

Supervision policy puts children first

By Mark J. Howell

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It could take just seconds for something terrible to happen. An accidental drowning in a bathtub, a 4-year-old girl run over by a motorist who doesn't see her, or even an abduction by a stranger ... these are just a few scary examples of what can happen if a parent leaves a child alone.

Of course, these are things that no parent wants to hear about or experience, and that's why it's crucial for parents to maintain supervision of their children at all times.

U.S. Army Europe officials have established child supervision guidelines on what they determine to be acceptable for each grade (age) group.

See *Child supervision* on page 4



A parent watches her son and his friend as they play in the sand at a Kelley Barracks playground April 25. According to the USAREUR Child Supervision Policy, children in fifth grade or below must have adult supervision at all times. Variations allow these students to walk alone to and from school, and to sanctioned school and DOD activities.

Susan Huseman

SEAC visits enlisted troops at Patch Barracks

By Sgt. Matt Lyman

Marine Forces Europe Public Affairs Office

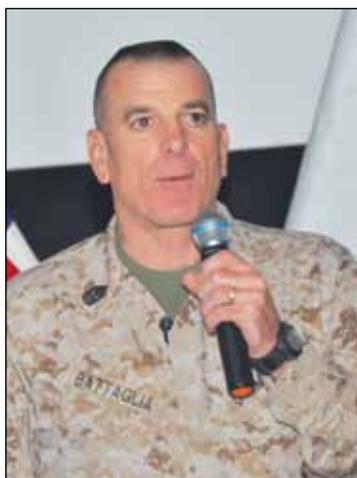
Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart April 20 to talk about the chairman of the Joint Chiefs' intent for the future of the U.S. military.

Battaglia spoke in the Patch Theater, where more than 100 enlisted service members from all branches had gathered.

The topics ranged from new policy forecasts to how well service members are taking the fight to the enemy. He discussed restructuring the military after the conflict in Afghanistan winds down, and troops returning to garrison units to resume training to answer the next call to action.

Battaglia illustrated the four main points the CJCS wants the enlisted troops to focus on.

He stressed the importance of achieving the national objectives in the current conflict, focusing on



Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addresses enlisted troops during an all-hands call on Patch Barracks April 20.

Staff. Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi

developing the joint forces model for 2020, keeping faith with the military family and renewing a commitment to the profession of arms.

"We want to be problem preventers, not problem solvers," said Battaglia of the over-arching thought behind achieving the four main points. "We want to

do everything we can to be to the left of the problem."

He spoke for about 45 minutes, reiterating the CJCS' positions, before opening the floor to questions from the audience. He concluded with encouraging words for the troops.

"Don't think for one minute that you're going to find yourself behind a desk doing a certain duty and that it's not going to have any effect on the overall mission objective and lines of operation for your commander's campaign plan or theater security plan," Battaglia said. "It's a team effort, and there's no 'I' in team."

"In our business, we rely on one another to get through periods of turbulence and uncertainty. A special breed of folks like you, who we find on our left and right, leading from the front or following close behind, all of those individuals make up this team."

Battaglia will continue visiting installations throughout Europe to encourage the troops and perpetuate the CJCS' guidance and intent for the coming post-Operation Enduring Freedom climate the military is about to find itself in.

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Want to re-up? Army wants only the best

A recent directive from the Secretary of the Army ensures that only the best qualified Soldiers with the greatest potential will be allowed to continue serving.



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Outdoor music fests heat up summer

European outdoor music festivals offer fans a chance to see dozens of bands in one venue and enjoy post-concert festivities in camping communities.



Seeking help is the first step in long road to recovery

Commentary by Mark Howell
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

an air of shock, misplaced guilt and “what ifs” also fills the room.

Though I didn’t know him very well, even I pondered this. I hadn’t seen or spoken to him since last November. What if I had? What if I could’ve helped him and kept him from doing this? These are just my questions, and I can’t even imagine what his family members are asking themselves at this point.

For some, asking what I could have done to keep him from doing this may seem a little strange, but I have a little insight on the subject.

I, myself, have been diagnosed with clinical depression, and have spent time in an in-patient hospital program because of suicidal ideations.

It was a difficult time in my life. At the time, I thought I couldn’t

overcome it, but now years later, it all seems petty.

A counselor I worked with put it very eloquently: Suicide is a permanent solution to temporary problems.

Some of the more common symptoms of depression include trouble with eating and sleeping, feelings of worthlessness, and losing interest in things you usually care about. Looking back, when these things surfaced, I found that the longer I waited, the worse they got.

Probably the most important thing I learned while in the hospital is that talking helps. Often when people are depressed, they tend to shut off and keep to themselves, which is counter-productive. Just listening to other people talk about their problems made mine seem almost trivial.

If you are in pain, reach out and tell someone. As hopeless as everything may seem, people care about you enough to help. There are dozens of resources available to people having thoughts of suicide, ranging from hot lines to chat rooms to your local hospital’s emergency room.

Though my acquaintance wasn’t

affiliated with the military, his tragedy is connected. This year, the Army has seen an alarming rise in suicides.

As of April 25, there have been 87 suicides among active duty, reservists and guardsmen, according to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program officials.

Numbers aside, even one suicide is one too many.

The Army Suicide Prevention Program hits the nail on the head with the “A.C.E.” acronym. Ask your buddy, Care for your buddy, and Escort your buddy. If a friend or family member shows signs of depression or mentions ending their life, follow these steps and get them help immediately.

Don’t be embarrassed or scared to get help. Leadership from all military branches are continuously working to eliminate the stigma associated with getting assistance. Seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, immediately call the Military Crisis hot line at DSN 118, or civilian 00800-1273-8255.

CORRECTION

In the “Health Beat” column in the April 19 issue (page 11), we erred when we wrote “Adult psychiatry (medication), active duty personnel evaluation, and emergency safety evaluation services will remain in place.” It should have read “Adult psychiatry (medication) for active duty personnel and emergency safety evaluation services will remain in place.”

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ON THE STREET

What’s the best lesson your mother ever taught you?



Cindy Tannenbaum
(Civilian)

“Always keep a \$20 bill in the ashtray in case you are low on gas.”



Staff Sgt. Greg Rakovsky
(U.S. Army)

“Always appreciate the little things, in case they go away.”



Sgt. Carl Ruth
(U.S. Army)

“Always listen.”



Capt. Tom Raia
(U.S. Air Force)

“Wash your hands.”



Staff Sgt. Greg Lamothe
(U.S. Army)

“Don’t talk to strangers.”



Maj. John Walsh
(U.S. Air Force)

“She taught me the value of hard work.”



Sgt. Anna Villanueva
(U.S. Marine Corps)

“Don’t talk to strangers.”



Staff Sgt. David Ray
(U.S. Army)

“To have genuine respect, concern and compassion for everyone.”



Evan Dyson

USAG Stuttgart's Spc. Shaquana Taylor negotiates an obstacle course April 23 as she competes with the top Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the four regions of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command during the IMCOM Best Warrior competition at Camp Bullis, San Antonio, Texas.

Stuttgart Soldier wins IMCOM Europe's Soldier of the Year

By Troy Darr

Installation Management Command Europe
Public Affairs Office

Installation Management Command Europe announced the winners of the 2012 Best Warrior Competition in a ceremony at Heidelberg April 17.

Staff Sgt. Robert C. Donovan from U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Directorate of Emergency Services and Spc. Shaquana S. Taylor from the USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office are the Best Warrior Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.

This is Taylor's second appearance at the IMCOM-E competition.

The Best Warrior Competition, held in Grafenwöhr April 2-5, consisted of a number of warrior tasks and drills, including an Army Physical Fitness Test, marksmanship, an essay and written examination, a 12-mile foot march with a 35-pound rucksack, warrior tasks and drills, day and night land navigation, and an appearance before a board of brigade command sergeants major.

"This has been a long and grueling competition, one that has tested both these Soldiers' physical and mental strength, and endurance," said Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Maieritsch, IMCOM Europe. "I commend all of you for your efforts during this competition."

During the ceremony, both winners were awarded Army Achievement Medals by Kathleen Marin, IMCOM Europe region director.

"The Best Warrior Competition brings together



Spc. Shaquana Taylor

The Best Warrior Competition brings together the best ... those for whom good enough is never enough.

Kathleen Marin
IMCOM Europe director

the best of the best... those for whom good enough is never enough," Marin said.

"You Soldiers and noncommissioned officers have strived not just to excel, but to inspire, understanding that leading by example is not only the right thing to do, but essential to a strong Army family. I am inspired by meeting you all here today, and I want to personally thank you for that."

Taylor and Donovan went on to represent IMCOM Europe at the National Capital Region Competition in San Antonio, Texas, April 22-26, where the top Soldiers and NCOs from each of IMCOM's four regions faced off.

IMCOM announced April 26 on its Facebook page that Donovan had won the IMCOM NCO of the Year title.

Spc. Kevin Mulloy, assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas, was named the IMCOM Soldier of the Year.

They will both move on to compete in the All-Army Best Warrior competition to be held later this year.

Editor's note: Neal Synder and William Bradner, both of IMCOM, also contributed to this story.

News & Notes

Need IG assistance?

The U.S. Army Europe Inspector General Stuttgart Office is no longer manned on a daily basis. The Stuttgart Office (Room 25, Building 2301, Patch Barracks) is open Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Heidelberg Office will now handle cases originating in Stuttgart. However, immediate face-to-face IG assistance is available in Stuttgart from the U.S. European and Africa Command IG offices.

For more information, call the Stuttgart Office at 430-2348/civ. 0711-680-2348 (Tuesday only) or call the Heidelberg office at 370-5070/civ. 06221-57-5070.

The USAREUR IG hot line number is 370-5555/civ. 06221-57-5555, or email usareuroig@europe.ignet.army.mil.

(This information was provided by the U.S. Army Europe Inspector General's Office)

No Fear training required for USAREUR civilian employees

U.S. Army Europe federal civilian employees have until May 31 to complete the Notification of Anti-discrimination and Retaliation online training. The training includes applicable rights and remedies for civilian employees under federal anti-discrimination and whistle-blower protection laws.

Training can be completed by logging onto the Army Training Requirement and Recourses System, registering for No Fear training course EEO-202, and proceeding to the Army Learning Management System.

(This information was provided by the U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office)

'Safe Helpline' for victims of sexual assault

A worldwide 24/7 crisis support service is available for members of the Defense Department community affected by sexual assault.

Safe Helpline provides live, one-on-one support and information. The service is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 by click, call, or text — providing victims with the help they need, anytime, anywhere.

Outside the U.S., call civ. 001-877-995-5247, text your ZIP code to civ. 001-202-470-5546, or visit www.safehelpline.org.

(This information was provided by the U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office)

AFN staffer wins top award

American Forces Network-Heidelberg's Army Staff Sgt. Lucas Hoskins was recently recognized during the 2011 Thomas Jefferson Awards competition. Hoskins won an individual "TJ" award in Broadcast Category O, Television Newsbreak, for his "Guten Appetit Soltana" entry.

The Thomas Jefferson Awards Program, recognizes military and civilian employee print and broadcast journalists for outstanding achievements in furthering the objectives of the Department of Defense Internal Information Program.

(This information was provided by the Army Office of the Chief of Public Affairs)

Ask a JAG

Editor's Note: Do you have a legal question you would like to see answered in a future edition of The Citizen? If so, contact "Ask a JAG" at aaron.l.lancaster4.mil@mail.mil.

By Capt. Aaron L. Lancaster (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: I am new to Germany and want to bring my firearms. Are there rules for bringing in firearms to Germany?

A: There are very specific rules and requirements for bringing privately owned firearms (POFs) to Germany. Failure to comply with them can result in punishment under German law and/or the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and confiscation of your weapons. This article only provides a bare bones guide. Anyone who is thinking about acquiring a POF or transporting a POF to Germany should fully read Army in Europe Regulation 190-6, which governs the registration and control of POFs in Germany.

Americans living in Germany under the Status of Forces Agreement must apply for and complete extensive paperwork before they will be allowed to acquire, own and register POFs in Germany. These requirements cannot be done prior to being stationed in Germany. Specifically, these requirements include: being at least 18 years old, reliable and physically fit; not having a weapons permit previously withdrawn; being able to use, handle and store weapons and ammunition carefully; prohibiting others who do not have the legal authority to use weapons and ammunition from using the applicant's weapons and ammunition; not having a criminal record for various offenses; being of sound mental health; being free from addiction to alcohol or drugs; and having a Jagdschein (German hunting license) and/or Bedürfnisnachweis (certificate of need). Information on the Jagdschein can be found in AER 215-145.

Once an American has completed the above process, he must obtain a Verbringungserlaubnis (importation permit) and a Waffenbesitzkarte (German weapons possession card) with all the POFs properly entered on it before bringing any POF into Germany through any means. POFs will not be included in household goods/unaccompanied baggage shipments, hand-carried, transported in luggage, or mailed to Germany, unless the owner possesses a valid Verbringungserlaubnis and Waffenbesitzkarte specifically listing those firearms.

Once an American has a valid Verbringungserlaubnis and Waffenbesitzkarte specifically listing their POFs, he should contact the U.S. Army Europe Registry of Motor Vehicles and Firearms Registration Office at DSN 314-496-4637/4632 or civilian 49-6302-67-4637/4632 for specific rules on shipping and mailing various types of POFs to Germany.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge advocate at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.



Panzer piper

Bryan Stewart, an Army colonel with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., plays "Amazing Grace" behind the Panzer Hotel April 26. Stewart, who said he takes his bagpipe with him everywhere, was in Böblingen on leave.

Susan Huseman

Child supervision

Continued from page 1

One major reason for the policy is that the guidelines for supervision vary from state to state, so a baseline needed to be set for families overseas.

According to the policy, children in fifth grade or below must have adult supervision at all times. The only variations to this rule are to allow students in first through fifth grade to walk alone to and from school and sanctioned school and Defense Department activities. Fourth- and fifth-graders may remain in a vehicle unattended for up to 10 minutes.

Sixth- through 12th-graders are allowed to be left unattended for various periods of time, depending on the situation.

Here in Stuttgart, there have been two recent instances — an 8-year-old left alone with a three-month-old in a car, and a 9-year-old left in a car with keys in its ignition.

If a child is found unattended, a Military Policeman will stay with the child while the MP desk tries to contact the parent. When the parent is found, they are taken to the station where the guidance policy is explained, according to Bob Benavides, the deputy director of Emergency Services.

In any violation of the child supervision policy, the

parent(s) can be detained, and the case is immediately turned over to Social Work Services for a case review.

"Every case is different, so there's no blanket solution," said Mary Ellen Kauffman, chief of Social Work Services for Stuttgart. "We develop a treatment plan depending on the situation. We're just out to protect children."

With summer only weeks away, temperatures will start to rise, as will the risks associated with leaving children unattended ... especially in vehicles.

If a young child is found unattended in a vehicle, and parents cannot be immediately contacted, MPs are authorized to use force to enter the vehicle to get the child out. In a non-emergency, a locksmith will be called to open the vehicle, and in emergency situations, the fire department will be called to get the child out quickly.

Any damage to the vehicle or associated fees will be at the owner's expense. On a related note, MPs will use the same procedures for unattended pets left in vehicles.

To view the U.S. Army Europe Child Supervision Guidance policy, including a break down by grade, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil, click on "Garrison," then "Command Policies."

USAREUR Child Supervision Guidelines

Birth to 4 years:

May never be left alone (at home or outside).

Kindergarten to third grade:

May not be left at home alone. May be left outside unattended if in a playground or yard within sight or hearing distance of adult supervision. No baby-sitting.

Grades four, five:

May be left outside unattended with ready access to adult supervision. May not be left alone at

home. No baby-sitting.

Grades six, seven:

May be left home alone or outside unattended for up to six hours (within a 24-hour period) with ready access to adult supervision. Sixth-graders are authorized to baby-sit siblings only, for up to three hours, with ready access to adult supervision. Seventh-graders are authorized to baby-sit siblings and others for up to six hours, but never overnight.

Grades eight to 10:

May be left unattended outside or at home, but never overnight. May baby-sit siblings and others for up to 12 hours with access to adult supervision, but never overnight.

Grades 11-12:

May be left alone at home for up to 48 hours, but an adult neighbor or adult friend must check on them at least every 12 hours. May baby-sit siblings and others.



'Twelfth Night' wins big

Couples Viola and Orsino (played by Stacey Heisler, from left, and T.J. Downing), and Olivia and Sebastian (Marissa Shams-White and Solomon Roade) unite under the watchful eye of a priest (Richard Ranum) during the conclusion of "Twelfth Night," Stuttgart Theatre Center's most recent production. The Stuttgart Theatre Center took home eight awards — "Twelfth Night" won five — and 28 nominations at this year's Tournament of Plays "Topper" Awards Show, held April 22 by U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg. Shams-White won for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for her role in "Twelfth Night," while Heisler was nominated as Best Actress in a Drama and Roade was nominated for Best Actor in a Featured Role in a Drama.

Harriott Johnston

AFN to air 'Toppers'

American Forces Network will showcase the top Installation Management Command theater productions during a special airing of the 2012 "Topper Awards" on the Pentagon Channel May 5 and May 12 at 7 p.m. Central European Time.

The show will also be on AFN Europe's Youtube channel May 6 at www.youtube.com/afneurope.

Esso system outage set for May 10

An Esso system upgrade is planned for May 10 from 3 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Esso functions and some other services will not be available.

Credit and debit transactions are not affected.

Facilities to close for German holidays

- All Community Banks in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed on May 17, Ascension Day; and May 28, Whit Monday, to observe German federal holidays.

- The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vehicle Registration office will also close May 17 and May 28. For more information, call 431-2833/ civ. 07031-15-2833.

Community Chorus to perform May 13

The Stuttgart German-American Community Chorus will perform May 13 at 6 p.m. at the Kleiner Kursaal at Königplatz 1 in Bad Cannstatt.

The concert will be directed by Thomas Carter. Tickets are €10 and may be purchased from choir members, or at the door an hour before the concert.

For more information, visit www.sgacc.de.

Go to work for Family and MWR

The Nonappropriated Fund Human Resources Office at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will accept applications for various NAF positions within Child, Youth and School Services as child and youth program assistants.

Positions are open to all qualified candidates eligible for appointment under U.S. employment conditions.

Visit the USA Jobs website to view vacancies at www.usajobs.gov.

MCEC books to be unveiled at library

The Patch Library will unveil its Military Child Education Coalition-recommended book collection on May 10 at 10:45 a.m.

The collection is intended

to help support and encourage healthy military children and families.

For more information, call the Patch Library at 430-5964/civ. 0711-680-5964.

Learn about local landlord laws

The Stuttgart Law Center will offer German landlord and tenant law briefings for newcomers on May 10, 24 and 31 at 10 a.m.

The briefings aim to familiarize community members with the differences in law and legal culture.

The briefings will be held in the Stuttgart Law Center courtroom, Building 3312, Kelley Barracks.

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

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgart-media@eur.army.mil

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Motorcycle Safety: Be ready to ride

Motorcycle riding season is approaching and now is the time for riders to prepare themselves and their motorcycles for the season.

Here are a few safety tips motorcyclists should follow before operating their bikes.

- Perform preventive maintenance to ensure the bike is in top mechanical condition. A full tune-up and service is a good place to start.
- Get your riding skills up to par after the winter lay-off.
- Let other drivers see you by wearing high-visibility garments.
- Wear proper protective clothing such as an approved helmet with eye protection, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, full-length trousers, full-fingered gloves and over-the-ankle footwear preferably made of leather, with an oil-resistant sole to reduce slipping hazards.
- Drive defensively and always adjust your speed for road and traffic conditions.
- Don't drink and drive.





U.S. Army graphic

Photos from smartphones are geotagged even when the user is unaware. Smartphone users can adjust their privacy settings to limit who can view their geotagged locations.

Service members, families urged to use precautions with social media

By Cheryl Rodewig

Fort Benning Public Affairs Office

“Is a badge on Foursquare worth your life?” The question was posed by Brittany Brown, social media manager of the Online and Social Media Division at the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. It may sound outlandish, but in the age of social geotagging, it can be a reality.

There are a number of location-based social media applications and platforms, including Foursquare, Gowalla, SCVNGR, Shopkick, Loopt and Whrrl, currently on the market. They use GPS features, typically in the user’s phone, to publish the person’s location and offer rewards in the form of discounts, badges or points to encourage frequent check-ins.

Security risks for the military:

A deployed service member’s situational awareness includes the world of social media. If a Soldier uploads a photo taken on his or her smartphone to Facebook, it could broadcast the exact location of his unit, according to Steve Warren, deputy G2 for the Maneuver Center of Excellence, or MCoE.

“Today, in pretty much every single smartphone, there is built-in GPS,” Warren said. “For every picture you take with that phone, it will automatically embed the latitude and longitude within the photograph.”

Someone with the right software and the wrong motivation could download the photo and extract the coordinates from the metadata.

Warren cited a real-world example from 2007. When a new fleet of helicopters arrived at a base in Iraq, some Soldiers took pictures on the flight line, he said. From the photos that were uploaded to the Internet, the enemy was able to determine the exact location of the helicopters inside the compound and conduct a mortar attack, destroying four of the AH-64 Apaches.

Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam, of the Online and Social Media Division, said geotagging is of particular concern for deployed Soldiers and those in transit to a mission.

“Ideally, Soldiers should always be aware of the dangers associated with geotagging regardless of where they are,” he explained.

Hazards for family members:

While especially relevant for those in the military, cautions about geotagging extend to all who use that feature.

Facebook has rolled out Timeline, a layout that includes a map tab of all the locations a user has tagged.

“Timeline presents some unique security challenges for users who tag location to posts,” Sweetnam said.

“Some of those individuals have hundreds of ‘friends’

they may never have actually met in person, he explained. “By looking at someone’s map tab on Facebook, you can see everywhere they’ve tagged a location. You can see the restaurants they frequent, the gym they go to every day, even the street they live on, if they’re tagging photos of their home. Honestly, it’s pretty scary how much an acquaintance who becomes a Facebook ‘friend’ can find out about your routines and habits if you’re always tagging location to your posts.”

Most of the applications let users limit who can see their check-ins to friends or friends of friends.

“A good rule of thumb when using location-based social networking applications is do not become friends with someone if you haven’t met them in person,” Sweetnam said. “Make sure you’re careful about who you let into your social media circle.”

Even if there is nothing classified about an individual’s location, a series of locations posted online over the course of a month can create a pattern that criminals can use.

“If someone were going to get a hold of your phone, they could figure out a lot about who you are. It’s like a beacon that’s always out there communicating with towers and plotting your moves on a computer somewhere. Literally, if you don’t turn off that feature on your phone people are going to be able to recreate your whole day,” Warren said.

Ways to stay safe:

“In operations security, we talk about the adversary,” said Kent Grosshans, MCoE operations security officer. “The adversary could be a hacker, could be terrorists, could be criminals; someone who has an intent to cause harm. The adversary picks up on pieces of information to put the whole puzzle together.”

Grosshans suggests disabling the geotagging feature on your phone and checking your security settings to see who you’re sharing check-ins with.

“If your husband’s deployed and you go ahead and start posting all these pictures that are geotagged, now not only does an individual know your husband’s deployed and he’s not at home, but they know where your house is,” he said.

Ultimately, it’s about weighing the risks.

“Do you really want everyone to know the exact location of your home or your children’s school?” Sweetnam said. “Before adding a location to a photo, Soldiers really need to step back and ask themselves, ‘Who really needs to know this location information?’”

Grosshans said it’s as important to Soldiers as to family members.

“Be conscious of what information you’re putting out there,” he said. “Don’t share information with strangers. Once it’s out there, it’s out there. There’s no pulling it back.”

Tips to protect you and your family in the world of social media

By Shay Edwards

USAG Stuttgart
Antiterrorism Office

- Remove any pictures with location data of you and your family. Pay specific attention to those pictures near and around your home, and places that you regularly visit. Many cell phones and iTouches automatically tag each photograph taken with the location of the picture. When downloaded onto social networking websites, these locations can reveal where you live and work, and identify other members of your family.

- Remove any geotagging data from your smart phone, iPhone or Blackberry. Your smart phone may have this function without your knowledge. There are numerous online websites that help you do this for your phone. Just search online to find one.

- Do not “check in” to different locations. Many social media sites offer incentives for visiting certain places and posting your whereabouts online. Keep in mind every time you do this, you tell anyone watching exactly where you are and how far you are away from home.

- Don’t provide a minute by minute account of your day. Keep some things a secret. Telling the world where you are and what you’re doing can be used to predict where you’ll be in the future. If you’re excited about an upcoming vacation, keep it to yourself. Criminals can use this information to determine the best time to rob your home.

- Don’t identify your friends’ names to others on a social networking site. This may make them future targets for a criminal or terrorist act. Do your friends a favor and keep them anonymous.

- Don’t post your address online. If someone has your full name and knows the area where you live, they can find you online. If they can figure out when you’ll be gone, you’re inviting disaster.

For more information, visit the Information Assurance web page on social networking at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/25539870>.

Health clinic to host sports physical days

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart will offer several opportunities for school-age children to receive sports physicals.

The physicals will be offered on June 9, July 14, Aug. 3 and Aug. 17.

Appointments will be available 28 days from the event date. Sports physicals are open to all children, regardless of their sponsors' beneficiary status (active duty, retiree, contractor, Defense Department civilian). If you are not a Tricare Prime beneficiary, bring a copy of your insurance card with you to the visit.

Call the Europe Regional Medical Command Call Center at 371-2622/civ. 06221-17-2622 for an appointment.

Run in Cobblestone Classic May 19

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and MWR Cobblestone Classic, a five-mile run on the historic tank trail from Patch Barracks to Panzer Kaserne, will be held May 19. The run starts at 10

a.m. on Husky Field, Patch Barracks.

Register through May 14 at the Patch Fitness Center. The first 300 runners will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

For more information, call 430-7136/ civ. 0711-680-7136.

Sign up now for summer VBS

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will host Vacation Bible School July 30 to Aug. 3 at Patch Elementary School.

VBS is for children who have completed American kindergarten to those who will be entering sixth grade.

The registration period is from May 15 to June 30.

For more information, call 431-3078 or 430-2338, or email patchvbs@google-mail.com.

Apply for jobs with Summer Hire

Applications for the 2012 Summer Hire program in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be accepted through May 20.

Family members ages 14-22 with valid ID cards,

and spouses under age 18 who are still in high school, are eligible to apply.

Jobs are available in labor, clerical and child care fields. The program will run from June 18 to July 27.

Apply online at <https://cpolrhp.cpol.army.mil>.

For more information, call the Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at 431-3128/civ. 07031-15-3128.

Get ready for bodybuilding contest

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the fifth annual Bodybuilding and Figure Competition Aug. 25.

The contest will be sanctioned by the International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation.

For more information, call the Patch Fitness Center at 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Stuttgart Law Center has new hours

The Stuttgart Law Center Legal Assistance Office has announced new customer service hours.

Walk-in service for notaries and powers of attorney will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2-4:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the Legal Assistance Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m. The Tuesday afternoon

closure will allow legal staff to draft wills and estate planning documents. The Thursday morning closure is for attorney and paralegal training sessions.

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

409th CSB offers procurement class

The 409th Contracting Support Brigade will offer procurement familiarization classes for personnel developing requirements packages intended for the 409th CSB. The three-hour class includes topics such as acquisition planning, market research and performance work statements.

Classes are designed for those involved in the requirements planning process, such as contracting officer representatives, resource managers/budgeting personnel and mission planners.

For more information, contact the Procurement Liaison at 421-2480/civ. 0711-729-2480 or email daniel.t.jaques.civ@mail.mil.

CID offering reward

The Stuttgart Criminal Investigation Division is offering a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person responsible for rifling mail and stealing personal property between Feb. 23 and March 8.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident should

contact the Stuttgart CID office at 430-2976/ civ. 0711-680-2976, or the Military Police at 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262.

Did you know?

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month had its origin in 1978 when Congress requested the president to issue a proclamation designating the seven-day period beginning on May 4, 1979, as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week.

Asian-Pacific Americans encompass over 50 ethnic/ language groups, including native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Asian and Pacific Islanders represent a vast array of languages and cultures with more groups than ever before with 28 Asian and 19 Pacific Island subgroups.

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgart-media@eur.army.mil

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Moles

A mole is a tiny, gray or black mammal. Moles are also insectivores, with a preference for worms, grubs and other insects found underground. Often moles cause homeowners trouble because of their lawn-digging activities, which leaves unsightly molehills or collapsed tunnels below the lawn's surface. Moles are also often mistakenly blamed for plant damage caused by mice and voles. They do not eat the bulbs of flowers and vegetables. In fact, these plants benefit from moles feeding on grubs and worms that can damage the plants.

Molehills are an excellent soil source for your flower pots.

In Germany, moles are an endangered species. It is prohibited by law to hunt, hurt, trap or kill them. The only option is to chase them away with odor-barriers, noise or vibrations.

AFRICOM observes worldwide malaria initiative

Story & photo by Jan Childs
U.S. Africa Command
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Africa Command observed the World Health Assembly's World Malaria Day April 25 in recognition of the global effort to provide effective control of malaria.

Stationed under a tent adjacent to the Kelley Theatre and wearing T-shirts emblazoned with "Malaria Bites," AFRICOM medical experts handed out fliers, talked about mosquito nets and sprays, and offered the curious a chance to look at some of the common malaria-carrying mosquitoes and their larvae under a microscope.

The information was geared mostly toward AFRICOM personnel who may travel to Africa, where malaria is one of the most serious health threats they'll face.

"The first step is get to know who you're fighting," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Steven Baty, a veterinary epidemiologist for Public Health Command Region-Europe. "If we can identify the mosquitoes in the area that are going to carry malaria, then we can look at prevention programs."

Because AFRICOM personnel

often travel in small groups to the continent, it's important to stay healthy.

"Each person is critical," said Lt. Col. Jose Nunez, chief of the AFRICOM Health Protection Branch. "If you have one person go down, that person can't do his or her job."

The health clinic annex at Kelley Barracks is a "one-stop shop" for personnel traveling to Africa.

The clinic provides health screenings, immunizations, malaria prophylaxis and mosquito repellents.

"It is the best travel readiness clinic in the entire [Department of Defense]," said Dr. (Maj.) Robert Holmes, AFRICOM's infectious disease physician.

The clinic celebrated its one-year anniversary this week. Holmes said the clinic handled 3,500 patient visits in its first year, including about 750 related to travel to Africa.

"It's a huge capability," Maj. Gen. Barbara Faulkenberry said of the clinic, an arm of the main Army health clinic on Patch Barracks.

Treated mosquito nets are also available to personnel traveling to Africa.

Mosquito nets are one of the best ways to prevent malaria, and are a focus of some of AFRICOM's outreach efforts to partner nations.



Dr. (Col.) John Andrus, AFRICOM deputy command surgeon (from left), explains the intricacies of treating clothing with mosquito repellent to Nikki Brooks-Cullum and Violeta Hauser at AFRICOM's World Malaria Day tent April 25.

In March as part of an ongoing effort, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa handed out some 18,000 nets to residents in Ethiopia.

Other AFRICOM initiatives to combat the spread of malaria include a series of training events in Tanzania designed to improve diagnostic techniques, and a malaria awareness event during the annual MEDFLAG exercise last year in Ghana.

U.S. Africa Command has also

established an East African Malaria Task Force.

The task force formed in December and will meet July 24-26 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to discuss ways to combat the disease, which kills some 600,000 African children each year, said Dr. Refaat Hanaa, an AFRICOM epidemiologist.

Beside Tanzania, other partners in the task force are Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Rwanda.

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Re-enlisting in downsizing Army now tougher

By Army Capt. Aaron Lancaster
Stuttgart Law Center

Soldiers are no longer eligible for automatic re-enlistments, according to the Army Retention initiative that went into effect on March 1.

Specifically, Army Directive 2012-03 spells out the criteria for determining whether a particular Soldier will be qualified for re-enlistment and mandates initiation of bars to re-enlistment for various types of misconduct.

The directive, released from Secretary of the Army John McHugh in February, was issued to ensure that only the best qualified Soldiers with the greatest potential for future service will be allowed to continue serving within the Army's ranks.

The directive is broken into three parts: re-enlistment qualifications, bars to re-enlistment and re-enlistment objectives.

The section on re-enlistment qualifications expands upon the Army Retention Program and applies to all non-commissioned officers in the rank of staff sergeant and above.

These NCOs will now be considered unqualified for re-enlistment if their Official Military Personnel File contains any of the following: a Relief-for-Cause Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report; a "No" listed in Part IV (Army Values/Attributes/Skills/Actions) of any NCOER; a senior rater rating of 4 (fair) or 5 (poor) in Part V-Overall Performance and Potential of any NCOER; or a Service School Academic Evaluation Report indicating a failure in any NCO education system course. For re-enlistment purposes, it is irrelevant when one of the four was placed in the NCO's OMPF. Simply having one of these in their OMPF will make the NCO unqualified to re-enlist. The only exception to these criteria would be a waiver from the commander of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command. This change will not impact NCOs currently serving on an indefinite re-enlistment contract.

The directive also expands situations in which commanders are required to initiate bars to re-enlistment upon their Soldiers.

Bars to re-enlistment are designed for Soldiers whose immediate separation under administrative procedures is not warranted, but whose re-entry into or service beyond their current contract with the active



Pfc. Adam Hefner

3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Soldiers raise their hands to recite the enlistment oath at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu on Nov. 11, 2010. Mass re-enlistment ceremonies could be a thing of the past with the Army's new re-enlistment directive.

Army is not in the best interest of the military service.

Previously, commanders were required to initiate a bar to re-enlistment on any Soldier who failed to make satisfactory progress in the Army Weight Control Program or who failed two consecutive Army Physical Fitness Tests.

The new directive adds five additional reasons for which commanders will be required to initiate a bar to re-enlistment. These include barring Soldiers who, starting March 1, 2012, lose their primary military occupational specialty qualification due to the fault of the Soldier, as well as Soldiers who are denied Command List Integration for promotion by the unit commander.

In addition, a bar to re-enlistment will be placed on any Soldier who, during their current enlistment/re-enlistment period: 1) has an incident involving the use of illegal drugs or alcohol which results in the Soldier receiving an officially filed letter of rep-

rimand, a finding of guilty under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, a civilian criminal conviction, or a conviction by court martial; 2) has two or more separate proceedings under Article 15 of the UCMJ, resulting in a finding of guilty by a field grade commander; or 3) is absent without leave for more than 96 hours. This change will have no effect upon Soldiers currently serving on an indefinite re-enlistment contract.

For Soldiers in Europe, the requirement for a bar to re-enlistment for alcohol misconduct will likely have the greatest effect. A General Officer Reprimand is required to be issued to any Soldier caught drinking and driving with a blood alcohol content of .05 percent or higher. If this letter of reprimand is placed in the Soldier's OMPF, the commander will be required to place a bar to re-enlistment upon the Soldier. In addition, Soldiers who become disorderly or involved in a fight at a fest or a local bar and are found guilty under Article 15 of the UCMJ will also be required to have a bar to re-enlistment placed upon them. Either of these could have the effect of ending the Soldier's military career.

Bars to re-enlistments placed under the new directive will remain in effect and be treated the same as all other bars to re-enlistment issued under the Army Retention Program. Among others, these requirements direct the initiation of separation of Soldiers upon completion of the second three-month review if the bar is not removed.

Finally, the directive discussed general re-enlistment objectives to assist commanders in better determining which Soldiers will be allowed to re-enlist and which Soldiers will not.

Commanders have been instructed that they should use the "whole Soldier" concept. This means the consideration of Soldier attributes, competencies, leadership potential, adherence to standards, duty performance and evaluations that demonstrate the ability of a particular Soldier to serve in any MOS prior to making any determination that a Soldier will be allowed to re-enlist. Under this approach, some fully qualified Soldiers may be denied re-enlistment.

Questions regarding this article can be presented to the Stuttgart legal assistance office at 421-4152 or commercial 0711-729-4152.

Have a comment on garrison services?



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What's happening in FMWR

Get scuba certified

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Outdoor Recreation offers a weekend scuba certification class to be held May 12, 13, 19 and 20. Pre-diving requirements must be completed before the first dive. Transportation, bunkhouse lodging, dive materials, lake fees, equipment, instructors and guides are included in the cost.

For more information, call 431-2774/ civ. 07031-15-2774.

See top artwork

Winning artwork from the local Army Arts and Crafts contest will be on display during the awards ceremony and exhibition scheduled for May 16 at 4 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center.

For more information, call the Patch Arts and Crafts Center at 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

Physical Fitness Month

May is National Physical Fitness Month. Family and MWR will host several events:

- Boot camp fitness class, May 8, 9 a.m., Panzer Fitness Center;
- Cobblestone Classic 5-mile

fun run, May 19 (pre-registration required), Husky Field;
• Bike to Work Week, May 21-25, Kelley Barracks.

For more information, call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.

Ductigami

Ductigami is the art of creating useful objects from duct tape. Young teens are invited to the Patch Library to create wallets, purses and phone holders on May 17 from 3-5 p.m.

For more information, call 430-7138/civ. 0711-680-7138.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day May 6

On May 6, military spouses can pick up a bar of locally-made chocolate at most Family and MWR facilities. The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center will offer military spouses one free game of bowling and free shoe rental, from 1-6 p.m.

For more information, call 431-2575/civ. 07031 15 2575.

For more activities and events, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.



Coming to Patch Theater

May 4 — Safe (R) 6 and 9 p.m.

May 5 — Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs (PG) 4 p.m., Wanderlust (R) 7 p.m., Safe (R) 9 p.m.

May 6 — The Three Stooges (PG) 2 p.m., Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 4 p.m., The Three Stooges (PG) 7 p.m.

May 7 — Safe (R) 6 p.m.

May 8 — Wanderlust (R) 6 p.m.

May 9 — Act Of Valor (R) 6 p.m.

May 10 — The Hunger Games (PG-13) 6 p.m.

May 11 — The Avengers (PG-13) 4 p.m., The Avengers (PG-13) 7 p.m., Project X (R) 10 p.m.

May 12 — The Avengers (PG-13) 4 p.m., The Avengers (PG-13) 7 p.m., Gone (PG-13) 10 p.m.

May 13 — The Avengers (PG-13) 1 p.m., The Hunger Games (PG-13) 4 p.m., The Avengers (PG-13) 7 p.m.

May 14 — The Avengers (PG-13) 6 p.m.

May 15 — The Hunger Games



Paramount Pictures

Chris Hemsworth reprises his role as Thor in "The Avengers." The movie also stars Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner and Samuel L. Jackson.

(PG-13) 6 p.m.

May 16 — Wrath Of The Titans (PG-13) 6 p.m.

May 17 — Gone (PG-13) 6 p.m.

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Summer of music: festivals big hit in Europe

**Outdoor
music fests
will warm up
your summer**

If you like being outdoors and are a music lover, there's no better place to be in the summer than Europe.

Warm weather, coupled with big names in the music industry, gathers flocks of fun-loving concertgoers together for music festivals across the continent.

The majority of the large festivals feature mostly rock groups, however there are options to suit just about every musical taste.

These "mini-Woodstocks" offer music fans a chance to see dozens of bands play in one venue and enjoy post-concert festivities in camping communities adjacent to the concert area, all for a relatively low price, if you consider the number of acts you get to see.

If you're not a camping enthusiast, or if you only want to see bands performing on a certain day, most of the festivals offer a single-day ticket. If you decide to camp, you'll find that most festivals offer a commissary with supplies, as well as shower facilities. Before you make your decision, be sure to read all of the information and restrictions on each festival's website.

If you're interested in going to a fest, get your tickets early. Several of this summer's events have already sold out. Here's a list of festivals that still have tickets available as of April 30.

PinkPop 2012 Landgraaf, Netherlands

Saturday, May 26 to Monday, May 28
Capacity: 60,000
Price: Weekend ticket with camping included — €160; single day ticket — €80
Website: www.pinkpop.nl

Headliners: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Linkin Park, The Cure, Keane, Mumford & Sons, The Hives, Mastodon, Soundgarden, The Ting Tings, James Morrison

Download Festival 2012 Donington Park, U.K.

Friday, June 8 to Sunday, June 10
Capacity: 110,000
Weekend ticket with camping included — £190
Website: www.downloadfestival.co.uk

Headliners: Metallica, Rise Against, Black Sabbath, NOFX, Tenacious D, Dropkick Murphys, Soundgarden, Shinedown, Theory of a Deadman

Greenfield Festival 2012 Interlaken, Switzerland

Friday, June 15 to Sunday, June 17
Capacity: 25,000
Price: To be determined
Website: www.greenfieldfestival.ch

Headliners: Rise Against, The Offspring, Limp Bizkit, The Hives, Sepultura, Less Than Jake, Fear Factory, zebrahead, Pennywise, Lagwagon, Mad Caddies

Isle of Wight Festival 2012 Isle of Wight, U.K.

Wednesday, June 20 to Sunday, June 24
Capacity: 70,000
Adult — camping £190, non-camping £160
Child (7-12 years) — camping £95, non-camping £80
Children 6 and under are free
Website: www.isleofwightfestival.com

Headliners: Pearl Jam, Bruce Springsteen, Switchfoot, Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers, Kelis, Jessie J, The Darkness, Madness, Tinie Tempah, Black Stone Cherry, Christina Perri

Southside Festival 2012 Bodensee, Germany

Friday, June 22 to Sunday, June 24
Capacity: 55,000
Weekend ticket including camping — €141
Website: www.southside.com

Headliners: blink-182, Rise Against, The Cure, The Shins, Florence + the Machine, The Mars Volta, Mumford & Sons, City and Colour, Garbage, New Order, Wolfmother, Less Than Jake, Switchfoot

Open Air St. Gallen 2012 St. Gallen, Switzerland

Thursday, June 28 to Sunday, July 1
Capacity: 30,000
Weekend ticket including camping — 183 Swiss francs (CHF)
Website: www.openairsg.ch

Headliners: Incubus, Florence + the Machine, The Mars Volta, Mumford & Sons, Wolfmother, Die Toten Hosen

Eurockéennes de Belfort 2012 Belfort, France

Friday, June 29 to Sunday, July 1
Capacity: 32,000
Weekend ticket with camping included — €77; single day ticket — €44
Website: www.eurockeenes.fr

Headliners: The Cure, The Kooks, Dropkick Murphys, Mastodon, Cypress Hill, Wiz Khalifa, Pennywise

Sonne Mond Sterne 2012 Saalburg-Ebersdorf, Germany

Friday, Aug. 10 to Sunday, Aug. 12
Capacity: 30,000
Weekend ticket with camping included — €92
Website: www.sonnemondsterne.de

Headliners: The Prodigy, Fatboy Slim, Skrillex, Hot Chip, Digitalism, Apparat, Vitalic, Sebastian

Frequency Festival 2012 St. Pölten, Austria

Thursday, Aug. 16 to Saturday, Aug. 18
Capacity: 40,000
Weekend ticket with camping included — €136.60
Website: www.frequency.at

Headliners: The Killers, Placebo, The Cure, Korn, Bloc Party, The Black Keys, Wilco, Yellowcard, The Hives

Pukkelpop 2012 Hasselt, Belgium

Thursday, Aug. 16 to Saturday, Aug. 18
Capacity: 50,000
Weekend ticket with camping included — €155; single day ticket — €79
Website: www.pukkelpop.be

Headliners: Foo Fighters, Bloc Party, Björk, Feist, The Black Keys, Wilco, Me First And The Gimme Gimmes

Reading Festival 2012 Reading, U.K.

Friday, Aug. 24 to Sunday, Aug. 26
Capacity: 90,000
Weekend ticket with camping included — from £197.50
Website: www.readingfestival.com

Headliners: Foo Fighters, Paramore, The Cure, The Shins, Florence + the Machine, Bullet For My Valentine, The Black Keys, Coheed and Cambria, Angels & Airwaves, Foster the People

Rock en Seine 2012 Paris, France

Friday, Aug. 24 to Sunday, Aug. 26
Capacity: 30,000
Price: Weekend ticket with camping included — €109; single day ticket — €49
Website: www.rockenseine.com/en

Headliners: Placebo, Green Day, Bloc Party, The Shins, The Black Keys, The Dandy Warhols, Foster the People, Social Distortion

Monastery offers serene step back in time

Story & photos by Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Maulbronn Monastery, located in its namesake city in the northern Black Forest region, is one of the most well-preserved medieval monasteries north of the Alps.

The monastery was selected as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1993.

Founded in 1147, the former cistercian monastery combines architectural styles of the Romanesque and late Gothic eras, according to Barbara Gittinger of the "Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten," or state castle and garden management.

The main buildings, such as the church, the cloister and the "Herrenrefektorium," or refectory, were constructed between the 12th and 14th century. The refectory is one of the most well-preserved monastic dining rooms of the middle ages.

The entrance hall, which is also called "Paradies," or paradise, of the church is considered the monastery's most impressive architectural treasure, according to Gittinger.

The term paradise originates in the Christian tradition of depicting the fall of man in the entrance hall of a monastic church. Since the master builder is unknown, historians named the individual "Paradiesbaumeister," or paradise builder.

Maulbronn's "paradise," built between 1220 and 1230, is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that illustrates the transition from the Romanesque to the early Gothic era, according to Gittinger.

While the Romanesque architecture was characterized by round arches and more simple facades, the Gothic style featured pointed rib arches, also known as ribbed vaults, and a more elaborate design, she added.

The monastery's church, built in 1178, also features many Romanesque elements, such as simple round windows, and "Masswerk," or tracery, with its filigree stonework elements symbolic of the Gothic era.

The carved Gothic wooden choir stalls in the church were built during the 15th century and offered space for 92 monks. The stalls are decorated with biblical reliefs, such as the virgin with a unicorn, or Moses and the burning bush.

Visitors enter the church through what is considered Germany's oldest set of doors. They are part of the monastery's original decor dating back to 1178, according to Gittinger. The doors display artfully implemented wrought iron scrollwork and parts of the original parchment.

The "Brunnenhaus," or fountain house, was an area for the monks to bathe and conduct cleansing rituals. The fountain consists of three basins holding fresh spring water. The monastery's founding legend is also illustrated on the ceiling.

According to the legend, the monks loaded their belongings onto a mule, and were prepared to build their new home wherever the mule came to a halt.

It's said that the mule was thirsty and stopped at a natural fountain to drink and free himself from his heavy load.

The monastery's name "Maulbronn" is based on this tale, "Maul" for the mule and "Bron" for the fountain.

Beside the many architectural landmarks, the landscape surrounding the monastery also offers visitors the chance to explore some of the historic traces that the cistercian monks left behind.

"The cistercian monks were known for building their monasteries in more isolated valleys. They traditionally were self sufficient and had to supply themselves through manual labor such as agriculture and wine growing," said Gittinger.

In Maulbronn, the monks built a water management system featuring an elaborate network of drains, irrigation canals and reservoirs.

They also built man-made lakes, since their daily diet did not allow them to eat meat — only fish. Today, four lakes remain.

After the reformation and the dissolution of the monastery in 1536, the dukes of Württemberg were in charge of Maulbronn. In 1556, Duke Christoph of Württemberg founded a Protestant monastery school that was converted into a Protestant theological seminary in 1807 and still exists today.

Another legend related to the Maulbronn Monastery concerns the Swabian speciality of "Maultaschen," known to some Americans as Swabian ravioli.

The monks were not allowed to eat meat, however, when given meat from local villagers, the monks didn't want to reject the kind offer. Instead, they ground up the meat, mixed it with herbs, and stuffed it into little dough "pockets," or "Taschen," to hide the meat from God.

It's said that from heaven above, God must have blinked and missed the monks' "slip."

The Swabians have a term for this: "Herrgottsbscheisserle," which can be loosely translated as pulling the wool over someone's eyes.

Whether there's some truth to the legend or not, visitors to Maulbronn can fully indulge in this traditional Swabian dish at the restaurant "Klosterschmiede," located in the monastery compound.



Visitors pass by the Maulbronn Monastery in October 2011. The former cistercian monastery was founded in 1147 and is one of the most well-preserved medieval examples found north of the Alps.



This window at the Maulbronn Monastery displays the "Masswerk," or tracery, with its filigree stonework elements symbolic of the gothic era. The monastery is well known for reflecting the transition between the romaneseque and late gothic architecture. The main buildings, such as the church, the cloister and the refectory, were constructed between the 12th and 14th century. The monastery was selected as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1993.

The compound also offers patrons a variety of stores, coffee houses as well as two museums displaying the everyday life of the cistercian monks and the history of the monastery.

Classical concerts are held year round in the refectory, the monastery's church and the chapter house.

During the summer months, visitors to Maulbronn can swim or take a paddle boat ride on the "Tiefer See" or enjoy hiking on five trails that traverse the grounds.

Variety markets are offered during the spring and summer months, as well as a Christmas market in December.

For more information in visit www.kloster-maulbronn.de.

English guided tours can be booked by calling civ. 07043-9266-10.

For information on markets and special events, visit www.maulbronn.de.

For classical concerts at the monastery, visit www.klosterkonzerte.de.

At your leisure



in Stuttgart (Niedermüller)

Stuttgart “Frühlingsfest” visitors enjoy a ride on a flying carousel. The Frühlingsfest is one of the largest spring fests in Europe.

Fests

This is year’s annual “**Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest**,” or spring festival, will run until May 13 at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt. The fest is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 11 p.m., Friday from noon to midnight, Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The festival, one of the largest spring fests in Europe, offers various rides such as wild water rafting, bumper cars, carousels, haunted houses, a Ferris wheel, a roller coaster, as well as pony rides and merry-go rounds for children.

Besides the rides, the Frühlingsfest features food ranging from hearty Swabian meals to Asian, Italian and Greek cuisine, along with festival goodies such as cotton candy and chocolate-covered fruit.

Three beer tents — “Göckelmaier,” “Grandl’s Hofbräu Zelt” and “Zum Wasenwirt” — will offer grilled chicken or “Göckele,” freshly brewed fest beer, and live bands that will entertain the crowds with “Volksmusik” (German folk music), party, country and rock tunes.

Another highlight is the “Almhüttendorf,” a reconstruction of a typical Bavarian-Austrian Alp village. Here, visitors can find rustic booths offering “Schweinschaxe” (hambone) or “Jause,” a snack consisting of bread, cold cuts, radishes and cottage cheese.

The Frühlingsfest also offers a family day May 9 from noon until 11 p.m. Families are invited to enjoy a day at the fest with reduced entrance fees, free face painting and sessions with balloon artists.

For a shopping experience at the Frühlingsfest, patrons can stroll along the variety market, which offers jewelry, leather wear and clothing, as well as fine herbs, spices and tea. The variety market is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

For more information, visit www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de.

Art

The State Gallery in Stuttgart features a “**Turner Monet Twombly Later Paintings**” exhibition until May 28.

About 70 paintings unite the late works of the English painter William Turner (1775-1851), the French painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) and the American painter Cy Twombly (1928-2011).

According to a press release of the State Gallery, the exhibition in Stuttgart is the first to bring all

three artists together and aims to create a dialogue between their individual works and give visitors a new perspective.

Although the painters worked in different eras — impressionism, romanticism and abstract expressionism - their paintings have some formal qualities in common, such as the use of expressive color, an interest in atmosphere and the dissolution of form.

The exhibition is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The State Gallery is closed on Monday.

Tickets to the special exhibition cost €12 and also include access to the gallery’s entire collection. English guided tours can be booked by calling civ. 0711-47040-452.

The State Gallery Stuttgart will host a “**Kunstnacht**,” or art night, May 19 from 6 p.m. to midnight. The event will combine music of the French composer Claude Debussy with guided tours through the “Turner Monet Twombly Later Paintings” exhibition.

The State Gallery is located at Konrad-Adenauer-Strasse 30-32, 70173 Stuttgart.

For more information, visit www.staatsgalerie.de.



Photo courtesy of State Gallery Stuttgart

A statue of King Wilhelm I of Württemberg stands in front of the “Alte Staatsgalerie,” or old state gallery, in downtown Stuttgart. The gallery was built between 1838 and 1843 under Wilhelm’s reign. The “Neue Staatsgalerie,” or new state gallery, is located next to the old gallery and was designed in 1984 by the British architect James Stirling.

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