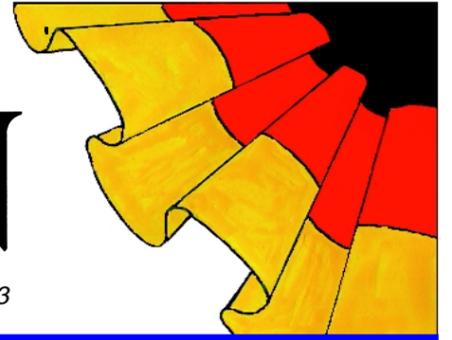


THE CITIZEN



Vol. 32, No. 5

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

March 11, 2003

Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Stuttgart athletes soar to success



Adversity no match for area's winter sports standouts

By Hugh C. McBride

From the mat to the court to the pool, Stuttgart-area athletes made a practice of turning up the heat on their opponents throughout the 2002-2003 winter sports seasons.

Faced with challenges that included budget cuts, injuries, deployments and a heightened security posture, male and female athletes as young as 9 and as old as, well, much older than 9 were able to maintain the focus necessary to triumph in their respective disciplines.

The youngest of these champions were the Stuttgart Piranhas, whose six-month swim across Europe concluded with the European Forces Swim League's Championship meet in Munich's historic *Olympiaschwimmhalle*.

Page 15 of this edition chronicles the Piranhas' pursuit of the Rhineland Division championship and their performance in the season's culminating event.

Moving up the age scale, the Patch High School Panthers wrestling team overcame fears of a cancelled season and the extended absence of their coach to qualify every grappler for a spot in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools' European Championship meet.

To read about which two Panthers brought European crowns back to Stuttgart – and which athlete triumphed over what was thought to be a season-

Deployments and an increased operational tempo were challenges, but they had no apparent effect on the intensity and athleticism of those who competed.

ending injury – turn to page 14.

Also on page 14 are the results of Stuttgart's annual Tournament of Champions community-level basketball extravaganza, which took place Feb. 14 to 16 in the Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne fitness centers.

Though deployments and an increased operational tempo caused the tournament to shrink in size from previous years, they had no apparent effect on the intensity and athleticism of those who were able to compete.

On the local level, the 6th Area Support Group recently crowned the champions of its unit-level basketball league – and though the pre-season favorites were there at the end, they had to settle for the third spot on the winner's platform.

Again, turn to page 14 to read the local league results.

In our March 25 edition, we will continue our winter sports round-up and take a look ahead at the 2003 spring sports schedule.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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EUCOM chief of staff speaks about security

Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester, Headquarters, U.S. European Command chief of staff, says no one is exempt from force protection responsibilities.



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WIC Overseas opens office on Patch Barracks

Area service members and civilians now have access to the government-sponsored food and nutrition education program.



Hugh C. McBride

The Stuttgart Stallions' Chad Searcy prepares to set one down with authority during a slam-dunk contest on the final evening of Stuttgart's Tournament of Champions. Searcy was a key component in the Stallions' run to the tournament championship.

Senior leaders pledge to not 'gloss over' assault allegations at Air Force Academy

Air Force Print News

The Air Force's senior leaders have vowed to work closely with Congress to uncover the facts behind recent sexual assault cases and to comprehensively address the broader climate at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"There is no place in our Air Force for anyone who would assault a woman, harbor those who do or shun anyone who seeks to report a crime," said Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche. "We will leave no stone unturned in our examination of this problem, and make no mistake: We will be undeterred from taking any and all actions to fix it."

Those remarks, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, are consistent with a commitment to enhance "officership, character and judgment" at the academy.

"The Air Force Academy is one of our nation's most precious institutions and a critical source of future leaders of our Air Force," Jumper said. "We do not want criminals, those who cover for criminals or those who would stigmatize a victim. A person who disregards the dignity of another in this manner is not the person we want to entrust with the defense of our nation."

Roche and Jumper promised that Air Force leaders will not "gloss over this issue" by simply instituting more sexual education training or lectures. Instead, they said they will seek to align the culture of the academy more closely with the rest of the Air Force.

Jumper lauded the work of members from both houses of Congress on the academy issue. "It is only fitting that our nation's representatives engage to protect our country's most

There is no place in our Air Force for anyone who would assault a woman, harbor those who do or shun anyone who seeks to report a crime.

James D. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

vital resources: the men and women who will one day lead our military," he said.

Members of an Air Force fact-gathering team charged with looking into the sexual assault allegations at the academy returned to the Pentagon Feb. 28.

Roche and Jumper formed the working group to review the sexual assault programs, policies and procedures in place at the academy and other commissioning sources. The group will consider whether these policies and procedures have been implemented properly. Additional measures will include prosecution of the accused and proper assistance to victims.

The eight members will bring the information they gathered during a two-week period to a working group headed by Air Force General Counsel Mary Walker.

Roche said he, Jumper and Air Force Academy Superin-

tendent Lt. Gen. John Dallager will get to the bottom of the allegations – and will also address broader policy and programs to instill confidence in the academy. An initial set of findings and directives is expected by the end of March.

The secretary said that only a few cadets are involved in these types of crimes, and that while such behavior should not reflect upon the rest of the cadet wing, all of the academy community must be part of the solution.

Roche traveled to the academy Feb. 27 and addressed the entire cadet population on character, leadership and his expectations of the prospective officers in attendance.

Jumper will go to the academy in early March to hold a special "commander's call" with academy leaders and cadets.

"We must not let the criminal behavior of a few taint the character of the cadet wing, who are working hard to prepare themselves to be leaders in our Air Force," Roche said. "Nor will we sacrifice due process or basic tenets of fairness and justice in pursuing this matter. But we must be clear: Without the active commitment of all cadets – and especially male cadets – we will not eradicate this scourge from the academy."

"We will do everything we can from a policy standpoint, and the administration will be accountable for their leadership actions," Jumper said.

"But it will take the entire cadet wing to make the Air Force Academy a safe place that lives up to its reputation as a premier educational institution, teaching only the highest standards of moral character and excellence."

This article can be accessed online at www.af.mil.

THE CITIZEN

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The Citizen is an offset press publication printed in 6,500 copies every two weeks.

www.stuttgart.army.mil

Ask an Expert

Carbon monoxide detector project underway

This edition's expert:

Douglas Garretson
Directorate of Public Works
(Chief, Housing Programs Branch)

Q: What is the status of DPW's carbon monoxide detector installation project?

A. During a three-month project begun in February, contractors are installing carbon monoxide detectors and alarms in family units with gas stoves on Robinson Barracks. The contractors are also installing detectors in the heating rooms of single-family quarters on Patch and Kelley.

These devices emit an alarm when they detect build-ups of harmful carbon-monoxide gas (often resulting from the improper ventilation of burning fuels).

The apartments on Robinson Barracks will have one detector installed at the gas stove in the kitchen.

In the single-family quarters, two detectors will be installed (one inside and one outside the door to the basement heating rooms).

Q: What responsibilities do residents have in this project?

A. Residents will be notified two weeks before the carbon monoxide detectors are to be installed in their homes. The two-week notice includes the date and time range (8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 5 p.m.) that the contract personnel will be at the quarters.

Either the resident or a neighbor with the resident's authorization must be present to allow the contractors access

Have a question? Ask an expert!

"Ask an Expert" is designed to enhance communication between 6th Area Support Group directorates and the community members who live and work here.



If you have a question about what a directorate is doing – or why something is being done – e-mail citizen@6asg.army.mil and we'll "Ask an Expert" for you.

to the quarters.

The contractors will install detectors Mondays through Thursdays and Friday mornings. They will not work on holidays (training, U.S. or German).

Q: What if I can't be home when the contractor is scheduled to work?

A: If no one can be available at the scheduled time, e-mail the Housing Office at detectors@6asg.army.mil.

If you do not have e-mail access, call Anja Ruoff, project manager, at 430-5504/civ. 0711-680-5504 or Lance Keller, RB installation coordinator, at 420-6033/civ. 0711-819-6033.

Once an acceptable time to accomplish the work is established, it is very important that you keep your appointment.

Contractors will charge for the time wasted if they can't get access, and occupant 'no shows' will be reported to their commands.

Q: Why should I be worried about carbon monoxide?

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a per-

son in minutes. It is produced when fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned.

If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of carbon monoxide is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels can result.

Hundreds of people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning

appliances or from idling cars.

Q: What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

A: At moderate levels, carbon monoxide can cause severe headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea and fainting. Low levels can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea and mild headaches.

Q: What should I do if my carbon monoxide detector goes off?

A: If any members of the household are experiencing poisoning symptoms, get them out of the house and seek medical attention. Tell the doctor you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

Ventilate the home with fresh air and turn off all potential monoxide sources.

Even if no one is feeling symptoms, submit a DPW service order if the detector alarm has sounded. The detector needs to be checked for proper operation, as do any fuel-burning appliances and vents.

Q: Where can I get more information about carbon monoxide?

Visit the Environmental Protection Agency Web site (www.epa.gov).



Christie Lawler



Hugh C. McBride



Hugh C. McBride

Awareness key to combating terrorism

U.S. Army, Europe, Release

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the recent increase in reported cases of individuals conducting surveillance in the United States and Europe indicates possible targeting by terrorists. Prompt reporting of suspicious activities may prevent a terrorist attack.

Terrorists conduct surveillance to determine a target's suitability for attack by assessing the capabilities of existing security and discerning weaknesses in that facility.

After identifying weaknesses, they plan their attack at the point of greatest vulnerability.

Because terrorists must conduct surveillance – often over a period of weeks, months or years – detection of their activities is possible. Regardless of their level of expertise, terrorists invariably make mistakes. Knowing what to look for – and being able to distinguish the ordinary from the extraordinary – are the key elements to successful surveillance detection.

Force protection personnel advise anyone who observes any of the following to immediately notify the military police:

- Multiple sightings of the same suspicious person, vehicle or activity, separated by time, distance or direction.
- Individuals who stay at bus or train stops for extended periods while buses and trains come and go.
- Individuals who order food at a restaurant and leave before the food arrives or who order without eating.
- Individuals who carry on long conversations on pay or cellular telephones.
- Joggers who stand and stretch for inordinate amounts of time.
- Individuals who sit in parked cars for extended periods of time.
- Individuals who don't fit into the surrounding environment because they are wearing improper attire for the location or season.
- Individuals drawing pictures or taking notes in an area not normally of interest to a tourist or showing unusual interest in security cameras, guard locations and security reaction procedures.

Can you spot the threat?

A propped-open door, an unidentified automobile, an unknown photographer. Depending upon circumstance, any of these situations could indicate a security breach. Force protection personnel depend upon community awareness to help differentiate between innocent incidents and terrorist threats.

EUCOM chief of staff: No one exempt from force protection duties

By Hugh C. McBride

Service member or civilian, sponsor or spouse: If you live, work or spend time on a U.S. military installation, you have a role to play in the force protection effort.

This is the opinion of Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester – and his words carry some weight. A veteran of both Vietnam and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Sylvester is currently the Headquarters, U.S. European Command, chief of staff.

In that role, Sylvester oversees the implementation of force protection policies and procedures throughout EUCOM's 93-nation area of responsibility. And with the threat of terrorism as real as it has ever been for U.S. service members and civilians worldwide, he does not mince words when emphasizing the important contribution that all individuals must make to maintain a safe living and working environment.

"We need to be vigilant everywhere," Sylvester said. "There are bad guys out there who want to do us harm."

Sylvester said the effective exercise of "the inherent right of self defense" hinges on the willingness of all community members to make force protection a part of their daily lives – at work and at home, on post and when travelling.

"I just want [community members] to be aware that it's as much their role as it is for the MPs," he said. "It's everybody's job to ensure that we protect ourselves and our family members."

While to some the term "force protection" may conjure images of armed service members and covert, high-tech intelligence-gathering procedures, Sylvester said the concept is grounded in a simple – yet essential – mindset.

"To me, force protection is all about awareness," he said. "It's about having your senses activated."

Noticing and reporting, for example, an unfamiliar car that has been parked in the same space for an extended period of time – or an individual taking photographs where he or she shouldn't be – could be the difference between



Sylvester

' We need to be vigilant everywhere. There are bad guys out there who want to do us harm.

Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester
U.S. European Command

a secure installation and an act of terrorism.

Though some may believe they would be "bothering" the military police by reporting such apparently innocuous situations, Sylvester said any individual or situation that seems to be suspicious or out of the ordinary needs to be called into question.

"I'm going to ask that question, [and] I want everybody to have that same attitude," Sylvester said. "If it makes the hairs in your nose crinkle, check it out."

Throughout Germany, U.S. military personnel charged with "checking it out" have always been able to depend upon their host nation for support, Sylvester said.

And though the U.S. and German governments are currently embroiled in a high-profile difference of opinion over the situation in Iraq, host-nation support on the local level has never wavered, he said.

"The Germans have stepped up to the plate," he said, adding that the response from our host nation did not surprise him. "This is not new – they've been [providing assistance and support] for years. They've done a wonderful job...and I couldn't be happier."

While Sylvester does not delude himself about the seriousness of the threats facing U.S. personnel and family members around the globe, he is equally confident in the ability of these individuals to maintain a vigilant force protection posture.

"People understand that there is a threat," he said. "We are going to police and protect ourselves."

IACS registration schedule

All U.S. identification cardholders and installation pass holders (and applicants) within the U.S. Army, Europe, area of responsibility must register for the new Installation Access Control System.

In Stuttgart, this registration will be conducted alphabetically (by last name) according to the following schedule:

Patch & Kelley Barracks Residents

A to I: March 10 to 15
J to R: March 17 to 22
S to Z: March 24 to 29

Robinson Barracks Residents

A to I: March 31 to April 5
J to R: April 7 to 12
S to Z: April 14 to 19

Panzer Kaserne Residents

A to I: April 21 to 26
J to R: April 28 to May 3
S to Z: May 5 to 10

Off-Post Residents

A to I: May 12 to 17
J to R: May 19 to 24
S to Z: May 26 to 31

■ Registration hours are **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

■ Registration for Patch, Panzer, RB and off-post residents will be conducted in the Patch Barracks Installation Access Control Office (building 2307).

■ Kelley residents will register in the temporary IACO on Kelley Barracks (building 3315).

For more information contact Arthur Williamson:
430-4256/civ. 0711-680-4256
arthur.williamson@stuapo.pmo.army.mil.

Garmisch Beat

Chapel hosts Lenten luncheons

The Garmisch Chapel is hosting a free light lunch of homemade soup and *Brötchen* every Tuesday during Lent (March 11 to April 15) in the chapel fellowship hall.

In addition to providing a warm meal, Chaplain Benzing will also share stories of the life of Jesus and "the truth of Easter."

For details call 08821-750-819 or e-mail ronald.benzing@garmisch.army.mil.

GCSC lunch club meets monthly

The Garmisch Community and Spouses' Club's next monthly lunch club meeting is March 14 at noon, in the Goldener Engel on Bankgasse (near McDonald's). RSVP by calling 08821-754-114 by March 12.

Next month's lunch will be April 11 in Spago's on Partnacstrasse. RSVP by April 9.

Youth Sports news update

■ The final **Wonderful Wednesday** of this season is March 19. A "fun race" is scheduled for 1:45 p.m., starting under the *Kreuzwankl* chair lift (parents and guests are welcome to watch and take pictures).

The program's banquet is the same day in the Hausberg Lodge. The buffet begins at 5 p.m., with the awards ceremony scheduled for 6 p.m.

■ Lee Farentino is offering **martial arts classes** for children (ages 10 and up) and adults. Registration fee for 10 sessions (twice per week for five weeks) is \$10.

■ The YS program is looking for a **swimming instructor**. If you can teach swimming (and have a current American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor certificate), contact Drew Benson at the YS. Fees and class times are negotiable.

■ **Baseball registration** has begun. Garmisch youth may sign up for Pee-Wee, Minor and Bantam leagues until April 18.

The first coaches' meeting and mandatory training is April 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. The first practice is April 21.

For details about any of the items above, call 440-2654/civ. 08821-750-654 or e-mail drew.benson@garmisch.army.mil.

Wanted: musicians with talent

Singers and instrumentalists, soloists and groups – if you've got musical talent, the Garmisch community wants you for the May 16 community talent showcase.

To secure your place in the spotlight, call Bobbie Oakland at 442-2658/08821-759-658 or e-mail bobbie.oakland@garmisch.army.mil.

Burke Center promotes health, relaxation

■ Looking for a way to unwind from your hectic life? Interested in fresh air, exercise and the camaraderie of friends (all in a non-threatening environment)? If so, give **Women's Wellness Mondays** a try.

Meet at the Burke Lodge March 24 (and every other Monday thereafter) at 8:30 a.m. with your cross-country skis. We'll explore the area and unwind together. The cost is \$3 per person.

■ For those who prefer indoor health and relaxation activities, register for a **yoga class**. Sessions are Tuesdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. Cost is \$30 for a six-week "semester."

For details call Jessica Roberson at 440-2638/civ. 08821-750-678 or e-mail jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil.



Andrea Winter

Begun in October 2002, the project to fence Garmisch's Breitenau Housing Area (on Artillery Kaserne) is proceeding according to schedule, area officials say.

Fence project progresses Winter weather forces delays, but Breitenau work remains on schedule

By Jennifer Sanders
6th Area Support Group
Public Affairs Office

Battling bitter temperatures, contractors in Garmisch fought Mother Nature and her frozen beauty daily until heavy snowfalls piled so high that the Breitenau Housing Area fence project and its workers were forced to take a temporary break.

With community members' security a top priority for 6th Area Support Group leadership, local officials said workers have been relentless in their mission, and the project is still on track for a spring completion date.

The fence has been under construction since October 2002.

Russel Stokes, Area Support Team Garmisch director of public works, said the harsh winter and its surprises were built into the project timeline.

"With a meter of snow we had to take a pause in the work," Stokes said, adding work had to stop for about four weeks. "But the snow is melting rapidly, and in about two weeks work should begin again."

Once completed, the project will enclose the housing area.

"Even though we have had a lot of snow and the ground is frozen, we still believe the finish date will be met," said Linn Weaver, AST Garmisch force protection officer.

Garmisch officials said workers have been relentless in their mission, and the project is still on track for a spring completion date.

Weaver explained that the company putting in the fence even brought in a special system in order to continue drilling holes for the posts in a ground that is frozen solid.

In addition, Weaver said workers are using a cement that is ideal for a cold winter environment.

According to Stokes, preparatory work for the approximately 1,800-meter-long fence project began in October with tree and ground clearing and the installation of electrical conduit for perimeter lighting.

"Approximately 50 percent of the fence posts have already been set," Stokes said, explaining that this adds up to about a 60-percent completion of the project.

Once finished, Stokes said, the NATO-standard fence will mostly be hidden inside wooded areas.

During the initial planning process, he said, the team concluded that the fence's exposure to the general public should be minimal.

The Garmisch Entertainment Branch proudly presents ...

Tickets: \$8
For reservations:
442-2475
08821-759-2475

The Nerd
March 22, 28 and 29
Performances begin at 8 p.m.

A hilarious
comedy!

Artillery Kaserne, building 262 (below the Juke Box Bar & Grill)

Veterans serving veterans: 84 years and counting



By Fred Wildi

American Legion Stuttgart Post 6

The world's largest veterans' organization will celebrate its 84th birthday March 15 to 17.

The American Legion was born over three days at a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force in Paris in 1919. The caucus was the result of a proposal by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., whose unwavering service during this vital time won him the title, "Father of the American Legion."

The 66th U.S. Congress overwhelmingly endorsed "An Act to Incorporate The American Legion," which became Public Law 47 with President Woodrow Wilson's signature Sept. 16, 1919.

Eligibility

The Legion's charter limited membership to honorably discharged veterans with service between April 6, 1917, and Nov. 11, 1918. Subsequent amendments have been made to establish the following eligibility dates for membership:

- World War II (Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946)
- Korean War (June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War (Dec. 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975)
- Granada and Lebanon (Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984)
- Panama (Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990)
- Persian Gulf (Aug. 2, 1990 to present)

Organization

The American Legion is organized into 55 departments, with one in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

The American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 was originally located in Ludwigsburg and chartered as Ludwigsburg Post 6. It was re-chartered as a Baden-Württemberg Post Feb. 20, 1975.

Then on May 9, 1979, it was again re-chartered, this



Courtney Allen, a senior at Patch High School, has won both the American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 Oratorical Contest and the Legion's Department of France competition.

Allen will compete for an \$18,000 scholarship in the Legion's national competition in Indianapolis April 12 and 13.

time as Stuttgart Post 6.

The post is comprised of members from the 6th Area Support Group community in Germany – and even members in the United States who maintain their affiliation with the local post. Stuttgart Post 6's current home is in the Back Lot Club on Patch Barracks.

Service

The Legion's greatest single legislative achievement was the enactment of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the GI Bill of Rights.

Not only is the American Legion universally recognized as the originator of this complex and multi-dimensional bill, but also as the force which overcame major political opposition by massing public opinion in favor of the measure.

In 2002, American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 members volunteered 2,897 hours and traveled more than 17,000 miles to accomplish numerous post- and department-level activities.

The post also donated more than \$9,700 to the 6th ASG and other charitable organizations.

For more information about the American Legion, visit www.legion.org.

Local Beat

Upcoming closings, changes

■ **The Panzer Dining Facility** is open only at the following times: Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 to 9 a.m. (for breakfast) and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (for lunch).

■ **The Patch APO** no longer offers Saturday services.

■ **The Patch Skate Park** will be closed March 14 to 25 due to the Spring Bazaar.

■ **The 510th Personnel Services Battalion** office on Panzer Kaserne is closed the first Friday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m.

EFMP committee meets

The next Exceptional Family Member Program/Local Interagency Coordinating Council committee meeting is March 19, 10:30 a.m., in the Army Community Service office (Patch Barracks, building 2307).

The EFMP/LICC Committee helps coordinate medical, legal, social service assessment, education, housing and treatment services. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. For details call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Eligibility for special allowance changes

As a result of recent changes made by Congress, junior enlisted families may now be eligible for the Armed Forces' Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, which can provide non-taxable monthly payments of up to \$500.

For details call Army Community Service at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Donations sought for Pfennig Bazaar

The sorting rooms on Patch and Kelly barracks are now open for Pfennig Bazaar donations. The German-American Women's Club is also looking for volunteers to help sort donated items. For details call Polly Haag (Patch) at 0711-674-2548 or Amy Ingold (Kelley) at 0711-719-4884.

OCSC Spring Bazaar approaches

The Stuttgart Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club annual Spring Bazaar is March 21 to 23 in the Patch Community Club, Fitness Center and Youth Services area. More than 70 vendors will attend the event, which is open to all U.S. identification cardholders.

Volunteers can shop the evening before the bazaar opens to the public and will be entered in a raffle for vendor prizes. Volunteers are needed March 21 to 23.

To volunteer call Laurie Menzel at 0711-440-8424 or e-mail Lmenzel@att.net.

Kelley YS to 'lock in' youth

Kelley Youth Services is holding a Sleepover/Lock-in for 6th- to 12th-graders March 14 to 15. The event includes snacks, movies, games and a continental breakfast. The cost is \$15. For details call 421-2548/civ. 0711-729-2548.

RB YS hosts free parent/youth dinner

Robinson Barracks Youth Services is offering a free Parent and Youth Spaghetti Dinner March 13, 6 to 7 p.m. Other dishes will highlight St. Patrick's Day. Treat the family to a night out for dinner and challenge them to a game of pool or air hockey.

For details call 420-6016/civ. 0711-819-6016.

Comptroller society offers scholarships

The Heidelberg Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is offering scholarships for graduating high school seniors and ASMC members. Scholarships from \$250 to \$1,000 are available.

Additional information and application materials are available online at www.odcsmr.hqusaureur.army.mil/ASMC/scholarships.htm.

PCS/pre-separation briefing on Patch

Stuttgart's next permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing is March 19, 1 p.m., on Patch Barracks (building 2318, room 4). All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend.

For details call Cliff Heisler at 430-4064/civ. 0711-680-4064.

Child Find screenings on RB

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools will conduct a Child Find Screening March 21 in Robinson Barracks Elementary School.

Parents with concerns about their child's social, cognitive, physical, communication or adaptive skill development should call 420-6365/civ. 0711-819-6365 for an appointment.

Stuttgart stores change hours, move merchandise

The Defense Commissary Agency and Army and Air Force Exchange Service have announced the following changes in operating hours and merchandise locations for Stuttgart-area stores:

AAFES merchandise

■ **Linens:** A limited assortment is still available in the Patch PXtra (building 2339). A wider selection can be found in the Robinson Barracks CX.

■ **Sporting goods:** Limited selection in the RB CX. Larger assortment in Patch Sports Store (building 2333).

■ **Pet food, supplies and accessories:** Now located in Patch PXtra.

■ **Luggage:** Now located in Patch PXtra.



DeCA Commissary hours

Kelley Barracks

Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Saturdays and Sundays

Panzer Kaserne

Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Saturdays and Sundays

Patch Barracks

Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Closed Mondays

For more information

AAFES: Gina Meeks (430-5601/civ. 0711-687-0100)

DeCA: Steve Peterson (430-8401/civ. 0711-680-8401; e-mail steven.peterson@deca.mil)

The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch presents the European premiere of ...

As Bees in Honey Drown

A sexy, sophisticated comedy by Douglas Carter Beane

March 14, 15, 16

(All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.)

Tickets: Adults (\$12 / 14 euro); Students (\$10 / 12 euro)

For reservations call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825 or visit www.kelleytheatre.de



Adult subject matter:
Recommended for mature
audiences due to sexual content
and strong language.

WIC Overseas office opens in Stuttgart

Individuals ineligible stateside may qualify in Europe

Story & photos by Maria Higgins

With a snip of a red ribbon Feb. 28, 6th Area Support Group officials opened Stuttgart's office of Women, Infants and Children Overseas, a government-sponsored supplemental food and nutrition education program.

Available to stateside military families since 1972, WIC was mandated for service members across Asia and Europe in January 2001, but has not been accessible here until now.

The office joins branches already operating elsewhere in Germany as well as in England, Holland, Iceland, Spain, Belgium, Turkey, Italy, Japan and South Korea.

"This is a big thing, a wonderful thing for the Stuttgart community," said 6th ASG Commander Col. Larry Stubblefield, who signaled the program's importance by attending the grand opening despite scheduling difficulties.

"This is a force protection issue," he said. "Military members can't participate fully in their jobs if their families are not taken care of."

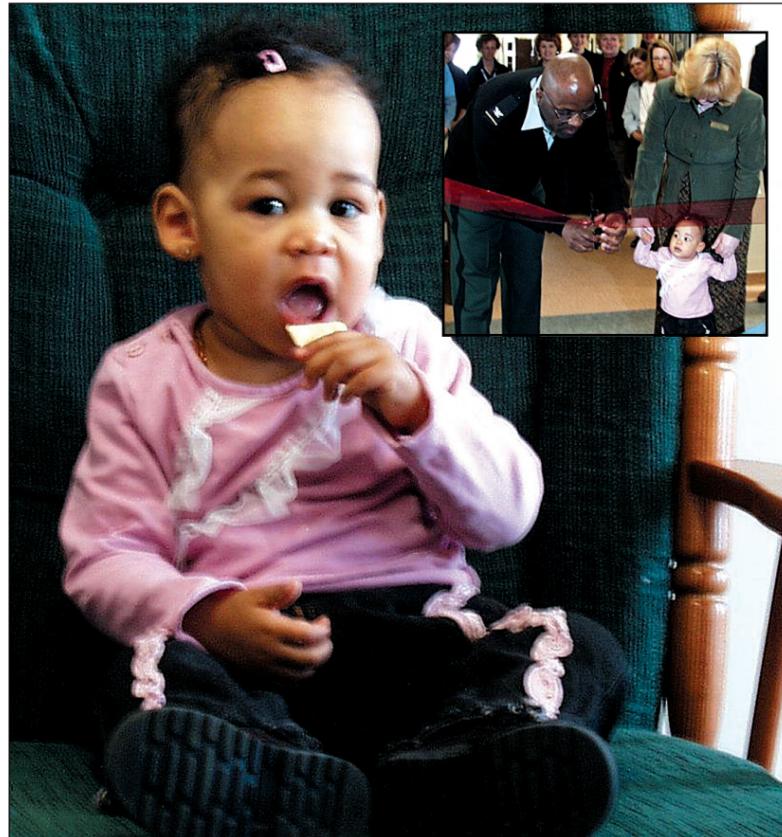
Wide range of assistance

WIC Overseas aids families in numerous ways, most notably by providing nutritious foods such as iron-fortified formulas, cereals, milk, cheese and peanut butter to qualifying families at no cost.

Other assistance includes counseling and education on issues ranging from healthy meal-planning to breastfeeding.

Under the direction of Commissary Officer Steve Peterson, commissaries in the 6th ASG have responded to the program's launch by making it easy to manage item selection and check-out.

Red "WIC qualifying" stickers on store shelves identify healthy foods eligible for selection. Also, cashiers have been trained to recognize and quickly process the check-like "drafts" participants present to receive the items for free.



Sherrie Martinez, 2, fuels up on a cracker at the open house buffet hosted by Stuttgart's new WIC office. [Inset] 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Larry Stubblefield performs the ribbon-cutting honors for WIC Wellness Counselor Lori Dalbey-Kander.

More than 25,000 service members participate in WIC Overseas, according to program officials. In the Stuttgart region, approximately 600 family members are eligible for the plan. Far fewer than that have enrolled thus far, however.

WIC on the quick

WIC serves 45 percent of all children born in the United States, and one out of every four new mothers.

WIC-participating children have healthier diets, reduced rates of iron deficiency anemia and improved cognitive development.

A nutrition counselor will customize diets to fit each family's needs and lifestyle.

Participants incur no enrollment fees or other charges.

source: American Forces Press Service

Lori Dalbey-Kander, WIC Overseas wellness counselor and a registered nurse, estimates 200 people have signed up. She emphasized that WIC Overseas is funded by the Department of Defense as a quality-of-life benefit, and is something families should not hesitate to enjoy.

Income cut-off higher in Europe

Service members may not realize eligibility rules for WIC Overseas are different than their stateside counterparts, Dalbey-Kander said. Income cut-offs, for instance, are actually higher for Europe-based service members, she explained.

Sponsors whose families include pregnant women, new mothers, infants or toddlers under 5 can make an appointment with the WIC Overseas office to determine if they qualify, Dalbey-Kander said. Family size, length of service and other criteria make qualifying a case-by-case situation.

Stuttgart's WIC Overseas office is located on Patch Barracks, building 2307. To make an appointment call 430-4608/civ. 0711-680-4608, or visit <http://tricare.osd.mil/wic/default.htm> for more information.

Child and Youth Services fees change in Europe

By Melanie Casey

Many families in U.S. Army, Europe, with children attending Child Development Centers and School Age Services may soon start saving a little money on daycare fees.

The Army in Europe began implementing new Child and Youth Services fees March 1.

The new fees are based on changes issued by the Department of Defense. According to Sonia Bonet, chief of Child and Youth Services for U.S. Army, Europe, the command selects the lowest rate possible to determine the range of acceptable fees.

"Our goal is to provide affordable child care and youth programs for eligible families across the region," Bonet said, "while maintaining an atmosphere that meets and exceeds quality, safety and accreditation requirements."

What families pay for childcare is based on their Total Family Income. TFI is calculated using pay, allowances and housing amounts.

Once a family's TFI has been determined, it is assigned a category from 1 to 6. Category 1 families pay the lowest rates.

To establish the 2003 TFI and fee categories, CYS programs will use the 2003 Basic Allowance for Housing II chart and

Standardized Fee Tables	
<u>2003 Child Development Centers</u>	
Full-day program:	\$190 to \$476 per month
5-day preschool program:	\$76 to \$190 per month
3-day preschool program:	\$46 to \$76 per month
2-day preschool program:	\$30 to \$76 per month
Hourly program:	\$2 to \$2.50 per hour
<u>2003 School-Age Services</u>	
Before-school program:	\$18 to \$88 per month
After-school program:	\$42 to \$144 per month
Both programs:	\$54 to \$208 per month
Summer camp program:	\$34 to \$94 per month
Occasional user:	\$1.25 to \$1.50 per hour (and five free hours)
<u>2003 Youth Sports Fee Schedule</u>	
Soccer, flag football, cheerleading:	\$20 per child per sport
Baseball, softball, basketball, field hockey:	\$30 per child per sport
Tackle football, lacrosse, roller hockey:	\$50 per child per sport
Ice hockey, competitive swimming:	Fees determined locally



the December 2002 Leave and Earnings Statement.

The 2003 pay adjustment will not be included when determining 2003 TFI.

One significant change that began

March 1 is that the income limit for Category 1 families was raised from \$23,000 to \$28,000.

This means families can now earn up to \$28,000 while remaining in Category 1

and paying the lowest fees.

Dual-military couples living off post will also benefit from the CYS fee changes.

Previously, the BAH for both service members was used to determine the family's TFI. Now, only the BAH of the senior member will be used, which could lower TFI and ultimately the family's category assignment.

New rates are not the only changes for CYS patrons.

Other discounts that will be available to families in the Europe region include the following:

- A 10-percent multiple-child discount for patrons using regular full-day and part-day CYS programs in Child Development Centers.

- School-age program discounts such as the open recreation discount (which offers five hours per month of free open recreation during weekday activities).

- A 10-percent discount for patrons using the before- and after-school programs.

For more information in Stuttgart call the CYS central registration office at 430-7458/civ. 0711-680-7458, visit the office in Patch Barracks' building 2347, or log onto www-mwr-europe.com.

In Garmisch call 440-2684/civ. 08821-750-684.

Expert advises vigilance to keep kids safe

Pedophiles, predators pose threat at home, online

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

They come from all ethnic backgrounds. About 95 percent are males, 70 percent are white, and they're only about 15 years old when they start molesting children.

Tom Smith, commander of Detachment 344, Air Force Office of Special Investigation, spent a year working with the FBI profiling child molesters.

Smith said there are two main types of molesters: the situational and the preferential.

The situational molester is not the stereotypical pedophile – the “guy in the trench coat,” Smith said. “This guy actually doesn't prefer sex with little children,” he continued.

“He may molest a child because he's under an unusual amount of stress,” Smith said, “or maybe because of boredom or curiosity.”

The more serious predators are the preferential variety. Smith characterized them as molesters who lack interpersonal skills, and who will attack strangers and very young children, even infants.

Also, the preferential molester is more likely to lure children away or abduct them by force, he said.

These criminals aim to inflict pain on their victims, and sometimes will kill them, Smith said.

One method the preferential molester uses to get close to victims is to shower children and families with gifts. Another is to offer reasons to be with or near children.

This kind of molester, Smith said, often spends weeks, months or even years with a potential victim before an act of inappropriate fondling may occur.

Startlingly, molesters and victims are related in a third of the known cases, Smith said.

He advised parents to be suspicious of anyone who is

Child-protection tips

Babysitters and child care

- Seek recommendations from friends and family.
- Advertise only in “known areas” (for example, at one's church or a local high school).
- Interview candidates extensively – and with your child present.
- Observe the interaction between your child and the potential sitter.
- If using a service, verify how (and how well) employees are screened.
- Demand references – and check them *thoroughly*.

Internet activities

- Never let children exchange e-mails with – or especially send photos to – someone they (and you) don't know.
- Never allow children to meet alone in person with someone they “met” online.
- Establish, maintain and enforce boundaries for Internet activities: time of day, length of time online and acceptable/unacceptable sites.
- Monitor bulletin board and chat room access – and contact authorities regarding any questionable content.

more interested in their children than they are, or who seeks opportunities to be alone with their children.

Another risk facing children is that of abduction.

An average of 3,900 children are abducted in the United States each year, Smith said – although only about 300 are abducted by strangers.

He said statistics show that most abductions occur in middle-class neighborhoods and less than one-quarter of a mile from the home.

A relatively recent threat – though one that is becoming more and more prevalent – is that posed by child predators in online situations.

Smith said the Internet poses an array of risks for children due to the wide range of inappropriate material online. He noted many Web sites contain material that is sexual in nature – and hateful, harassing and violent as well.

“You won't believe the stuff that people will say to your children on the Internet,” he said.

“If your children go into chat areas, there's a very high

You won't believe the stuff that people will say to your children on the Internet.

Tom Smith
*Air Force Office of
Special Investigation*

possibility of their seeing this type of material.”

Smith said pedophiles use Internet bulletin boards and chat rooms to gain children's trust and confidence.

“If your children ever feel threatened, or pressured, or made to feel un-

comfortable, be sure they know to tell a parent or to contact the online service,” Smith said.

Parents should never allow their children to give out their home address, home or work telephone numbers or the name and location of their school while online.

Children should never agree to send or e-mail their photograph to someone they do not know. “The next thing you know, you see your child's face on someone else's naked body. This can happen,” Smith warned.

Children should not be allowed to meet with anyone they “met” online unless in a public place and a parent or guardian is present, he advised. Also, parents should set rules for children's Internet use – time of day, length of time to be online and appropriate sites to visit.

Smith said he isn't trying to scare parents, but warns that a lot can happen “out there” if they're not careful.

“Most people, after hearing this, just want to go home and hug their child. That's what I did,” he said.

Child Abuse Detection and Prevention Class

March 12, 10 a.m. to noon

Stuttgart Army Community Service
(Patch Barracks, building 2307)

For information about this and future classes
call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.





Hugh C. McBride

No, no: We're not talking about that kind of abuse. However, unauthorized use of government telephones does constitute abuse – and it can have serious repercussions.

Dial 'M' for Misuse

DoD cracks down on telephone abuse

By Arthur McQueen
U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs

Your relatives may be pleased when they receive a call from overseas, but if you use a government line or government cell phone for personal calls, be prepared to pay.

No calls are free.

Service members and Department of Defense civilians can face embarrassment, reprimand, repayment, and punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or administrative actions for misuse of government phones, said Eric Melton, a telecommunications specialist for U.S. Army, Europe.

What defines reasonable use is at the discretion of the commander and the telephone control officer, Melton said. It is understood that soldiers and civilians need to make brief local calls for appointments, or to contact a school, garage, landlord or their home.

"Abuse has increased over the past year, mostly due to cell phones," Melton said. "Personal calls that generate charges on government-issued cell phones are completely prohibited. There is no slack for abuse of these phones," he warned.

Cell phone users must therefore be aware of the charges applied to out-of-country calls. Personal international calls are in violation of USAREUR regulations and subject to action.

Also, cell phones using prepaid cards are not authorized for government use by federal regulation.

Telephone control officers are charged with monitoring calls made from all government phones, and they have the tools to do it: Call-tracking software packages and reports

A deployed lieutenant colonel was required to reimburse the government \$10,000 due to personal use of his government cell phone while out of country.

from service providers provide a complete picture of usage for every government telephone.

The telephone oversight has already begun having an effect. Recently, a deployed lieutenant colonel was required to reimburse the government \$10,000 due to personal use of his government cell phone while out of country.

Every month, USAREUR pays \$1.2 million for telephone service, Melton said. His office tracks roughly \$500,000 for Defense Switched Network calls, \$500,000 for "99" (civilian access) calls, and \$200,000 for calls made from government cell phones.

Melton said the costs point out a misconception about the DSN system – that calls between military numbers are free.

"Not so," he said.

"Within a metro area (roughly equivalent to a base support battalion), DSN calls begin at one cent per minute," Melton said. "DSN calls between metro areas or outside Europe are much higher."

For more information call Melton at 370-8602/civ. 06221-57-8602 or e-mail meltone@hq.usareur.army.mil.

'Telepathology' links Germany to Walter Reed Medical Center

By Michael E. Dukes
Army News Service

A pathologist in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center turns off the lights and shuts the door as he leaves his office. His work for the day is over.

Shortly after his departure, though, the microscope on his desk comes to life, adjusts itself and starts examining a slide resting on its specimen plate.

It's not magic, and the microscope is not possessed – it is being remotely controlled from thousands of miles away at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where the day is just beginning.

This breakthrough technology comes at a time when the Army is faced with a shortage of pathologists (who study tissues removed from patients for diagnostic purposes).

Maj. Keith Kaplan, medical director of cytopathology at Walter Reed, said "telepathology" allows pathologists to do more with less, while improving the quality of patient care.

"Now we are able to do what would normally involve mailing slides or taking a bunch of pictures. We are able to control a microscope at a remote site and make an interpretive diagnosis," he said.

The telepathology system uses \$60,000 modified microscopes equipped with computerized servers to control movement.

A camera on top sends real-time

images to the computer, which then transmits them through secure Army networks back to Walter Reed or the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for closer examination.

"Everything you would do at your own microscope you can do on this system," Kaplan said.

After extensive testing, he said, the system is now proving itself in a live medical setting.

"To date we've done over 150 cases in the Army medical department using remote telepathology. We are now preparing to deploy another 12 systems across the world, including Europe and Korea. And then we'll stay within [the continental U.S.] and hit some of the other medical centers and smaller treatment facilities," Kaplan said.

"My initial goal was to eventually deploy these microscopes in places to help support pathologists. I emphasize support and not replace. But, with the use of a technician who is able to prepare a slide and use the equipment, you

could do remote pathology without the live services of a pathologist out on the site should the need arise," he said.

Regarding the Army's shortage of pathologists, Kaplan said, "We have a lot of places now that are one-man shops. [The pathologist] is there by himself or herself without any help or any kind of immediate consultation.

"With this method we are able to throw a slide up there, call up somebody and get an answer in some cases within minutes," he added.

Kaplan said the system brings the Army many other benefits. He expects savings in shipping costs, paperwork and personnel.

"But those are greatly outweighed by the intangible benefits – that is, the ability to get this real-time consultation without having to jump through all of those hoops," Kaplan said.

"We can serve patients much more effectively over a shorter time span. It has certainly made strides in terms of the care we provide our beneficiaries."

For more information

Walter Reed Health Care System
www.wrampc.amedd.army.mil

Walter Reed Department of Pathology
www.wrampc.amedd.army.mil/departments/patholog

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center
www.landstuhl.healthcare.hq.usareur.army.mil



Experts address information security in southern Germany

By Sgt. 1st Class Fred Parnell
Network Service Center

The Stuttgart-based 52nd Signal Battalion hosted an Information Systems Security Conference Jan. 22 and 23 in the Patch Community Club to keep its customers informed of advances in the field.

The conference was geared toward information technology transformation. Guest speakers described current IT operations under the Network Operations concept, which includes Network Management, Information Assurance, Computer Network Defense and Information Dissemination Management.

The intent of the conference was to develop an understanding of IDM and to educate customers how IDM and NETOPS are beneficial in supporting the southern region of Germany. With IDM, warfighters will gain force advantage from information advantage.

They will be able to rely on the 52nd Signal Battalion to ensure that the bandwidth needed is available – ensuring that the right information gets through to the right place at the right time.

The following subjects were presented:

- Regional Computer Emergency Response Team
- U.S. Army, Europe, Server Consolidation Plan
- Defense Message Systems implementation
- Automation Helpdesk services

■ Information Assurance topics ranging from network compliance to vulnerabilities and anti-virus protection to general IT service support.

Technological advances will enhance the ability of the 52nd Signal Battalion to foster innovation while ensuring signal readiness to meet the demands of the warfighter.

DoD will now pay for POV storage

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

More than 140 service members per month have been opting for the Department of Defense's long-term vehicle storage program since it became available May 1, 2002.

Many are switching from private storage arrangements to the Military Traffic Management Command's no-cost option. Formerly, MTMC had no standard storage system for privately owned vehicles. Service members used storage programs and policies that varied from installation to installation.

By January, more than 1,200 people had turned their vehicles over to MTMC for storage while they serve in overseas assignments where they're not allowed to take vehicles, said Dennis Barborak, a member of the MTMC storage and privately owned vehicle team.

Such assignments include unaccompanied tours to South Korea, tours of fewer than 12 months and tours with restrictions imposed by host nations and the services.

For example, Japan restricts the shipping of vehicles made after March 31, 1976. Egypt restricts the shipping of vehicles more than four years old. Service members are advised to check with their service for specific details.

In some cases, countries require such extensive modifications to vehicles that service members either can't afford it or don't want to pay that much, so they store their vehicles while overseas, Barborak said.

Storage isn't cheap. MTMC currently pays contractors \$224 per month per vehicle in the Midwest and on the West Coast, and \$209 per month on the East Coast, he said.

Barborak cataloged MTMC contractors' services: "Storage is not humidity controlled, but it's all indoors. The vehicle is covered and the contractor is required to start the engine to recycle the heat and air conditioning every 30 days. He's also required to periodically move the vehicle to prevent flat spots on the tires."

Barborak said contractors follow manufacturers' recommendations for long-term storage.

Under the MTMC program, vehicles may be turned in at any of the 39 vehicle-processing centers operated by American Auto Logistics or the Defense Department.

Service members are advised to change the oil, clean the vehicle and ensure that the vehicle is mechanically safe before turning it in for long-term storage. While members can still make private arrangements, they will only be reimbursed for the actual storage cost, which cannot exceed the government's constructed cost.

If a vehicle is already in private storage, an owner who wants to switch to the MTMC program can do so. However, the member must arrange delivery of the vehicle to the vehicle-processing center with proper documentation, including a power of attorney.

When returning home from overseas, service members are required to give the contractor at least 30 days to prepare their vehicle.

"What's good about the program is, service members doing back-to-back overseas assignments, say from Japan to Germany, don't have to return to the States to remove their car from storage," Barborak said.

"All they have to do is provide a copy of their orders to the vehicle-processing center. The contractor would remove the vehicle from storage and ship it to the processing center closest to the member's new duty station in Germany."

If the service member is returning to an assignment on the West Coast and his vehicle is stored on the East Coast, the contractor will line haul it across the country to the vehicle-processing center closest to the service member's duty station.

Contractors are liable for up to \$20,000 for loss or damage to the vehicle while it's in storage.

"It's a great program because it provides service members with one-stop shopping," Barborak said.

"Once the car goes into storage, the [service member] doesn't have to worry about the vehicle," he added, "because it's stored with a government-approved contractor who is required to maintain it in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations."

For more information contact a local installation transportation office or call American Auto Logistics in the United States at (845) 783-6279. Information is also available online at www.mtmc.army.mil.

Vehicles may be turned in at any of 39 centers run by American Auto Logistics or the Defense Dept.

Overseas owners need to know U.S., German auto laws

By Robert Szostek

U.S. European Command Public Affairs Office

To avoid legal problems – and to potentially save a considerable amount of money – privately owned vehicle owners stationed overseas should be aware of the following two issues related to the transfer and importation of automobiles:

Auto imports may be tax free

U.S. personnel stationed overseas may import vehicles to the United States duty-free. To earn this exemption, individuals must meet the following three conditions:

- They must take physical possession of the vehicle prior to shipment.
- They must have valid movement orders.
- They must be importing the vehicle for personal use. (Duty-free entry does not depend on whether or not the government pays to ship the vehicle.)

"Most people who encounter problems fail to take physical possession of the vehicle before shipment," said Michael L. Burkert, director of the European Command's Customs Executive Agency. "They have a car shipped directly from the factory, and have to pay import duty as a result," he said.

Registering a vehicle is good, but an individual can prove possession simply by putting a copy of his or her movement orders in the car's glove compartment.

Also, importers must have a set of official change of station orders in hand before shipping the vehicle. Individuals on extended leave or temporary duty are not entitled to the exemption.

Finally, the vehicle must be for the car owner's personal use or for use by his or her direct family members.

"If you had six dependents of driving age," Burkert said, "you could justify importing seven vehicles duty-free, one for each of them and one for yourself." However, it is illegal to use the exemption to import vehicles for third parties or just to sell them.

State taxes on imported vehicles must be paid – and can be high. Information on state taxes can be obtained from each state's department of motor vehicles. Internet links to state DMVs can be found at <http://rmv.hqusareur.army.mil/newdmvs.htm>.

For more information contact the U.S. European Command Customs Executive Agency at 381-8320/civ. 0621-730-8320.

Wrecked cars must clear customs

Military customs officials have recently seen an increase in cases of service members becoming embroiled in legal problems after selling their old or wrecked U.S. Army, Europe-plated vehicles to German junkyards.

The problems arose because the sellers did not obtain a required "Permit to Transfer" from military customs prior to selling or donating their tax-free personal property to non-ID cardholders.

Completing the Permit to Transfer (AE Form 550-175B) is necessary when U.S. service members, civilians and dependents are selling a vehicle they imported or bought in a duty- and tax-free status.

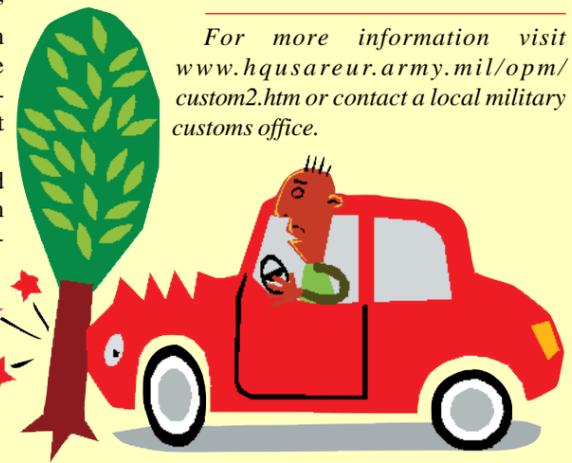
"It is essential for all U.S. personnel in Germany to get a permit to transfer before they sell, donate or transfer a wrecked car to a German junkyard," said Anja Rowland of the Customs Executive Agency at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal.

People who do not obtain this permit are often discovered when attempting to clear USAREUR Vehicle Registration.

Individuals who have sold or transferred vehicles to non-ID cardholders must present the Permit to Transfer to vehicle registration personnel.

German Customs may also require proof of what happened to the vehicle or may demand payment of the full tax if proof can not be provided.

For more information visit www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom2.htm or contact a local military customs office.



Traffic safety tip

In Germany, traffic signs like this one indicate **right of way**.

Vehicles travelling in the direction of the **black** arrow have the right of way, while those going in the **red** direction must wait.



For more information about traffic signs in Germany (and other locations throughout the world):

International Signs Online

www.intlsigns.com/world/traffic



Encircling Sgt. 1st Class Carey Williams' African wood carving are "historical soldiers" (from left) Navy Sr. Chief Petty Officer Frederick Simpson (Indian War); Army Staff Sgt. Michael Pace (Civil War); Army Sgt. 1st Class Norma Ewers (Spanish-American War); Army Lt. Col. Lorenzo Spencer (Korean War); and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Walter Ingram (Vietnam War).

'History Full of Soul'

Stuttgart celebrates African-American heritage

Story & photos by Maria Higgins

Buffalo soldiers roamed past African artifacts, purple-draped butterflies danced in the spotlight and centuries of history played out on the walls as African-American History Month (or, interchangeably, Black History Month) was celebrated Feb. 21 in the Patch Barracks Community Club.

More than 175 community members turned out for the annual event, which was anchored by a traditional buffet-style feast of collard greens, black-eyed peas and other ethnic dishes.

A regiment of soldiers in period uniform patrolled the room, reminding attendees of the pivotal contributions African-American service members made during the Indian, Spanish-American, Civil, Korean and Vietnam wars.

Army Capt. Wendy Rivers, the event's chairperson, offered what was left of her voice as she performed master-of-ceremony duties. "We were here until 11:30 last night setting up and decorating," Rivers explained.

The resulting displays of Kente cloth, books, artwork and other memorabilia reflected community-wide contributions, she said.

Entertainment included a sign-language demonstration set to music by first-graders Brittany Rivers and Jalyn Prewitt; a modern dance performance by eighth-graders Latoya Tidwell and Tovana Traylor and seventh-grader Latanya Tidwell; a recitation of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech; and Cynthia Marie Tidwell's rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

This year's program was co-sponsored by Defense Infor-



After her sign-language performance for African-American History Month, Brittany Rivers presents a rose to Jackie Sims, her after-school care provider.

mation Systems Agency and the 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Program.

The event, themed "History Full of Soul – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," continued a tradition begun in 1926, when noted scholar Carter G. Woodson nominated the second week of February as Negro History Week, primarily because the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln fall then.

Pentagon goes 'on the road' for cultural events

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

Looking to improve its business practices and esprit de corps organization-wide, the Department of Defense celebrated its headquarters-level African-American History Month events on the road this year.

"Traditionally, African-American History Month [and other observances] were celebrated with a 30-minute program where we spoke to folks who worked in the Pentagon, and then returned to our desks," said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "We didn't think that was a good way of doing business."

Abell made these comments during a two-day exposition and symposium at Tougaloo (Miss.) College, the final event in the DoD's month-long observance of National African-American History Month.

Examples of achievement by African-Americans within DoD were made evident by dozens of military officers, Pentagon executives and staffers in attendance.

One such attendee was Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones, the first black woman command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve. Jones said the nation's largest employer provides everyone with the chance to succeed.

"The Department of Defense is one of the institutions that can really stand behind its numbers in terms of equal opportunities – more so than in private industries," Jones said. "And I am an example of that – but I succeeded based on merit. I am a command sergeant major, I'm a woman, I'm black – and so I'm really pro-DoD."

Addressing a small gathering in the Tougaloo Chapel, Abell noted the significance of the place where civil-rights legends once stood.

"I'm humbled to stand at this podium where Martin Luther King Jr. stood, where Medger Evers, Dick Gregory, Julian Bond stood. When they stood here, they called for equal rights, justice, freedom and opportunity ... It is important to note that the Department of Defense champions those same values as well."

African-American resources online

The following are just a few of the myriad Web sites dedicated to African-American history, culture and community:

Biography.com Celebrates Black History
www.biography.com/blackhistory

Boston Museum of Afro-American History
www.afroammuseum.org

Charles H. Wright
Museum of African-American History
www.maah-detroit.org

The Encyclopedia Britannica
Guide to Black History
<http://search.eb.com/blackhistory>

Gateway to African-American History
(U.S. Dept. of State)
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/blackhis>

St. Patrick's Day: 'Time is a good storyteller'

By Kimberly Lovins
6th Area Support Group Public Affairs

An Irish proverb says, "There are two versions of a story and twelve arrangements to a song." So it is with St. Patrick and his day.

Birth of a legend



St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Scotland. As a boy he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave to serve as a shepherd.

During this time, he turned to prayer and learned his captors' language and their customs.

He later escaped Ireland, only to come back years later to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity.

Stories about snakes

It has long been told that during his mission in Ireland, St. Patrick once stood on a hilltop and, with a wooden staff by his side, drove out all the snakes from Ireland.

However, the island nation was never home to any snakes. "Driving out the snakes" was a metaphor for the purge of pagan ideology from Ireland and the victory of Christianity.

Tradition or trend?

St. Patrick's Day is observed March 17. This is Patrick's religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years.

On St. Patrick's Day, which occurs during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally go to church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon.

Lenten prohibitions against the eating of meat were relinquished and people would dance, drink and feast on a traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Until the 1970s, Irish laws ordered that pubs be closed on March 17. In 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to promote tourism.

Shamrock sham?

On St. Patrick's Day, shamrocks abound. The shamrock is

associated with St. Patrick because it is said he used it to explain the Holy Trinity, since its leaves form a triad.

However, this legend cannot be proven. In fact, the first written mention of this story did not appear until approximately 1,000 years after St. Patrick's death.

Previously, the Druids considered the shamrock a sacred plant symbolizing the rebirth of spring. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a representation of rising Irish nationalism.

Little green men

Leprechauns, although associated with St. Patrick's Day, have nothing to do with St. Patrick. The original Irish name for them is *lobaircin*, meaning "small-bodied fellow." Leprechauns probably stem from the Celtic belief in fairies.

In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were irritable souls, responsible for mending the shoes of other fairies. They were known for their trickery, which they used to protect their treasure of gold.

Celebrating 'Irish-style'

Each year, thousands of Irish-Americans get together with their family on St. Patrick's Day to share a "traditional" meal of corned beef and cabbage.

Although cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began its connection with St. Patrick's Day at the turn of the century. Irish immigrants living in New York City's Lower East Side substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon to save money.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City March 17, 1762.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism thrived among immigrants to America.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies elected to merge their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Today, according to the History Channel, the event is the world's oldest civilian parade and is the largest in the United States - averaging 75 floats and 150,000 participants.

Research sources: www.historychannel.com and www.catholic.org.

'Irish eyes' online

- <http://allaboutirish.com>
- www.irelandseye.com
- www.nationalarchives.ie
- www.nationalgallery.ie
- www.irishroots.net
- www.irish-culture.ch
- www.ireland.com
- www.ireland.org
- www.irlgov.ie



St. Patrick confronts the "snakes of Ireland" in this image from Catholic Online (www.catholic.org).

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Slider's All Ranks Lounge

Steve Reeves joins two other Irish musicians to play traditional and folk music. Irish delicacies will be provided, along with party favors for a \$5 cover charge.

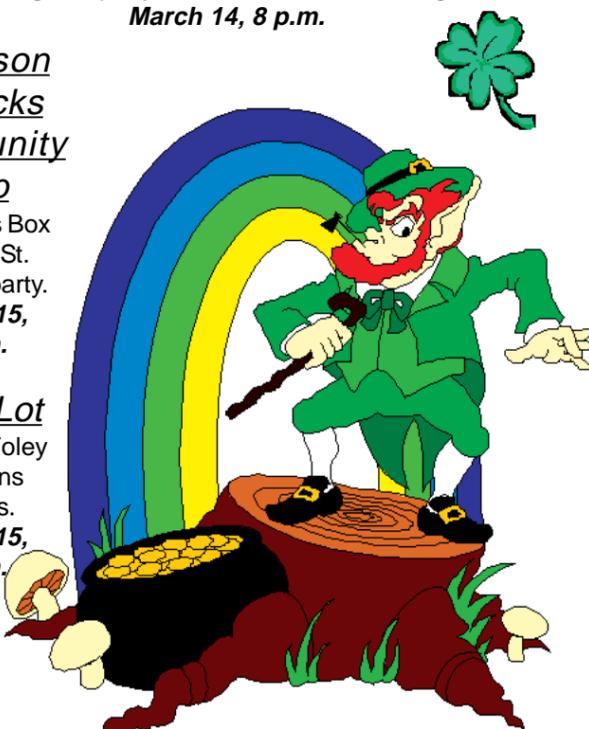
March 14, 8 p.m.

Robinson Barracks Community Club

Pandora's Box hosts a St. Paddy's party. March 15, 9 p.m.

Back Lot

Barry P. Foley entertains revelers. March 15, 9 p.m.



USAREUR commander emphasizes deployment safety

By Gen. B.B. Bell
U.S. Army, Europe

Commanders, leaders, soldiers and civilians: This message is a laydown of my thoughts on an imminent life and limb danger to our force – accidents during deployment operations.

I want everyone to know my intent on this subject. The goal is to bring each and every soldier home safely, with no one killed due to accidents.

We know from experience that accidents killed more soldiers during Desert Shield/Desert Storm than did the Iraqi Forces.

In all this, human error was the single leading factor. I know that each accident was avoidable.

I need you to ensure that the chain of command, down to the first-line noncommissioned officer, knows my intent and what must be done to achieve the end state.

American families have entrusted their most precious asset to us – their sons and daughters.

We must do everything we can to prevent the senseless loss of life or limb as we face current and potential deployments.

Failure to follow and enforce the standard repeatedly surfaces as the culprit in fatal accidents.

We need the commitment of commanders and leaders at every level to ensure our soldiers execute to standard throughout these challenging times.

Five deployment areas require special and concentrated effort:

■ **Rail operations.** This includes railhead loading/unloading teams, cargo en route and guard details from start to finish.

Those overhead electrical lines demand the utmost respect; always keep two meters clearance between power lines and soldiers.

With heavy equipment and limited maneuvering room, there's no margin for error.

■ **Convoy operations.** There's nothing more dangerous than a lost driver preoccupied with getting back on track, or a driver blinded by documents stuck on his windshield.

Drivers must be properly equipped and trained for night vision operations.

Perhaps most important, drivers and vehicle commanders must adhere to a deliberate and enforced rest and sleep plan.

It's our best hard chargers who just keep charging and charging, only to fall asleep at the wheel.

■ **Unintended weapon discharges.** If your soldiers are not shooting at something they intend to hit, we have a problem – a big problem.

Unintended weapon discharges are a frequent and often tragic reality when large numbers of soldiers begin carrying weapons with ammunition in a contingency environment.

Leaders must ensure that the only ammunition expended is ammunition headed toward the enemy.

■ **Aviation operations.** Take the time to do it right. Get checked out in the new environment. Fly at an altitude and airspeed appropriate to the



Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes, USAREUR Public Affairs

1st Infantry Division soldiers secure a vehicle onto a rail car prior to their Feb. 11 deployment.

Our soldiers are willing to die for their country – it's up to us to ensure they don't.

mission and threat at all times.

Loss of visual reference in a desert landscape is a real threat. Maintain by the book and use your checklist religiously.

Historically in combat, night operations produce the most fatal accidents.

■ **Port operations (sea and air).** Don't task a soldier to operate a piece of equipment unless he or she is licensed, experienced and supervised.

If you've never been involved in this kind of operation, imagine putting a convoy in the third underground-level of a German parking garage.

Sea ports are extremely busy and amazingly crowded. Commercial operations will probably occur right alongside military.

I need you to maintain enhanced situational awareness in these tight conditions.

Leaders (corporals through generals): You are the ones who will bring our soldiers home.

Be there for them. You are responsible and empowered to do what it takes to make it happen.

Our soldiers are willing to die for their country – it's up to us to ensure they don't.

Bell is the commander of U.S. Army, Europe. The full text from which this article was excerpted can be accessed online at www.hqusareur.army.mil.

Families can deal with separation stress together

By Michael Tolzmann

417th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It's no secret that many soldiers are deploying. This scenario can produce considerable amounts of stress to both service members and their families.

This article highlights the thoughts of the following experts on dealing with deployment stress:

- Maj. Stephen Kelley, 98th Area Support Group family life chaplain
- Lt. Col. Lawrence Krause, 98th ASG deputy chaplain
- Maj. Erin Wilkinson, clinical psychologist, U.S. Army, Europe

Focus on family

"Anytime soldiers are separated from their families for more than six months, it constitutes a major separation and we have a lot of young married couples," Krause said. "The average married couple in the Army has been married less than five years. These families may be more vulnerable."

Wilkinson advised emphasizing "family time" before departing. "Simply put, spend some time with your family before you deploy," she said. "It will do wonders for you and your family."

"Prior to a deployment, soldiers who have families should maintain a focus on enjoying the moments and days together – focus on the positive or fun aspects of the relationship," Wilkinson added.

"Soldiers and families should maintain household rules such as established bedtimes. This will give children a sense of stability," she said. "Following the departure of deploying soldiers, it's important for families to maintain their typical routines, especially for children. If dad or mom made pancakes on Saturday and that parent is gone, guess who'll be making pancakes the next Saturday."

"During this time I also suggest that family members do something special each week, such as making something or sending something to a deployed friend or family member. Giving to others makes you feel good," Wilkinson said.

Long-distance love

"Sending your deployed soldier a care package or a special card can also help make families feel better," Wilkinson said. "Recording messages and sending the tape also works well. It can be the simplest of things such as, 'Guess what I did today?' or talking about news events, reading special poems or articles or taping favorite songs," she said.

"Have your child read a bedtime story. Keep it short and be sure to send the tape off even if it isn't full. Ten minutes of your recorded voice can be rewound hundreds of times for hours of pleasure," she said.

Attitude is everything

To Kelly, mindset is crucial. "A positive outlook goes a long way," he said. "Deployment need not be synonymous with doomsday. Telling ourselves 'we can't make it' or 'our family or marriage won't survive' can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Constant negative self-talk can pave the way to our own demise."

To remain positive, he said, "Try to see how separation can lead to personal growth and maturity [and] how it can foster self-reliance and appreciation of others. Separation often helps us discover or rediscover a sense of spirituality as we draw upon our religious beliefs for inner strength and hope for tomorrow."

Stay connected

"Family and friends are an important resource," Kelley said. "Stay connected to extended family members back home and friends in our military community. Seek out and take advantage of opportunities for social connection. I encourage families to attend chapel. Participate in unit functions like family readiness group meetings."

"Most of all, respect the other members of your immediate family. Respect individual needs, differences and boundaries. Be kind to each other. When you have a bad day – as you surely will – seek reconnection and reconciliation through forgiveness," he added.

For more information about dealing with deployment stress call the American Red Cross' 24-hour emergency number, 421-2334/civ. 07031-15-334.

Patch High School honors scholars

'Recognition Night' packs gymnasium

By Johnathan Walker

A capacity crowd turned out to acknowledge 301 honor roll students during Scholar Recognition Night Feb. 27 in the Patch High School gymnasium.

According to school principal Steve Provinsal, the gymnasium was selected due to its large size, but the crowd still managed to overflow it.

Students achieving a grade point average of 3.0 and higher are recognized at the end of the first, second and third grading periods.

This period yielded 74 students in the 4.0 and higher category, 98 with 3.5 to 3.9 and 129 with 3.0 to 3.49.

The school enrollment of grades seven to 12 stands at 614 and Provinsal proudly depicts the high number of honorees as being indicative of a great school.

The students are entitled to special drawings for prizes, donated by local vendors, and walked away this time with digital cameras from AAFES and free dinners from La Rose restaurant, among other prizes.

Provinsal described the event as the result of a strong school and home partnership. He also lauded the Scholar Recognition Committee (made up of teachers and parents) and the Parent Teacher Student Association for organizing the recognition event.

Patch High School's next Scholar Recognition Night is scheduled for April 24.

'Scholarly' statistics

PHS enrollment:
614

■ *Students with 4.0 grade point average (or higher):* **74**

■ *Students with 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average:* **98**

■ *Students with 3.0 to 3.49 grade point average:* **129**

Highest Honors

The students below were honored at the Feb. 27 Recognition Night for maintaining grade point averages of 4.0 or above.

Grade 12

Cecilia Allen
Courtney Allen
Elizabeth Criswell
Meghan DeSanto
Sarah Doyle
Jessica Frame
Lara Galing
Sarah Hallatschek
Paige Hamilton
Matthew Herring
Jillian Hodge
Charles Hogle
Carolyn House
Alexander Ingalls
Christine Mama
Jessica Martindale
Veronica Moore
Jennifer Ryan
Jason Ullman
Sarah Warburg

Grade 11

Jeffrey Jones
Jason Lindell
Sabrina Silver

Grade 10

JoEll Corrow

Regina Hogle
Michael Keoughan
Amanda Martinez
Joseph Morrow
Katherine Nierle
Michael Schnibben
David Vega

Grade 9

Mark Armstrong
Monica Cooney
Alexander Galing
Rachel Hamilton
Margaret Keoughan
Daneen Matheson
Tabitha Silver
Allison Strom
Sarah Tuparan

Grade 8

Laura Caton
Melissa Edmonds
Ashley Hunt
Anna Johnston
Jacob Kopf
Kylie Marchant
Tamara Oppliger
Amanda Reff

Katherine Reyes
Taylor Riccio
Angelee Rizzo
Tiffany Thorsheim
Tovana Traylor
Sean Tyson
Sarah Watson
Keenan Wolfe
Kyle Wolfe

Grade 7

Noelle Anderson
Travis Bandoh
Kelsey Bishop
Anastasia Cale
Caroline Coggins
Lauren Goodwin
Christopher Henning
Jessica Lamothe
Jordan Morris-Branch
Adriana Poole
Ashley Shaffer
Logan Silver
Natalie Strickland
Forrest Tucker
Leah Turner
Jennifer Wadas
Matthew Wittman

Students.gov: college info a click away

Students.gov Release

Students.gov has a mission – to give college students and those planning for college easy access to information and services they need from the U.S. government.

These government services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week – from across a campus or around the world.

The Web site is a cooperative effort between federal agencies, students, and other components of the higher education community.

Students.gov was created under the leadership of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Web site offers information on the following topics:

- Finding the right college
- Applying for federal student financial aid
- Learning about military educational benefits
- E-filing your taxes
- Requesting a change of address
- Finding a job
- Registering for Selective Service
- Applying to the Peace Corps
- Replacing a Social Security card
- Much, much more



photos by Hugh C. McBride

As Chad Searcy (32) looks on, Clarence Peterson elevates above a crowd of Heidelberg Generals to tip in a missed shot Feb. 16 during Stuttgart's Tournament of Champions.



Displaying evidence of the quick guard play that helped the Stuttgart Stallions win the Tournament of Champions, Al Elliot drives past a Heidelberg defender.

Stuttgart Community-Level Tournament of Champions

1st Place
Stuttgart Stallions

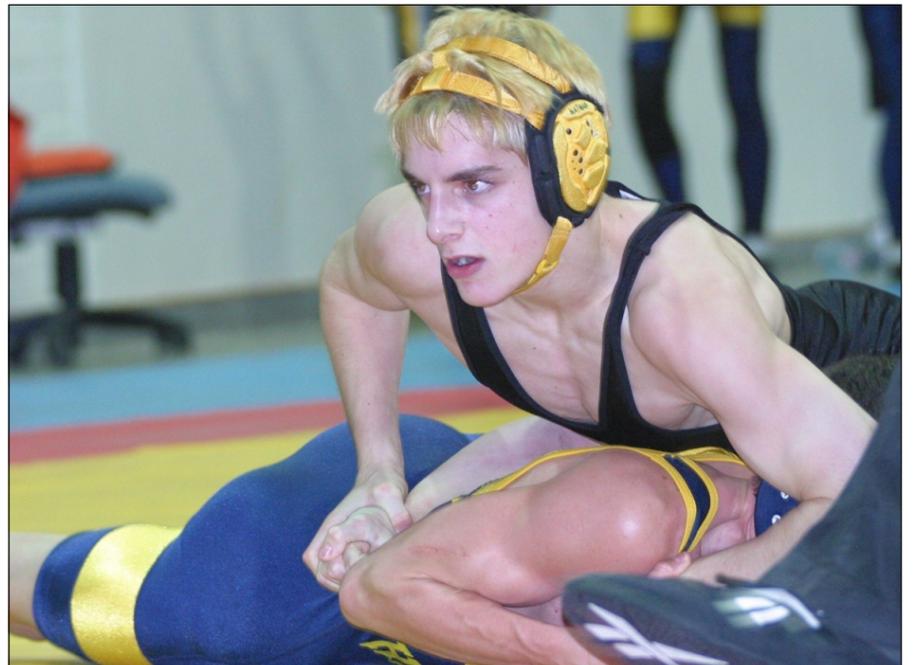
2nd Place
Heidelberg Generals

Stuttgart Unit-Level Basketball League

1st Place
6th Area Support Group

2nd Place
52nd Signal Battalion

3rd Place
Marine Corps Forces, Europe



Hugh C. McBride

Patch sophomore Joe Morrow works toward a victory in a Jan. 18 home meet. Morrow and junior Josh Anderson (below) won Department of Defense Dependents Schools Division II and European wrestling championships.

Anderson, Morrow win European titles

By Hugh C. McBride

The season that almost wasn't turned golden for two Patch High School wrestlers Feb. 8 in Wiesbaden.

Junior Josh Anderson and sophomore Joe Morrow, competing at 130 lbs. and 119 lbs., respectively, capped off a campaign filled with challenges by winning Department of Defense Dependents Schools European championships. Both wrestlers had captured DoDDS Division II titles the previous weekend.

"Their work ethic and their standards are extremely high," said Danny Morrow, the team's faculty sponsor. "They're not the kind of kids you have to ask to come to practice. They give 100 percent — and the results bear that out."

At several points throughout the season, though, it appeared as though even a 100-percent effort would not be enough to get the grapplers to the showdown in Wiesbaden.

Before the season even began, it was feared that cuts to the DoDDS budget might force the cancellation of — or a drastic reduction in — the winter sports schedule. Then, with the campaign underway, PHS Coach Matt Koenigsfeld was deployed for 45 days.

Finally, during a Jan. 18 meet (an eight-team face-off and the Panthers' only home contest of the year), Anderson suffered a dislocated elbow that required hospitalization and surgery — and put an apparent end to his quest for a third European crown.

"At first, I couldn't even lift my arm," Anderson said. "My doctor [in a local Ger-



courtesy PHS wrestling

man hospital] said it would be months before I could wrestle."

Amazingly, a second opinion, a concerted effort and a significant amount of athletic tape enabled Anderson to return to the mat for the Division II meet a mere two weeks after his injury. Coming back so quickly "was a tough decision," Anderson admitted, noting that such a high-profile injury meant that his opponents targeted his vulnerability "in every single match."

Perhaps inspired by Anderson's achievement, the entire Patch squad performed well enough at the division meet to qualify for the following weekend's European tournament.

In addition to Patch's two individual championships, junior Sean Dowty took third place in the 160-lb. category at the European meet, while sophomore Chris Vucich placed fifth at 119 lbs. Every PHS wrestler won at least one match in the tournament.

Youth baseball, softball deadlines near

- **Registration** ends March 21
- **Player evaluations** are March 22
- **Practices** begin March 24
- **Opening Day** is April 26



For details call John Morris at 0711-687-2788 or e-mail morrisroyalfam@t-online.de.

Piranhas swim to Rhineland Division title

Conclude season with EFSL 'Champs' event in historic Munich pool

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Three weeks after winning the European Forces Swim League's Rhineland Division title, the Stuttgart Piranhas brought their season to a successful conclusion Feb. 16 as EFSL teams from throughout Europe converged on Munich for the league's 2003 Championship Meet, known colloquially as "Champs."

The meet was held in the *Olympiaschwimhalle* in historic Olympia Park – the very pool in which American swimmer Mark Spitz won a record seven gold medals in the 1972 Summer Olympics.

More than 500 swimmers from 19 teams competed in 87 events in this year's championship meet.

Champs marked the culmination of a season that began, for most, last September.

All participating swimmers, with the exception of relay members, were required to swim qualifying times during the season in order to attend. Each competitor could enter no more than three events.

Most events had room for 16 swimmers from each age group. Qualifying times varied with age, sex and distance. Though the cutoff times were challenging, the chance to be a part of Champs gave swimmers a goal to work toward over the long season.

With nearly 1,000 swimmers competing in the league, qualifying was in itself an accomplishment.

More than 30 Piranhas made the trip to the 2003 Champs



With no competition in sight, Monica Cooney, 14, swims her way to 1st place in the girls' 100-meter breaststroke (13- to 14-year-old division).

meet. Competition was tough, but the swimmers' hard work over the season paid off. Individual highlights included the following:

■ Tabitha Silver placed 2nd in the girls' 13- to 14-year-old 100-meter individual medley, 3rd in the girls' 13- to 14-year-

The Stuttgart Piranhas need a head coach for the 2003-2004 season.

■ Formal swimming experience is preferred but not required.

■ This is a paid position that involves a significant commitment.

For details call Stu Lewis at 0711-686-8111 after 7 p.m.



old 100-meter freestyle, and 2nd in the girls' 13- to 14-year-old 100-meter backstroke.

■ Silver and teammates Monica Cooney, Justin Bentley and Brian Conner placed 2nd in the mixed 13- to 14-year-old 200-meter medley relay.

■ Angela Jividen placed 3rd in the girls' 9-year-old 50-meter freestyle.

■ Monica Cooney won the girls' 13- to 14-year-old 100-meter breaststroke.

The EFSL began in 1975 as a way to provide an organized competitive swimming program for the children of U.S. service member and civilians stationed in Europe.

It does not compete with local, regional or national European swimming programs.

The EFSL's 19 teams are divided into four divisions representing five countries: Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.