

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 33, No. 18

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

Sept. 21, 2004

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Top guns

Stuttgart service members compete in international shooting competition

Pages 8 & 9



Sgt. Michael Taylor of Special Operations Command, Europe, familiarizes himself with the German P8 9-millimeter pistol prior to competing in a shooting competition with German, French and Slovenian military personnel Sept. 11 in Walldürn, Germany. (Photograph by Hugh C. McBride)

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Neighborhood safety a SNAP in Garmisch

Community volunteers patrol Artillery Kaserne to promote neighborhood safety and enhance Garmisch's force protection effort.



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Marathon makes money for area youth

Keeping an area tradition alive, Stuttgart residents spend 24 hours on the Husky Field track to support youth organizations.



Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

Jane Harris at the 6th Area Support Group Housing Office on Patch Barracks, for all her assistance, compassion and friendliness during my recent relocation.

I was extremely reluctant to move, but she listened to all my concerns and kept all my options open.

Because of her efforts, a stressful, negative situation turned into something positive for me – and I would like Ms. Harris to know what a tremendous impact her efforts had on my life.

The 6th Area Support Group's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, for organizing the recent Family Day. Both the tour of the Speyer Dom and the trip to Holiday Park made for a wonderful day with loved ones in Europe.

The runners, entertainers, volunteers, shirt purchasers and all other community members who helped make the 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest such a success. Stuttgart's youth – and, in turn, our entire community – will benefit because of your selflessness.

Also, a "rose within a rose" to the Patch Fitness Center, which kept its bathroom doors open through the entire event. (For more about this event see page 7.)

Thorns to:

Whoever is responsible for the maintenance of the public restrooms on Patch Barracks. Suffice it to say that I have been repeatedly and decidedly underwhelmed by the cleanliness of these facilities.

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

THE CITIZEN

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In the presence of his wife, Laura, and families of victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, President George W. Bush delivers a Patriot Day radio address from the Oval Office. In addition to commemorating victims of the attacks, the president also lauded the efforts of U.S. service members who have participated in the global war on terrorism.

Bush praises service members' efforts, sacrifices in support of global war on terrorism

By President George W. Bush

Three years ago, the struggle of good against evil was compressed into a single morning. In the space of only 102 minutes, our country lost more citizens than were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Time has passed, but the memories do not fade.

We remember the images of fire, and the final calls of love, and the courage of rescuers who saw death and did not flee.

We remember the cruelty of enemies who murdered the innocent and rejoiced in our suffering.

We remember the many good lives that ended too soon – which no one had the right to take.

And our nation remembers the families left behind to carry a burden of sorrow. They have shown courage of their own.

With the help of God's grace, and with support from one another, the families of terror victims have shown a strength that survives all hurt.

Each of them remains in the thoughts and prayers of the American people.

The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 were a turning point for our nation.

We saw the goals of a determined enemy: to expand the scale of their murder and force America to retreat from the world.

And our nation accepted a mission: We will defeat this enemy.

The United States of America is determined to guard our homeland against future attacks.

As the Sept. 11 Commission concluded, our country is safer than we were three years ago, but we are not yet safe.

So every day, many thousands of dedicated men and women are on duty – as air marshals, airport screeners, cargo inspectors, border patrol officers and first responders.

Our nation is grateful to the brave men and women who are taking risks on our behalf at this hour. And America will never forget the ones who have fallen – men and women last seen doing their duty, whose names we will honor forever.

At the same time, Americans serving in the FBI and CIA are performing their daily work with professionalism, while we reform those agencies to see the dangers around the next corner.

Our country is grateful to all our fellow citizens who watch for the enemy, and answer the alarms, and guard America by their vigilance.

The United States is determined to stay on the offensive, and to pursue the terrorists wherever they train or sleep or attempt to set down roots.

We have conducted this campaign from the mountains of Afghanistan, to the heart of the Middle East, to the horn of Africa, to the islands of the Philippines, to hidden cells within our own country.

More than three-quarters of al-Qaida's key members and associates have been detained or killed.

We know that there is still a danger to America. So we will not relent until the terrorists who plot murder against our people are found and dealt with.

The United States is also determined to advance democracy in the broader Middle East, because freedom will bring the peace and security we all want.

When the peoples of that region are given new hope and lives of dignity, they will let go of old hatreds and resentments, and the terrorists will find fewer recruits.

And as governments of that region join in the fight against terror instead of harboring terrorists, America and the world will be more secure.

Our present work in Iraq and Afghanistan is difficult. It is also historic and essential.

By our commitment and sacrifice today, we will help transform the Middle East and increase the safety of our children and grandchildren.

Since Sept. 11 the sacrifices in the war on terror have fallen most heavily on members of our military and their families.

Our nation is grateful to the brave men and women who are taking risks on our behalf at this hour.

And America will never forget the ones who have fallen – men and women last seen doing their duty, whose names we will honor forever.

The war on terror goes on. The resolve of our nation is still being tested. And in the face of danger we are showing our character.

Three years after the attack on our country, Americans remain strong and resolute, patient in a just cause, and confident of the victory to come.

This is an excerpt of President Bush's Sept. 11 Patriot Day radio address. A transcript of the speech can be accessed online at www.whitehouse.gov.



6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, 6th ASG Chaplain Col. Sherrill Munn and Master Sgt. Clay Richardson observe a moment of silence during a Patch Barracks ceremony to mark the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

— *‘The day the world stopped turning’* —

Stuttgart remembers Sept. 11

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Stuttgart paused for a song, a sermon and a moment of silence to remember the victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

Service members and civilians gathered in Patch Barracks' Washington Square for a Patriot Day ceremony Sept. 13, two days after the third anniversary of the deadliest attack on American soil.

Master Sgt. Clay Richardson of Defense Information Systems Agency, Europe, opened the ceremony by performing Alan Jackson's "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)," a poignant reflection on the moments when Americans first learned of the attacks.

Summoning the emotions of "stunned disbelief" that marked that day for many Americans, 6th Area Support Group Chaplain Col. Sherrill Munn told the assembled crowd that the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon brought home a war that had begun with overseas bombings – including the deaths of 17 sailors aboard the USS Cole in 2000, and 19 U.S. service members in the 1996 attack on Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia.

"What makes the Sept. 11 attacks so insidious and so troubling is that ... our home had been violated," Munn said. Though evoking the horrors of that day is painful, he said, remembering is essential "because this is not over."

After Munn's remarks, 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris placed a wreath of white flowers at the base of the plaque honoring the installation's namesake, Gen. Alexander Patch.

The gathering ended with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of Sept. 11.



Master Sgt. Clay Richardson performs "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)" during Stuttgart's commemoration of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Stuttgart's German American Women's Club presents an autumn tradition:

Pfennig Bazaar 2004

In the Haus der Wirtschaft in downtown Stuttgart

Set-up: Oct. 4 & 5 • Sale: Oct. 6, 7 & 8

The Pfennig Bazaar Committee is still looking for volunteers to help set up for the sale, staff tables, clean up after the event and donate baked goods.

For more information call 0711-120-2451 or 0711-489-4928.

News & Notes

CFC-O kickoff ceremony Oct. 5

The official kickoff for this year's Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas is Oct. 5, 10 a.m., in the Patch Community Club. The event will feature remarks by Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III, the U.S. European Command chief of staff, and a special message from Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

For details about the campaign or the kickoff event contact Lt. Col. Robert Hopkins, the EUCOM CFC program manager, at 430-4563/civ. 0711-680-4563 or hopkinsr@eucom.mil; or Bob Rainbolt, 6th ASG CFC program manager, at 421-4395/civ. 0711-729-4395 or rainboltr@6asg.army.mil.

Disability Awareness Luncheon

Members of the Stuttgart military community are invited to a Disability Awareness Luncheon Oct. 4, 11:30 a.m., in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks. The featured speaker is Dinah Cohen, director of the Department of Defense Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program.

For more information call Cameron Wigington at 421-2982/civ. 0711-729-2982.

Panzer Vet Clinic sets schedule

Appointments at the Panzer Vet Clinic will begin Sept. 27. Clinics are tentatively scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays, with surgeries tentatively set for Tuesdays. Thursdays, the clinic will open from 1 to 5 p.m.

No walk-in clinics are scheduled at this time, and the clinic will be closed Sept. 29 and 30 and Oct. 5, 14 and 15.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-681.

MyPay offers restricted PIN access

Soldiers and government civilians can now establish a restricted PIN number so others may have "read-only" capability of their MyPay accounts. To access this feature, visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay>.

Individuals with the restricted access PIN number and a social security number will have access to view pay statements or tax statements, but will not be able to change account information.

For details call 580-5122/civ. 216-522-5122 or 1-800-390-2348 from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eastern time.

AFSA golf tournament coming soon

The annual Air Force Sergeants Association fund-raising golf tournament is slated for Oct. 1 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim, with a shotgun start set for 8:45 a.m.

The entry fee is \$35 includes lunch, range balls and prizes. To register call 430-5541/civ. 0711-680-5541.

Black Forest Quilters host show

The Black Forest Quilters club is having a quilt show Sept. 26, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Patch High School Forum.

TKS offering new services

TKS now offers two new services in the Stuttgart community: a movie channel that is available in all areas, and high speed cable access that is available on Patch Barracks.

For more information call Tina Marie at 0631-3522-312 or e-mail tina.magel@detekabelservice.de.

Ethics briefings scheduled

Les Brownlee, the acting secretary of the Army, has ordered all Soldiers and Department of Army civilian employees to complete "face-to-face" training on ethical conduct before the end of the 2004 calendar year.

Upcoming training in the Stuttgart community is as follows: Sept. 21 and 29, 10 a.m., Kelley Barracks building 3307 (classroom 3); Oct. 5 and 13, 10 a.m., Patch Theater.

For more information contact Capt. Christine Connolly at the Stuttgart Law Center at 421-2566/civ. 0711-729-2566 or e-mail christine.connolly@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil.

Cub Scouts seek new members

Cub Scout Pack 44 from Panzer Kaserne is looking for interested boys in first through fifth grades (and their parents) to join in the fun of scouting.

Dens meet weekly and the pack meets the fourth Tuesday of every month in Böblingen Elementary School.

For details contact Dale Hutchinson, at 07031-740-955 or hutchdh@hotmail.com; or Meg Barrett at 07157-989-491 or ben.barrett@t-online.de.

Civilian personnel officials encourage input

U.S. Army, Europe, Release

The National Security Personnel System, which was authorized by the 2004 Defense Authorization Act, is intended to address hiring shortfalls and better reward high performance, according to Reginald J. Brown, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

"Civilian personnel are more important than ever," Brown said. "They are engaged

where the Army is, including 2,000 in Iraq. They are vital."

However, Brown said, it is clear that the current 50-year-old personnel system needs to be upgraded.

"We need flexibility. We must enhance our ability to compete in the marketplace for good employees," he said.

Feedback requested

David Snyder, assistant director of civilian personnel policy, said he encourages all

employees to be proactive in giving input and tracking the progress of the new system.

Specifics evolving

Details of the new system have not been finalized, but one of the ways NSPS intends to hire and keep good performers will be to make performance the key to pay raises.

Procedures for measuring performance will be revised and take the place of the current system of grades and steps, Brown said.

Employees will be grouped into pay

bands, and yearly pay increases and step increases will no longer be automatically bestowed upon all employees.

Draft regulations for NSPS should be completed by the end of December, and the earliest possible implementation is June 2005.

However, Snyder said, the importance of designing and implementing an effective program outweighs any pressure to do so quickly.

For more information visit the NSPS Web site at www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

Write-in ballot can be used overseas

I've registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot, but I haven't heard back from my local election official, and the election is drawing near. What should I do?"

Federal voting guidance states that voters who have not received a regular state absentee ballot by Oct. 8 should use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot and mail it to their local election official by Oct. 11.

The FWAB is pre-positioned overseas as a "back-up" ballot should a citizen not receive his or her regular ballot from the state or territory in enough time to meet state deadlines for counting.

Under federal provisions, a U.S. citizen may use the FWAB to vote for federal offices in the federal election if that citizen meets the following three conditions:

- The citizen must be located outside the United States.
- The citizen must have submitted the accepted absentee-ballot request form to his or her state of legal voting residence so that it is received at least 30 days before the election.

(This year the form must be received by Oct. 4.)

- The citizen must not have received a regular absentee ballot.

The FWAB must be received by the local election official not later than the deadline for receipt of regular state absentee ballots for that election under state or territory law.

Also, the FWAB will not be counted if the transmittal envelope is not signed and dated, and the required witness or notary signatures are not included.

For more information visit www.fvap.gov or contact a local voting assistance officer.

For a list of voting assistance officers in Stuttgart and Garmisch visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click "Vote."

Golfers compete for Commander's Cup

More than 100 golfers from throughout Southern Germany took part in Garmisch's annual Commander's Cup Golf Tournament Aug. 7 on the Armed Forces Recreation Center Golf Course

The event, a yearly German-American friendship tournament, was hosted by 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris.

Winners included the following:

- Commander's Cup Winner: Barbara Frauendorfer, Werdenfels Country Club
- Best Brutto (Men): Andreas Zuerker, Berlin
- Best Brutto (Ladies): Jutta Gries, Werdenfels Country Club
- Best Senior: Anton Hofherr, Werdenfels Country Club
- Best Military: Sgt. Marcus Rodriguez, NATO School, Oberammergau.

The Commander's Cup golfers enjoyed "perfect weather" and were enthusiastic about the event, said Andrea Winter, Area Support Team Garmisch host nation affairs officer.



Frauendorfer



Rodriguez

Safety a SNAP in Garmisch

Story and photo by Jen Stephan

Don't forget to write down I'm holding a ruler!" said 9-year-old Dashon Brown, who was caught up in role-playing a suspicious person that his fellow students had just one minute to memorize and describe.

The class Dashon attended was part of the after school SNAP Into Action certification program, held Mondays through Oct. 25 in the Youth Services facility on Garmisch's Artillery Kaserne.

The program is just one tool Garmisch Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program Coordinator Paul Acri uses to encourage and train residents to become more vigilant and attuned to their surroundings.

Begun in Garmisch just this past February, SNAP is a community-based effort to prevent neighborhood crime and to reduce the threat of terrorist activities.

The program depends mainly on volunteers of all ages from the local area. "Right now we're looking for volunteers to go out on patrol in their neighborhoods, especially with Halloween approaching," Acri said, adding that patrolling a neighborhood is something that can be easily incorporated into a resident's daily activities.

"The people who are out walking their dogs, at the playground or going for a jog – those are the people we need," he said.

Acri tries to make becoming a certified SNAP volunteer in Garmisch as convenient as possible. "I'm pretty mobile," he said. "We can do [the training] in my office or I'll go to [a volunteer's] home. Whatever's easiest."

The program also offers an Incentive Award Mileage Hour Plus Program that rewards volunteers for their hours earned with prizes from pins to USO tours.

When asked why she volunteers for SNAP, Kayla Manning, one of 20 certified SNAP volunteers in



Garmisch Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program Coordinator Paul Acri trains (clockwise from right) Dashon Brown, Tess Chaffin and Jacob Gay as part of the SNAP Into Action program.

The people who are out walking their dogs, at the playground or going for a jog – those are the people we need.

Paul Acri
Garmisch SNAP

Garmisch, answered simply, "I want to make the community a safer place."

The Garmisch SNAP office is in building 250, room 203, on Artillery Kaserne. For more information call Acri at 442-2558/civ. 08821-759-558, cell 0171-156-5446 or e-mail paul.acri@garmisch.army.mil.

Garmisch residents get 'sneak peek' at renovated apartment on Artillery Kaserne

Story and photo by Jen Stephan

Several eager families got a first look at what will be their new homes during a grand opening ceremony Aug. 19 at building 704 on Garmisch's Artillery Kaserne.

Also attending the event were 6th Area Support Group Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone and 6th ASG Command Sgt. Major Daniel Chavez, as well as a number of Garmisch-area community leaders, housing officials and curious residents.

Cutting the ribbon – and stealing the show – were 5-year-old twins Ryan and Joshua Bowman, whose new home was one of the three apartments on display.

Designed by the German firm *Architektuerbuero Wuelleitner*, the successful renovation of the building was a joint endeavor by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the local *Bauamt* and many other German and American individuals and agencies.

"There's something special about the way this community has so many agencies working together toward a common goal, whether it be civilian, the military with its different branches or host nation," Moscone said during his opening remarks.

New utility rooms, equipped with commercial-sized heavy-duty washers and dryers, are but one of many new features bringing building 704 up to current USACE standards.

"The main focus of the renovation ... [has been] to bring the laundry facilities upstairs into the units and to add a second bathroom to the 3- and 4- bedroom apartments as well as 'right-sizing' the units to today's standards," said



A shiny, spacious kitchen with lots of storage space is among the many improvements to the recently-renovated Artillery Kaserne building 704.

Russell Stokes of Area Support Team Garmisch's Directorate of Public Works.

"I think this is fabulous," said Amy Balog, a resident of a neighboring building who stopped by to get a sneak peak at the renovated apartments. "The laundry room is unbelievable."

Other improvements to the apartments in building 704 include the installation of several 110-volt outlets, cable and phone hookups in every room and state-of-the-art-fire alarm

systems with sprinklers in each apartment.

"I think this is absolutely first class," said Dr. John P. Rose, director of the George C. Marshall Center. "This is what is meant by taking care of the Soldiers and their families."

"I really like that they were able to modernize the inside while maintaining the original design of the outside," said Susie Little, who lived in an identical building on Artillery Kaserne as a child and currently lives in the building next door.

Little wistfully pointed out the untouched, painted Bavarian embellishments on the exterior of the building that date back to building 704's original 1954 construction. "For all [of] us military brats who come back to visit," she said, "this [renovation] hasn't tarnished our memories."

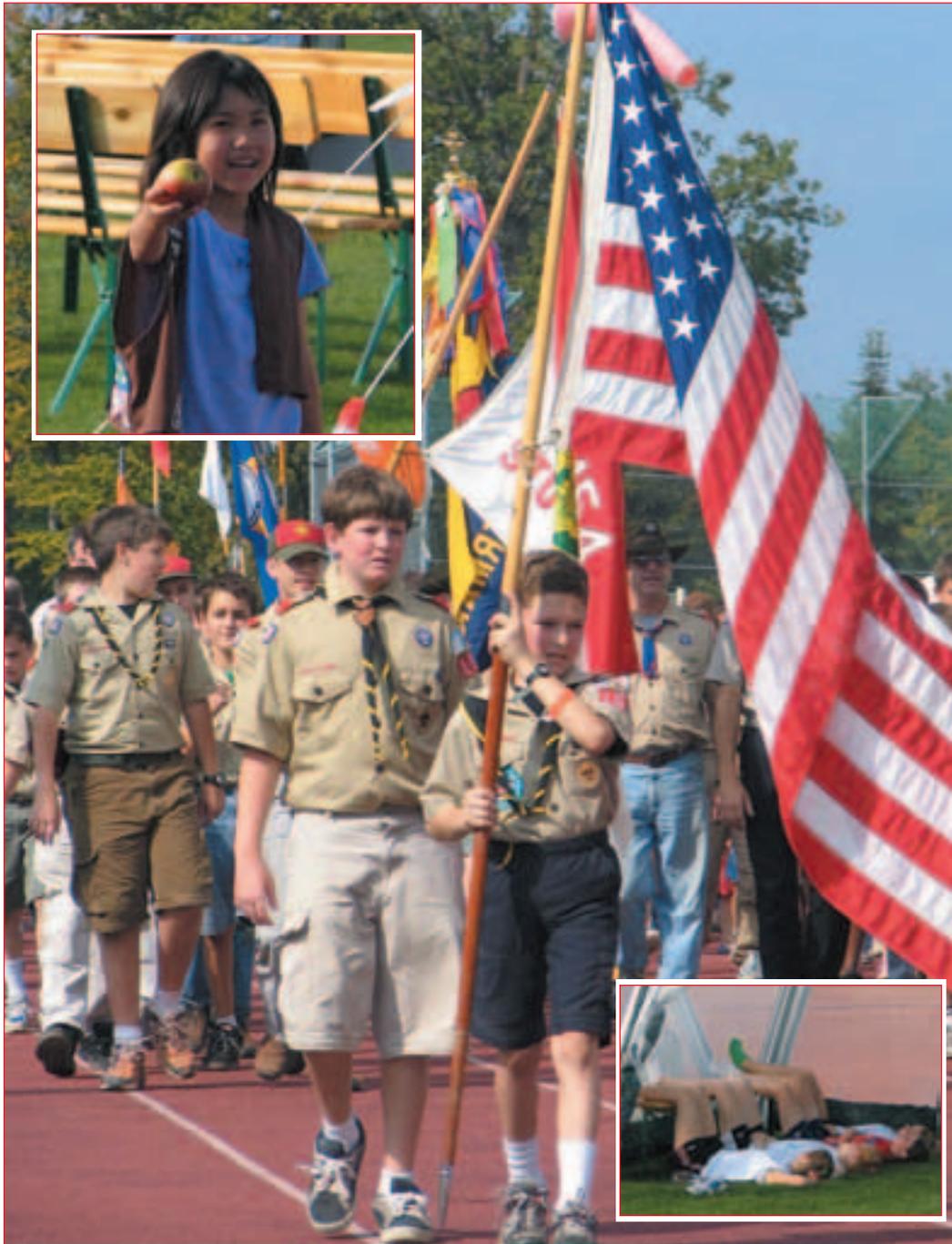
And, as the Bowman twins excitedly led their parents, Roger and Keri, and baby brother, Matthew, through their new home, it was easy to see that not only were old memories not being tarnished ... brand new ones were being made.

I think this is absolutely first class. This is what is meant by taking care of Soldiers and their families.

Dr. John P. Rose
George C. Marshall Center

On track for fun - and fundraising

2004 24-Hour Marathon draws record number of participants



Story and photos by Melanie Casey

A day to remember

Headquarters, Marine Corps Forces, Europe, did it again. With just over 1,200 miles logged, MARFOREUR was once again crowned the "winner" of the 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest, held Sept. 10 and 11 on Patch Barracks' Husky Field.

But the real winners are the Stuttgart-area youth organizations that will benefit from the thousands of dollars raised during this year's effort.

Money raised for the event comes primarily through 24-Hour Marathon T-shirt sales. By the close of this year's event more than 1,000 shirts had been sold, said Susie Blanchard, this year's shirt sales coordinator.

Last year, more than \$14,000 was distributed to 13 different local youth organizations, said DaNiel Schneider, president of the 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest committee.

With 21 teams and more than 900 runners, this year's marathon had more teams - and participants - than ever before, Schneider said.

"We had an excellent turnout," she said, noting that perhaps the good weather, along with an abundance of advertising, played a part.

As the event's name implies, "music" was also a big part of the day's events, with nearly 12 hours of continuous live music courtesy of country musician Barry P. Foley and local groups Apathy, Feedback, American Pie and Kitchen Pass.

Fun for everyone

While the majority of participants on the track were of the adult sort, several youngsters took advantage of all the event had to offer on the infield.

By dusk, impromptu games of volleyball, soccer and football sprang up as children and teens milled about the infield while their parents ran, socialized or picked up a quick dinner from the American Legion food tent.

The second day of the event also marked a solemn occasion - the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III, U.S. European Command chief of staff, implored participants not only to remember what happened three years ago as they logged lap after lap around the track, but also to think about the service members who are currently deployed.

"We're able to contribute and participate [in the 24-Hour Marathon]," Broadwater said, "but keep the Soldiers [deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom] in your thoughts as you run."

And that they did. With the doleful sounds of John Lennon's "Imagine" echoing in the background, a memorial lap was held at 9 a.m. Sept. 11, and participants and their family members took a quiet moment to walk lightly and reflect in remembrance on that fateful day three years ago.

Final tally

At the end of the 15th annual 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest, nearly 21,000 total laps (7,000 miles) had been logged. Trophies were awarded to the following teams:

- MARFOREUR: Most team laps (3,600)
- Patch High School Cross Country team: Youngest average team age
- EUCOMJ-4 (Plans and Policy): Oldest average team age
- European Plans and Operations Center: Most team participation (112 team members)
- Pfc. Michael Trujillo: Ironperson award (213 total laps, approximately 71 miles).

To apply for funds from this year's 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest, visit www.stuttgart-community-marathon.com, download the application, complete and return by Oct. 15.

Members of the Stuttgart-area Boy Scout troops march around Husky Field during the final lap of the 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest. A young Brownie (inset, top left) offers an apple and a smile to participants in need of a pick-me-up. A group of weary Patch High School cross country runners (inset, right) rest their feet after logging laps.

Stuttgart troops set sights on international solidarity



Cpl. Adam Dickerson of Special Operations Command, Europe, eyes his target through the scope of a German G36 rifle. Dickerson scored a perfect 15 during the rifle portion of the Sept. 11 competition, then won a 9-person shoot-off to earn an individual gold medal.



All participating troops – including the Germans, who had the most experience with the three weapons used in the Sept. 11 competition – were required to complete familiarization and safety courses with each weapon before heading to the firing range.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Hembrook of Headquarters, U.S. European Command, shares a laugh with two German soldiers during a familiarization course with the German G36 rifle. Hembrook and 19 other Stuttgart-area service members travelled to Walldürn, Germany, for friendly competition with German, French and Slovenian military personnel.



Lt. Col. Arthur Ingram of Headquarters, U.S. European Command, takes a close look at a German MG3 machine gun Sept. 11 in Walldürn, Germany. Ingram and 19 other Stuttgart-area service members tested their skills on three German weapons (MG3, G36 rifle and P8 pistol) at an annual multinational competition in Walldürn.

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

If every multinational get-together went as well as the Sept. 10 and 11 gathering in Walldürn, Germany, did, the men and women who took part in that event might find themselves out of a job.

The fourth annual *Internationales Schiessen Walldürn* brought together more than 130 service members from Germany, France, Slovenia and the United States for an evening of camaraderie and a day of friendly competition.

Sponsored by two German military units – *Logistic Battalions 461* and *Kreisgruppe der Reservisten Neckar-Odenwald* – the event drew the troops with three lures that no self-respecting service member could resist: food, fun and firearms.

The U. S. military was represented by 20 troops from the Stuttgart area. The contingent from Special Operations Command, Europe, and Headquarters, U.S. European Command, personified the boundary-bridging nature of the event, as the local group was composed of active-duty and reserve service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

One of the organizers of the Stuttgart group, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nelly McKay, said the appeal of events like the Walldürn competition is based in the camaraderie and friendship that exists among service members – but the rewards of participating exceed just having an interesting way to fill up an off-duty day. “It’s an opportunity to serve as an ambassador for our nation,” McKay said.

If ambassadorial success can be judged by the ability of unified laughter to blur the barriers between four distinct languages and a myriad of divergent backgrounds, experiences and political philosophies, then the Walldürn group may be headed into the diplomatic hall of fame.

The night before they pitted their marksmanship skills against each other on the target range, the participants sat down together at the broad wooden tables in historic *Schloss Bödighheim* for a traditional German meal and the opportunity to get to know one another a bit better.

Impromptu language lessons and creative gesturing filled in any linguistic gaps that were encountered, and as polite dinner conversation segued into more animated late-night discussions and debates, it wasn’t just the haze of cigar smoke that made it difficult for an observer to discern the differences between “us” and “them.”

Eight hours after they had said their goodbyes at the castle, the participants stood shoulder-to-shoulder in a 7 a.m. formation on the shooting range as Maj. Andreas Prengel of LogBtl 461 reviewed the rules of engagement for the day’s competition.

Grouped into 30 four-person teams, the troops vied for individual and group marksmanship awards by firing a total of 45 shots with three German weapons: the P8 pistol, G36 rifle and MG3 machine gun.

Though the morning mist eventually yielded to blue skies and sunshine, the atmosphere among the competitors remained slightly more subdued than the marked joviality of the previous evening. Camaraderie remained the word of the day, but as Prengel observed, “It was a tough contest. The tension rose higher and higher [as the day progressed].”

Perhaps the most pressure-packed moments of the day came after the end of the scheduled competition, when nine competitors – including one American, Marine Cpl. Adam Dickinson – were called back to the rifle range for a shoot-off to break a logjam atop the standings.

Proving true to his Corps’ principle that “every Marine is a rifleman,” Dickinson followed up his perfect 15-for-15 score in the preliminary round by tying two other finalists with the best performance in the shoot-off. For his efforts, Dickinson earned a gold medal – and the right to breathe easy on the ride back to Stuttgart.

“I never would have heard the end of it from the Marines if they found out I made the finals and didn’t win,” Dickinson said with a smile – and what looked a lot like relief – as he walked off the range. “That was my motivation.”

At the end of the ceremony during which Dickinson and the other winners received their awards, Lt. Col. Ludwig Simmel of the German military’s VBK 52 discussed the motivation for continuing and expanding the shooting competition.

At events such as the Walldürn gathering, Simmel said, “we show the world we are ready to unite our people, our cultures and our values.”

So, how did you spend your summer vacation?

PHS students travel to nation's capitol for summer leadership, law conferences

While many high school students spend their summers sleeping in or sitting by the pool, a handful of Patch High School students spent part of this year's summer vacation in Washington, D.C., learning how to think like a lawyer, hobnobbing with some of Washington's elite, studying the Socratic method and helping make the Army Teen Panel proposals come to life. (Stories and photos by Melanie Casey.)

Focused on the future:

Chrissy Hunt

Patch High School senior Chrissy Hunt traveled to Washington, D.C., July 25 to 31 as the European representative to the annual Army Teen Panel.

The panel, made up of teen representatives from eight Installation Management Agency regions worldwide, mirrors the Army Family Action Plan – but with an emphasis on military teens and youth services.

The ATP mission is to “foster communication between Army teens and Army leadership on the issues facing youth in today's society,” according to the ATP handbook.

The 22 participants of this year's panel represented approximately 180,000 military teens worldwide, Hunt said.

The panel meets twice per year, once in February and once during the summer.

During the summer sessions, the panel determines one “top issue” on which to focus. Other issues are often referred to different military councils such as AFAP.

The top issue at this year's ATP conference was the lack of a worldwide youth support network, Hunt said. To help alleviate this problem, the panel decided to create a web site specifically for military youth.

The site, which will be modeled on Army Knowledge Online and should be available next summer, will be a secure site offering chat

Chrissy Hunt was the European representative for the Army Teen Panel held in Washington, D.C., in July.

and messaging services as well as news updates for specific areas. Teens will be able to obtain a password at their local YS.

The goal of the site – aimed at children in grades six to 12 – is to connect military teens around the world.

The panel members also hope that the Web site will help expand YS youth sponsorship programs, facilitate online teen sponsorship and include geographically dispersed teens, Hunt said.

Most of all, she added, it will provide a support network for military children around the world.

Hunt got involved with the ATP a few years ago – as a sophomore – at the behest of former Patch YS Teen Director Jennifer Lyons.

“You feel like you're personally changing something,” Hunt said of her experience with the teen panel. “And it also looks pretty good on a college application.”

Hunt plans to attend the University of Virginia next fall.

For more information about the Army Teen Panel visit www.armyteenpanel.army.mil.



Legally blonde: Katie Dickmeyer

Patch High School senior Katie Dickmeyer traveled to Washington, D.C., June 28 to July 7 to attend the inaugural People to People's Future Leaders Summit on Law



at Georgetown University.

A 4.0 student at PHS last year and the junior class president, Dickmeyer received a full scholarship to attend the event. She was one of 144 students from around the world selected to attend this year's law summit and the only DoDDS student.

During the 10-day session, the students learned how to think like a lawyer, examine and cross-examine witnesses and develop trial strategies.

They also toured the Supreme Court, visited DC-area monuments

Katie Dickmeyer attended the People to People's Future Leaders Summit on Law.

and colleges, teamed with partners for a mock court case and celebrated the 4th of July in style in Fredericksburg, Va.

The participants also had a chance to meet some prominent people – such as Federal District Court Judge Leoni M. Brinkema (who is handling the Zacarias Massaoui terrorism trial), Mary Eisenhower and Klaus Nobel.

The summit was “a great experience,” Dickmeyer said.

“I got a chance to meet people, make friends and do things I never would have had the chance to do. It was unbelievable.”

A national leader: Brittany Selman

Brittany Selman, a junior at Patch High School, attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., July 26 to Aug. 5.

Approximately 350 American high school students – mostly juniors and seniors – attended the event. Selman was one of only a handful of sophomores invited.

The conference, one of sev-

eral held annually, was designed to “instruct, enrich and enthuse promising students – [and prepare] them for a lifetime of leadership,” according to the organization's Web site (www.cylc.org). Participants must have a grade point average of 3.5 to take part.

During the 11-day conference, the students took part in several leadership-building and role-playing activities, including “If I were president,” in which each student played the role of a government official during a simulated crisis, and a grassroots campaign.

Brittany Selman attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., this summer.

The event culminated in a Model Congress, during which each participant assumed the role of a member of the House of Representatives to debate, amend and vote on proposed mock legislation.

“I was nervous [at first],” Selman said of her experience. “It was a lot of work and they kept us busy going to meetings, lectures and with homework ... but I know a lot more now,” she added, “such as how bills are passed and that the president doesn't have as much say as you'd think.”

I have a better idea of how the political and justice systems work now,” Selman said. I can see how votes count.” Brittany hopes to attend Colby College in Maine once she graduates from high school.



Did you attend Patch High School or Patch Elementary School?

The schools' 25th Anniversary Committee wants to post your letters or e-mails in the schools Oct. 4 as part of the anniversary celebration.

For details call Lori Smith or Susan Pleiss at 430-5200/civ. 0711-680-5200 or call the PHS office at 430-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191.

Patch Elementary unveils addition

Story and photo by Mildred Green

Parents, children and teachers were among the group that gathered Sept. 10 outside Patch Elementary School to celebrate the opening of the new kindergarten addition – just three days before the community’s youngest students began their first day of school.

Making an impact

The ribbon-cutting ceremony’s guest speaker, 6th Area Support Group Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez, thanked all who contributed to the project.

“Without the dedicated workers and project managers,” Chavez said, “[these] children wouldn’t have the opportunity to go to school in such a nice place. Thank you.”

Turning his attention toward those who will use the new facilities, Chavez also cited the importance of their efforts.

“For children [the first day of school] is an emotional day,” Chavez said, noting that the care kindergartners receive from their teachers will impact them for the rest of their lives.

Recalling his first day as a kindergarten student and his first teacher, Mrs. Johnson, Chavez told the assembled teachers, “they will remember

your name.”

Military support

Among the other special guests welcomed by PES Principal Susan Pleiss was Bavaria District Superintendent Ron McIntire, who also spoke before the ribbon was cut.

McIntire praised the military’s support of Department of Defense Dependents Schools. Without this effort, he said, DoDDS could not be effective.

Also commending teachers, McIntire said that “the teachers’ ability to promote learning is the single most important factor that we have.”

Upgraded facility

The upgraded kindergarten facility now consists of five classrooms.

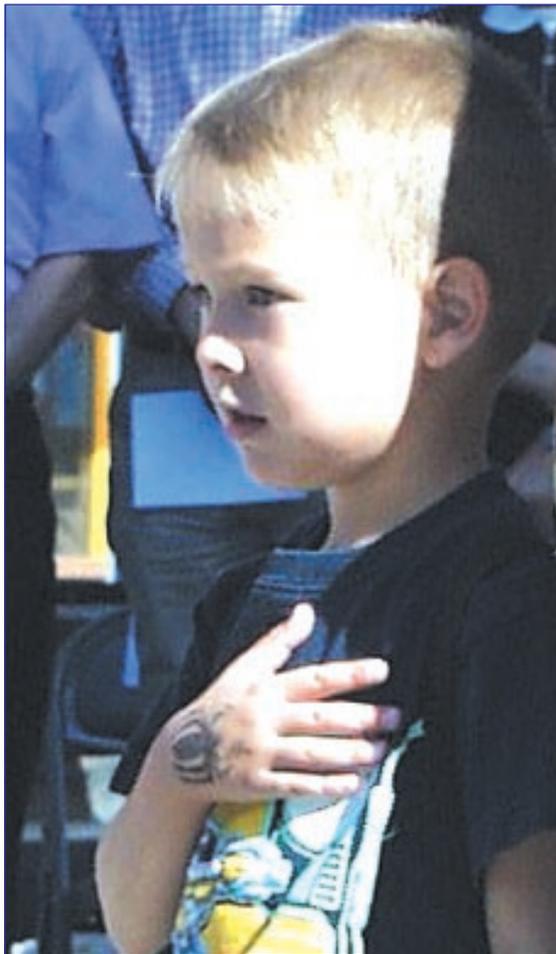
Two of the classrooms were recently built and three were renovated.

Some of the accommodations in the new classrooms, which were made specifically for kindergartners, include size-appropriate bathrooms and a kitchen.

Also, a playground that Pleiss said was designed for kindergarten-aged children was constructed and placed in the revamped section.

The result, Pleiss said, was a new addition that pleased her and will enhance the Stuttgart military community.

“[The project] is an added benefit for our community,” added Pleiss. “PES now facilitates full-day kindergarten.”



Kindergartner Gunnar Gard salutes the flag during Patch Elementary School’s Sept. 10 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the addition to its kindergarten facility.

DoD to help spouses teach

By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

Fueled by the success of its popular Troops to Teachers program, the Department of Defense is developing a similar outreach effort for military spouses.

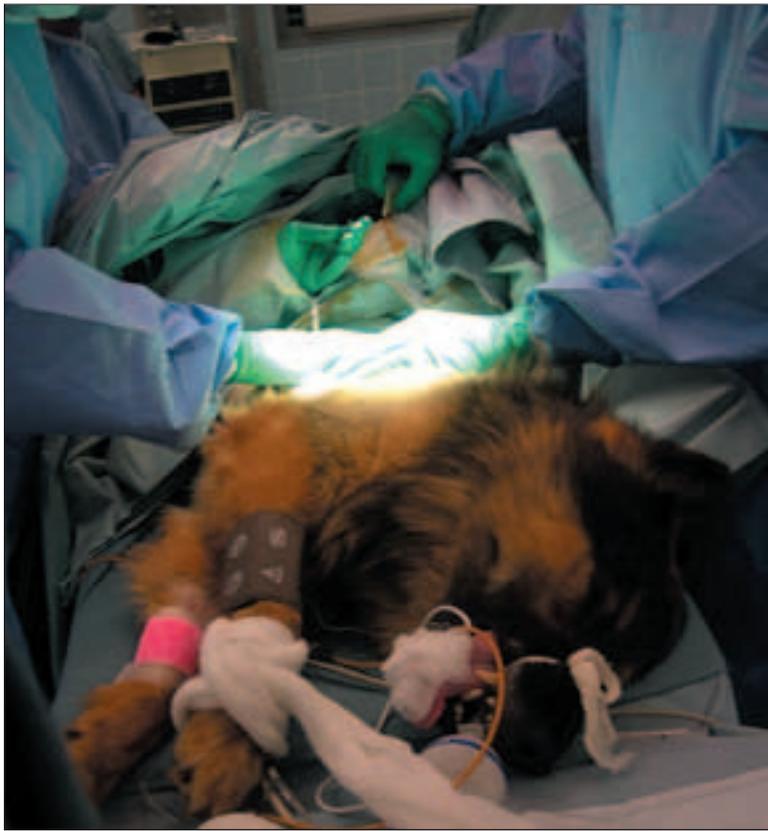
Spouses to Teachers has established pilot programs in six states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. The program was prompted by military spouses who had difficulties finding certification requirements and job information when they moved, said Gary Woods, acting director of DoD educational opportunities.

The program’s goals are to provide information on teacher-certification requirements, track job-availability statistics and list existing certification reciprocity agreements between states.

It will also offer limited financial assistance to help defray the costs of meeting state certification requirements.

Initially, eligibility is limited to individuals with a bachelor’s degree who are spouses of active-duty service members and members of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve on extended duty.

For more information visit www.proudtoserveagain.com.



Sgt. Ronnie, a military working dog, undergoes successful open heart surgery Aug. 19 in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Landstuhl docs find place in their heart for working dog in need

By Spc. Todd Goodman

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

A urologist, a trauma surgeon and a dog are in the operating room. As strange as this may sound, it's no joke – it's another example of successful surgery at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

On Aug. 19, a bomb-sniffing German Shepherd named Sgt. Ronnie was medically evacuated from Iraq. He had developed acute medical problems and was brought to a veterinary facility at Pulaski Barracks, where he was diagnosed with a large collection of fluid around his heart.

"The diagnostic workup and surgical care exceeded the veterinary assets and equipment available here in Germany," said Lt. Col. Danny Jazarevic, chief of vascular surgery at LRMCM. "So the commander opened our doors to him."

"It is important to offer these brave, four-legged Soldiers the best possible care," said Col. Rhonda Cornum, LRMCM commander and a urologist. "If we have to use human as well as veterinary physicians and equipment in order to care for them, then we are happy to be able to offer it."

When tests on Sgt. Ronnie revealed a heart tumor, Jazarevic said, he and Cornum volunteered to take care of the problem. With a surgical team that included veterinarians, anesthesiologists, nurses and medics, Sgt. Ronnie underwent open heart surgery and the removal of the tumor.

"Fortunately, I had done a lot of dog surgery in the past," Cornum said, citing experience at the Institute for Surgical Research at Brooke Army Medical Center and the Military Working Dog Center at Lackland Air Force Base.

That experience paid off, Jazarevic noted. "Ronnie recovered in record time," he said. "He thanked his doctors for saving his life in the only way he could, by kisses and face licks."

Although Sgt. Ronnie made a full recovery, his military career is over. He has been medically retired and evacuated back to the United States to retire with his handler, who also retired from the military, Cornum said.

That Sgt. Ronnie lived to enjoy retirement is the reward for the team that saved his life. Both Cornum and Jazarevic are animal lovers, and being able to give a working dog the same treatment a human would have received is something in which the doctors take great pride.

"I am honored to take care and operate on the heroes returning from the war," Jazarevic said. "It is no different for a Soldier like Sgt. Ronnie. He is an animal of a higher order because of his function, training and purpose. Dogs like him are valuable members of a team."

"Working dogs deserve the same care as other Soldiers," concurred Cornum. "Cutting-edge surgical and medical care provided at LRMCM is for all of our Soldiers, and as long as I command this fine institution, we will proudly keep the LRMCM doors open for two- and four-legged patients alike."

Tricare improves remote service

Tricare Release

A new global remote overseas contract has improved access to the Tricare Prime health care benefit for active-duty sponsors and family members who are assigned to designated duty stations in remote locations where military treatment facilities are not available.

Among its many features, the new system eliminates up-front payment and the need for sponsors or family members to file claims when seeking care.

Under the contract, International SOS Assistance Inc. will coordinate, provide health care services and pay claims for these individuals. The agency will also

Among its many features, the new system eliminates up-front payment and the need for sponsors or family members to file claims when seeking care.

arrange routine, urgent and emergency health care services for eligible individuals.

Enrollees will have access to a network of credentialed English-speaking providers and call centers worldwide, where they can obtain medical advice around the clock.

The new system give enrollees access to "a network of quality providers and a benefit that is cashless, claimless and easy to

use," said Lt. Col. Patricia Gaulty, Tricare Management Activity's overseas program manager.

Services in the Pacific Region and some European sites began Sept. 1. Services in Latin America and the remaining sites in Europe will start Oct. 1.

For more information visit the Tricare Overseas Web Site at www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas.

CARE Fair connects agencies, residents

Story and photo by Mildred Green

Stuttgart's first Community Activities Registration and Education Fair drew nearly 400 area residents to the Patch Community Club Aug. 28.

Put on by Army Community Service, the CARE Fair gave new – and not so new – community members a chance to meet representatives from an array of organizations, ask questions and sign up for activities, clubs and services all in one convenient location.

There were also freshly-baked

cookies and refreshments for guests to enjoy as they hopped from table to table.

Sixty-one Stuttgart-area agencies were on hand, representing a variety of clubs and organizations for both adults and children.

One-stop shop

By putting all of the agencies together under one roof, ACS hoped to make the inaugural event a convenient experience for community members, according to ACS Relocation Program Manager and co-chairman of the CARE Fair Heidi

Magnuson. The fair was a “one-stop shop,” she said.

“It [was] an excellent opportunity not just for newcomers, but also for others in the community to find out about agencies they might not have known about,” Magnuson said.

The fair's other co-chairman ACS Relocation Assistant Kirsten Workman, said even she learned a few new things from attending the event.

Getting involved in the community can help make anyone's tour in Germany more pleasant, Workman added.

“I think that if you participate in organizations, it makes you enjoy your stay [in Stuttgart] even more,” she said.

Spreading the word

From the other side of the spectrum, the CARE Fair also gave agencies the chance to introduce and promote their clubs to the community.

Whit Taylor, who represented Sitzmarker Youth Ski Club at the fair, said he felt the event was a good way of getting information to the people of Stuttgart.

“This is great ... wonderful,” he said. “When [our family] arrived here, something like this



Rhiannon Schwandt visits the Patch Dental Clinic booth and gets a few tips about proper brushing from Dr. Harvey Lum during ACS's Community Activities Registration and Education Fair Aug. 28 on Patch Barracks.

would have been great.”

In addition to expressing their appreciation to the community members who attended the fair and the local agencies that participated, Magnuson and Workman both cited the Stuttgart USO,

Armed Forces Resort Centers, Europe, and the USAA insurance and financial corporation for sponsoring the event.

The CARE Fair was such a success, Magnuson added, that it will become an annual event.

Twilight Camp 2004

For Stuttgart Cubs, sun sets on summer in 'Wild West'

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Ninety-eight members of the Stuttgart military community spent the final week of summer vacation walking on the "wild" side – the Wild West, that is.

Cub Scouts from four Stuttgart-area packs converged on the Böblingen Local Training Area Aug. 30 for four days of outdoor adventures.

Constructed around the Wild West theme, the week's activities kept the Cubs hustling around the LTA for games and lessons that promoted environmental awareness, scouting knowledge, togetherness and cooperation.

The curriculum included "Scout skills" such as knot-tying and campsite care; folklore and history; time on the target range; and a steady stream of crafts, games and other activities.

Joan Jenkins, one of 22 adult volunteers who staffed the camp, said the week offered "camaraderie, friendships, skills and experiences," for the Cubs (scouts in grades 1 to 5).

Holding the camp at summer's end – rather than just after school let out, as had been done in previous years – enhanced the cooperative aspect of the experience by allowing youth who had moved into the area over the summer to build relationships and learn about the community, said Camp Director Mary Neuse.

"It's been really cool, because we have new Scouts who've just PCSed in," she said.

For more about Scouting in Stuttgart visit www.stuttgart.army.mil. Click "Community Information," then "Community Organizations."



Under close supervision, young gunslingers honed their skills.



"Wild West"-themed contests tested campers' dexterity and also allowed them to wear big floppy hats.



The Twilight Camp promoted teamwork both among the scouts and with the camp counselors.

Gender equity enters the ring

Female fighters featured at Stuttgart 'smoker'

Story & photo by Terri Alejandro

To paraphrase Elton John, Saturday night's quite alright for fighting in Stuttgart.

The 6th Area Support Group MWR Sports and Fitness team sponsored its third boxing "smoker" Aug. 28 in the Patch Fitness Center, and the event surpassed its two predecessors in both paid attendance and number of bouts.

Active-duty and reserve Soldiers and Airmen from U.S. military installations throughout Europe converged on Patch Barracks ready to rumble.

At the weigh-in, organizers said they were pleased to have so many bouts scheduled, including three with female fighters – a first for Stuttgart.

"We've had women show up to the weigh-in before, but we never could match them up," said Steve Sanders, the 6th ASG's assistant sports director.

Fans began showing up as soon as the doors opened – an hour before the matches began – and they continued to pour in until well into the first bout.

Nearly 300 tickets were sold, and the crowd included many "repeat attenders" from the area's two previous events.

Maj. Rob Barnes, of U.S. European Command, said he brought his son, Jordan, to the event to "spend some quality guy time together." Jordan, who is also interested in karate, was very excited to be attending his first smoker.



Stuttgart's Angel Carpenter, left, mixes it up with Wilantha Silva of Heidelberg during the 11th and final fight of the Aug. 28 boxing smoker in the Patch Fitness Center.

"He's been talking about it all week and we've been watching boxing on TV," Barnes said.

From the first bout to the last, the crowd was enthusiastic and vocal. Fans were ready with suggestions and words of encouragement, most for the fighters, and, of course some for the officials.

Frequent cries of "let 'em fight," were heard whenever the

referee stepped in to stop the action – and were usually followed by reminders from ringside announcer Andrew Snoodly that "the safety of our athletes is priority one."

Cousins Wesley and Gary Williams, both members of the Lexington, Tenn. National Guard unit that is augmenting the 554th Military Police Company, had the largest contingent of supporters. "They told us they were fighting, so of course we'd be here," said fellow Guardsman Jason Dyer.

Wesley Williams said his work schedule didn't leave much time for training, but he wanted to get in the ring anyway. "As soon as I heard about the smoker, I had my parents send me my gear," he said.

Crowd participation peaked during the eagerly anticipated women's bouts, and the fighters did not disappoint.

With only one month of training, Ashley Noiske said she was nervous, but Wilantha Silva said she boxes regularly with the Heidelberg team.

Despite the varying levels of experience, the women's bouts were among the most exciting of the evening, frequently bring-

ing the crowd to their feet. "These ladies fought with a lot of heart," said Tony Lee, director of sports and recreation for the 100th ASG.

"It was a great event," said Michael O'Neill, captain of the Ramstein squad, which took the night's team title with four victories. "Stuttgart put on a great show and we'll definitely be back for the next one," he said.