THE CITIZEN

Vol. 36, No. 3 | U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart | March 6, 2007

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Welcome home, Wardawgs!

554th MP Co. Soldiers return to Stuttgart after year downrange

Additional Photos Pages 8-9

Hugh C. McBride

A Soldier from the 554th Military Police Company is reunited with his family following a brief ceremony Feb. 19 in the Panzer Fitness Center. A contingent of 'Wardawgs' from the 554th returned to Stuttgart after a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedeom.

Inside This Edition

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Stuttgart hosts 'Glory Road' players

Stuttgart hosts five players from the historic 1966 NCAA Champion Texas Western basketball team -- the squad that inspired the hit film "Glory Road."

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Patch students move toward fitness

The Citizen ends its three-part "Moving Toward Fitness" series with a profile of a Patch High School class that promotes physical fitness, nutritional awareness.

It's not about what you do, it's about who you are

Airman reflects on meaning of service

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Commentary

Service is about loyalty, hard work, dedication, initiative, humility and sacrifice (to name a few). It means sometimes putting other people's needs ahead of your own. It means truly caring about what you do, what you say, and how that affects those around you.

Imagine asking a military veteran from your hometown, "What does service mean to you?"

Chances are you'll get an earful in return.

In the Air Force, we have the core value of service before self. However, before anyone thinks this is a lecture on core values – hold on. There's a lot more to explain.

First, have you ever left a store or a restaurant and wondered afterward, "They really could use a course in customer service!"

Chances are you were probably right, but in turn those people who treated you poorly may have in their minds what they did was provide you with good customer service.

Whose perception is right or wrong? I've always believed you should treat people how you would want to be treated.

And I don't know anyone who wants to be treated poorly.

The truth is, the term "service" has many meanings, but in return I believe those meanings all blend together.

To me, service is about loyalty, hard work, dedication, initiative, humility and sacrifice (to name a few). It means sometimes putting other people's needs ahead of your own.

It means truly caring about what you do, what you say, and how that affects those around you.

I remember as a teenager I'd take jobs mowing grass, raking leaves and shoveling snow. They would take hours upon hours to complete and often I'd get paid little or nothing. No problem. It was the way my parents raised me — to think about helping your fellow human beings without asking for anything in return.

I also recall more recently when I met a Vietnam veteran who lost both of his legs in the war. I talked with him and asked him why he was still so dedicated to supporting troops and remembering the military heroes of the past.

In a spirited yet soulful response, he said, "I may have lost my legs, but I still have my heart. I'm proud to have served in the Army. Now, I do whatever I can."

As another example, for the past 15 years, I've been married to a woman who has given me three children, saw me leave on a half-dozen deployments, numerous temporary duty assignments, and work late more than once.

Did she have to put up with that? Why does she stay and how come I deserve someone like her? Only my wife could answer those questions, but I will say I'm thankful for her every day.

The same idea holds true for children, parents and friends who know you, are loyal to you, and help you when you need it. What is it in your relationship with them that keeps you dedicated to them?

It's through all of this where we must understand the deeper meaning of service. It's not about what people do or where they work, it's about who they are.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my military career to this point and will continue to enjoy it until I retire some years from now. There have been millions before me who have "served" in the military and millions more who "served" along side them in families and through many, many support functions.

I've given my decade and a half of years in service to my country that I'll never get back, but am proud that I've had the opportunity to be in "the service."

If you find yourself wanting to ask that question about "service," look inside and first understand what it means to you. Only then will you understand why it's important to so many others like me and that military veteran who could give you an earful.

Sturkol serves with the Air Mobility Warfare Center Public Affairs Office on Fort Dix, New Jersey. This commentary originally appeared online on the Air Force News Web site (www.af.mil/news).

Help Honor our Community's Volunteers

- The USAG Stuttgart Volunteer Recognition Ceremony (April 27 on Patch Barracks) is designed to honor those whose service is the heart of our community.
- To learn how you can nominate a volunteer to be honored at this ceremony, see page 10 or visit www.stuttgart.army.mil.

THE CITIZEN

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

www.stuttgart.army.mil

USAREUR Commander: Women's History Month events offer great opportunities for all

By Gen. David McKiernan
U.S. Army Europe

I encourage everyone – Soldiers, civilians, and family members – to take part in some of the many Women's History Month activities planned this March.

March is Women's History Month. This observance provides our country the privilege of honoring the countless contributions American women have made throughout our history.

Their contributions have enriched our culture and strengthened our Nation, as reflected in this year's theme: Generations of Women Moving History Forward.

The United States of America remains a country that offers the greatest freedom on earth.

Ours is also a country that allows all individuals to maximize their potential.

Taking fullest advantage of these opportunities, women continue to strengthen our Nation and the world by excelling as leaders in all walks of life, including the arts, business, community service, education, family life, law, medicine, politics and science.

They also wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces and display courage in defending our Nation and by helping lay the foundations of peace and freedom for generations to come.

I encourage everyone – Soldiers, civilians and family members – to take part in some of the many Women's History Month activities planned this March.

These activities will give all of us a great opportunity to learn what women have done and continue to do for our great Nation.

- *Gen. McKiernan is commander of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army.*
- *This memorandum is available online at https://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library.*
- *For more about Women's History Month in Stuttgart see the ad on page 7 or visit www.stuttgart.army.mil.*

Members of Stuttgart's German-American Choir perform during the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's National Prayer Breakfast gathering Feb. 22 in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Fellowship on the menu
Stuttgart residents gather on Patch for Prayer Breakfast 2007

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Members of the Stuttgart military community came together for prayer, fellowship and a delicious breakfast during the U.S. European Command / U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart National Prayer Breakfast gathering Feb. 22 in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

"It's always a wonderful opportunity when we can bring our community members together," said USAG Stuttgart Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Norris.

In addition to food and fellowship, the event also featured inspirational music by Stuttgart's German-American Choir and comments from featured speaker Chaplain (Col.) Donald Rutherford, command chaplain for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army.

Rutherford spoke on the topic of leadership, starting with the men who were chosen as disciples as recorded in the New Testamant.

"Jesus chose interesting people," Rutherford said. "Everyone was a character who had great character."

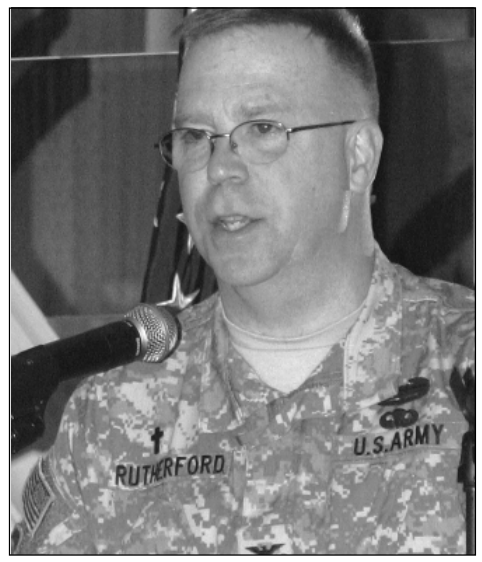
Rutherford continued to trace this connection between leadership and character, recalling the service of Maximilian Kolb (a Polish priest who died in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz) and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, as well as individuals who had inspired him through personal interactions.

"As long as we show character, we can't help but lead," Rutherford said.

The message of the morning – and the opportunities afforded by such gatherings – were appreciated by those who attended, said one participant.

"Events like these are great for the community," said Maj. Mark Kurowski. "Providing the opportunity to bring community members together is a great service. The [Prayer Breakfast organizers] did a great job."

For more about religious support services in Stuttgart call 430-5000/ civ. 0711-680-5000. In Garmisch call 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-2819.



Chaplain (Col.) Donald Rutherford, command chaplain for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, speaks during the Feb. 22 National Prayer Breakfast gathering on Patch Barracks.

Chaplain's Office Online
www.stuttgart.army.mil
Select "Installation Support"
then "Religious Support"

News & Notes

Capital City Visitation March 21

The City of Stuttgart and the State of Baden-Württemberg would like to take you to lunch!

Actually, the Capital City Visitation Program is much more than just a great free meal. Once a quarter, our host-nation officials invite members of the Stuttgart military community for a daylong "insider's" look at city and state government, the history of Stuttgart, and the area's ongoing rich tradition of German-American friendship.

For details or to participate call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599 or e-mail nelly.x.williams@us.army.mil.

Kelley Tax Center now open

The Stuttgart Tax Center is now open for business. The center offers free tax preparation and filing assistance to U.S. identification cardholders.

The center is open Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in service is available, but individuals with complex returns or issues are advised to make an apppointment.

For more information visit the Tax Center office on Kelley Barracks, call 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588 or e-mail michael.ryan.watts@eur.army.mil.

Help our Wounded Warriors

The Stuttgart chapter of "Sew Much Comfort" gives all community members an opportunity to assist wounded service members during their recovery and rehabilitation. The group creates, collects and provides adaptive clothing that fits comfortably over medical devices such as casts, fixators and prosthetics.

For information visit www.sewmuchcomfort.org, call 0711-411-3438 or email the.sires@gmail.com.

Adoption support group

Stuttgart offers an adoption support group. The goal is to bring families together that have gone through the adoption process and to help those just getting started.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at Army Community Service (Panzer Kaserne, building 2915).

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

Help SNAP keep Stuttgart safe

Stuttgart's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is always looking for committed community members to help keep our installations safe.

For more information call 430-5560/civ. 0711-680-5560 or e-mail earnest.epps@us.army.mil.

Career opportunities with AAFES

Positions are available for retail and warehouse personnel and food service positions in the new AAFES PX/ BX on Panzer Kaserne.

Applications are online at http://www.aafes.com, or contact the AAFES Human Resources Office, Kelley Barracks, Bldg. 3312 at 0711-7203-132.

Patch/Panzer Thrift Shop news

The Patch Thrift Shop has extended its Saturday hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop will be open during the USAG Stuttgart Spring Bazaar, but will be closed April 7 to 13 for Spring Break.

The Panzer Consignment and Thrift Shop will be moving to join the Patch Thrift Shop in the old PX building located on Patch Barracks. In order to make this move possible, both thrift shops will discontinue accepting consignments as of March 1. Consignors are asked to pick up all their remaining items between April 16 and April 27.

Installation Management Command

New Logos, Same Commitment to Service

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Members of the overseas military community may notice some new flags and logos associated with the installation-managment agencies on Army posts.

In October 2007, the Army created the Installation Management Agency, which had been to oversee the service's installation operations effort.

IMCOM is accountable to the Chief of Staff of the Army for effective garrison support of mission activities and serves as the Army's single authority and primary provider of base support services.

• *For more about what IMCOM means to Stuttgart and Garmisch, see the March 20 edition of* The Citizen.

• *For more about IMCOM visit www.ima. army.mil.*

photos by Tweedy Knef (DMWR Marketing)

The "Yum Yum Sisters" (Garmsich's Patti Joy, Shelley Carruth, Lori Benson, Jen Knapp and Erica Hansen) pause for a moment before taking the stage Feb. 23 in downtown Garmisch. The "Sisters" performance followed a successful inaugural "WinterFest" on Artillery Kaserne.

No snow? No problem!

Weather worries cast aside, Garmisch residents enjoy warm 'WinterFest' weekend

Mirei Stephens, 8, enjoys a snack in the Pete Burke Community Center during Garmisch's inaugural "WinterFest" Feb. 23 on Artillery Kaserne.

Competitors are off and running Feb. 23 during the footrace portion of the biathlon, held near the Pete Burke Center.

WinterFest biathlon competitor Stephanie Harding is the picture of focus.

By Hugh C. McBride

Who needs snow?

Certainly not the members of the Garmisch military community, who didn't let a lack of the white stuff damper their enjoyment of the area's inaugural "WinterFest" celebration on Artillery Kaserne.

Having postponed the event once due to unseasonably warm winter weather, the community forged ahead with the celebration Feb. 23.

And though a few climate-related concessions were inevitable (for example, the cross-country skiing portion of the biathlon became a footrace), the spirit of the event soared unimpeded.

Karin Santos, U.S. Army Garrison Garmish's garrison manager, said the event's success was due to a "can-do attitude" that permeates the community.

"Without missing a beat, the USAG Garmisch DMWR team came up with alternative snow-free programs for the kids," Santos said. "The event was a tremendous success thanks to all the community members who attended and the garrison employees who worked so hard to make our first WinterFest such a memorable event."

While the biathletes were circling the baseball diamond across from the Pete Burke Center, WinterFest attendees enjoyed live music, games and delicious food inside the Burke Center.

Kevin Wilson took two firsts and one second in the Chili Cook-Off. Top biathlon finishers were Nick Cassar, Paul Neuman, Peter Salsner, Tom Parks, Peter Lee and Joey Hickox.

Coming Soon to the Garmisch Stage ...

Twilight of the Golds

(A drama by Jonathan Tollins)
• March 9-11, 16 & 17 (7:30 p.m.)
• Tickets: $10 adult / $8 youth

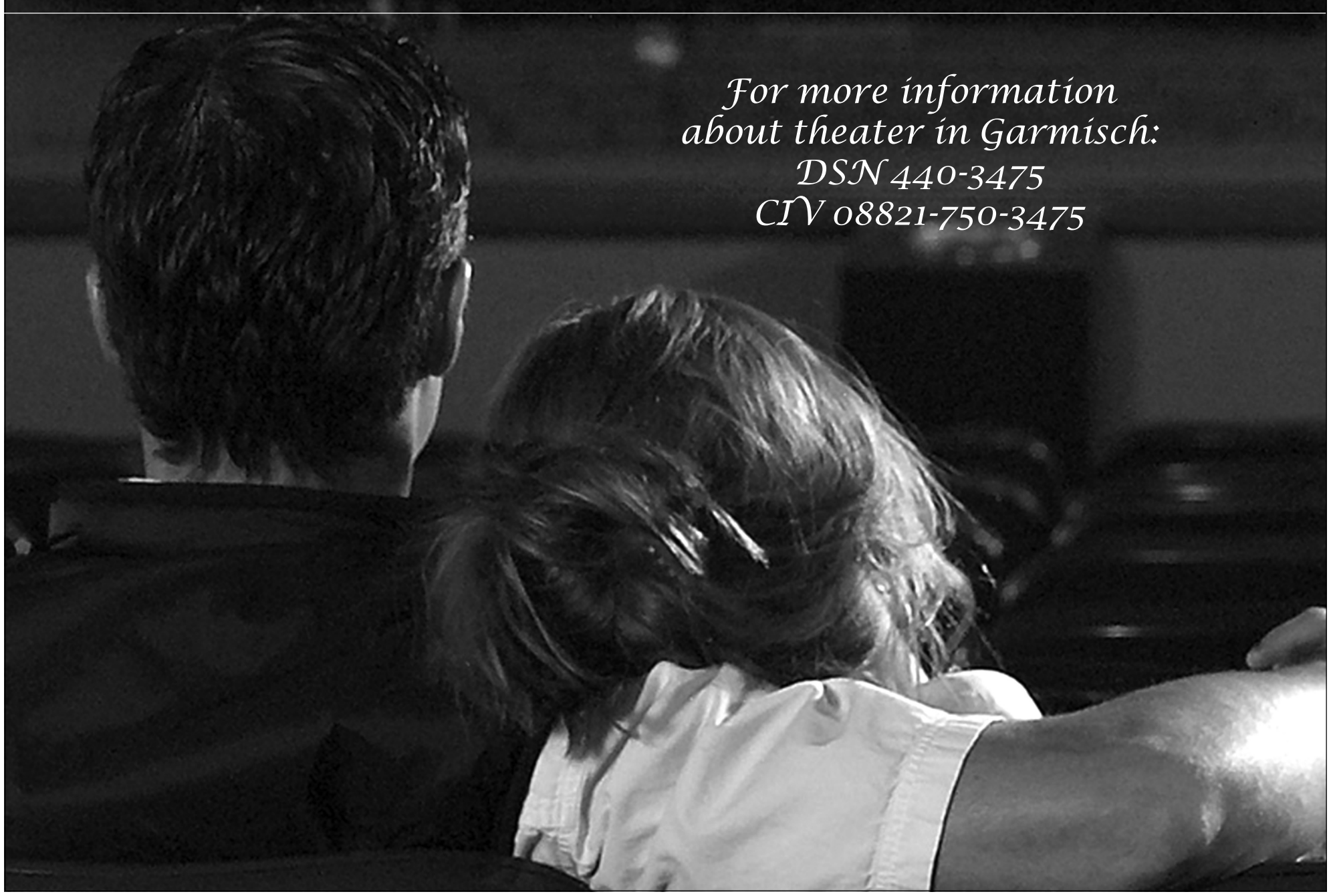
Arsenic & Old Lace

(A comedy by Joseph Kesselring)
• March 29-31; April 6 & 7 (7:30 p.m.)
• Tickets: $10 adult / $8 youth

ALSO:

Theatre Acting Workshop

March 8 in the Community Theatre
All ability levels (or lack thereof) welcome to attend!



For more information
about theater in Garmisch:
DSN 440-3475
CIV 08821-750-3475

Stuttgart residents compete to be 'biggest loser'

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

Staff Sgt. Todossii Short was ready to talk when she stepped off the scale Jan. 31. "Wow, I lost some serious weight," said the Soldier from U.S. European Command. "I'll talk to anyone."

Not many enjoy questions right after a visit to the scale, but in just three weeks, Short said she just needed an "extra push" to get her back on track.

Her secret? She credits a return to the gym, switching from Pepsi to Sprite Zero and the Lose to Win Body Challenge.

"Everyone needs a little kick," said Marty Smith, fitness coordinator for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, who organized the Challenge. "Most of the time it's the small changes that make a world of difference."

Many others have found that extra push to curb calories and lead a more active and healthy lifestyle since the Challenge started Jan. 10.

On that day, 286 individuals lined up in the hallway of the Stuttgart Wellness Center on Patch Barracks to sign up for the 12-week program and stand on the scale, the first of five weigh-ins that will give participants an overall picture of their fitness level.

"It's a good check and balance for me to get in shape," said Clint Harrell, who works at Defense Information Systems Agency Europe, where 10 employees alone have signed up for the Challenge. "There's quite a few side bets going on."

Every Tuesday, Smith and a team of professionals conduct lunch-time classes devoted to topics such as nutrition, strength and cardio training, and proper running technique.

Time and location vary so call ahead. The program ends April 4.

"People are really sticking with it," said Smith. "It's not just a one-time thrill."

For more information contact Smith at 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386 or email william.m.smith4@eur.army.mil.

All About Lose to Win

- The Lose to Win Challenge is a 12-week program designed to enhance an individual's overall fitness level and awareness.
- Awards will be given to the top three male, female and team participants, who, at the end of program, have the highest "Lose to Win" factor (the average of relative body fat percentage and percentage of weight lost.)
- Five weigh-ins will take place at the Stuttgart Wellness Center to chart overall fitness.
- Clinics are held each week addressing topics such as cardio training, nutrition and strength training.
- For more info call the Stuttgart Wellness Center at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073 .

Kim Cerer of the Stuttgart Wellness Center helps Clint Harrell read his printout during the second "Challenge" weigh-in Jan. 31.

HEALTH CARE CORNER

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

Hours of Operation
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Military Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Pharmacy
M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Immunizations
Walk-in basis
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

Well Baby Care
Every Tuesday

Laboratory
M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Physical Exams
Active-duty only (by appt.)
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

Well Woman Care
Every Wednesday

Appointments
430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 *or* 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611
Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online. Visit www.tricareonline.com.

Stuttgart Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Active-Duty Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

All Others Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Appointments
430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

Garmisch Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation
Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Military Sick Call
Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Appointments
440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

Note
Dental services are extremely limited for patients other than active-duty service members and their families.

In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:
Stuttgart 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827

Veterinary Treatment Facility

Hours of Operation
Mon. to Fri.: 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Appointments
431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681

Location
Building 2996, Panzer Kaserne

Note
The facility is unable to see emergency cases. Thus, community members must become familiar with local German veterinarians. Visit the clinic for a list of German veterinarians in the Stuttgart area.

Stuttgart Wellness Center

Hours of Operation
Mon. to Fri.: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Appointments
Call the center at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073

Location
Washington Center, Patch Barracks

Stuttgart celebrates Black History Month with event in Patch Theater, hosts men of 'Glory Road'

Fans of the "Men of Glory" swarmed the lobby of the Patch Theater Feb. 15 to have players, such as Nevil Shed, sign posters, books and even a pair of basketball sneakers.

[Above] A black and white photo of the 1966 Texas Western team that won the NCAA Div. 1 finals stands in front of several basketballs, each signed by players from both the girls and boys hoop squads from Patch High School.

[Left] A Patch High School cheerleader escorts Togo Railey, a Texas Western player, to the front of the theater Feb. 15.

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart hosted five players from the historic 1966 NCAA Champion Texas Western basketball team - the squad that inspired the hit film "Glory Road," in a Feb. 15 Black History Month event in the Patch Barracks Theater.

History was made on March 19, 1966, when Don Haskins, coach of Texas Western, fielded an all-black lineup in the NCAA finals. The Miners would go on to upset Kentucky 72-65, and the game would be seen as a breakthrough for black athletes.

Most remarkable was not just the result, but the climate that the players had to endure just to get to the finals. In the mid 1960's, America suffered from the gripe of racial discrimination.

Pat Riley, coach of the Miami Heat and star of that '66 Kentucky squad, called the game the "Emancipation Proclamation of college basketball."

"This message crosses all boundaries and is so important not only for today but for future generations to hear," said Col. Kenneth G. Juergens, USAG Stuttgart commander.

Following a free screening of the film "Glory Road," the five players entered the Patch Theater to the fanfare of Gary Glitter's "Rock n' Roll Part 2" and the pom pom welcome from the Patch High School cheerleaders, who led them to the front panel table.

"It's great to be here and share our story," said Togo Railey.

Each player spoke about his personal experience during that amazing run to the NCCA finals and later fielded questions from the audience.

"We were told we couldn't start five black players at the same time because they didn't have the intelligence or leadership abilities to win," said David "Bid Daddy D" Lattin, the team's center and author of the book, "Slam Dunk to Glory." "It was that attitude that we got on the road that both hurt us and fueled us."

Following that 1966 season, Lattin was a first round draft choice with the Golden State Warriors, where he played for eight seasons. Several other "Men of Glory" players would also enter the NBA draft. They credit among other things Haskins, their coach, for opening up opportunities unheard of at the time.

"I credit him because he saw no color," said Nevil Shed. "He was mean to everyone."

Many in attendance were youth including 100 Stuttgart-area fifth-graders, 20 German students from the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium in Böblingen, and the boys and girls basketball squads from Patch.

Queen Thompson, a 5th-grade teacher at Patch Elementary School, said the student's involvement was an important part of the event. "It's always good that we can pass on educational opportunities to our youth," she said.

Following the panel discussion, players had the chance to meet community members in the main lobby of the theater, where they signed film posters, basketballs, hats and even a pair of high-top sneakers, owned by Patrick Redmond, a freshman and basketball player at PHS.

"It just shows how much you can overcome if you stick together as a team," he said.

"For them to come together under so much and win as a team that's really inspiring," said Carey Williams, a PHS senior and starting guard on the school's basketball team, who had a poster signed.

Despite the enormous odds against them at the start of the season, the "Men of Glory" admitted that they weren't at all surprised by the run. They described grueling practices under Haskins that lasted well over three hours. They were on the court seven days a week, and all had the will and drive to win.

"We shocked a lot of people," said Shed. "But we didn't shock ourselves."

For more information about the Black History Month events that took place in Stuttgart-area schools see the March 20 issue to The Citizen.

The 1966 NCAA Championship ring.

National Women's History Month

"Generations of Women Moving History Forward"

USAG Stuttgart Celebration

With Guest Speaker Gabriele Müller-Trimbusch

Stuttgart Mayor for Social Issues, Youth & Health

March 9 at 1 p.m.

Swabian Special Events Center

Welcome Home, Wardawgs!

554 MP Company Commander Capt. Donald Davidson and his wife, Lisa, enjoy their first moments together following a Feb. 22 welcome home formation for retuning Wardawgs in the Panzer Fitness Center gymnasium.

[Above] Staff Sgt. Nicholas Jones spends some quiet time with his son, who was born during the Wardawgs' yearlong deployment.
[Top] One of the handmade banners that greeted the 554 Soldiers upon their return.
[Right, Top & Bottom] Family members cheer during the formation, then rush to greet their loved ones.

A grateful community thanks you for your service.

Read more about the 'Wardawgs' of the 554th MP Company
March 20 – The Reintegraion Process
April 3 – 'In Their Own Words': The 554th Downrange

Main photo by MC1(AW) Michael Larson (U.S. Navy)
Inset photos of 554 MP CO by Hugh C. McBride

Garrisons to honor volunteers

Community members encouraged to nominate individuals who 'inspire by example'

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

They coach our community's young athletes, lead our Scouts, and assist our retirees. They raise funds, donate time and talent, and serve without expectation of reward. By donating their time and talents in the service of others, they have established a tradition of inspiring by example.

And now it's time to tell them "thank you."

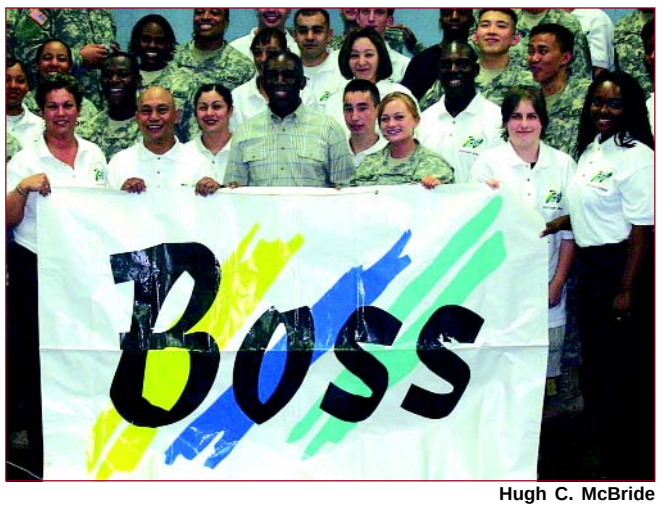
The annual U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Volunteer Recognition Ceremony is set for April 27 on Panzer Kaserne. The USAG Garmisch ceremony will be May 2.

But before the certificates are printed and the awards are distributed, U.S. Army Garrisons Stuttgart and Garmisch Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens is asking community members to help ensure that all deserving volunteers are recognized for their service.

"This community could not function without the selfless service of our volunteers," Juergens said. "Our volunteers are the heart of this community, and I encourage all community members to nominate a deserving individual to be honored at our annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony."

Community members who wish to nominate a volunteer for recognition may do so online at www.stuttgart.army.mil or by contacting Kelly Measells of Stuttgart's Army Community Service (see box at right for details about the nomination process.)

The following are brief descriptions of the nine volunteer award categories and the individuals who were honored at last year's ceremony:



Hugh C. McBride

Brandon Beach

Drew Benson

Coaching our young athletes, serving our service members, and staffing booths at Stuttgart's annual Pfennig Bazaar are just a few of the many crucial duties performed by community volunteers.

With the USAG Stuttgart Volunteer Recognition ceremony set for April 27, community members are encouraged to nominate a worthy individual to be honored this year.

USAG Stuttgart Ceremony — April 27

USAG Garmisch Ceremony — May 2

Nominate a Volunteer Today!

- The success of the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony is dependent upon the willingness of community members to nominate deserving individuals .
- To be eligible to be honored at this ceremony, volunteers must be registered with Army Community Service.
- Volunteers may be nominated for service that meets the criteria of one of the nine award categories listed at left.
- The nomination process consists of completing and submitting a nomination packet to Stuttgart's Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator, Kelly Measells.
- The nomination packet includes the following information:
  - Number of hours the volunteer donated in 2006.
  - Scope of the volunteer's responsibilities.
  - Scope of the impact the volunteer had.
  - Description of the volunteer's knowledge and skills.
  - Significant accomplishments or contributions.
  - Demonstration of the volunteer's character.

For more information

- Garmisch: 440-3777/civ. 08821-750-3777
- Garmisch: patricia.howe@eur.army.mil
- Stuttgart: 431-3363/civ. 07031-15-3363
- Stuttgart: kelly.measells@eur.army.mil
- Both communities: www.stuttgart.army.mil

Inspire by Example

Commander's Volunteer of the Year

• This award is presented to an individual who selflessly donates time and energy toward the betterment of the entire Stuttgart military community.

Commander's Volunteer Family of the Year

• This award is presented to a family that, as a whole, has selflessly served together for the betterment of the entire community.

Commander's Silver Volunteer of the Year

• This award is presented to a member of the Stuttgart military community's retiree population. The "seasoned volunteer" who receives this award will have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to inspirational service.

Commander's Youth Volunteer of the Year

• This award goes to a volunteer under the age of 18 who has demonstrated a desire to serve his or her community.

Rookie Volunteer of the Year

• This award is presented to a relatively new volunteer who "hit the ground running" in service to the community. Though this person may have served for only a short period of time, his or her efforts have already enhanced the community.

Helping Hand Volunteer of the Year

• This award is presented to an outstanding, patient, responsible, loyal and hospitable volunteer who serves from the heart.

Ambassador Award

• This award is presented to an exceptional foreign-national community member whose service not only enhances the Stuttgart military community but also strenghtens the bonds between the area's U.S. and German populace.

Unsung Volunteer of the Year

• This award is presented to a volunteer who eschews the spotlight, but whose light shine through nonetheless.

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TIME TO WASH THE TRUCK...

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Interactive exhibit offers 'Virtual Army Experience'

Story & photo by Hannah M. Hayner
Army News Service

Only Soldiers know how it feels to fight in a combat zone, but civilians now have an opportunity to get a virtual taste of the action.

The Virtual Army Experience, an interactive exhibit that lets guests take on Soldier roles, made its debut last week in Daytona Beach, Fla., during Speedweeks.

The 20-minute experience is the life-size version of the Army's computer game, "America's Army: Special Forces (Overmatch)," which went online in 2002 and has since attracted more than 8 million registered users.

The game consistently ranks as one of the 10 most popular games on the Internet.

Unlike many video games, it emphasizes teamwork rather than competition, and players work with each other to accomplish missions. VAE works the same way.

"We are a team - we start together, we finish together," Sgt. Will Long from Fort Hood, Texas, told a group of participants during their pre-mission briefing.

After they learned about their mission, the newly formed team entered the "combat zone," where they got into Humvees or behind anti-tank missiles and prepared to raid a terrorist stronghold.

The scene was displayed on huge screens in front of them, and lasers marked where some of their weapons pointed.

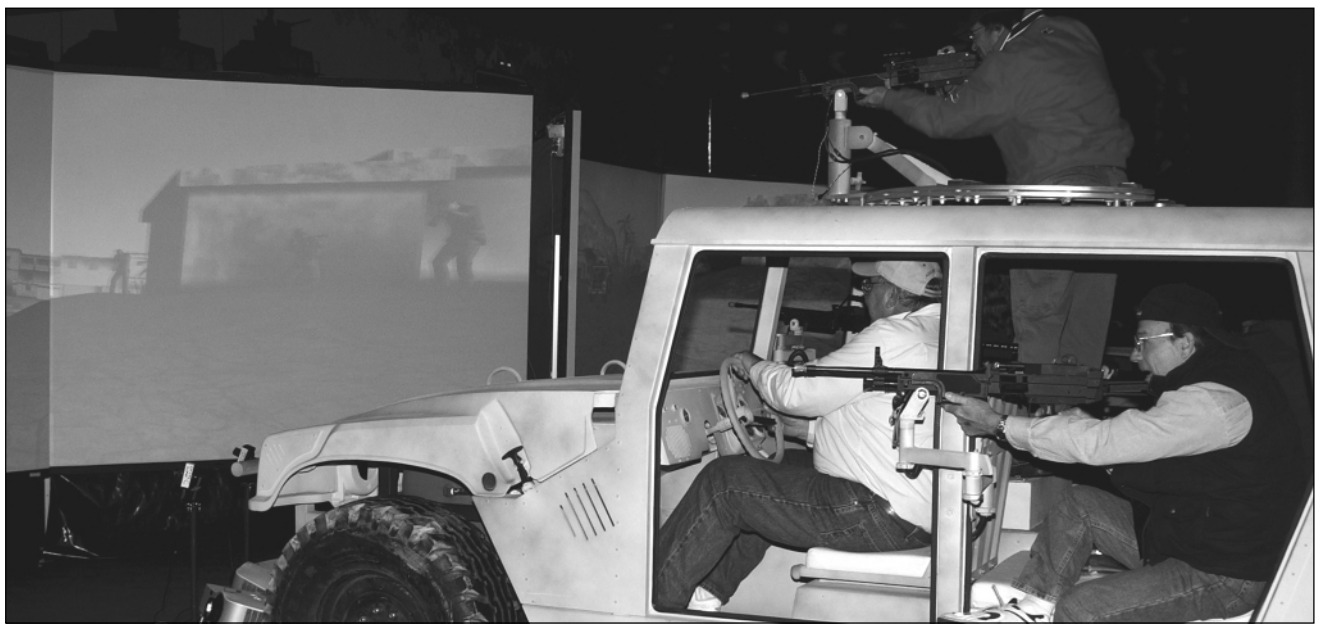
At the order of their commander, the mission began. Thunderous noise took over the room for several minutes as guns and missiles fired, and Soldiers shouted orders and warnings such as "look left!" and "(rocket-propelled grenade) on the roof!" Guns vibrated when shot, and blasts of air made the experience even more realistic.

Suddenly, the noise stopped and the words "Mission accomplished" sent the satisfied group to the next room for an after-action review on their performance.

"This was educational because I never was able to go into the Army, and I got to see what these guys do," said Jimmy Ward. "It is very different from what I anticipated."

At the end of the experience, the team got a chance to hear some real Soldiers' stories.

Sgt. Tommy Rieman, who was injured in combat while assigned to 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, talked about what happened to him and what the Army means to him.



The 20-minute Virtual Army Experience, the life-size version of the Army's computer game, "America's Army: Special Forces (Overmatch)," made its debut in Daytona Beach, Fla., during Speedweeks.

"I'm passionate about this because it tells a story," Rieman said. "But it doesn't just tell my story, it tells all these guys' stories, ... the stories of everyone I fought with.

Rieman is part of a program called America's Army Real Heroes, which honors Soldiers who have distinguished themselves in combat and received an award of Bronze Star or above.

Rieman received a Silver Star and Purple Heart after fighting through two ambushes and using his body to shield his gunner. He took two bullet wounds and shrapnel.

He is now highlighted in the America's Army game, and he is one of four Soldiers after whom an action figure has been modeled. In addition, President Bush honored him in this year's State of the Union Address.

Col. Casey Wardynski, project originator and director, said many of his ideas for the computer game and VAE were inspired by his more than 27 years in the Army.

"Most people don't get to see us do our job, so I wanted to create a virtual test-drive for people to hear the Army's story," he said.

He added that he has received a lot of positive feedback about the VAE.

"I've seen some people coming out, giving each other high-fives, and other people coming out with tears in their eyes after hearing Tommy's story," Wardynski said.

By the reaction of some participants, it seems the Army's story really is being told successfully.

"Being a prior vet, this was really good," Le Rudolph said. "I fought in (Operation) Desert Storm, and this brought back memories."

"It was incredible, absolutely incredible," said Linda MacIsaac. "It gave me an appreciation of what our military men and women do. Thank God we have them."

VAE will make 35 stops at events around the country this year. For more information go to www.americasarmy.com.

Referral Bonus Program boosts payout to sponsors

Story By Sgt. Aimee Millham
USAREUR Public Affairs

As of November, all Soldiers and retirees are one successful recruit away from making $2,000. The Referral Bonus Program has doubled its payout to sponsors from the original $1,000, and recruiting command leaders expect it to help meet the Army's growing needs by encouraging more referrals.

"It helps a lot," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Alden, Kaiserslautern Recruiting Station commander. "By generating leads to recruiting commands it helps meet the new goals Congress has set forth for the Army."

Julia Bobick, U.S. Army Recruiting Command public information specialist, outlined the program: To get the bonus, a sponsor refers a prospect online, and once the Defense Finance and Accounting Service confirms that the recruit is, in fact, in Basic Training, it pays the sponsor the first $1,000. Once the recruit graduates from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, DFAS pays the second $1,000.

The Referral Bonus program was already successful when it consisted of a $1,000 bonus given to the sponsor after the recruit graduated AIT, Bobick said. "In Fiscal Year '06 more than 1,400 Soldiers were contracted and shipped under the Referral Bonus program." With the new program, even if the recruit does not complete Basic Training, the sponsor may keep the first lump sum.

Eligible sponsors are Army retirees, active duty and Reserve Soldiers not serving as recruiters, and Delayed Entry Program Soldiers. However, sponsors cannot refer immediate family members or personnel in their chain of command.

Recruits with prior military service or at any stage of the enlistment process - including having met with a recruiter - are not eligible for the program, according to USAREC.

To refer someone, logon to the Army Referral System for the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team Website at https://smart.goarmy.com/danana/auth/url_6/welcome.cgi, and follow the prompts. In order to submit their referral via the site, referring sponsors must establish either an Army Knowledge Online account at https://www.us.army.mil/suite/login/welcome.html or a Self-Registration account through http://www.goarmy.com/accounts/register/.

Referrals made outside the ARS-SMART Web site or phone lines will not be considered for the referral bonus. Referrals may be entered by phone via the USAREC ARS-SMART line: 1-800-223-3735, ext. 6-0473.

52nd Signal inducts nine Soldiers into NCO Corps

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

The 52nd Signal Battalion inducted nine Soldiers into the Army NCO Corps during a Jan. 19 ceremony in the Patch Barracks Theater.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley of U.S. European Command pinned new chevrons onto each of the newly-promoted sergeants.

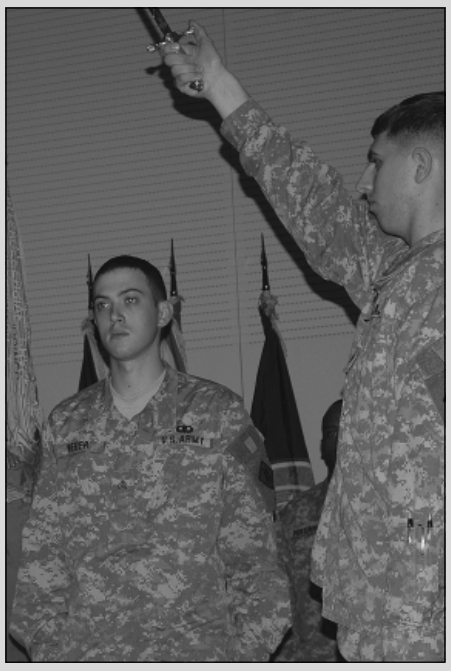
"It's an awesome honor to put on stripes for the first time," said Farley, the event's guest speaker. "You are now a leader of others."

Each Soldier completed the required Primary Leadership Development Class, or PLDC for short, and was recommended by their senior leaders for promotion.

"It's more than just acquiring skills," said Staff Sgt Michael Rollins. "It's a change in mindset."

Following the reciting of the Army Values, Soldiers and guests met in the Patch Community Club for an NCO Call reception.

Inductees were Sgt. William Cassada, Sgt. James MacKay, Sgt. Daniel Proud, Sgt. Matthew Weber, Sgt Kevin Smith, Sgt. Andrea Daniels, Sgt Steven Armstrong, Sgt. Marcy Gonzales of the Stuttgart Health Clinic, and Sgt. Joel Pollard of EUCOM.



Sgt. Matthew Weber takes a symbolic walk through the crossed sabers Jan. 19 in the Patch Barracks Theater. Nine Soldiers were promoted into the Noncommissioned Corps during the 52nd Signal Battalion's induction ceremony.

Vehicle Safety Reminder

Cell phone road rules apply on- and off-post

by Robert Szostek
U.S. Army,Europe Office of the Provost Marshal

Hand-held phones are safety hazards that have caused many road accidents in Europe.

For that reason, the Department of Defense and most European nations have banned the use of hand-held cell phones while driving a motor vehicle.

"These laws are enforced on and off U.S. installations throughout Europe," said Lt. Col. Deborah K. Anderson, chief of law enforcement operations at the United States Army, Europe Office of the Provost Marshal.

"Studies show that mobile phone use in cars is unsafe," Anderson explained. "Driving safely is a complex task and requires total concentration. Phoning distracts drivers and any distraction can make you miss hearing or seeing the cues needed to avoid a crash."

Anderson said it is best to switch off the phone as soon as entering the car, but added that people who want to communicate while driving can do the following:

• Buy a hands free device that allows the driver to keep both hands on the steering wheel. The device can also be distracting, so short duration calls are recommended.

• Use the voice mail box function and call people back when finished driving.

"It is OK if people use a hand-held phone in a vehicle if it is safely parked and the engine is off," Anderson said.

The Department of Defense and most European nations have banned the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

Severe penalties

"Penalties for having a cell phone in your hand or wedged between your head and shoulder while driving, even in slow moving traffic, are severe," she said.

Following is a partial list of fines:

• Belgium – fines range from 50 to 1,375 euro.

• Germany – a 40-euro fine and one point against your license.

• Italy – fines from 68 to 275 euro.

• Luxemburg – fines up to 74 euro.

• Netherlands – minimum fine is 140 euro, maximum is two months in prison or a 2,000-euro fine.

• Department of Defense – DOD policy is to assess three points against your license for on-post violations.

"People will suffer heavier penalties and can even lose their license if they caused an accident or were involved in one while using a cell phone improperly," Anderson added.

For more information visit www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safetydivision/main.htm.

Using a mobile phone while driving is not only dangerous but can also result in jail time or up to a 2,000 euro fine.

Are you road-ready?

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Safety Office and Provost Marshal's Office are reminding all motorcyclists that Army Europe Regulation190-1 establishes clear guidelines for the safe operation of motorcycles.

The following are required for military-affiliated bikers both on- and off-post in Europe:

• Helmet that meets ANSI standard Z90 or Europe Norm 2-02.

• Full-fingered gloves.

• High-visibility (bright, reflective) garments.

• Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes.

• Long sleeves.

• Trousers.

For more information call 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752.

photo courtesy U.S. Army Alaska Safety Office

Moving toward fitness

New Patch class targets physical activity and nutrition

Story and photo by Brandon Beach

Melody Cole hands in her *MyPyramid* homework Feb. 16. The sophomore from Patch High School said she tries to stay active most of the year.

In fall, she runs the hills just outside Patch Barracks as a member of the school's cross country team. In winter, she cheers at the basketball games. Staying fit is on top of her list, she said.

Its five minutes after 8 a.m. in the Patch Fitness Center, and Cole's Physical Education and Nutrition class, or PAN for short, has begun. Several students start their warm up on stationary bikes. Some stretch in front of mirrors and rub sleep from their eyes. Others tally up reps on the bench-press table.

For the past three days, Cole, along with her classmates, have painstakingly jotted down in their notebooks each and every morsel of food they ate, be it at home or in the food court. They have also kept record of their physical activity. Did they walk to school this week or catch a ride?

In the evenings, they sat down at the computer and typed in the foods and amounts they consumed into *mypyramid.gov*, a U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site, where they all have accounts.

The Web site is open to anyone free of charge. To receive a tell-all reading though, individuals must track their daily intake and activity level for at least three days.

Sophomore Melody Cole runs through a set of bicep curls at the Patch gym Feb. 16.

After that, the Web site does the work, crunching out the data. It compares the foods ingested with the calories burned, taking into account an individual's age and sex. The results surprised many students.

"I used to think that if I ate some vegetables with my junk food it would all balance out," said Cole. "I definitely need to cut down on the junk food."

Eliminating misconceptions like the veggie/junk food ratio theory has been the goal of PAN, a relatively new course in the DoDDS curriculum, since it was unveiled last year. The class links physical activity (output) with facts about nutrition (input). Playing Nintendo and eating Doritos probably doesn't make the perfect match.

In Drake Marbury's PAN class, the focus is on nontraditional activities such as Yoga and hiking. "We want to promote activities that they can do for a lifetime," he said.

Starting with the class of 2008, all DoDDS students must take a PAN course to graduate.

"We felt our students weren't receiving enough information on nutrition to make smart choices," said Karen Seadore, PE coordinator for DoDDS-Europe in Wiesbaden.

Being young does have its advantages, right? You can eat whatever you want. Or so the myth goes.

Carol Heffernan, a PE teacher at Patch High, says she runs a program called Savvy Shopping where she takes students on a tour of the commissary to sample foods, check product labels and develop a more balanced shopping strategy.

"It's too easy to go in and eat whatever you want," said Heffernan. "We want to show them that there are better choices they can make."

PHS sophomore Sasa Ward said that he has stopped requesting "everything" on the sandwiches he buys at the commissary, since completing his *MyPyramid* study. He has also started to go more often to the new Patch Dining Facility to get his lunchtime fill.

"You have more choices there," he said. "It's almost like homemade."

Where it should start.

This is the last in a series of articles addressing physical education programs in DoDDS-Europe schools.

Stuttgart's top spellers off to Ramstein for DoDDS finals

Story and photo by Brandon Beach

She kept her cool right down to the last word: L-E-O-T-A-R-D. It was the second sudden-death round of the competition.

She took one step back from the microphone. The judges, seated at a table to the right of the stage, shuffled some papers and eyeballed each other.

There was a pause, followed by a stir from the parents, teachers and classmates in attendance at the Patch Elementary School gym.

A PES student competes in the school's spelling contest.

"That is correct," said the lead judge with a nod of the head, and just like that, Maggie Beans, a fifth-grader, had won her school's spelling bee contest Jan. 31.

Now she's headed to Ramstein to compete in the DoDDS-Europe Spelling Bee later this month. Her friend Harper Smith, who took second in the contest, was thrilled. "I know she'll do great," she said. "She worked so hard."

Maggie will be joined by Thor Gudmundsson, an eighth-grader, who won the Boeblingen Elementary/Middle School contest. Spell the right words in Ramstein against Europe's best, and it's a ticket to Washington D.C. to compete in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, a contest televised on ESPN. Grand prize is a $10,000 scholarship.

As for now though, Maggie said she isn't looking that far.

"I just know I need to study pretty much every night," she said.

Following the contest, several members of Patch Elementary Playground News had the chance to catch up with the newly-crowned speller.

"Hi, I'm Camden MacGregor," said the fifth-grade anchorman, as Robert Anderson and Kyle Tingley adjusted one of the camera's tripod legs. Camden flashed his best smile.

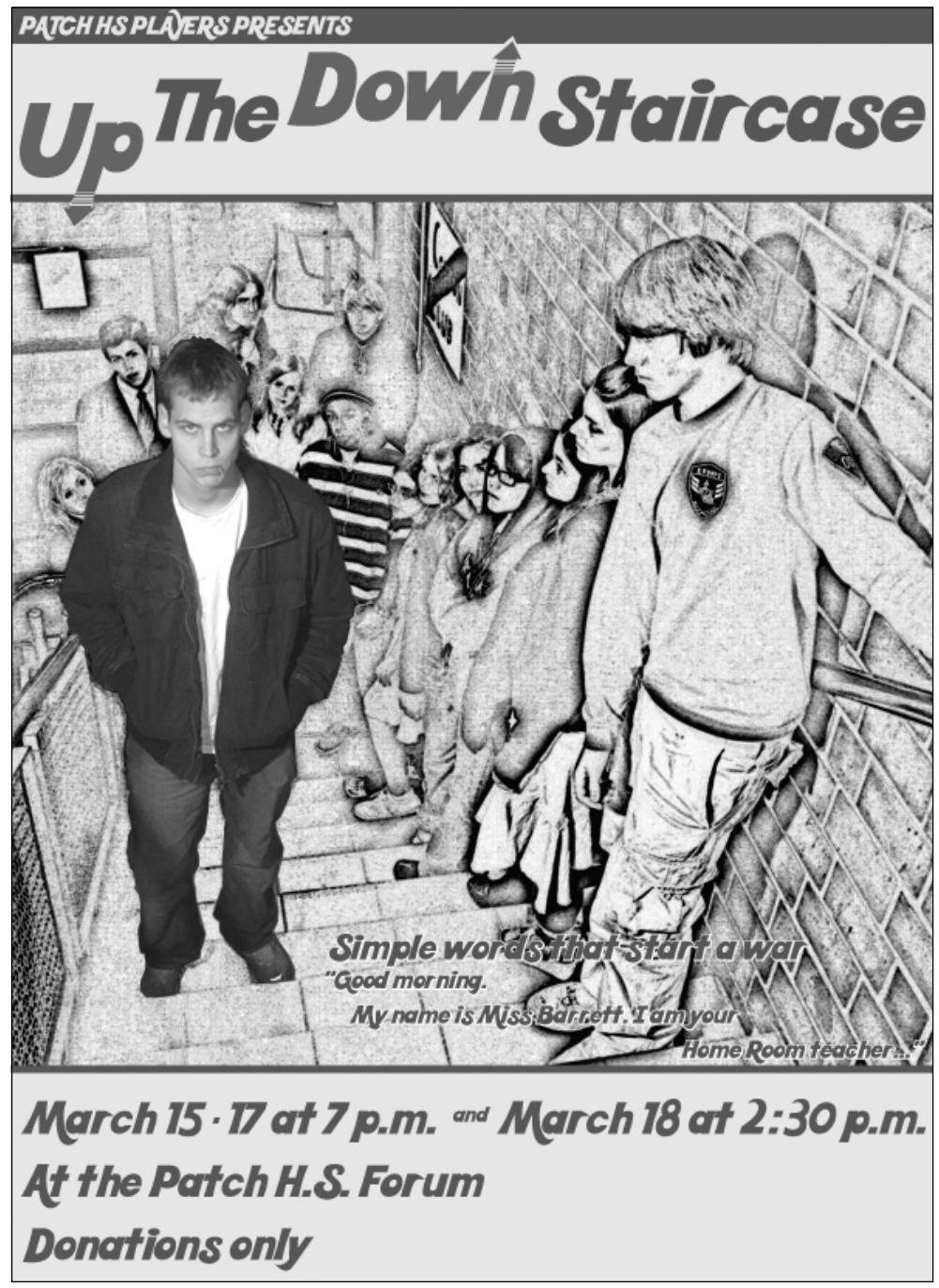
The three said they formed the news team several months ago, following a class assignment they worked on together about the media. Since then, the team has kept the cameras rolling, editing their own footage using iMovie and playing their news clips in the school's main office.

Cameron held the microphone out to Maggie. She just raised her eyebrows.

"Well, aren't you going to ask me some questions," she said and pointed. "He did."

"Oh, yeah, sorry," he said. "How did you feel when you won?"

Like a celebrity.



Evoking the mystery and majesty that one would expect to find during Venice's Carnivale, a performer in Stuttgart's renowned La Plapper Papp puppet theater prepares to create another night of magic.

Fantasy abounds in renowned puppet theater

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

La Plapper Papp is not only a tongue twister, but the name of an irresistible puppet theater in Stuttgart.

A cultural landmark in the city for more than 30 years, the theater continues to wow audiences with its infectious blend of fantasy, music and pop culture.

"The entire show has so many fairytale elements," said Anni Weigand, the theater's founder and artistic director. "Both children and adults can enjoy an evening here."

At the young age of 87, Weigand spends most of her daylight hours in a small workroom nestled atop the *Werkstatthaus Ost* building crafting her many ideas.

With its bird's eye view of downtown Stuttgart, the room has been the birthplace of nearly 200 of Weigand's creations from opera legend Luciano Pavarotti to the swivel-hip gyrating Elvis Presley.

She is currently transforming Cher into a puppet.

Everyday objects are brought to life in her laboratory. Weigand can find an out-of-fashion green handbag and turn it into a frog's mouth.

"There's always some expression of my inner life reflected in these puppets," she said.

Finding the movement and character beneath these inanimate objects is left up to the theater's many performers.

Alongside Weigand, the troupe is comprised of 18 to 25 amateurs who practice and perform in their spare time. Most of them are community professionals who volunteer their creativity to the stage, like Ursula Müller-Lang, a finance specialist at the Karl-Olga Hospital and veteran of the theater for 29 years.

She has devoted endless hours exploring the personality of Weigand's creations.

"It really takes two to three years to find the feeling of a particular puppet," said Müller-Lang.

Weigand prefers to work with artists who have yet to discover their talent, explaining that the learning process infuses new personality in her puppets.

"A new performer can find a different way of making a puppet talk and move," said Weigand. "Small details, like the wink of an eye or a shake of the hips, can bring a puppet to life."

History of the theater

An art student at Stuttgart's famous State Academy of Visual Arts in the late 1940's, Weigand fell into the world of puppetry by chance after a memorable trip to Bochum, Germany in 1961 to attend a puppet festival.

The visit, explained Weigand, proved an eye-opening experience, and not long afterwards, she began piecemealing her own characters.

She formed a troupe less than a year later and toured not only the four corners of Europe but also the U.S., including a surprise stop in Nashville, Tenn., enthralling festival audiences.

In 1970, the troupe found a permanent home in the belly of the *Werkstatthaus Ost*, where a former winecellar was turned into a theater by local architecture students who knocked down several brick walls, enlarged the stairwell and erected the magical stage.

The group officially stopped touring in 1984 and can now be seen every Friday evening 8:30 p.m.

New show in March

Following a "small creative break," Weigand and her La Plapper Papp troupe are back to premiere their new show of parody through puppets with "Frivoletto."

La Plapper Papp is located in Stuttgart's Werkstatthaus Ost.

"Think of it as a mixture of varieté, cabaret and musicals," Weigand said of the show, which runs from March 9 to 24. Show starts 8:30 p.m.

For reservations call 0711-226-8227 or e-mail mail@la-plapper-papp.de. The box office is open weekdays from 9 to 11 a.m. With only 45 seats, this charming theater can fill up fast, so call ahead of time to ensure a spot.

How to get there

The theater is located on Gerokstraße 7. To get there, take the U-15 or Bus 42 from either Hauptbahnhof or Charlottenplatz to the Heidhofstraße stop. Perched atop the adjacent hill, the theater is hidden in the back of the *Werkstatthaus Ost* building.

Just follow the trail of lights strung up along the trees lining the footpath. (It sounds tricky, but that only adds to the adventure.)

Out & About

Night of Musicals gala

See original stars from popular musical productions such as Grease, Cabaret, Phantom of the Opera, Lion King, Cats and more at the 10th-annual Night of Musicals **March 14,** 8 p.m., in Stuttgart's Liederhalle (Berliner Platz 1-3). For tickets visit www.liederhalle.de.

Fussball in Stuttgart

Catch live Bundesliga action when VfB Stuttgart takes on northern rivals VfL Wolfsburg **March 10,** 3:30 p.m., in Bad Cannstatt's Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium (S-Bahn Neckarstadion).

For tickets visit www.vfb-stuttgart.de or stop by the stadium's ticket box on game day.

Concerts in the Schleyerhalle

With classics like "Three Times a Lady" and "All Night Long," Lionel Richie, love balladeer and 80's icon, makes a stop in Stuttgart during his " Coming Home" international tour **March 7,** 8 p.m., in Stuttgart's Schleyerhalle, located on Mercedesstraße 69 (U-Bahn 11 to Gottlieb Daimler Stadion). Tickets cost 64,40 euro.

Mega hip hop stars Snoop Doggy Dog and P. Diddy team up for a night of rap classics **March 15,** 8 p.m. Tickets cost 47 to 53 euro.

With her 2003 hit, "Crazy in Love," and a brand new album "B'Day," five-time Grammy winner Beyoncé makes a stop in Stuttgart **May 1,** 8 p.m. Tickets cost 38 to 78,30 euro.

Bringing the sexy back to Stuttgart with his platinum-selling new album, "Future Sex/Love Sounds," ex-NSYNC heart-throb Justin Timberlake takes to the stage **May 25,** 8 p.m. with his 14-piece band and a non-stop dance ensemble. Tickets cost 47,60 or 75,60.

For more information or to purchase tickets for these and other shows visit www.schleyerhalle.de.

African circus in Canstatt

The Africa Africa! Circus will stage daily shows in Stuttgart's *Cannstatter Wasen* through **March 24.** The circus, a UNESCO-sponsored project, features more than 120 artists, dancers, acrobats and musicians.

Tickets range from 31 to 91 euro. For tickets visit www.eventim.de.

DAZ events in March

David Brenner, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Constance, will deliver the lecture, "Germans and Jews in the Cinema of Fred Zinnemann," **March 14,** 7:30 p.m., in the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum. Zinnemann is best known for his Academy Award winning movies, such as *High Noon* (1952) and *From Here to Eternity* (1953).

Every month, English speaking people from around the world meet to discuss a variety of topics over food and drink. Known as the "Stammtisch Transatlantic," the group meets **March 15**, 8 p.m., in Plenum, a restaurant located on Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 3.

The center is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (U-Bahn 5 or 6). For a complete list of DAZ-sponsored activities visit www.daz.org or call 0711-228180.

Lange Nacht der Museen

Stuttgart opens the doors to more than 90 of its museums and cultural institutions during the 10th annual *Lange Nacht der Museen* (Long Night of the Museums) **March 17,** 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Tickets cost 14 euro and may be purchased at any of the participating museums or by calling 0711-601-5444. Buses will be on hand at the *Schlossplatz* to transport museum hoppers to venues. For more information visit www.lange-nacht.de.

Three Musketeers, the musical

SI Centrum's Palladium Theatre presents the swashbuckling musical smash, "The Three Musketeers."

Tickets range from 40 to 139 euro depending on seating and may be purchased by calling 01805-4444.

The theater is located on Plieningerstraße 100, which is a short 5-minute walk from the main gate on Kelley Barracks.

For more information on dates and times visit the SI Centrum online at www.si-centrum.de.

USAG STUTTGART

Spring BAZAAR

I.C.W. STUTTGART COMMUNITY SPOUSES' CLUB

March **16, 17 & 18**

Fri. 1130-1900, Sat. 1000-1900, Sun. 1100-1600
Patch Barracks Fitness Center, Youth Services
Community Center and former Main PX location

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Open to all military ID card holders, NATO Forces, civilians and reservists with TDY orders.

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