

# The Citizen

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

**AFAP: a grass roots effort**

*Delegates to the Stuttgart AFAP conference say what's working, what isn't.*

**Christmas markets**

*Every city and village in Germany has a Christmas market. Here are our favorites.*

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Gloria Colon-Buzatu

## Pretty in pink

*Jessica Egleson, a cancer survivor, applies a final touch of pink lip color before the start of the Run4Life relay Oct. 26 on Husky Field. For the story and more photos, see Page 8.*

## IMCOM seeks to hire, retain ex-military for civilian workforce

**By Bill Bradner**

*Installation Management Command  
Public Affairs Office*

For service members considering taking off the uniforms, continuing their careers as civilians with the Army is a logical transition choice, said Col. Francis Burns, with the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management at Department of the Army headquarters.

There are vacant positions throughout the U.S. Army Installation Management Command that need to be filled so IMCOM can provide world-class customer service, and deliver programs and services to Soldiers, civilians and families. Throughout the

command, about 40 percent of civilian employees have served in uniform.

Federal service may be an ideal opportunity for wounded warriors and disabled veterans through a process called the "Schedule A" appointment authority.

Schedule A benefits both the employer and potential employees by assisting those with disabilities to gain federal employment and by shortening the hiring process, which averages 102 days using traditional methods.

For example, the IMCOM headquarters placed six interns in less than 45 days using the Schedule A appointment authority and a wounded warrior database.

**See Jobs on page 4**

## New online game trains kids against cyber attacks

**By Margaret McBride**

*Office of the Army Chief Information Officer*

**W**orms, viruses, Trojan horses, and spyware: Beware!

The National Science Center, or NSC, is now training kids to stay safe from cyber attack malware when they're surfing the web or using email and cell phones. A new online game called Cyber Swarm Defenders is targeted to sixth- to eighth-grade students and is also appropriate for younger students.

The game is part of NSC's newest Cyber Ops education outreach program. NSC is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Army and NSC, Inc., and uses its resources to stimulate and increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics, known as STEM, proficiency in U.S. students, especially those in grades four through nine.

"Anything we can do to make the young students of our country understand the cyber threat and get them excited about STEM technologies has a big payoff," said Ron Ross, chairman of NSC.

Cyber Swarm Defenders is deployed through the social networking site jabbersmack.com, which was built for children ages 13 and under. Kid-safe requirements are built in, including a parental control feature. This tower-defense strategy game integrates cyber security education and "learn to earn" mini-exercises. Students earn points, badges and game coins as they strengthen their defenses to advance through the game levels.

To access the game from the NSC website, go to [www.nationalsciencecenter.org](http://www.nationalsciencecenter.org) and click on the Cyber Swarm banner button. Or, go directly to [www.jabbersmack.com/#/brands/view/VQYE](http://www.jabbersmack.com/#/brands/view/VQYE). To play, participants must first register on jabbersmack, which is not accessible on some older versions of browsers.

## Where's the turkey?

The **1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility** on Panzer Kaserne will serve a Thanksgiving meal Nov. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first hour will be for 1/10th SFG service members. Community members will be served at noon.

The menu includes turkey, steamship round beef, prime rib, Cornish game hens, ham, salads, soups,

shrimp cocktails, pies and cakes, and much more.

The cost is \$7 per person. Dependents of E4 and below will pay \$5.95.

For more information, call 431-2602/civ. 07031-15-2602.

The **Kelley Club** on Kelley Barracks will offer an all-you-can-eat Thanksgiving buffet Nov. 22 from 4:30-8 p.m.

The menu includes herb-roasted

turkey, corn bread, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, candied yams, macaroni and cheese, salad, and an assortment of pies, cakes and strudel.

The cost is \$16.50 for adults, \$8.50 for children 5-10 years old. Children 4 and under are free.

Reservations are strongly encouraged. Call 421-4660/civ. 0711-720-694 or email [Nicky@RB-Kelley-Club.de](mailto:Nicky@RB-Kelley-Club.de).

# Defense Secretary salutes veterans' selflessness, sacrifice

## American Forces Press Service

As the nation observed the Veterans Day holiday Nov. 12, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta issued a message paying tribute to the men and women who have served the United States in uniform.

Here is the secretary's message:

Since our nation's founding, brave young Americans from every generation have answered the call to serve in uniform and put their lives on the line to defend this country. Today, we honor all of those who've added new chapters to that very proud legacy of selflessness and sacrifice.

On this Veterans Day I recall how, as a boy in California, I had the great privilege of greeting and thanking soldiers that were stationed near my home and destined to fight in World War II. In the years that followed, I knew veterans of the Korean War, who fought bravely in unimaginably difficult conditions.

During the Vietnam era, I served in the Army and I remember how our nation failed to fully recognize the costs and sacrifices made by those who served in that war. Our nation has learned from that failure, and as we mark the 50th anniversary of that war, we honor our Vietnam veterans for all they have done for our country.

The United States is now emerging from the longest continuous time of war in its history, and a new generation of veterans is returning home. They

have carried a very heavy burden. They've dealt with multiple deployments, long separations from loved ones, and the tragic consequences of war. Some have sustained grievous, life-altering injuries, and they are dealing with significant challenges, both seen and unseen.

Our veterans are also much stronger because of their hard won experiences in the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world. They are leaders who take responsibility and initiative, who think independently, and who inspire others. They are trained to operate some of the world's most sophisticated technical equipment. Above all, they love the country that they've served so well in uniform, and they are already giving back to their communities here at home.

Over the next five years, more than one million service men and women will leave the armed services and transition back to civilian life. Some will finally be able to marry the person they love and start a family. Others will be reunited with husbands, wives, and children after years spent apart. By pursuing the dream of giving their children a better life, our

nation's veterans will help shape the future of this country. They will be doctors and lawyers, teachers and nurses, mayors and members of Congress.

America owes each of our veterans — from every generation — gratitude and support. November is Military Family Month, a time for all Americans to do more to recognize and support the members of their community who have fought on our behalf. For those who are transitioning out of military service, in particular, we must do everything we can to help them find a job, start a business, or obtain a quality education. These veterans are national assets who stand ready to contribute to our economic recovery and to a stronger America.

Let us all renew our pledge to fight for those who fight for us with such bravery and distinction. In some small way, today and every day, find a way to thank a veteran. Nothing means more to them than knowing that their service and sacrifice is appreciated right here at home. Thanks to our veterans, the American dream is safe and secure for us and our children.

Thank you, and may God bless all Americans serving around the world in uniform.

## CORRECTION

In "Scout projects benefit BEMS" (Nov. 1), Brigitte Scheiderich, a former Böblingen Elementary/Middle School student, was incorrectly identified as a seventh-grader. She was in sixth grade when she died.

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## Send us your Thorns and Roses

Tell us who deserves a pat on the back for a kind deed or a thumbs down to those in the wrong.

Thorns and Roses will let you, the reader, describe a good thing that happened (rose) or a low moment or tough situation that you had to deal with (thorn).

This column is not about institutions, units or agencies. It's not about situations that could result in legal action under military or German law. Nor is it a place to air management-employee problems or slander anyone.

It's about recognizing those who do a good job or make life a little easier. It's also about people who need to be a little more considerate of others.

While we are happy to identify stellar service providers, we can't and won't identify under-performers by name.

Submissions must be brief and emailed to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil with the subject line: Thorns and Roses.

The author's name and valid telephone number must be included for verification. No anonymous submissions will be accepted. And we reserve the right to select submissions and edit them for publication.

Note: Reader feedback is authorized by Army Regulation 360-1.



*The USAG Stuttgart VAT Relief and UTAP programs can save authorized customers money on purchases in German stores and on utilities. The offices will consolidate into one location Dec. 13 on the third floor of Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.*

[www.photos.com](http://www.photos.com)

## VAT/UTAP offices to combine forces

By Susan Huseman

*USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office*

In mid-December, the Utilities Tax Avoidance Program office and the Value Added Tax office will co-locate to a new space on the third floor of Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

Because of the move, both offices will be closed Dec. 11-12, and customers are advised to plan ahead.

The new, combined office will open Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. with an open house.

VAT services will be located in Room 326, with UTAP services in Room 328.

Consumers can save up to 19 percent by using a VAT form when shopping in many German stores. They can also save hundreds of dollars off their utility bills each year with UTAP.

“The VAT and UTAP programs can save a lot of money. You can use a VAT form for hotels, train tickets, car rentals ... even cosmetic surgery — if the doctor will take the VAT form,” said Cushatt.

In Germany, the standard VAT rate is 19 percent for most purchases and services. A reduced rate of 7 percent is imposed on basic food staples and hotels.

When it comes to utilities, household consumers are levied 19 percent VAT on electricity and gas, 7 percent on water, and at the end of the year, pay an additional energy tax based on usage.

“With UTAP, not only do you save the VAT on electricity, gas and water, at the end of the year, you don’t have to pay the energy tax. This could be up to an additional 30 percent, depending on how many kilowatts of electricity you use,” Cushatt said.

Even better, the UTAP staff deals directly with the utility companies on the customer’s behalf and will assist with translations, said Cushatt.

The key, Cushatt said, is to know how to use both programs. She outlined a few basic rules.

### Using VAT forms

- Vendors are not obligated to take VAT forms.
- Purchases made with a VAT form can only be for the buyer’s personal use.
- Using a VAT form for anything a landlord is responsible for is not authorized. Examples include landscaping, heating system repairs and replacing tile floors.
- Always get a quote for services where the price could fluctuate, such as car repairs, before the vendor begins work.
- TKS is the only telephone/Internet service pro-

vider that can accept VAT. Tax relief is not available for other phone/Internet providers because these services involve contracts over extended periods of service.

- After-the-fact actions do not qualify for tax relief. This means a purchase and VAT relief transaction with the vendor must generally occur on the same day. There is an exception, however, for people who are on temporary duty or in a temporary lodging allowance status.

- Because a vendor accepted a VAT form does not mean that the tax-free purchase complied with legal requirements. If you have any doubts, check first with the VAT office.

### Purchases over €2,500

For purchases over €2,500, customers must provide a cost estimate from the vendor to the tax relief office before making the purchase. VAT rules require the vendor to make out the cost estimate with “CMWRF” as the purchaser and that the purchase be made with a cashier’s check.

When considering a large purchase, Cushatt recommends that a consumer:

- Ask the merchant if they take VAT forms and make sure they will take a cashier’s check.
- Get a quote.
- Get a cashier’s check from a bank or credit union, and bring it and the quote to the VAT office for processing.

### UTAP guidelines

- The required documents must be completed before coming into the office.
- Hand-written documents will not be accepted. The staff is unable to fill out the forms for customers.
- When a UTAP customer moves to a new home or makes a permanent change of station move, the customer must close out his or her utilities with the UTAP office by providing a completed close-out utility form with the final meter readings.

*As of Dec. 13, the UTAP office will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The VAT office will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 6 p.m. on Friday.*

*UTAP applications, start and stop forms, VAT rules, handouts in English and German, a sample cost estimate and an extensive list of merchants who take VAT forms are available online at [www.stuttgarmwr.mil](http://www.stuttgarmwr.mil).*

*For VAT specific questions, call 431-3368/civ. 07031-15-3368; for UTAP specific questions, call 431-3452/civ. 07031-15-3452.*

## News & Notes

### AAFES offers solution to lithium battery ban

In response to the U.S. Postal Service ban on international shipments of electronics with lithium batteries, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service now has a way for overseas shoppers to get those devices in time for the holidays.

Approximately 80 products (cameras, tablets, watches and other electronics) can be ordered online and picked up at Exchanges in Afghanistan, Europe, Guam, Japan, Korea and Kuwait, according to AAFES officials.

Exchange shoppers can go to [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com), select a product with a “Lithium Ship to Store” logo, and choose the country and Exchange where they would like the item to be delivered.

The shopper will be contacted via email when the order arrives. Orders may be picked up at the customer service desk with a valid ID and a copy of the email/order number confirmation.

### Federal employee news

- Federal Benefits Open Season runs through midnight Dec. 10. Employees have the opportunity to make decisions about benefits under the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

More information regarding Open Season is available at: [www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp](http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp).

- The Office of Personnel Management has announced the Federal Employees Health Benefits premium rates for 2013. The rates are posted at: [www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp).

### Online civilian retirement applications now available

Army-serviced civilian employees within one year of voluntary retirement can now fill out their retirement applications online using the eRetirement web application located in the Employee Benefits Information System.

For more information, visit the Army Benefits Center-Civilian’s website at [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil).

### Body armor makes Time’s best inventions list

An improved outer tactical vest, or IOTV, designed specifically for women was named one of *Time Magazine’s* “Best Inventions of the Year 2012.”

The new armor was designed to offer better protection and to prevent bruised hip bones that women experienced when wearing IOTVs meant to fit smaller men.

The armor was a collaborative effort between the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center and Program Executive Office Soldier.

To see the entire list of inventions, go to <http://techland.time.com>.

# Jobs

Continued from page 1

“Schedule A cuts through a lot of the red tape,” said Rufus B. Caruthers, the IMCOM Equal Employment Opportunity director. “The hiring action can take as little as two weeks; it can happen just that fast.”

There are many opportunities for service members transitioning out of the military, regardless of their status, to continue their service by joining the IMCOM team. Many of the benefits are obvious: paid job-related training and education, comprehensive benefits packages and leave accrual rates based on time-in-service.

There are also many not-so-obvious benefits. The sense of camaraderie and teamwork is strong in the civilian workforce, and is cultivated just as carefully as it is among active-duty service members. Another similarity to serving on active duty is the emphasis Army civilians place on values.

“There’s not much difference in how you feel about your job and how you conduct business in and out of uniform, and in most Army civilian positions, you’re still taking care of Soldiers and their families,” said Willie Wilson, a retired sergeant major who works for IMCOM and runs the Army’s World Class Athlete Program. “I’m glad that’s still part of my job description.”

The sense of accomplishment and value is high in the Army civilian workforce.

In a recent Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, 92 percent of federal employees answered positively to the statement “The work I do is important.”

Training and leader development is also as pervasive in the civilian workforce as it is in uniform.

The Civilian Education System, modeled after the Army Non-commissioned Officer Education System, provides a full spectrum of continuing education and career development courses.

Civilians have access to schools and virtual classes to help them progress from entry-level to Senior Executive Service. IMCOM workforce development initiatives include opportunities for developmental assignments, structured mentoring programs and an academy dedicated to instruction of installation management professionals.

IMCOM has also developed the IMCOM Enterprise Placement Program to help ensure the command

## Basics of Schedule A

### For applicants with disabilities

Wounded warriors or disabled people seeking a position in the federal government should register with one or more of the following agencies:

- The **Employer Assistance and Recruiting Network**, <http://earnworks.com>, is a free service that connects employers with active duty, veteran and civilian disabled job candidates.

- The **Workforce Recruitment Program**, <http://wrp.gov>, is a recruitment and referral program that recently graduated students with disabilities through both summer and permanent jobs.

- Veterans and wounded warriors should contact the Department of Labor’s **Veterans Employment and Training Service** at [www.dol.gov/vets/welcome](http://www.dol.gov/vets/welcome), the **Hire Heroes** program at [www.hireheroesusa.org](http://www.hireheroesusa.org), and the Wounded Warriors project at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

- Other resources include the Office of Personnel Management’s disability website at [www.opm.gov/disability](http://www.opm.gov/disability) and the federal government’s one-stop website for people with disabilities, their families, employers, veterans and service members: [www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov).

Once registered, the Selective Placement Coordinator or Disability Program Manager at the agency taking advantage of the Schedule A

hiring authority will search the databases above, as well as counterparts at other agencies, and provide a list of qualified disabled candidate to the hiring authority.

### For employers

Hiring managers should coordinate with their Selective Placement Coordinator or Disability Program Manager, usually found in the garrison’s Equal Employment Opportunity office, and describe the competencies required for the position.

The SPC/DPM will consult with numerous resources, including local colleges and universities, the Wounded Warrior program, EARN and the Department of Labor’s Workforce Recruiting Program and develop a list of eligible candidates. No job announcement is required.

The hiring official reviews the list, conducts interviews, and makes a selection. (Hiring officials also have the option of not selecting from the list and using the traditional hiring process.)

Once a selection decision is made, the agency’s human resources office will make an offer to the candidate.

*For more information, visit your local EEO or Wounded Warrior office, or go online to [www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov).*

can keep employees in the organization, once hired.

IEPP matches job vacancies at Army installations around the world with qualified IMCOM employees already serving in another capacity.

The voluntary referral and placement program is designed to give employees affected by structure and resourcing changes the opportunity to relocate and find the best fit to continue serving the Army family.

The IEPP enables the command to retain institutional knowledge and preserve its superior workforce, all while continuing the Army’s “I will never quit” philosophy that so many Army civilians take to heart.

“That’s our version of leaving no Soldier

behind,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commanding general. “We owe it to our dedicated civilians and to the Soldiers we support to do everything we can to keep a highly-motivated, highly-qualified workforce in place to maintain our infrastructure and sustain our Army.” Ferriter added that more than 2,000 positions are available worldwide throughout IMCOM.

*To learn more about the IEPP or civilian job opportunities within Installation Management Command, visit the IMCOM website at [www.imcom.army.mil](http://www.imcom.army.mil).*

## When severe weather hits, stay informed

Know what the road conditions are before you start your trip to work, and give yourself plenty of time to get there.

- For road conditions and school closure information, call DSN 431-3744 or civ. 07031-15-3744

- For road conditions, school closures and weather forecast, visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil) and click on the “Weather” link or or follow USAG Stuttgart on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart](http://www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart)

- Listen to AFN (102.3 FM or 1143 AM)

## Thanksgiving holiday schedule

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Nov. 22 in observance of the Thanksgiving federal holiday, and many may be closed for the Nov. 23 training holiday.

While the listings are too numerous to detail here, we've included a few. Patrons are advised to call ahead before visiting any facility.

- The **Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and Dental Clinics** will be closed Nov. 22 and 23. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at civ. 00800-4759-2330. Contact the Military Police in case of a medical emergency.

- All **Stuttgart commissaries** will be closed Nov. 22.

- The **Exchange** on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Nov. 22. It will open at 8 a.m. Nov. 23.

- The shoppettes on Kelley and Patch Barracks, and Panzer Kaserne will be open Nov. 22.

- The Army Education Center will be closed Nov. 22 and 23.

- The Patch and Panzer **Community Banks** will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 22. The Kelley and Robinson Barracks banks will be closed.

- The **1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility** on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Nov. 22 and 23.

### Holiday mail hours

The Army Post Offices on Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne will open on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the holiday mailing



## Honoring all who served

*Members of the Stuttgart Clan of Motorcycle Enthusiasts salute a memorial wreath during a Veterans Day ceremony on Patch Barracks Nov. 12. American Legion Post 6 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10818 also participated and laid wreaths during the event.*

Mark J. Howell

season, Nov. 17 through Dec. 22.

Customers may make appointments for holiday mailings at the post offices on Patch and Kelley Barracks, and Panzer Kaserne by calling their servicing Army Post Office (Kelley, 421-2542; Panzer, 431-2563; Patch, 430-7226).

Appointments will be made for the one hour period before the APO opens for business.

In addition, the customer service windows at Stuttgart community mail rooms will also be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays during the holiday mailing season, from Nov. 17 through Dec. 22.

All APOs and CMRs will be closed Nov. 22 and Dec. 25.

For more information, call

the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Postmaster at 431-2874/civ. 07031-15-2874.

### Appointments needed for legal assistance

The Legal Assistance Office at the Stuttgart Law Center on Kelley Barracks will not offer walk-in attorney consultations Nov. 28 because of training and personnel requirements.

To schedule an appointment, call 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

### Workers needed at postal facilities

Army post offices will hire temporary employees to assist with the flow of mail during the holidays, in the near future. To view announcements and apply for positions, visit [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

Volunteers are also needed at all Stuttgart installation postal facilities during the holiday season.

To register as a volunteer, contact the Army Community Service Volunteer Coordinator at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362. For postal questions, contact the Postmaster at 431-2874/civ. 07031-15-2874.

### EEO observance

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office will sponsor a National American Indian Heritage Month observance featuring native American performers Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

For more information, call the military Equal Opportunity advisor at 430-7945/civ. 0711-680-7945, or email [jonathan.trussell@us.army.mil](mailto:jonathan.trussell@us.army.mil).

### Learn cat, dog first aid Dec. 8

The American Red Cross Stuttgart will offer a cat and dog first aid class Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. that will include everything owners need to know to keep their pets healthy and safe.

The class will be held in Room 327, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812 or email [susan.tipton@redcross.org](mailto:susan.tipton@redcross.org) or [Stuttgart@redcross.org](mailto:Stuttgart@redcross.org).

### Family and MWR wants to hire you!

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is recruiting for various positions within Child, Youth and School Services and food and beverage attendants at the Galaxy Bowling Center.

Non-appropriated Fund positions are open to all qualified candidates eligible for appointment under U.S. employment conditions.

To view vacancies, visit [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

### CPAC to give family member briefing

The Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will hold a family member briefing Nov. 21 from 9-11 a.m. for employed family members who plan to return to the U.S. with their sponsors.

The briefing will cover employment-related topics such as eligibility for terminal leave without pay, Priority Placement Program registration, eligibility for Executive Order 12721 and other related information.

The briefing will be held in Room 108, Building 2953, Panzer Kaserne.

To register, send an email to [usarmy.stuttgart.hqda-cpac.mbx.stuttgart-cpac@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.stuttgart.hqda-cpac.mbx.stuttgart-cpac@mail.mil).

*Send your community-wide announcements to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil).*

## Food safety tips: talking turkey

### Thawing

Place the frozen bird in its original wrapper in the refrigerator (40 °F). Place the turkey in a pan to prevent the juices from dripping onto other surfaces or foods in the refrigerator. Allow approximately 24 hours per five pounds of turkey. After thawing, keep turkey refrigerated only for one to two days.

If you don't have room in the refrigerator for thawing, don't worry. You can also defrost the turkey by submerging it in cold water and changing the water every 30 minutes. Allow about 30 minutes defrosting time per pound of turkey.

### Preparation

Use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature of the turkey. The turkey is cooked thoroughly when the temperature of the bird (as measured in the thigh) has reached 180 °F. The stuffing, whether cooked inside the bird or in a separate dish, should reach 165 °F.

When turkey is removed from the oven, let it stand 20 minutes. Remove stuffing and carve turkey.

USAG STUTTGART

**S F E T Y** CORNER

# AFAP delegates take on quality of life issues at conference

Story & photo by Mark J. Howell  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Service members from all branches, family members, civilians and contractors from the Stuttgart military community came together to discuss ways to improve quality of life during the Army Family Action Plan Conference, held on Patch Barracks Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Before the conference, Army Community Service solicited issues submitted by Stuttgart military community members. ACS then split volunteers into delegate groups that discussed and prioritized the submissions.

A total of four delegate groups were created, which included two family groups, one military group and one youth group.

The groups were given topics that pertained to their areas, and they spent a day discussing the issues that were submitted.

On the second day of the conference, the groups presented their top issues to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. John Stack and guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Mark Barrett, the U.S. European Command chief of staff.

Forty-one issues were submitted for the conference, many of which could be corrected locally, but nine were chosen to be escalated to Installation Management Command Headquarters and possibly the Department of Defense for action.

"I'm really impressed by the issues that were turned in and how they were presented," said Stack, after the briefing. "These are things that affect all of us and deserve to be addressed."

Since AFAP was established in 1983, it has resulted in 128 legislative changes, 179 Defense



*An advisory group made up of students from DoDDS Stuttgart schools prepares a presentation requesting a policy change to allow random drug testing at schools during the USAG Stuttgart Army Family Action Plan Conference held on Patch Barracks Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.*

Department or DA policy changes and 200 improved programs or services, according to DA Headquarters.

One recent notable policy change, initiated at an AFAP conference in 2009, was the revamping of the Montgomery GI Bill to include benefits to dependents.

Issues submitted from all European garrisons

will be reviewed at an Installation Management Command-Europe AFAP Conference to be held in late spring 2013.

"We want our issues to go all the way up the chain," said Lisa Ordukaya, AFAP coordinator. "It would be awesome to see something that started as an idea here be a catalyst for change across DOD."

## Stuttgart 2012 AFAP issues, recommendations

**Issue:** Unhealthy Eating Options on Military Installations

**Scope:** There is a lack of healthy eating places within military installations. Franchises/vendors define what is healthy and offer limited healthy menu options. Agencies select food providers based on profitability and U.S./world-wide trends that are not representative of the military community. Limitations impact health care costs/availability, rise in obesity, quality of life and mission readiness.

**Recommendation:** • Conduct annual quality of life food surveys.

- Require temporary contract options for one to three years.
- Implement standards based on community quality of life results in selecting food vendors to accommodate unique physical needs of a military community.

**Issue:** Child/Youth School Services Part-time Child Care Options Outside the Continental U.S.

**Scope:** Funding constraints have negatively affected child care options. Without flexible part-time child care options, spouses can't

secure jobs, it limits their community involvement, and it affects the mental/physical health and well-being of the family.

**Recommendation:** • Secure funding for Child Development Center construction projects.

- Expand CYS Services options by increasing standard design facilities to meet community needs.

**Issue:** USAG Stuttgart Limited Government Housing

**Scope:** There is an insufficient quantity of government housing for service members and their families. Currently there are 1,372 family units — not enough to support 4,356 active duty service members. The inability to accommodate service members with base housing increases the level of stress within the family, imposes high Temporary Lodging Allowance/Overseas Housing Allowance costs, and affects unit morale and mission readiness.

**Recommendation:** • Privatize government housing

- Build more housing.
- Develop government lease program.

**Issue:** Demand for Family Life Chaplains

**Scope:** Sensitive issues such as sexual assault and suicide are on the rise and can have lasting personal and professional impact. The Family Life Chaplain is the only long-term counseling resource with 100 percent confidentiality available to service members, civilians and dependents. Continued consolidation of installations and joint bases creates heavy workloads for a single service component.

**Recommendation:** • Expand the Family Life Chaplain Program throughout the Defense Department based on population at each installation.

- Make garrison Family Life Chaplains non-deployable to ensure there are no gaps in services provided.
- All services provide the same resource using the Army Family Life Training Model.

**Issue:** Off-Base Overseas Housing Search Mechanisms

**Scope:** The contract associated with

Automated Housing Referral Network limits service members who have the means or desire to use other resources (i.e. realtors) in an effort to minimize time spent in transient living quarters. The average cost is \$15,300 for TLA per month for an average family to occupy transient living quarters. The current arrangement makes it difficult to find acceptable housing, and the process is slow and ineffective. Establishing a permanent residence in a timely manner will improve family quality of life while minimizing the amount of TLA paid.

**Recommendation:** • Enable the use of realtors as a primary option for service members to seek housing (including fee reimbursement).

- No renewal of contracts associated with AHRN in favor of using realtors overseas to save the AHRN costs as well as TLA funds.

• Replace contract employees with government housing employees in order to provide better service.

See AFAP issues on page 11

### SCSC to hold basket, silent auction

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club will hold its annual basket auction on Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

For more information about this event or to donate a basket, email [scsc.firstvice@gmail.com](mailto:scsc.firstvice@gmail.com) or visit [www.stuttgartspousesclub.org](http://www.stuttgartspousesclub.org).

### Free theater performance for EFMP

The Stuttgart Theatre Center will host a free performance of Rodger's and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. for the Exceptional Family Member Program. Attendance is by invitation only.

To register, contact Army Community Service at 431-3362/3326, or civ. 07031-15-3362/3326, or email [danielle.denis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:danielle.denis.civ@mail.mil), and provide your name, contact information (email and phone) and number of attendees.

### Get tickets for AFRI-COM holiday party

The U.S. Africa Command holiday party will be held Dec. 1 beginning at 5 p.m. in Sindelfingen.

The program includes cocktails, dinner, a performance by the Patch High School chorus and concert band, raffle prizes and more. Attire is semi-formal.

Tickets may be purchased until Nov. 26 through AFRICOM directorate points of contact or by calling 421-2191/civ. 0711-729-2191.

### FAST class set

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Education Center will host a Functional Academic Skills Training class Nov. 26 to Dec. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Education Center in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

The FAST class is designed to help service members improve their General Technical scores or prepare for college.

To join the class, command permission is required and stu-

**Combined Federal Campaign**

**USAG Stuttgart's Goal:**  
 ⬆️ \$500,000.00

**Raised to date:**  
 \$387,492

**CFC** **77.49%**  
 as of 9 Nov.

**See your unit's key person or call DSN 431-2406**

graphic by Ron Miyashiro

**CFC-O winds down**

*The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas runs through Nov. 16., but there is still time to donate online at <http://cfcoverseas.org>.*

dents must take a Test of Adult Basic Education 9D pre-test. The pre-test is scheduled for Nov. 20 at 8:15 a.m. at the Education Center. To sign up for the pre-test, email [kimberly.a.gonzales19.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:kimberly.a.gonzales19.ctr@mail.mil).

The Armed Forces Classification Test will be administered Dec. 18 at 8:15 a.m.

For more information, email [carol.r.thompson8.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:carol.r.thompson8.ctr@mail.mil) or [michael.j.obeirne.civ@mail.mil](mailto:michael.j.obeirne.civ@mail.mil).

### Housing office to close early Nov. 16

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Office will be close at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 16 in support of the community-wide clean-up.

### Virtual postal town hall to be held Nov. 20

A Facebook virtual town hall will take place Nov. 20 from 3-4 p.m. to address postal-related questions.

Topics include holiday mailing deadlines, postal hours, shipping restrictions and procedures, and available postal resources/programs.

Fans of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Facebook page can post a question for the postmaster to answer immediately during the event.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart](http://www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart).

### Put a gift under the ACS Angel Tree

The Army Community Service annual Angel Tree gift program will run Nov. 19 through Dec. 14.

This program benefits military and civilian families who are experiencing hardships during the holidays.

Donate a gift to a child by selecting an angel ornament from Christmas trees located in the Patch, Kelley and Robinson Barracks commissaries, the Panzer Exchange and the ACS lobby (Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne).

For more information, call Army Community Service at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Send community-wide announcements to [stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil](mailto:stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil).

### Recycle office air with plants

Americans spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors. Plants are an eco-friendly way to improve indoor air quality since they convert carbon dioxide to oxygen.

In offices with plants, dust is reduced by as much as 20 percent. Dry indoor air is blamed for a host of respiratory problems, and plants help to maintain humidity levels.

Plants also foster a more productive, less stressful workspace. Employees who work in offices with live plants rate their job satisfaction higher than those who do not.

NASA has identified the top indoor plants that increase oxygen and filter out unwanted particles and pollutants from the air. Decorating offices, dorms and homes with a combination of these plants can lead to a more healthy and productive work day:

- Gerbera Daisy
- Snake Plant
- Chinese Evergreen
- English Ivy
- Spider Plant
- Peace Lily
- Bamboo Palm

Source: Harvard University Office of Sustainability <http://green.harvard.edu>



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# Cancer 'warriors' celebrated during Run4Life

By Gloria Colon-Buzatu  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

In a show of strength and courage, Stuttgart military community cancer warriors shared their stories and challenges about living with cancer and its debilitating effects during the third annual Run4Life relay Oct. 26 on Husky Field.

The American Cancer Society estimates more than 1.5 million people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year and more than 500,000 of these people will die from the disease.

Cancer is a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the relay was the main event during U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's observance of National Employment Disability Awareness Month.

The relay, sponsored by the USAG Stuttgart Equal Employment Office and the Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program, served to raise awareness about cancer and commemorate the strength of cancer "warriors" who fight the disease and to remember those who fought bravely, said Eshe Faulcon, USAG Stuttgart EEO specialist and event coordinator.

Like a band of brothers and sisters, the cancer warriors and survivors gripped a banner on a cold and windy night as they took a "victory lap" around the Husky Field track. Luminarias decorated by family members were placed around the perimeter of the track in remembrance of their loved ones.

For one cancer survivor diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011, this year's event is a celebration of life.

"I finished chemo this past August ... my hair has grown back, and now I'm able to do more things with my kids," said Tracy Olivo.

"I felt a lot of support and love from this community, and my goal now is to get the word out that there's other people like me and try to bring everyone together to help support each other," she said.

Nelson Moreno, a U.S. Africa Command financial budget analyst, was the guest speaker.

Moreno, with his young son at his side, shared with the crowd his battle with stomach cancer from the day he was diagnosed to the present.

"After five years [of being cancer free] it's still emotional to talk about it," said Moreno. "I still have struggles with daily activities ... lots of fatigue [and]



Cancer warriors and survivors take a victory lap around Husky Field at the beginning of the Run4Life relay Oct. 26. The relay served as the focus of USAG Stuttgart's observance of National Employment Disability Awareness Month.

Steve Roark

side effects, but my best time is with my family."

Run4Life allowed people such as Moreno to exchange stories about their medical care. It also allowed local agencies to promote their health and wellness programs and services.

The ACS EFMP coordinator was on hand to promote the program and the ACS cancer support group.

EFMP supports families with special medical or educational needs.

During the event, 18 cancer warriors signed up to receive information about the cancer support group, said Danielle Denis, USAG Stuttgart EFMP manager. "I offered them information about the support group and encouraged them that it is a good place to learn and share their experiences."

The ACS cancer support group meets the last Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ACS, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

"The goal [of the support group] is to break down the barriers and focus on the abilities, not the disabilities," added Denis.

During October, ACS and the EEO Office also sponsored a diabetes cooking class, and workshops on hiring individuals with disabilities, conflict resolution and stress management, and financial planning for families with special needs.



Steve Roark

Luminarias, decorated by family members in honor of loved ones, line the perimeter of the Husky Field track during the Run4Life relay Oct. 26.



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# Diabetes puts millions at risk of blindness

By Maj. Joshua Baker, OD  
U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

November is National Diabetic Eye Disease Month — the perfect time to address the importance of vision care for those with diabetes, one of the most prevalent systemic diseases in the U.S.

In June 2008, the Centers for Disease Control released data from a study that indicated nearly 24 million Americans are affected by diabetes, an increase of almost 3 million since the last study was performed two years prior.

The study also indicated that approximately 57 million Americans have pre-diabetes, and 25 percent of Americans with diabetes are not aware that they have the disease.

While the leading cause of blindness worldwide is cataracts, followed by glaucoma, macular degeneration, corneal opacities and diabetic retinopathy, according to the World Health Organization, diabetes leaps to the top of the list in the industrialized world

Since the 1950s, diabetes has been one of the leading causes of visual impairment in the U.S. The National Eye Institute released a report in 2002 that found that diabetic retinopathy was the leading cause of new blindness in Americans ages 20-74.

Diabetic retinopathy is the most common ocular complication of diabetes, and involves damage to the blood vessels of the retina.

These damaged vessels can become leaky and lead to neovascularization, a dangerous process where the eye grows



Susan Huseman

*Dr. (Capt.) Andrew Bodwell and Kelly Roth, an ophthalmic technician, go over procedures for the optometry clinic's newest state-of-the-art equipment, a desktop wide-field retinal imaging device that provides a 200-degree view of a patient's retina without the inconvenience of dilation. Those at risk for or who have diabetes, still require regular dilated eye exams.*

new, fragile vessels and eventually can lead to catastrophic vision loss.

Diabetic retinopathy is responsible for more than 20,000 new cases of blindness every year.

Fortunately, the loss of vision is often preventable with early detection and proper management.

The American Diabetes Associa-

tion estimates that the development of severe vision loss can be reduced by 60 percent simply by early detection and treatment.

The longer an individual suffers with diabetes, the greater their risk for diabetic retinopathy. Unfortunately for many individuals, the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy is the first indication

that the individual has diabetes at all. This makes routine eye examinations very important and often times, the first line of defense against diabetes.

The American Optometric Association indicates that individuals who are unaware that they have diabetes are 25 percent more likely to develop diabetic retinopathy than individuals who are aware that they have the disease.

Those at risk for diabetes should have regular dilated eye examinations, and those have diabetes need annual dilated eye examinations to monitor for early signs of diabetic retinopathy.

Early detection and proper management are crucial to prevent vision loss.

The Optometry Clinic at the U.S. Army Stuttgart Health Clinic provides full diabetic eye exams, as well as routine and acute eye care examinations.

All active duty service members, retirees, their family members, and civilians with third party insurance plans can be seen at the clinic.

To make an appointment, call the Europe Region Medical Command Care Call Center weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 371-2622/ civ. 06221-17-2622.

*The clinic is located in temporary Building 2300, next to the health clinic, on Patch Barracks*

*The clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1- 4:30 p.m., and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Friday, and closed on federal holidays, and EUCOM and AFRICOM training holidays.*

*For more information, call 430-2832/civ. 0711-680-2832.*

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## German students experience U.S. school for a day

Story & photo by Carola Meusel  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

A group of 10th-graders from Michael Bauer Schule Vaihingen, a consolidated elementary, middle and high school also designed for special-needs students, visited Patch High School during a field trip Oct. 23.

The event was part of Patch High School's Student 2 Student Ambassador program, designed to give German students an opportunity to experience what school is like on a U.S. military installation.

The students were welcomed by Wayne "Joe" Holder, a U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart school liaison officer, and student ambassadors Sophia Huebschman and Lucas Gilliland, both 10th-graders at PHS.

The ambassadors briefed their German peers on the school, its students, classes and programs. They also explained the American school system and answered questions pertaining to some of the differences when comparing it to German schools.

The Michael Bauer Schule is a "Freie Waldorfschule" that focuses on Waldorf education. The school's philosophy is based on the educational principles of Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher and founder of anthroposophy.

Waldorf education aims to be interdisciplinary, and brings practical, artistic and conceptual forms of learning into the classroom. Students are encouraged to study music and languages, and participate in activities such as theater, carpentry and gardening.

That is why Peter van der Heijden, an English teacher at Michael Bauer Schule, initiated the visit — to give his students a "live" and more practical experience.

"Since we have this American community here in Vaihingen, I thought let's go out and see what we can learn from each other by getting together," van der Heijden said.

While touring PHS, the students were introduced to its arts program while attending a band class and looking at student paintings displayed throughout the school's hallways.

According to Brigitte Bilfinger, an



*Josephine Uner and Tamara Burghartz, (from left) 10th-graders at Michael Bauer Schule in Vaihingen, and PHS student Sophia Huebschman, listen as Lucas Gilliland, a PHS 10th-grader and JROTC cadet, explains marksmanship training during the PHS Student 2 Student Ambassador program Oct. 23. The program is designed to give German students the opportunity to experience what school is like on a U.S. military installation.*

arts and crafts teacher at Michael Bauer Schule, it's critical for the Waldorf educational system to include art history and painting into the curriculum. It helps to bring out the individual abilities of each student, she said.

PHS student ambassador Lucas Gilliland explained the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. At PHS, JROTC is an elective course that aims to teach leadership and military skills, a program typically not taught in German schools.

The group then headed to the TV lab, where Walter Fritz, the video production teacher, explained the daily procedures of TV, radio and school news productions. Fritz gave his presentation in German and helped to segue into the next item on the agenda: German class.

The students also went to the school's gymnasium and the media center before heading outside to witness this year's Pumpkin Drop.

For most students, touring PHS made for a different experience compared to their usual English classroom sessions.

"I really enjoyed the trip to PHS," said Dominic Heckmeier, a 10th-grader at Michael Bauer Schule. "The school is so different from ours, and it was also interesting to learn something about the

Americans living here."

Since the beginning of the school year, PHS has supported three outreach events with German schools.

"Outreach programs like this help to build relationships and, in the long run, partnerships," said Holder, one of the garrison's school liaison officers. "Overall, it's a good cultural exchange."

For van der Heijden, the English teacher, the visit marked an important event in a practical approach to his English lessons and to challenge his students to overcome the language barrier.

"I wanted to make them feel comfortable with a foreign language. When abroad, they have to be able to communicate and interact with others," he said.

During the visit, the American students could also get to know their German peers.

"It's nice when German students visit us here. Many times, we meet German friends through these types of events," said PHS 10th-grader Huebschman.

In the near future, Huebschman, along with other American students, will be able to experience the German school during the second half of the ambassador program, a visit to Michael Bauer Schule.

## School Talk

### Red Ribbon Week

#### — a success

Stuttgart Department of Defense Dependents Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week Oct. 22-26.

The School Liaison Office would like to thank the numerous volunteers and organizations responsible for making this a successful event.

A special thank you to the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program office who graciously provided give-away items for students.

## Cyber-bullying to be discussed

### Nov. 19 at PHS

In a continuing effort to educate the community about bully awareness and prevention, the School Liaison Officers will discuss cyber-bullying Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the PHS Media Center, following the Patch High School Parent Teacher Organization business meeting at 5 p.m.

The discussion will cover how to recognize cyber-bullying, what parents can do to combat it and how to report it to the authorities. This is open to parents of high school students.

The School Liaison Office will provide presentations and discussions to any organization or community group that desires to learn more about how to combat bullying.

When it comes to eliminating bullying and its devastating effects, we all must be active participants.

For more information contact the School Liaison Officers at 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.



430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465

The School Liaison Officers work in conjunction with the Child and Youth Services Division and the local school community to address educational issues involving military children.

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Do your part.  
Keep  
Stuttgart  
clean.



# AFAP issues . . . . .

*Continued from page 6*

**Issue:** Civilian Overseas Assignment Policy

**Scope:** The civilian overseas assignment policy does not achieve its current objectives of increasing opportunities, renewing knowledge and competencies, enhancing interoperability of employees or promoting a joint perspective of the overseas workforce. The current policy inhibits recruitment of qualified candidates from another OCONUS location. Providing global options increases the opportunity for employee career management, thus developing a more dynamic workforce.

**Recommendation:** Authorize OCONUS civilians to re-establish a new timetable under the five year rule with a Permanent Change of Station to another OCONUS assignment.

**Issue:** Casualty Assistance Officer for Survivors of all Service Component Retirees

**Scope:** The Army is the only service providing a CAO for military retiree survivors. This issue affects all survivors of Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guard military retirees. The assignment of a CAO facilitates proper and timely receipt of all benefits due to the survivor. Without the assignment of a CAO, families may be unaware of their rightful benefits and entitlements.

**Recommendation:** • Implement a Department of Defense policy to mirror the Department of the Army Casualty Assistance Program to include all service components.

• Provide a Casualty Assistance Officer to the

survivor and the family of the retiree regardless of the retiree's service component.

**Issue:** Recognition of Overseas Students by State-side Institutes of Higher Learning

**Scope:** Department of Defense Dependent Schools students are left out of the overall recruitment from institutions of higher learning due to their remote locations.

**Recommendation:** • Implement a Department of Defense Education Activity plan to work with schools of higher learning to provide DoDDS students opportunities and recognition for recruitment.

• Form a partnership website to advertise the skills and diversity of DoDDS overseas students to these institutions of higher learning.

**Issue:** Diminish Drug Use in the DoDEA School System

**Scope:** DoDEA students are in an environment where they are tempted by drugs from other students, which hinders their learning abilities and overall educational experience.

**Recommendation:** DoDEA should review and change Army in Europe Regulation 27-9, pertaining to civilian misconduct, to allow random drug screenings throughout the schools in order to prevent drug use and provide a better learning environment.

*To view the Army's AFAP Issue Update Book, go to [www.myarmyonesource.com](http://www.myarmyonesource.com).*

ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

National Hot Rod Association

# NHRA ALL-STARS MEET & GREET

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Panzer eXchange

NHRA Drivers:  
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Andrew Hines, and Greg Anderson



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[www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com)

## Overseas holiday mailing deadlines

Space Available Mail (from OCONUS) Nov. 26

Parcel Air Lift Dec. 3

Priority parcels, first class letters and cards Dec. 10

Express Mail Dec. 18

*For USAG Stuttgart post office hours, visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil)*

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## Christmas markets in the local area

### Esslingen

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 21:** Esslingen's medieval Christmas market features over 180 booths and huts in the city center. Costumed vendors offer arts and crafts, food and drink, plus there's plenty of entertainment, such as jugglers, fire-breathers and jousting. The market will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://tourist.esslingen.de>.

### Ludwigsburg

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 23:** The baroque-inspired Christmas village is located in Ludwigsburg's historic downtown area. The market is illuminated by arches and gates made up of thousands of tiny lights. More than 170 stands offer Christmas decorations, handmade candles, jewelry and much more. The market is also famous for its freshly baked gingerbread and "Holzofendinnede," or Swabian pizza. The market is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Stuttgart

**Nov. 28 to Dec. 23:** The Stuttgart Christmas market is located in the downtown area and spans from Marktplatz to Schillerplatz, Karlsplatz and Schlossplatz. With more than 250 festive booths and attractions, it is considered one of Europe's largest Christmas markets.

Children of all ages can enjoy an ice rink, a small Ferris wheel and a miniature train. A Finnish Christmas village can be found at Karlsplatz. The market will be open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Böblingen

**Nov. 28 to Dec. 2:** The Böblingen Lake sets the stage for this traditional Christmas market with entertainment, shopping and food. The market will be open daily from noon to 9 p.m.

### Möhringen

**Dec. 1:** The Möhringen Christmas market, located on Maierstrasse next to the Martin's Church, will be open for one day only, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The market offers handmade decorations, jewelry and pottery, as well as hearty food and freshly-made "Glühwein."

### Vaihingen

**Dec. 1-2:** The Christmas market is located in downtown Vaihingen and spans from the town hall to the "Schwabens Galerie" shopping mall. More than 120 booths offer Christmas decorations, arts and crafts, and food. Children can enjoy a carousel and bouncy castle. The market is open Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Bad Cannstatt

**Dec. 1-31:** The "Wintermarkt," or winter market, on Marktstrasse in downtown Bad Cannstatt will be open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Dec. 24 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Dec. 8, a Nikolausmarkt on Marktstrasse will be open for one day only, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Fellbach

**Dec. 6-22:** The market is located in the downtown area and spans around the city's town hall. Music, festively-decorated booths, a fairy-tale tent and an ice skating rink are also featured. The market will open weekdays at noon, and 11 a.m. on weekends.

### Herrenberg

**Dec. 7-9:** More than 50 decorated booths will offer a colorful array of gifts, crafts, food and more. The market will be open Friday from 2-8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Sindelfingen

**Dec. 7-9:** The Sindelfingen Christmas Market will be held at the Marktplatz in the downtown area. The market will offer handmade arts and crafts, entertainment, a live nativity scene, a historic merry-go-round, food and Glühwein. The market will be open Dec. 7 from 6-10 p.m., Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Leinfelden

**Dec. 8-9:** The "Engelesmarkt," or angel's market, is located at "Neuer Markt" in downtown Leinfelden. The market features a holiday concert and choir performance Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. Small booths offer arts and crafts, food and homemade baked goods. The market is open Dec. 8 from 3-9 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Tübingen

**Dec. 14-16:** The market spans all throughout Tübingen's historic downtown area and features hundreds of decorated huts and booths set up in front of the city's beautiful half-timbered houses.

If you are looking for an extraordinary holiday gift, Tübingen is the ideal place. Most of the goods offered are handmade: jams and honey, shawls, gloves, ceramics, toys, paintings, candles and Christmas tree decorations.

The market will open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Durlach

**Nov. 29 to Dec. 23:** The medieval Christmas market in Durlach, near Karlsruhe, features medieval traditions such as brewing "Met," or honey wine, jousting tournaments and fire-breathers, as well as glass blowing, gift huts and more.

The market is located at Schlossplatz in front of the castle and will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Hechingen

**Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, and Dec. 7-9:** The Schloss Hohenzollern Royal Christmas market claims to be one of the most romantic German Christmas markets held in a castle setting.

Visitors can enjoy the castle's atmosphere and history while shopping for family and friends in the castle's courtyard and ramparts.

There is an entry fee of €10 for visitors 16 and over, which includes parking and a shuttle bus service.

The market will be open Friday from noon to 10 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.burg-hohenzollern.com](http://www.burg-hohenzollern.com).

### Stettenfels-Heilbronn

**Nov. 30 through Dec. 2:** Castle Stettenfels in Untergruppenbach,

## ... in castles

near Heilbronn, will hold a medieval Christmas market. Visitors can stroll through the castle's courtyards and outer buildings to shop and enjoy the season's offerings.

Glühwein, gingerbread, and Stollen, as well as decorations and candles can be purchased. Entrance to the castle is €3.50 for adults; children 12 years old and under are free.

On Nov. 30, the market will be open from 4-8 p.m., Dec. 1 from 1-8 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.burg-stettenfels.de](http://www.burg-stettenfels.de).

### Heidelberg

**Dec. 6-11 and Dec. 13-18:** Colorful lights, the aroma of "Lebkuchen," or gingerbread, and the majestic atmosphere of the castle make this market a magical Christmas experience. The market features arts and crafts, tasty treats, classical music and costumed tour guides. The market will be open Thursday from 5-9 p.m. and Friday to Tuesday from noon to 9 p.m.

The main Christmas market in the center of Heidelberg will run from Nov. 21 through Dec. 22 and will be open Sunday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The market will be closed Nov. 25.

For more information, visit [www.schloss-heidelberg.de](http://www.schloss-heidelberg.de) or [www.heidelberg.de](http://www.heidelberg.de).

### Maulbronn Monastery

**Dec. 8-9:** The Maulbronn Monastery is one of the most well-preserved medieval monasteries north of the Alps.

During the Christmas market, visitors can take in the historic atmosphere while enjoying sugar cookies, Glühwein, bratwurst and "Schupfnudeln," or Swabian potato noodles.

The market offers arts and crafts, felted accessories, jewelry, home decor, Christmas decorations and fine honey products.

Musical performances also create a festive atmosphere throughout the market. The market will be open Dec. 8 from 2-9 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 1 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.kloster-maulbronn.de](http://www.kloster-maulbronn.de).

### Bruchsal

**Dec. 13-17:** Bruchsal's baroque castle serves as the backdrop for a romantic fairy-tale Christmas market.

Visitors can enjoy Glühwein, shop for gifts, taste fresh Weihnachtsstollen (a sweet Christmas bread) or simply enjoy the live music. The market will open daily at noon.

The city's main Christmas market at the Otto-Oppenheimer-Platz and Kübelmarkt will be held Nov. 28 to Dec. 23 and is open daily from noon to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.bruchsal.de](http://www.bruchsal.de).

It's hard to resist the charm of a German Christmas market. With so many in the area, why not visit a different market each weekend?

## ... on the road

### Baden-Baden

**Nov. 26 through Dec. 30:** A trip to this traditional Christmas market is like strolling through a scene from a winter fairy tale. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Augsburg

**Nov. 26 through Dec. 24:** This Christmas market has nearly 150 stands, all located around a large Christmas pyramid in the city's historic downtown area. The market will be open Sunday

through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Nürnberg

**Nov. 30 through Dec. 24:** One of Germany's most well-known and famous Christmas markets is located around the Frauenkirche in downtown Nürnberg. Open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Dec. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Rothenburg ob der Tauber

**Nov. 30 through Dec. 23:** While visitors to the "Christmas Village," can enjoy Christmas all year long, a visit to this medieval village during the holiday season is especially festive. The market is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## What's happening in FMWR

### Holiday Market on Patch Nov. 16-18

Shop for holiday gifts with more than 20 European vendors during the Family and MWR Holiday Market at the Patch Fitness Center.

Choose from wine, cheese, chocolates, nutcrackers, toys, ornaments, ceramics, clothing, jewelry and more. Food and drinks will also be available for purchase.

The market will be open Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Winter fun at Winterfest

Winterfest will kick off the Holiday Market with fun activities for the whole family.

From 2-7 p.m. Nov. 16, community members will be able to enjoy carriage, train and fest rides; holiday craft making; SKIES recitals; photos with Santa; drawings for prizes every hour; and more.

### Black Friday savings

The **Patch Arts and Crafts Center** in Building 2329 on Patch Barracks will hold a Black Friday

sale Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Customers will save 15 percent off regular priced items and 40 to 75 percent off clearance items.

The **Patch Car Wash and the Galaxy Bowling Center** on Panzer Kaserne is teaming up for a Wash and Bowl promotion. Save \$1 on any car wash, then take the receipt to the Galaxy Bowling Center and bowl for half price. This promotion is valid Nov. 23 only.

For more information, call 421-3151/civ. 0711-729-3151.

### Enroll in Culture College

Newcomers are invited to enroll in the Army Community Service-sponsored Culture College Nov. 27 and 29.

The class covers German culture, key German phrases, how to use public transportation and includes a visit a local castle.

To sign up, contact ACS at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

*For information, call Family and MWR Marketing at 421-2809/civ. 0711-729-2809. For more activities, visit [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).*



## Coming to Patch Theater

**Nov. 16** — Skyfall (PG-13) 6 and 9 p.m.

**Nov. 17** — Skyfall (PG-13) 4 p.m., Looper (R) 7 p.m.

**Nov. 18** — Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 3 p.m., Skyfall (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Nov. 19** — Skyfall (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Nov. 20** — closed

**Nov. 21** — Taken 2 (PG-13) 6 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) midnight

**Nov. 22** — The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Nov. 23** — The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 6 and 9 p.m.

**Nov. 24** — Arthur's Christmas (PG) 4 p.m.; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 7 p.m.,

**Nov. 25** — A Christmas Carol (PG) 3 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**Nov. 26** — The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13)



Summit Entertainment

*In "Breaking Dawn Part 2," Bella (Kristen Stewart) begins her new life as a vampire and mother to daughter Renesmee (Mackenzie Foy).*

6 p.m.

**Nov. 27** — closed

**Nov. 28** — Argo (R) 6 p.m.

**Nov. 29** — Here Comes the Boom (PG) 6 p.m.

**Nov. 30** — Rise of the Guardians (PG) 6 p.m., Red Dawn (PG-13) 9 p.m.

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