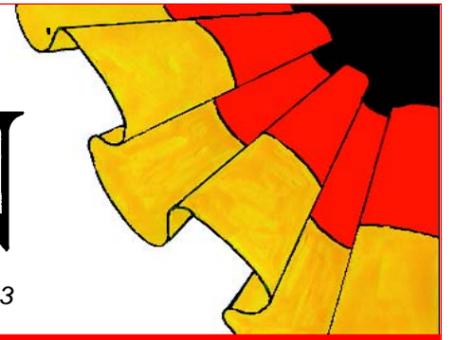


THE CITIZEN

Vol. 32, No. 25

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

December 16, 2003



Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Let the holidays begin!

Area installations host tree-lighting ceremonies, visits from Santa Claus

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

Everyone's favorite North Pole resident made appearances on four Stuttgart-area installations to help community members ring in the holiday season.

With an assist from Youth Services' Keystone Club members and Toys 'R' Us (which donated gifts for military children worldwide) Santa Claus handed out toys and heard last-minute Christmas-present pleas Dec. 9 to 12 in Stuttgart.

Claus's area appearances coincided with tree-lighting ceremonies on Patch Barracks, Kelley Barracks,

Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks.

"It's heartwarming to see such an outpouring of holiday spirit in the 6th Area Support Group," Claus said, adding that his Stuttgart experience reinforced the warm sentiments he had received during earlier visits to Garmisch and Bad Aibling.

In addition to the joy of area children, Claus said he was particularly impressed with the Christmas enthusiasm demonstrated by the 6th ASG's director of community activities.

"It seemed like I couldn't go anywhere in Stuttgart without Dennis Maruska showing up there, too," the elf observed. "That man must love this holiday."

Holiday events in Stuttgart

■ **Concert for the Holidays** – Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., in the Stuttgart Theatre Center on Kelley Barracks. For more information call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825

■ **Stuttgart Weihnachtsmarkt** – Mondays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., until Dec. 24. For details visit www.stuttgart.de.

Worship schedule

Dec. 21

- Protestant Christmas Worship Service – Patch Chapel, 11 a.m.
- Gospel Christmas Celebration – Mariott Hotel Sindelfingen, 5 p.m.

Dec. 23

- CLGI Christmas Fellowship – Robinson Barracks Chapel, 7 p.m.

Dec. 24

- Catholic Parish Children's Mass with pageant – Patch Chapel, 4:45 p.m.
- Catholic Parish Midnight Mass with caroling – Patch Chapel, 11 p.m.
- Protestant Christmas Eve Service – Patch Chapel, 7 p.m.
- Lutheran Christmas Eve Children's Service – Panzer Chapel, 7 p.m.

Dec. 25

- Catholic Christmas Day Mass – RB Chapel, 11:30 a.m.
- Lutheran Christmas Worship with communion – Panzer Chapel, 11 a.m.

Jan. 1

- Catholic Parish New Year's Day Mass – Panzer Chapel, 10:30 a.m.



A young community member spends a few moments with St. Nick in the Stuttgart Army Community Service office Dec. 10. Santa visited four Stuttgart-area installations to help residents ring in the holiday season.

Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

The staff at Käthe Wolfhart, for demonstrating the true meaning of customer service all year long.

I can always count on friendly and courteous service when entering this store. Thank you for doing what's necessary to make my shopping experience a joy.

Vanessa Newton of the Stuttgart CPOC office, for her friendly, customer-centered approach. I never expected completing personnel paperwork to be "pleasurable," but Ms. Newton made the process pain-free and occasionally even enjoyable. Thanks!

The personnel behind the counter of the Patch Community Mail Room. During this crazy time of year when tempers are shorter than normal and we tend to have too much on our minds, it's comforting to know that I can be greeted with a smile and a helping hand with my packages. You are appreciated!

The staff of the Patch Army Post Office for keeping their cool under the enormous pressure they receive daily. You are doing a great job with customer service. Keep up the good work!

Thorns to:

Anyone looking for a "thorn" in the holiday edition of *The Citizen*. We'll have plenty of opportunities to vent our frustrations in the coming year – for this issue, though, let's just stop and enjoy the "roses."

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

THE CITIZEN

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

IN THE MAIL

Consider commitment when purchasing 'Christmas pets'

Animals are not toys – they are living creatures who feel joy and pain, happiness and sadness, just like people do. And they are completely helpless and at the mercy of their human families.

Every year at Christmas, innocent, trusting animals find themselves under Christmas trees.

A sweet little cat, trying to play with the tree decorations or jumping into rustling gift paper; a puppy full of joy; a hamster, bird or guinea pig sitting quietly in a brand-new, clean cage – their hearts are anxious and there is so much hope and faith in their eyes as they try to please their new human family.

The animals hope that they have found a home with warmth, love, understanding and compassion – a home forever. They are so grateful: What a Christmas joy!

The whole family is excited to have this wonderful creature to love, feed and play with. There is nothing but happiness. Too many times, though, this lasts only until the Christmas season is over.

Like many Christmas surprises, before long these animals are no longer wanted. The animal can sense the rejection and is afraid of what will happen.

Maybe next week, or in a month or two, the newness and excitement has worn off completely, and all that is left is the burden of caring for this "troublesome" animal.

The sweet cat still wants to play, eat and drink, and needs a clean litter box. The lively dog must not only be played with, fed and loved, but also has to be taken outside several times a day and

on regular long walks.

The hamster, bird and guinea pig also need care and clean cages that must be scrubbed top to bottom every week. The children soon lose interest.

The fact is, children can't be expected to fully care for a companion animal. Parents must help!

You think to yourself: *Yuck, who wants to walk the dog in this ugly winter weather? Who wants to scrub cages and clean litter boxes? This is too much, and something I haven't bargained for – how could I have been expected to consider all this during the hectic holiday season?*

I didn't know the animal would need so much of my time and understanding and that it would crave so much attention. And it will cost so much money for food, veterinarian bills – and that ticket back to the States.

I had no idea how much work this would be – I was just too busy preparing for Christmas.

After all, all I really wanted was a neat little present for the kids, a toy that runs without a battery.

Animals are not toys – they are living creatures who feel joy and pain, happiness and sadness, just like people do. And they are completely helpless and at the mercy of their human families.

Do you feel a touch of guilt now? Is your conscience telling you something about responsibility?

Finding "replacement" homes for unwanted pets is difficult, while abandoning the animals sentences them to lives of misery, pain, fear, hunger and injury.

All pros and cons must be considered before taking an animal into one's home. If this is not done, the sad story of love followed by neglect will continue, turning the animal's life into a nightmare.

Merry Christmas to all.

Sigrid Ruckaberle
Stuttgart

Volunteers ensure 'Smokeout' success

With each event I plan in the Stuttgart community, I am amazed at the enthusiastic support of the volunteers who make these events possible.

I'd like to extend a special "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's Great American Smokeout a success:

- Monica Anctil
- Leslie Franklin
- Maurice Geeter
- Billy Grant
- Janice Johnson
- Eric Madara
- Daniel Marks
- Travis Millner
- Paul Moran
- Joseph Rainey
- Melissa Sims
- Joy Staudenmaier
- Jeanie Uludag

Without your hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to our community, this event would be impossible.

Thank you all – you are a credit to our community!

Michelle Saylor

6th ASG Health Promotion Coordinator



Community members thanked for their compassion, support

I would like to thank the entire Stuttgart community for your overwhelming support in the aftermath of my husband's death.

The amount of support this community has provided has allowed me the time to mourn the loss of my husband, Corey D. Jackson.

I would like to thank all the organizations, businesses, families and individuals that helped me get through this trying time.

To see things being

taken care of for me without my having to say a word just overwhelmed me.

I knew Corey meant so much to a lot of people, but it still amazes me to actually witness how well known and loved he really was. Corey touched many people during and after his life!

The amount of support this entire community provided was breathtaking; therefore, I sincerely thank you all.

Staff Sgt.
Shawnita L. Jackson
Stuttgart



This is the final edition of *The Citizen* this year.

We will return Jan. 13, 2004.

On behalf of the 6th ASG Public Affairs Office, we wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season!





Walter Fritz

Patch High School JROTC cadets Lioret Reeves, center, and Adama LaMon, right, spent their Thanksgiving break at a Romanian orphanage. Under the direction of PHS teacher Gary Kelb, a contingent of PHS students and teachers brought computers, cash and holiday cheer to the orphanage's 145 residents.

Community members open hearts, wallets in spirit of holiday giving

By Hugh C. McBride

From a dining facility in Bosnia to an orphanage in Romania, members of the Stuttgart military community have made special efforts this year to ensure that the spirit of the holidays envelops those who are far from their families.

In addition to the many individuals who reached into their wallets to support the Combined Federal Campaign and ongoing local efforts for injured service members in Landstuhl Army Medical Center, two contingents of community members hit the road and took to the skies to deliver both supplies and support.

Bosnia bound

U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald led a contingent from EUCOM to Camp McGovern, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to spend Thanksgiving with troops serving there with the Minnesota National Guard's "Task Force Iron."

The Headquarters EUCOM group also included Wald's wife, Marilyn; Maj. Gen. James Darden, director of Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, and his wife, Madelaine; Col. John Kelly, executive officer to the deputy commander, and Robert Moore, deputy director of Logistics and Security Assistance.

The visitors toured Camp McGovern, met with service members serving there, and joined them for a Thanksgiving dinner – part of which was served by the EUCOM deputy commander himself.

"We were there to thank the service members for their efforts," Wald said, "and for all they do for the United States."

In addition to their good wishes, the EUCOM group also delivered homemade baked goods and a 14-foot banner of appreciation covered with signatures from Stuttgart community members.

Hope and help for Romania

Patch High School teachers Gary Kelb and Walter Fritz and five PHS students spent their Thanksgiving break in Sântana, Romania, with the staff and residents of the SOS-Copiii Orphanage.

The Patch group brought computers and much needed cash, but Kelb said the most important part of the trip was the simple human interaction between the orphanage residents and their American guests.

"No matter how much I take down there, I always bring back more," said Kelb, who has been helping to support the



Sgt. Brian Taylor

U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald works the serving line at Camp McGovern, Bosnia and Herzegovina, during a Thanksgiving dinner for deployed troops.

orphanage for 10 years.

Kelb said he travels to the orphanage at least four times a year, traditionally bringing cadets from the PHS Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps with him on the Thanksgiving visit.

This year, cadets Lioret Reeves and Adama LaMon accompanied Kelb, bringing with them a \$1,000 donation raised primarily from their organization's annual "Turkey Shoot."

PHS students Josh Anderson and Jeff Jones also took part in the trip, delivering 10 computers as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Kelb said the orphanage, which houses 145 residents in nine homes, receives only 50 cents per day per resident from the Romanian government for operating expenses.

To contribute supplies or money to "Kelb's Kids" in Romania's SOS-Copiii Orphanage, leave a message for Kelb at Patch High School (430-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191) or e-mail gary_kelb@eu.odedodea.edu.

News & Notes

Holiday closures, changes

The following organizations have scheduled closures or special hours during the holiday season:

■ The **Patch Barracks Shoppette** will close Dec. 24, 10 p.m. The store will be open Dec. 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and will resume 24-hour operation Dec. 26, 6 a.m.

■ The **Patch Barracks Commissary** will be open Dec. 22 and Dec. 29, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

■ The **Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility** will be open for walk-ins Dec. 19, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Dec. 23, 9 to 11:30 a.m.; and Dec. 29, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Vaccination, sick call, and health certificate visits will be seen during these hours, but no surgeries will be performed.

■ The **Stuttgart Area Homeschoolers Association** will not meet the last Tuesday of December. The group's next meeting is Jan. 27.

For details call 0712-723-7088.

■ The **Robinson Barracks Arts & Photo Center** will be closed Dec. 25 to 28 and Dec. 30 to Jan. 4.

The center will be open Dec. 24, 1 to 3 p.m., and Dec. 29, 3 to 9 p.m.

■ The **Defense Automated Printing Service** will be closed Dec. 15 to Jan. 2; however, services will be available through the Mannheim office during this period.

For more information, 6th ASG customers may call 421-2917 or e-mail lieselott.kienzle@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil. All other customers should call 384-6491 or e-mail womackk@cmtymail.26asg.army.mil.

Sixt now open Sundays

The Sixt car rental office on Panzer Kaserne (building 2953) is now open Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information call 07031-226-307.

Red Cross teaches pet first aid

Stuttgart's American Red Cross is sponsoring a pet first aid class January 13 and 15, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. each evening, in the Panzer Veterinary Treatment Facility.

There is no minimum enrollment age, but students must be old enough to understand the information and pay attention during the class. The class costs \$25, and each participant receives a first-aid reference book.

To register call 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-818.

ARC seeks clinic coordinator

The Stuttgart American Red Cross is looking for a volunteer medical clinic coordinator. The MCC supervises and coordinates volunteers in the Medical Clinic, and serves as a liaison between volunteers, Red Cross staff, and the clinic staff.

For details call Carolyn Van Antwerp at 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-818 or e-mail RVanant2515@aol.com.

ACS offers speakers

Army Community Service is offering family readiness groups and private organizations the opportunity to have an "ACS After Hours" program presentation at their meetings.

Program information can be catered to the group's needs and interests, with topics including stress management, sponsorship information, job search tools and Army Family Team Building. For details call 430-4176/civ. 0711-680-4176.

'Follies' time approaches

The PHS Follies – Patch High School's annual talent show – is coming your way again Feb. 20.

Interested students should begin organizing their acts during the upcoming holidays and be ready for auditions Feb. 2 and 3. All talented acts are invited to audition.

For more information e-mail Patchfollies@aol.com or call Vince or Therese DeSanto at 07157-620-488.

Celebrate 'Bah Humbug' Day

Celebrate Bah Humbug Day Dec. 19 by letting volunteers from Stuttgart's BOSS program and MWR Marketing wrap your Christmas gifts for free in Slider's Lounge, 4 to 8 p.m.

For details call 421-2000/civ. 0711-729-2000.

Garmisch rings in holidays with annual gathering

By Hugh C. McBride

Germans and Americans with connections to the U.S. military community came together in Garmisch's Kongresshaus Dec. 6 to celebrate their nations' historic friendship and ring in the holiday season.

"In a year when much has been made about tensions among nations, it is truly refreshing to come together in a community that can only be described as a shining example of the power of positive relationships," said Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, commander of the 6th Area Support Group.

Bonéy-Harris, who hosted the annual event, said the gathering was a celebration of the power of family.

"Christmas is a holiday closely associated with thoughts of home," she said, "and many of [the event's attendees] have gone above and beyond the call of duty to create a welcoming community for individuals who are far from their original homes."

Dr. John P. Rose, director of the George C. Marshall Center, said the effects of Garmisch's spirit of international cooperation and its support of the Marshall Center are felt far beyond the borders of Bavaria.

"Garmisch-Partenkirchen is an international city and its citizens are shaping the peace and prosperity of Europe by their generosity and support," Rose said.

In addition to dinner and dancing, event attendees also had the opportunity to make last-minute pleas to everyone's favorite elf, Santa Claus.



Andrea Winter
The George C. Marshall Center's Lt. Col. Jack Riley and his wife, Libby, spend a moment with a jolly old elf at Garmisch's annual German-American Christmas Ball.

It is refreshing to come together in a community that can only be described as a shining example of the power of positive relationships.

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group Commander

NEWS & NOTES

Holiday closures, changes in Garmisch

■ The **Community Mailroom** will be open Dec. 20, noon to 2 p.m. and Dec. 24 until 5 p.m.

■ The **Army Post Office** is closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31 and Jan. 1. Normal operations resume Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

■ **Army Community Service** is closed Dec. 30 to Jan. 2.

■ The **Garmisch Community Chapel Sunday school** will not be held Dec. 21 to Jan. 4, and **Bible studies** (except men's) will not be held Dec. 16 to 30.

■ The **Burke Lodge** is closed Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1. It will be open Dec. 31, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ The **Mueller Fitness Center** is closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Through February, weekend hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

School hosts winter program

The Garmisch American School presents its winter program Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the school's multi-purpose room. Students in grades kindergarten to fifth and the middle school chorus will perform.

For details call 440-2611/civ. 08821-750-611.

T-Shirt shop now hiring

Help is wanted at the AAFES T-shirt shop that is coming soon to Garmisch. A part-time position is available; hours are flexible.

For information call Rudi Simon at 08821-912-848 or e-mail rudisimon@t-online.de.

Relax at the fitness center

Come out for a relaxing massage or beauty treatment with Klaudia and Linda at the Mueller Fitness Center on Sheridan Kaserne.

Swedish, polarity, Shiatsu (acupressure), stretching and reflexology are available seven days a week. Beauty treatments are available Saturdays through Wednesdays.

For details call the fitness center at 440-2747/civ. 08821-750-747.

Go skiing with Outdoor Rec

Outdoor Recreation is taking a ski trip to Ischgl, Jan. 10, Schnalstal, Jan. 17 to 19 and Sölden, Feb. 7. Sign up now; the cost is \$75.

For more information call 440-2747/civ. 08821-750-747.

Burke Center views Lord of the Rings

The Pete Burke Community Center will show the extended version of "The Lord of the Rings: the Two Towers" Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available.

For details call Jessica at 440-2638/civ. 08821-750-638 or e-mail jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil.

ACS holds newcomer's orientation class

Army Community Service is holding the next Community Newcomer's Orientation Jan. 5, 8 a.m. to noon, in the Pete Burke Community Center.

Anyone new to the community or those who have not had the opportunity to attend a briefing should take this class to become more familiar with what Garmisch has to offer.

A bus tour of the Garmisch area will be provided in the afternoon for those interested. Pre-registration is required.

For details or to make a reservation call 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777.

Thrift shop looking for volunteers

The Garmisch Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to help out, particularly Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call Monica Haschak at 442-2552/civ. 08821-759-552, e-mail mohagsd@hotmail.com or stop by the shop.

Holiday worship in Garmisch

Dec. 20

Catholic mass, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent worship service, 10:45 a.m.

Dec. 24

Nativity of the Lord and Children's Pageant, 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve candlelight service, 7 p.m.

Dec. 27

Catholic mass, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 28

Worship service, 10:45 a.m.

Dec. 31

Watchnight service, 10:30 p.m. to midnight
(with refreshments)

For more information call 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-819.

DISA learns 'lessons from loss'

Personnel study, tour site of ill-fated World War II battle

By Hugh C. McBride

Military history, it has been said, is merely the story of wartime's winners.

Don't tell that to the men and women of Defense Information Systems Agency, Europe, though.

In an effort to enhance their ability to manage the military's high-tech communication system, DISA personnel spent two days in November studying one of the darker episodes in America's military history.

Joined by colleagues from the 52nd Signal Battalion and U.S. European Command, the DISA contingent traveled to nearby Herrlisheim, France, to walk the site of a bloody battle waged in the waning days of World War II.

The trip was part of a DISA-sponsored effort to enhance teamwork and learn "how we can make a bigger difference," said Deputy Director Col. Charles Ayala. "The battle of Herrlisheim had lessons that we can benefit from today."

DISA's Bill Wilson, who delivered a two-hour lecture the night before the trip and guided colleagues around the battlefield, said he focused on "the classic errors of the event," including poor intelligence and communication failures.

"For me as a communicator, it provided perspective and stressed the necessity of what we do,"

'Bloody Herrlisheim'

Doomed from the start. Bloody and humiliating. A nightmare.

War historians don't have kind words for the U.S. effort in Herrlisheim.

In the waning days of World War II, troops from the U.S. Army's 12th Armored Division faced off against elements from several German divisions who were intent on capturing nearby Strasbourg.

The Germans ultimately abandoned their effort, but not before inflicting severe losses on the 12th AD.

Because of its proximity to the Battle of the Bulge and the war's end, the losses and lessons of Herrlisheim are often overlooked by historians.

— Hugh C. McBride

Sources:

■ www.acu.edu/academics/history/12ad

■ www.12tharmoredmuseum.org

said DISA's Capt. Ken Cope.

"We enable command and control," said Maj. Wayne Collins, "and this emphasized the necessity and criticality of our job."

Ayala said the DISA command hopes to conduct similar battlefield tours on a quarterly basis.



photos courtesy DISA



[Above] A tour participant looks over the battlefield from a window in Herrlisheim's Waterworks, which still bears the scars from the battle fought there almost 60 years ago.

[Left] DISA's Bill Wilson lectures on the history of Herrlisheim during a November visit to the site.

Project seeks to preserve letters from war zones

By Sgt. Maj. Larry Stevens
Special to Army News Service

Word is getting out that Andy Carroll gets his kicks reading other people's mail, especially service members' correspondence.

In fact, one of the reasons he spent Nov. 22 at a huge logistics base in Kuwait was to get that word out.

To honor, remember

Carroll is founder and director of the Legacy Project, whose mission, he said, is "to honor and remember America's veterans and personnel on active duty through their own words — the letters they wrote home in times of war."

Carroll also edited "War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars," which features some 200 letters written from the time of the Civil War through Sept. 11, 2001.

Since the publication of that book, he has continued to receive and preserve letters from past conflicts and now wants to add correspondence from service men and women involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terrorism.

Unique insights

"The letters — including e-mails — to and from members of the armed services, as well as their families and friends, are irreplaceable historic documents that give a unique, immediate human insight into war," Carroll said.

The Legacy Project operates with an all-volunteer staff and does not solicit donations, grants, government funding or any other form of financial assistance. The project does not buy letters.

"We ask that anyone who would like to submit any war letters please send a legible photocopy or typed manuscript. We recommend that people not send original material unless they don't want them back or are planning to dispose of them," Carroll said.

He added that nothing will be published without permission, and contributors may feel free to delete names or items they consider sensitive or too personal to include.

Books for troops

Another reason Carroll spent Nov. 22 in Kuwait was to hand out free copies of the latest two books in the Armed Services Edition series.

The current ASE literature program is a revival of a World War II-era project that offered troops free quality reading material.

For more information on the Legacy Project and the Armed Services Edition literature program visit www.warletters.com.

Tomorrow's combat uniforms enhance ability, reduce burden

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service

They call it the "Christmas tree" effect.

Defense engineers come up with the latest new gadgets and gizmos to help troops on the battlefield, and (just like ornaments being added to the holiday tree) they "hang" them on the warfighter.

As a result, troops carry a full combat load of 75, 100 or even 150 pounds.

"What warfighters are carrying today is just ridiculous," said Robert Kinney, director of the Individual Protection Directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.

"Our challenge is to provide greater protections and capabilities, but with less weight and bulk," Kinney said.

The goal, he said, is to incorporate new materials to reduce troop loads by almost half, to 50 pounds or less.

Tomorrow's warfighters, Kinney said, will wear uniforms with built-in chemical and biological protection, embedded with electric wires and fiber optics.

Uniforms will be waterproof and flame-resistant, with built-in insect repellent.

Antibacterial agents in the uniforms will help stop open injuries from getting infected, and antimicrobial agents will help keep odor in check.

New synthetic materials being explored will make the uniforms warmer in cold environments, cooler in hot ones, lighter and less bulky.

In addition, uniforms of the future will enable troops to adapt more to changing conditions.

They'll change color, chameleon-style, to reflect the surrounding environment.

Boots will come with snap-on soles for different terrains and removable liners that can be replaced when they get wet.

Headgear will take on a whole new dimension, protecting against ballistic and fragmentation injuries while serving as the wearer's personal "control center."

Tomorrow's helmets will integrate thermal sensors, video cameras and chemical and biological sensors.

Powering all the warfighter's gear will be a single battery, capable of running 24 hours or longer before being recharged.



The Objective Force Warrior program offers a glimpse into advances planned for warfighters. The program is expected to become a prototype for all military service branches.



Satellite communication experts gather in Garmisch

Story & photos
by Hugh C. McBride

Communicators from around the world gathered in Garmisch Nov. 17 to 21 to discuss the status of the U.S. military's satellite communications system.

Co-hosted by Defense Information Systems Agency Europe and the Regional SATCOM Support Center Europe, "Transformation: SATCOM to the Edge" brought managers, policy makers and users together in an open forum to discuss the state of today's satellite communication network.

The annual SATCOM Working Group gathering is billed as "the premiere satellite communications forum of the year."

U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John Sylvester provided the conference's keynote address via video teleconference on a deployable military tri-band system using commercial satellite bandwidth.

The conference's four days consisted of briefings presented by representatives from the joint services, major commands, program managers, and other systems experts from throughout the military satellite communication community. In addition to these general meetings, smaller breakout groups were formed to discuss the capabilities of the Defense Satellite



[Top and above] Lt. Col. Lucious Morton addresses SATCOM conference attendees during the first of the gathering's four days of general meetings and breakout sessions.

Communications System, the use of military and commercial satellites, and the employment of satellite communication in support of the global war on terrorism.

The event's 350 attendees also recognized the top satellite communications facilities in the European theater of operations.

Sigonella, Italy's NAVCOMTELSTA was honored as the DSCS facility of the year, while Royal Air Force Base Croughton earned the title of top STEP facility.

Stuttgart organization helps runners, walkers make sure the shoe fits

Injury Prevention Working Group holds shoe clinic

Story and photo by Mildred Green

Community members from the 6th Area Support Group put their shoes to the test during the Injury Prevention Working Group's first shoe clinic Dec. 4 in the Patch Barracks Fitness Center.

Participants walked barefoot from station to station to have their feet – along with their running or walking shoes – analyzed by experts from the Patch Fitness Center, Stuttgart Health Clinic and Stuttgart Wellness Center.

All three organizations joined together in this effort to provide injury prevention awareness.

"A lot of problems can be caused by wearing the wrong footwear," said John Tortorelli, Stuttgart Health Clinic physical therapist. He added that many of those problems could be prevented.

Overwhelming response

The clinic, which took individuals by appointment only, had an overwhelming response, said Michelle Saylor, Stuttgart Wellness Center health promotion coordinator.

Not only did the appointments fill up the same day the clinic was announced, but people even signed up for a waiting list.

Saylor said that the group received a lot of positive feedback from participants.

"This is a fabulous clinic," said Maj. Rick Lamarre. He said he believed this type of clinic should be mandatory so that people could learn more about themselves and prevent injuries.

Shoe analysis

During the clinic, participants took turns going to four stations.

At the first station, imprints of the participants' feet were taken to determine their natural structure.

Next, a "gait analysis" was administered, which involved having participant's feet videotaped while they ran or walked on a treadmill barefoot.

Area organization dedicated to injury prevention

Helping military personnel reduce injuries related to physical activity is the focus of the newly-developed Injury Prevention Working Group in Stuttgart.

They plan to hold clinics quarterly to focus on different types of preventable injuries.

Since the majority of non-battle injuries come from sports – with running at the top of the list – the Injury Prevention Working Group wants to help keep the military safe, said Michelle Saylor, Working Group member and Stuttgart Wellness Center, health promotion coordinator.

"We want to provide awareness and inform the community on how to take steps to avoid injuries," added Saylor.

The clinics are open to everyone, but military personnel have priority. – Mildred Green

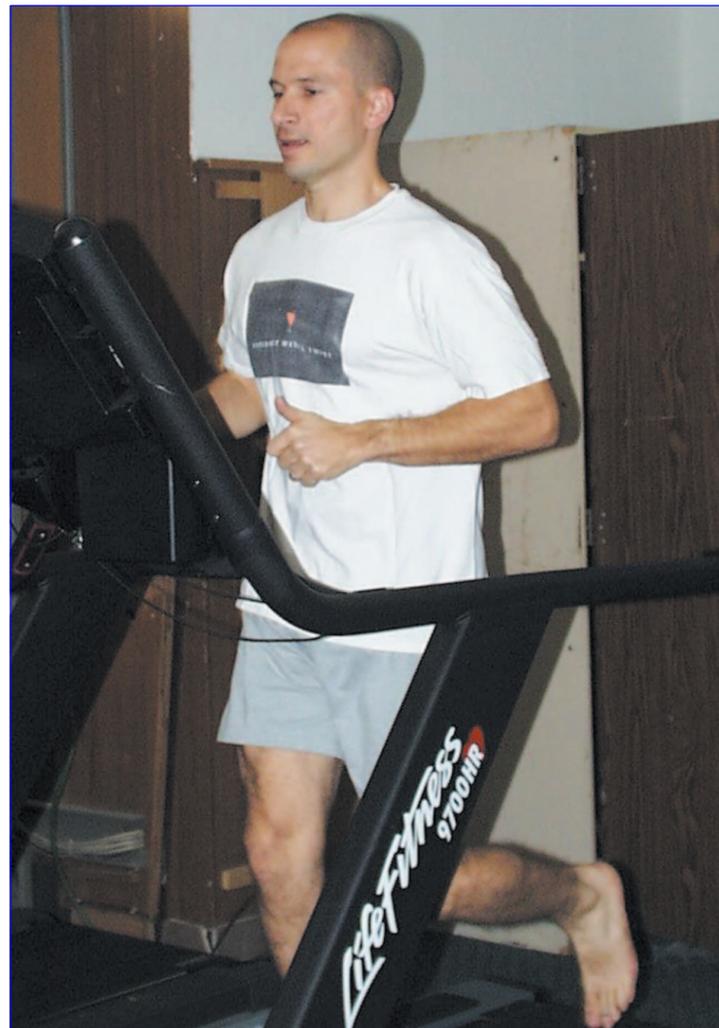
Participants were recorded for one minute from the front and one minute from the back, with the camera focused on their feet and ankles.

At the third station, Tortorelli watched the tape along with the participant and reviewed his or her running or walking style. He then gave each participant advice on the type of shoe and stretches that would be beneficial.

Tortorelli's assistants from the clinic, Sgt. Maria Mejia and Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Lewis, staffed the last station and talked to participants about their shoes, recommending the type that would best suit their needs.

Information tables set up at the clinic included explanations of footwear guidelines, different types of running injuries and even different lacing techniques.

Another shoe clinic is planned for January. Registration dates have yet to be determined.



Maj. Greg Doubek runs barefoot on a treadmill for a gait analysis during the Injury Prevention Working Group's shoe clinic, held Dec. 4 in the Patch Fitness Center.

Central Texas College returns

Central Texas College has returned to Stuttgart after a five-year absence.

They offer a variety of associate degree programs, including Criminal Justice, Legal Assistant, Early Childhood Professional, as well as online distance learning opportunities.

Registration for the third term is Jan. 5 to 16.

Classes are available to all I.D. cardholders and are tailored to military personnel and other

professionals who work full-time. Most classes are held in the evenings or on weekends for eight weeks.

Tuition fees are often negligible due to the many tuition assistant programs offered through CTC.

For more information call 431-2580/civ. 07031-15-580 or visit the Education Center on Panzer Kaserne, building 2948.

Jump into fitness in the New Year

Fit for Life

The Fit for Life program will help increase fitness levels and promote competitive spirit between units. Participants will track miles and minutes of aerobic exercise; prizes will be awarded to those who achieve certain goals.

The program runs for 45 weeks. Registration is Jan. 1 to 31.

For more information call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.

Tobacco Cessation class

Jan. 6 to Feb. 10. Get self-help tools and support for quitting tobacco. To register call 430-8209/civ. 0711-680-8209.

Core Weight Management

Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Jan 14 to Feb. 18. For details call 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.



'EDIS' assists community's children

Panzer-based clinic offers family-focused services

By Mildred Green

Help is at hand for Stuttgart residents with developmental delays or disabilities or who may be at risk for these conditions.

Located next to the Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic on Panzer Kaserne, the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services Clinic provides a variety of services for children and young adults through two programs.

Children ages newborn to 3 years old make up the early intervention, or EI, program, and children and young adults ages 3 to 21 years old fall under the related services, or RS, program.

Since EDIS is a fully-staffed clinic, services can be tailored to a client's specific needs and may include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech pathology, audiology, child psychology, social work or sessions with an early childhood special educator.

Early intervention

Many of the therapies offered under the EI program are provided in the children's everyday environments and are incorporated into their daily routines.

"Natural environment and family routine is key," said Lisa Lindman, occupational therapist for EDIS.

Therapy can be done in the family's home, at a day care facility or wherever else the parent prefers.

The parent's concerns are what drive the EI program, said Anne Walker, program manager and social worker.

Because therapists cannot be with each child for more than a few hours a week, parental and daycare provider involvement is incorporated into the therapy. They are given strategies to

help their children throughout the week.

The services EDIS provides as part of the EI program include speech therapy, early intervention education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and hearing screenings and evaluations.

The goal for the EI program is "to get the child caught up by age 3, before the child's delays become problematic or develop into other problems which will significantly impact the child's future educational process," said EDIS Speech Pathologist Jennifer Bragg.

Related services

In the RS program, a strong emphasis is placed on education, Walker said.

"Plans and interventions are directly related to the educational needs of the student in order to assure academic performance and success," she added.

RS School Occupational Therapist Lorna Netupsky-Lang echoed this sentiment. She said her job is to "help kids meet their educational goals."

The RS program offers assistance through occupational therapy, physical therapy, child psychology and social work.

Speech services, however, are provided by a school's speech pathologist.

In addition, Department of Defense Dependent Schools have an EDIS liaison to assist them with their programs.

EDIS offers assistance in the following categories: developmental delay and emotional, communication, learning and other health impairments.

When therapies overlap, therapists consult each other and work together to provide the most beneficial therapy for both the child and the family.

Additional EDIS Information

■ To contact the EDIS clinic call 431-2697/civ. 07031-15- 697.

■ The clinic is located in building 2996 on Panzer Kaserne.

■ For online information visit www.stuttgart.army.mil. Select "Edu/Dev. Intervention Svcs." from the "Services" drop-down menu.

In the community

The EDIS Clinic strives to make it simpler for parents and organizations in the community to get the help they need, Walker said. EDIS therapists can be found at functions and activities throughout the community, such as the Stuttgart Health and Wellness Fair, Well Baby screenings and Child Find activities.

The EDIS clinic also provides questionnaires for parents with children ages 4 months to 5 years. The questionnaires are used as learning and teaching tools to screen for the appropriate development of children at various ages.

Walker said that the questionnaires are "parent-answered tools, which can be easily scored by parents to see how their child compares to the 'norm' in child development."

Questionnaires can be obtained from EDIS staff member at the Well Baby clinics that are held every Tuesday in the Stuttgart Health Clinic.

Stuttgart unveils urban terrain training site

Area near Panzer to serve multiple purposes for local troops

Story & photos by Melanie Casey

At first glance, the Military Operations Urban Terrain site near Panzer Kaserne appears as though it were the remnants of a sleepy village or perhaps an abandoned construction site.

Yet the six concrete, plywood and plaster laden buildings have recently been built to serve as a training ground in urban warfare for military units stationed throughout U.S. Army, Europe.

Strategic scenario

Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were on hand at a Dec. 2 ceremony to demonstrate just how realistic that training can be.

The troops staged a mock "surgical application" for the 40 or so invited guests, including 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris; 1/10 SFG (A) Commander Lt. Col. Robert Warburg; and Naval Special Warfare Unit Two Commander Capt. Gerald Weers.

Representatives of the 7th Regional Training Support Center in Mannheim and local German contractors also attended.

Guests donned eye and ear protection and witnessed the Soldiers in action as they "stormed and took control" of the buildings during a 10-minute demonstration of how the MOUT site could be used.

Although the special forces Soldiers showed how the site might be used for their particular type of training 1/10 SFG (A) spokesman Maj. Scott Peck said "the kind of training that will be conducted ... will vary according to the type of unit that uses it."

"Combat units will focus on the traditional infantry offensive and defensive operations," Peck said.

"[Military police] may conduct enemy prisoner of war, crowd control or law enforcement scenarios. Other combat



[Above and below left] Special Forces Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) storm a Military Operations Urban Terrain site building during the facility's Dec. 2 grand opening ceremony.

[Below right] Buildings at the site can withstand live fire munitions, demolitions and pyrotechnics.

support and combat service units may run peacekeeping operations scenarios," he added.

Built to last

In early 2002, key players in the team that would ultimately help design and build the site – including representatives from the

6th ASG Safety Office, 6th ASG Directorate of Public Works, Army Corps of Engineers, Special Operations Command, Europe, and 1/10 SFG (A) – met and "identified the training needs of the 10th Special Forces Group

and others in the U.S. Army, Europe, footprint," said Steve Hughes, chief of the Regional Training Support Center Mannheim.

Groundbreaking took place in December 2002, and construction began in March the following year.

The \$750,000 project was financed by the 7th Army Training Command but will be maintained by the 6th ASG.

Although the buildings are primitive and appear unfinished, they are sturdy.

The six one- and two-story buildings can withstand munitions from not only blanks and controlled live fire exercises, but also small demolitions and various pyrotechnics, Peck said.

"Mounted and dismounted approaches are possible as well as limited helicopter operations," he added.

Urban warfare training

Quoting Maj. Gen. Robert Scales in his opening remarks, Hughes said, "urban warfare, a subject many military professionals would prefer to avoid, is still with us. Moreover, it



'The enemies of freedom use urban areas as a combat multiplier.'

Maj. Scott Peck

1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

may be the preferred approach of future opponents."

Peck added, "As we have experienced in recent history ... the enemies of freedom use urban areas as a combat multiplier; they hide amongst the civilian population and conduct hit and run attacks."

Peck said this is one reason why the Stuttgart MOUT site exists – to train today's Soldiers in urban warfare methods and to afford them the ability to train closer to home.



'Captivating and constructive'

Patch Library's storytime makes reading fun

Story & photos by Melanie Casey

It's often difficult to get a preschooler to sit still, but Patch Library technician Stacey Costello seems to know the trick: books.

Every Thursday at 11:45 a.m., Costello leads the Patch Library Storytime, reading about five books with a similar theme to a group of 2-to-4-year-olds (and their parents). Storytime is followed by coloring time and a snack.

Her audience is held rapt by bright pictures and rhymes and interacts by asking and answering questions while Costello reads.

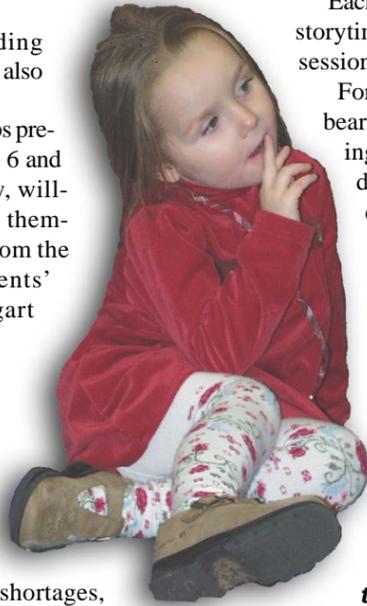
For the preschoolers, attending storytime is more than just fun: It's also helping them to learn.

Reading aloud to children "develops pre-reading skills for children birth to age 6 and prepares them to enter school ready, willing and wanting to learn to read by themselves," according to information from the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools (Bavaria District) Stuttgart Reads Initiative.

A Stuttgart tradition

Storytime has been held at the Patch Library on and off for as long as the library has been open, said Patch Reference Librarian Natalie Camp.

Although there have been intermittent pauses because of staff shortages, the program always returns, Camp said. Storytime is



"a long standing tradition in the Stuttgart community," Costello added.

Costello began attending storytime three years ago with her daughter Abby, who is now 6. The teacher then was Tiffany Goode, whom Costello said she tries to emulate when conducting her storytime.

"She had a great rapport with the kids and made it fun," Costello said.

Costello chooses books that have pictures, rhymes or "anything that will hold [the preschooler's] attention."

Each session has a theme (look for a Christmas-themed storytime Dec. 18), which Costello ties into the coloring session and snack.

For instance, the theme for the Dec. 4 storytime was bears; Costello read five books about bears (including the old favorite *Corduroy*) then gave the children a coloring page with a bear and a snack consisting of grapes and "Winnie the Pooh" juice boxes.

Regular readers

Storytime averages about eight preschoolers each week, and many children are regulars.

One frequent attendee is 2-year-old Christian Lewis, who has been coming to the Patch Storytime since he was about 15 months old. His mother, Cristina Lewis, said Christian "loves Ms. Stacey and he loves to read books."

Lily Gamble, 3, listens intently as library technician Stacey Costello reads during storytime in the Patch Barracks Library.



Patch Library technician Stacey Costello reads and Christian Lewis, 2, gets closer for a better look.

Cheryl Gamble began attending with her daughter Lily, 3, shortly after moving into the area a few months ago.

She said attending storytime makes Lily "feel important because she has somewhere to go every week." Lily added that she likes going so she can check out some new books.

Carmela Harkey, whose son Caelon, 4, has attended several sessions, said storytime "is wonderful. The kids learn new things and it's a good time for them. The illustrations keep them captivated."

According to the Stuttgart Reads Initiative, reading aloud to children "is the single most important task parents can do to ensure their child's success in school and in life." The Patch Library's Storytime makes it fun.