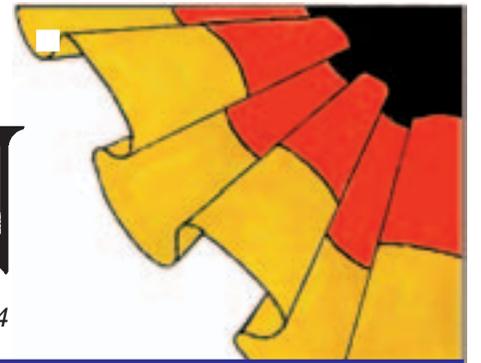




THE CITIZEN



Vol. 33, No. 13

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

June 29, 2004

Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Guests of Honor

Stuttgart hosts recipients of military's most prestigious medal (Page 7)



Hugh C. McBride

Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy Davis salutes as he is introduced during Stuttgart's Army Ball in the Sindelfingen Stadthalle. Davis and fellow MOH recipients Ronald Rosser and Rodolfo Hernandez were in Stuttgart for a weeklong series of events leading up to the June 19 ball.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 6

Army debuts new 'ACUs'

The Army unveils the eventual successor to the battle-dress uniform during a June 14 ceremony.



Page 15

Sports teams take titles

Volleyball and softball squads claim unit-level, community-level and tournament titles on Patch Barracks.



Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

The parents and other community volunteers who made Stuttgart's Youth Services baseball and softball seasons such a success.

More than 70 volunteer coaches made it possible for more than 500 children from ages 3 to 18 to participate on the area's 43 baseball and softball teams.

And a special "rose within a rose" to all of the officials, team moms, community sports staff personnel and Little League board members who ensured that the experience was a tremendous one for our young athletes.

The gentleman who rescued me at the Kelley car wash area two weeks ago. I had been playing my radio while waxing my car, only to find I had drained the battery. This kind stranger stopped what he was doing and helped me with my problem.

This man is the epitome of what it means to be a Soldier and a gentleman.

The two German soldiers who were working in the MP station one recent Sunday morning. Thanks to their quick thinking in applying first aid, my family averted a potential trip to the hospital.

Although I thanked these soldiers at the time, I wanted to make sure the rest of the community was aware of the great (extra) service these folks provide us. *Wiedermals, herzlichen Dank!*

To let your voice be heard throughout the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities, e-mail your thorns, roses, letters and comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil, or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

USAREUR commander: Make safety holiday priority

All area Soldiers required to view video

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

Our great nation was founded 228 years ago by people of tremendous vision. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our country and honor those who defend the freedoms on which it is based, we must also take time to "meet under the oak tree" and discuss ways to keep our celebrations safe.

Whether they will be traveling, taking part in recreational activities or simply relaxing at home over the Fourth of July weekend, Soldiers must consider the risks associated with their plans.

Supervisors must be aware of these plans and ensure Soldiers take steps to reduce risks.

Everyone should review the U.S. Army, Europe, Summer Safety Campaign on the USAREUR home page for information on how to be safe over the holiday weekend.

In addition, every Soldier must watch the 48-minute "Be Safe!" video by July 3. This video is also on the USAREUR homepage under "Safety."

Specific areas of concern are as follows:

- **Traveling** – We have lost six USAREUR Soldiers to privately owned vehicle crashes since last October. During the same period last year, we lost only one. These tragedies could have been prevented by taking the proper safety measures.

People who intend to travel by POV should ensure they get enough rest and take frequent breaks along the way, drive defensively, adjust their driving according to road and weather conditions, and never drive at excessive speed or after drinking alcoholic beverages.

Other means of transportation, such as trains, should be considered instead of using a POV to drive long distances.

- **Water Sports** – Every year in the European military

AFN broadcasting "Be Safe!" video

- American Forces Network is airing the "Be Safe!" video on AFN channel 9. The video will run daily through July 4 at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

- The video can also be accessed online via the U.S. Army, Europe, Safety Page. (Visit www.per.hqusareur.army.mil. Click "Safety." This will take you to a page with a link to download the video.)

- For more information about this and other safety-related issues call the 6th Area Support Group Safety Office at 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752.

community, someone drowns or is severely injured in an accident while taking part in water sports.

More than half of all fatalities in or on the water are alcohol-related. Key to preventing accidents are safety awareness, swimming only in authorized areas, swimming with a "buddy" and avoiding alcohol consumption.

- **Recreational Activities** – Those who plan to participate in a recreational activity must be aware of the hazards associated with that activity and the precautions they should take to avoid injury.

Overconfidence in one's abilities and failure to use proper protective gear can lead to injury or death.

Our safety programs ensured that no Soldiers were lost over the long Memorial Day weekend. Let "no loss of life" be the end state for this upcoming holiday weekend as well.

Bell is the USAREUR commander. This message originally appeared online at www.hqusareur.army.mil.

THE CITIZEN

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

Public Affairs Officer
Jennifer Sanders
pao@6asg.army.mil

Editor: Hugh C. McBride
citizen@6asg.army.mil
Assistant Editor: Melanie Casey
caseym@6asg.army.mil

Reporter
Mildred Green
greenm@6asg.army.mil

Contact Information
Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks,
Plieningerstrasse, 70567 Stuttgart
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

Advertising Information
For advertising information call 349-8443/civ. 06155-601443. For classifieds call 349-8447/civ. 06155-601447.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Citizen are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 6th Area Support Group public affairs officer. Private organizations noted in this publication are not part of the Dept. of Defense.

The Citizen is printed by the Stars and Stripes under written agreement. The European Stars and Stripes is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or the European Stars and Stripes.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

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

www.stuttgart.army.mil

IN THE MAIL

Kelley Theatre's 'Wish Upon a Star' heavenly experience for audience

My family and I recently had the great pleasure of watching "When You Wish Upon a Star" as presented by the Stuttgart Entertainment Center in the Kelley Theatre.

Attending this event was an evening away from the tensions of everyday life and left us full of praise for the staff, background crew and cast.

The highlight for me was the finale, when it became very clear to the audience members what fun and pride the cast had in presenting this musical.

For the young actors in the cast, the experience must have surely left them with a lasting memory of having achieved something magical.

If you watched a video or something on television that night, however good it may have been, you could not have experienced the feeling of attending such a wonderful live event.

Whether your taste runs toward adult humor, plays with controversial topics or family musicals, don't pass up the chance to visit Kelley Theatre and be entertained. You will enjoy yourself.

The actors and crew members should be proud of themselves for their contribution to our community.



Joerg Witzsch

A chorus of younger members of the "When You Wish Upon a Star" cast perform in the Kelley Theatre.

Michael Quantrell
Stuttgart

Skate park opens on Patch

Teen-driven project culminates in community's newest facility

Story & photos by Melanie Casey

Skateboarders, inline skaters and bikers from the Stuttgart military community converged on Patch Barracks June 9 to help officially open the new Patch Skate Park.

Joining the throngs of teens, pre-teens and adults for the opening ceremony were 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, 6th ASG Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone, Child and Youth Services Chief Cindy Nail and Patch Youth Services Director Jemmie Collins.

After advocating the importance of following the rules and wearing proper safety equipment to the skaters on hand, Bonéy-Harris snipped a ceremonial red ribbon and proclaimed the park open.

"I think it's a great thing here in our community," she said of the new park.

Two kids and a dream

The new skate park, located next to the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic, was the result of months of effort on the part of two local teens: Collin Martindale, who will be a senior at Patch High School next year, and recent PHS graduate Taylor Armstrong.

The idea for the new park was born in 2003, when several Stuttgart-area teens brought their concerns to Moscone at the area's first Teen Townhall on Patch Barracks.

One of the concerns raised at that meeting was the skate park. Many local skaters did not like the previous facility, which was located adjacent to the Patch YS (and which has since been converted into a parking lot), Martindale said.

He, Armstrong and others sought a new facility on the post – but it was no easy task.

Martindale and Armstrong first approached Collins, Martindale said. She told them that if they came up with a workable design, she would do what she could to help them get a new skate park built on Patch.

Their first step was financing the endeavor.

In order for funding to be allocated to a new skate park, an official club needed to be formed. Thus, OASIS (Organization of American Skateboarders in Stuttgart), an official Boys and Girls Club of America organization, was born.

Once money was in place – the new park was funded by the 6th ASG and executed jointly by the Directorate of Community Activities and the Directorate of Public Works – the real work began.

Martindale and Armstrong were responsible for everything associated with the new park, Nail said, including picking out the site and equipment, getting bids from construction companies, working with the contractors and designing the park layout.

"It was a wonderful learning process for them," Nail said. "This is one of the most exciting projects I've been involved with. [Martindale and Armstrong] had a dream. That was the most exciting part. They have done something that [adult government employees] do."

Once the money came through, Martindale said, he and Armstrong pored through catalogs and looked online for ideas and equipment.

Martindale and Armstrong "did everything," said Mack Lamp, a youth program assistant at the Patch YS who helped the teens with the administrative side of the project.

"Every single day for 14 months they were working on it," Lamp said. "They deserve all the accolades and recogni-



Taylor Armstrong, left, and Collin Martindale join 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris in cutting the ribbon and officially opening the Patch Skate Park June 9.



Trevor Welch, 10, prepares to take a ride through the new Patch Skate Park June 9.

tion that come their way."

Going with the flow

"We wanted a park that could flow, [and] we achieved that," Martindale said.

Skaters on hand for the opening day ceremony agreed. "It's awesome because the other park was bad and kids were getting hurt," said Derek Gruber, 16. "This one has a lot more space."

Skater Joshua McClain summed up the general feeling of the skaters on hand for the park's grand opening June 9 when he said, "I think it's the coolest thing ever."

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 an FPCA and details about the 2004 presidential election, visit www.fvap.gov.

Safety Office offers driver training

The 6th Area Support Group Safety Office, in coordination with the German ADAC, is offering free one-day automobile driver safety training Aug. 19, Sept. 2 and Sept. 23.

All training sessions will be held at the ADAC training site in Leonberg.

For more information or to request a reservation for one of these classes call Hans Dreizler or Roger Smith at 421-2752/civ.0711-729-2752.

Property accountability class

An updated property accountability and responsibility class will be held July 12, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., in the 6th Area Support Group command conference room (Kelley Barracks, building 3315).

This class is mandatory for all hand receipt holders in the 6th ASG who have not attended training in the previous 12 months.

Supervisors are encouraged to attend.

For details call Bob Rainbolt, 6th ASG property book officer, at 421-4395/civ.0711-729-4395.

Register now for YS sports

The Youth Services Sports Office is accepting registrations for soccer and flag football.

Soccer is open to CYS-registered youth ages 3 to 15; flag football is open to registered youth ages 7 to 12.

The cost is \$20 for the first child; additional siblings receive a 10-percent discount. Parents can register their children at any YS facility between noon and 5 p.m. Practices begin Aug. 30 and the seasons start Sept. 18.

For more information call 431-2616/civ.07031-15-616.

Get outside with Outdoor Rec

• **White Water Rafting** – Make a memory with a four-day trip (departing July 2, 10 a.m., and returning July 5) to beautiful Gstaad, Switzerland.

Go white water rafting one day and bike, hike, enjoy "X-Adventures" or relax in the summer sun the next day.

The trip is \$330 per person and includes transportation, three nights in a hotel, breakfast, dinner and white water rafting.

• **White Water Kayaking and Camping** – Travel to the Black Forest in Altensteig to kayak and camp.

The trip departs July 16, 6 p.m., and returns July 18. Cost is \$75 per person and includes transportation, two nights camping, camping gear, kayaking equipment and instruction.

For more information about these and other Outdoor Recreation activities call 431-2774/civ.07031-15-774.

Casualty Center seeks Soldiers

The Army's Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center is seeking qualified retired Soldiers for voluntary recall to active duty for a one-year tour of duty, with possible extension.

Duty locations include the Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va.; the Joint Personal Effects Depot at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; and the port mortuary at Dover, Del.

Government housing and dependent travel are not authorized. However, full per diem and housing allowance may be authorized.

For more information e-mail John Melville at john.melville@hoffman.army.mil or Lt. Col. Elaine Anzevino at elaine.anzevino@hoffman.army.mil.

Attention runners: Shoe clinic on Patch July 13

The clinic includes foot imprints, videotapes, gait analyses and consultations with a physical therapist.

Follow-ups are scheduled with all participants for six weeks after the clinic to monitor progress.

Appointments are required. E-mail saylorm@6asg.army.mil for details.



photos by Hugh C. McBride



Stuttgart hosts USAREUR deputy *Lt. Gen. Ward and wife take daylong look at area facilities, services*

(Above) Lt. Col. Carl Pritchard, left, director of the 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works, briefs U.S. Army Europe Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. William Ward, center, and 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris June 16 about planned developments on Panzer Kaserne. Ward and his wife, Joyce, were in Stuttgart for a daylong familiarization tour of the area's facilities and services and to meet with local personnel.

(Left) Joyce Ward spends a few quality moments with 5-year-old Brandon Guarino during a June 16 visit to the Panzer Child Development Center. While in Stuttgart, Ward visited several of the area's child care programs.

NATO school helps build cultural bridge to former Soviet republic

By Tech Sgt. Kevin Hardman
NATO School Public Affairs

Personnel from Oberammergau's NATO School traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, June 14 and 15 to help solidify relations between that nation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In their first Mobile Education Training Team visit to the former Soviet republic, school personnel sponsored a NATO Integration Seminar at Tbilisi's Sheraton Metechi Palace.

The seminar explained the structures of NATO and provided a general overview of the plans, policies, operations and procedures of the transatlantic alliance.

This seminar came at an important time for Georgia, as the nation's new president, Mikhail Saakashvili, has vowed to wipe out corruption and to unite a fractured nation after more than a decade of corruption, deepening poverty and separatist tensions.

Col. Giancarlo Fortuna opened the seminar by highlighting education as a vital tool for achieving Georgia's goals of peace, stability and NATO integration.

"Corruption and organized crime in the region must be overcome," Fortuna said, noting the country's recent struggles and political unrest. "Achieving peace and democracy is very important," he added.

Italian Ambassador Fabrizio Romano welcomed the delegates with remarks commending Georgia's initiative and thanking the NATO School for contributing to the enhancement of the partnership between Georgia and the alliance.

"This is an important part of building a solid reputation for a commitment to stability," Romano said, referring to Georgia's desire to learn about the alliance through educational programs provided by the NATO School.

The seminar, which was directed by Lt. Col. Gheorghe Calopareanu, addressed topics including NATO transformation, fundamental military structures

Georgia's new president, Mikhail Saakashvili, has vowed to wipe out corruption and unite a fractured nation after more than a decade of corruption, deepening poverty and separatist tensions

of NATO armed forces, operational staff duties, crisis management, legal aspects of NATO operations and operational capabilities concepts.

Fifty-eight representatives from various branches of the Georgian Ministry of Defense and other government bodies attended the seminar. Several delegates expressed their gratitude for what they termed "a very informative learning experience."

Fortuna presented a plaque on behalf of the NATO School to the Georgian Ministry of Defense for its outstanding support of the METT staff during the mission.

The alliance's only operational level training facility, the NATO School offers more than 80 courses per year to train and educate members of NATO and its partner nations.

The school's Mobile Education Training Team deploys throughout the world to deliver a wide variety of educational packages developed to promote better interoperability between the alliance and the members of the Partnership for Peace.

For more information about the NATO School visit www.natoschool-shape.de. For more about NATO visit www.nato.int.

News & Notes

Voting assistance available in Garmisch

Jessica Roberson of the Pete Burke Community Center is Garmisch's newest voting assistance officer.

As a VAO, she joins Jim Balog, Russell Stokes, Jean Callaghan and Ron Lauscher in being authorized to help community members register to vote and apply to receive absentee ballots.

For answers to your voting questions call Roberson at 440-2638/civ. 08821-750-638, e-mail jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil, or visit www.fvap.gov.

Reminder: no paintball on post

Paintball in Germany is permitted only in areas owned by private clubs or individuals. Under no circumstances is paintball permitted on U.S. military installations in Garmisch. Violators of this prohibition are subject to criminal prosecution.

For more information call the Garmisch Military Police Station at 442-2801/civ. 08821-759-801.

Bikes & Boards changes hours of operation

Artillery Kaserne's Bikes & Boards is now open Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Customers may be seen outside these hours by appointment only.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 442-2688/civ. 08821-759-688.

Dental Clinic needs volunteers

The Garmisch Dental Clinic is seeking volunteers to assist during the summer months. This opportunity offers valuable training, and volunteers may begin work after a two-hour orientation that earns them their American Red Cross certification. Specialized job training will be conducted by clinic staff.

For more information call Patty Howe at Garmisch Army Community Service (442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777) or Dr. Holzer at the Dental Clinic (442-2414/civ. 08821-759-414).

Fitness Center gets new gear

The Mueller Fitness Center on Sheridan Kaserne has added to its inventory of weightlifting equipment. The facility now boasts a complete set (5 lbs. to 100 lbs.) of "Iron Grip" dumbbells, a new 55-degree incline bench in the free weight room and three new machines to replace the prehistoric "Universal Gym."

Stop by to check out the changes or call 440-2742/civ. 08821-750-2742 for more information.

Are you IACS compliant?

The Installation Access Control System is now in effect in Garmisch. For more information call 442-2762/civ. 08821-759-762.

Bye, bye, BDUs

'Army Combat Uniform' to replace woodland, desert camouflage units by 2007

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

The Army has debuted a new combat uniform designed by noncommissioned officers and tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq.

Fielding to all Soldiers is expected to be completed by December 2007.

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said Col. John Norwood, the project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

The Army Combat Uniform consists of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and brown combat boots. It will replace both the green woodland version of the Battle Dress Uniform and the desert camouflage uniform.

The black beret will be the normal headgear for the ACU, but a matching patrol cap is available to be worn at the commander's discretion.

At \$88 per uniform, a new ACU set costs \$30 more than the current BDU, though officials note that Soldiers will save money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

ACU designers made 20 changes from the BDU, including the removal of black from the color scheme and the adaptation of the digital print from the new Marine Corps uniform, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, noncommissioned officer in charge of clothing and individual equipment.

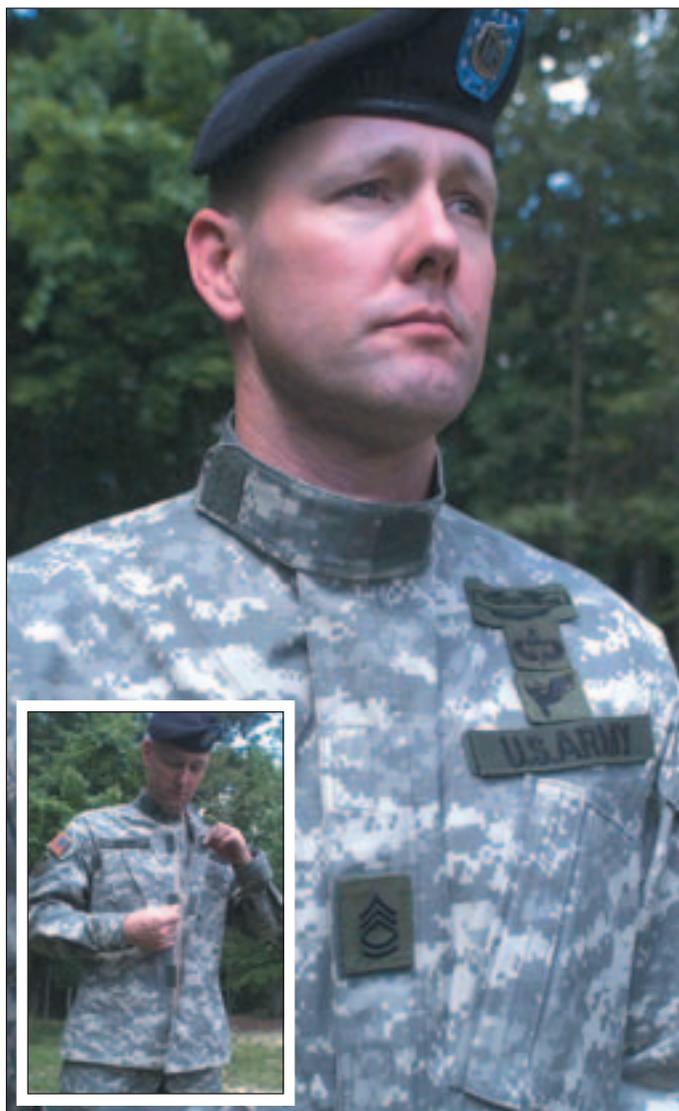
Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston said major command sergeants major had a chance to see the uniform and

20 new features on the ACU

1. Mandarin collar that can be worn up or down.
2. Rank insignia centered on the front of the blouse.
3. Velcro for wearing unit patch and skill tabs.
4. Zippered front closure.
5. Elbow pouch for internal elbow pad inserts.
6. Knee pouch for internal knee pad inserts.
7. Drawstring leg cuff.
8. Tilted chest pockets with Velcro closure.
9. Three-slot pen pocket on bottom of sleeve.
10. Velcro sleeve cuff closure.
11. Shoulder pockets with Velcro.
12. Forward-tilted cargo pockets.
13. Bellowed integrated blouse for increased mobility.
14. Friend or Foe Identification Squares on shoulders.
15. Bellowed calf storage pockets.
16. Moisture-wicking desert tan t-shirt.
17. Patrol cap with double thick bill and internal pocket
18. Improved desert boot.
19. Two-inch, black nylon web belt.
20. Moisture-wicking socks.

give advice toward the final version.

"This new uniform performs well in multiple environments," Preston said. "Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change."



photos courtesy U.S. Army

The new Army Combat Uniform includes 20 changes from the BDU, including a new collar, a digitized camouflage pattern, and Velcro and zippers instead of buttons.



Guests of Honor

'American heroes' visit Stuttgart

By Hugh C. McBride

The four-letter word with which Sammy Davis peppers his conversations about combat isn't the one you'd expect from a grizzled veteran of this nation's most controversial conflict.

It's "love."

"We didn't go to war because we hated the enemy – we went because we loved our country," said Davis, a Vietnam War veteran who earned the Medal of Honor for a heroic November morning in 1967. Though he sustained significant injuries from a mortar assault on his remote fire base, Davis repelled an enemy attack, then swam across a river while under fire to rescue three injured fellow service members.

Though his actions that day sound like something out of a Hollywood script, Davis said they were the result of a dedication to his comrades-in-arms – and a reflection of the devotion his mother instilled in him.

"As a kid, my brothers and I always played outdoors," Davis said. "And the rule was, you never leave your brothers in the woods. ... [In Vietnam] I wasn't going to leave my brothers in the woods."

Davis, who joined fellow MOH recipients Rodolfo Hernandez and Ronald Rosser for a week of activities in Germany that led up to Stuttgart's June 19 Army Ball in the Sindelfingen Stadthalle, is equally passionate when talking to and about the men and women who wear the uniform today.

"I'm proud of their service," he said. "I just want to give them all a hug and tell them I'm proud of them and I love them."

Rosser echoed Davis's praise of today's service members, saying they are "better trained, better equipped and better led than we were." A veteran of the Korean War, Rosser was 23 years old when he earned the

‘
These three American heroes are everything I could ever imagine about the embodiment of the word ‘character.’

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

medal for single-handedly charging a hilltop three times, killing 13 enemy troops, then making several trips across open terrain under heavy fire to rescue injured service members.

"I have always worn the medal for the men who fought with me," said Rosser, who, though wounded in action, refused orders to come off the line until the rest of his unit did.

Hernandez, whose MOH citation notes the "indomitable fighting spirit, outstanding courage and tenacious devotion to duty" he demonstrated while holding off an enemy attack in Korea, seemed equally impressed by today's service members – and unassuming about his own heroics.

"I couldn't take their place," he said.

The MOH recipients weren't the only ones to be effusive in their praise. They were greeted with lines of eager well-wishers and numerous standing ovations during their many appearances in Stuttgart, and their admirers included U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester.

"These three American heroes are everything I could ever imagine about the embodiment of the word 'character,'" Sylvester said.



(Top Left) Medal of Honor recipient Rodolfo Hernandez waves to the crowd as he is introduced during Stuttgart's June 19 Army Ball.

(Top Center) Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis visits with Stuttgart-area service members after a June 14 community reception in the Patch Community Club.

(Top Right) Medal of Honor recipient Ronald Rosser stands at attention as his MOH citation is read during the Army Ball.

(Right) Lt. Col. Tom Andrea examines Davis's Medal of Honor during the June 14 reception.

Flag code calls for etiquette, respect

Bracketed by Memorial Day and Independence Day (and containing Flag Day) June is a prime time for the Stars & Stripes.

The information in this section is intended to educate community members about the U.S. flag – and to help ensure that their patriotic passions are expressed in adherence with the customs, courtesies, traditions and laws that have come to be associated with our star-spangled banner over the past two centuries.

Most guidelines for flag etiquette and gestures of respect are codified in the U.S. Flag Code, which was established by Congress in 1942.

The Pledge of Allegiance

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the republic for
which it stands.
One nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.*

For more about the U.S. flag visit the National Flag Foundation Web site:
www.americanflags.org

Respect for the flag

(From the U.S. Code, Title 36, Chapter 10: Patriotic Customs)

- No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America.
- The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.
- Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never be placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Displaying the flag

• Displaying the flag outdoors

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag – of a state, community, society or scout unit – the flag of the United States must always be at the top. The only exception to this rule is that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor – to its own right.

The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

No other flag ever should be placed above it.

The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

• Displaying the flag indoors

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

• Raising and lowering the flag

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered.

The salute is held until the flag is unspinned from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

• Parading and saluting the flag

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right.

When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.



Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

The U.S. flag atop the White House flies at half-staff in honor of President Ronald Reagan. The U.S. Flag Code directs that the flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

• The salute

To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute.

Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart.

Men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart.

Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

• The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting. When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note.

The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed. Otherwise it is directed toward the music.

• The flag in mourning

To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff.

The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.

The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.

Folding and disposing of the flag

Folding the flag

When not on display, the United States flag should be folded into a triangle, emblematic of the three-cornered hats worn by Colonial soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

It takes at least two people to fold a flag properly, as the flag should never touch the ground during any lowering or folding.

1. To begin the folding process, the flag should be held waist high, with its surface parallel to the ground. Fold the flag in half lengthwise, bringing the striped lower section over the canton (the blue field of stars).
2. Fold it again lengthwise, bringing the canton to the outside.
3. Start a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge up to meet the open edge. The outer point is then turned inward to form a second triangle. Continue folding the flag in this manner seven more times.
4. The last triangular fold brings the red and white stripes into the star-strewn blue field, symbolizing the day's light vanishing into the darkness of the night.

When the flag is completely folded, only the blue field and stars should be visible.

Tuck the remaining flap into the pocket formed between the stars and stripes.

When the flag is completely folded, only the blue field and stars should be visible.

Tuck the remaining flap into the pocket formed between the stars and stripes.

Ceremony of Final Tribute

Only one flag, representing all those to be destroyed, should be used in the ceremony.

Two color guards should be used at evening retreat, one for the flag currently in use and a special color guard for the flag to be permanently retired.

Just before sunset, the flag which has been flying all day is retired in the normal ceremonial procedure for the group or site.

The color guard responsible for the flag receiving the final tribute moves front and center. The leader should present this color guard with the flag which has been selected for its final tribute and subsequent destruction. The leader then should instruct the color guard to "hoist the colors".

When the flag has been secured at the top of the pole, the leader should say the following:

"This flag has served its nation long and well. It has worn to a condition to which it should no longer be used to represent the nation. This flag represents all of the flags collected and being retired from service today. We honor them all as we salute one flag."

The leader then calls the group to attention, orders a salute, leads the entire group in the "Pledge of Allegiance," and orders the flag retired.

The flag is lowered, then respectfully folded in the customary triangle. The flag is delivered to the leader and then the group is dismissed.

Ceremonial Burning

The burning of a flag should take place at a campfire in a ceremony separate from the ceremony of final tribute.

The fire must be of appropriate size – preferably having burnt down to a bed of red hot coals to avoid having bits of the flag being carried off by a roaring fire, yet of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning.

Before the ceremony begins, the color guard assigned to the flag opens up its tri-corner fold and then refolds it in a coffin-shaped rectangle.

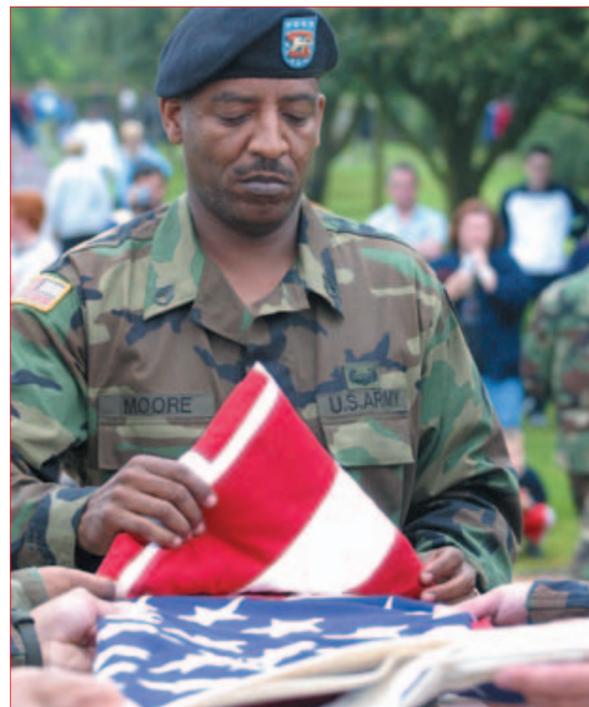
When all is ready, all assemble around the fire. The leader calls the group to attention.

The color guard comes forward and places the flag on the fire. All briskly salute.

After the salute, but while still at attention, the leader should conduct a respectful educational program as the flag burns – for example, singing "God Bless America," offering an inspiring message of the flag's meaning followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance," or performing a reading about the flag.

When the flag is consumed, those assembled, with the exception of a leader and the color guard, should be dismissed. They should be led out in single file and in silence.

The leader and color guard should remain to ensure that the flag is completely consumed, and to burn any additional flags.



Hugh C. McBride



courtesy Department of Defense

A National Guard Soldier greets family members in North Carolina June 16 after returning from a 15-month deployment. The Pentagon has released 100,000 CDs outlining how the military is changing and what these modifications will mean to all service members and their families.

Army CDs outline effect of transformation on Soldiers, families

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

The Army has produced and released 100,000 compact disks with multimedia briefings to inform Soldiers and their families how the service is significantly changing while it is at war.

"We are an Army at war, supporting a nation at war – this is not business as usual," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston. "If you look at it in the long-term, that isn't going to change."

The three videos, which address the Army Campaign Plan, target the following audiences:

- Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker addresses the active Army.
- Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, talks to Reserve troops.
- Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, address Guard Soldiers.

In addition to the videos, the CDs include slide presentations for each of the audiences and an additional brief for family members. The briefings are for officer and enlisted leaders down to the company level so that they can teach their subordinates.

"There is big interest out there about what does transformation mean," Preston said. "I tell Soldiers that it is about predictability and stability for you and your family."

In addition to modularity, the active Army video and briefing discuss force stabilization. This initiative involves Soldiers being based at one installation for most of their careers, rather than moving every two to three years.

There are several advantages to Force Stabilization, Preston said, such as in-

'We are an Army at war, supporting a nation at war – this is not business as usual.'

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

creased unit readiness.

Also, though Soldiers will likely deploy several times in a career, he said, spouses will know the community and can remain in one job rather than having to start over through several permanent changes of station.

"There are some concerns about getting stagnant or not getting the right positions needed for promotion by staying at the same installation," Preston said. "We recognize those concerns and are working to ensure that those concerns do not turn into issues."

The biggest issue for the Army National Guard is modularizing into mirror combat formations with the active force while continuing to fulfill each unit's state militia mission, according to the briefing.

For the Army Reserve, the issue is becoming more expeditionary while reducing the number of units in order to maintain 100-percent staffing with all Soldiers fully qualified to deploy.

"As the Army grows, we can make some other changes to do something about deployments – maybe cut them to nine months or maybe back to six," Preston said.

The briefings can be viewed online at www.army.mil/thewayahead/acp.html.

Military news crews cover combat in Iraq

DVIDS system allows Pentagon to 'push' coverage to Stateside outlets

By Justin Ward
Army News Service

Media in small towns no longer need to wait for CNN or FOX to get news from Iraq.

Thanks to the Pentagon, they can now do get the information themselves.

The Army has launched a \$6.3 million project called the Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System, which allows military news crews – called Mobile Public Affairs Detachments – to beam text, photos and video footage from remote locations such as Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan to a "teleport" in Atlanta.

DVIDS users in the States will then be able to acquire the real-time, broadcast-quality products from a centralized, archived database via the satellite feed.

Or, if they want to conduct live press briefings or interviews, they can request them, officials said. The service is free.

Speed is critical

The principal benefit of the system, said Col. Rick Thomas, public affairs officer for Third Army, based at Fort McPherson, Ga., is that it gives deployed commanders and concerned groups the ability to keep in touch with each other through press briefings, interviews and a variety of other means.

"The speed is the critical thing," said Lt. Col. Will Beckman, the public affairs officer in charge of the DVIDS project.

"There's nothing new in this, we can just do it much, much faster and at greater quality," Beckman said.

Additional benefits include "enhancing the quality of the products and the ability to distribute those products both internally and externally," Thomas said.

Anyone can sign up for the service, but requests for high-quality broadcast video can only be sent through fiber optic wire or a domestic digital satellite.

"We don't do tapes, we don't do CDs," Beckman said. Individuals who want more than still images or print will have to have a satellite downlink capability or a fiber wire.

Once on the system's distribution list, clients will have access to "pretty much anything in the archives," Beckman said.

They will also receive daily bulletins and e-mail alerts for fast-breaking stories, accord-

ing to information on the DVIDS Web site, www.dvidshub.net.

"Our responses with the media have been very, very good," said Beckman. "Over time, however, the product will prove itself."

Not 'propaganda'

Before the system's launch, it had been criticized as being a conduit of propaganda.

Thomas equated the negativism with that of critics of embedding media prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DVIDS, Thomas said, is "another tool that news [organizations] can use to pull products to support ongoing news. It is not an attempt to offer anything more than what we've provided so far."

The system currently uses six portable KU-band satellite transmitters positioned with Army public affairs units in austere environments such as Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan to get the products out, said Thomas.

"The band used in the satellite is different than those being used by other organizations," Thomas said.

Eventually, more transmitters will be needed, Beckman said. "The appetite is growing. When the appetite grows, we're going to need more capability."

The system arose out of a plan to standardize broadcast equipment being used in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The military wanted a more consistent way to get news stories to the states and began studying the Norsat NewsLink 3200 satellite system from Norsat International, Thomas said.

"Equipment-wise, it was pretty bad," said Beckman about Operation Iraqi Freedom. "The chokepoint was the inability to transmit video products."

Enhanced technology allowed the Army to transmit high-quality broadcast pieces quickly. The Army then began constructing the DVIDS system.

The six deployed Mobile Public Affairs Detachments that are using DVIDS each have portable news-gathering technology, including Sony PD 170 camcorders, a Nikon D2H still camera, laptop computer with Avid Express DV editing software.

The system is supported and funded by the U.S. Army, but it will be used throughout the Department of Defense.



The MWR magazine for the 6th Area Support Group

First Choice

Your Community, Your life, Your time!

- Fourth of July festivities in Stuttgart and Garmisch
- Cultural events for children and adults
- Month-at-a-Glance calendar of area activities
- Phone directory, community contact information and much more

Available at distribution points throughout the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities.

Soldiers, Army civilians eligible for discounts on computer products

By Courtney Hickson
Army News Service

Computer-savvy Soldiers and Army employees can now increase their software collections a little easier with help from the Army Small Computer Program's Employee Purchase Program.

The ASCP allows Soldiers and their families, National Guard members, Army Reserve Soldiers and civilian employees to buy personal computers and software at discounted rates.

"It is open to the whole community," said Cynthia Dixon, an information management specialist. "All Soldiers as well as the [rest of the] Department of the Army community."

Thanks to a recent expansion in the ASCP program, Soldiers and eligible civilians can now buy Microsoft products at discounted rates.

Microsoft was selected to be available in conjunction with the Army's Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement, which was established in 2003.

According to Dixon, the software available for purchase includes Microsoft Office 2003, Windows XP, FrontPage 2003 and Microsoft Publisher.

Digital Image Pro, MS Press book, X-Box games, fun and games software and developmental tools software are also available for home and personal use.

But Microsoft is not the only company offering specials, Dixon noted. The program also includes Apple, Dell, IBM, Hewlett Packard and Micron.

Products available for purchase include top-of-

Soldiers and their families, National Guard members, Army Reserve Soldiers and civilian employees can buy personal computers and certain software at discounted rates.

the-line desktop and notebook computers, I-Pods, digital cameras and printers.

Dell's deals for Soldiers include special shipping for individuals located overseas and a monthly flyer that features coupon codes.

Apple also provides a monthly highlight of products for employees, and Hewlett Packard features EPP savings percentages on the company's Web site.

With so many options available – and with prices varying widely in the ever-changing technology market – Dixon advised Soldiers and their families to shop around before investing in a product.

To participate the purchase program, individuals must have an Army Knowledge Online e-mail account and verification of Army employment.

For more information about the ASCP visit <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil>.

Web site explains DoD's new civilian personnel system

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

The Defense Department has launched a new Web site to educate civilian employees about the new National Security Personnel System, which will introduce sweeping changes to the way DoD hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires civilian employees.

"Change is difficult, and lack of information about coming changes often leads to stress and anxiety and, unfortunately, misperceptions about what those changes really mean," said Brad Bunn, acting deputy program executive officer, NSPS Program Executive Office.

Open & honest

"We will be open, honest and clear about NSPS, and our Web site is designed to encourage employee involvement and interest, and minimize misconceptions," Bunn said.

The site will help those affected by the changes to understand the "rationale and benefits" of NSPS, Bunn said, adding that it will be "extremely useful" in keeping employees informed and updated as the system evolves.

The new Web site offers an overview of what DoD employees can expect from the new personnel system, as well as information regarding issues of labor management and employee unions, and links to NSPS-related documents.

Reliable information

Bunn said the site will be a primary NSPS communication vehicle, and it will be used throughout all phases of the NSPS design and implementation process.

"It certainly won't be our only means of communications, but it's a central source of information on NSPS," he explained. "We want to ensure DoD employees have a reli-

Access the online overview of the National Security Personnel System:

www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps

able, continuing source of information as the system develops."

Second try

The Web site is the second attempt by NSPS to get the word out about the new personnel system.

A previous Web site was taken down as a result of a three-week strategic review of the NSPS design and implementation process directed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in April.

Bunn said the new site reflects a conscious effort to minimize confusion about plans for NSPS.

"We decided to completely redesign the site," he said, "giving it a new look and feel, to ensure that it reflects the results of that strategic review, including leadership's commitment to openness and transparency in the NSPS process."

Suggestions, please

One of the more powerful features of the NSPS Web site is a mechanism for visitors to submit comments and ideas about the program directly to the NSPS Program Executive Office, Bunn said.

"We continuously monitor the input from visitors, and the ideas and comments we receive through the Web site will help us gauge what employees and other stakeholders are really concerned about," he said.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, giving the Defense Department new authority to develop new civilian human resources, labor-management relations and employee appeals systems.

AAFES expands phone card donation program

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Release

Service members stationed anywhere in the world can now call home with donated minutes as a result of a decision by the Department of Defense. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service can now sell Military Exchange Prepaid Phone Cards to anyone who wants to donate them to deployed troops.

The new 550-unit cards, which are available through AAFES for \$39, provide up to 140 minutes of call time for service members stationed in remote locations. The cards may be donated to an individual service member or offered to "any Soldier."

"Sending a phone card to deployed troops reminds them that folks back home are thinking of them and really care," said AAFES Commander Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost.

For more information visit www.aafes.com.

More than a mentor

YS contractor adds *power* to homework hour

Story & photo by Mildred Green

It doesn't matter if the subject at hand is math, science or history – Patricia Tyson has a way of turning homework help into a work of art.

Tyson, who has been running the Patch Youth Service's "Power Hour" homework assistance program for the past year, was commended by an Installation Management Agency, Europe Region, Regional Child and Youth Evaluation Team for coordinating "a model youth services homework center."

The RCYET members were not the first individuals to note Tyson's proficiency.

"Patricia has a rapport with the teens that is just a beautiful thing to see," said Cindy Nail, chief of Child and Youth Services.

"She's so in touch with the kids and what they need," Nail said, "that she's able to help them in ways they don't even realize."

YS Director Jemmie Collins echoed this assessment, noting that the quality of Tyson's program is the result of both effort and ability.

"She has done everything possible to make Power Hour work," Collins said.

A national program sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of America, Power Hour's main purpose is to

provide a safe haven for kids and promote academic achievement, Tyson said.

She meets this mandate, she said, by providing students with incentives for their efforts and rewards for their results.

Each day, she gives students a geography trivia question, a math teaser, a word of the day and a riddle "to make them laugh," she said.

Students earn points for every hour they attend Power Hour and by answering trivia questions. At the end of each month Tyson has a themed party where students have the chance to turn in their points for prizes.

"[Tyson] gives the kids a lot of incentives and makes learning fun," Collins said.

Tailoring the program to the individual needs of each student is essential, Tyson said.

"Sometimes a student just needs a quiet place to study and sometimes a student

just needs one-on-one," she said.

Tyson provides assistance to students in a variety of ways, including helping them with Internet research and projects, teaching them study skills and even meeting with them at the library when necessary.

During Power Hour sessions, students are also given access to the computer lab and art room – taking advantage of the talents of YS Fine Arts Instructor Wil Seda for assistance with their art projects.

Josh Wolfe, who has been with the program for a few months, said he especially enjoyed the trivia questions.

"We get cool questions to work on," Wolfe said. "I learn a lot of new words because of the word of the day."

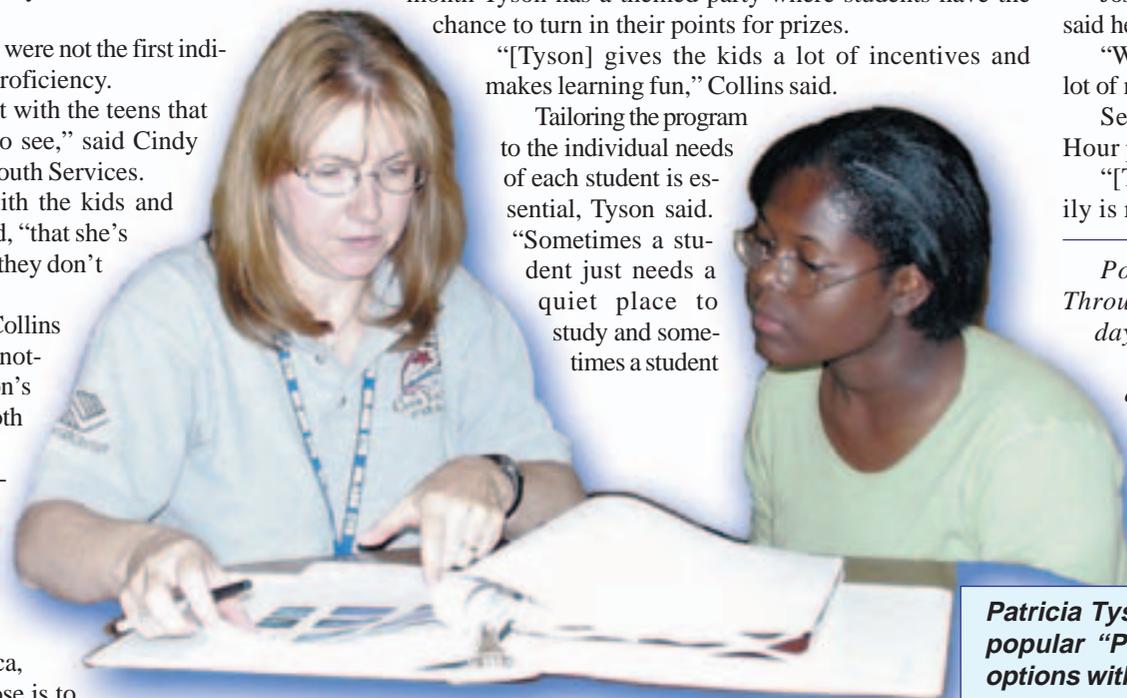
Seventh grade student Daniel Santos said the Power Hour program helped him improve his grades.

"[The program] really did help," Santos said. "My family is really proud, and so am I."

Power Hour is for students in grades six to 12. Throughout the school year the program is offered Mondays to Fridays, 3 to 6 p.m.

Though the Power Hour program has taken a break during the summer, tutoring will continue, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.

In addition, the summer offers programs such as the Ultimate Journey Science and Ecology club and Discover Stuttgart (which offers field trips around Stuttgart).



Patricia Tyson, instructor of the Patch Youth Service's popular "Power Hour," reviews YS summer program options with student Kashun Williams.

Young writer reaps \$ rewards

By Mildred Green

A Stuttgart-area second-grade student has earned a \$500 U.S. savings bond for writing about reading.

Hunter Glenn, who attends Böblingen Elementary School, was awarded the bond in May for his winning essay about why he enjoys reading.

Seven-year-old Glenn, son of Air Force Maj. Richard and Lori Glenn, competed with over 3,000 students in the 2004 Armed Services YMCA Essay Contest.

Glenn's entry, a Pledge of Allegiance-inspired essay called "Pledge To Like Reading," was judged the top submission of all second-graders.

Lori Glenn said her son, who began reading at age 3, was also selected as his school's top reader in his grade – the third straight year he has earned that honor, she noted.

"He's an excellent student and a good writer," she said.



In addition to being an award-winning writer, Hunter Glenn is also an avid reader.

A Harry Potter fan, Glenn said he reads just about every day. He enjoys longer books, he said, because "they never stop.

"Reading is interesting and you learn a lot," Glenn said. "When I read it really entertains me."

Glenn's essay and the winning submissions in all other categories may be viewed online at www.asymca.org/essay_contest_winners.htm.

Elementary students march into summer vacation

Story & photo by Mildred Green

Böblingen Elementary School students, teachers and parents enjoyed sunshine and a bit of German culture June 10 during the school's end-of-year *Volksmarch*.

Three groups of participants marched for more than four kilometers through the woods near Panzer Kaserne in what has become a pre-vacation tradition at BES.

"It's fun to be with my child on the last day of school and enjoy the nice, beautiful day," said Kim Keller, a parent of one of the marchers.

The first group of students, which consisted of kindergartners and first-, second- and fifth-grade students began their journey through the woods shortly before 9 a.m.

Though fifth-grader Aliesan Pasch, said she has been on volksmarches "about a gazillion times," she said she was "looking forward to walking today with my kindergarten friends."

Kindergarten teacher Jeremy Simpson said he hoped the students would enjoy nature, get exercise and have fun.

Teachers incorporated learning activities into the walk, pointing out items of interest such as algae in a pond or the distinct structure of particular plants.

Some students looked for beetles or butterflies along the path, while others just enjoyed the scenery and



Böblingen Elementary School students walk hand-in-hand with friends during the school's June 10 Volksmarch.

laughed with friends.

Fifth-grade teacher Shawn Gale said he thought the march was a great opportunity to use outdoor recreation to teach students about German culture through volksmarching.

"It's a nice way to end the year," he said.

Stuttgart, Garmisch plan family fests to celebrate America's Independence Day

By Hugh C. McBride

Members of the U.S. military communities in Stuttgart and Garmisch will have ample opportunity to celebrate their nation's Independence Day with family-friendly fests on Robinson Barracks and Artillery Kaserne.

Stuttgart's All-American 4th of July Celebration will bring food, fun and – of course – fireworks to Robinson Barracks for the first four days of July. Starting with a ceremonial keg-tapping July 1 and continuing through a fireworks display July 4, RB will be home to a family-friendly extravaganza featuring carnival games and rides, live music and plenty of food and drink.

Though previous July 4 fests in Stuttgart were open to Germans as well as Americans, this year's celebration is limited to U.S. identification cardholders.

Highlights include the following:

- July 1 – Keg-tapping, 6 p.m.
- July 3 – Youth Service flea market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- July 4 – Family Day (all rides half-price); fireworks at 10:30 p.m.
- Live music every night.

Garmisch's celebration is July 2, 3 to 11:30 p.m., in the Breitenau Housing Area.

German and American attendees in Garmisch will be treated to games, live music, food, face-painting, fireworks and more.



fireworks photo by Troy Sullivan; other photos by Terri Alejandro

As was the case during the 2003 July 4 Fest on Robinson Barracks, this year's Independence Day celebrations in Stuttgart and Garmisch will be family-friendly extravaganzas featuring music, games and rides, delicious food and plenty of patriotic displays.

Remember safety when enjoying summer sun

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion
and Preventive Medicine, Europe

To protect your health when temperatures are extremely high, remember to keep cool and use common sense. The following tips are important:

- **Stay hydrated** – Increase your fluid intake, regardless of activity level. During hot weather, drink more liquid than your thirst indicates.

However, avoid very cold beverages because they can cause stomach cramps, and stay away from drinks containing alcohol – because they will actually cause you to lose more fluid.

- **Replace salt and minerals** – Heavy sweating removes necessary salt and minerals from the body. The easiest and safest way to replace them is through proper attention to your diet.

Drink fruit juice or a sports beverage during exercise or any work in the heat. Do not take salt tablets unless directed by your doctor.

- **Wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen** – Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. In the hot sun, a wide-brimmed hat will provide shade and keep your head cool.

Dress infants and young children in cool, loose clothing and shade their heads and faces with hats or an umbrella. Limit their sun exposure.

Check the sun protection factor number on the label of your sunscreen container. Select SPF 15 or higher to protect yourself.

- **Schedule activities carefully and use common sense** – If you must be outside, try to plan your activities so that you are outdoors either before noon or in the evening.

The most efficient way to beat the heat is to stay in a cooled area. Avoid hot foods and heavy meals – they add heat to your body. Also, never leave infants, children or pets in parked cars.

For more information about sun safety visit www.hqusareur.army.mil and click "USAREUR Safety Website" on the right side of the page.

Sports champions crowned in Stuttgart

Volleyball teams take unit, community titles; softball squad captures Taylor tourney crown

Stuttgart-area courts and fields have been abuzz with activity over the past few weeks.

The following are the results of three tournaments held on Patch Barracks:

IMA-E Community-Level Volleyball Championship

Men

- 1st Place: Heidelberg**
- 2nd: Stuttgart
- 3rd: Kitzingen

Women

- 1st Place: Bamberg**
- 2nd: Heidelberg
- 3rd: Grafenwöhr/Vilseck

6th Area Support Group Unit-Level Volleyball Championship

- 1st Place: U.S. European Command (Headquarters & J2)**
- 2nd: 112th Signal Battalion
- 3rd: 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)



Hugh C. McBride

Stuttgart's Daniel Kronenwetter goes up for a kill during the final round of the IMA-E community-level championship meet.

Kary Taylor Memorial Preseason Softball Tournament

- 1st Place: U.S. European Command J2**
- 2nd: Marine Corps Forces, Europe
- 3rd: 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)



Christie Lawler

Brandon Lawler rips a hit during a preseason softball contest. Lawler's EUCOM J2 squad started the season by winning the Kary Taylor Memorial Tournament.