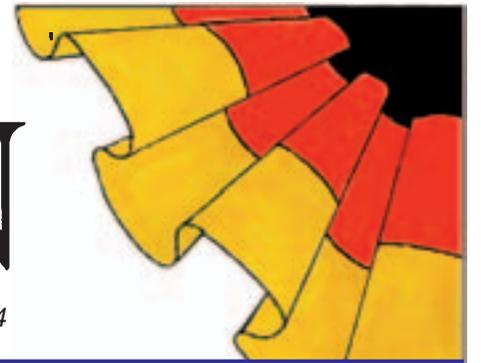




THE CITIZEN



Vol. 33, No. 7

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

April 6, 2004

Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Young and Amazing

Special 'Student Spotlight' section, pages 7 to 10



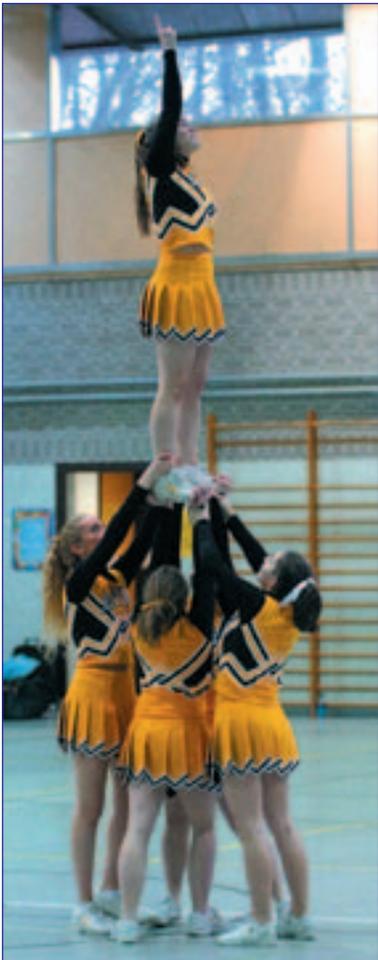
Hugh C. McBride



Melanie Casey



Hugh C. McBride



Hugh C. McBride



Hugh C. McBride



Melanie Casey

Clockwise from top left: 1) Patch High School video production student Dena Garcia records the PHS Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps military ball for the school's video yearbook. 2) A young inventor at Patch Elementary School sneaks a peek at his evaluation during the school's Invention Fair. 3) PHS JROTC Cadet Timothy L. Johnson stands at attention after presenting the colors at the JROTC military ball. 4) Danielle Grigsby, left, and John Ritchie of the PHS Teens Against Tobacco Use employ "Mr. Gross Mouth" to demonstrate the ravages of smoking. 5) PHS cheerleaders reach for the sky at halftime of a boys' basketball game in the school gymnasium. [Center] Joshua Frame, Aaron Perry, Larissa Hasse and Mark Armstrong gather for an evening of music and fellowship at the International Baptist Church of Stuttgart just outside the main gate to Patch Barracks.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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Guard augmentees arrive in Stuttgart

A contingent of troops from the Tennessee National Guard arrive in Germany for a yearlong force protection tour.



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Panzer Scouts race down 'Autobahn 44'

Stuttgart's Cub Scout Pack 44 premieres a new race track at the annual Pinewood Derby in Böblingen Elementary School.



Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

Russell Orr, for his consistent support of the Patch High School Music Department. With his help, the PAHS Music Booster Club has been able to conduct effective fundraising for the music program, which benefits the community and most importantly our young musicians.

Thank you, Russell, for all you do.

The employees of the Patch Shoppette, who never fail to help me carry heavy items out to my car when I'm shopping by myself.

Jack Goldman, Patch High School's JROTC advisor, for his tireless efforts on behalf of Stuttgart-area youth. As evidenced by the recent JROTC military ball – and at the numerous community activities in which uniformed JROTC cadets participate – Chief Goldman's influence has resulted in another exemplary corps of cadets. These young men and women are an asset to our community and a credit to their leader.

Thorns to:

The woman who confronted a fellow military spouse (in front of her child) for parking in the wrong spot at the Patch Commissary.

With all the stresses and sacrifices associated with being in a military family these days, couldn't you have overlooked one "improper" parking choice, which was made only to make a rainy-day dash for groceries a bit shorter?

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

Child safety starts at home

Parents must prepare kids to face dangers

Laurie H. Rogers
Safer Child, Inc.

This world can be dangerous for children, big and small. Dangerous strangers are becoming increasingly bold, and bad things happen to careful people.

But you can protect your children – and teach them how to protect themselves. Here are a few tips:

Trust your instincts

Pay attention to any niggling feeling that says, "This doesn't feel right." Teach your child to do the same thing – even with friends, relatives and other authority figures.

Don't be afraid to seem rude. If the offending person means well, he'll understand. If he doesn't, you might save your child's life (and your own).

Women and children often are taught to be polite before all else.

Children are taught to listen to authority figures, to do what they're told, to not disobey.

But this attitude can be fatal. Dangerous people will use these lessons against women and children.

If someone doesn't accept your very first "no" or your very first "stop," remove yourself from the situation as soon

Children are often taught to be polite above all else – to listen to authority figures and do what they're told. But this attitude can be fatal.

as possible.

If the person says or hints that you're being rude, that you're no fun, that you're disobeying, that God will hate you for not doing something, consider that these may be ploys to change your behavior to the perpetrator's advantage.

Ask questions

Don't be afraid to ask questions – of teachers, principals, church officials, daycare providers, baby-sitters, your child's friends, the friends' parents, and of relatives.

You have the right to determine what happens with your child.

If your child is staying at a friend's house, ask if there's a gun at the house and where it is.

Ask about problems at the daycare. Don't be afraid. This is information you need to have. And if your gut says the

answer you got is a lie, incomplete or unacceptable, go with your gut.

Talk – and listen

When your child has something to tell you – listen, believe and respond.

Make sure your child knows that you will always listen to him and take him seriously.

Also, make sure he or she also absolutely believes that you'll love him and accept him no matter what happens to him – and no matter what he's coerced or enticed into doing.

Finally, pay attention to nightmares – both yours and your children's.

When we sleep, our fears and intuitions often present themselves in the form of a dream or nightmares.

Rogers is a children's advocate with Safer Child, Inc. This article originally appeared online at www.saferchild.org

ON THE STREET

April is 'Month of the Military Child.' What is the best way to honor U.S. military children?

– Compiled by Mildred Green and Hugh C. McBride



Harry Stine
(Patch Elementary School)

Listen and let them express themselves. They have innocent and pure opinions. We can learn a lot from them.



Luis Santos
(Student)

We should get more books, because I really like to read and I think a lot of other kids do, too.



Anne Karr
(Patch Elementary School)

Provide more activities children are interested in and places for them to go in addition to the CYS.



Marcus Riccio
(Student)

Free stuff. I don't even care what we get, just as long as it's free.



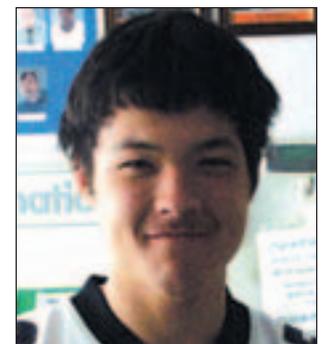
Anna Johnston & Taylor Riccio
(Students)

We really need to get Sprite Remix over here in Germany. They've had it in the States for about a year, and it's great.



Eddie Lee
(Patch Youth Services)

I think we should have a big ceremony to celebrate the kids for all they do.



Jeb Busbin
(Student)

We need the opportunity to take more trips to interesting places in Europe.

THE CITIZEN

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www.stuttgart.army.mil



Two service members examine a few of the many products available at the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club annual Spring Bazaar March 19 on Patch Barracks.



Bazaar brings bargains, benefits

Story & photos
by Melanie Casey

They shopped 'til they dropped at the annual Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club Spring Bazaar March 19 to 21 on Patch Barracks.

Seventy-six vendors from across Europe were on hand this year, selling everything from antique furniture to Polish pottery.

The annual event offers much more than a chance to find

bargains, as all proceeds are returned to the community.

Last year's effort brought in over \$89,000, which the SCSC earmarked for scholarships and grants to private organizations.

This year, the SCSC "worked hard to get a range of products, with something for everyone's budget," said Bazaar Chairperson Maureen Parker.

"We wanted to make it a family fest this year," she added, "it's all about the community."

[Left] Spring Bazaar volunteers walk beneath the crossed swords of Patch High School's JROTC honor guard at the bazaar's March 19 opening ceremony on Patch Barracks.

Lt. Gen. Sylvester: Spring Clean Up requires community support

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

This year's Spring Clean Up campaign will take place April 20 to 22 in Stuttgart.

We in the U.S. European Command Headquarters support this initiative completely, and I ask all commanders and members of the Stuttgart and Garmisch communities to join me in assisting the 6th Area Support Group in making this a very successful campaign.

While last year's clean up was a great success, it was less than totally supported; therefore, this year I propose that the community clean-up project effort become our place of duty for a half day, if at all possible.

To the fullest extent possible, commanders should avoid scheduling activities that would distract from full participation of our service members in this important endeavor.

Clean up and beautification of our communities are important aspects of the overall quality of life and well being of our force and families. They are also paramount to the image that we project to our host nation. Let us all participate and proudly demonstrate how much we care



Sylvester

Spring Clean Up 2004

- Administrative buildings – **April 20**, starting at noon.
- Housing buildings and single service member unaccompanied quarters – **April 22**, starting at noon.
- Priority for this event is **fire prevention**. All individuals are encouraged to focus on building interiors, especially attic spaces.

For more information contact Ty Stearn
at 421-2345/civ. 0711-729-2345 or
e-mail stearnt@6asg.army.mil.

about the place in which we live and work together.

Again, our focus in EUCOM is to have everyone participate in this annual community event.

Activities of this magnitude require strong community involvement and, as we are all aware, the more hands and backs we lay on and bend to the task, the better our effort will turn out.

Thanks in advance to all who do turn out to do their part in supporting this important effort.

Sylvester is EUCOM chief of staff. This article is an excerpt of a memorandum signed Feb. 19.

For an Adobe.pdf file of the signed memorandum e-mail stearnt@6asg.army.mil.

News & Notes

TKS Townhall on Patch

All community members are invited to attend a special TKS Townhall meeting April 15, 6 p.m., in the Patch Community Club. Representatives from both AAFES and TKS will be in attendance.

Area organizations make changes

• **Patch Barracks' Black Stallion Inn Dining Facility** has changed its evening hours. The DFAC is now open for dinner/supper 4:30 to 6 p.m. (weekdays and weekends).

For more information call 421-2076/civ. 0711-729-2076.

• **The Vehicle Registration Office on Panzer Kaserne** is now open Mondays to Thursdays, 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., and Fridays, 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The office closes at noon on the last working day of each month for inventory and is closed all day on U.S. holidays. For details call 431-2495/civ. 07031-15-495.

• **The Robinson Barracks Library** is now open according to the following schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The library is closed Sundays, Mondays and U.S. holidays. For details call 430-7138/civ. 0711-680-7138.

• **Charley's Steakery** on Kelley Barracks has new hours beginning April 10: Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Saturdays and Sundays.

Safety seats inspected on Panzer

Certified child passenger safety technicians will inspect child safety seats April 16, 1 to 4 p.m., in the Panzer Kaserne Commissary parking lot. Inspections are offered by appointment as well as on a drive-in basis.

There is no charge for this service. For more information call 431-2697/civ. 07031-15-697.

Wellness Center sponsors classes

The following Stuttgart Wellness Center-sponsored classes will start in April:

• **Tobacco Cessation** – starting April 13, Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to noon, in the Wellness Resource Room (Patch Barracks, building 2307, second floor).

For more information call 430-8209/civ. 0711-680-8209.

• **Pregnancy Orientation** – April 20, 1 to 3 p.m., in the Wellness Resource Room.

For more information call 430-4336/civ. 0711-680-4336.

WIC-O offers healthy eating advice

Stuttgart's Women, Infants and Children Overseas office is offering a "Healthy Eating on a Budget" class April 23, 2 to 4 p.m., in the Stuttgart Wellness Center (Patch Barracks, building 2307, second floor).

The class will be taught by WIC-O counselor Donna Wade. All community members are invited to attend.

For details call 430-4608/civ. 0711-680-4608.

Two new ATMs in Stuttgart

In addition to the ATM outside the credit union branch office on Patch Barracks (building 2325), SCU cash machines are now located in the Patch Shoppette (near the video/DVD rental section) and in the Kelley Hotel (in the vending machine room).

For more information call 430-7194/civ. 0711-680-7194.

Reserve option for separating Airmen

Separating soon? Make your transaction to civilian life easier by continuing your service in the Air Force Reserve.

Reservists retain many benefits, including tuition assistance and commissary privileges

For details call Master Sgt. Victor Bradford at 480-2326/civ. 06371-47-2326 or e-mail victor.bradford@ramstein.af.mil.

Spouses eligible for transition services

Spouses of military personnel are eligible for services at the Stuttgart Army Career and Alumni Program Center (Panzer Kaserne, building 2948, room 406).

For more information call 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-191.

BCAC brings Bingo to Patch

The Böblingen Community Activities Club is hosting Longaberger Bingo April 17 in the Patch Community Club.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Players must be 18 or older. For details e-mail scep3979@yahoo.com.

EUCOM, SOCEUR earn meritorious unit awards

By Hugh C. McBride

Two Stuttgart-based organizations have been honored for excellence in the support and execution of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and combat operations over three-year periods. Headquarters, U.S. European Command, and Headquarters, Special Operations Command, Europe, both formally received the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service during a March 26 ceremony in the Patch Community Club.

Standing tall

Addressing the more than 300 EUCOM and SOCEUR personnel who stood in formation before him, EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald said the recognition was a testament to the consistent commitment put forth by EUCOM personnel in the face of a very high operational tempo.

"I don't know of an organization that has worked harder than EUCOM in the last three years," Wald said.

"This is significant recognition of our command and the people who represent it, and it is clear evidence of [EUCOM's] outstanding successes," he said.

Wald also extended congratulations to the assembled troops on behalf of EUCOM Commander Gen. James Jones, who was unable to attend the ceremony due to responsibilities in Washington, D.C.

"I don't think there's a prouder commander today than Gen. Jones," Wald said.

Following his remarks, Wald joined EUCOM Command Sgt. Maj. John Mersino in affixing streamers marking the commands' achievements to the staffs of the EUCOM and SOCEUR flags.

'This is significant recognition of our command and the people who represent it.'

Gen. Charles Wald
U.S. European Command

Dedication and commitment

For SOCEUR Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko, the command's seventh JMUA was confirmation of continued excellence across "the full spectrum of Special Operations capabilities" around the world.

"From the Balkans to the Caucasus to Africa and the Middle East, our 'Quiet Professionals' have constantly demonstrated their expertise – whether supporting combat operations in Iraq and Iran, noncombatant evacuations from Cote d'Ivoire, humanitarian mine action training in Azerbaijan, or other operations requiring our skills," Csrnko said.

"The performance of the men and women of SOCEUR demonstrates the dedication and commitment to excellence of this command as a truly standing joint force headquarters, deployable at a moment's notice to any of the 93 countries in the EUCOM area of responsibility," he said.

Continued excellence

The EUCOM JMUA was for service between Jan. 1, 2000, and June 30, 2003. SOCEUR's award covered Oct. 1, 2000, through Aug. 25, 2003.



Michael Beaton (EUCOM)

U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald, left, and EUCOM Command Sgt. Maj. John Mersino attach a streamer to the staff of the EUCOM flag to signify the command's achievement of a Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

Rumsfeld, Myers say reports of troop level changes are 'speculation'

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Any report on specific changes to U.S. troop levels based in various parts of the world is speculation, because the department still is working with friends and allies around the world on those levels, senior Defense Department officials said at a Pentagon news conference March 25.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed news reports that final decisions had been made on how to adjust the U.S. military's global footprint to better address challenges of the 21st century.

Since the end of the Cold War, Rumsfeld said, the number of American troops has drawn down, but often they remain in the same places.

The chances of American Soldiers fighting a tank battle in Germany today, the secretary noted, "are so modest that it calls for a review of how we're arranged."

Rumsfeld said the United States still needs bases overseas. Forward basing allows the nation to deter attacks on regional friends and allies. It also positions the country to move troops quickly to trouble spots and allows the U.S. military to train with allies, he explained.

A goal of the effort is to have fewer U.S. service members based overseas and to add some stability to military life.

"We want to reduce the number of permanent changes of station, and the costs that that imposes on our people," Rumsfeld said. "We'd like ... to reduce stress on families."



Rumsfeld



Myers

The United States still needs bases overseas, Rumsfeld said, as they allow U.S. troops to train with allies, deter attacks and move quickly to trouble spots.

DoD leaders worked with U.S. combatant commanders to evaluate – from a military standpoint – what makes sense in basing American troops overseas. The initial part of that review is finished, and now U.S. officials are speaking with affected countries to get their input.

The secretary emphasized that the United States will make no changes in force posture that "would be to the detriment of any of our friends or allies." But that does not mean there won't be fewer "things" or troops in any given country, he added.

"We're used to counting things – how many tanks, how many ships, how many planes, how many troops," Rumsfeld said. "And what we know of certain knowledge today is that that's really not the relevant measurement."

What capability the United States bases in a country is more important than how many tanks or aircraft or ships the country bases there, Rumsfeld said. The reorganization will take several years, he added.

Army's transformation on track, leaders tell Congress

By Spc. Lorie Jewell

Army News Service

Senior Army leaders gave emphatic assurances to the Senate Armed Services' Subcommittee on Airland that efforts to transform the Army and properly equip the current force fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan are at top speed.

With all of the activity going on – 325,000 Soldiers deployed in 120 countries, combined with the mobilization of more than 150,000 National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers – Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey said it may not seem like the best time to undertake fundamental change across the Army.

"But we think it's just the opposite," Casey said. "It's an opportunity we can't pass up."

The Army is working toward three main goals, Casey said: reduce stresses on the force, improve capabilities and transform into a more versatile, agile, joint and expeditionary force in the current decade.

The major initiatives to make that happen, he said, are rebalancing the active and reserve component forces; reorganizing combat formations into modular brigade-based units; and implementing a force stabilization program to increase unit readiness, reduce personnel turbulence and make life more predictable for Soldiers, units and families.

Claude Bolton Jr., assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, said the Army is responding quickly to meet current needs, namely making sure that Soldiers have the best protection, equipment and technology available to fight the enemy.

Army Emergency Relief campaign starts in 6th ASG

By Hugh C. McBride

The yearly drive to raise funds for Army families in need has begun in the 6th Area Support Group. The 2004 Army Emergency Relief campaign runs April 1 to May 15.

"AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to helping the Army take care of its own," said 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris. "AER is well suited to helping Soldiers and their dependents deal with financial needs in critical times."

Though all AER contributions become part of one Armywide fund, Bonéy-Harris emphasized that donated dollars do have local impact. In 2003, she said, the Stuttgart AER fund loaned out almost \$70,000 (while the area amassed just under \$22,000 in new contributions).

In a memorandum for area support group commanders in Europe, Installation Management Agency, Europe Region Director Russell B. Hall lauded AER's recent efforts on behalf of Soldiers and their families.

"Last year AER provided more than \$34 million in direct assistance to some 50,000 Soldiers and their families," Hall said. "This assistance was provided through interest-free loans, grants, and scholarships, all of which were made possible through generous individual contributions."

In a letter posted on the AER Web site, AER President E.C. Meyer, a retired general, pledged his commitment to continuing the campaign's 62-year tradition of service to Soldiers.

"Since its birth, AER has always been where Soldiers are stationed when they needed help," Meyer wrote. "Though many things have changed over the years, one thing remains constant: our commitment to our long standing principle of caring for your financial emergency with integrity and professionalism."

Soldiers may contribute through monthly allotments or via one-time donations. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more information about AER contact 6th ASG AER Coordinator Sgt. 1st Class Jose Oliveras at 421-4563/civ. 0711-729-4563 or e-mail oliverasj@6asg.army.mil. For information online visit www.aerhq.org.

Savings program offers increased interest for deployed service members

Defense Finance and Accounting Service Release

Deployed service members have the chance to earn a guaranteed 10-percent annual interest rate on their savings.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service implemented the Savings Deposit Program in August 1990 for members who were then serving in the Persian Gulf conflict.

The program progressively changed to include troops assigned to areas of operation outside the United States, on ships and in mobile units.

Many service members involved in Operation Enduring Freedom are now eligible for this program.

A service member can participate in the program if he or she serves at least 30 consecutive days outside the United States or its possessions in – or in direct support of – an OEF combat zone, said Roger Castillo, program director.

"Also, members serving on permanent duty assignment outside the United States or its possessions in support of contingency operations and serving on active duty in the designated area for more than 30 days [are eligible]," Castillo said.

"A service member can contribute up to \$10,000, but interest of 10 percent will not accrue after that amount," he added.

To make a deposit into the fund, service members should contact their financial office. The last day to



courtesy Dept. of Defense

Deployed service members like the 554th Military Police Company's Spc. Heriberto Santiago – shown providing perimeter security near Kirkuk, Iraq, in October – can earn a higher rate of interest on savings while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

make a deposit into the fund is the date of departure from the assignment. However, interest will accrue up to 90 days after return from deployment.

"This is a great opportunity for service members to accrue at a higher interest rate than at an average interest rate of two or three percent," said Patrick T. Shine, acting director of DFAS.

For more about DFAS visit www.dfas.mil.

Richtfest attendees applaud 'topping off' of addition to Patch Elementary School

By Hugh C. McBride

Some celebrations have a goal of "raising the roof," but a March 4 party on Patch Barracks was dedicated instead to nailing one down.

Construction workers, school employees and 6th Area Support Group officials joined other interested community members at Patch Elementary School to mark a significant event in the creation of an addition that will house two kindergarten classrooms.

A German tradition dating to the Middle Ages, the *Richtfest* celebrates the "topping off" of a construction project and serves as a time of fellowship for the many parties involved in the work.

The celebration involves expressions of thanks from the carpenters for remaining safe from danger during their work and includes wishes of good fortune for the structure's eventual occupants.

PES Principal Susan Pleiss, whose students will ultimately benefit from the work being celebrated at the *Richtfest*, said the addition will enhance the school's capabilities.

"We will have two new classrooms for kindergarten, which will allow us to continue our full-day program in a facility designed specifically with kindergarten-aged children in mind," Pleiss said.

Moving the kindergarteners into their own new space will also free up two classrooms, allowing for more (and



photos by Terri Alejandro

[Above] Patch Elementary School Principal Susan Pleiss hammers a ceremonial nail during a "Richtfest" celebration to mark the completion of the roof over two new kindergarten classrooms in the school.

[Right] From atop the PES construction site, Christian Bok of the German firm Bilfinger and Berger acknowledges the *Richtfest* crowd.



smaller) classes for the school's first-, second- and third-graders, she added.

The principal said that she expects students to be using the new classroom at the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

"The project is going very well," she said. "Everything is on time, and it has a very nice design."

Robinson Barracks Elementary students celebrate Seuss

School honors author on 100th birthday

By Susan V. Wittick

Robinson Barracks Elementary School

Red and white hats, green eggs and tall black cats: Robinson Barracks Elementary School was a sea of color March 2 when the students and staff celebrated what would have been the 100th birthday of beloved author Theodor Geisel, known to most as Dr. Seuss.

To remember Dr. Seuss' life and works, RBES students and faculty donned striped top hats, Cat-in-the-Hat-style. The RBES Parent Teacher Student Association provided the red and white felt, and 14 volunteers cut and sewed 290 hats, said PTSA Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Villanueva.

"We have been working on this project since October," Villanueva said. "The students looked great and had a lot of fun wearing the hats."

A Seuss-style meal

Students began their day with breakfast – green eggs and ham, of course. While some students could not bring themselves to try it, others agreed with "Sam I Am" and decided that they do like green eggs and ham – even if it is served at school.

After lunch, every student was treated to a piece of cake from one of two giant hat cakes prepared by RBES mother Christina LePage.

"This was a great opportunity for Robinson Barracks Elementary to celebrate the importance of reading and enjoy Dr. Seuss' contributions to children's literature," said Jennifer White, faculty coordinator of the RBES Accelerated Reader program.

A time to read

Throughout the day, the sights and sounds of Dr. Seuss filled the classrooms as teachers and parents read their favorite books to students. Some children brought blankets and pillows to class and found a spot on the floor to listen, read for themselves or watch videos of their favorite Seussian adventures.

Several faculty members got into the spirit of the day and were seen prowling the halls as Cat in the Hat look-alikes.

The entire school later met in the gym and formed a human "100" for a group photograph.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go," said RBES Principal Richard Sagerman, quoting from Seuss' book "I Can Read with My Eyes Shut."

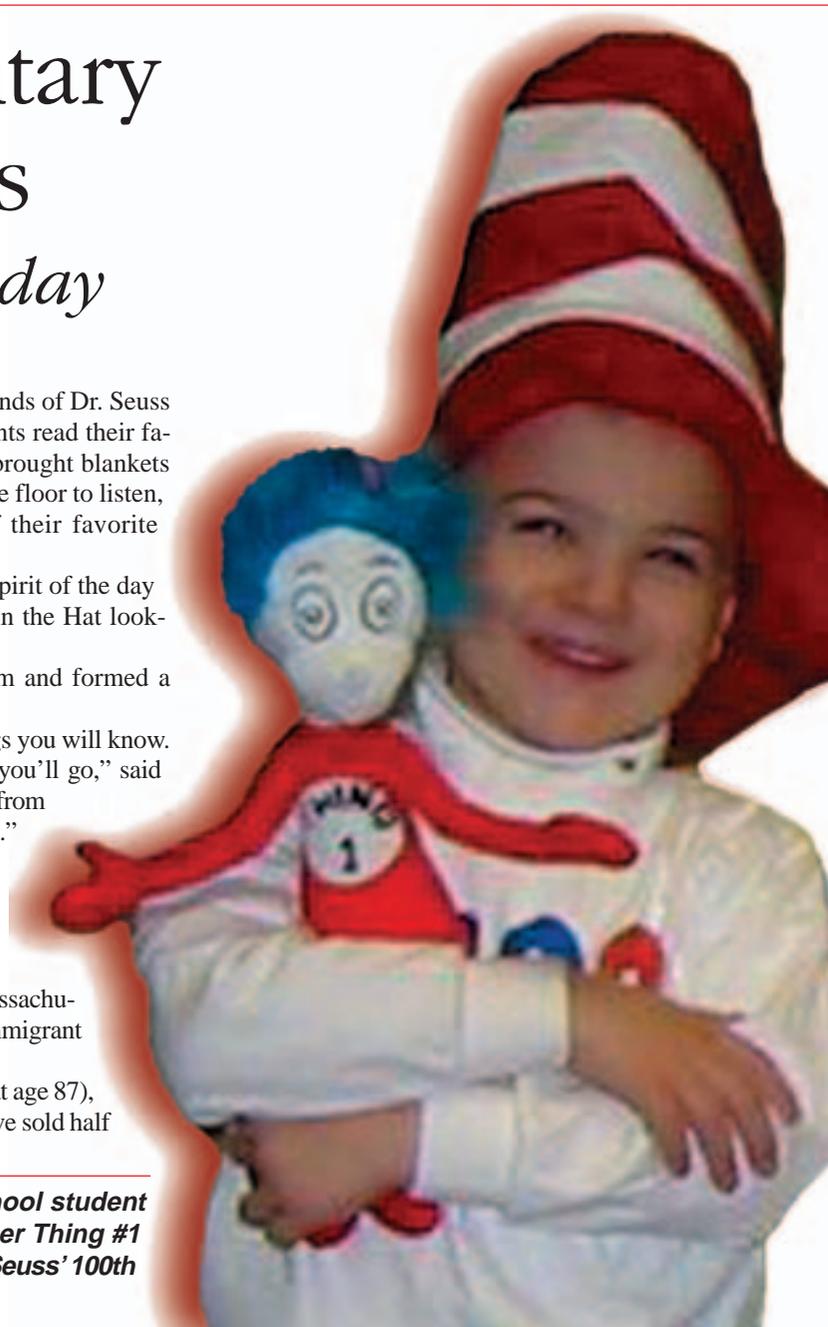
"What a terrific activity and wonderful memory for all of our students, staff, and parents," Sagerman added.

An American icon

Born March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Dr. Seuss was the son of a German-immigrant brewmaster.

Between 1937 and 1991 (when he died at age 87), he published more than 40 books, which have sold half a billion copies.

Robinson Barracks Elementary School student Drew Bender and Dr. Seuss character Thing #1 help celebrate what would have been Seuss' 100th birthday March 2.



Stuttgart-area youth set standard across continent

PHS wrestler dominates DoDDS-Europe

By Hugh C. McBride

For a baseball player, "four for four" means a good day at the plate.

For Patch High School's Josh Anderson, it meant a place in the history books.

With a 4-3 victory over Ramstein's Jose Figueroa Feb. 14 in Wiesbaden, Anderson became the first wrestler in Department of Defense Dependents Schools history to win four consecutive European titles.

Not surprisingly, Anderson was also named Most Valuable Wrestler of the 2004 European meet.

'The toughest guy of all'

Described by European Stars and Stripes sportswriter Rusty Bryan as "the toughest guy of all" at the season-ending competition, Anderson passed through four weight classes and overcame two potentially season-ending injuries on his four-year path to athletic immortality.

He earned his first title in 2001 at 103 lbs., with successive crowns coming at 125 lbs. in 2002, 130 lbs. in 2003, and 135 lbs. this year.

Anderson's final two European crowns were particular testaments to his work ethic and attitude, as both followed

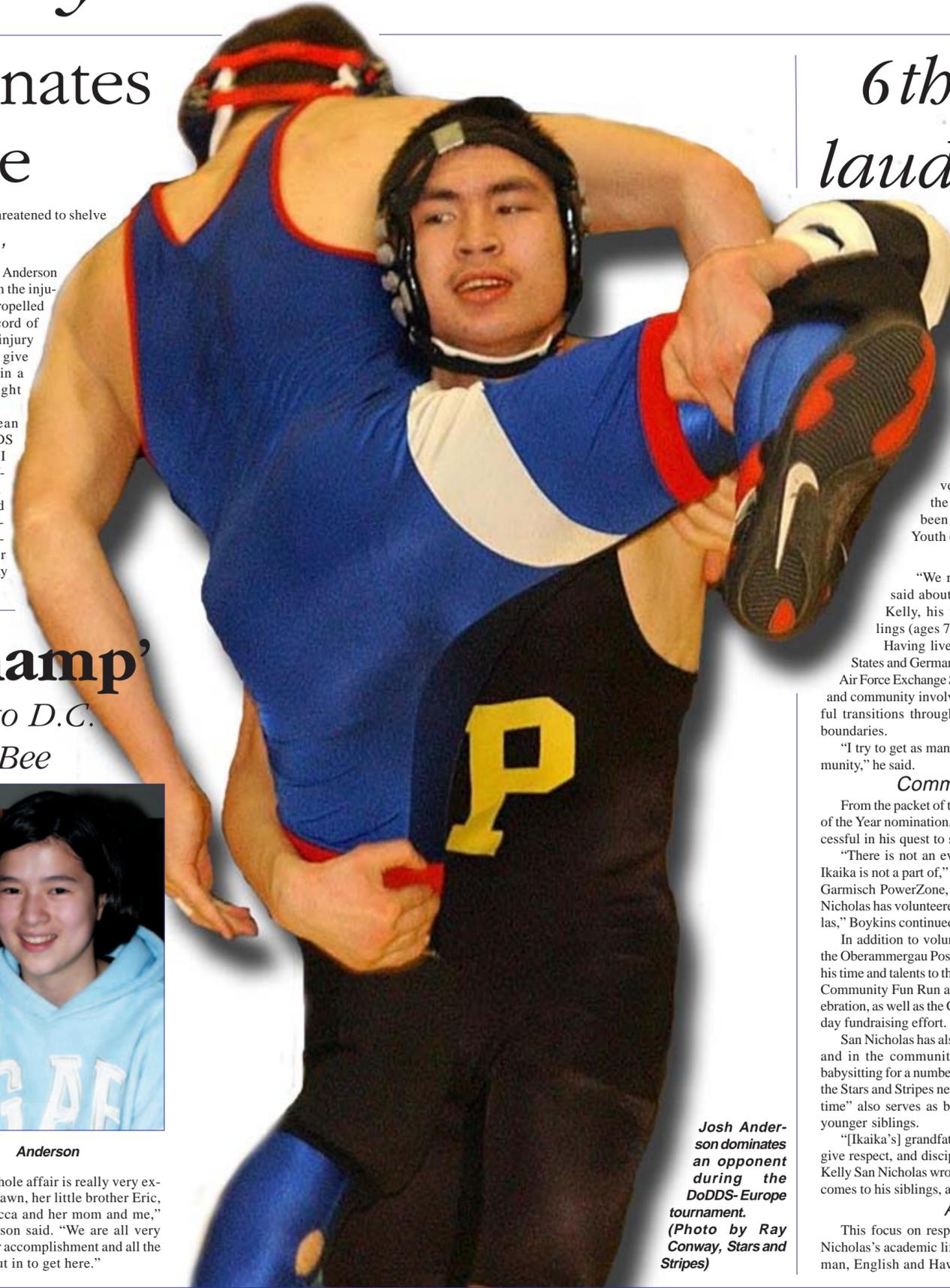
late-season elbow injuries that threatened to shelve him for the tournament.

'Never give up'

Daunted but hardly defeated, Anderson said he faced his comebacks from the injuries with the same attitude that propelled him to a high school career record of 88-2 (with both losses due to injury defaults): "Train hard and never give up," he said. "If you're down in a match, you've just got to fight through."

In addition to his European titles, Anderson also exits DoDDS wrestling with four Division II championships and four Wolfpack Holiday Tournament titles.

As perhaps befits his first-hand knowledge of the power of physical therapy, Anderson plans to pursue a career in that field after attending college at the University of South Florida.



Josh Anderson dominates an opponent during the DoDDS-Europe tournament. (Photo by Ray Conway, Stars and Stripes)

6th ASG Youth of Year lauded for selfless service

Trilingual teen valued member of Garmisch family

By Hugh C. McBride

Ikaika San Nicholas speaks three languages – but "ohana" may be the single most important word he knows.

Hawaiian for "family," ohana – and its linguistic equivalents in other tongues – is a recurring theme in conversations with and about San Nicholas, the 16-year-old Garmisch resident who has been chosen as the 6th Area Support Group's Youth of the Year for 2004.

Emphasis on family

"We rely on each other a lot," San Nicholas said about his family, which includes his mother, Kelly, his father, George, and three younger siblings (ages 7, 8 and 11).

Having lived in a variety of locations in the United States and Germany due to his mother's work with Army and Air Force Exchange Service, San Nicholas said family allegiance and community involvement have been the keys to his successful transitions through duty assignments and across cultural boundaries.

"I try to get as many opportunities as I can to serve the community," he said.

Commitment to service

From the packet of testimonials written in support of his Youth of the Year nomination, it is clear that San Nicholas has been successful in his quest to serve.

"There is not an event that happens in this community that Ikaika is not a part of," wrote Leonard Boykins, supervisor of the Garmisch PowerZone, one of the organizations with which San Nicholas has volunteered. "One word describes Ikaika San Nicholas," Boykins continued: "Phenomenal."

In addition to volunteering at the Garmisch PowerZone and the Oberammergau Post Exchange, San Nicholas has also donated his time and talents to the area's Halloween Carnival, July 4 Picnic, Community Fun Run and Pacific-American Heritage Month celebration, as well as the Garmisch Community Spouses Club's holiday fundraising effort.

San Nicholas has also been active at the Garmisch Teen Center and in the community's Summer Hire program, as well as babysitting for a number of families in the community. He delivers the Stars and Stripes newspaper in the mornings, and in his "spare time" also serves as both a minder and a mentor for his three younger siblings.

"[Ikaika's] grandfather once said to him, to earn respect is to give respect, and discipline is what makes you a better person," Kelly San Nicholas wrote. "Ikaika always thinks about this when it comes to his siblings, as well as friends."

A zest for life

This focus on respect and discipline is also evident in San Nicholas's academic life. A trilingual student – he speaks German, English and Hawaiian – he attends the Munich Interna-



San Nicholas

It is always a pleasure to see Ikaika around the school ... He has a zest for life that rubs off on the other students.

Judith Fabian
Munich International School

tional School, where his impact is felt by students and faculty alike.

"It is always a pleasure to see Ikaika around the school," wrote Principal Judith Fabian. "He has a zest for life that rubs off on the other students."

San Nicholas plans to return to Hawaii to attend college and major in marine biology.

In Garmisch, there seems to be little concern that this next change of venue will do anything to disrupt the trajectory on which the 6th ASG's Youth of the Year has placed himself.

As Oberammergau PX Manager Dustin Bryson wrote, "Ikaika embraces his new surroundings and is always looking for ways to enhance his experiences in this world."

D-A-W-N spells 'champ'

Super speller earns second trip to D.C. for Scripps-Howard National Bee

Story & photo by Mildred Green

Dawn Anderson knows how to spell success.

For the second consecutive year, the 11-year-old Patch Elementary School sixth grader brought home the top prize from the Department of Defense Dependents Schools European Spelling Bee.

After winning last year's title on her "home turf" of Stuttgart, Anderson successfully defended her crown March 20 on Ramstein Air Base.

Anderson, who won the 2004 European title over 42 other DoDDS-Europe students, also earned a ticket to Washington, D.C., for the National Scripps Howard Spelling Bee June 1 to 3.

At the national bee she will compete against 251 other spellers representing each of the 50 United States as well as Jamaica, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas and American Samoa.

Anderson, daughter of Air Force Maj. Christopher and Kil Sun Anderson, said she is looking forward to the national spelling bee and hopes to better last year's performance.

Unlike the DoDDS-Europe event, which provided students with a list of words to

study, the national bee does not provide similar materials, Anderson said.

To prepare for this year's competition, she is studying word lists from previous national spelling bees and reading the dictionary, she said.

When asked what motivated her to give the spelling bee another attempt, Anderson said, "my competitive side ... Even if you try over and over, you can do better," she added. "[You should] not quit."

When not studying for school or a spelling bee, Anderson stays busy with a variety of extra-curricular activities.

She has been playing soccer for about five years and is currently competing for a German soccer team.

She has also played the piano since the age of 3 and is a member of AWAN-AS, a youth church program.

Anderson's gifted education teacher at Patch, Mavis Tell, described Anderson as an "expert piano player, a voracious reader and very driven."

"I noticed right away she was a pistol," Tell said.

The oldest of three, Anderson comes from a family that is quite proud of her academic achievements.



Anderson

"This whole affair is really very exciting for Dawn, her little brother Eric, sister Rebecca and her mom and me," Maj. Anderson said. "We are all very proud of her accomplishment and all the work she put in to get here."

Young mentor, musician makes mark at Patch Barracks Youth Services

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

Anthony Kiedis would like Stuttgart's Alex Taylor. Kiedis is the lead singer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, a band that Taylor draws inspiration from as he works to master the guitar.

And though Kiedis has never met Taylor, the singer seems to have him in mind in the song "Walkin' on Down the Road," when he sings about someone who could easily be confused with the 15-year-old Stuttgart resident:

"That's a matter of fact, don't be confused; everybody knows true friends are few ... [but] like a momma bear hugs her baby bear cubs, a dude can't lose when he lives on love."

I'll do it

Conversations about Taylor invariably seem to turn toward similar expressions of selflessness and compassion.

An active participant in Patch Youth Services programs, Taylor has made his mark on students and staff there through seemingly tireless efforts on behalf of others.

"He never complains or says no when we ask him to help out with something," said Patch YS Teen Director Jennifer Lyons. "His answer is always 'O.K., I'll do it.'"

In addition to representing his fellow teens as

'Alex is a great mentor for other kids at the YS. He always sees the good in people.'

Jennifer Lyons
6th ASG Youth Services

a youth delegate at Stuttgart's 2004 Army Family Action Plan conference, Taylor's volunteerism has also included the YS's 2003 All-Areas Dance, the annual Halloween Haunted House and the local Keystone Club.

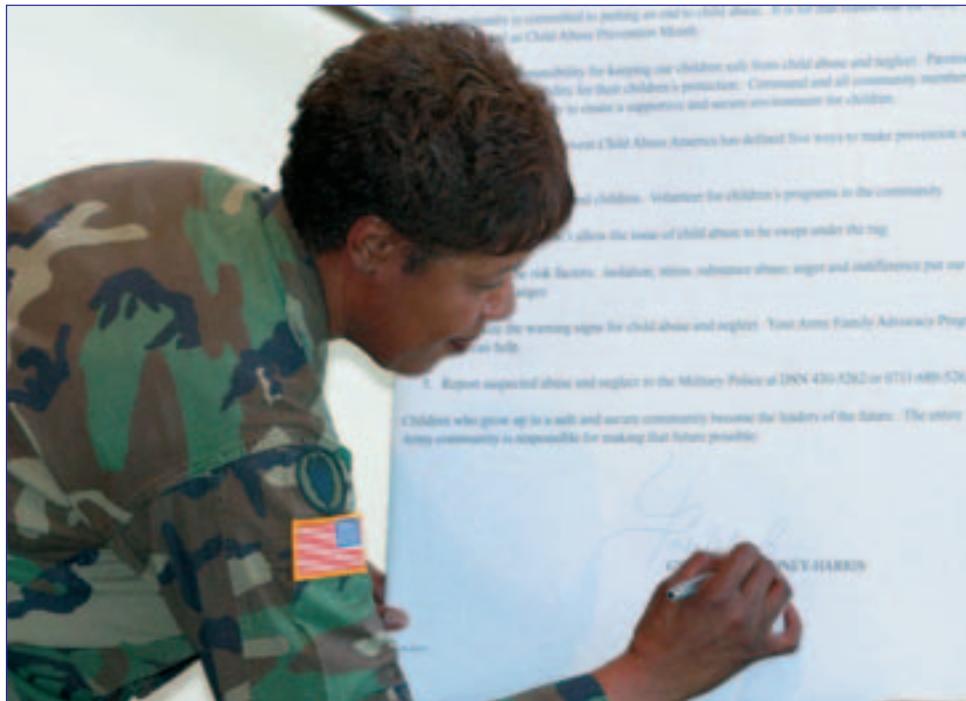
Lyons said Taylor's athletic, academic and musical talents are complemented by a willingness to reach out to youth and adults to share his abilities – or just his time and attention.

The son of two Air Force Colonels, Alex said he hopes to put his years of lessons learned from his parents into practice someday as a high school teacher.

Until then, he is apparently welcome to exert his influence in Stuttgart. "Alex is a great mentor for other kids at the YS," Lyons said. "He always sees the good in people."



An avid musician and athlete, Stuttgart's Alex Taylor has been a consistent and active contributor to the area's Youth Services programs.



Event honors military kids

Story and photo by Melanie Casey

It may have been April Fool's Day, but the kickoff ceremony for Child Abuse Prevention Month – which coincides with the Month of the Military Child – had serious overtones.

During the event, held April 1 in the Patch High School Forum, 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris ceremoniously added her signature to this year's proclamation. "We must be able to talk openly and educate our children," she said.

Though she acknowledged that "child abuse is not comfortable to talk about," Bonéy-Harris noted the unfortunate reality that the problem exists – and must be

confronted – in all communities.

The commander called on all community members to do their part in putting an end to child abuse and neglect. As her proclamation states, "Everyone shares a responsibility for keeping our children safe from child abuse and neglect ... Prevention takes action."

On a lighter note, the 50 or so students and spectators on hand were treated to performances by the Patch High School music group Harmony Express, 10dancers from Patch School Age Services (who performed the "Casper Slide") and the Patch Players.

To read the proclamation in its entirety visit www.stuttgart.army.mil.

6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris adds her signature to this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation April 1.

Area events during Month of Military Child

Youth SNO

(Stuttgart Newcomer's Orientation)

- April 8 (Ages 9 to 12) & April 9 (Ages 13 to 18)
- Meet area youth and learn about life in Stuttgart
- For details call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176

Smart Girls Lock-In

- April 16, 8 p.m., to April 17, noon, in the Patch YS
- Open to all YS-registered girls in grades 6 to 12
- Beauty sessions & myths, self-defense class and more
- For details call 430-5378/civ. 0711-680-5378

KidsFest 2004

- April 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Patch Barracks
- Arts & crafts, games, seminars and demonstrations
- Free 2:30 p.m. showing of "Brother Bear"
- For details call 430-4425/civ. 0711-680-4425

Missoula Children's Theatre (Red Riding Hood)

- Auditions April 12, 3:30 p.m., in the PHS Forum
- Performance April 17, 3 p.m., in the PHS Forum
- For details call 430-5378/civ. 0711-680-5378

Summer Hire Job Fair

- April 20, 11 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. in PHS
- Meet potential employers and learn about area jobs
- Make the most of your Summer Hire experience
- For details call 430-7404/civ. 0711-680-7404

Stuttgart celebrates inspirational women

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Attendees at the 6th Area Support Group's 2004 Women's History Month luncheon March 26 in the Patch Community Club were treated to soulful jazz music, dramatic performances and a guest speaker who extolled the achievements of the month's honorees.

Inspiring hope and possibility

The annual event was sponsored by Defense Information Systems Agency, Europe and the 6th ASG Public Affairs Office and Equal Employment Opportunity office. The theme of the celebration was "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Kimberly Graham, chief of DISA-Europe's Command Support Division, was the guest speaker.

Graham spoke not only about this year's honorees, but also of other inspirational women, including her friend, fellow Marine (now retired) Maureen "Mo" Harbac.

"It was largely due to her examples of superb leadership, mentorship and balance that I stayed in the Marine Corps," Graham said, adding that for the last seven years Harbac has also battled lymphatic cancer.

Noting the contributions of women through history, Graham said, "women have advanced our medical science, moved us with their literature and art, and inspired us with their courage and leadership."

Graham also outlined the achievements of military women over the years, citing Civil War nurses, the 400 women who died in the line of duty during World War I and the 400,000 women who served during World War II as women who



Marine Corps Lt. Col. Kimberly Graham speaks about the 2004 Women's History Month honorees and her own inspirations during a March 26 luncheon in the Patch Community Club.

inspire hope and possibility.

The event was designed to be a celebration, said Cindy Knoll, 6th ASG EEO specialist and one of the event's coordinators.

"Hopefully, we provided ... a strong, positive message about what women are accomplishing every day," Knoll said.

Talented teens

Five local teenagers had the chance to miss a few hours of school during the event so they could perform dramatic presentations.

Patch High School Drama club members Marilena Austin, Ana Mullinix and Tamara Oppliger performed an excerpt from the play "Cot-

‘
Women have advanced our medical science, moved us with their literature and art, and inspired us with their courage and leadership.

Lt. Col. Kimberly Graham
DISA-Europe

ton Girls," followed by Katie Baier's reading of Maya Angelou's inspiring poem "Phenomenal Woman" and Kelsey Russell's interpretation of the monologue "Eve's Diary."

Roots of the celebration

Women's History Month grew out of International Women's Day (March 8) and later Women's History Week, which began in 1981.

In 1987, "at the request of women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders and educators throughout the country, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand ... celebrations to the entire month of March," according to the NWHP.

For more information visit www.nwhp.org.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month volunteers needed

To help plan this year's celebration (scheduled for May 21), call Sgt. 1st Class Carey Williams at 421-2892/civ. 0711-729-2892 or e-mail williamsc@6asg.army.mil.

News & Notes

Bulletin to be distributed electronically

In the near future, Garmisch's Community Bulletin will be distributed only via e-mail. Community members who receive the bulletin through the Community Mail Room – but who are **not** employed by AFRC Europe, the Marshall Center, the NATO School, Area Support Team Garmisch or the Garmisch American School – must submit their e-mail addresses to continue receiving this document.

Addresses should be submitted via e-mail to helen.nas-altenhofer@garmisch.army.mil.

Fitness Center open later on weekends

Due to customer feedback during the Mueller Fitness Center's recent three-month trial change in operating hours, the center will now be open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

IACS office closed until April 12

Garmisch's Installation Access Control Office will be closed until April 12. When the office reopens, the following schedule will apply:

- **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays** – 8:30 a.m. to noon; 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Fridays** – 8:30 a.m. to noon; 1 to 2 p.m.

The IACS office will be closed Wednesdays. For more information call 442-2762/civ. 08821-759-762.

Garmisch SAS needs a cook

The Garmisch School Age Services program is looking for a part-time cook (15 to 20 hours per week) to prepare after-school snacks daily and three full meals on days when school is out.

Education is provided, and the successful candidate will also receive a food-handling certificate upon completion of training. For more information call Eveline Parker at 442-2365/civ. 0711-759-365 or e-mail parkere@marshallcenter.org.

Burke Center screens 'Movies that Matter'

The Pete Burke Center will host the following videos and lectures during April (all events begin at 7 p.m.):

- April 12 – **Othello** (Cost: \$2)
- April 13 – **Video introduction to Amsterdam** (No cost)
- April 19 – **American Beauty** (Cost: \$2)

ACS hosts Newcomer's Briefing

Garmisch's next Newcomer's Briefing is April 14, 9 a.m. to noon, in the Pete Burke Center on Artillery Kaserne. Any new community members – or those who have been here for a while but haven't had the chance to attend a previous briefing – are encouraged to attend.

For more information call 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777 or e-mail patricia.howe@garmisch.army.mil.

Baseball registration ends April 16

Registration for Youth Services baseball in Garmisch will end April 16. Participation costs \$30, which pays for a year-end award, certificate, team photo and use of uniforms and equipment.

For more information call Drew Benson at 440-2599/civ. 08821-750-599 or e-mail drew.benson@garmisch.army.mil.

USAREUR commander visits troops, families in Garmisch

Lauds AFRC for contribution to R & R effort

Story & photos by Brad Hays
AFRC Europe

U.S. Army, Europe, Commander Gen. B.B. Bell visited Garmisch March 11 to greet service members on block leave and give thanks to the continued support provided by Armed Forces Recreation Centers Europe employees.

Richard LeBrun, AFRC general manager, briefed Bell on the R&R/Block Leave Center and the construction progress of the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

'Phenomenal'

While visiting the R&R Center, Bell spoke with a group of AFRC employees.

"AFRC employees are part of my national defense strategy. I believe that your contributions are not only making a difference day to day but are a significant part of the equation in service members' decision to stay with the military," Bell said.

"My experience with the R&R Center Program has been phenomenal. I get dozens of unsolicited comments from Soldiers and family members that this is one of the most meaningful experiences in their life, this place right here," Bell said.

"Keep up the good work – these are very special people that you are taking care of."

'Right on track'

Bell also visited AFRC's Hausberg Lodge, where AFRC Recreation Director Leigh Plowman discussed the newly renovated Lodge and its function in the guest vacation experience.

Bell's Garmisch visit ended with a stop at the construction site of the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, where he was given a full tour of the facility.

"I like it a lot. This facility is going to be excellent," Bell said. "You all are right on track."



U.S. Army, Europe, Commander Gen. B.B. Bell greets a military family member during a visit to Garmisch's Hausberg Lodge.

Edelweiss accepting online reservations

Vacationers may now make reservations online at www.afrcurope.com for AFRC's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, which will open Sept. 15 in Garmisch.

Located at the foot of Germany's highest peak, the resort will boast 330 guest rooms with balconies, a state of the art conference center, an indoor pool and wellness center and three restaurants.

The resort will also offer a nine-hole golf course, a private sports lodge and the Vacation Village and Campground. – AFRC Release

Marshall Center conference contributes to battle against cyber-terrorism

By C. E. Taylor
George C. Marshall Center

More than 100 international technology experts and administrators gathered in Munich recently for a three-day cyber-security conference focused on protecting government technology infrastructure.

Sponsored by the George C. Marshall Center – in coordination with Headquarters, U.S. European Command, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration – the event gave representatives from the United States, Europe and Eurasia an opportunity to discuss technology security threats and the need for international and regional security partnerships.

"Participants shared a tremen-

The conference was the third in a series designed to address the impact of the information age on the national security system of a state.

dous amount of information that will hopefully provide a better understanding of how to approach this issue collectively," said Jone Gittinger, Marshall Center conference coordinator.

Gittinger said the conference was based on the concept that cyber-resources are controlled by multiple entities – both inside and outside governments – and plans and solutions must represent a broad cross-section of the global cyber-community.

The conference was the third in a series designed to address the impact of the information age on the national security system of a state.

"We encouraged all of our course and conference participants to share information and insights," said Marshall Center Director Dr. John P. Rose.

"Sharing information leads to the creation of new networks, and allows for a better understanding of some of the complex issues the world is facing," he said.

Tennessee National Guard troops boost force protection in Stuttgart

By Mildred Green

A contingent of Soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard have been assigned to the 554th Military Police Company to augment force protection on Stuttgart-area installations.

For the next year, they will serve the Stuttgart community and provide assistance and relief to the 554th MP Co., which recently deployed another platoon of Soldiers to Iraq (a platoon returned from there in March).

The Soldiers assigned to Stuttgart are part of about 200 National Guard field artillery Soldiers from Tennessee who were reclassified as military police, trained and deployed to Germany and Hawaii.

Effort and enthusiasm

Though the change from field artillery to military police may seem like a significant switch, the Soldiers involved said the training they received – and the expertise and enthusiasm they brought to the task – made the transition a smooth one.

“I’ve been a [civilian] detective for 18 years, so it’s no difference to me,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Reeves.

“Everyone is excited about being here and helping out,” added Sgt. 1st Class Michael Butler.

6th Area Support Group Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone said he and 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris share this enthusiasm.

“The Commander and I are thrilled to welcome these fine Soldiers to our community,” Moscone said.

“They will enhance our capability to provide security and force protection for our installations, which will surely impact positively upon the overall quality of life for our residents,” he added.

“The 6th ASG is proud to have them here in our footprint.”



Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

A National Guard artillery soldier trains during military police instruction at the U.S. Military Police School in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. A contingent of Tennessee Guard troops are providing force protection services in Stuttgart.

Comprehensive training

In order to qualify to serve as military police troops, the Guard Soldiers completed the same training that all MPs undergo at the U.S. Army Military Police School in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

At the school, they learned two types of MP missions – battlefield wartime and civilian garrison law enforcement.

Some of their training included street-to-street and house-to-house fighting and their “final exam” included an operations exercise in the woods.

With a yearlong deployment looming, Reeves said, the toughest part of the train-

ing, was the long hours away from family and attempting to take care of affairs at home before departing for Europe.

An asset to the community

The Guard troops’ training did not end with their completion of the MP school at Fort Leonard Wood.

After arriving in Stuttgart, the Soldiers followed a week of in-processing with a week of additional training – education that all Soldiers assigned to the 554th are required to complete to receive their law enforcement certificate.

The training covered skills such as securing the scene of a traffic accident, respond-

‘*These fine Soldiers ... will enhance our capability to provide security and force protection for our installations.*

Joseph Moscone
6th ASG Chief of Staff

ing to a domestic dispute and preparing official reports for those incidences.

The instruction also included a day at the range – where the Soldiers reviewed weapons safety and qualified with a 9mm pistol – followed by a few weeks of on-the-job training.

Though they were formerly artillery Soldiers, the area’s newest MPs are well qualified to serve the community, said 554th Commander Capt. Anthony Tangeman.

“They are the same as us; there’s no difference,” Tangeman said. “They will be an asset to the community.”

Service and sacrifice

Though the Tennessee Guard troops will be far from home during their deployment, most of them are looking at the yearlong tour with positive attitudes – and are making plans to make their stay in Stuttgart a positive home-away-from-home experience, said Staff Sgt. Nathan Kelley.

“[Being away from home] is difficult, but a lot of us have planned to bring our families over,” said Kelley.

Tangeman understands the sacrifice that these National Guard Soldiers are making.

“[The Guard troops] have left their wives and jobs to continue this mission,” he said. “These Soldiers are making tremendous sacrifices.”

AFCEA offers \$2,500 scholarship(s) for Stuttgart students

Eligibility

- High school seniors associated with the Stuttgart military community.

Criteria

- Nominees will prepare and present a project of a scientific or technical nature.

Application deadline

- April 15, 2004

For more information

- Todd Taylor (430-8582/civ. 0711-680-8582)
- Trish Brady (434-5028/civ. 0711-68639-5028)
- www.afcea.org



Tiger Scout Matt Hutchinson salutes the colors at the start of the March 27 Pinewood Derby.



[Above] Boy Scout Alex Neuse takes a close look to ensure that competing Derby cars are aligned equally before they head down "Autobahn 44."

[Center photo] Jeff Hunter gives and receives a "thumbs up" before sending two cars down the new track.



Robert Beydler appears to be looking for divine guidance during a March 27 Derby heat.



Cub Scout Ian Abee celebrates his car's success.



Jack Johnson's award-winning "carrot car."

'Autobahn 44' opens for business on Panzer

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Their parents and grandparents may have gotten their kicks on Route 66, but for the Tiger, Cub, and Bear scouts of Stuttgart's Pack 44, the place to soar is Autobahn 44.

More than three dozen fledgling automotive engineers ages 6 to 11 squared off March 27 in Böblingen Elementary School during the pack's Pinewood Derby.

The annual event is a scouting tradition, founded upon the twin goals of building both character and cars

(the latter out of balsa wood.)

This year's edition saw scouts test their automotive ingenuity and their creative flair on a new track, which was christened the aforementioned "Autobahn 44" by Pack leader Lee Neuse.

Pack Treasurer Karenmarie Collins said the new raceway was the result of "a combination of donations" from a variety of area organizations and individuals – as well as a concerted last-minute construction effort by local Scout volunteers.

Though the competition itself focused on the "need

for speed," attention was also given to the aesthetics involved in the cars' design and construction.

Toward that end, 6-year-old Jack Johnson received a special award for his "carrot car," a seasonally appropriate creation featuring the Easter Bunny behind the wheel.

Johnson, who said he was inspired by a photo in "The Gold Bug Book," said he spent about three days turning his dream into reality.

The effort was done with both form and function in mind, he said. "I thought the carrot would be really fast," he said. "And Easter was coming up."

6th ASG Easter events

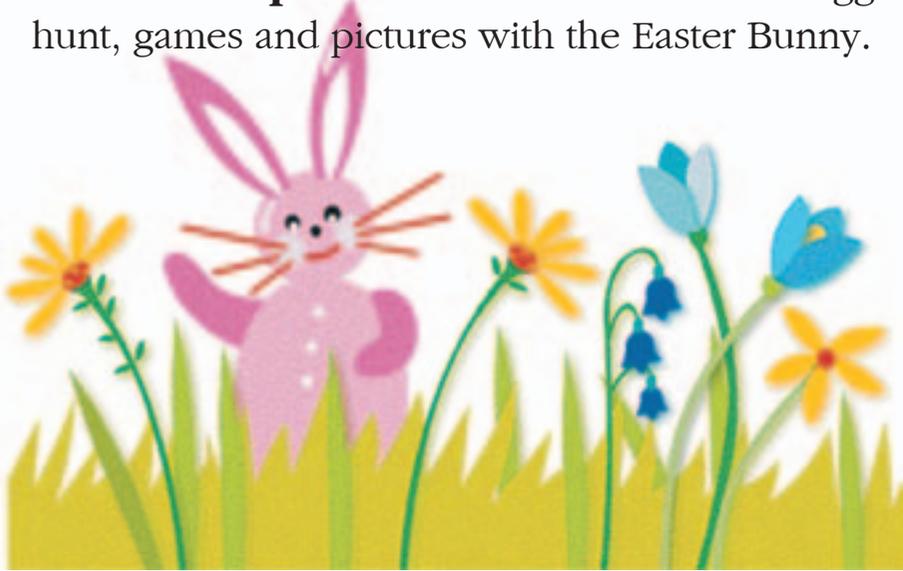
Stuttgart

Easter Egg Hunts: April 10 – **8 a.m.** at the Robinson Barracks Commissary/Exchange; **noon** on Husky Field, Patch Barracks.

Spring Carnival, April 10 following the egg hunt on Husky Field at Patch Youth Services, building 2337. Come out for face painting, games, contests and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Garmisch

Annual Easter Egg-stravaganza, April 10 – **10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Pete Burke Center. Egg hunt, games and pictures with the Easter Bunny.



Area religious services

April 8: Catholic Holy Thursday, 7 p.m., Patch Chapel; Protestant Maundy Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Patch Chapel; Lutheran, 6:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel.

April 9 (Good Friday): Catholic, 7 p.m., Patch Chapel; Lutheran, 6:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel.

April 10: Catholic Holy Saturday, 7 p.m., Patch Chapel.

April 11 (Easter Sunday): Sunrise service, 7 a.m., Keans Lodge (Garmisch); **Catholic services:** 9 a.m., Patch Chapel; 11:30 a.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel; **Protestant services:** 9 a.m. Robinson Barracks Chapel; 11 a.m., Patch Chapel; 1:15 p.m., Panzer Chapel; 6 p.m., Patch Chapel; **Lutheran service:** 9 a.m., Panzer Chapel.



The moveable feast

A brief history of Easter celebrations

Easter celebrations today commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, like many contemporary holidays, Easter has ancient pagan roots (the name itself derives from Ostara, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility).

During the second century, Christian missionaries in Europe realized that the time of Jesus' crucifixion correlated with pagan springtime celebrations of fertility and rebirth; Easter celebrations eventually incorporated some pagan symbols and traditions.

Why different days?

In the West, Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon

after the vernal equinox (March 21), which means it could occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25. Some churches in the East still celebrate Easter according to the date of Passover, with which it was originally celebrated.

Why eggs?

The Easter egg represents rebirth and fertility, and in ancient Europe differently colored eggs were taken from birds' nests and ritually eaten. The search for these eggs became the traditional Easter Egg hunt, and Easter baskets originally represented birds' nests.

-Melanie Casey

Sources: www.factmonster.com, www.historychannel.com