also served as a fruitful resource for employers.

The managers of Service Credit Union, as emissaries for their organization, honed in on job fair applicants they were itching to nab. They even conducted interviews on site and began narrowing down a list of hires.

Both the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck branch executives of Service Credit Union felt that the quality of this year’s applicant pool far surpassed those in previous years.

“It’s a good opportunity for us to let people know that we’re hiring. We can hang a sign in our window, but not everyone sees it,” said Dustin Thursness, manager at Vilseck.

Even those organizations which conduct their hiring through USA-Jobs benefitted from their presence



**Paul Butler, assistant station manager for the Red Cross in Grafenwoehr, explains the benefits of volunteering at the Red Cross to Karina Jandro during the job fair. Jandro, who has a medical background, saw the fair as a good opportunity to broaden her networking base.**

at the fair.

Netzberg Elementary School, one of the most popular booths, found “several promising applicants,” according to Principal Barbara Mueller.

Though the application process for teachers, teacher aids and substitutes must be completed online, NES and other DOD organizations have the final say in who they hire. The job fair allowed Mueller to steer promising applicants to USAJobs so the school can choose an applicant they have already met and deemed capable.

“We want their names to appear on the referral list,” said Mueller of the choice applicants she had spoken with at the fair. “It’s nice to put a name with a face and see them in person.”

While employers exuded optimism during the four-hour event, those attending felt the burden of a limited and competitive local job market.

Chris Perry, who recently retired after 22 years in the Army, acknowledged the anxiety of his new unemployment.

“It’s weird,” he said. “I don’t know if you’d call it stressful, it’s

just fear of the unknown.”

With his wife still on active duty, Perry felt the added pressure of his diminishing household income and the need to contribute.

“If you’re married you don’t want to, I don’t know, become a bum and not pull your weight,” he explained.

For Jamie Zadra, a lawyer who works seasonally at the tax center in Vilseck, finding full-time employment, particularly in her field, has been a constant struggle that has defined much of her experience in Germany. At the job fair, she set her sights on administrative or teaching positions she could assume once the tax center closes for the year.

Like Perry, Zadra’s main concerns are economic as she looks for any opportunity to enhance her household income. At the fair, she struck an impression by visiting many booths, resume in hand and credentials ready. But, even persistence doesn’t guarantee work in the face of steep competition.

“There are a bunch of really qualified spouses,” explained Zadra.

Nevertheless, she will continue looking for a job, ready to help out anywhere she can.

## Students explore options during HMHS career fair

Story and photo by  
**Mark Iacampo**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

HOHENFELS, Germany — Organizations from across U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels gathered at Hohenfels Middle High School to give students a better understanding of various career possibilities at the First Annual HMHS Career Fair, April 19.

Students wandered between more than 40 stations offering information on career paths as varied as flight attendant, dentist or massage therapist.

“The main idea of this is to let the kids start thinking about what kind of careers are out there, and maybe to get them thinking about something they might not have considered before,” said Sharron McKinney, USAG Hohenfels school liaison officer.

“I would say this is a great introduction for a variety of career paths for these students,” said David Bumgarner, Outdoor Recreation director. “They get exposed to a wide variety of things so they can learn to start putting some of their focus towards something specific. It gives them a reason of why they’re going to school. They can say, ‘Hey, I’m taking this particular class because this might help me in this career.’”

Spc. Wayne Becton of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center’s Viper Team said he volunteered to help man the booth on photography, combat documentation and production because it’s an exciting field that he’s passionate about sharing with others.

“This is basically your internship for Hollywood. It’s a brilliant opportunity for kids who want to break into this field,” added fellow Viper Spc. Michael Sharp.

Many booths featured brochures and elaborate displays to help explain various aspects of the featured career.

Adrianna Mitchell’s display on physical and athletic training recommended specific high school classes, listed multiple degrees and certifications available, as well as which colleges and agencies provide the best accreditations.

“This gives us an opportunity to learn more about different careers, because sometimes they teach you about careers in school, but they don’t give



**Adrianna Mitchell explains the educational requirements related to becoming a physical trainer to a group of interested high school students at Hohenfels Middle High School’s First Annual Career Fair, April 19. More than 40 stations, explaining various career paths filled the middle high school, igniting possibilities for the future.**

you such a wide variety as this,” said ninth-grader Shelby Atkinson.

“And it’s more hands on,” added eighth-grader Jasmin Hack. “You get to ask more personal questions and learn more about the jobs.”

“We had one boy in particular that had so many questions for us, it was inspiring,” said Caroline Wilkins about her section as a financial counselor. “I think it’s important as soon as you can to let kids know what their options are, especially with the economy so bad. You can’t just not have a plan.”

School counselor Beth Fitzgerald said the school was very pleased at the amount of participants who volunteered their time, and expects the career fair to continue to grow over the years.

“The kids are asking a lot of pertinent questions, getting a lot of information, and seem very excited by it, so we’re excited by that, as well,” she said.



# Medical officers battle it out in Graf

Story and photos by  
**Douglas DeMaio**

*Bavaria Medical Department Activity  
Public Affairs*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Four officers tested their Soldier skills, knowledge and physical abilities to see who among them would become Europe Regional Medical Command's best junior officer here, recently.

Day and night land navigation, physical challenges, weapons proficiency and many other events measured the competitors' leadership aptitude.

"It was a great experience," said 1st Lt. Aaron Olsen, who won the competition. "It hasn't been a joke; it is definitely physically demanding."

The officers started the competition with an Army Physical Fitness Assessment. The APFA was followed by a four-km march and the competitors dropped their rucksacks and immediately transitioning into a stress fire test with 9 mm pistols.

Having the competitors prove their marksmanship abilities while tired was by design, said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Olivarez, who was the officer in charge of the weapons range and is the noncommissioned officer in charge of clinical operations for Bavaria Medical Department Activity.

"It was a gut check," Olsen said, who is a nurse at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. "The stress fire was really stressful. Everything didn't work out the way I wanted it to; my glasses were fogging up; I couldn't keep my pistol steady. Everybody is yelling and you're on a time basis."

The physical demands on the competitors did not lessen through the rest of the competition, according to one competitor.

"There is not a lot of down time," said 1st Lt. Brain J. Keller, a competitor who works in the intensive care unit at Landstuhl Regional Medical Command.

Much of what the medical command officers did throughout the week was rare, Keller said.

Medical command Soldiers have an everyday real-world mission and prepping for something like the ERMC Best Junior Of-



**Clockwise from top: Second Lt. Laura Amschler finishes the rope bridge obstacle while Sgt. William Travis, Schweinfurt Health Clinic, prepares to drop from an obstacle during ERMC's Best Junior Officer Competition, April 17. First Lt. Aaron Olsen descends from a cargo net while navigating through the obstacle course during the competition.**

ficer Competition is a challenge, said Staff Sgt. Charles Bailey, the NCOIC of the physical, medicine and rehabilitation clinic at LRMC.

"The opportunities for training are fairly limited for those Soldiers because they are doing their job every single day," Bailey said,

who was the combatives lane OIC. "They don't have that training environment. For those who are really prepared, it will stick out and for those who are not it will stick out. Preparation and training will shine in the end."

The competitors agreed with

Bailey's view.

"What I am actually doing 90 percent of my time is taking care of our horribly wounded boys and girls from downrange," Keller said, referring to his job as an intensive care nurse.

Olsen had a similar outlook.

"Because we work in a hospital every day, we don't get to experience a lot of this," Olsen said. "We don't get to do a lot of that and this gets us back to our real Soldier skills."

The competition allowed Soldiers to understand their strengths and weaknesses better.

"The warrior tasks were a great lane because it exposed weaknesses that I personally had so I can train up for the next competition," Keller said.

Three other Soldiers who participated in the competition did just that.

Junior officer 2nd Lt. Laura Amschler joined the officers the entire week and used the competition as an opportunity to train for the U.S. Army Europe Best Officer Competition this summer.

Two NCOs also joined Amschler is training up for a competition.

"We ran through almost everything they are going through," said Sgt. William Travis, who will represent ERMC along with Sgt. Christopher Dettor at the Medical Command Best Warrior Competition in the beginning of June. "It has been a very tough competition. It lets us know ahead of time what we need to be prepping for in the coming weeks."

"All around, we have identified that we have a strong skill set to start with. In the next six weeks, we need to sharpen and hone everything down to a fine point to get ready."

Travis, who works at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic, and Dettor, from the Hohenfels Health Clinic, competed in the ERMC Best Warrior Competition and brought some experience the junior officers could use as the group progressed through the competition.

"I'm rooting for them," Olsen said. "Learning from them has been extremely beneficial. It has been very helpful learning from their experiences."



**Staff Sgt. Ammala Louangketh from the Warrior Transition Battalion in Schweinfurt, steadies and releases the arrow from his grasp. Louangketh was one of 50 athletes representing the Army in the third annual Warrior Games April 30-May 5 in Colorado Springs, Colo.**

## Wounded Soldier from Schweinfurt competes in Warrior Games

Story and photo by  
**Margaret Gotheridge**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — He checks his recurve bow and slips the string taut on the lower tip, loops the strung end on the outside of his foot, then slides the other end through the top. With steely nerves and the finesse of a master weaver, you'd never know he was shot multiple times at a point blank range.

Staff Sgt. Ammala Louangketh of C Company, Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe in Schweinfurt will be one of 50 athletes representing the Army in the third annual 2012 Warrior Games.

Louangketh has served the U.S. Army for 19 years. This is the second time he's competed in the games.

Athletes from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Special Operations will compete April 30-May 5 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The athletes are wounded, ill and injured servicemembers and veterans who competed in archery, cycling, wheelchair basketball, shooting, swimming, track and field or sitting volleyball, according to the Defense Department website at [www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0410\\_warriorgames/index.html](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0410_warriorgames/index.html).

More than 200 competitors vied for top honors while demonstrating the difference between ability and disability.

"Last year was definitely an eye opener and I feel that my recent training has better prepared me for this year's competition. My physical training has helped me focus on my upper body and core areas, which are much needed in archery and sitting volleyball," said Louangketh, who placed fifth in archery at last year's games.

Louangketh has been fascinated with archery and its history. He began shooting compound and recurve bows at age 16. This year, to improve his chances at gold, he plans on mentally preparing himself by relaxing with his family and going fishing, he said.

"My goal is to be able to be competitive and learn more about the sport through other shooters," said Louangketh.

The recurve bow has additional curves at the top and bottom of the bow that turn away from the archer. The curves make it sturdier and more powerful than a regular bow.

Throughout history many civilizations like the Chinese, Mongols, Huns, Greeks and Turks have used the recurve bow as a weapon during war and peace. Today, the story is much different and the bow is now the only bow allowed in the Olympics.

Louangketh was shot in the leg Jan. 7, 2009, in Babil province. Soon afterward he spent several months going through rehabilitation in Landstuhl. When he was released he joined the WTB-Europe here.

Although it has been more than three years since the injury, Louangketh still attends physical therapy sessions on a regular basis and will most likely continue doing so after he retires in June.

"My injury has made me dig harder into my capabilities and help other wounded Soldiers by mentoring the younger Soldiers," he said.

The Warrior Games confirm the Army's commitment in celebrating and acknowledging the more than 18,000 wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and veterans for their valor and resilience as Soldiers and athletes.

## A Bravo welcome



**HOHENFELS, Germany — Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, applaud the arrival of their own Bravo Company at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, here. The Soldiers returned from Kosovo to a gym full of family and friends, April 24.**

*Photo by Benjamin Griffin*

## Female Soldiers engage with Afghan women

GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan — International Security Assistance Force Commander Gen. John R. Allen speaks to U.S. Army Sgt. Maria Rodriguez (left) and Spc. Mellanie Harber, both members of the Female Engagement Team, 172nd Infantry Brigade, during Allen's patrol of Zarin village in the Andar district, April 23.

Both Rodriguez and Harber are with the 172nd Support Battalion out of Schweinfurt. They began training for the engagement team last year in Schweinfurt. *Editor's Note: Charlie Stadlander contributed reporting from Afghanistan.*



*Photo by Master Sgt. Kap Kim*



# Hohenfels celebrates the 'force behind the force'

Story and photo by  
**Mark Iacampo**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

HOHENFELS, Germany — Hohenfels community members gathered to honor their vast contingent of volunteers at an award ceremony and luncheon that celebrated the "force behind the force," April 18.

"We wanted to take a moment to recognize our volunteers throughout the community who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to make this community such a wonderful place to live in," said Lt. Col. John J. Strange Jr., U.S. Garrison Hohenfels commander.

Hohenfels volunteers logged more than 32,000 hours last year, according to Erica Turner, Army Community Service division chief. At the base rate of a GS-9, that adds up to more than \$655,000.

"Your hours are not just a representation of the hard work and dedication, but a value and savings that your force provides to the community," Turner said.

Volunteers permeate almost every service on post, from the mailroom, the gym, the library and the clinic. Many services provided by the garrison are almost entirely dependent on volunteers. As pointed out in a video presented at the luncheon, the president of the Hohenfels Middle High School Booster Club and the swim team coach are volunteers, without whom certain activities would not be available to students.

"The youth sports program here, and the



**Hohenfels recognizes its volunteers, who cumulatively logged 32,000 hours last year, at a ceremony held April 18.**

sports programs that serve our communities are highly dependent on volunteers," said Strange. "Whether it's swimming, softball or soccer, those activities are coached by community members on a volunteer basis. And it's all the more important when you consider the fact that many of those Soldiers whose families are being supported have been deployed to Afghanistan or Kosovo. Those community volunteers, whether their acting in support of Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts, in some way become father or mother figures for a short period of time, and you can't put a value on that."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Crook, Joint Multinational Readiness Center Operations group, was recognized by Child, Youth and School Services' sports and fitness as the "Active Duty Volunteer of the Year" for his work with the youth soccer teams. Crook coaches teams in Hohenfels and in Grafenwoehr and serves on the board of directors of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Europe branch.

"I love to take kids from never having played, or even those with some experience, and watch them grow," Crook said.

Many programs are also supported by vol-

unteers from the local German community. Hohenfels' German American Kontakt Club President Andreas Kirschenbauer logged over 800 volunteer hours in support of the club and was named the "Host Nation Volunteer of the Year."

"It's all about the club and promoting the friendship," Kirschenbauer said. "The people keep me motivated. When you do trips and organize it, everybody is happy and it turns out fun, that's my paycheck."

Melanie Wilhite volunteers at Army Community Service as the Army Family Team Building Program manager. She said when she first became an Army spouse, it wasn't so easy to figure out the new culture. She started volunteering to make the transition easier for other new spouses.

"I had people who helped me out along the way, I had that one spouse who helped me ... I think I'm trying to be that person for a lot of new spouses, now," she said.

"Our volunteers come in all shapes and sizes; active duty Soldiers, civilians, spouses, family members, and our German community partners. All of them come together to make a difference," Strange said.

Many volunteers said that they are driven by a desire to give back to their community. They also said it's a great way to get involved, meet new friends, and cultivate a sense of "belonging" within the community.

"You can go home and sit on your duff all night, or you can get out and do something," said volunteer Ric Potteiger. "It's a small community, anything can help."

## What's Happening

### Grafenwoehr / Rose Barracks

#### ID card consolidation

The Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks ID card offices have consolidated in Grafenwoehr's Bldg. 244, Room 134. The operating hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and the last customer is taken at 4 p.m. to ensure they can complete their IACS registration on the same day.

Customers can make appointment online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>, or just walk-in.

For more, visit the garrison's website, [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil).

#### Casualty training

The Casualty Management Office will provide Casualty Notification Officer/Casualty Assistance Officer Training, May 15-16, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in Grafenwoehr's Bldg. 244, Room 219. The community is in need of trained civilian employees GS-09/equivalent and above. Note: this is a two-day course.

For more, contact the Bavaria Military Community Casualty Management Office at DSN 475-8709/8539, CIV 09641-83-8709/8539.

#### Safety Day

May 10: The garrison will host a safety day, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Bldg. 547 (across from Burger King). This event will include mandatory training for some of the LN/DAC workforce, seat belt convincer, face painting, bike inspections, demonstrations by the fire department and door prizes.

#### Blood drive

June 5: The Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Community Blood Drive will take place at the USO, Grafenwoehr Bldg. 150, from 10a.m.-6p.m. Walk-ins welcome, or make an appointment online at [www.militarydonor.com](http://www.militarydonor.com), and click on "Donate Blood" and then click "Near Landstuhl." Must be 17 years of age to donate.

The Armed Services Blood Program only collects blood from our military community and is used for our military community.

#### CI survey

May 1-18: USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office needs your help in making our com-

munity better. As we restructure to balance fiscal reality with customer service, we're looking to streamline our information products. Participate in our survey and provide input for the ways in which news and information are developed and delivered to our community. Survey available at [http://kwiksurveys.com/online-survey.php?surveyID=LC-EMJI\\_715a10a&u=BMC\\_Command\\_Info\\_Survey\\_2012\\_final](http://kwiksurveys.com/online-survey.php?surveyID=LC-EMJI_715a10a&u=BMC_Command_Info_Survey_2012_final)

#### JMTC Spring Ball

May 18: All JMTC military and civilian personnel are invited for an evening of dinner and dancing at the Joint Multinational Training Command 2012 Spring Ball Formal, May 18, in the Amberg Congress Centrum, Schiessstaetteweg 8, Amberg, 92224.

Cocktail hour starts at 6 p.m., with mess call at 7 p.m. The guest speaker is Fleet Master Chief Roy M. Maddocks Jr., EUCOM senior enlisted advisor. Tickets are 28 euros per person and are available through your unit coordinator. For more, call Sgt. 1st Waiters at DSN 475-7447, CIV 09641-83-7447.

#### Retirement ceremony

May 30: Celebrate those retiring at the USAG Grafenwoehr Community Retirement ceremony in the Main Post field House Bldg 547, 4 p.m. For more, DSN 475-8821.

#### "Dearly Departed"

May 17-19, 24-25 & June 1-2: Show at 7 p.m., May 20 & June 3, show at 2 p.m.

In the Baptist backwoods of the Bible Belt, the beleaguered Turpin family proves that living and dying in the South are seldom tidy and always hilarious. Despite their earnest efforts to pull themselves together for their father's funeral, the Turpin's other problems keep overshadowing the solemn. At the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center, Grafenwoehr Bldg. 103. For more, DSN 475-6426, CIV 09641-83-6426.

#### May Madness softball

May 18-20: If you enjoy playing softball then Unit Level Softball Tournament is for you. The tournament will be at Rose Barracks Softball Triplex, Bldg. 375. Let's play ball.

For more, call Rose Barracks, DSN 476-2998 or CIV 09662-83-2998; Main Post at DSN 475-9007 or CIV 09641-83-9007; Sports Office, DSN 475-8207 or

CIV 09641-83-8207.

#### Klettersteig

May 19: Experience the art of klettersteig at the famous Hohenglucksteig. Klettersteig is a European specific hiking discipline which combines hiking and climbing. Rather than climbing up a rock face, klettersteig involves traversing rock walls on an established trail while utilizing a safety harness and belay.

The Hohenglucksteig has three distinct sections that progressively become more challenging; this provides various routes guaranteed to satisfy all types of participants. This trip is not recommended for small children. For more call, 476-2563.

#### Comedy tour

May 22: Laugh outloud during the AFE "Lights Out Comedy" tour at Rose Barracks, Tumbleweed Restaurant Complex, Bldg. 227. Doors open at 7 p.m., Show starts at 8 p.m. Show consists of Adult Content, 18 and over only. For more, visit <http://armedforcesentertainment.com/default.htm> or call DSN 476-2948, CIV 09662-83-2948, e-mail [usarmy.grafenwoehr.im-com-fmwr.com-list.special-events@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.grafenwoehr.im-com-fmwr.com-list.special-events@mail.mil).

#### Physicals

Vilseck Health Clinic will have physicals June 11 & 14; July 9, 12, 16 & 19; August 6, 9, 13, 16, 20 & 23; and Sept. 4 & 6 for all children participating in sports. These appointments are for Vilseck patients only.

To book an appointment, call DSN 476-2882, CIV 09662-83-2882. Ensure the child's vaccination records are current and bring it to the appointment. Children should bring their glasses, too.

Please come prepared with all required paperwork and the parent/guardian portion completed.

## Hohenfels

#### Summer Hire

Apply through June 17: Open to family members between the ages of 14 and 22 years old, with valid dependant ID cards.

The Summer Hire program begins on July 16 and will end August 24. Visit the webpage at <https://cpolrhp.cpol.army.mil/eur/employment/index.htm> for more.

#### Mother's Day Bazaar

May 11-13: Shop 'til you drop

Mother's Day weekend at USAG Hohenfels. Finest European wares include: Furniture, Wine, Cheese, knick knacks and more.

Open to U.S. ID cardholders. Visa, MasterCard, cash and checks accepted.

Opening hours: Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Community Activities Center.

#### Whitewater kayaking

May 12: If you want to kayak this is a great way to start. Learn basic skills and fundamentals of kayaking on a local section of river. ODR will teach you paddle strokes, basic water concepts, and safety techniques.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Cost: \$60. To sign up, stop by ODR or call at DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

#### Klettersteig

May 13: Experience the art of Klettersteig at the famous Hohenglucksteig.

Klettersteig is a European specific hiking discipline which combines hiking and climbing. Rather than climbing up a rock face, Klettersteig involves traversing rock walls on an established trail while utilizing a safety harness and belay.

The Hohenglucksteig has three distinct sections that progressively become more challenging; this provides various routes guaranteed to satisfy all types of participants. This trip is not recommended for small children.

Time: 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Cost: \$45. To sign up, stop by ODR or call at DSN 466-2060 or CIV 09472-83-2060.

#### Hallo Hohenfels

May 15-18: The "Hallo Hohenfels" newcomers' orientation is the place to be if you're new to the community.

Hallo Hohenfels is a dazzling four-day event packed with the practical information you need upon arrival. Even better, it's a direct hands-on introduction to the local German economy and culture.

In addition to learning some German language, you will explore local communities, a local bakery and butcher shop, go to Mobelhof, a huge home decorating store and spend the final day visiting the nearby city of Regensburg.

Find out how your new community works without doing everything yourself and make some new friends at the same time. Special bonus: a visit to 'Star Wars' building.

Join the fun at ACS, Bldg. 10

from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. For more, call Kurt Rager, Relocation Program Manager, at DSN 466-3403. Free childcare; register early.

#### Paris, France

May 19-20: Spend two exciting days with us in the City of Lights. After an early morning departure and breakfast on the way you will be free to discover Paris.

This is a great trip for those who like to create their own itinerary and wonderful experience. Time and Cost: TBA. Stop by ODR or call at DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

#### Weekend in Garmisch

May 25-28: This trip is packed with adventure activities such as mountain biking, white water kayaking, flat water kayaking and canoeing and hiking.

We offer progressive white water kayak lessons and Class I-III river trips. White water rafting trips to Austria can be arranged for an additional cost.

The rustic Kean's Lodge offers shared bathroom facilities, and a fully equipped kitchen. Camping is also available on site.

Time: 9 a.m. Cost: \$129 adults, \$79 children, \$279 family. Stop by ODR or call at DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

## Schweinfurt

#### Community gathering

May 11: 4-11 p.m. Come out and enjoy the Schweinfurt Garrison Community Celebration for an evening of fun, food and festivities at the Conn Club & Pavilion. This is a free event for all ages to enjoy and relax with members of the community. Food will be available from local vendors as well as bounce castles, a rock climbing wall and a dance floor to cut a rug on.

The attire will be all civilian clothing within good taste and to the same standards as the DFAC. Support your organization with its specific colors or distinctions. For more, e-mail [jason.m.feldt@mail.mil](mailto:jason.m.feldt@mail.mil).

#### Estates claim

Any persons or agencies with claims against the estate of Spc. Bernard Hill Jr. may contact 1st Lt. Victor A. Mathis, the summary court martial officer, at [victor.a.mathis@mail.mil](mailto:victor.a.mathis@mail.mil), or call DSN 353-8962, CIV 0174-329-7939.

#### Fishing license class

May 11-13: 6-10 p.m. Out-

door Recreation will conduct a class for those interested in fishing while living here in Germany. The cost is \$65 for event.

If you would like more information or details pertaining to the class, contact Outdoor Recreation on Conn Barracks, Bldg. 50, DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-968080.

#### Community Town Hall

May 15: 10 a.m. There will be a Community Town Hall open to the entire community at the Conn Club on Conn Barracks.

This will be your opportunity to engage with garrison leaders to discuss base closure information and summer events and programs.

#### Summer camp

May 15: Are your children interested in participating in fun events throughout the summer? If so registration for Summer Camp begins today.

Registration will be conducted at the Parent Central Services, the Commons on Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224. For more information, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

#### Fall sports

May 15: If you are looking for something entertaining to do next fall sign up for a sports team. Registration will be conducted at the Parent Central Services, the Commons on Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224.

For more, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

#### Babysitting class

May 16-19: If you are in the 7th through 12th grade looking to earn money by babysitting, sign up today for the babysitting class being offered by Parent Central Services.

The location has not yet been determined so, contact Parent Central Services located at the Commons on Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224 or call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

#### Memorial Day run

May 19: 9:30 a.m. Dust off your running shoes and sign up for the Memorial Day Fun Run from May 1-18.

The sign up locations are found at both Kessler and Finney Fitness Centers.

Last minute registration will be available May 19 from 8-9:15 a.m. at Kessler Fitness Center.

The start time for Adults is 9:30 a.m. and the start time for the Youth is 9:45 a.m.

For more, contact Bob Bausum at DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.



# Soak your worries away in Baden Baden

Based on Roman-Irish tradition, the Friedrichsbad bath house offers a bygone, all-nude spa experience popular with Europeans and adventurous foreigners.

## A small Black Forest town bathes in local tradition

By Chelsea Bissell  
*Staff Writer*

BADEN BADEN, Germany — Meaning “bathing bathing” in German, Baden Baden makes no secret of its main attractions. Situated at the northern edge of the Black Forest, the town has attracted international and local clientele for centuries in pursuit of relaxation and its famed healing waters.

Today, two bath houses — one traditional and somber, the other, modern and casual — still attract hundreds of thousands of visitors a year. The more established bath, Friedrichsbad, boasts an all-nude dress code and a one-of-a-kind experience that leaves visitors gum-muscled and soporific. The Caracalla baths, with a fun, accessible atmosphere, is replete with pools, saunas and tanning beds.

Friedrichsbad and Caracalla sit next to each other near the center of town. Each bath offers unique services and ambiance, so with the right amount of time and inclination, both should be tried.

### Friedrichsbad

This bath is an incredible three and a half hours missed by many scared off by the nudity. Is the nudity awkward? No. Initially, emerging stark naked from the lockers to be greeted by clothed (and multilingual) attendants is uncomfortable. But, among bare peers, the nudity is secondary to the experience, and people act very respectful. To bathe with an opposite sex partner, visit the spa on Tues., Wed., Fri., Sun. or any public holiday. To experience the bath with those of your same sex, visit on a Mon., Thurs. or Sat.

Numbered rooms guide visitors through each carefully orchestrated stage of the spa. Bathers wash off outside grime in monsoon showers before sweating off impurities in dry saunas. Next, bathers can enjoy a soap brush massage administered by gruff German women who end the five minute scrub down with a hearty spank. Post-massage, guests frolic in pools of varying temperatures. The picturesque pool is cool and still and situated directly under a looming dome decorated in Mediterranean tiles.

Friedrichsbad’s most memorable event happens post-soak. After a quick plunge in a cold bath (18 degrees Celsius,) attendants wrap bathers in a warm towel and lead them to a darkened room lined with beds. Here, the nubile bathers,

wrapped up, snug and impossibly clean, are encouraged to take a half-hour nap. Bathers emerge from this cocoon refreshed, scrubbed and completely at ease. As an aside, children under 14 are not allowed in Friedrichsbad.

### The clean getaway

For a 3.5-hour stay plus a soap brush massage, Friedrichsbad costs €33. Caracalla runs cheaper at €17 for a three-hour stay. Friedrichsbad is located at Romerplatz 1. Caracalla is right next door.

Both bath houses will validate parking garage tickets, but only for the “Bader” garage.

More information is available at [www.carasana.de/en/welcome](http://www.carasana.de/en/welcome).

### Caracalla

Less serious and regimented than the traditional Friedrichsbad, Caracalla is a good option for families (though children under 7 not allowed) and spa initiates. The bath consists of two distinct sections.

Downstairs, visitors wear swimsuits and splash in heated indoor and outdoor pools. Up the spiral staircase however, more adventurous bathers take it all off for an au naturel sauna experience.

Visitors can choose between dry Swedish saunas (one as hot as 90 degrees Celsius), more temperate steam baths and the not-to-be-missed eucalyptus suffused room. When it all gets too hot, the showers or the polar ice bucket provide a chilly rinse. For a dry, oil infused sauna, head outside where guests can also sun bathe or shower in nice weather.

Protocol demands all guests in Caracalla’s dry saunas to place a towel underneath their bums and feet. This protects the sitter from both hot boards and the risk of contamination.

For those wishing to relax in a sauna without having to bear it all, Caracalla offers dry, humid, aromatic and briny saunas on its clothed, ground floor. Those with aching backs or feet can also enjoy pounding waterfalls and pools lined with water jets guaranteed to knead out any kink.

For entry, visitors will need a swimsuit and a towel, but the bath will provide a towel with a 10-euro deposit. Visitors receive a wristband that opens and closes lockers and serves as a credit card for drink and snack purchases at the bar. All extras are paid for upon exit.



Clockwise from top left: The tranquility of the Friedrichsbad domed pool provides a welcome relief from the massaging jets and bubbles of the other baths while the rough, but relaxing soap brush massage leaves skin feeling squeaky clean. End the day at the spa in the reading room sipping tea and reading books and magazines in English. At the Caracalla Spa, bathers can slip through underwater passages to reach the warm pools and hot tubs outside. All photos courtesy of [www.carasana.de](http://www.carasana.de)



# Unimmunized pose risk to infants

Experts ask those who work with babies to help prevent disease

By Douglas DeMaio

*Bavaria Medical Department Activity Public Affairs*

VILSECK, Germany — Medical professionals in Bavaria are encouraging adults and teens to get a tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine in an effort to shield infants from a preventable communicable disease.

The vaccine, often referred to as Tdap, is different from the tetanus-diphtheria shot adults get every 10 years; it has a pertussis component that aids persons from spreading pertussis to children and infants.

"Irrespective if you had the Td shot recently, you should have the Tdap now," said Victorio Vaz, an epidemiologist for Bavaria Medical Department Activity. "It is a one-time vaccine. This is a new vaccine that became available for teens and adults only in 2005."

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, can cause serious and sometimes life-threatening complications in infants and young children, especially those who are not fully vaccinated, Vaz said.

It is caused by bacteria and is



Courtesy photo

**The tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine became available for adults in 2005. Parents, people expecting a child, grandparents, child care providers, siblings and health care providers are highly recommended to get a Tdap vaccine.**

transmitted by coughs or sneezes. The bacteria become airborne and anyone close who inhales the bacteria can become infected. Pertus-

sis can be fatal in babies less than a year old. Of those infants who are infected with the disease, half will be hospitalized; one percent of infants hospitalized will die; one in five will get pneumonia; one in a 100 will have convulsions; half of those hospitalized will stop breathing for a while; and one in 300 will have brain damage.

In the U.S., there are more than 20,000 reported cases annually, he said.

"Before the pertussis vaccine became available, there were hundreds of thousands of cases each year in the United States," Vaz said. "Worldwide, just to put things into perspective, you are talking about 30 to 50 million cases and 300,000 deaths a year."

Before 2005, there were no vaccines for people older than six with a pertussis component, Vaz said. Parents, people expecting a child, grandparents, child care providers, siblings and health care providers are highly recommended to get a Tdap vaccine. People who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant less than 12 months, including pregnant women, should receive a single dose of Tdap if they have not previously received the vaccine.

Unvaccinated pregnant women are encouraged to get the vaccine at

or shortly after week 20 of the pregnancy, he said.

"Vaccination of pregnant women can protect them and their babies by passing their antibodies to the baby before the baby reaches an age where they start getting the vaccine," Vaz said.

Vaccines for infants are recommended at two months, four months, six months and a year. Vaccinated children are protected against the disease, but if a child becomes infected with the disease, he will have a milder case of pertussis, but Vaz insists it is important for those around children to be immunized.

"The Center for Disease Control and Prevention have been very concerned about the fact that there has been an increase in the number of cases in the 10 to 19 age group and infants under 6 months of age," he said. "Of greater concern is the fact that infants are the ones that take the brunt of the disease in terms of hospitalizations and death. We want pregnant women to encourage other members of the household to come in for the vaccine."

The idea is to build a cocoon around children to protect them from being infected with pertussis, Vaz said.

For more information about pertussis or Tdap vaccine, contact your local health clinic.

# Changes to sexual assault reporting policy offers more privacy for victims

By Douglas DeMaio

*Bavaria Medical Department Activity Public Affairs*

VILSECK, Germany — A change in Department of Defense policy for reporting a sexual assault is giving dependents options similar to that of service members.

Military dependents age 18 and above can now report a sexual assault as either restricted or unrestricted under DOD Directive 6495.01. Restricted reports allow sexual assault victims confidentially when disclosing an incident to specifically identified individuals (such as a victim advocate, health care provider or chaplain) without initiating an official investigation. Victims still cannot file a restricted report if they contact the chain of command or law enforcement, as this will trigger an investigation. Support services and health care providers will automatically notify law enforcement when a dependent age 17 and under is involved in a sexual assault report.

"The change is important because it allows individuals and families the privacy to deal with a very traumatic incident before being obliged to involve others in the response to the assault," said Capt. Elizabeth A. Cracraft, the Sexual Assault Medical Management Program coordinator for Bavaria Medical Department Activity. "We hope the individual or family will take the year the regulation allows to come to the decision to make the report unrestricted, so that any evidence collected during a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam can be processed and an investigation started."

However, our primary concern is that the individual receives appropriate, timely and support-

ive health care."

According to Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy: "Restricted reporting is intended to give victims additional time and increased control over the release and management of their personal information, and to empower them to seek relevant information and support to make more informed decisions about participating in the criminal investigation. A victim who receives appropriate care and treatment, and is provided an opportunity to make an informed decision about a criminal investigation is more likely to develop increased trust that his/her needs are of primary concern to the command and may eventually decide to pursue an investigation. Even if the victim chooses not to pursue an official investigation, this additional reporting avenue gives commanders a clearer picture of the sexual violence within their command, and enhances a commander's ability to provide an environment that is safe and contributes to the wellbeing and mission-readiness of all of its members."

With the closure of the Wuerzburg Hospital in 2007 and no military treatment facility emergency department in Bavaria, Soldiers were referred to a German hospital for health care after an assault. German law requires health care providers report to the German police all cases of sexual assault. With the German police involved, it is impossible for Soldiers seeking medical care in Bavaria after an assault to make a restricted report. This changed in 2010, when the BMEDDAC Sexual Assault Medical Management (SAMM) program was piloted and became a permanent program. The SAMM program allowed Soldiers to receive



medical care and a forensic exam 24/7 after a sexual assault in one of the garrison ambulatory health clinics and, thereby, enabled them to make a restricted report.

Under the old policy, law enforcement notified the Soldier's command of the investigation into the sexual assault of the dependent, she said. This has been a particular concern in Germany, where dependants do not have the option to seek private medical care after a sexual assault in a civilian health care facility, which is without obligation to report the assault to law enforcement, as they do in the U.S.

"It couldn't remain a private matter dealt with by medical and support services; it became a command issue. It was thought that anxiety over command involvement kept dependents from coming forward to report an assault," Cracraft said. "We really hope this change to the policy will encourage more people to make a report, and get the health care and support they need."

# Changes happening in Medical Protection System

Commanders now have better idea for why Soldiers become nondeployable

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Commanders and supervisors will be better able to tell why their Soldiers are nondeployable because of changes taking place in the Army's online reporting system.

A new ratings system now being used in the Medical Protection System (MEDPROS) removes both the medically nondeployable (MND) and limited duty profile ratings, replacing them with new deployment limiting (DL) ratings that specify more clearly how long the limitation will last, said Lynette Tatsch, MEDPROS readiness coordinator in Eu-

rope Regional Medical Command's Force Health Protection Office.

"The hope is that the new MEDPROS logic will provide better visibility and granularity, as well as eliminating many of the equivocal categories of MND and LDP as all-encompassing terminology for a number of deployment limitations," Tatsch said. "In the past, MEDPROS users could not easily identify the reason a Soldier was nondeployable. With the conversion to the DL ratings, they will now have total visibility, including seeing all the reasons those Soldiers who have multiple DL ratings are considered nondeployable."

In the past, the LDP rating required no justification or supporting documentation, and wasn't supported by any regulation or policy, Tatsch explained. Now, LDP ratings will be removed from Soldiers' re-

cords and Soldiers who have no other deployment limiting conditions will convert to a new rating dictated by their current condition.

The new ratings run from DL1 through DL6. DL1 through 5 ratings mean the underlying medical condition will take more than 30 days to correct, while DL6 means the Soldier should be medically ready within 30 days.

The DL5 rating is only for Soldiers who are pregnant so they are not counted twice — as could happen in the past — in the nondeployable population.

Medical providers also use eProfile, an online system for documenting medically limiting conditions. The new MEDPROS changes make it even more critical to ensure that eProfile inputs are done properly, Tatsch said.

"It's important for commanders

and medical staff to understand that all future documentation of pregnancy be done using the pregnancy template in eProfile since this is the only way the automated system can separate this population from others with temporary profiles greater than 30 days," Tatsch said.

Other changes to MEDPROS include a task force build capability in MEDPROS Web Data Entry that allows for users to build an individual task force based on unique requirements, and a modification to the Commander Profile Report that allows identification of the profile's origin.

The ERM Force Health Protection Office is ready to answer questions and offer assistance with the changes to MEDPROS. They can be contacted at DSN 371-2940 or by e-mailing MEDPROS.europe@amedd.army.mil.

# Drinking and driving is not a new problem

By Dr. Trish Prosser

*U.S. Army Public Health Command*

Drunk driving actually began before the invention of cars. As soon as a person climbed onto the back of another animal, there must have been drunken horse, camel and elephant riders. Drinking played a large role in going to sea also.

Alcohol has played an important part in human civilization for a long time. Historians believe that slaves building the Great Pyramid at Giza drank about 1-1/2 gallons of beer a day. A daily task in Egyptian households was brewing beer, while the pharaohs preferred to drink wine. It is easy to imagine drunken chariot riders in Rome, and there is no doubt that some of Hannibal's men rode drunkenly on elephants into battle.

The collection, processing and distribution of water actually developed in the 20th century. Before then, a constant source of fresh and clean water was harder to come by. Stored water without modern techniques quickly stagnates. One hundred years ago, diseases like cholera and typhoid were spread through contaminated water, killing hundreds of thousands. Alcohol was used as an alternative to water because most germs and viruses that lived in water could not survive in alcohol. It comes as no surprise that alcohol was widely used as medicine, to kill germs and dull pain.

The first actual drunk driving arrest was made in 1897 in London when a man ran his car into a building. Before this time and for many decades after, automobiles and their owners were not regulated in any way. In the United States, it was not until 1910 that the first drunk driving laws were adopted in New York, but these laws merely stated that one should not drive a motor vehicle while inebriated, which was not clearly defined. In 1939, Indiana introduced the first blood alcohol content (BAC) level to determine if a driver was drunk. This level was set at .15, which is nearly twice today's .08 national legal limit.

In the 1980s, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) came to prominence, ignition interlock devices began to be court ordered and the national minimum legal drinking age was set at 21. In 1989, the Exxon Valdez grounded on Blyth Reef, releasing around 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, arguably the worst environmental disaster until the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The responsibility for the Exxon Valdez accident was blamed on a drunken ship's master. Clearly, alcohol and boats, like alcohol and cars, are not a good combination.

It was not until July 2004 that the entire United States adopted a universal BAC level of .08 as the national standard for drinking and driving. Army Regulation 600-85 states "abuse of alcohol ... is inconsistent with Army Values."

For thousands of years, alcohol has been an important part of our culture and our existence. While there has been an awareness that drunkenness is a bad thing, moderation has been tolerated due to the fact that at times in our history alcohol was literally seen to be as important as water.

Our modern life is so different from that of an Egyptian slave or a Roman charioteer or a medieval farmer, and yet our attitudes toward alcohol largely remain the same. Drunk driving has been around a long time, but the common message seems to be that if you have to go somewhere, don't overindulge. So rethink that drink!

For more information on preventing drinking and driving, visit:

- Army Regulation 600-85, The Army Substance Abuse Program, [www.apd.army.mil](http://www.apd.army.mil)
- Drinking And Driving.org, [www.drinkinganddriving.org/Articles/historyof.html](http://www.drinkinganddriving.org/Articles/historyof.html)
- Don't Die Drunk.org, [www.dontdie drunk.org](http://www.dontdie drunk.org)

*Editor's Note: Dr. Trish Prosser is a psychologist with the U.S. Army Public Health Command.*



# Culinary competition heats up

By Chief Warrant Officer 2  
Ruth N. Caraway  
16th Sustainment Brigade

BAMBERG, Germany — Every year food service Soldiers across the Army attempt to earn a coveted spot on their installation's culinary arts team. Only the best of the best are selected to represent their unit, post and region.

Two culinary warriors from the 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, were selected as members of the U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe Culinary Arts Team; Staff Sgt. Jason Coy of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., and Spc. Joe Evans with the 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde.

During this year's annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition Feb. 25-March 7 at Fort Lee, Va., both Soldiers served in lead roles on the team. Coy served as the team manager, and Evans competed in the field cooking and student team skills competitions as well as the mystery basket professional. The USAREUR / IMCOM-E Culinary Arts Team earned one silver and



Photo by Monica Holguin

**Staff Sgt. Jason Coy with HHC, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Brigade, and Spc. Joe Evans with the 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, compete in the field cooking category, recently, during the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va.**

18 bronze medals at the event. Coy earned a bronze medal in the field cooking competition. Evans earned three bronze medals; one in the field cooking competition, one student team skills competition and one in the mystery basket professional.

"As leaders we should challenge ourselves, and this competition pro-

vided the canvas for showcasing the skills of an Army food service Soldier," said Coy.

The Armywide culinary arts competition provides recognition for excellence in culinary skills and is an incentive for competitive programs of major Army commands in food service.

# Vigilance at home and while traveling is key

Continued from page 2

levels: tuned out, relaxed awareness, focused awareness, high alert and comatose.

Tuned out is a state we all have experienced at some point. Maybe it's the same drive home we take every day, pulling into our driveway only to realize we really don't remember the drive home. Or it's the driver in front of you who was texting at the wheel and drove straight through a red light.

Relaxed awareness is the state in which we should be while driving. It is a level of preparedness that allows us to react if danger presents itself. We can maintain this state easily without become tired.

Focused awareness is getting into your car after arriving in Germany and driving on the autobahn for the first time; or getting into your car after the first heavy snowfall and you still haven't changed from summer tires. You will easily become tired in this state because you are always looking for hazards.

High alert is the state you reach after realizing that you forgot to change the summer tires to winter thread and now you are sliding toward the car in front of you, or you are worried that you won't stop in time before you go through that busy intersection. The adrenaline rush you're getting is hopefully honing your reflexes to aid you in this situation.

Lastly, comatose is the state in which you fail to respond to the threat because you "freeze at the wheel" in panic, shock, disbelief or simply fell asleep. This is the panic-induced paralysis most related by folks as "I couldn't believe this was happening to me."

## Know the environment

Situationally, the correct state of

awareness depends on your activity and environment. Obviously one cannot sustain being tuned out or on high alert without some dire consequence. Accidents will happen or the body will suffer.

Being in a state of relaxed awareness allows us to quickly respond to threat stimuli, reach a focused awareness in determining if a danger is real, and if so, to become highly alert long enough to avoid the threat or to mitigate it. It allows us to just as quickly settle down in a relaxed awareness once the threat has passed.

You can practice situational awareness for short periods of time during the day by doing some simple drills. Some examples of this can include identifying all the exits when you enter a building, counting the number of cars in a parking lot, or people standing at a bus stop.

If you ever sit in German Biergartens, look at the people around you and attempt to figure out their stories — in other words, what they do for a living, their mood, what they are focused on and what it appears they are preparing to do that day. Make a game out of it.

Finally, reporting suspicious activity should not be a question of "maybe I'm seeing things that aren't there," you should trust your instincts.

Many times a person's subconscious can notice subtle signs of danger that the conscious mind has difficulty quantifying or articulating.

Trusting your gut and avoiding a potentially dangerous situation may cause you a bit of inconvenience, but ignoring such feelings can lead to serious trouble.

Use the Army iWatch reporting system and contact the military police with all suspicious activity.

*Editor's Note: Tom Janis is the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels' anti-terrorism officer.*

# Dachau visit hits home for Soldiers

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Michael Reinsch  
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Europe is steeped in rich history and culture, and on April 17, more than 200 Soldiers and family members from U.S. Army in Europe got to witness that history during a Day of Remembrance tour to Dachau Concentration Camp.

The tour, sponsored by Europe Regional Medical Command, was part of a two-day event to give participants the opportunity to reflect on, and learn about, the Holocaust.

"It's one thing to hear and read about, it's another thing to actually go and know what happened in these places," said Sgt. Jamie Ray, preventive medicine noncommissioned officer for Europe Regional Medical Command in Heidelberg.

The part of the trip that made everything a reality for Ray was the crematorium, a place where thousands were killed and burned from 1933 to 1945. She said after reading the plaques on the wall she could imagine what those people went through.

"Just looking, you can only imagine what it must have been like for someone there," Ray said. "You're in the hallway looking into one of the rooms with the bars on them but imagine what it was like for someone on the inside barely big enough for three people and looking out down these long hallways. You can only imagine how



**Sgt. Jamie Ray, preventive medicine noncommissioned officer for Europe Regional Medical Command in Heidelberg, and another Soldier observe one of the many displays during a tour to Dachau Concentration Camp, April 17.**

dreary and gloomy it was and how quickly it sucked the energy right out of you. You can imagine what the whole purpose of the place was just by looking at the barracks and the living conditions."

Dachau was one of the few concentration camps in use for the entire Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945. During that time, people were killed and died within its wired fences, stone walls and wooden shanties. Some would have considered these camps to be inconceivable before encountering them during World War II.

"Historically, it gives (Soldiers) a lot more perspective, especially when it comes to liberation, when the troops came through Germany, what they found and how unprepared they were to deal with this

type of crime against humanity," said Sgt. Robert Kalich, clinical training NCO for Europe Regional Medical Command in Heidelberg.

Visiting camps like Dachau helps remind people why it's important to never forget.

"The Days of Remembrance is about remembering what happened in the past and making sure it doesn't happen again in the future," Master Sgt. Jason Reisler, equal opportunity advisor for ERM in Heidelberg. "This is what the military does; we are supposed to be guardians of humanity. We are supposed to go out there and if something is wrong we should stand up and be that right example, the be, know, do. You have to know what history was so that way we never repeat the same mistakes."

# Dale uses power to deliver message

Continued from page 3

wellness and discuss alcohol, substance and sexual abuse. Spokespersons from Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, and the Army Wellness Center attended to provide support and information.

In between each contender's time on the bench, ASAP representatives read statements such as, "Two consecutive nights of drinking five or more alcoholic beverages can affect brain and body activities for up to five days."

The purpose was to encourage moderation and draw connections between substance abuse and lower standards of health. Kim Waller, director of the Army Wellness Center, emphasized how alcohol cancels out the benefits of exercise and

**Substance abuse is not in a vacuum. Many sexual assaults occur due to substance abuse.**

Pennie Stallworth  
Army Substance Abuse Program Manager

weight loss.

"Not only does alcohol impair performance, but it undoes a lot of the work you're trying to do," she said.

In addition, excessive alcohol use has serious consequences beyond deteriorating fitness.

"Substance abuse is not in a vacuum," explained Pennie Stallworth, ASAP program manager. "Many sexual assaults occur due to substance abuse."

Sgt. 1st Class David Tiller, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, SARC/SHARP, concurred with Stallworth's cause-and-effect analysis.

"It's a two-fold attack," he explained. "We're attacking alcoholism and sexual assault at the same time."

ASAP already plans to continue the event next year, with hopes that "Beat Mr. ASAP" will become an annual tradition on USAG Grafenwoehr.

# Tax centers open through June 15

Filing, amending returns can result in refunds

By Office of the Staff  
Judge Advocate  
News Release

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The eight U.S. Army tax assistance centers in Bavaria are remaining open to assist taxpayers with filing current and past year returns and amending tax returns. This free service is available to all Soldiers, spouses, DOD civilians and authorized ID cardholders. Americans living in Germany can file their tax returns until June 15 if they do not owe money or penalties.

The Bamberg, Garmisch, Hohenfels, Illesheim, Katterbach and Rose Barracks tax centers are scheduled to remain open through June. The Grafenwoehr and Schweinfurt tax centers are scheduled to remain open until Sept. 30 in anticipation of the redeploying 172nd Soldiers.

Soldiers serving in a combat zone, and their spouses, have at least 180 days upon return from combat to file and pay any taxes. There is an automatic freeze on any payments or filing actions while a soldier is deployed in a combat zone.

Amending returns when there was an initial filing error by you or another preparer may increase your refund. For example, sometimes taxpayers file their return without a newborn child's Social Security Number, or forget to exclude Social Security income from their taxes. The tax offices can help fix these errors, as well as help with new tax return preparation.

So far this tax season, the eight tax centers have prepared 8,004 federal and 3,563 state returns, for 11,567 total returns. This is an almost seven percent increase from last year. The centers have saved clients \$1.6 million in preparation fees and generated over \$20.8 million in refunds thus far.

## Tax centers in Bavaria

### Ansbach/Katterbach

Katterbach Kaserne, Bldg. 5817  
DSN 467-2324, CIV 09802-83-2324  
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., closed lunch  
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

### Ansbach/Illesheim

Stork Barracks, Bldg. 6506 (Law Center)  
DSN 467-9258, CIV 09841-83-4511  
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., closed lunch  
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

### Bamberg

Warner Barracks, Bldg. 7000 (Law Center)  
DSN 469-8261, CIV 0951-300-8261  
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed lunch  
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

### Garmisch

Artillery Kaserne, Bldg. 203  
DSN 440-3516, CIV 088217-50-3516  
Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., open lunch  
By appointment only

### Grafenwoehr

Main Post, Bldg. 216  
DSN 475-9258, CIV 09641-83-9258  
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Wed, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Open lunch, last walk-in at 3:45 p.m.  
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

### Hohenfels

Bldg. 313 (Law Center)  
DSN 520-5564, CIV 09472-83-5564  
Mon, Wed, Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., open lunch  
Tue, Thu, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Schweinfurt

Conn Barracks, Bldg. 7,  
(Conn Annex Rooms 101-103)  
DSN 353-8286, CIV 09721-96-8286  
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., open lunch  
Walk-ins, drop-offs and appointments

### Vilseck

Rose Barracks, Bldg. 245 (Law Center)  
DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714  
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., open lunch  
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments



# Women continue to advance within the Army

By Col. James Hutton  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — In recent days the Army announced two significant moves that open thousands of new opportunities to women. First is a six-month assessment of an exception to the Direct Ground Combat Assignment Rule.

The exception impacts nine brigade combat teams, known as BCTs, of varying missions across six installations. The opportunities are open to females in their current military occupational specialty, known as an MOS, from 10 different officer and six different noncommissioned officer specialties.

The second is a policy change that allows women to serve in six additional MOSs, and 80 units that were previously closed to women because they were normally co-located with direct combat units.

Perhaps a more important aspect to the story is that it merely highlights the continued significance of the advances women have made in the Army and an ever-increasing march in providing new opportunities to serve.

Women are making an impact now.

"It should be clear to all that women are a major force in operations today," said Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Army chief of staff. "We're not starting from the ground up in the assessment period, women are integral in all theaters of combat as we speak. We already know that the level of contributions that women make is at the core of what makes the Army as great as it is today."

Through the end of 2011 there were more than 176,000 women in the total Army. As of the same date, more than 10 percent of our deployed overseas contingency operations forces were women.

Over the last ten years more than 135,000 women Soldiers have deployed in support of overseas contingency operations. Also in 2011, the first ever Cultural Support Team,



Photo by Forest Berkshire, U.S. Army Accessions Command

**Sgt. Sherri Gallagher departs the rifle range at Fort Lee, Va., after qualifying during the U.S. Army Best Warrior Competition, Oct. 21, 2011. Gallagher was named the Army Soldier of the Year at the Association of the U.S. Army award luncheon in Washington, D.C. In recent days the Army announced two significant moves that opened thousands of new opportunities to women.**

comprised of all women, deployed and returned from Afghanistan where they achieved continuing success serving as enablers to the Special Operations community.

As early as 2004, similar female teams were employed in support of combat operations in Iraq with conventional forces.

Women have had an increasing presence in the Army.

"The number of women as a percentage of the total Army has risen from 12.5 percent in 1993 to 15.6 percent in 2011," said Brig. Gen. Barrye L. Price, director of Human Resources Policy, Army G-1. "There's no mistaking the fact growing opportunities result in more women seeking out the Army as a place to serve."

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have seen the highest numbers of combat-related awards ever seen in the Army.

Through the end of fiscal year 2011, 437 women earned awards for valor to include two Silver Stars, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 31 Air Medals, 16 Bronze Stars, and 5,567 Combat Action Badges.

"Women have shared the sacrifices made in combat as evidenced by their hard-earned commendations," said Odierno.

Some of the effects of expanded opportunities are made clear by the advancement of women into key senior leader positions.

For the first time in Army history, the senior officer in seven Army

branches is a woman:

- Quartermaster is Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody
- Transportation is Lt. Gen. Kathy Gainey
- Medical Corps is Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho
- Nurse Corps is Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan
- Adjutant General Corps is Maj. Gen. Gina S. Farrisee
- Military Intelligence is Lt. Gen. Mary Legere
- Signal is Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence

"General Ann E. Dunwoody in 2008 became the first female 4-star [general] in any of the services," said Price. "She now commands Army Materiel Command, which is the pre-

mier provider of materiel readiness — technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment — to the total force."

Brig. Gen. Laura Richardson will become the Army's first female to serve as a division deputy commander for the 1st Cavalry Division.

"Brigadier General Richardson is a leader who will impact a division with a long history in combat in multiple theaters, said Price. "The significance of Soldiers seeing a proven leader day in and day out making key decisions cannot be underestimated."

Women serving the Army today who began serving in the Women's Army Corps, which ended in 1978, have seen tremendous changes in roles.

"As one of the first women commissioned out of Army ROTC in 1976, I was proud to be able to wear the crossed pistols of my Military Police Branch and be accepted as an MP, not as a WAC who was working at being an MP," said Stephanie Hoehne, principal deputy of Army Public Affairs and a retired Army colonel. "For me it was a small step in progression on how women Soldiers were regarded and assigned."

Hoehne has seen changes continue to increase women's roles.

"As the nature of war, conflict and the Army's role have evolved, from direct, force on force combat to security operations and transnational anti-terrorism, so have the roles of our female Soldiers continued to evolve. The changes have come according to need, common sense and law," she said. "The expansion of jobs, not just training for Army women recognizes women's contributions, and reflects the adaptability that makes the Army strong."

Policy often follows practice.

"Policy is often informed by practice and the evolving nature of modern warfare, and that the outstanding service of our modern Soldiers demonstrates this is the right thing to do for our Soldiers, our all-volunteer Army, and for our nation," Price said.

## U.S. Soldiers save wounded Afghan boy

By Maj. Joseph Buccino  
*Army News Service*

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Once in a while an event occurs that develops the human perspective of warfare into the mission in Afghanistan. The Soldiers of Blackjack, or Bravo Company, Task Force 3-66, 172nd Infantry Brigade, Task Force Blackhawk, participated in such a life-changing set of events, recently.

On a March afternoon, Soldiers from Blackjack responded to a blast in Kushamond district in the qalat of Saduzi. An improvised explosive device, or IED, stored for a planned attack on coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces operating within the district, detonated prematurely.

Upon arriving at the scene, the Soldiers realized that the detonation killed four children who appeared to be playing in the area and may have unwittingly engaged the trigger device.

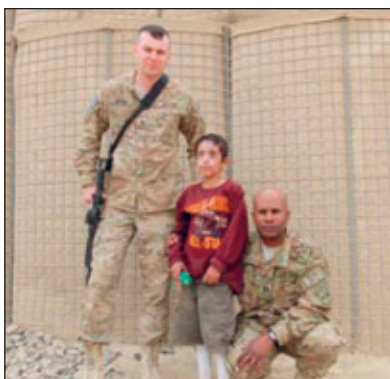
They did not know it, but one child, Saduzi's 8-year-old son, Matten, survived the blast.

Within minutes, a man named Sultan who lives in a neighboring qalat, carried the severely injured Matten to Combat Outpost Kushamond.

Sgt. Anthony Merino from Bastrop, Texas, senior medic for the company, reacted immediately, treating the surviving child at the entry control point.

"I assessed and stabilized the patient while we called in a medical evacuation," said Merino. "He was losing his airway. Had we not been able to treat him when we did, his wounds would certainly have been fatal."

The boy was prepared for movement on an aircraft. Sgt. Michael Torres from Amarillo, Texas, and Pfc. Cody Sandstrom, along with Sultan, escorted the boy from Kushamond to the Sharana Medical Treatment Facility and then to the Craig Joint-Theater Hospital, or



**Anthony Merino, senior medic for Bravo Company, Task Force 3-66, 172nd Infantry Brigade, and Capt. Giles Wright, commander for Bravo Co., TF 3-66, 172nd Inf. Brig., pose for a picture on Combat Outpost Kushamond, Paktika province, Afghanistan, with Matten, an 8-year-old Afghan boy whose face was severely damaged and blinded by an improvised explosive device.**

Photo by Spc. David Barnes.

CJTH, at Bagram Airfield.

Torres, Sandstrom and Sultan remained with Matten in Bagram for 10 days while surgery was performed on his multiple facial lacerations.

According to Maj. Bradley S. Putty, CJTH deputy-commander for clinical services, a complex procedure was performed to remove a ball bearing from the boy's eye socket. Additional surgeries were performed on both sets of eyelids.

"The boy's eyes were injured beyond repair and a follow-up surgery was performed to implant prosthetic eyes," Putty explained.

Craig hospital staff noticed the boy's clothes and shoes were destroyed by the blast, so they donated new clothes, sneakers and toys.

This action was a stark contrast to the reports of recent events in Kandahar.

"This was a deliberate outreach effort," Putty said. "This child was a victim of this war."

Ten days later, the boy was released from the hospital and flown to Forward Operating Base Sharana and on March 25, he was flown back onto COP Kushamond with Torres, Sandstrom, and Sultan.

He was greeted on the COP by Adam Khan, a representative from the

office of the Kushamond district sub-governor, and Capt. Giles Wright, the commander of B Company.

"Matten was stable and in excellent spirits and even offered a few jokes," Wright said. "It was evident he was a child willing to live for the future of Afghanistan."

Although blind for life and severely scarred, Matten is grateful for his life. Matten has since been escorted to his village by Adam Khan, who has accepted guardianship and responsibility for the boy on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Afghan Uniform Police intend to maintain persistent watch over him and the villagers have vowed to protect the boy.

Matten's father, Sudazi, is believed to be hiding outside of Paktika province and is currently a wanted individual.

All those involved were greatly moved by the boy's spirit and the humanity of the event.

"It demonstrated the human side of this conflict," Torres said. "The compassion of the American Soldiers here and (at) Bagram and of the local villagers really showed the pain of all of this."

*Editor's Note: Maj. Joseph Buccino writes for the 172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs.*

## Soldiers compete in 2012 Warrior Games

Story and photo by  
**Cody T. Starken**  
*Army News Service*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Army women's upright cycling team swept the competition at the 2012 Warrior Games, taking the top three positions and adding three medals to the total count for the Army.

"I represented the Army well and the goal I set for myself," said gold medalist Tanya Anderson, who currently serves as the cycling and shooting coach for the Marine Corps at Wounded Warrior Battalion-East in Camp Lejeune, N.C. "I came out here and accomplished it."

The final results for the mixed women's cycling 10k event were Tanya Anderson, 18:25, Margaux Vair, 19:04, and Lacey Hamilton, 20:54.

The Army men's recumbent bike team also took a gold and bronze medal respectively in a 10k race won by Capt. William Longwell, 20:54. Anthony Robinson came in third at 21:59.

"I started riding competitively back in January doing the Disney Half-Marathon. I won it, and fell in love with it," Longwell said.

Longwell took home the gold for the Army's recumbent cycling race after only six months of training. Between his race at Disney and the Warrior Games, he competed in the Boston Marathon. This is the first year he competed in the Warrior Games and will participate in sitting volleyball later this week.

Longwell said he motivated

himself by working to achieve his personal time goals and to get back to his level of physical fitness before being injured.

Army Cycling Coach Staff Sgt. Mario Bilbrew was chosen to coach the team because of his efforts at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to help wounded warriors to recover through cycling.

"I took Soldiers out to the Valor Games and did a lot of Ride 2 Recovery. My name came up and Army officials asked me if I wanted to be the coach," Bilbrew said.

He took the skills he developed in Washington to better prepare the team for the fierce competition at the Warrior Games.

One of the primary jobs for Bilbrew was getting his riders to work as a team. He had to get people acclimatized and used to the elevation of the terrain before the race, he said.

Another challenging part of the training was the various home-station locations of the team members. Some came from Germany, some came from Hawaii; but they still had a week prior to the competition to practice on the race route.

"That was the most interesting part of my day, getting everyone to ride together," Bibrew said.

The end of the day showed the Army had what it takes to stay competitive in the first event of the Warrior Games. Tanya Anderson personified the warrior spirit when she revealed her final thoughts as she crossed the finish line.

"I won for the Army," Anderson proclaimed.



## Actors play their parts

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information with splayed arms and beauty pageant smiles.

The young thespians then spent the next hour and a half delivering quirky phrases in various manners.

One at a time, the younger kids demanded in their brattiest tones, "I want a popsicle now!" Then, sweet as possible, hands clasped under their chins, they chirped, "May I please have a popsicle?"

Later, the teens and tweens acted ancient, wincing with back pain and hobbling on phantom canes as they each declared, "I think I'm the oldest person here."

After much-whispered discussion behind clipboards and rearranging of the performers' positions in the horse-shoe, Davis and Murk announced they had determined the roles.

MCT's version of "Little Red Riding Hood" has more pop than the staid story told to youngsters. The tale's foe is not the Big Bad Wolf, but Little Lovable Wolf who hides his evil behind a sweet veneer and is followed by his posse, the Wolf Gang. Four prissy girlfriends accompany Red Riding Hood and her family, the Hoods, is visited by their cousin from England, Robin Hood.

There is also the Woodsman, a suave fellow who loves working on his tan and Ranger Rooney, who, according to Murk, is "very brave, very wise and also very corny."

Taylor Cox, 12, earned the role of Red Riding Hood. Though surprised she got the lead, she felt "actually really excited" for the opportunity. The



**Cinclaire Reynolds, 13, flounces while she proclaims, "I just got this new shampoo and it's doing wonders for my hair."**

**Reynolds was casted as a shape-shifting shadow in the play.**

animated Jessie Juan, 11, was chosen for the Woodsman and Avery Joy, 13, snagged the role of Ranger Rooney.

Joy was also slated to help direct. Though a standout at auditions, this extra duty suited Joy who would rather be behind the stage than on it.

"I think I like directing more," he said. "It's kind of fun to boss people around."

Murk and Davis, who visit military communities and international schools across Europe, were impressed by the turnout and attitudes of the children in Grafenwoehr.

"They had a lot of energy, but they could funnel it," said Davis.

"This was focused energy in the best way," Murk added. "And they weren't afraid to try anything."

## Clinic becomes patient-centered

Continued from page 1

who points out some of the benefits for the change. "Increased staffing includes a clinical pharmacist for medication reconciliation and disease management appointments, a nutritionist for integration of dietary and caloric issues, a nurse case manager for assistance with complex cases and inpatient stays or network referrals, as well as more robust nursing support to improve the quality of time spent with the medical staff."

Patients experience improved access to the appropriate level of care because the entire team focuses on listening to the patient and communicating in a way that best suits the patient.

Technology is a huge part of a PCMH and enables the community to access their health record over the Internet through Tricare Online, Rheney said. Patients can see their lab results immediately, request prescription refills, and make appointments convenient to their schedule. Traditional appointments where the patient sees the doctor face to face are only a small part of the PCMH model.

Patients can request telephone consults, see an assessment nurse, or even use secure messaging to coordinate their care, discuss a medical issue or seek advice.

Changing the traditional model and embracing technology is important for the clinic staff as well as the patient, Kulka said.

"Each member of the team will have a tablet device," Kulka said. "We are teaching people how to use

these computers and also the software that comes with it."

During the month of May, the training on the software and workflow assessment are two of the reasons the clinic is dedicating so much time to getting the transition right.

**This will fill in a lot of those gaps that patients have been feeling and it will provide better continuity of care.**

**Dr. Gary Kulka**  
Primary Care  
Medical Director,  
Vilseck Health Clinic

The incorporation of the technology and change to the way patients are cared for at the clinic will allow for better quality of care and maximum patient empowerment to affect their own health.

The change will not happen overnight, Kulka insists, and while fewer appointments are available during the months of training and transition, it is going to pay off in a huge way for the community in the long run, Rheney said.

One of the biggest changes peo-

ple can anticipate from the transition to PCMH will be the change in culture for both the staff and patients as the clinic moves toward an open access appointment approach, which will take care of today's problems today, Rheney said.

The focus for the clinic will be to see everyone who needs to be seen the same day they book their appointment.

The change is expected to save a lot of time and allow providers to focus more quality time on examining patients and discussing treatments, Kulka said.

Instead of giving patients a segment of time during the day's appointment and then rescheduling appointments to address other issues later, patients will see the process change toward taking care of as many medical problems as possible during a single visit.

"This will fill in a lot of those gaps that patients have been feeling and it will provide better continuity of care," Kulka said.

The medical team will address most of the patient's overall health issues, but the teamwork is not complete without the patient's communication, involvement and commitment in order to ensure a successful outcome, he said.

"Our goal is to be fully staffed and to have the Patient Centered Medical Home fully implemented by the end of the summer," Kulka said.

"We believe we will be able to have so much more to offer the community and hope to be able to open up enrollment to more of our retirees and others."

## Hill is remembered as hardworking professional

Continued from page 1

"Spc. Hill's quiet soldierly demeanor and thoughtful expression are the images I will hold on to," said Capt. Rachel Hoffman, Hill's company commander.

"He accomplished his mission whatever it was without complaint and without seeking recognition. He kept a low profile among the Soldiers in the unit, but he had a greater impression on them than he may have believed," Hoffman said.

Hill, 28, was from Homestead, Fla.

"The first thing I noticed about Hill was his quietness and how I had to just pull the words out of his mouth even if it was a joke," said Spc. Ismael Rodriguez. Hill was Rodriguez's sponsor.

"He was a great Soldier, true battle buddy and friend, but more than all he was my brother in arms. I could always count on him if I needed anything," said Rodriguez. "He was a loyal family man and devoted to his wife and son. Spc. Hill was a great



**Soldiers and family members honor Spc. Bernard Hill Jr., a unit supply clerk attached to the 15th Engineer Battalion, during a memorial ceremony at the Ledward Chapel, May 1.**

man."

Hill entered the Army June 19, 2008, having completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va. He graduated Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., and his first assignment was as a unit supply specialist with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C. He participated in Operation Restore Hope in

Haiti while assigned there.

Hill was later reassigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Engineer Battalion in September 2010 where he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

"Spc. Hill was one of those quiet professionals you always hear about," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Hamilton. "He didn't say a lot, but

was always helpful to those that needed him. He never complained and always drove on to complete any task he was given."

"Spc. Bernard Hill was a hard working Soldier, a great paratrooper, a loving father, an attentive and dutiful husband, and a respectful and caring son," said Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Vereen in a letter read aloud by 1st Lt. Nicholas Criner, the battalion's officer in charge of logistics. Vereen was accompanying the body to the U.S. and was unable to attend the service.

Hill's awards and decorations included the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Parachutist Badge.

Hill is survived by his wife, Karen Hill, his son, Bernard Hill III, his father, Bernard Hill, and his mother, Debra Hill.

## Volksfest brings the community together

Continued from page 1

Children swarmed the many rides or lined up to win various prizes at the assorted game booths.

Four-year-old Paul Platzack, who traveled from a small village near Kallmuenz, proudly brandished the red, white and blue inflatable bat his parents won for him. His parents, who are German citizens, said they were excited to visit Hohenfels and the fest.

Hohenfels Elementary School second-grader Deniz Kesoglu said she was enjoying the rides, especially the trampolines.

"You can jump so high," she said. "I almost did a flip on it."

The fest featured live bands and DJs nightly, tours of the training area in German, a fireworks extravaganza, as well as the largest display of military vehicles the fest has ever seen, thanks in part to generous support from the Germany army.

"Normally, they send two combat vehicles. This year they sent six," said Christopher D. Koivisto, chief of operations for USAG Hohenfels Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Training. Additional vehicles included an unmanned aerial vehicle, a refueling vehicle and a cargo transport.

Other displays at the fest included classic cars, and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Hohenfels Mayor Bernhard Graf offered a special welcome to Strange and to Col. Jeffrey Martindale, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander, as this was the first German-American Volksfest for both of them.

"The motto of this fest is German-American friendship, so I would like to have a beer with you and have a good time at this fest with our friends," he said.

## Upgrades to make Bavaria clinics more comfortable

Continued from page 1

commander for administration. "We are making a significant investment to improve quality of care."

Projects at both locations will boost primary care, behavioral health services, physical therapy, the pharmacies and other specialty services.

"These improvements coupled with the increase of providers will help facilitate bringing back patients to their local installations that in the recent past had received care in the community," Pamenter said.

The projects will increase the access to primary care, which are the bulk of the patient visits, he said. The projects will also help to centralize services and enhance convenience.

"It's a pretty good location for patients to reach conveniently as part of the Patient Centered Medical Home concept," said Eric Wolff, BMED-DAC's facility management branch chief, about the facility in Katterbach

which will transition to a new patient care model.

The facility in Katterbach will be built between the housing area and the installation's new Exchange and commissary, Wolff said.

"We have not only invested structurally, but we've invested technologically, as well in order to constantly improve our health care delivery," Pamenter said.

New equipment will be added to the buildings, Pamenter said, who has served as the logistical chief for BMEDDAC for the past year. The new structures will have energy efficient qualities that allow natural daylight to illuminate the facilities' workspace and reduce costs on heating and air conditioning.

"We understand what it is like to sit in the waiting room for a period of time and while this may be unavoidable in all instances, we want the patient to be comfortable," Pamenter said. "When you get into these exam

offices, what you are going to notice is there are temperature-controlled improvements. You will also see improved aesthetics."

Vilseck's dental clinic will have a \$7.1 million interior restoration project this winter that will improve its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning System to provide better temperature control throughout the year.

The Hohenfels Clinic will complete a \$3.2 million renovation project by July 1. The Hohenfels renovation installed a new roof, a sprinkler system and HVAC System.

Illesheim Health Clinic recently completed a \$4.9 million renovation project designed to improve services and the patient areas.

The health and dental clinic in Bamberg received a \$184,000 renovation for its reception and waiting areas.

"While it might be minor construction, in this case \$184,000, it is trying to improve the overall patient

quality and patient experience that our health care facilities have," Pamenter said. "Some people may say those are the things that do not matter in patient care. That is not something we concur with. We want to project the professionalism and not an experience of the stark outdated system of care."

Three Schweinfurt Health Clinic improvements totaled less than \$1.5 million for two renovation projects and a HVAC System installed on the fourth floor, he said. The clinic added a minor surgical room, so the staff can perform some types of authorized medical procedures.

The construction project in Vilseck is scheduled to begin this fall. The parking lot of the facility will be extended onto the tennis courts, which will be relocated near the library.

The project in Katterbach is scheduled to begin next spring and will take two years to complete.