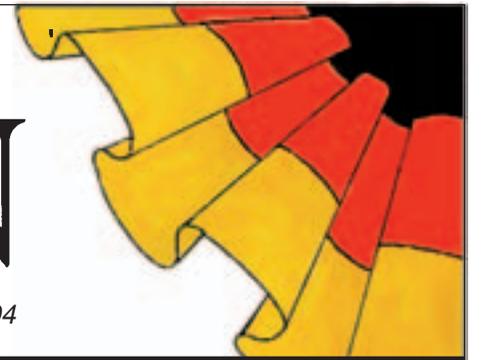




THE CITIZEN



Vol. 33, No. 12

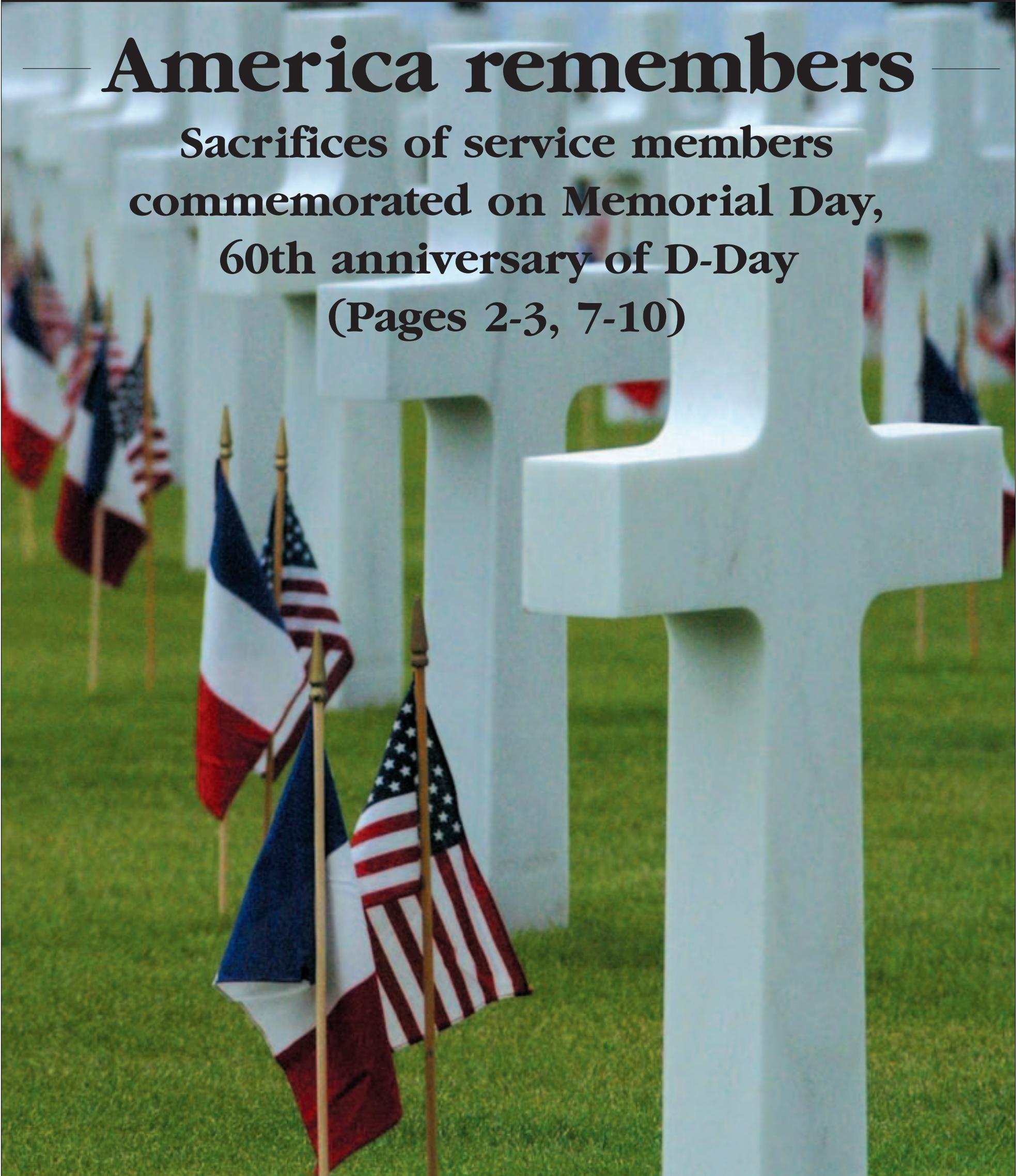
The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

June 15, 2004

Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

America remembers

**Sacrifices of service members
commemorated on Memorial Day,
60th anniversary of D-Day
(Pages 2-3, 7-10)**



Sixty years later, D-Day veterans still serve

By Hugh C. McBride
Commentary

It was the golf carts that finally got me. I had been on the coast of France for eight days as part of Task Force Normandy 60, the U.S. military's effort to honor its veterans on the 60th anniversary of the Allied D-Day invasion. Working as a command information photojournalist, my job was to document the commemorative events that took place between Memorial Day and D-Day and to profile the active-duty service members, veterans and family members who were there to remember. (And yes, I am fully aware that I have an incredible job.)

Now, I've never suffered from any delusions of significance regarding what it is that the American taxpayers so graciously pay me to do. I realize that I am an infinitesimally small cog in an incomprehensibly vast machine, and that my absence wouldn't register the smallest hiccup of a blip on the national radar screen.

But then I came to Normandy.

And for one week I got to do something that I think really mattered: I got to tell the stories of the men who saved the world.

I got to spend time with veterans like James Eudy, who came ashore on Omaha Beach Dec. 24, 1944, and returned to the bluffs above that once-bloody section of sand sixty years later to attend a Memorial Day ceremony.

I stood beside him amid a section of the cemetery's 9,387 graves as he spoke about the 803 men who were killed when the ship in which he was travelling on that long-ago Christmas Eve was hit by German torpedoes.

"There was death everywhere," Eudy said, as tears welled and his wife, Jean, took silent hold of his hand.

Pain was apparent in Eudy's eyes as he stood in Normandy wearing the same uniform that he had donned as an Army private in World War II. (From that uniform hung a Bronze Star – a medal that Eudy's son, David, says he has no idea how his father earned. "The only thing he ever said is that he

The veterans carried themselves with a quiet dignity, and showed that you don't have to be able to stand straight in order to stand tall.

was trying to save someone's life," David Eudy said. "That's all he's ever been able to get out.")

But pride was obvious as well, especially when Eudy reflected upon the active-duty service members who flocked to him before the ceremony, and spent more than an hour afterward shaking his hand, asking for his autograph and standing reverently around his chair as he spoke about the war and his life since then.

"They're fantastic," he said. "I've never felt so honored as I was today."

I also got to speak to Harold Scott – although I don't think he was as excited about the conversation as I was. Scott, who served on a Navy destroyer during World War II, was making his first visit to the American cemetery in Normandy and was speaking to a journalist only at the insistence of his wife.

"I have some friends here that I have to look up," Scott said, glancing toward the neat rows of ivory crosses and Stars of David.

Scott was a married graduate of Yale University when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The next day, he was a Sailor. In his enthusiasm to defend his country, he didn't even tell his wife of his decision to enlist – she found out, he said, "when the commission showed up in the mail."

That fervor to serve may seem like a relic from a bygone era, but Scott's reluctance to term his actions as anything beyond ordinary is living evidence of the modesty that permeates the members of what has come to be called America's "greatest generation."

The only part of our interview that he seemed completely comfortable with was the end, when he left me with marching orders that spoke volumes about the selflessness of the man who gave them. "Write a good story about today," he told me. "But leave me on the cutting room floor."

I apologize, Mr. Scott, but that I just couldn't do.

You can't spend time with men like James Eudy and Harold Scott without coming away inspired by their example, honored to have been in their presence, and devastated by the realization that so many like them died so young and so savagely.

And you couldn't be in Normandy during the first week in June and not be struck by the fact that six decades after they pried Europe from the grip of fascism, these men are still serving.

While in France for the D-Day anniversary, many veterans met with members of the 49th Military History Detachment, dredging up memories that in many cases reduced both veteran and interviewer to tears – all in the name of preserving their stories for the benefit of service members and scholars for generations to come.

They spoke to units about combat, duty and honor,

and they approached individual service members whenever they spotted one – not to share stories of how they won the war, but to thank the young men and women in uniform for *their* service.

"They see us and they stop us," said Spc. Stebel Buissereth, shaking his head, "but the vets, when they talk to you, they want to know about *you*. They are very humble."

They represented their nation with honor, and stood for their fallen brothers and sisters with pride.

Which brings me back to those golf carts.

It was about 8:15 a.m. and I was cutting across the cemetery parking lot on my way from an interview back to the joint information bureau out of which I was working.

The cemetery wasn't due to open for another 45 minutes, but outside a veteran's assistance center a row of golf carts was already lined up, and beside each stood a uniformed service member ready to escort any veteran who could not make the walk from the parking lot to the burial ground.

And after a week of maintaining the professional detachment I felt was necessary to do the job I was there to do, I lost it.

I thought about how frustrating it must be for a man who had stormed the beaches of Normandy and fought his way across a war-torn Europe to be forced to use a cart to get back to the ground he had claimed with his own blood and sweat.

And I thought about the veterans I had seen in those carts over the past week, and the ones in wheelchairs, and the ones who needed the arm of a companion to steady themselves.

I had seen sadness in their eyes, and pride; regret for those they lost, reflection upon how and why they survived. But I had never seen pity.

To a person, the veterans I encountered in Normandy carried themselves with a quiet dignity, and showed all who cared to notice that you don't have to be able to stand straight in order to stand tall.

And the service members who stood beside them, who accepted the veterans' thanks and, in turn, let them know what an honor it was to be in their presence, were proof that though the world may have changed immeasurably since 1944, the values that permeate the American military are as consistent as ever.

Too often, we read and hear about all that is wrong with our youth, our nation, our world. And too often, these stories are all too true.

But for one week in Normandy, I can assure you, America, that the men and women who wear your uniform – and the ones who gave their youths to beat back the threats to your freedom – would have brought tears of pride to your eyes.

They did to mine.

THE CITIZEN

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

www.stuttgart.army.mil

Thorns 'n Roses

Roses to:



Eleah Warchol, winner of the recent Spring Cleanup poster contest, for sharing her artistic ability with the community in such a worthy way.

Mike Lopez and Troy Hall, for their continued excellence in the field of computer support. Their recent last-minute efforts to help me avoid a TDY technology disaster demonstrated the technical ability and customer-service mentality that they bring to the job every day.

Sgt. Pamela Miskel at the 510th Postal Company for going the extra mile to help me, even though the problem was my own fault. People like her restore my faith that there really are good people out there in the world.

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





6th ASG Command Sgt. Major Daniel Chavez and American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 Commander Fred Wildi salute the flag during Stuttgart's Memorial Day Ceremony May 31 on Kelley Barracks.

Stuttgart remembers

Story and photo by Melanie Casey

More than 100 members of the Stuttgart military community members took time to reflect and pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom during a May 31 Memorial Day ceremony on Kelley Barracks.

"Words seem woefully inadequate to express our gratitude to the men and women to whom we pay tribute today," said 6th Area Support Group Command Sgt. Major Daniel Chavez, the day's invited speaker.

"We are the ones who attend the ceremonies ... but the fact remains that at any Memorial Day table, the place of honor will remain eternally vacant," he said.

The solemn event was marked by a reading of the World War I-era poem "In Flanders Field" and the placing of wreaths by representatives of the American Legion Stuttgart Post 6, the Air Force Sergeant's Association Chapter 1697 and the Veteran's Motorcycle Club, Jedburgh chapter.

The following Stuttgart-area World War II veterans were also recognized by Post 6 Commander Fred Wildi during the ceremony: David Beckner, Julius Butsch, Leland Crawford, Frank DeCicco, William Ewer, Charles Foster, Jack Goldman, John Keohane, William Weissner and William Worrell.

Roots of remembrance

Known originally as "Decoration Day," Memorial Day has been celebrated by Americans since just after the end of the Civil War, in 1868. In the early years, flowers were placed on

Words seem woefully inadequate to express our gratitude to the men and women to whom we pay tribute today.

Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez
6th Area Support Group

the graves of Civil War Soldiers – both Union and Confederate – in Arlington Nation Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Today, just before Memorial Day small American flags are planted beside each of Arlington's more than 260,000 gravestones.

In addition to an annual national commemoration in Arlington, Memorial Day ceremonies are held across the globe at the end of May.

Fallen American service members are honored during these simple ceremonies not only by their fellow Americans, but also by grateful neighbors and allies.

"Although Memorial Day may bring with it a sadness for lives lost," Chavez said, "the words of General George Patton put this pain in perspective: It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

John Auffrey, 44

EUCOM civilian killed in Liberia

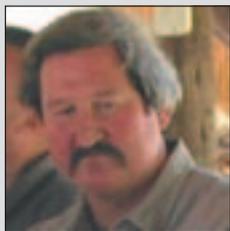
By Melanie Casey

John Auffrey, 44, a U.S. European Command security assistance officer stationed in Namibia, Africa, was killed in his hotel room May 24 while on temporary deployment to Monrovia, Liberia.

Auffrey had been in Liberia since May 18 to help set up a new Office of Defense Cooperation operation, said Paula Battistoni, EUCOM's Humanitarian Assistance program manager and the casualty assistance officer. He was slated to return to Namibia around May 27.

The United States Embassy and DoD Defense Attaché are working with the Liberian government in the investigation.

Auffrey was remembered as a "friendly, effective and very likeable teammate," by Col. Michael Boatner, EUCOM



Auffrey

International Division chief.

His death, Boatner said, "will leave a tremendous void in the EUCOM family and in our Africa programs."

Auffrey was American, but had spent several years living and working in Africa.

He began his work there as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, Boatner said. He also worked as a school teacher.

Auffrey had made a tremendous impact in Namibia, Boatner said, and he leaves "a legacy that will stand EUCOM and the United States in good stead for years to come."

Auffrey's funeral was held June 1 in Namibia, where his remains have been interred. A memorial service was planned for June 12 in Las Animas, Colorado, where he was raised.

Auffrey is survived by his wife, Helena Brandt, his parents and eight siblings.

News & Notes

Voting assistance available

Voting assistance officers will be in the Patch Dining Facility during lunch July 6 to 9 to assist with the Federal Post Card Application and to answer voting-related questions.

U.S. citizens 18 or older who live overseas may fill out a FPCA to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot for the 2004 Presidential election.

For more information contact your unit's federal voting assistance officer. Visit www.stuttgart.army.mil for a complete list of VAOs.

For instructions on filling out a FPCA and details about the 2004 Presidential election, visit www.fvap.gov.

Summer Hire orientation

Summer Hire orientation is June 28, 8:30 a.m. in the Patch Community Club. All students who will be participating in the summer hire program are required to attend.

For more information call Jose Deschamps at 421-2873/civ. 0711-729-2873.

Teens kick off summer with dance

Kelley Youth Services is holding a Summer Kick Off Dance and Lock In June 25, 7 p.m. until June 26, 8 a.m.

The \$15 fee includes dinner, breakfast and activities. For details call the Kelley YS at 421-2548/civ. 0711-729-2548.

Free child safety seat inspections

The Stuttgart child passenger safety technicians offer free safety seat inspections June 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Robinson Barracks Commissary/Exchange parking lot. No appointment is needed.

Marriage and family seminar

The 6th Area Support Group Chaplain's office is sponsoring a two-day Couples Marriage and Family Matters seminar June 25 and 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Hotel Waldgasthaus Glemstal, Stuttgart.

The seminar is open to all married couples and includes free lunch, refreshments and child care each day.

For details call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

Job opportunities in Stuttgart

- The 6th Area Support Group Chaplain's office has several one-year contract positions available on all installations and with all congregations beginning Oct. 1.

For details call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

- Child Development, School Age Service and Youth Centers have openings for regular part-time and full-time employees.

For more information visit the Nonappropriated Funds Human Resources office, Kelley Barracks building 3315, room 102 or call 421-2191/civ. 0711-729-2191.

- The Headquarters, European Command history office needs someone to manage and maintain its archives. This is a one-year position beginning July 1.

For details call Carol Parks at 430-7152/civ. 0711-680-7152 or e-mail parksc@eucom.mil.

- Child and Youth Services is looking for a full time nurse/food service manager. Applicants must be a licensed, registered nurse and have management and food preparation experience.

For more information call Anita Hermann at 430-7458/civ. 0711-680-7458.

Kelley mail room being renovated

A renovation project in the Kelley Barracks' official mailroom (in building 3307) began June 14.

To maintain quality service during the project, a telephone has been installed in the hallway between the CMR and the official mailroom so that customers can contact official mail staff.

No relocation is planned during the renovation.

Free car safety checks

The 6th ASG Safety Office and German Automobile Club (ADAC) offer free car safety checks June 28 and 29, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. at the Patch Barracks Shoppette. Services include ensuring shock absorbers, brakes and speedometers are working safely.

ADAC members can choose two of the services listed above at no charge.

Non-members may select one service, also at no charge.

Special Forces battalion welcomes new commander

By Melanie Casey

"There's no place I'd rather be than here with you."

These words, said by incoming 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Commander Lt. Col. Scott Eaddy, were among his first to his new troops, who were assembled in formation before him June 3 on Panzer Kaserne during the 1/10 SFG (A) change of command ceremony.

Eaddy assumed command from Lt. Col. Robert Warburg, who is returning to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Calling 1/10 SFG (A) the premiere Special Forces assignment and the most sought after command in the regiment, Special Operations Command, Europe, Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, noted that "even though our nation is at war against terrorism, celebration is appropriate today as we celebrate the accomplishments of a unit, the contributions of a departing command team and ... a welcome of a new command team."

Csrnko was standing in for 10th SFG (A) Commander Col. Michael Repass, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

10th SFG (A) Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Herrell flew in from a deployment for the ceremony, saying that he wanted to "be with the guys and let them know [the group] didn't forget them."

Csrnko welcomed Eaddy, charging him to "maintain the care for these great warriors and their families."

Eaddy, who served a previous 6-year as-



Troy Langenburg

Lt. Col. Scott Eaddy (left) assumes command of 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), from Special Operations Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Csrnko June 3 on Panzer Kaserne.

signment with 1/10 SFG (A), comes to the battalion from SOCEUR, which is based on Stuttgart's Patch Barracks.

"I'm extremely honored to be back in 1/10," he said after the ceremony. "This is the best bunch of guys in Special Forces."

A storied past

10th Special Forces Group as it is known

today began in 1952 at Fort Bragg, N.C. under the direction of the legendary Col. Aaron Bank, who is known as the father of Special Forces. Beginning with a scant 10 men, the unit was more than a thousand strong within nine months, according to the unit history.

In November 1953, the group split, and half moved to Bad Tölz, Germany. The other



Melanie Casey

Soldiers of 1/10 SFG (A) salute their new commander.

"I'm extremely honored to be back in 1/10. This is the best bunch of guys in Special Forces."

Lt. Col. Scott Eaddy

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

half remained at Fort Bragg, becoming the 77th Special Forces Group and later the 7th Special Forces Group.

In 1968, 10th SFG (A) moved again – to Fort Devins, Mass. However, "A" Company, now known as 1st Battalion, remained in Bad Tölz. It was reassigned to Böblingen in 1991, where it remains.

Dancers highlight Stuttgart's celebration of Asian-Pacific Islander heritage

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Grey skies and a stormy forecast couldn't stop Stuttgart's annual Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage event from going forward as planned May 21 on Huskey Field.

The event, sponsored by the 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity office, honored Asian-Pacific Islander heritage, giving spectators a glimpse into the culture via live performances, educational displays and authentic free food samplings.

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, commander of the 6th ASG, saluted the efforts and contributions of service members with Asian-Pacific ancestry.

"No aspect of [the United States] military has been beyond the influence and inspiration of Asian-Pa-

cific Americans," she said. "Through their dedication and leadership, Asian-American service members have helped take the American military to new heights of both power and honor."

Food & fun

About 100 people turned out for the event and were treated to authentic – and delicious – Asian-Pacific food such as Philippine glass noodles, egg rolls (*lumpia*) and ribs.

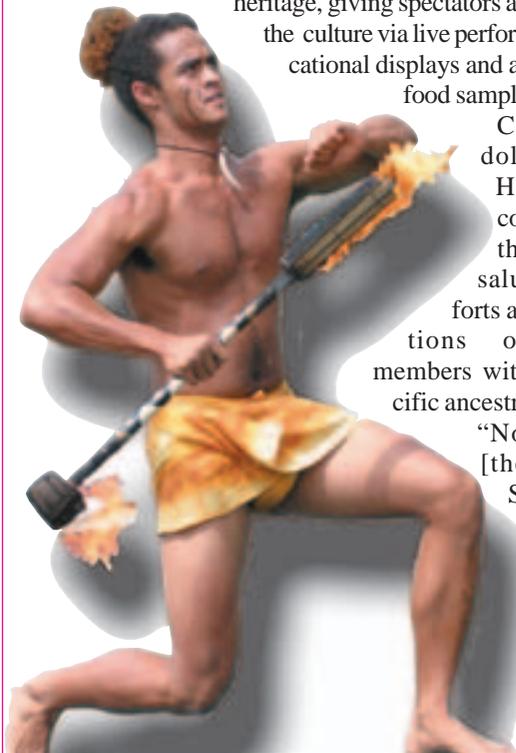
As they feasted, onlookers were treated to a riveting performance by the Aloha Polynesian dancers. The Patch Amiras belly dancers also entertained the crowd.

The Honolulu, Hawaii-based Aloha Polynesian dancers put on a show comprised of traditional Tahitian and Hawaiian dances as well as a spectacular fire-spinning and fire-eating finale featuring Keawe MacArthur, the group's only male member.

The Aloha Polynesian dancers said they enjoy traveling and participating in cultural events celebrating Asian-Pacific heritage. "We get to meet a lot of people, travel and entertain our troops," said dancer Hoku Crisotomo.

As the day's festivities drew to a close (and the raindrops that had threatened all afternoon began to fall) Bonéy-Harris presented the group members with a certificate of achievement for a "first-class event."

Keawe MacArthur of the Aloha Polynesian Dancers performs an elaborate fire-baton routine during Stuttgart's Asian-Pacific Islander heritage celebration May 21 on Patch Barracks.



Month selected for historical significance

By Master Sgt. Edgardo T. Onas
U.S. Air Force Honor Guard

Since 1979, May has been the month to celebrate the contributions and achievements made by Asian Pacific Americans.

May was selected because two significant events in history took place in this month:

- The first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States May 7, 1843.

- The transcontinental railroad was completed May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day), recognizing the efforts of Chinese workers in laying the tracks that joined the east and west coast.

Furthermore, because school is still in session during May, educators can capitalize on the opportunity to include Asian Pacific American history in the curriculum.

In October 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed Resolution 72, which officially declared the first week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week.

In May 1990, President George Bush signed a proclamation expanding the weeklong celebration to an entire month. Two years later, the 102nd Congress unanimously approved – and Bush signed into law – House Resolution 5572, which designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

According to an April U.S. Census Bureau press release, an estimated 13.1 million U.S. residents claim Asian or Asian-in-combination heritage. This group comprises 5 percent of the total U.S. population.

This article originally appeared online at www.dcmilitary.com

Afghan officers visit Marshall Center

Marshall Center Public Affairs Office Release

Seven senior military officers and civilians from Afghanistan visited Garmisch's George C. Marshall Center May 25 to meet with officials there and receive an overview about the center's mission.

The Afghan delegation was in the area to attend a week-long Afghanistan Senior Officers NATO Orientation Course at the NATO School in nearby Oberammergau, Germany.

Marshall Center Director Dr. John Rose welcomed the group, discussed the Marshall Center's goals and provided some history about the center and Gen. George C. Marshall.

"The greatest value is what they learn from each other in building relationships with fellow students from different countries," Rose said.

General Sayed Ghullam Hussain Fakri, director of Afghanistan's Counter Organized Crimes department, said Marshall's name is very prominent in Afghanistan.

Through an interpreter, he said the goals of the Marshall Center match those of the current situation in Afghanistan.

The Marshall Center's goals of promoting peace, sharing ideas, and developing relationships with neighboring coun-



Karlheinz Wedhorn

Afghan visitors meet with Marshall Center senior staff.

tries to create stability in the region were also of great value to his country, he said.

The Marshall Center hopes to include leaders from Afghanistan in its courses, beginning this month with the Program on Terrorism and Security Studies.



Beauty shop now open

Garmisch just got even more beautiful.

The Garmisch Beauty Shop, located in Artillery Kaserne's PX complex (building 204, 2nd floor) is now open.

The shop will be open Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome.

For an appointment call 08821-967-7712.

Garmisch Area Support Team Director Greg Holzinger (left) helps celebrate the official grand opening of Artillery Kaserne's new Garmisch Beauty Shop.

News & Notes

IACS in place in Garmisch

The Installation Access Control System has been implemented in Garmisch. Expect slight delays when entering installations for the first few weeks.

All personnel must be registered in IACS.

For more information call 442-2762/civ. 08821-759-762 or 442-2801/civ. 08821-759-801.

Writers, editors needed

The 6th Area Support Group newspaper, *The Citizen*, and the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation magazine, *First Choice*, are looking for contractors and stringers to work as writers/editors and photographers.

Hours vary and are flexible. Pay is based on experience.

For more information or to apply, call Sallie Cauthers at 421-2047/civ. 0711-729-2047.

Legal assistance available

Representatives from the Stuttgart Law Center will be in Garmisch June 22 and 23. Legal services will be offered in Artillery Kaserne's building 202, room 109, upstairs.

Hours for walk-in powers of attorney and notary are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Attorney consultations will be available by appointment only.

For more information call 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Newcomer's Orientation class

The next Community Newcomer's Orientation is July 8, 8 a.m. to noon, in the Pete Burke Community Center.

A bus tour of the Garmisch area will be provided in the afternoon for those interested.

For more information or to register call 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-7777.

Townhall meeting scheduled

Garmisch's next Townhall meeting is June 17, 7 p.m., in the Pete Burke Community Center. Community leaders will be on hand to discuss programs and answer questions.

Normandy never forgets

*Ceremonies honor sacrifices,
celebrate successes of 'greatest generation'*

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

From the bluffs above Omaha Beach to the skies over St. Mere-Eglise, ceremonies throughout the Normandy region of France celebrated the successes of Allied troops 60 years ago and commemorated the sacrifices of what has come to be called "the greatest generation."

The events began May 30 with a Memorial Day ceremony in Normandy American Cemetery and ended seven days later on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that marked the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany's grip on Europe.

Hundreds of U.S. service members and civilians were deployed to the region as part of "Task Force Normandy 60," the American military's official effort to honor its World War II veterans.

A number of U.S. leaders – including President George W. Bush, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers and U.S. Army Europe Com-

mander Gen. B.B. Bell – travelled to the coast of France to attend a variety of commemorative activities, and members of the Stuttgart military community were represented at both Memorial Day and D-Day events.

U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester delivered the memorial address at the May 30 ceremony in Normandy American Cemetery, and members of the Stuttgart-based 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were among the 602 U.S. paratroopers who jumped into landing zone "Iron Mike" on the outskirts of St. Mere-Eglise June 5.

'All we can do is remember'

Quoting President Ronald Reagan, Sylvester said that most of those who died in World War II sacrificed two lives for the cause, "the one they were living and the one they would have lived."

See **Normandy** Page 9



'Feel the presence of these heroes ... and remember'



Normandy from Page 7

"All we can do is remember," Sylvester said. "Feel the enormity of the loss. Feel the sacrifice of the families. Feel the commitment of the nation. ... Feel the presence of these heroes. And remember."

The Memorial Day ceremony ended with a 21-gun salute and the placing of a number of wreaths near the reflecting pool that stretches almost to the base of the cemetery's towering "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves" sculpture.

'The holiest of holies'

Commemorations of service and sacrifice in Normandy were not limited to the burial ground in Colleville-sur-Mer – nor were they all somber affairs.

In St. Mere-Eglise, where Allied paratroopers landed on the night of June 5, 1944, in one of the earliest actions of what would become Operation Overlord, tens of thousands of celebrators packed the narrow streets of the normally quiet village 60 years to the day later to celebrate the beginning of France's liberation from Nazi occupation.

"It's like the Fourth of July," said Robert McAndrew, who marvelled as a Dixieland band played its way around the town square from the back of a 1940s-era U.S. Army truck, military reenactors mingled with active-duty service members and veterans, and couples literally danced in the streets.

A native of California, McAndrew said he was in France to fulfill a promise to his late father, a World War II veteran. "I told him that if he didn't live to be here ... I would represent him at the 60th."

Another son of a service member was similarly impressed with the outpouring of adoration. "I've never seen such appreciation for America," said retired Army Col. Albert Wells, whose father trained pilots during the war.

The sense of history and gratitude that permeated St. Mere-Eglise was not lost on the active-duty service members who participated in the daylong celebration. Sgt. 1st Class Peter Crittendon, who drove from Stuttgart with fellow members of the 1/10th SFG (A) to join in the commemorative jump, referred to the region as "sacred ground."

"If you're a paratrooper, you learn about this place from day one," Crittendon said. "For the airborne, this is the holiest of holies."

'All about the veterans'

Standing almost in the shadow of the church steeple from which U.S. paratrooper John Steele famously hung for more than two hours over German-occupied streets after snagging his chute during the D-Day drop was, Crittendon said, "an overwhelming experience." But the best part of being in St. Mere-Eglise, he said, was having the chance to talk to the men who were there 60 years prior.

"It's all about the veterans here today," he said. "This is their day." Crittendon would have been hard pressed to find anyone to argue with that statement all week throughout Normandy.

At celebrations, veterans remained perpetually ringed by well-wishers. They signed autographs, posed for photographs, and accepted handshakes and hugs from those whose only desires seemed to be getting close enough to say "thank you."

During ceremonies, and in quiet moments in cemeteries or on the grounds where battles once raged, they were attended to with reverence and respect by families, friends and active-duty service members whose sole purpose in Normandy was to honor their historic forbears.

Spc. Shondre Johnson of the Hanau-based 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, said he was "very grateful and very thankful" to have the opportunity to serve the veterans as the D-Day anniversary approached.

Johnson, who spent much time after the Memorial Day ceremony at the side of veteran James Eudy, said, "if it wasn't for Soldiers like him who did what they did, I wouldn't be able to stand here today and do what I do. I salute this fine Soldier and all the other veterans who are here this week."

Eudy, who came ashore on Omaha Beach on Christmas Eve, 1944, attended the May 30 ceremony in the same uniform he wore as a private first class during World War II.

Standing amid the 9,387 ivory crosses and Stars of David that fill Normandy American Cemetery, Eudy shed tears for comrades-in-arms six decades dead, but his eyes gleamed with pride when he was asked about the treatment he had received from the active-duty Soldiers with whom he spoke for more than an hour after the ceremony.

"I've never been so honored as I have been today," he said.

Sgt. Shawn Nichols places a flag at the grave of a U.S. service member in Normandy American Cemetery May 29. Nichols, who is stationed in Hanau, Germany, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, was in Normandy to support and participate in events commemorating Memorial Day and the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.



World War II

Total military & civilian deaths: 50 million

Allied service members killed: 17.2 million

Axis service members killed: 5.4 million

U.S. service members killed: 292,000

Civilians killed: 27.3 million

*Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>
All numbers approximate.*

U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagles perform a flyover at the start of a June 6 ceremony at Pointe du Hoc on the Normandy coast of France. Pointe du Hoc was the site of one of D-day's most dangerous missions, as a contingent of Army Rangers scaled sheer 100-foot cliffs in the face of withering defensive fire to destroy German weapons that threatened Omaha and Utah beaches.



Takin' it to the streets

6th Area Support Group Military Police take to two wheels to help deter crime

By Mildred Green

Summer weather often encourages community members to enjoy Stuttgart from the atop a bicycle.

This year, 6th Area Support Group military police will be joining them.

In an effort to promote good community relations throughout the ASG's area of responsibility, MPs plan to patrol Stuttgart- and Garmisch-are installations – including housing areas – on bicycles.

One of the goals of the program is for MPs and the community to interact and get to know each other, said Master Sgt. Ernest Von Reichenbach.

With the bike program, “[community members] can get to know MPs on a more personal level,” Von Reichenbach said.

Maj. John Sivils, the 6th ASG provost marshal, believes that the community will enjoy seeing the MP's “face-to-face instead of through the window of a vehicle.”

“In order to forge a relationship within the community, it is necessary to be a part of the community,” Sivils said. “The bicycle patrol can do just that.”

In terms of force protection, the new bike patrols extend the services offered by MPs in vehicles and on foot.

“It's an added patrol for [any] installation,” Sivils said. “[MPs] can be anywhere at any given time.”

The schedule for the bicycle patrol MPs will vary, but in Stuttgart they plan to patrol each installation on a regular basis through the fall.



Hugh C. McBride

A new kind of “mounted” sheriff is in town: 6th ASG military policemen are now patrolling by bicycle.

In Garmisch, patrols will follow a similar random schedule, Von Reichenbach said.

Von Reichenbach said he hopes the MPs will also serve as role models to area youth by demonstrating the proper safety gear to wear while on two wheels.

Motorcycle licensing requirements change

Motorcycle Safety Foundation training now required to get, keep USAREUR licenses

By Melanie Casey

The rules for obtaining a new or renewal motorcycle license in Europe have gotten a bit tougher.

A change to Army Europe regulation 190-1 (Registering and Obtaining Privately Owned Motor Vehicles in Germany) went into effect in January.

Five steps to take

Individuals seeking a new or renewal Army in Europe motorcycle driver's license must first have a valid motorcycle license from either the States or another country. They must also take a written test, attend a proficiency course and complete a motorcycle orientation course.

The regulation change now mandates that they take a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course – or prove that they have taken one in the past three years – as well. The new rule applies to applicants from all branches of service, civilians, contractors and family members.

Individuals who successfully complete the test and safety courses will be issued a temporary 60-day license, during which time they must complete the MSF course. Applicants who fail either the written test or the proficiency course must attend a German driver's school to obtain a certificate of proficiency before attending the MSF course.

Individuals who do not complete all of the requirements will not

A Motorcycle Training Foundation course is required for all new and renewal license applicants.

be issued a U.S. Forces motorcycle license, and thus cannot legally ride a motorcycle in Germany.

Another motorcycle-licensing change that recently went into effect – but which only affects those in the Army – comes from U.S. Army, Europe, Commander Gen. B.B. Bell.

Bell's 2004 Summer Safety Campaign mandates that all Soldiers who already have a motorcycle license must complete an MSF course if they haven't done so within the past six months.

The MSF course is implemented to provide hands-on training to motorcyclists and is designed to educate and train personnel how to be safe and responsible while driving a motorcycle.

For information about MSF classes in the southern Germany call 430-8755/civ. 0711-680-8755 (in Stuttgart) or 442-2595/civ. 08821-759-595 (in Garmisch).



photos courtesy PHS Video Production class

Patch High School Valedictorian Sabrina Silver (left) shares a laugh with her classmates during PHS's graduation ceremony June 5 in the Filderhalle. (Below) Taylor Armstrong enters in style.

PHS graduates 49

EUCOM Chief of Staff delivers commencement address during June 5 ceremony

By Melanie Casey

The final tests have been taken and the lockers have been cleaned out.

High school became a memory for 49 Patch High School seniors, who bade good-bye to their alma mater during a June 5 graduation ceremony in the Leinfelden Filderhalle.

The event was also broadcast live via satellite to Iraq – a PHS first (see box, right).

U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John Sylvester delivered the commencement address. “You must become the young Americans who will serve our nation in the future” he said to the graduates. “You will contribute to our nation when the time comes and it is necessary ... you are up to the task.”

As was fitting for students living in a military community, the seemingly anxious but smiling seniors walked under the raised swords of the PHS Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets as they made their way to the stage.

Family and friends in the audience not only watched the graduates receive their diplomas, but also were treated to amusing anecdotes about each graduate.

The short stories, often replete with childhood mementos or pictures, evoked laughter, and perhaps a few tears, from audience members.

Sabrina Silver received the coveted title of valedictorian, and Kenny Green was named salutatorian.

Church group collects supplies for African students

By Mildred Green

Members of Stuttgart's Protestant Women of the Chapel are collecting school supplies for needy children in Africa.

Marilyn Wald, wife of U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald, will travel to Africa this summer to distribute the supplies to schools and orphanages in some of Africa's poorest areas.

Wald said Stuttgart residents have been very generous in their support of the program thus far.

“It's overwhelming how willing the community is to help,” she said. The PWOC will be collecting

donations of old and used school items such as books, paper, pencils and crayons through July 8.

Donated items can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Patch Barracks – Patch Chapel, building 2307; Child and Youth Services, buildings 2312 and 2337.
- Panzer Kaserne – Child and Youth Services, building 3163.
- Kelley Barracks – Child and Youth Services, building 3312 and 3369.
- Robinson Barracks – Child and Youth Services, building 151.

For more information call the Patch Chaplain's office at 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.



Patch senior shares graduation day with deployed dad

By Melanie Casey

Sgt. 1st Class James Grigsby had to miss his older daughter's graduation because he was TDY, but thanks to technology – and some dedicated individuals in the 6th Area Support Group – he didn't miss this one.

Grigsby has been deployed with the 1st Infantry Division since February and is not scheduled to return until next March.

However, he got the chance to watch his daughter Danielle's graduation from Patch High School June 5 via a satellite link-up.

Watching the live ceremony “was one of the most refreshing things I have ever seen in my military career,” Grigsby said. “Without people like you folks in the rear ... this would be one heck of a miserable war.”

“It does make a difference ... to see our fellow countrymen and women



Danielle Grigsby



James Grigsby

support us, Grigsby added. “I have been in [the military] for 20 years and to see my daughter's graduation while sitting in the middle of a war zone was remarkable. Now that's what I call supporting the troops.”

PHS students say thanks

Work-study participants host employers at year-end brunch on Patch Barracks

Story & photo by Mildred Green

Participants in a Patch High work-study program paid tribute to their employers May 25 with a brunch in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

During the school year, the students in PHS's Career Practicum program worked part-time while earning class credit.

Key to success

In the past year PHS students were employed by a variety of agencies throughout the community including U.S. European Command, 6th Area Support Group, Defense Information Systems Agency, AAFES, Taco Bell and Burger King.

The emphasis of the program is for students to gain experience in a variety of fields, which will enable them to make better career choices, said PHS Principal Steve Provinsal. The employers were being recognized, Provinsal said, because they "are the key to [the student's] success," he said.

During the ceremony, Provinsal thanked the employers for their contributions to the students and to PHS.

Range of opportunities

Five seniors also spoke about their experiences in the program during the May 25 brunch.

Jenn Crowley – who worked with fourth graders at Böblingen Elementary School – said the program helped her see that teaching was in fact where her heart is.

"Once I started working with [the children] I knew,"



Senior Jenn Crowley speaks about her work-study experience during Patch High School's Career Practicum brunch May 25.

she said. "It clicked in place."

Sabrina Silver, who worked with EUCOM said her responsibilities were diverse and rewarding. One of the highlights of her job, she said, was getting the opportunity to temporarily deploy to Garmisch, she said.

The Stuttgart military community offers a wide range of job opportunities, said Career Practicum Coordinator Winnie Zekel.

In the past, one student went to Latvia for a conference, another worked as a chef in a German Kantine and another worked with a physical therapist – and is now a certified PT, Zekel said.

"If they have a talent and we can find somebody to supervise them, we can make it happen," Zekel said.

Communications group honors student innovators

Story & photos by Mildred Green

Two Patch High School seniors and one graduate of the International School of Stuttgart were awarded scholarships from the Armed Forces Communications Electronic Association during a luncheon in the Patch Community Club June 3.

In addition to the scholarships, Taylor Armstrong, Patrick Hutton, and Jason Lindell each received a one-year AFCEA membership and a plaque.

'Unbelievable' effort

To receive the scholarships, the students had to create a project geared toward computers, communications or other technically-related subjects and then present their work to a committee, said Trish Brady of Defense Information Systems Agency, Europe

Brady, a DISA communications analyst, is vice president of AFCEA's chapter scholarship and young AFCEAN programs. She presented Armstrong, Hutton and Lindell with their awards.

"[The projects] were unbelievable," Brady said. "Today's 17- and 18- year- olds are going to go far in this field."

Brady thanked the students for a fantastic job and told guests she was "in awe" during the final judging.

Lindell and Armstrong said they were motivated by the challenge of putting their skills to the test in a hands-on environment.

"I liked being able to build something and show my ability," Lindell said.

Armstrong noted that the project "seemed more real world. It was not just an essay contest."

All three students agreed that they were thrilled about their achievements.

AFCEA awards

Hutton, who created a Web site, received \$1,500.

Armstrong received his \$2,000 scholarship for his work with audio technology, and Lindell was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship for building a computer.

Col. Frederick Cross, division chief in the U.S. European Command



Hutton



Armstrong



Lindell

Directorate of Operations (J-6) and the outgoing president of AFCEA's Stuttgart chapter, began the presentation by asking attendees to reflect upon today's world events and think about the service members and civilians fighting the war against terrorism.

Cross also presented longevity awards to AFCEA members, recognizing individuals who have spent from five to 30 years in the organization.

Klaus Westemeier was acknowledged for being the only 30-year member of the local AFCEA chapter.

For more information about AFCEA visit www.afcea.org.

YS needs volunteer coaches

- Volunteer coaches are needed for the upcoming Youth Services flag football and soccer seasons.
- Training and support are available for novice coaches – don't let lack of experience prevent you from serving area youth.
- Practice for both sports starts in August and regular-season play begins in September.

Call 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-616.

Russian, U.S. military officers meet in Stuttgart

Group negotiates military-to-military training for 2005

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Eight Russian colonels visited Stuttgart May 26 and 27 as participants in the United States – Russia Colonel's Working Group.

The group was first established in late 2002 by the U.S. European Command's Directorate of Plans and Policy (J-5) Europe Division when it inherited responsibility for Russia from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The working group consisted of senior officers from the Russian Ministry of Defense, the Russian General Staff and their respective services, as well as senior officers from Headquarters, EUCOM, and representatives from EUCOM's components: Marine Corps Forces Europe; United States Air Forces in Europe; U.S. Army, Europe; Special Operations Command, Europe; and Naval Command, Europe. Pacific Command and the Joint Staff were also represented.

The group met to discuss, plan and agree upon all military-to-military events and operations involving the armed forces of both Russia and the United States for 2005.

Both groups brought their "wish lists" with them to the table; the details were then discussed and negotiated over the two-day conference.

The list will be finalized this fall, when the group meets again in Moscow. The finalized list will then be presented to U.S. Gen. Richard Myers and Russian Gen. Anatoly Kvashnin for approval.

"European Command representatives negotiate with the Russians on behalf of the entire U.S. military," said Col. Mike Anderson, chief of EUCOM's Europe Division (J-5) and host of the working group.

For instance, if the U.S. Pacific Command wants to have a ship visit Russia next year, or U.S. aircraft want to participate in the Moscow Air Show, the working group must first work out the details and give its approval, Anderson said.

The plan is much more than an approved list of events. "It's not just a contact plan, but an interoperability plan," Anderson said.

A 'new relationship'

The working group works under guidance from their respective presidents. In September 2003, U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at Camp David and agreed to pursue a so-called "New Relationship" between the two countries' militaries.

The presidents both agreed that the countries' relationships should progress to a "bilateral interoperability work plan," said Lt. Col. Rosemarie Warner, EUCOM's (J-5) Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia branch chief. "We're in the process of putting that together."

"Our president has peered into the heart of Putin and judged him to



Col. Mike Anderson (left) speaks to Russian military representatives May 27. The Russian colonels were in Stuttgart to discuss, agree upon and plan military operations with the U.S. for next year.

be someone we can do business with," Anderson said of the Camp David meeting and of previous meetings between the two presidents. "He wants us to do business with the Russians in a manner different than when we dealt with each other as adversaries. Now we should seek to be strategic partners."

To that end, Russia, which previously had been handled strictly by the Pentagon, was added to EUCOM's area of responsibility in 2002 as part of the Unified Command Plan change.

The switch was well intended, Anderson said, noting that the United States wanted to demonstrate to Russia that it was no longer considered the threat it had been during the Cold War.

"The level of trust and transpar-

ency has grown [since 1991, when the Soviet Union's communist regime collapsed]," Warner said of the growing cooperation between the two countries. "They wouldn't have trusted us, or we them, back then. We wouldn't even sit at a table discussing these things, let alone be planning them together."

Another result of the "New Relationship," and subsequent Unified Command Plan change was that the United States wanted to treat Russia just as it did other European countries.

At first, the Russians didn't like the change, Anderson said. "They liked being "special" and handled by the Pentagon. But now they're over that. They realize that they need and want to deal with the U.S. military, and the only way to do that

is through EUCOM," he said.

Tough going

For this first part of the working group, there were about 45 proposed events to be discussed, Anderson said. It was no easy task.

"Negotiating with the Russians is difficult," Anderson said. "They have a certain, dogmatic style and

they are simply not that flexible."

Warner, who was a part of the EUCOM team, agreed. "We look at things in different ways," she said. "Sometimes things seem simple, but they see it through their prism and we look through ours."

The first day of negotiations was "stiff and stilted," she said, but the second day went smoother.

"By the end we were comrades and friends and looking forward to seeing each other again [this fall]," Warner said. "Each time you meet it strengthens ties and furthers relationships."

Success

By the end of the two-day meeting, nearly half of the actions discussed were given the "green light," said Cmdr. Denise Newell from EUCOM's (J-5) Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia Division. "Some of the Russian proposals matched what the United States wanted to do," she said, "so we were able to color a lot of their ideas green."

"If the reason for the meeting was to come together and further our military relationships and get an understanding of each other, then it was completely successful," Newell said.

A fine farewell

PHS softball squad wins Division II title in coach's final contest

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

After injuries ended his 11-year stint in the Marine Corps, Billy Henry visited a career counselor with one goal in mind: to make a lot of money.

He got rich, he says – but not in the way he imagined.

Henry, who coached the Patch Lady Panthers to their first Department of Defense Dependents Schools European Division II softball title May 22, dabbled in marketing before taking advantage of the military's "Troops to Teachers" program and becoming a special education instructor.

Since then, he said, the riches have been rolling in – the latest such treasure being the European softball title that Patch took from four-time defending champion Bitburg.

But Henry said not even the thrill of being one of the best teams on the continent can compare with the rewards of working with what he called an "awesome" group of athletes.

"The championship is the icing on the cake," Henry said. "But the cake is seeing these kids work together, improve and mature. That's something that money can't buy."

Relying heavily on freshmen and sophomores, the Lady Panthers blazed through the regular season with a 7-2 slate, then knocked off Bitburg 9-2 to take the division crown.

The Lady Panthers' path to greatness was paved with both skill and motivation, said pitcher Kasyé Lalau, one of the team's top performers. "We had a lot of talent and we had a lot of fun," said Lalau, a unanimous all-European selection who ended a masterful freshman season with a 15-strikeout performance in the title game.

Other Lady Panthers receiving Europewide honors included Elisa Nieves, Lauren Sanchez and Kelly DeSanto.

‘*The championship is the icing on the cake. But the cake is seeing these kids work together, improve and mature. That’s something that money can’t buy.*

Billy Henry
Patch Lady Panthers Softball

But the individual awards and team title were accompanied with a sense of bittersweetness, as Henry is moving across the Atlantic with his wife and four children to take a teaching position in the DoDDS school on Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The PHS softball squad will return with a talented roster to defend their title in 2005, but the players are already feeling the absence of their mentor.

"He's a great man," said sophomore outfielder Marilyn Martin. "We're going to miss him."

Henry leaves little doubt that that feeling is mutual. "These girls are my heart," he said. "I will miss them all."

Freshman sensation Kasyé Lalau pitches the Patch Lady Panthers to a May 8 victory over Mannheim. Lalau was a key contributor during the Lady Panthers' march to the DoDDS-Europe Division II title.

