

Gallantry, heroism recognized during Valor Ceremony

By Master Sgt. Donald Sparks
*Special Operations Command Europe
 Public Affairs Office*

the U.S. military's highest peacetime award for heroism.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Michael S. Repass, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, said the men being recognized would probably never tell their stories due to their humility.

"These are real live friends, neighbors, teammates — people who we know," Repass said. "They will humbly admit that they had the opportunity to act outside the line of duty, beyond the orders of superiors and perform an act of conspicuous bravery."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, U.S. European Command Commander Adm. James G. Stavridis praised not only the awardees, but the entire Special Operations Forces community.

"Special Forces are the best planners we have," Stavridis said. "But then when chaos descends, that's when these extraordinary people stand and deliver. It's really about bringing order to chaos, about saving your comrades and about, above all, standing for something larger than yourself. That is pretty spectacular."

To read these Soldiers' stories, see pages 10 and 11.



Graphics courtesy of U.S. Department of Defense

The valor device identifies those service members who were awarded decorations in recognition of valorous acts performed during direct combat with an enemy force. Last month, five Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were honored for their gallantry and heroism in a Valor Ceremony held on Patch Barracks.

Five Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were honored for their gallantry and heroism in a Valor Ceremony held on Patch Barracks Dec. 6, 2011.

Capt. David Fox, Sgt. 1st Class McKenna "Frank" Miller and Staff Sgt. Matthew Gassman received Silver Stars, the U.S. Armed Forces' third highest awards for gallantry in combat, for their heroic actions on Dec. 17, 2010 in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Musgrave was awarded the military's fourth highest award for gallantry in combat, the Bronze Star with Valor Device, as well as the Purple Heart for his actions and wounds received from the enemy on May 17, 2010, while deployed to Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

For risking his life to save 35 German citizens from a Böblingen apartment fire during the early morning hours on July 3, 2011, Spc. Willie Smith Jr. was awarded the Soldier's Medal,

1-10th SFG(A) DFAC cooks up big win

By Spc. Joshua Leonard
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Consolidated Dining Facility earned first place in the military garrison category of the 2012 Philip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service.

The Connelly awards program, co-sponsored by the Army and the International Food Service Executives Association, recognizes excellence in Army food service from top performing units in three categories: military dining facilities, civilian dining facilities and active Army field kitchens.

Earning a Connelly at the Army level is a tre-

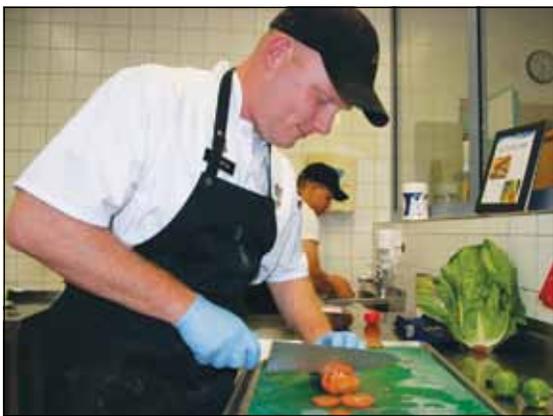
mendous accomplishment, said Lt. Col. Brian D. Lejeune, chief of Supply and Services in the U.S. Army Europe logistics directorate.

For food service specialists, it's testament to the hard work and long hours they spend preparing meals and an honor that signifies that they are the best in their career field, Lejeune added.

"This has been a long run, and we've been working hard since Day One, but it was worth it," said Sgt. 1st Class Javier Gonzalez, the food operations management noncommissioned officer for the winning dining facility, located on Panzer Kaserne.

Connelly officials say promoting and improv-

See *Tops in Army* on page 4



File photo

Sgt. Gabriel Warwick, 554th MP Co., chops vegetables for the cold sandwich bar at the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility last August.

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Take the 'Lose to Win' challenge

If weight loss and a healthy lifestyle are on your list of New Year's resolutions, sign up for the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Lose to Win program, which starts this month.



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Cabaret show seduces, delights

The winter show at the Friedrichsbau Varieté Theater in downtown Stuttgart combines acrobatic and artistic acts with comedy and musical entertainment.



Commander's Column

New year brings new challenges, opportunities

Commentary by Col. Carl D. Bird
USAG Stuttgart commander

Happy New Year from everyone at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart!



Col. Carl D. Bird

As we bid farewell to 2011 and welcome 2012, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the last year and look to the year ahead of us.

Because of the hard work and generosity of the units stationed in Stuttgart, 2011 ended on a high note and leaves big shoes for 2012 to fill.

The Stuttgart military community wrapped up last year with several successful campaigns to help numerous organizations. The local Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas drive raised over \$733,000, shattering our goal of \$500,000. Stuttgart's Army Community Service, with your help, brightened the Christmases of more than 70 families through the Angel Tree program, and our local USO provided dozens of free Thanksgiving meals to families in need. Times are tough for a lot of families, and it's touching to see that people in this community still dug deep to make a difference.

I'm very excited to announce that one of our gar-

rrison facilities ended 2011 with a Department of the Army-level award.

The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Consolidated Dining Facility won the top 2011 Phillip A. Connelly Award in the military garrison facility category. The hard-working Soldiers and civilians there provide a top-notch service to the community, and this honor is well deserved. The next time you stop by, pass on your congratulations to those that work in the Army's best garrison dining facility.

The dining facility wasn't the only garrison service awarded for excellence in 2011. Stuttgart's Army Substance Abuse Program was recognized for having the Best Drug Awareness Program in the Army, and our local Army Community Service achieved a 99 percent rating during their accreditation, which is almost unheard of. Congratulations to both and thanks for the continued hard work.

During this holiday season we saw a significant decrease from the same time period last year in incidents of driving under the influence and shoplifting. Though we just had only a couple incidents, even one is too many, so let's all make it a goal to get it to zero in 2012.

The garrison has even more to look forward to in 2012. Although we're working with a shrinking budget and resources, we will continue to provide great events and services in the most efficient way

possible. This will take your help and participation, though. Because of budget cuts, we'll have to scale back on some events, and we will evaluate the need to continue those events not well attended.

If you enjoy our community events and services, get out and support them so we can keep them going. And don't forget to let us know what you think about them on ICE.

But 2012 isn't only about things going away.

This year, look for the completion of the mini-mall adjacent to the food court on Patch Barracks, as well as a Warrior Zone for single and unaccompanied service members, a new pedestrian turnstile at Robinson Barracks and the renovation of the Kelley Fitness Center.

We'll also be upgrading other facilities, to include Vehicle Processing on Panzer Kaserne. The building will be redesigned and upgraded to not only cut down on customer wait times, but also to make the process easier and more comfortable.

Later this year, we'll also start a project to add solar panels to building roofs around the Stuttgart military community. This project will save the garrison thousands of dollars in energy costs as we move ahead.

2012 is shaping up to be a fruitful and promising year for the Stuttgart community. I'm making it my New Year's resolution to make sure it is.

ON THE STREET

What's your New Year's resolution?



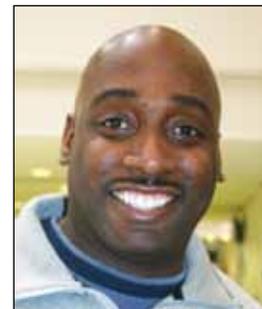
Maj. Tom Hollman
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"If there is something you want to change, then there is no need to wait until the New Year."



Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Hoffman
(U.S. Navy)

"To get six pack abs and run a half marathon."



Senior Master Sgt. Rob Johnson
(U.S. Air Force)

"To get in shape by working out and not eating at Popeye's."



Staff Sgt. Shayla Holcomb
(U.S. Army)

"I want to finish up my bachelor's degree in psychology."

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.

- Visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the "Weather" link or the Facebook icon
- For road conditions and school closures, call DSN 431-3744 or civ. 07031-15-3744
- Listen to AFN (102.3 FM or 1143 AM)

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www.stuttgart.army.mil



Kelli Bland

Making wishes come true

Rear Adm. Charles Martoglio, U.S. European Command chief of staff, presents gifts donated by volunteers from the Stuttgart military community to local German children during a ceremony held at the Stuttgart-Feuerbach Rathaus Dec. 20. More than 200 children's wishes were fulfilled from "Wishmas" trees placed in participating buildings on Patch and Kelley barracks. The collected gifts were provided to German children in the Stuttgart Youth Welfare program, including foster children, refugees, children in group homes and children from low-income families.

Patriot Express flights will not apply to Stuttgart personnel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Although U.S. Army Europe officials recently announced Army personnel on permanent change of station orders to Germany will soon fly overseas using the Patriot Express flights originating at the Baltimore/Washington International Airport in Maryland and landing at Ramstein Air Base, the change does not apply to those service members and Defense Department civilian employees headed for Stuttgart.

According to Tracee Quinn, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Military Personnel Division chief, personnel arriving to and departing from Stuttgart must fly into or out of the Stuttgart International Airport. Incoming personnel should be picked up by their unit or agency sponsor at the airport.

Soldiers will no longer travel through Frankfurt and be shuttled to Stuttgart.

She added that this is the current procedure for Stuttgart-based non-USAREUR units and the

other services.

"USAREUR sponsors may hear from newcomers that they are being told by their local transportation offices they have to fly to Ramstein, they should reiterate that is not the requirement for Stuttgart," Quinn said.

Quinn said that measures are in place to publicize the change but initially, "We can expect a few Soldiers to fly into Frankfurt under the current guidance."

Senior leaders will need to ensure their incoming personnel are on pin-point assignment orders to Stuttgart.

The Air Mobility Command's Patriot Express service is applicable to USAREUR active duty Soldiers headed for Vilseck, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Schweinfurt, Bamberg, Illesheim, Ansbach, Kaiserlautern, Wiesbaden, Heidelberg and Baumholder.

Questions regarding the Stuttgart policy can be addressed to USAG Stuttgart's Central Processing manager, Cliff Heisler, at 431-2745.

AFN wants commercials for Super Bowl

American Forces Network television will give viewers a chance to have their self-produced commercials air next month during the Super Bowl.

Submissions can be serious or humorous and cover any topic, to include military units, programs and activities, and must be either 14 or 29 seconds in length. AFN Europe will select the videos to be aired based on topic, originality and entertainment value. Submissions are due to AFN Europe by Jan. 27.

For complete rules, go to www.afneurope.net.

News & Notes

DOD announces new sexual assault policies

Last month, Defense Department officials announced two new policies relating to sexual assault.

One allows a service member who makes an unrestricted report of a sexual assault to request an expedited transfer to a new duty station. A restricted report, which is confidential, allows a victim to seek medical aid and counseling but is not communicated to the chain of command.

The second new policy standardizes retention periods for sexual assault records across the military services to ensure victims have extended access to those documents.

To learn more about the new policies, visit the DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response website at www.sapr.mil.

Magazines no longer on sale at overseas commissaries

Defense Commissary Agency officials have announced the end of magazine sales in their overseas stores beginning this month. This affects all commissaries in Europe, the Pacific and Puerto Rico.

DeCA will continue to sell the *Stars & Stripes* newspaper, and magazines will be available in military exchanges and bookstores located near most overseas commissaries.

DeCA officials cited rising costs in transportation and declining sales as the basis of the decision to end sales.

DeCA officials had tried other options, such as deleting slow-selling titles and reducing the volume of magazines shipped to overseas stores. However, the negative sales trend didn't change.

CFC campaign a success

The Stuttgart military community and its tenant units, to include the U.S. Africa and European Commands' headquarters, collected \$773,768.16 in Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas donations during the 2011 drive, according to Elia Harris, the community/area program officer. The average individual CFC contribution was \$315.78, and the overall participation rate was 32.68 percent.

The goal for the community during the 2011 campaign was \$500,000.

Get latest USAREUR app

News about current events affecting the Army in Europe is now a touch away with the latest update to the U.S. Army Europe smartphone app.

The "Newsroom" update links users from the app to the USAREUR news webpage.

The free app, compatible with Apple's iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad, features information about USAREUR and highlights information for newly-assigned Soldiers, civilians and family members to Europe, including helpful links to the command's webpage and a Twitter advice hotline.

Visit www.eur.army.mil/mobile to download the app.

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 jason.m.mckenna4.mil@mail.mil.

By Capt. Jason M. McKenna (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: A friend informed me of a newly implemented policy requiring officers and senior enlisted members to self-report criminal convictions. What does the policy require?

A: On Sept. 21, 2011, the Army issued Army Directive 2011-17. The Directive applies to U.S. Army commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted members in the pay grade of E-7 and above, who are on active duty or in the reserve component; and requires Soldiers to report any conviction for violation of a criminal law of the U.S. announced on or after March 1, 2008.

The directive defines "conviction" to include: a plea or finding of guilty, a plea of no contest, and all other actions "tantamount to a finding of guilt"— including deferred prosecution, pretrial intervention and similar dispositions.

"Criminal law of the U.S." includes: any conviction of federal criminal law or any state, district, commonwealth, territorial or equivalent criminal law or ordinance, as well as any criminal law or ordinance of any county, parish, municipality or local subdivision of such authority, "other than motor vehicle violations that do not involve a court appearance." Thus, motor vehicle violations must be reported only if you either appeared in court or were represented in court. This includes situations in which the matter was resolved in court by deferral, diversion, or conviction of a lesser violation than originally charged.

The content of the report should be limited to factual information and documents that are already a part of the public record. If any additional information is requested, especially including information not already contained in public record, contact Trial Defense Service.

Upon receipt of a report of conviction, commanders must forward the report to the Special Court-Martial Convening Authority, along with any statements of mitigation or extenuation provided. The Legal Assistance Office at the Stuttgart Law Center may assist with the preparation of any mitigating evidence.

The SPCMCA will forward the conviction and supporting paperwork to the General Court-Martial Convening Authority with a recommendation on whether to file the conviction in your official military personnel file.

Commanders at all levels may consider the conviction for all official purposes, including, but not limited to: evaluation reports, assignments, selection for schools, awards, initiation of separation, and suspension of security clearance.

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.

Rules cover political activity for DOD personnel

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials are in the process of issuing regular election-year guidance to remind military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

This issue — one the department regularly addresses during election periods — came to light earlier this month after an Army Reserve Soldier in uniform appeared endorsing a political candidate.

Several sets of rules help to protect the integrity of the political process, DOD officials said. DOD Directive 1344.10 applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, as National Guard members in a non-federal status and military retirees.

In addition, the Hatch Act applies to federal civilian employees. Employees also are subject to widely published DOD guidance that discusses participation in political campaigns and elections.

These rules are designed to prevent military members' or federal civilian employees' participation in political activities that imply — or even appear to imply — official sponsorship, approval or endorsement, officials said.

The concern, they explained, is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession and department.

That's not to imply, however, that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. In fact, DOD has a long-standing policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship, officials said. DOD encourages its military and civilian members to register to vote and vote as they choose, they said. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues.

However, officials emphasized, they can do so only if they don't act as, or aren't perceived as, representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

Beyond that, the list of do's and do nots differs depending on whether the employee is a member of

the armed forces, a career civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career Senior Executive Service, officials said.

Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

They also are barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform.

A combat engineer assigned to the 416th Theater Engineer Company potentially violated these rules Jan. 3 when he stepped onto a stage at Ron Paul's headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, during the Iowa Caucus to offer a personal endorsement. Although he was wearing his uniform, the Soldier was not in an active status at the time, Maj. Angela Wallace, an Army Reserve spokeswoman, confirmed.

Wallace emphasized that the Soldier "... stands alone in his opinions regarding his political affiliation and beliefs, and his statements and beliefs in no way reflect that of the Army Reserve."

His chain of command is aware of the issue and is considering appropriate disciplinary action to take, she said.

Most civilian DOD employees, whose political activities are governed by the Hatch Act, are permitted to be active in and speak before political gatherings and serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups, officials said. These activities, however, cannot involve fundraising.

Civilian employees also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

There are, however, exceptions to this, including but not limited to the Senior Executive Service.

While the do's and do nots concerning political activity may vary, the basic tenets hold true for all DOD employees.

The bottom line, officials said, is that they should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DOD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that "is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent" of the rules described.

Tops in Army

Continued from page 1

ing Army food service are the two basic objectives of the program, and are accomplished by encouraging and recognizing deserving units for their superb performance while providing awareness with morale-boosting incentives, competition and media attention.

The evaluation process for this year's awards took place from March through June, with dining facilities judged on multiple areas including sanitation, nutrition, record keeping and food preparation procedures.

Lejeune said the competition has a greater value than awards. The training and preparation that units undergo in the process of competing forces young food service Soldiers to improve their skills to a much higher level, he said.

The 1-10th DFAC Food Operations Management NCO agreed.

“This has been a long run, and we’ve been working hard since Day One, but it was worth it.”
Sgt. 1st Class Javier Gonzalez
Food Operations Management NCO

“Being recognized for what you do for a living is great. All the long nights were worth it,” said Gonzalez.

This year's winners will receive their awards in March at a ceremony in San Diego, Calif.

Celebrate MLK Jr. at Patch DFAC

To celebrate the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office and the Patch Barracks Dining Facility will host a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration luncheon Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call the Military Equal Opportunity Advisor at 430-7945/civ. 0711-680-7945.

USO hosts free lunch, concert

United Service Organizations Stuttgart will sponsor a free concert Jan. 19 by the Orlando-based Willy Pete Band, a rock-pop-country fusion group. The concert will take place in the Patch Community Club at 7 p.m.

USO Stuttgart invites the community to its free monthly lunch on Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, or to volunteer, call 431-3505/civ. 07031-15-3505.

Attend anti-bullying workshops Jan. 26

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host anti-bullying workshops for the Stuttgart military community this month.

Barbara Coloroso, an internationally-known speaker and author in the areas of education, parenting, bullying and conflict resolution, will conduct the workshops.

Two adult workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and from 4-6 p.m.

A session for ninth and



Be 'sexy by summer' with Lose to Win

Holly Hill, right, the Family and MWR fitness coordinator, explains the results of a body composition and total weight measurement to Samantha Helm, who is gearing up for the Family and MWR Lose to Win Body Challenge. Helm said she hopes the 16-week program will help her to achieve her goal of "sexy by summer." Orientation sessions will be held Jan. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center and Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Kelley Fitness Center. Weigh-ins will be held Jan. 19 at the Patch Fitness Center from 7:30-9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Kelley Fitness Center; Jan. 20 in the Kelley Fitness Center from 7:30-9 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center. For more information, call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386 or visit stuttgartmwr.com.

Mary "Tweedy" Knef

10th graders will be conducted from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Officer at 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

Patch DFAC to close on federal holidays

On federal holidays, patronage at the Patch Barracks Dining Facility has significantly decreased, and garrison officials have determined that it is no longer cost effective to keep the DFAC open.

Effective Jan. 16, the Patch Barracks DFAC will close for all federal holidays indefinitely, with the exception of Thanksgiving.

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Food Program Manager at 431-3412/civ. 07031-15-3412.

Vet clinic operations resume

The Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility on Panzer Kaserne is now located in its new temporary location in Building 2996, across the street from the AAFES Car Care Center, and appointments are now being taken.

To schedule an appointment for your pet, contact the front desk at 431-2681/07031-15-2681 Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seek EEO advice

Civilians who believe they have been subject to discrimination in the workplace based on sex, race, religion, color or another protected category are invited to contact the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment

Opportunity Office to learn more about the EEO process to determine if it is the right course of action for them.

For more information, call 430-5312/0711-680-5312 or e-mail usagstuttgarteeo@eur.army.mil.

AUSA career fair set for Feb. 17-18

The Association of the U.S. Army Stuttgart Chapter and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Community Service team up to host a ca-

reer fair Feb. 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen.

The career fair is open to all members of the Stuttgart military community, to include service members, wounded warriors, spouses and civilian employees.

For more information, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

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Harmful chemicals in the environment

While chemical substances have been a part of the fabric of civilization and culture for thousands of years, many chemicals are harmful to the environment and our health. You can manage your risk by using safe chemicals.

What you can do

Use biodegradable products. Make your own cleaning agents using safe materials. Dispose of chemical wastes carefully. Do not put them down the sink. Be wise with home maintenance and in the garden. Do not burn plastics.

Avoid all organic chemicals that have "chloro" as part of their names, including wood preservatives, herbicides and insecticides. Avoid chlorine bleach (sodium hypochlorite) and products containing it (use oxygen bleach instead). Use unbleached paper products.

Wash all fruits and vegetables to remove chlorophenol pesticide residue. Avoid grapes and raisins unless they are clearly labeled as organically grown.

For more information, call 421-6288 or 421-6135.



USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

'STEP' out when traveling to, living in, foreign countries

By Shay Edwards

USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office

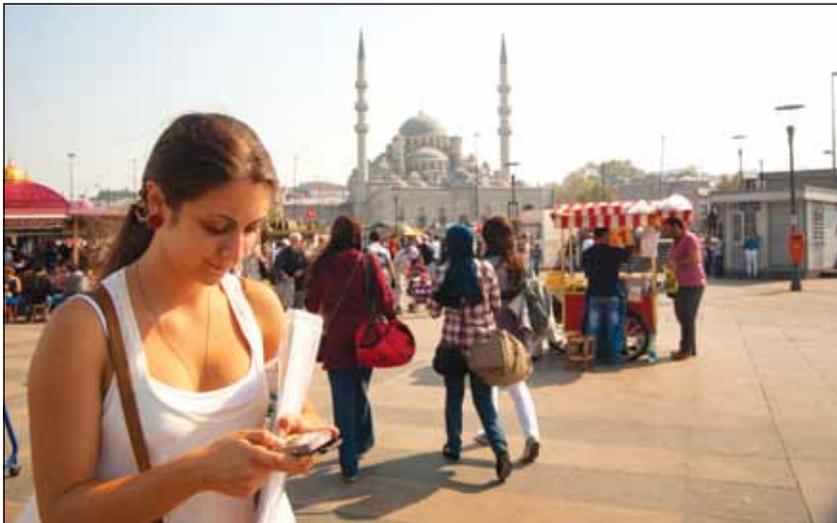
Imagine this: You're on vacation in Paris, France, enjoying the sights of one of the most popular cities in the world. Two days before you are scheduled to return to Stuttgart, a large passenger plane crashes into the Louvre, destroying the national monument and its priceless works of art.

The crash is determined to be a terrorist attack. Travel out of the country is impossible, as the airport is closed indefinitely. Trains going to Germany are booked for a week, and no rental cars are available.

To make matters worse, locals are blaming foreigners in the country for the attack, and riots are beginning to form throughout Paris.

Meanwhile, in your hotel room, you have no idea that any of this is going on. While drinking coffee, you plan your sightseeing itinerary and check your e-mail.

At the subway station, you notice that there are more police than the day before. When you arrive at the main train station, you again notice a heightened police presence and that



www.photos.com

When traveling in a foreign country, registering in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program makes your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary for a consular officer to contact you in an emergency.

the station is packed with people.

As you make your way through the crowd with your family in tow, you realize that you are at a rally of sorts, with an angry sounding young man on a megaphone yelling in French.

The next thing you know, a bottle is thrown at him, and then someone else throws a trash can. Suddenly, the crowd begins fighting, pushing and screaming.

You are seriously concerned for

the safety of your children, and in the melee, are separated from your family.

Such predicaments can be terrifying, but registering in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program can help you avoid them.

According to its website, the State Department "encourages all U.S. citizens traveling abroad, especially citizens who plan to be overseas for a significant amount of

time, to enroll in STEP."

Enrolling in STEP, formerly known as the Registration with Embassies program, makes your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary for a consular officer to contact you in an emergency.

The program also lets U.S. citizens subscribe to e-mail updates on country-specific information, travel warnings, travel alerts and other information for a particular country.

This includes reports on possible risks and security threats so that you can make informed decisions about your travel plans and activities.

Enrolling in STEP also makes it faster and easier for the U.S. embassy to provide a replacement passport in case of theft or loss while abroad.

To enroll, visit www.travel.state.gov and click on the blue suitcase, the STEP icon.

Once registered, you can enter your travel plans for your next out-of-country visit. You can also add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans.

For more information on international travel and tips for living abroad, visit www.travel.state.gov.

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ARMY FAMILY COVENANT:
Keeping the Promise
Honoring our Commitment to Soldiers and Families

Learn more, visit ARMYOneSource.com to see what the Army Family Covenant can mean for you or someone you know.

Holiday schedule

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Jan. 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

The **Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and Dental Clinic** will be closed Jan. 13 and 16.

Contact the Military Police in case of an emergency at civ. 0711-680-116. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at civ. 00800-4759-2330.

The **1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility** on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Jan. 13 and 16.

Join SCSC for luncheon Jan. 17

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club will hold a nutrition-themed luncheon on Jan. 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks. The deadline to reserve a ticket is Jan. 16.

For more information, e-mail scsc4reservations@yahoo.com or visit the SCSC website at www.stuttgart-spousesclub.org.

New hours at CPAC

The Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center announces new customer service hours for 2012.

Walk-In service will be



RB gets pedestrian exit gate

Kelli Newbry and her 4-year-old son Vincent walk through the new pedestrian turnstile on Robinson Barracks. The new exit-only gate is located at the north end of the installation near the intersection of Schozacher Strasse and Roter Stich, and was constructed to cut down walking times to nearby local businesses and public transportation.

Mark J. Howell

available on Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 p.m., however customers must sign in by 3:45 p.m. Appointments are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.

The Stuttgart CPAC office is located on the first floor of Building 2948 on Panzer Kaserne.

To make an appointment, call 431-3488 or civ. 07031-15-3488.

Groups sponsor free ice skating

The Stuttgart Military Community Eishockey Club, along with the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club, will host a Family Skate Night on Jan. 28 from 5:15-6:45 p.m. at Eisstadion Wernau, Stadionweg 12, 73249 Wernau.

Admission is free for all military ID cardholders and their families. Skates can be rented for a moderate fee. For more information, e-mail smchockey@ymail.com or call civ. 0711-680-8304.

Enroll in school, learn something new

University of Maryland University College Europe

will hold registration for on-site and online courses through Jan. 15. Classes will begin on Jan. 16.

For the complete undergraduate and graduate online schedule for spring, go to www.ed.umuc.edu or call the Stuttgart UMUC representative at 431-2477/civ. 07031-15-2477, or e-mail stuttgart@europe.umuc.edu.

Due to PCS soon?

The next scheduled Permanent Change of Station/Pre-Separation briefing will be held Jan. 18 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne. All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend.

Information will be provided from various agencies including Transportation, Customs, Health and Dental Clinics, Tricare, Vehicle Registration, Housing and Army Community Service. Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues.

All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive pre-separation information.

Advance registration is required. For more information and to sign-up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-1599.

Sign up for girls' softball clinic

The Stuttgart American Little League will hold a fast pitch softball clinic Jan. 14-16 for girls ages 12-18. Experienced coaches from the U.S. will conduct the clinic. There is a fee for children to participate.

For more information and to sign up your daughter, call Joe Marvin at 430-5630/civ. 0711-680-5630 or Larry Tannenbaum at 529-4033/civ. 0711-550-26033

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

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Home safety: Put your medicines out of sight

Did you know that in the U.S. more than 60,000 young children end up in emergency rooms every year because they get into medicines when their parent or caregiver isn't looking?

Medicines and vitamins help families feel well and stay well, but children are curious; to keep them safe, parents and caregivers must practice safe medicine storage. All medicines and vitamins should always be kept up and away and out of your child's reach and sight — every time they are used. The following tips can help:

Store medicines in a safe location that is too high for young children to reach or see.

Never leave medicine or vitamins out on a kitchen counter or at a sick child's bedside, even if you have to give the medicine again in a few hours.

Always lock the safety cap on a medicine bottle. If it has a locking cap that turns, twist it until you hear the click.

Tell children what medicine is and why you must be the one to give it to them.

Never tell children medicine is candy so they'll take it, even if your child does not like to take his or her medicine.

Remind baby sitters, houseguests, and visitors to keep purses, bags, or coats that have medicines in them up and away and out of sight when they are in your home.

Program the number of the poison control center, DSN 486-7070/civ. 06371-867070, into your phones.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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Stuttgart Varieté winter cabaret show seduces, delights

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Friedrichsbau Varieté Theater, or Variety Theater, in downtown Stuttgart invites patrons to make a wish and dive into an imaginary world during “Youkali-Way to Paradise,” a winter cabaret-like show that runs through Feb. 11.

A glamorous hotel from the 1920s sets the stage for a cabaret show that combines acrobatic and artistic acts with comedy and musical entertainment.

The Youkali Hotel represents a place without time and space, where wishes come true and coincidental happenings leave room for many surprises.

The hotel “guests” are artists, aristocrats, artistic performers and funny folk. All guests have the same purpose: They want to participate in the hotel’s yearly gala event.

The opera singer “Countess Niessnerova” and the pianist “Mr. Leu” are the hosts and welcome hotel guests and theatergoers alike to “paradise and a timeless travel to the inner self.”

“Youkali unites classical musical elements with breathtaking aerial acrobatics and artistic acts that have never been performed at the Varieté,” said Mascha Hülsewig, spokeswoman for the Friedrichsbau Varieté in Stuttgart. “The show is festive, funny and some parts are simply absurd.”

According to Hülsewig, one of the show’s highlights are the “Aerialistas” from Seattle. The all-woman aerial-burlesque troupe performs synchronized dance numbers, sometimes just inches above the audience’s heads.

The fact that everything takes place right in front of the audience makes for an emotional experience, according to Hülsewig.

One of the Varietés highlights is that the stage extends out into the audience.

“At the Varieté, the spectator is part of everything that happens on stage without ever being on stage ... the theater becomes a livelier and more touchable place,” said Hülsewig.

Another highlight during the show are Nik and Valentina, an acrobatic duo from Berlin.

Nik plays a shady criminal who’s trying to impress Valentina, an elegant lady, by making charming compliments. The couple then performs their partner acrobatics and dance number accompanied by musical



Alexandra Klein

The “Aerialistas,” an all-woman aerial-burlesque troupe from Seattle, performs at the Friedrichsbau Varieté in Stuttgart during the “Youkali-Way to Paradise” cabaret show that runs through Feb. 11. The show features artists from Germany, France, Russia, the U.S. and Canada, and combines acrobatic and artistic acts with comedy and musical entertainment.

interpretations from singer Countess Niessnerova and the pianist Mr. Leu.

The Russian equilibrist Elena Borodina impresses visitors to the Youkali show with an artistic performance that combines feats of balance with free dance elements.

While performing a one-handed handstand while balancing on a steel pole, Borodina artfully uses her feet to wrap herself into a transparent, white scarf, which makes her movements weightless and mystical.

Borodina and the other artists transform their visions and dreams into reality while giving the audience a chance to fantasize.

“To me, the variety theater is one of the most beautiful ways of storytelling, because it fires someone’s imagination, arouses emotions and is always

unpredictable,” said Ralph Sun, the artistic director of the Friedrichsbau Varieté in Stuttgart.

During each of the Varieté performances, visitors can order meals from a menu inspired by the current show. The meal must be ordered four days before the performance date. However, visitors can also order finger food and beverages a la carte during the event.

The Friedrichsbau Varieté is located at Friedrichstrasse 24, 70174 Stuttgart. Performances are offered Monday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 6 and 10 p.m., and Sunday at 6 p.m. An Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret tribute show featuring Ray Martin, a well known Elvis Presley impersonator, will run from April 13 to June 9.

For more information, visit www.friedrichsbau.de.

Have a comment on garrison services?

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Tales of Valor

No man left behind — Dec. 17, 2010

Silver Star recipients Capt. David Fox, Sgt. McKenna "Frank" Miller and Staff Sgt. Matthew Gassman received the third highest award for gallantry in combat for their heroic actions on Dec. 17, 2010, in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Capt. David Fox, three French engineers, an interpreter, an Afghan National Security Forces commander and a member of his Special Operations Task Unit were conducting a site assessment for future placement of an ANSF checkpoint when the team started taking enemy contact.

"We just wanted to get out there, take some photos, get some measurements and get out as quickly as possible," said Sgt. McKenna "Frank" Miller, who was setting up a defensive perimeter while Fox was surveying the site. "We knew we would get into a firefight every time we went out there."

From his position, Fox noticed that his security elements were taking small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks from two separate enemy positions.

"Frank was telling me to hurry up there," Fox said, describing how enemy fire began to increase in volume on Miller's position. "I was sensing [that] things were deteriorating."

He moved the survey element to the top of a ridgeline to engage the enemy, and suddenly darkness enveloped him.

A devastating improvised explosive device detonated near the team, leaving Fox unconscious, instantly killing a French captain and critically wounding the ANSF commander. Despite being disoriented when he came to, Fox began to search for survivors and account for members of the element.

"Initially, I thought it was a mortar round," Fox said. "I was waiting for that second round to hit, but it never came. I was zapped of all my strength at that point."

Still dazed from the blast and with enemy rounds impacting within inches of him, Fox began to administer trauma care by placing a tourniquet on the ANSF commander.

From his position on the ground, Miller heard the large explosion atop the ridgeline but could only see a large plume of black smoke billowing up from where Fox and the assessment team were located. At that moment he had broken transmission with Fox and lost radio contact.

"It went from everything's fine to we're going to need to evacuate the hell out of here," Miller said.

The mountainous terrain made radio communications even more restricted. Not long afterwards, only Fox's words, "urgent



Richard Herman

Silver Star recipients (from left to right) Capt. David Fox, Sgt. McKenna "Frank" Miller and Staff Sgt. Matthew Gassman stand during a Valor Ceremony hosted by U.S. Special Operations Command Europe on Dec. 6, 2011.

... surgical" could be heard over the radio.

Located at the eastern-most security position, Staff Sgt. Matthew Gassman made several attempts to scale the mountain directly to the blast site. Realizing enemy rounds were impacting on his position and the ascent route was too steep, he moved 100 meters to the west of his position and around the ridgeline to another access route — but he was still off.

Gassman then climbed several hundred near-vertical feet on the mountain fully exposed to enemy observation. Impacting rounds sparked the rocky surface near him, yet he continued to try to get to Fox. This time he had climbed south of Fox's position.

Once again, Gassman ran down the mountain and moved 200 meters north and started his desperate climb again, still taking enemy fire. After scrambling twice up restrictive terrain and wearing nearly 80 pounds of gear, an exhausted Gassman finally found Fox and the wounded ANSF commander.

After Miller arrived to Fox's location, he noticed Fox was still dazed from the blast but able to move on his own. Miller organized the element to extract the French engineer's body and the wounded ANSF commander.

"At this time I was totally exhausted. I could barely drag the guy, yet put him on my shoulder," Fox said. "Frank said, 'hey I got it,' bends down, puts the KIA in a fireman's carry, picks him up and proceeds to move down the mountain."

Miller had scaled the mountain just prior to arriving on the scene, but he carried the KIA down the mountain to the emergency

helicopter landing zone for evacuation.

Soaked in the French engineer's blood, Miller painstakingly made his way down the mountain, all-the-while taking sustained fire from the enemy. Several times he stumbled and fell due to the weight on his back.

Fox, now carrying Miller's M4 carbine weapon, provided suppressive fire to shield Miller as they made their way down the near-vertical mountain.

As the men approached the dried up wadi at the base of the mountain, Miller fell once more. He was now in agonizing pain due to his hamstrings being severely strained. The team was able to seek cover behind a tree upon crossing the wadi.

Laughing aloud as he recalled the events on the ground, Miller said, "I do remember Capt. Fox running across the wadi in the open to go get help and [bring] me water."

Gassman made his way down the mountain under a hail of fire with the ANSF commander to the HLZ, but had to abort because of too much enemy fire at that location. The decision was made to establish another landing zone 1,000 meters away.

After loading everyone into a light medium tactical vehicle, Gassman dismounted and ran in front of the vehicle to suppress enemy fire and then led the vehicle to the second HLZ where the wounded ANSF commander and the fallen French officer were evacuated.

Reflecting on why it was important to bring his mortally wounded French comrade down the mountain, Miller said, "We're never going to leave somebody behind. It's not an option."

One Soldier was rendered unconscious by a bomb blast, but recovered and repelled an enemy attack. One Soldier carried a slain French officer down a mountain. One Soldier scaled up and down a mountain three times to save his fellow comrade. Another was hit by enemy fire in the arm three times, yet continued to aggressively engage the enemy. And yet another Soldier ran through a burning building to evacuate its residents.

Four words sum up their actions — "leave no one behind."

All five men, assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were honored for their gallantry and heroism in a Valor Ceremony held at Patch Barracks Dec. 6, 2011.

By Master Sgt. Donald Sparks, Special Operations Command Europe Public Affairs Office

In spite of pain — May 17, 2010

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Musgrave received the Bronze Star, the fourth highest award for gallantry in combat, for his heroic actions on May 17, 2010, in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also received the Purple Heart.

After completing a home search of a suspected IED facilitator, Staff Sgt. Jeffery Musgrave and his Special Operations Task Unit were preparing to head back to camp when they came under enemy fire. Three rounds ripped into his left bicep before he could even react.

"I looked at my arm and didn't see any blood ... my adrenaline just started pumping," said Musgrave, a Special Forces Soldier assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). "I was more excited about the firefight."

Musgrave informed the team that he was hit, and continued maneuvering to different positions while returning fire.

After expending his M-4 basic load and ignoring incoming fire, he left his covered position to man a comrade's M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon and continued to engage

in the fight.

Despite bleeding profusely, Musgrave exposed himself twice more before finally being treated for his wounds.

While being treated by a medic, a member of his team yelled for assistance and again Musgrave maneuvered 300 meters into position to engage the enemy, allowing two of his teammates to flank the enemy and kill two fighters.

"It was something out of a movie," Musgrave said. "On top of everything that was happening, it was pouring down rain. Anything and everything possible that could have went wrong — went wrong that day."

Fighting with only one good arm, Musgrave and his team tried to depart the area, but their vehicle got stuck in the mud — all while getting peppered by enemy fire. He got out of the vehicle and formed a defensive perimeter until the vehicle was recovered.

"You don't have time to think about what's going on," Musgrave said of his actions. "I may have got shot, but if the guy next to me, who was my medic, gets shot ... then we'd really be in a bad situation."

"During that time of mass chaos, someone had to step up to the plate and do what had to be done."

Saving your fellow man — July 3, 2011



Richard Herman

Sp. Willie Smith Jr., center, assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), poses with Lt. Col. Isaac Peltier, commander 1-10th SFG (A), and EUCOM Commander Adm. James G. Stavridis, right, after receiving the Soldier's Medal during a Valor Ceremony held Dec. 6, 2011, on Patch Barracks.



Richard Herman

EUCOM Commander Adm. James G. Stavridis pins the Bronze Star with Valor device on Staff Sgt. Jeffery Musgrave last month. Musgrave, a U.S. Army Special Forces Soldier assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), also received a Purple Heart during a Valor Ceremony held on Patch Barracks, for wounds received during combat. Musgrave was hit by enemy fire, yet continued to return fire with his M-4, and when his ammunition ran out, then manned a M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon before being treated by a medic. Even while receiving medical care, Musgrave continued to engage the enemy.

Sp. Willie Smith Jr. received the Soldier's Medal, the military's highest peacetime award for heroism, for risking his life entering a blazing building to save 35 German citizens from an apartment fire on July 3, 2011.

Walking home in the early-morning hours after attending a social event, Sp. Willie Smith Jr., assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and a friend noticed a building engulfed in flames in Böblingen. After directing his friend to call the German authorities, Smith next did something that he said was instinctive on his part.

"I ran up and down three or four stories to inform the people of what was going on," Smith said. "I just wanted to ensure I got everyone out of that building."

Going door-to-door, he attempted to alert the sleeping residents of the fire. By the time the fire department and Polizei ar-

rived, most of the residents were evacuated, but the crowd mentioned there was still an elderly couple inside.

Smith ran back inside the building along with two members of the Polizei to retrieve the couple from harm.

"The gentleman did not want to leave his wife because she had problems walking, so he stayed in the building with her," Smith said.

Moving through thick smoke, Smith and the rescue team located the couple, who were disoriented and having trouble getting out of bed.

He took control of the handicapped, elderly gentleman and escorted him down the stairs, while the other rescue team members led the elderly woman to safety.

Smith mentioned his motivation for going into the blazing building was that he didn't want to see anyone get hurt.

"It's inside of everyone to want to help other people," Smith said. "When I did it, I didn't give any second thought about it."

What's happening in FMWR

Spin marathon kicks off Tour de Stuttgart

The Patch Fitness Center will host a free three-hour spinathon for cycling enthusiasts on Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event kicks off the Tour de Stuttgart, a 10-month incentive program for indoor and outdoor cyclists.

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

Super Bowl parties

The **Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center** on Panzer Kaserne will host a Super Bowl XLVI party Feb. 5. The festivities start at 10 p.m. For more information, call 431-2575/civ. 07031 15-2575.

The **Kelley Club** will also hold a Super Bowl viewing at 9 p.m. For more information, call 421-4660/civ. 0711-729-4660.

Photography class at Arts and Crafts

Get more out of your digital camera with Patch Arts and Craft's photography class on Jan. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The class requires a camera with manual controls. Students must be at least 16 years old.

For more information, call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

RB films this month

See free films at the Robinson Barracks Theater. The movies start at 6:30 p.m.

- Jan. 11-14: Contagion (PG-13)
- Jan. 18-21: Dolphin Tale (PG)
- Jan. 25-28: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13)

For more information, call 420-6037/civ. 0711 819-6037.

Outdoor Rec trips

Go skiing and snowboarding with Outdoor Recreation. Day trips are planned for:

- Jan. 21: Oberstdorf, Germany;
- Jan. 28: Zurs, Austria;
- Feb. 4: Serfaus, Austria;
- Feb. 11: Damuels, Austria.

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

For more activities, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com. To get on the Family and MWR mailing list, e-mail mwr.marketing@eur.army.mil.

Coming to Patch Theater

Jan. 13 — 6 p.m. Joyful Noise (PG-13) 6 p.m., A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (R) 9 p.m.

Jan. 14 — Hugo (PG) 4 p.m., Joyful Noise (PG-13) 7 p.m., A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (R) 9 p.m.

Jan. 15 — Hugo (PG) 2 p.m., Joyful Noise (PG-13) 4 p.m., New Year's Eve (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Jan. 16 — Joyful Noise (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 17 — New Year's Eve (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 18 — Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 19 — Tower Heist (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 20 — Contraband (R) 6 p.m., Immortals (R) 9 p.m.

Jan. 21 — Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (PG) 4 p.m., Jack And Jill (PG) 7 p.m., Contraband (R) 9 p.m.

Jan. 22 — Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (PG) 2 p.m., Jack And Jill (PG) 4 p.m., Im-



Music Box Films

In "Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," journalist *Mikael Blomkvist* (played by *Daniel Craig*) and computer hacker *Lisbeth Salander* (*Rooney Mara*) investigate a 40-year-old murder.

mortals (R) 7 p.m.

Jan. 23 — Contraband (R) 6 p.m.

Jan. 24 — Jack And Jill (PG) 6 p.m.

Jan. 25 — Immortals (R) 6 p.m.

Jan. 26 — The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 6 p.m.

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