

HeraldPOST

Serving the communities in U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg

Smoke Screen



Staff Sgt. Tramel Garrett

Soldiers of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 615th Military Police Company, 18th MP Brigade, evacuate a casualty during a platoon external evaluation at the Grafenwöhr Training Area in Grafenwöhr, Nov. 28. This event was a test for platoon leaders and platoon sergeants to gauge their ability to command and control a full military police platoon mission.

Ready for command

16th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers uncased colors in Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin
NTM-A/DCOM-SPO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP EGGERS, Afghanistan – Members of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 16th Sustainment Brigade uncased their colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 30, symbolizing its official start of operations in Afghanistan.

The brigade, in the process of transitioning to Baumholder from Bamberg is the only sustainment brigade that supports all of U. S. Army Europe. Brigade members were notified earlier this year by the Department of the Army that their expertise was needed to help the Afghan National Security Forces build and sustain a functional logistics system before the scheduled withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in 2014.

Brigade headquarters personnel deployed to augment the Deputy Command of Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. The team took over mission operations from the 13th Sustainment Command (expeditionary) after a year-long deployment.

see **COMMAND** page 9

Pet neglect all too common

By Mindy Campbell
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A German landlord entered a recently vacated home and found Sammy, a hungry and thirsty 6-week old puppy left behind by his owner – a young Army specialist who moved to the States.

Unfortunately, heartbreaking stories like Sammy's – of abandonment and neglect – are not uncommon among the Kaiserslautern Military Community, according to U.S. and German officials.

Ellie was left home alone when her American owner vacationed in the States. The two-year-old Saint Bernard was already known to German authorities, who had reports of abuse that included the dog tethered by a short leash on a porch, left alone on long weekends and extended stays in a kennel.

And then there is Snort, a dog offered for adoption by an American family. He's 14



Mindy Campbell

Ellie, a 2-year-old Saint Bernard, was left home alone when her American owner went on vacation in the States.

months old and already has had three different owners.

These are just a few of several animal abandonment or abuse cases investigated in the last 6

see **DOGS** page 9

HP THURSDAY
Dec. 13, 2012

Speed Read

FINAL EDITION OF 2012

The final edition of the Herald Post for 2012 will be published Dec. 20. We will resume publication on a biweekly basis beginning Jan. 10, 2013.

SAFETY SHOWDOWN



Soldiers and civilians test their safety knowledge during a winter safety showdown in Wiesbaden Dec. 6. 3

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COMMANDER'S CUP

Wounded Warriors from across Europe gather in Heidelberg to compete for coveted Commander's Cup. 13



Defense Details

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

A system being implemented at U.S. Transportation Command is making permanent-change-of-station moves more convenient, while reducing lost and damaged shipments and saving the government money. The Defense Personal Property System, introduced in 2009 as a pilot program at 17 installations, now supports 90 percent of all military moves, said Jill Smith, personal property division chief at Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. The Web-based system automates many of the steps involved in military moves: pre-move counseling, scheduling, tracking, invoicing and claims filing for household goods shipments. "The beauty of DPS is that customers can do all this from the comfort of their own homes. They can do it early in the morning or at 11 o'clock at night, whatever works best for them," Smith said. "Plus, all the information they might want ... is right at their fingertips, a click away, and available 24/7." DPS also gives customers the opportunity to track their shipments online. If their shipment is lost or damaged, they can file a claim online and settle directly with the moving company. Visit the DPS site at <http://www.move.mil/home.htm>

www.defense.gov

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HOLIDAY SAFETY

US Consumer Product Safety Commission presents holiday gift guidelines

By Amy Cowell

U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND

The holiday season is upon us, and for some, it means the stress and anxiety of battling last minute-crowds, frantically cleaning for visiting in-laws and agonizing over preparing the perfect holiday meal.

But not you; you're a holiday-planning superstar, and your perfectly-planned holiday checklist has been finished for weeks. Your halls are decked, your stockings are hung by the chimney with care and all your gifts follow the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's recommendations for safe toys and gifts.

Wait, you haven't done the last one? Maybe you are unaware of the serious risks involved in giving unsafe holiday toys and gifts. In 2007, the

CPSC reported 18 toy-related deaths and an estimated 170,100 hospital emergency room-treated injuries to children under 15. Prevention is as simple as following a few safety guidelines when shopping for the perfect holiday gift.

Under 3 Years Old

•Children under 3 tend to put everything in their mouths. Avoid buying toys intended for older children that may have small parts that pose a choking danger.

•Never let children of any age play with deflated or broken balloons because of the choking danger.

•Avoid marbles and games with balls that have a diameter of 1.75 inches or less. These products pose a choking hazard to young children.

•Children at this age pull, prod and twist toys. Look for toys that are well-

made with tightly secured eyes, noses and other parts.

•Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

Ages 3 to 5

•Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

•Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation "ASTM D-4236." This means the product has been reviewed for chronic health hazards and, if necessary, has been labeled with cautionary information.

•Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger siblings.

Ages 6-12

•Adults should periodically check all toys for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys

should be repaired or thrown away.

•If buying a toy gun, be sure the barrel, or the entire gun, is brightly colored so it's not mistaken for real.

•If you buy a bicycle for any age child, buy a helmet too, and make sure the child wears it.

•Teach all children to put toys away when they're finished playing so they don't trip or fall over them.

The CPSC requires toy manufacturers meet stringent safety standards and label certain toys that could be a hazard for younger children. Look for labels that give age recommendations. Labels that state, "Not recommended for children under three ... contains small parts," are labeled that way because they may pose a choking hazard to children under 3. Toys should be developmentally-appropriate to suit the child's skills and abilities.



ARMY FAMILY COVENANT: KEEPING THE PROMISE

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DISCUSSION BOARD

Find out what your garrison commanders and members of your community are saying in the BWnow virtual community

"Will Santa be making another appearance around the Heidelberg area?"

— Priscilla Valdez, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Priscilla, we haven't heard anything about a Santa appearance but if we do ... we'll post the info on our Facebook site. :)"

— BWnow Facebook Administrator

"Just a safety reminder that we will begin a rabbit

hunt in selected and controlled areas Dec. 7. Military Police will mark off areas. All hunters are licensed and experienced. Please be cautious and stay out of the hunt areas. Thanks!"

— Richard Glass, BWnow Facebook Fan

"Shhhhh, hunting wabbit twacks ... be wery wery quiet."

— Bridget Balzarano, BWnow Facebook Fan

"The snow is very heavy here in Heidelberg. Do not drive, take local transportation or walk! I won't even ride my bike in this. Maybe even worse in the morning. I'd like to know as soon as possible if the command makes any statement about closures. (and [I] hope that the general manager, Mr. Lloyd, takes that into consideration for all the employees of the Exchange.)"

— Barbara Garrett, BWnow Facebook Fan



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Installation Management Command

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Office. Printed circulation: 15,000.

The Herald Post offices are in Building 107, Patton Barracks, Heidelberg. Military address: Herald Post, PAO, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg, Unit 29237, APO AE 09014. Civilian address: Herald Post, Patton Kaserne, Gebäude 107, Kirchheimerweg 4, 69124 Heidelberg. E-mail: usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.postnewspaper@mail.mil.

Submissions are welcome, including letters to the editor, but we reserve the right to edit for style, space, libel, clarity, security and good taste. To be considered for publication in a particular issue, they must be in our hands by noon the preceding Thursday. Only spots results from the weekend will be accepted until noon on Monday.

Soldiers perform under pressure during safety showdown



Photos by Sgt. Brian Rodan

Soldiers from 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, V Corps, U.S. Army Europe, 5th Signal Command, 102nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Theater Strategic Signal Brigade and U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden participate in the Jeopardy-style portion of 5th Signal Command's Winter Safety Showdown in Wiesbaden Dec. 6.

Soldiers, civilians attend safety showdown

By Sgt. Brian Rodan
5TH SIGNAL COMMAND

WIESBADEN – More than 300 Soldiers and civilians from seven U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden units, participated in 5th Signal Command's Winter Safety Showdown at the Lucius D. Clay Kaserne Community Activity Center in Wiesbaden Dec. 6.

The highlight of the showdown was when four Soldiers from each of the seven units competed against one another during a Jeopardy-style competition that used safety titles and questions.

"By taking the safety and wellness promotion material that we traditionally present as a dry and sometimes boring classroom lecture, and packaging it in a Jeopardy-style game show format, we make the whole process fun and entertaining," said Joseph G. Michalkiewicz, 5th Signal Command safety manager and event coordinator said,

"Not only are the competing teams focused on

getting the correct answers, the entire viewing audience is fully engaged. That's the goal; we want to get the Army's Safety and Wellness promotion messages into everyone's head," said Michalkiewicz, also known as Safety Joe. "We want to set the conditions for success by getting people to stop and think before they do something that could cause them or others harm," he said.

1st. Sgt. Timothy B. Ellis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command said, "When learning is fun people will want to learn, and the showdown is the best example I've seen of combining fun and learning."

102nd Signal Battalion had been the reigning champions of the Jeopardy-style safety showdown for the past few years.

However, members of the 2nd Theater Strategic Signal Brigade stepped up to the plate and became the new showdown champions. Units studied numerous safety messages prior to competing with one another.

"My team prepared for the competition by studying some of the questions that were on the U.S. Army Europe safety website," said Sgt. Bryon K. Collins, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd



Larry the crash test dummy encourages the audience to applaud during the Jeopardy-style portion of 5th Signal Command's Winter Safety Showdown. More than 300 Soldiers and civilians from seven U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden units participated in the showdown in Dec. 6.

TSSB training room Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge and 2nd TSSB showdown team captain.

Sgt. Kenneth Sharp, U.S. Army Europe mission support element NCOIC, said he enjoyed the competition aspect of the Safety showdown more than death by power point. "The competition helped raise the camaraderie amongst the unit, and it gave us the opportunity to show our stuff," Sharp said. "I can't wait until the next competition, especially since there will be more USAREUR personnel on Wiesbaden. We will win."

5th Signal Commander Brig. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, said to the audience, "What I ask you to do over the holidays is give some thought to a few things that are right. There's a lot of good that's going on here in Europe, and there are many great things going on here in Wiesbaden, like this showdown."

Top culinary Soldiers, facilities honored in Heidelberg

USAREUR Public Affairs

U.S. Army Europe and the 405th Army Field Support Brigade paid tribute to the Army in Europe's top food service Soldiers and dining facilities at their annual food service awards ceremony on Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg Nov. 26.

The Soldiers were honored as part of the 19th Annual Culinary Warrior of the Year Non-Commissioned Officer and Culinary Warrior of the Year competitions.

The dining facilities were recognized for excellence in food service in the 45th annual USAREUR and 405th AFSB level of the Army's Phillip A. Connelly Awards Program for Excellence in Army Food Service.

The winner of the Culinary Warrior of the Year NCO competition was Cpl. Latia Turley from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Sgt. Brian

Norwood of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade was the runner-up.

The winner of the Culinary Warrior of the Year Competition was Spc. Yekta Pekacar of the 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Pfc. Stephanie Dixon of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, V Corps, was the runner-up.

The Army in Europe level of the Connelly awards recognizes excellence at the military- and civilian-operated dining facilities across the theater.

The winner of the Connelly awards in the category of dining facilities operated primarily by military food service specialists, was U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt's Conn Barracks Dining Facility, operated by the 72nd ESB. The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Dining Facility, operated by the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, was the runner-up.

In the category of dining facilities operated pri-

marily by civilian food service personnel, the winner was USAG Grafenwöhr's Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence T. Hickey Dining Facility, and the runner-up was the Stryker Inn dining facility in Hohenfels.

USAREUR's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (G4), Col. Cynthia Fox, and 405th AFSB commander Col. Christopher Roscoe presented the awards. Fox served as guest speaker for the event, and spoke highly of the competitors and their professionalism and encouraged everyone to spread the word about the great things Army food service professionals are capable of doing in a challenging field.

The awardees were presented trophies for their achievements, and the winning dining facilities will go on to compete in the Department of the Army level of the Connelly competition.

The Culinary NCO and Warrior of the Year winners also received Army Commendation Medals, while the runners-up were presented with Army Achievement Medals.

transformation UPDATE

Updates To Transformation Page

This weekly page is updated as we receive the latest information. To ensure its accuracy, all community members and organizations are encouraged to e-mail any transformation updates to usaghdpost@eur.army.mil or usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.pao@mail.mil for publication in the Herald Post.

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a transformation-related question you'd like answered?

E-mail usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil. We'll find the answer for you and share it in the Herald Post and on the garrison's transformation Web page at www.bw.eur.army.mil/news/personnel.htm.

"I am an Army civilian whose spouse is active duty. My spouse has orders for the U.S. and will be moving there within the next few months, but I'd like to stay here where I have a job. How can I get orders to move back to the States and move my household goods too, if I'm still here working full-time? Am I authorized to be put under my spouse's orders when my job ends, or do I need to go now?"

Your spouse must submit a 4187 through his or her unit requesting deferred travel. The garrison commander may approve deferred travel for a period of 90 days in normal situations. However, due to the closure of the Heidelberg military community, no deferred travel will be granted past **Sept. 30, 2013**.

"I have heard that since U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg is closing, I can perhaps retire early. Is this true? What criteria do I have to meet in order to do this, and what kind of benefits can I receive if I retire early?"

Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay was already offered to USAG Baden-Württemberg employees. The window for applications closed **Nov. 23**.

"We all know the Garrison is set to close next September, but now I'm hearing no front-door offices will be open after mid-June. I am a civilian, and what if I don't have my orders or a place to move to before then? How will I schedule household goods pick up and ship my car?"

Not all front door services will close in June. The support for the processing of orders will come from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center in Kaiserslautern. As services close in Heidelberg, the Kaiserslautern garrison will assist those remaining behind until the garrison's closure next year.

"My husband and I live on Patrick Henry Village housing in Heidelberg. We are scheduled to move to on post housing in Wiesbaden sometime in January. We currently have a government washer and dryer in our residence. Do we need to turn them back in before we leave, or will we be allowed to take them with us to Wiesbaden?"

Residents will not be allowed to take any government issued appliances. All appliances will remain here. Replacement appliances will be issued in Wiesbaden depending on the type of quarters new residents are assigned to. For additional information call the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden housing office at DSN 337-7058, civ. 0611-705-7058 (on-post housing) and DSN 337-7059, civ. 0611-705-7059 (off-post housing) or visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/newcomers/housing/HousingWebsite.htm.

Facilities Operations Changes and Closures Mannheim

Base Operations – The Mannheim Base Operations office is located in Bldg. 1408 on Coleman Barracks, Room 101. DSN 382-4724, civ. 0162-272-8632.

UPDATED – Banks – Banking services are no longer available on Sullivan Barracks. The Community Bank branch on Coleman Barracks is scheduled to close **Dec. 14**. Community Bank is also located in the Community Support Center (Heidelberg Shopping Center) and on

Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg. Community Support Center: DSN 370-8580, civ. 06221-60-0862. Campbell Barracks: DSN 370-8335, civ. 06221-34-4610. Coleman Barracks: DSN 382-4187, civ. 0621-784-158. Service Credit Union is located in the Community Support Center (the Shopping Center), Bldg. 3850, in Heidelberg. DSN 370-7138, civ. 06221-57-7138.

UPDATED – Coleman Clinics – All services at the Coleman Troop Medical Clinic have ended. However, the facility itself is scheduled to remain open until **March or April 2013** in the event units are unable to depart the garrison on time and care is needed for a larger population than currently anticipated. Dental services for the Mannheim-Coleman Soldier population are available at the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic in Heidelberg. Soldiers who require sick call services can be seen at the Heidelberg Clinic. DSN 371-2605, civ. 06221-17-2605.

Coleman Express – The Coleman Express shoppette has new operating hours. The facility is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Center – The Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center on Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 249A (previously the Funari Sort Center) is closed. The Patrick Henry Village Recycle Center located in Bldg. 4485 in Heidelberg remains open to provide disposal services to community members. DSN 373-5396, civ. 06221-17-5396.

UPDATED – Postal Office Hours Change – Postal facilities on Coleman Barracks (Postal Service Center 418) have new operating hours. Package pick-up is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends and U.S. holidays. The post office (outgoing mail) is open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends and U.S. holidays. Customers have 24/7 access to personal mailboxes. The official mail and distribution center is open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends and U.S. holidays. DSN 382-5204/5220, civ. 0621-779-5204/5220.

UPDATED – Spinelli Barracks – The hours for the contract security guard and access control points on Spinelli Barracks are now 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and closed Sundays and U.S. holidays.

UPDATED – Supply Center – The Self Service Supply Center on Spinelli Barracks is closed. Customers can continue to get their supplies from the Kaiserslautern Office Supply Store (DSN 483-8831) or by using The Exchange (also known as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service) Warehouse Ordering Web system. Government Purchase Card holders can register for accounts at <https://partners.aafes.com/epol/login.aspx>.

UPDATED – Vehicle Registration – New vehicle registration hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Vehicle inspection hours remain 7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:45 a.m.-3:20 p.m. Fridays. Both facilities are located on Spinelli Barracks.

Heidelberg

Airport Shuttle Buses – The free shuttle bus for service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families departing Germany from Ramstein Air Base on the Patriot Express departs Heidelberg once a week from the Patrick Henry Village Guest House. For details on the shuttle schedule, call U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Central Processing Facility, Room 180, Bldg. 3850, at the Heidelberg Shopping Center. DSN 370-7343/6711, civ. 06221-57-8399, usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.cpf@mail.mil.

Arts and Cultural Center – The Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village will close **Dec. 31**. The center is scheduled to relocate to the Kaiserslautern area **March 2013**.

Child Development Center – The Child Development Center on Mark Twain Village will officially close **Dec. 17**. Remaining children will be transferred to the CDC facility on Patrick Henry Village.

UPDATED – CIF Hours – The Heidelberg Central Issue Facility in Bldg. 3850, located on the Community Support Center (the Shopping Center) is open 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays only to assist service members with out-processing. The facility is closed for lunch noon-1 p.m. The CIF located in Bldg. 1515 on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim is also open to provide customer service.

UPDATED – Community Mail Rooms – Community Mail Room 418 on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim and the consolidated Heidelberg Postal Service Center in Bldg. 4503 on Patrick Henry Village are the only postal facilities available in the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities. The consolidated PSC is open 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. for official mail Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday for customer service and parcel pick-up, and the Army Post Office is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Customers have 24/7 access to personal mailboxes. Postal customers can e-mail questions or concerns to usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.cmr419@mail.mil, contact their local postal customer service representative or call DSN 388-9488/9491, civ. 06221-338-9488/9491

Dental Clinic – Sick call and exam hours for the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic have changed to 7:30-10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. All dental care and records from Nachrichten Kaserne Dental Clinic were transferred to the PHV dental clinic. DSN 388-9500, civ. 06221-338-9500.

Exchange – Due to ongoing transformation efforts, the Exchange will adjust the operating hours of some facilities in the Heidelberg area. These changes are intended to maximize available staffing in order to maintain adequate service levels based on the community's use of these facilities. Beginning **Dec. 17**, Patrick Henry Village Express will change its operating hours to 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 6 a.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday. The last weekend of 24-hour operations will be **Dec. 15-16**. Campbell Express will be closed Sundays beginning **Dec. 23**. The facility will now be open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays beginning the week of **Dec. 24** to allow duty-bus riders the opportunity to shop before bus departs at 8 a.m.

ID Cards – All ID Card and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System services located on the Community Support Center in Bldg. 3850 (the Shopping Center) have relocated from Room 122 to Room 180. The ID Card and DEERS office hours of operation are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. The facility is closed weekends and U.S. holidays. Walk-in service is available, but customers are encouraged to schedule appointments online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. The new ID Card and DEERS office phone numbers are DSN 370-7348/8570, civ. 06221-57-7348/8570.

Immunizations – The Heidelberg Army Health Clinic's Immunizations Clinic has moved. The clinic is now located within the Soldier Medical Team, on the 2nd Floor of Bldg. 3617 on Nachrichten Kaserne. The new hours of operation are 7:40 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:40 a.m.-noon Fridays. DSN 371-3220, civ. 06221-17-3220.

UPDATED – Passports – All passport services located at the Community Support Center in Bldg. 3850 (on the Shopping Center) have relocated from Room 232 to Room 180. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. The facility is closed weekends and federal holidays. The new passport office phone numbers are DSN 370-8536/7262, civ. 06221-57-8536/7262.

Inspection Ready



Spc. Iesha Howard

Lt. Gen. Peter M. Vangjel, the Inspector General of the U.S. Army, speaks to attendees at the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's Board of Directors meeting on Panzer Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Nov. 29. Vangjel's visit to the 21st TSC was part of a tour of U.S. Army Europe installations in which the Army's 64th IG provided Department of the Army level insight on various topics.

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Heidelberg Middle school hosts first, last winter dance

By **Emily Antoine**
HEIDELBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eighth-grade students from Heidelberg Middle School crowded into the Casablanca Room on Campbell Barracks Dec. 1 to dance to the sounds of Katy Perry, Usher and others during the school's winter dance.

It was the first and last winter dance since the school's opening in 1976. The school has hosted a spring dance for several years, however this was the first time the administration decided to host a winter dance in addition to the one held in May.

The idea for having a winter dance was first considered after students expressed a strong desire to give classmates leaving before May, the opportunity to still share in the annual event.

The theme of the dance was "Frozen in Time." Members of the school's dance committee decided this would be an appropriate theme considering this is the school's last year in existence and because of the winter season.

Parents, faculty, the school dance committee and other volunteers transformed the Casablanca Room into a winter wonderland.

A garland of snowflakes welcomed attendees at the entrance, and snowflakes hung from chandeliers. Christmas trees covered in faux snow and twinkling lights adorned the dance floor.

For those needing a break from dancing, tables and chairs lined the outside of the dance floor with gleaming blue candles and silver centerpieces.

However, the true sparkle of the night came from the eighth-graders themselves who showed up in shimmering dresses and shoes for the ladies and ties and jackets for the gentlemen.

When asked what her favorite part of the dance was Eighth-grader, Kaeli Ebner said, "When the music picked up and everybody started dancing."

The climax of the night was the Gangnam dance competition in which Sydney Hansen took home first prize. Axel Hernandez received the runner-up prize.

The event was sponsored by student council donations. Money was also raised by the dance committee during bake sales and breakfast sales. Tickets were sold to students for \$15 and included a catered dinner.



Emily Antoine

Heidelberg Middle School students hit the dance floor during their first and last winter dance in Heidelberg Dec. 1. Students and faculty put on the event to allow students who are departing early due to permanent change of station moves, an opportunity to still participate in the annual formal festivities.



Staff Sgt. Teddy Wade

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno gives a locker room speech to the Army Black Knights football players prior to the 113th Army vs. Navy football game Dec. 8, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pa. The Navy went on to beat the Army 17 to 13. The annual matchup between the two teams dates back to 1890.



U.S. Army

More than 1,600 paratroopers jump onto Sicily Drop Zone during the 15th Annual Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop at Fort Bragg, N.C., Dec. 8. Soldiers donated a new toy at Pope Army Airfield's Green Ramp to earn a seat for the jump and the chance to earn airborne jump wings from participating allied nation jumpmasters.



U.S. Navy HMC Josh Ives

Spc. Samnith Thy, a security force team member for Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, provides security outside a youth meeting in Farah City, Afghanistan, Dec. 2. PRT Farah's mission is to train, advise and assist Afghan government leaders at the municipal, district and provincial levels in Farah Province. The civil military team is comprised of members of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development.



Sgt. Andre Lobban, a spur candidate with Palehorse Troop, 4th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, carries a casualty through a simulated minefield during a spur ride for Operation Swift Saber Nov. 28, at Rose Barracks in Vilseck.

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DOGS

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months that involved American owners, said Kathy Hutter, a customs investigator for the U.S. Army in Kaiserslautern.

She attributes the recent rise in cases to Germans reporting incidents. The issue has gotten so bad, she said, that some off-post animal shelters now refuse to accept abandoned American pets or let them adopt animals.

Ralf Heieck, who runs the Hundezentrum-Westpfalz, a local dog school, has received calls from U.S. security forces to help with troubled dogs. Some Americans rely on friends to look after their dog when they go on trips, Heieck said. Which often ends badly, he added. Recently, a vacationing American service member left her dog with a friend, the dog escaped, was hit by a car and died. But her problems didn't end there.

"The owner (came) back from the States and now she must pay a lot of money to fix the car," Heieck said.

U.S. military and German authorities hope pet owners in the KMC turn to community resources, both on and off post, to help them take care better of their pets. Many times, pet owners aren't mean or deliberately trying to hurt an animal. They just may be overwhelmed and don't know a better way out, Hutter said.

"There is no reason to abandon an animal," Hutter said. "There are places to go, places to ask. There are people here to help you."

Jourdan Morrison, an Air Force spouse, was scared of Avery, a seven-month old German Shepherd that she adopted. She was the dog's third owner and he was behaving badly. Neither previous owner took time to train Avery, she said.

"So, when we got him, he was aggressive and dominant – all the typical troubles of someone who didn't socialize their dog at an early age," said Morrison, who enrolled Avery in a German school that's helped the dog improve.

In the KMC area, there are many boarding kennels and dog schools. Private animal protection associations, such as Tierhilfe Pfalz, can help find new homes for pets.

On post, the KMC has two dog parks for dogs to go off leash and exercise. Vogelweh's dog park is behind the housing area, near Kaiserslautern Elementary School. Ramstein's dog park is in the northwest corner of the housing area, between Bldgs. 841 and 844.

Dog training is offered on Saturday at the Rod and Gun Club behind Vogelweh. Classes are for dogs of all ages. Some classes address specific problems such as chewing or potty training.

"There are more people here who love their dogs and take care of their dogs," Hutter said. "But, a lot of people handle dogs as an object. They just forget to think, dogs have a heart. They have a soul."

For more information about the Army's veterinary clinic, plus host nation veterinarians, groomers and pet schools, visit <http://ervc.amedd.army.mil/clinics/KLclinic.html>



Mindy Campbell

Jeanie Zeith, a Kaiserslautern Military Community member, trains her Jack Russell terrier "Jackson" to walk up an incline past Toby, a Yorkshire terrier, at the Kaiserslautern Rod and Gun Club, near Vogelweh.

Tips for Potential Dog Owners

- ◆ **Pick the right type of breed** - There are more than 250 different breeds of dogs all with different temperaments and needs. Pick a dog based on your needs, routine and lifestyle.

- ◆ **Expose dogs to different noises, people, animals and situations** - Leaving the dog in the back yard is not enough. Dogs need to be socialized. Seeing other dogs and people is important. Expose your pets to noises like trains and buses.

- ◆ **Avoid lengthy dog crating** - Dogs are social animals and like to be around people. Many problems arise from active duty troops, either single or married and both working, who leave dogs home alone for most of the day. Under German law dogs can't be home alone for more than four hours at a time.

- ◆ **Give dogs attention** - A dog is a lifetime commitment. They need ongoing training and stimulation.

COMMAND

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"From our notification, our Soldiers were trained and ready to deploy in four months," said Col. Darren Werner, 16th Sust. Bde. commander and a native of Mayville, Mich.

"We are proud to join the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from over 25 different nations contributing to the NTM-A mission; the mission to support the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and generating and sustaining the Afghan National Security Force to develop its leaders and to establish an enduring institutional capacity to enable accountable Afghanistan security."

Werner takes over as the deputy commander for the DCOM-SPO, NTM-A mission.

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters, the commander of the 13th ESC and outgoing DCOM-SPO commander, welcomed the 16th Sust. Bde. as he said goodbye to friends and comrades.

"You have a new team member now who is equally committed to the same goals, and those are your goals," said LeMasters, a native of Ellerslie, Md., as he addressed his Afghan partners in the audience.

"I've seen great and many accomplishments in the short time I've been in Afghanistan. I ask you to continue that momentum. The logistic support you provide enables your security forces to stand between your people and those who wish to destroy all



Staff Sgt. Lynne Lantin

Col. Darren Werner, commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 16th Sustainment Brigade, addresses guests during a transfer of authority ceremony, Nov. 30.

that you have earned in many years of war."

Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger, the commander of NTM-A and guest speaker at the ceremony, said goodbye to the Soldiers of the 13th ESC, praising them for their accomplishments over the past year. He also welcomed the 16th Sust. Bde. and expressed his confidence that it will continue the mission with

great success.

"Today the 16th Sustainment Brigade takes over," said Bolger, a native of Aurora, Ill. "The 16th motto on their flag is 'logistics, the key to win.' You'll see that key right on their unit insignia and it's partnered with a battle axe, because sometimes you have to kill some bad guys to get where you need to go. Since it formed, the 16th has both fought and sustained in campaign after campaign to include four deployments to Iraq, and now the 16th is here in Afghanistan. Your mission's as straight forward as your motto; help the Afghans provide the key and win this thing. That's why we're here," Bolger said.

During his closing speech LeMasters also stressed the importance of team work.

"Although we case the colors of the 13th Sustainment Command, and uncased the colors of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, this ceremony is not just about those two units," he said. "It's about the incredible teamwork of the entire DCOM-SPO. It is not just about these Soldiers who stand here today representing these two units. It's about many nations, many people coming together for a common purpose. And although we wear different uniforms, we work together to accomplish the NTM-A mission every single day."

GERMAN COOKING

Spice Cookies

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons currants
- 2 tablespoons brandy
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon each ground cinnamon, allspice, ginger, nutmeg and baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 ounces dark chocolate, coarsely grated
- 1/2 cup room-temperature unsalted butter
- 2/3 cup superfine sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon each grated lemon and orange zest
- 1/2 of a large egg
- 1 teaspoon diced candied citrus peel

For glaze:

- 3 teaspoons freshly-squeezed lemon juice
- 1 1/3 cups confectioners' sugar

Preparation:

- Preheat oven to 375 F.
- Soak the currants in brandy for 10 minutes. Whisk flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, spices, salt and dark chocolate.
- Place butter, sugar, vanilla, lemon and orange zest in a stand mixer and beat about 1 minute. With mixer running, slowly add egg and mix for 1 minute. Add dry ingredients, currants and brandy. Mix well.
- Gently knead dough until uniform. Divide dough into 1 3/4-ounce chunks, then shape into balls. Place on baking sheets lined with parchment paper, spacing them about 3/4 inch apart, and let rest in the fridge at least an hour.
- Bake 15 to 20 minutes, until the top firms up but the center is still slightly soft, remove from oven and allow to cool 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack. While the cookies are still warm, whisk together the glaze ingredients until a thin and smooth icing forms. Pour 1 tablespoon of the glaze over each biscuit, leaving it to drip and coat the biscuit with a very thin, almost transparent film. Finish each with three pieces of candied peel placed at the center. Leave cookies to set or store in an airtight container.

Source: www.epicurious.com/recipes



Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 13 years experience working with families in crisis. Contact Ms. Vicki by e-mail: dearmsvicki@yahoo.com, follow her on Twitter @[dearmsvicki](https://twitter.com/dearmsvicki), or visit www.dearmsvicki.com.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I've been visiting my sister off and on. She is a single mother, a staff sergeant, and lives on base with her two children, a 7-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy. My little nephew is a handful, and I'm like his surrogate father, because his father is stationed at another base and is deployed to Afghanistan. I'm trying to teach my nephew right from wrong and to get an education, but at the same time, have common street sense.

He gets into trouble at every base he has lived on, and on two occasions, my sister was forced to move off base. Sometimes I do feel like he was targeted; other times, he was following the leader because of peer pressure and other times, he was plain wrong. My nephew is still doing things that are illegal, like taking things out of cars, stealing from the Exchange

and even breaking into houses.

On one hand, I think what he is doing is a part of becoming a man and testing the waters, but I know his behavior can lead to trouble. I'm stuck in the middle, because we are from the South Side of Chicago. You never snitch, especially on a family member. I just don't know how to help my nephew. I read your column and I hope you have some good advice for me.

Do I snitch on my nephew?

Dear Snitch,

I'm reading your letter and trying not to get pissed off. Check this out: your nephew is headed for destruction – detention, prison, even death. How old are you? I'm thinking you should at least be in your late '30s or even '40s, and you're talking about this "street cred" bull. Listen, your nephew needs an intervention and quickly. How can you sit back knowing he is stealing from people, and putting his life in danger and act like this is a normal "rite of passage to manhood?"

I have great appreciation for cultural values, but I'm not buying this one. I think you are just as culpable in his behavior; it would be no different if you were helping him steal and break into houses and cars. What is your nephew doing with the stolen property? Surely you and his mother see things in the home she didn't purchase. If he is selling the items, then he has money in his possession that his mother did not give him. She should be asking questions, too.

Your sister is a staff sergeant, and I'm proud of her for that, but her son is going to cause career problems for her if he continues. With everything she has to deal with, just think about what it would do to her if she had to retain attorneys to represent him.

This would be a lot for her to handle.

I'm from the inner city too, the south side of Dallas, and was raised by a mother who was a young widow with eight children to care for. My mother had a 12th grade education. There was "poor," and there was "po," and my family was "po." Guess what? I never learned that you steal from your neighbor, you don't go to the store and steal and you don't break into another person's house.

Instead, I learned that character counts, and so does integrity. Your nephew is missing these traits, and you could be a positive influence for him, but you are choosing to look the other way because you don't want to be a snitch, really?

I hate to go here, but let's say someone were molesting your little niece, and people knew who it was, but they looked the other way. What if people refused to be a snitch? What would you do then? How would you feel? God forbid this happen, but it's the same principle to me. Someone needs to put the lock-down on your nephew. He needs to be monitored by his mother and by you. Moreover, his father can still get involved, even though he is deployed. It's his son, too. A 15-year-old should not have the freedom he has. You need to start going to that school and checking up on him to make sure he is in class. You need to pick him up from school and walk him home, then spend time with him at home and find more pro-social activities for him. Finally, I think he could use a behavioral health assessment to determine if he is using drugs or any other substance. Talk to your sister and nephew. I'll send a list of resources that can help before it's too late.

Revamped program aids separating service members

By Donna Miles

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Major changes have been for the Transition Assistance Program. The changes will revolutionize the way the military prepares troops leaving the services and include mandatory participation in programs throughout their military careers to help set service-members up for a successful transition.

The redesigned program, called Transition Goals Planning Success or Transition GPS, was recently unveiled by Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

It is a multi-agency response to President Barack Obama's call to improve career readiness for separating service members, explained Susan S. Kelly, principal director of the Defense Department's Transition to Veterans Program Office.

The president hinted at the most-sweeping change to the Transition Assistance Program in two

decades during a speech this summer to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Obama called it the centerpiece to a broader federal effort to help service members transition to civilian life and to reduce veterans unemployment.

During the three-phase rollout of the Transition GPS program that will continue through 2014, the many, but often disconnected, activities conducted across the U.S. government to support veterans and their families will be melded into one comprehensive effort, Kelly said.

The Defense Department and Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor aligned their most successful programs to deliver better and more comprehensive services to help make service members "career ready" for civilian employment, officials said. They reached out to the Department of Education to integrate the latest teaching methods and tapped into the resources of the Office of Personnel Management and the Small Business Administration.

One of the biggest changes in the new program is that participation is no longer voluntary.

Based on a law that took effect Nov. 21, service members can no longer opt out of the transition assistance program.

All, including reservists and guardsmen demobilized after 180 days of active duty, must now attend specific training sessions and take concrete steps to prepare for separation.

During phase one of the rollout, being implemented immediately, all separating service members will receive counseling about Department of Veterans benefits, Kelly said.

In addition, most will be required to attend newly revamped employment workshops run by the Department of Labor.

These workshops incorporate new curriculum such as how to explore career interests, use search tools to find job opportunities, write a resume, interview for a position and negotiate a salary.

GET OUT!

area events

More events online at www.facebook.com/BWnow

December 13

Schweine Museum – The Schweine Museum in Stuttgart has a sweet spot for swine. Visitors can check out some 50,000 pieces of pig memorabilia displayed throughout the museum. Stuffed animals, piggy banks, pig-themed works of art and other surprises. The museum is open 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Civ. 0711-664-19600. <http://schweinemuseum.de>

Toy Museum – Founded in 1971, Nürnberg's Toy Museum or Spielzeug Museum showcases toys from the 14th century to the present. Marvel at tin soldiers, porcelain dolls, wooden doll houses, plastic figurines and other favorites. Museum is located at Karlstraße 13 in Nürnberg's old town.

Castle Christmas Market – The city of Heidelberg hosts a Christmas market at the Heidelberg Castle through Dec. 18. Enjoy local arts and crafts. Visitors can use the cog wheel train from Kornmarkt station to get to the market (there is no parking at the castle). Ticket is also valid for entry into the castle courtyard, the big wine barrel and the pharmaceutical museum 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Palmen Garten – Every year, the Palmen Garten in Frankfurt transforms into a holiday wonderland. Visitors can join in the festive spirit and see the Christmas exhibition of decorated fir trees and advent decorations and crowns through Dec. 26. A floral display includes a collection of traditional, bright red poinsettias and delicate Christmas roses. www.buzzoffbase.com

Winter Village – Explore the Winter Village in Ludwigshafen at the Platz der deutschen Einheit through Jan. 8.

December 14

Romantic Christmas Market – Visitors to Landstuhl can enjoy a romantic Christmas market in front of the Landstuhl civic center through Dec. 17.

Holiday Concert – Members of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe band will perform a concert at the Fruchthalle in Kaiserslautern 8 p.m. Free tickets can be picked up at the German-American Community Office in Kaiserslautern, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1, 67657.

December 20

Barockschloss – The Barockschloss offers a peek into the storied history of the city of Mannheim. The palace is located on Bismarckstrasse near the edge of the city center. The palace is open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Last admission is

4:30 p.m. www.schloss-mannheim.de/de/schloss-mannheim

December 22

Late Night Shopping – The city of Heidelberg hosts late-night shopping. Stores are scheduled to remain open until at least 10 p.m. for those searching for last minute gifts.

Strasbourg Christmas Market – Experience France's famous Alsatian Christmas market in Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace. Begin the day with a city orientation, where visitors can view a Gothic cathedral that took nearly 400 years to build, and see the famous La Petite France section of the old city. After the city orientation, sample one of the regional dishes, Flammkuche, at one of the colorful restaurants, shop in the large department stores or visit the French Christmas market in the center of town. <http://affiliates.uso.org/Kaiserslautern>

Cologne Christmas Market – Enjoy the enticing smells of hot spiced wine, roasted chestnuts and gingerbread at the Cologne Christmas markets. There are five different markets taking place, all within walking distance of each other. The markets are full of holiday smells, decorations, candles, lights, food and drink and Christmas carol singers. The traffic-free streets make for easy access to the Christmas markets. <http://affiliates.uso.org/Kaiserslautern>

December 27

New Years Eve Market – After the hustle and bustle of the busy Christmas shopping season, the Christmas market in Kaiserslautern transforms into a New Year's Eve market. Enjoy a spectacular fireworks display on New Year's Eve. Market runs through Dec. 29 in the historic Fruchthalle.

December 29

Free Museum Day – Frankfurt hosts a free museum day. Many of the museums throughout the city, open their doors for free and hold special workshops for families and kids.

Upcoming concerts

David Guetta – House and electronic disc jockey David Guetta comes to Mannheim Dec. 14. Catch Guetta at the Maimarkthalle, Xaver-Fuhr-Strasse 101, 68163. Tickets: 0621-42509-0.

Gospel Stars – The New York Gospel Stars will perform at the Heidelberg Castle

Königssaal 8 p.m. Dec. 22. www.eventim.de

Harlem Gospel Singers – The Harlem Gospel Singers will perform at the Rosengarten in Mannheim 7 p.m. Dec. 26. and at the Frankfurt Alte Oper 8 p.m. Jan 7. For tickets, call civ. 018-052-001.

Glenn Miller Orchestra – The Glenn Miller Orchestra directed by Will Salden comes to Mannheim's Rosengarten 8 p.m. Jan. 4.

Ongoing

Heidelberg Christmas Market – Stroll through more than 140 stalls covering the Heidelberg Christmas market. The Christmas market is spread across five festive squares: Bismarckplatz, Anatomiegarten, University Square, Kornmarkt and Market Square. The historical Old Town houses a magical atmosphere designed to help usher in the holiday season. Sip mulled wine, or taste baked apples, gingerbread, "Christstollen" (a special Christmas cake) and grilled sausages through Dec. 22.

Frankfurt Christmas Market – Explore the Frankfurt Christmas Market through Dec. 23. The market is spread across several locations throughout the city center, including Römerberg, Paulsplatz, Liebfrauenberg, Fahrtr and Mainkai.

Wiesbaden Christmas Market – Golden lilies decorate the Wiesbaden Christmas Market, along with several other surprises. Enjoy live entertainment, food, children's rides and more. Visitors can also browse through more than 100 booths. Market is located in the Schlossplatz through Dec. 23.

Ice Skating – Enjoy a spin on the ice skating rink in the Schwetzingen Schloßplatz (the main square facing the main entrance to the palace). The rink is open 11 a.m. -10 p.m. daily. Several events are scheduled through Jan. 20. For more details and admission fees, visit www.schwetzingen-eiszauber.de

Kaiserslautern Market – Visit the Kaiserslautern Christmas Market in the historic Fruchthalle and Schillerplatz square. Vendors will offer hand-crafted gifts, jewelry, ceramics, toys, Christmas decorations, glass, flowers, furniture, books and more from all over the world. Enjoy traditional German Christmas market with glühwein, food and assorted stalls selling Christmas treats and presents. www.buzzoffbase.com

Art Exhibit – Local artist David Sohl invites community members to view his latest art exhibit at the Rathaus. 69231 Rauenberg, Wieslocher Straße 21. Exhibit runs through Jan. 18.

coming to THEATERS

PLAYING FOR KEEPS

(Gerald Butler) George is a retired soccer pro whose glory days are behind him. Burnt out on his playboy lifestyle and bankrupted by a string of bad investments, he moves back to Virginia to reconnect with his estranged ex-wife and neglected son. Making up for lost time, George starts to coach the boys' soccer team. But can he keep his eyes on the goal when the bleachers are stacked with sexy soccer moms and desperate housewives? (Rated PG-13 for some sexual situations, language and a brief intense image) 99 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Dec. 14 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG) 7 p.m.; PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 15 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 4 p.m.; PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 16 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 4 p.m.
Dec. 17 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 19 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Dec. 14 - KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 15 - MIRROR MIRROR (PG) 4 p.m.; THE POSSESSION (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 16 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) (PG) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Cineplex

Dec. 13 - KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 8:45 p.m.; THE POSSESSION (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; MIRROR MIRROR (PG) 11:30 a.m., 4:45 p.m.
Dec. 14 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10 p.m.; ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 4:15 p.m.; A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dec. 15 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10 p.m.; ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 4:15 p.m.; A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) 1:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dec. 16 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m.
A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE MUPPETS (PG) 4:15 p.m.
Dec. 17 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 4:30 p.m.; A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dec. 18 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dec. 19 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dec. 20 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WON'T BACK DOWN (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) 4 p.m.; THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238
Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017
Gateway Cineplex, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550

Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions

community HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Weather Information

Community members can receive the latest information on winter weather, road conditions and school closures by visiting http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/road_conditions/index.asp

Heidelberg Esso Gas Station

The ESSO gas station on Czernyring (before making the left turn onto Berghheimer Strasse toward A656) in Heidelberg will cease to be an ESSO gas station by the end of December. The station will close and undergo renovation and reopen as a TOTAL gas station.

Holiday Mailing Deadlines

The U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg postmaster recommends express mail packages be mailed by Dec. 18 for arrival in time for the holidays. Remember, send items as early as possible to avoid delays. DSN 370-3347, civ. 06221-57-3347.

Extended Postal Hours

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg has extended postal customer service operations until Dec. 29 to coincide with the holiday season. The Postal Service Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg is open for out-going mail 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Parcel pick-up at the PHV PSC is 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday. CMR 418 on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim is open for out-going mail 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and parcel pick-up will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. DSN 370-3347, civ. 06221-57-3347.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

The Heidelberg Equal Opportunity Working Group and the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Chaplains Office present the 2013 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 16 in the movie theater on Patrick Henry Village. Guest speaker is Bonnie J. Ballard, USAG-BW Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. Jazz music and choral group will be provided by Heidelberg Middle School Band and the Choral Panthers. Lunch served afterward. DSN 373-7955, civ. 06221-17-7955.

Winter Tires

A law passed in Germany in December 2010 requires vehicles be equipped with dedicated winter tires (with the "three-peak-mountain" marking), mud and snow (with M+S marking) or all-weather and all-year tires when winter weather conditions (black ice, snow, slush and ice) are expected. While the law does not specify a certain time period, a rule of thumb for central Europe is to have winter-capable tires mounted October to April. Drivers caught with summer tires will be fined €40, even if they have not caused a hazard or accident. If a vehicle equipped with summer tires is blocking traffic or gets involved in an accident, the owner or operator of the vehicle will be fined €80 and may lose insurance coverage.

Exchange Shuttle Program

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers a free "Shuttle Program," which transfers merchandise between Exchange facilities to fulfill customer requests. To use the program, shoppers can visit an Exchange Customer Service area and speak with a manager. After recording the request and checking availability, shoppers will be advised of a projected arrival date.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

♦ **English As A Second Language** – Free beginners English As A Second Language classes that cover language fundamentals are offered noon Mondays. Intermediate ESL classes are noon Fridays at Army Community Service, Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

Community

♦ **A Christmas Story** – KMC Onstage will present "A Christmas Story," a family holiday classic featuring little Ralphie, a Red Ryder BB gun, a leg lamp and a tongue stuck to a frozen pole, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15 and 3 p.m. Dec. 16 at KMC Onstage, Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for students. DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.

♦ **BOSS In Paris** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers travels to Paris to ring in the New Year. Bus departs noon Dec. 31 from Vogelweh Bowling Center and returns about 9 a.m.

Jan. 1. Register with Army Outdoor Recreation in Bldg. 2905 on Pulaski Barracks by Dec. 21. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117, www.kaiserslautern.armymwr.com.

♦ **Salzburg Christmas Market** – Army Outdoor Recreation will visit Christmas markets throughout the Salzburg, Austria. Bus departs 2 a.m. Dec. 22 from Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 2905 on Pulaski Barracks and returns about 3 a.m. Dec. 23. DSN 493-4117, civ. 06313-406-4117.

♦ **Holiday Cheer Bingo** – There will be a Holiday Cheer bingo with games, free food, Christmas goodies, a visit from Santa and more 3-7 p.m. Dec. 23 at the Kazabra Club, Bldg. 2057 on Vogelweh Housing. DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-536-7261.

♦ **Kazabra New Years** – Bring in the new year, take home party favors, enjoy a buffet and watch the ball drop 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Dec. 31 at the Kazabra Club, Bldg. 2057 on Vogelweh Housing. Call the club to purchase tickets: DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-536-7261.

♦ **Sembach New Years** – A disc jockey will spin tunes while partygoers enjoy a buffet 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Dec. 31 in the all-new Community Activities Center in Bldg. 220 on Sembach Kaserne. Call the center to purchase discounted tickets, or buy at the door: DSN 496-5140, civ. 06302-67-5140.

♦ **Armstrong's Lights Out Party** – Send 2012 out with a bang, with a midnight Champagne toast, dancing, favors and breakfast buffet, 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Dec. 31 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing. Tickets: civ. 0631-354-9986.

♦ **Gate Closure** – Vogelweh

Housing's outbound Gate 9 will be closed until further notice. The gate is adjacent to B270, heading toward Hohenecken. DSN 493-4176, civ. 0631-3406-4176.

♦ **KMC Onstage** – KMC Onstage in Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne offers all programming free of charge to Wounded Warriors and their guests at the Fisher House. Landstuhl patrons may be able to receive transportation for weekend shows if arrangements are made by 2 p.m. Friday.

DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626. KMCOnstage@eur.army.mil.

HEIDELBERG

Education

♦ **Employment Seminar** – Army Community Service hosts readiness seminars to assist U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg employees with using the USAJOBS Resume Builder, the federal job application process and more. Seminars are scheduled for Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 11, with times to be determined. Supervisors must e-mail a participant list to erin.v.paulus.civ@mail.mil. www.heidelberg.armymwr.com.

♦ **Patton Education Center** – The Patton Education Center will be closed Dec. 18, 20, 24-28, 31 and Jan. 1. Services and normal hours of operation will resume Jan. 2. DSN 373-8700, civ. 06221-17-8700.

♦ **Time Management** – Army Community Service presents a time management class 10-11:30 a.m. Dec. 20 in the Warriors in Transition Conference Room, Bldg. 3622 on Nachrichten Kaserne. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883.

♦ **Sponsorship Training** – Learn how to help inbound service members and families get adjusted to their new surroundings with a sponsorship training class 10-11 a.m. Dec. 17 at Army Community Service, Bldg. 3850, Room 172, in the Community Support Center (Shopping Center). DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883.

♦ **University Of Maryland** – Registration for the University of Maryland University College Europe's "Holiday Express Intersession," an opportunity to earn credit over the holidays, is open. Registration is also open until Dec. 23 for field study courses in Paris and Florence, Italy, Jan. 5-12. DSN 370-6762, civ. 06221-3780, www.edu.umuc.edu.

♦ **University Of Oklahoma** – The University of Oklahoma is now accepting enrollments for its Master of Human Relations and Master of Arts programs, with an emphasis in International Relations. Courses are taught face-to-face or online in a condensed one-week format. DSN 373-7919, civ. 06221-17-7919, aphelberg@ou.edu.

Community

♦ **Lapsit Story** – Parents and babies

or toddlers can enjoy a story 11 a.m. Dec. 13 and Thursdays at the Patrick Henry Village Library, Bldg. 4509. DSN 370-1740, civ. 06221-57-1740.

♦ **Public Works Closure** – Offices of the Directorate of Public Works will be closed for routine services beginning at 11 a.m. Dec. 14 for the organization's holiday party. Closure includes the Housing Office, Self-Help Store, PHV Re-use Center, Furniture Delivery, Barracks assignment, Quarters counselors and building repair Work Reception Desk.

♦ **Customs Field Office** – The U.S. Forces Customs Field office in the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850, will be closed 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 14 and all day Dec. 24-26 and 31. DSN 370-7142, civ. 06221-57-7142.

♦ **It's A Wonderful Life** – The beloved holiday classic "It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," adapted by Joe Landry, comes alive 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15 and 3 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks. Reservations: www.roadside-theater.com.

♦ **Art Expo** – School-aged children will showcase watercolors, mixed media, sculptures and more at the 11th annual art expo 6-8 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village. www.heidelberg.armymwr.com

♦ **Protestant Holiday Programs** – There will be a children's Christmas pageant 10:15 a.m. Dec. 16, a Christmas musical 7 p.m. Dec. 16, a Boy and Girl Scout peace light service 6:30 p.m. Dec. 18, a Christmas Eve candlelight service 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and a Gospel watch-night service 10 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Patrick Henry Village Chapel. DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190.

♦ **Heidelberg Community Choir** – The Heidelberg Community Choir will present an evening of Advent music sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Religious Support Office 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Patrick Henry Village Chapel. The choir will also perform at the Heiliggeist Kirche in downtown Heidelberg 6 p.m. Dec. 21. Civ. 06221-7590-2316.

♦ **Parent's Day, Night Out** – The next Parent's Night Out is scheduled for Dec. 21, and Parent's Day Out is Dec. 22. Reservations with Central Enrollment required by noon Dec. 17. DSN 388-9340, civ. 06221-338-9341, www.heidelberg.armymwr.com

♦ **Arts And Cultural Center Sale** – The Arts and Cultural Center in the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village will mark down inventory to prepare for its move to Daenner Kaserne, Bldg. 3109 in Kaiserslautern, Dec. 18-22 and 27-29.

DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418.

♦ **BOSS Cheap Eats** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will serve a free meal for service members 5 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275, www.heidelberg.armymwr.com

♦ **Winter Festival** – Children enrolled in the School-Age Center and their families can attend a winter festival that includes art, a talent show and treats prepared by the SAC Cooking Club 3:30-5:30 p.m. Dec. 20 in the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850 (the Shopping Center). DSN 370-8994, civ. 06221-370-8994.

♦ **Single Soldier Dinner** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and the USO will provide free food and Christmas goodies for single Soldiers 5-8 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.

♦ **Bilingual Advent Service** – There will be an Advent service in English and German 6 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Heiliggeistkirche (Church of the Holy Spirit) in the Heidelberg Hauptstraße. Contact the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Chaplains Office at DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190 for more information.

♦ **Community Bank** – Community Bank on Campbell Barracks will be closed Dec. 24. The branch on the Shopping Center will be open 9:30 a.m.-noon. DSN 373-1410, civ. 06221-17-1410.

♦ **Catholic Holiday Worship** – Christmas Eve Mass will be 5 p.m. Dec. 24, Christmas Day Mass will be noon Dec. 25, a Mass will be held 5 p.m. Dec. 31 and New Year's Day Mass will be noon Jan. 1 at the Patrick Henry Village Chapel. DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190.

♦ **Health Clinic Hours** – The Heidelberg Army Health Clinic will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. The clinic will be re-open Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, respectively. All services will be closed to include behavioral health, lab and x-ray.

♦ **New Year In Prague** – Army Outdoor Recreation heads to Prague, Czech Republic, for New Year's Eve. Bus departs 8 a.m. from the Park and Ride next to the Patrick Henry Village Commissary Dec. 29 and returns about 5 p.m. Jan. 1. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

MANNHEIM

♦ **Christmas Bowl** – Prizes will be awarded during a Christmas Bowl event and Red Pin Night 4:30-7 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Bowling Center, Bldg. 25 on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4320, civ. 0621-779-4320.

Charlie Company captures Commander's Cup *Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe sponsors games in Heidelberg*



Ed Drohan

Pvt. Tamarus Miller, left, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Walker, center, take the tip-off while Sgt. Shane Fuller (right) watches at the start of their wheelchair basketball game at the Patton Barracks Gym in Heidelberg Dec. 7. The game was part of the final series of adaptive sports events sponsored by the Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe that started in October and ended with the battalion's Charlie Company from Schweinfurt taking the Commander's Cup trophy for the second straight time. All three companies participated in both wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball during the finals and also competed in marathon relay, cycling and archery events in previous meetings.

Warriors vie for victory during final competitions

By Linda Steil
USAG BW VOLUNTEER

Wounded, ill and injured soldiers from across Europe competed in the Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe Commander's Cup at Patton Fitness Center in Heidelberg Dec. 7.

Despite the camaraderie these soldiers have off the court, there was strong competition as they fought it out for the title on the courts.

Wheelchair basketball and seated volleyball were the final two events in the competition, which also included cycling, running and archery during previous competitions.

The unit's three companies, Alpha, Charlie and Delta began the event with only one point separating the top two teams. Charlie Company, comprised of soldiers from Schweinfurt, Bamberg, Katterbach and Illesheim, took the cup home with decisive triumphs in both contests.

This was a repeat performance for them, after winning the Cup in the spring of 2012.

The Soldiers came to the court with varying disabilities - some may have had difficulty walking, running, throwing or were recovering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Utilizing adaptive sports allowed the playing field to be level for all.

Participating in these events helped demonstrate to the warriors that they can still be physically chal-



Linda Steil

Soldiers from Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe battle it out during a seated volleyball match in Heidelberg's Patton Fitness Center Dec. 7. The event capped off a series of competitions among the Soldiers to earn the coveted Commander's Cup.

lenged and competitive. The Commanders Cup was supported by the Wounded Warrior Project, the American Red Cross and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

staying ACTIVE

Sembach and Pulaski Youth Pro Soccer

Soccer clinics are available through SKIESUnlimited until the end of December for Kaiserslautern-area players aged 3-18. To register, visit Parent Central Services, Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks (DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516) or One Stop Shop, Bldg. 3810 on Landstuhl Post (DSN 486-8943, civ. 06371-86-8943.)

New Year's Eve Bowling Party

Families can enjoy cosmic bowling, Disney and Pixar movies and a buffet featuring child-friendly food like pizza, hot dogs and chicken fingers, 3-6 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Patrick Henry Village Bowling and Entertainment Center in Heidelberg. DSN 388-9040, civ. 06221-338-9040.

Youth Rock Climbing Classes

Sign up now for rock climbing classes for ages 7-16. Classes begin Jan. 3 at Ramstein Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 3336. Register at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil> or visit Parent Central Services on Pulaski Barracks, Bldg. 2898. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

Ice Skating

Go for a spin on the ice skating rink at the Karlsplatz square in downtown Heidelberg through Jan. 4. A 90-minute session costs €2.50 for adults and €2 for children. Skates can be rented for €2.60 a pair.

Airboarding

Hit the snowy slopes and learn to airboard during a trip to Lengries, Germany. Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation will host an airboard trip Jan. 12. DSN 493-4117, civ. 06313-406-4117. Sign-up by Jan. 8.

Firearm Safety Courses

Firearm safety courses are available by appointment at the Rod and Gun Club in Bldg. 4130 in Oftersheim (an der Bundestr. 291). Civ. 06202-51193.

Parent And Me Yoga

Yoga classes are available to parents and their children birth to age 12, who are enrolled in Child, Youth and School Services' SKIESUnlimited program in Kaiserslautern. Register at Parent Central Services, Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks or at the One Stop Shop, Bldg. 3810 on Landstuhl Post. DSN 493-4516/4122, civ. 0631-3406-4516/4122.

Family Fitness

Families can participate in circuit training that incorporates cardio, body bars, obstacle courses and more 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Miesau Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 1220. DSN 481-3797, civ. 06372-842-3797.

FemFusion

Ladies 16 and older can enjoy a workout that uses a unique combination of mat work and dance to burn fat, sculpt and tone muscles, improve balance and more, 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Landstuhl Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3720. \$4 per class. www.kaiserslautern.armymwr.com

Wii Sports, Wii Fit

Shake up your routine by playing Wii Sports or Wii Fit free of charge at the Fitness Center, Bldg. 172 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks in Kaiserslautern. DSN 493-2241, civ. 0631-3406-2241.

Send the Herald Post Your Photos

If you have photos from sporting events, e-mail them along with the dates, details and names of those pictured to usarmy.badenwvr.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.
Deadline is noon Monday.