



Construction continues on Kelley Barracks

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Keukenhof: Spring has begun

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Take in spring during 'Frühlingsfest' Stuttgart

Story by Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The cold winter months are almost over and spring isn't far away. Now is the time to venture out and visit places you've never been before or rediscover a well-known favorite, such as Stuttgart's annual "Frühlingsfest," one of the largest spring fests in Europe.

This year, Frühlingsfest celebrates its 80th anniversary and runs from April 21 to May 13 at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt.

"The Frühlingsfest is a fest for the entire family and always makes for a great start to spring during its three week tenure," said Jörg Klopfer from "in.Stuttgart," the event organizer.

The festival offers rides such as wild water rafting, bumper cars, carousels, haunted houses, a Ferris wheel and roller coaster, as well as pony rides and merry-go-rounds for children. Adrenalin junkies may also enjoy thrill rides such as the bungee ball "Hot Shot," "Alpinabahn" roller coaster and several other amusements designed to defy gravity, Klopfer said.

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

Children can partake in free face painting and sessions with balloon artists, while a variety market offers



Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart/Thomas Niedermüller

Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest, or spring festival, takes place at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt and will celebrate its 80th anniversary this year. Patrons enjoy the view of the fest grounds from the "Bellevue" Ferris wheel, just one of many activities offered throughout the fest.

jewelry, leather wear and clothing, fine herbs, spices and tea.

Three beer tents — "Göckesmaier," "Grandl's Hofbräu Zelt" and "Zum Wasenwirt" — will offer grilled chicken or "Göckele," freshly brewed fest beer and live bands that will entertain the crowds

with "Volksmusik," or German folk music, party, country and rock tunes. Each tent also offers a beer garden, where visitors can enjoy food and drinks in the sun.

A reconstruction of a typical Bavarian-Austrian Alp village, the "Almhüttendorf," is set up in the

middle of the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds. It is considered one of the festival's main attractions. Here, visitors can find rustic booths offering "Schweinshaxe" (hambone) or a "Jause," a snack consisting

See **Frühlingsfest**, p.4

Protect your family against tick-borne illnesses this spring



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric C. Tretter
Navy veterinarian, Lt. Matt Swain removes ticks from a puppy during its routine yearly health checkup.

Regional Health Command Europe
News Release

Spring fever is in the air and as temperatures start to rise, we aren't the only ones coming out of hibernation. Spring also lends itself to the return of ticks and tick-borne illnesses.

Ticks can carry several potentially deadly diseases. Two of the most common are Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis (TBE). According to Public Health Command Europe (PHCE) officials, these diseases are very common throughout Europe and in countries to the east and are contracted when a person is bit by a tick.

PHCE says that prevention is the best defense against both Lyme disease and TBE.

"If you are going to be in grassy or woodland areas during tick

season, wear long sleeves and pants, preferably clothing that is permethrin-treated. They also suggest wearing insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin," said Col. Rodney Coldren, PHCE Chief of Preventive Medicine.

You should also check yourself, your loved ones and your pets for ticks after a trek through the outdoors.

If you do happen to locate a feeding tick, prompt and proper removal is important.

"Ticks should be removed using tweezers, pulling back slowly and steadily with firm force in the reverse direction from which the mouthparts are inserted, similar to removing a splinter. Once the tick is removed, cleanse the bite area with alcohol and apply antibiotic ointment," Coldren said.

Ticks that have been removed should be saved for identification and testing; place the tick in a sealed zip lock bag and take it to the local military medical treatment facility which will then send it to PHCE to be tested for TBE and Lyme disease.

According to PHCE a person with Lyme disease may develop fever, headache, fatigue and a skin rash. This rash is sometimes referred to as a "bull's-eye" rash because it is red and circular in appearance.

If the disease is left untreated, it can worsen and cause swelling of the brain, facial paralysis and pain and numbness in the hands and feet. It also can cause enlargement and inflammation of the heart; intermittent bouts of arthritis in large joints (commonly the knees); and problems with sleeping,

See **Lyme Disease**, p.4

Proclamations focus on children, strengthen families

By Col. Neal A. Corson
Commander, USAG-Stuttgart

In recognition of the importance of Army Child Abuse Prevention month, I have outlined the garrison's policy of preventing family violence and domestic abuse in a signed memorandum and proclamation, which apply to all service members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees, contractors and their family members residing in the USAG Stuttgart military community.

The garrison command is committed to the goal of maintaining a safe and secure environment for all members of the community. Family violence in the form of domestic and child abuse detracts from the goal specifically and from readiness in general. The chain of command shares specific responsibilities in dealing with family violence. The rights of victims and perpetrators will be addressed appropriately.

The foundation of the Army Community Service Family

Advocacy Program (FAP) is to improve readiness and retention. The four pillars to accomplish this objective are prevention, education, wellness and treatment through programs designed to stop family violence.

A very important factor is to understand the program designed for prevention and treatment is outlined in AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program.

Equally important is the requirement for command representation at the Case Review Committee in order to be aware of treatment recommendations.

I'm calling on all of us - military and civilian, parents and non-parents - to unite for a common goal: to end child abuse. We must make a commitment to this prevention effort in partnership with the Family Advocacy Program here at USAG Stuttgart.

Children are the future of our nation. It is our job to assure they grow up with a strong supportive system;

therefore, this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month theme is: "Strong Communities Strengthen Families."

Child abuse prevention is not a one-month assignment. It goes on every day of every year. Without every one of us doing our part, we cannot say our Army is fully ready to build a strong and resilient community.

I also signed a proclamation for the Month of the Military Child as this year represents the 30th year the Department of Defense has recognized military children during the month of April. It is important to honor and celebrate our military's youngest heroes.

This year's theme, "Brave Hearts Resilient Souls," truly does recognize that these heroes are faced with

unique challenges that most youth their age do not experience. Living in different states, countries and continents, military children are equipped to adapt to present and future challenges such as permanent change of station, deployments, reintegration, care of their wounded warrior parent or coping with the loss of a fallen parent.

Through each new step in life, they always remain ready and resilient. We, the leaders of USAG Stuttgart, are committed to maintaining excellence in schools, youth services, and childcare to ensure families always receive the best programming- no matter where their next adventure takes them.

To learn more about preventing family violence and domestic abuse, or to schedule training, contact the FAP manager, call the ACS FAP manager at 431-3328/3362. For more about AR 608-18, visit www.myarmyonesource.com, or read USAG Stuttgart Command Policy Letter # 47 at www.stuttgart.army.mil.



Col. Neal A. Corson

Panzer main gate altered, Kelley gym closed for construction

USAG Stuttgart
News Release

There are many ongoing construction projects within the garrison footprint; two of these will impact Panzer Kaserne and Kelley Barracks.

The USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services announced the Panzer Main Gate will see two lanes closed at a time to accommodate the deconstruction of the existing canopy and the construction of a new canopy. Motorists should plan for possible delays coming inbound, April 18 - 19. On April 19, the traffic pattern will change with the opening of the street behind Bldg. 2913. Inbound and outbound traffic will be using the new street. Use caution when approaching the access control point (coming inbound)

and be prepared to follow the traffic flow to the left instead of right (on-post). The schedule and duration are subject to change, so stay tuned to AFN Stuttgart and visit the garrison Facebook page for updates.

Beginning in April through January 2019, the Directorate of Public Works will install new air conditioning, sprinkler system and fire alarm system in the Kelley Barracks Fitness Center (Bldg. 3326). The gym will remain

open during this time but the work will cause some disruptions. Unmanned 24/7 access will be unavailable

through the end of May. The Patch Fitness center is open 24/7 for fitness needs after hours. Panzer is expected to open access in the next week.

The first phase will impact the aerobics room, functional

fitness room and the main entryway between April and May, during which the entrance through the back

door will be closed. Phases two and three will impact the locker rooms between May and July, during which shower facilities will be provided.

Phase 4 will impact the weight room, cardio room, fitness classes, nautilus, and basketball court between July and October.

For current information about the fitness center, call 421-2543 or 0711-729-2543.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Correction

In the March issue of The Stuttgart Citizen, p.3, the player from the Stuttgart Mustangs 3 ice hockey team was incorrectly identified. The player shown handling the puck is Stuttgart military community member Petty Officer 1st Class Louis Cartwright.

The Citizen

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405th AFSB employee set to retire after more than four decades-plus of service

Story by John Reese

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

In July 1977, former Bundeswehr soldier Karl-Heinz Mueller began a lifetime of service to the U.S. government as a Soldier. At the end of this month, he will conclude his career as the director of the Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart.

"He is a patriarch of this community," said Supply and Services chief Cecil D. Moore, LRC-Stuttgart. "We may have discovered the one irreplaceable leader."

On April 30, the native of Augsburg, Bavaria, plans to retire from his position as the LRC-Stuttgart director after 41 years of combined Army and civilian service.

"Time to slow down, enjoy life – hopefully for many years to come – with family and friends, and tour all of the great places first in Germany with the bicycle," Mueller said.

He began as a supply tech with the 8904th Civilian Support Group, a direct support maintenance company during the Cold War. Mueller's unit supported all tactical units south of Ulm, and the annual REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany) exercise that saw upwards of 125,000 American Soldiers take to the fields and roads of southern Deutschland. It was a busy time, and it left Mueller with many good memories.

"Command teams looked for nice, small villages with a lot of farmers to set up their posts, with farmers claiming their 'manöver schaden' (maneuver damage, such as when a fence or chicken was run over by an M-60 tank)," Mueller said.

As a young supply tech in 1981, Mueller was sent to Phoenix, Arizona, on his first temporary duty assignment to the U.S. He spent five weeks training with Honeywell-Bull on a then-new fielded, decentralized, automated service support system. During that TDY, he enjoyed a different lifestyle than the one he was brought up with in Germany, learning about country music and square dancing.

In 1986, he worked as a supply systems analyst for a logistics field office at the Regional Supply Support Activity.

"It was a different world – I could not believe what we had



Courtesy photo Karl-Heinz Mueller

A vintage photo of young logistics warrior Karl-Heinz Mueller shows him in the of the early 1980s.

to purchase, all of the recreational stuff and special items for the Special Operations Forces guys," Mueller said. "When I heard that we were to purchase geese feed and dog food, I first thought it must be a joke. It was not; the geese feed was for the geese guarding the Pershing missile sites."

The noisy honking of geese, when disturbed, has made them akin to guard dogs since Roman times.

"I've known Karl Heinz Mueller since 1986, when he was working at Augsburg," said Michael Lansdale, LRC-Stuttgart.

"When he started working for the Directorate of Logistics in Stuttgart, as manager of the supply and support division, he was always very loyal, not only to the mission but also to the employees. As LRC director, he has continued to be supportive in every way."

Another memorable logistics challenge involved mess wine for chaplains.

"The chaplains' request was for wine out of Süd Tirol, but official mess wine is from California. Our chaplains refused to sign for a pallet of Californian wine," Mueller recalled.

A carton of wine fell off the



Courtesy photo Karl-Heinz Mueller

Wrapping up an Army and civilian career that spanned 41 years, Karl-Heinz Mueller tends to business as director, LRC-Stuttgart.

ramp, and he and the other logistics warriors had to taste it to make sure it was okay.

By 1992, Mueller had been promoted to maintenance manager of the Consolidated Maintenance Center in his hometown of Augsburg. The center had about 160 employees. However, due to automation and downsizing, it was down to only 24 employees by 1998. The reductions in force were the greatest challenges, Mueller recalled.

Mueller joined the Stuttgart

military community as a local national in 1999 as a logistics management specialist, later becoming the chief of supply and services.

"I was one of a few local nationals graduating from the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program at Fort Belvoir in 2002," Mueller said.

In 2010, he became the director of Logistics at what is now called the LRC, working out of the former VII Corps Headquarters on Kelley Barracks until U.S. Africa Command stood up in 2007. LRC-Stuttgart, 405th Army Field Support Brigade-Europe & Africa, is now in Bldg. 2953 on Panzer Kaserne.

Mueller was able to place all of the Patch dining facility team within the community without anyone losing his job. The DFAC served 800 customers daily. Mueller believed the closure of the Patch DFAC wasn't the right move, as it served almost 800 customers daily.

"The good news is we placed all members of the team within the community without a RIF," Mueller said.

He also helped the Patch Self-service Supply employees find new jobs after it closed. "Mr. Mueller has been the pinnacle of the LRC's success. He is the sounding board and mentor for the LRC Stuttgart," Moore said. "He will be missed by the community and the 405th AFSB, and the Army Sustainment Command as well."

One of Mueller's final projects, the installation of state-of-the-art equipment in the Classified Document Destruction Facility, will have its ribbon-cutting this summer without him. (Read about the CDDF at www.StuttgartCitizen.com.)

"The good thing in all these years is I never ever had a negative experience with direct leadership; I've had great relations and support with all leadership teams, commanders and directors," Mueller said, adding he's still close friends with his former bosses.

"The digital world completely changed in these 41 years, from ledgers and punch cards to micro fiche, floppy disks, magnetic tapes, and before email, mail via daily courier. It's now fully automated with laptops, smart phones, video teleconferencing – you name it ... and this is not the end," Mueller said.

Frühlingsfest

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of bread, cold cuts, radishes and cottage cheese. This type of snack is normally served in huts throughout Bavaria and Austria, while people take breaks during hiking trips.

Since the Frühlingsfest is family-oriented, special family days are offered every Wednesday (April 25, May 2, and May 9) from noon until 11 p.m. with special events and discounted prices for families.

On May 13, the fest will conclude with a 15-minute fireworks show set to music at 9:30 p.m. People can catch a great view of the fireworks show at König-Karls-Brücke, or bridge, adjacent to the fest grounds.

Entrance to the fest

Backpacks and bags will be searched at the entrance, or when entering any beer tent. Note that visitors are not allowed to carry pocket and Swiss Army knives on the fest grounds/beer tents. These items will be confiscated during security checks conducted at the various entrances to the fest ground and prior to entering any beer tent. Fest-goers cannot bring any water bottles (plastic, glass, steel) to the fest grounds. Pets, except service dogs, are not allowed on the fest grounds.

The fest and the accompanying variety market are open Monday through Thursday from 1-11 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to midnight, Saturday and prior to German federal holidays from 11 a.m. to midnight, Saturday, Sunday and on German federal holidays from 11 a.m. to

midnight.

For more information on the Stuttgart Frühlingsfest, visit www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de.

Reservations, hours

Reservations for tables in the beer tents are typically made months in advance. Without a reservation, a visitor may encounter long lines and wait times, and a possible rejection to enter a tent, especially during the weekends.

To see if reservations are still available, visit www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de, then go to the "Festzelte" tab on the left, select the respective beer tent by clicking on the image, proceed to the tent meister's website and click on the "Reservierung" tab.

Plan ahead

Large events such as the Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest increase the risk for drinking and driving. If you visit the fest, ensure you have a plan for returning safely home afterward:

- ✓ Leave your vehicle at home. Take the shuttle buses offered by United Service Organizations Stuttgart and Family and MWR.

- ✓ Use a designated driver.

- ✓ Use public transportation or a taxi.

- ✓ Don't leave your children unattended at any time.

- ✓ Always follow the safety instructions posted at the rides and/or instructions given by the operating personnel.

- ✓ If you are in doubt, ask before you take a ride.

Parking

All-day parking at the Cannstatter



Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart

Wasen fest grounds cost €6.

Buy your fest tent ticket the smart way: If you are not going alone, purchase a group day ticket (GruppenTagesTicket) at any stop. It is valid for up to five people or for a parent with any number of children 17 years or younger. Prices vary based on selected travel zones: 1-2 zones: €12.30; 3-4 zones: €17.10; entire network €19.90. Fest-goers can also download the USAG Stuttgart mobile app to plan their trip and receive event and public transportation information.

Lost and Found

Forgot, or lost something while "festing?" The lost and found office (Fundbüro) is located behind the Wasen entrance on the right side at the in. Stuttgart administrative office. Patrons can also call civ. 0711-9005625. For more information,

visit <http://www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de/de/service/fundbuero/>.

Where to buy fest wear

- **TK Maxx** – Königstraße 18, 70173 Stuttgart
- **Wolfgang-Brumme-Alle** 27, 71034 Böblingen
- **Krüger Dirndl City Store** – Calwerstrasse 41, 70173 Stuttgart
- **Krüger Factory Outlet Store** – Antoniusstrasse 21, 73249 Wernau
- **Angermaier** – Eberhardstrasse 8, 70173 Stuttgart
- **Trachtenmode Breuninger Department Store** – Marktstrasse 1-3, 70173 Stuttgart (shoppers using VAT forms will pay the full amount for their purchases at any cash register and must take their VAT form to the customer service center, 4th floor, to be reimbursed the tax)
- **Galeria Kaufhof Department Stores** (shoppers using VAT forms can only pay at the "Hauptkasse," or main cashier)
- Königstrasse 6, 70173 Stuttgart
- Eberhardstrasse 28, 70173 Stuttgart
- Badstrasse 8-12, 70372 Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt
- **C & A Department Stores**
- Königstrasse 47, 70173 Stuttgart
- Milaneo Shopping Mall Mailänder Platz 7, 70173 Stuttgart
- **CARRÉ Bad Cannstatt**, Daimlerstrasse 65-75, 70372 Stuttgart

Krüger Dirndl stores do not accept VAT forms.

Lyme Disease

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concentration and short-term memory.

In most cases, Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. However, in a small percentage of patients, problems with joint and muscle pain, fatigue and memory defects can persist for months to years after treatment.

Early treatment with antibiotics can usually cure the disease, but left untreated it can cause persistent chronic problems and physical disability.

Tick-borne encephalitis can affect the central nervous system and causes symptoms similar to Lyme disease, headache, fatigue and muscle pain, but can be much more serious.

"Tick-borne encephalitis is a serious disease that affects the central nervous system. It can result in permanent disability," said Coldren.

TBE progresses in a two-phase pattern with symptoms starting seven-14 days after the tick bite, Coldren said. "The initial, mild phase



Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart

Ticks can carry several potentially deadly diseases. Two of the most common are Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis. According to Public Health Command Europe officials, these diseases are very common throughout Europe and in countries to the east and are contracted when a person is bitten by a tick.

lasts two-four days and is marked by non-specific flu-like symptoms. After a symptom-free period of about eight days, the second phase of the disease occurs in 20-30 percent of patients and involves the central nervous system."

These symptoms are more severe including high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, drowsiness,

confusion, sensory disturbances, and motor abnormalities such as paralysis. There is no known treatment or cure for TBE.

"Last year, in U.S. European Command, two service members required hospital admissions for TBE likely acquired from off-duty activities, so we know that our population is at risk," Coldren said.

An effective vaccine for tick-borne encephalitis is available, and consists of a series of three shots given over a six-month period.

"Since TBE does not exist in the United States, there is no US Food and Drug Administration licensed vaccination against TBE available," Coldren said. "However, there are vaccines that have been determined by the European Medicines Agency to be very safe and effective against TBE. These are available in Europe and require three shots over a period of time."

Because the vaccine is not FDA-licensed, it is not stocked or provided at U.S. Military Treatment Facility. But Coldren said the TBE vaccine is a covered TRICARE benefit for individuals living in Europe.

"Individuals who wish to protect themselves and their families can contact their primary care team to receive a referral to a host nation provider who will then evaluate them and potentially prescribe the vaccination."

For more information on tick-borne illnesses and how to protect yourself and family, please talk with your primary care manager.



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Local contract construction workers operate an asphalt paver machine during road construction on Kelley Barracks after sewer line upgrades and repairs.

Kelley Barracks to see continued challenges in driving, parking

Story by Larry Reilly
USAG-Stuttgart Public Affairs

It seems a day does not go by that somewhere on Kelley Barracks construction is being done on or along the streets and in turn presenting navigational challenges for all drivers.

The culprit of that navigating challenge has been the repair of the underground sewage system throughout the installation, which started in 2016 and is about 50 percent complete.

Unfortunately, that project and its challenges will continue through 2018 and into 2019 before it is completed.

Although 2017 saw construction projects that yielded the opening of the a new Subway store and the renovation of the German Kantine, construction projects during the next couple of years will focus more on barracks and office building type projects.

"The total renovation project for Barracks Bldg. 3310 will continue this year and extend into 2019. The construction project to replace

the roof and the exterior as well as repair offices in Bldg. 3319 will start next year," said Bill Rossignol, USAG-Stuttgart, DPW, chief engineering. "We hope to complete the construction of the elevator and removal of the old boiler room in Bldg. 3312 prior to building the ADA ramp into that building before year's end."

Other projects ongoing at Kelley this year include various Kelley Fitness Center projects which include installation of air conditioning, fire alarm and sprinkler system and various minor upgrades from fans to painting to minor electrical repairs. Bldg. 3320 is scheduled to have some roof work done prior to the installation of solar panels.

A refresh to the working area of the Stuttgart Law Office is in the works and will be a warm welcome to the Stuttgart legal team that has endured some tough and noisy working conditions as the construction of the elevator and other facility repairs have been ongoing in Bldg. 3312 throughout the year.

The next couple of years will see continued construction projects on



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Continued construction creates navigational challenges for all drivers as upgrades to walkways and road resurfacing.

Kelley Barracks to various installation facilities and its roadways.

"Projects in the design phase for Kelley include the design for energy efficiency upgrades to a number of buildings on the installation, the road extension to the Access Control Point and the overall roadway,

sidewalks and green area design," said Rossignol. "Driving around and finding parking spaces on the installation may continue to be challenging during the next year or so; however, over the long run, Kelley Barracks will be a great place to work and live."



Gold Star Spouses honored

Gold Star Spouses' Day was nationally commemorated April 5 to remember the surviving husbands and wives of fallen service members. It is annually recognized by Congress specifically for service members who died while on active-duty.

Days of Remembrance

The 2018 annual Days of Remembrance is observed April 8-15, and the U.S. Africa Command Equal Opportunity Office, in collaboration with Special Operations Africa and USAG-Stuttgart, will hold a Holocaust Remembrance Candle Light Observance in the Kelley Theater, noon - 12:30, April 12. The Holocaust was the persecution and murder of more than six million men, women, and children in the 1930s and 40s. The Stuttgart military community joins the nation to remember the millions of victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Call 421-5042 or 0711-729-5042.

Live to ride!

The garrison Safety Office announces the following dates for military motorcyclists to take the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course held at the Stuttgart Army Airfield training site:

- Basic Rider Course: April 18 and July 26

- Experience Rider Course: May 3, June 21, July 12, Aug. 2 and Sept. 27

Personnel must register online via at <https://imc.army.mil/airs/Home.aspx>. Registration is CAC-enabled. If you have problem trying to register online or non-Army enrollment, contact the Safety Office at 430-5472. Civilians or family members needing training should contract rider mentor coaches Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Silberman at 431-2198 or Gordon MacMilan at 430-2226.

Youth summer work

The Workforce Preparation Program summer semester, June 7 - Aug. 29, offers paid positions for youth. Positions are a limited tenure of 12 weeks per appointment and participants cannot participate consecutive semesters. Interested youth must attend a mandatory meeting, April 23, 3 - 4:30 p.m., and a job fair and interviews, April 26, 2 - 4 p.m. Call 430-7204 or 0711-680-7204.

Youth Photo Contest

There's still time for photographers ages 8 - 17 to enter Patch Library's Youth Photo Contest. Entrants can submit physical copies of their work in five categories - People, Nature/Animals, Still Life, Action, and Special Effects. Entries will be accepted at the Patch Library circulation desk until April 23. Entry forms, model release forms and submission guidelines can also be picked up at this location. Ribbons will be awarded to the best photo in each category and age division (8-12 years, 13-17 years), and to the best overall photo. The top 10 photos will be displayed in the library from Apr. 26 - May 2, community members will vote on the Fan Favorite. Call 430-5232 or 0711-680-5232.

Denim Day

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the garrison will observe Denim Day with educational giveaways, April 25, at the Panzer Exchange. The campaign was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. (See related story p. 16)

Town Hall dates set

Stuttgart military community members are invited to attend upcoming Town Halls to address questions and concerns and receive feedback and suggestions for continuous improvement within the garrison. Garrison directorate representatives will be present to answer questions. Community members are asked to submit questions and topics of discussion to the USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office.

- April 19: Kelley Barracks Theater, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.,

- May 16: Robinson Barracks Chapel, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- May 22: Panzer Chapel, 4 - 5 p.m.

- May 31: Patch Chapel, 5 - 6 p.m.

Visit the garrison Facebook page and stuttgartcitizen.com

Do volunteer!

Volunteer Appreciation Week takes place April 15-22, and the garrison's annual ceremony recognizing the Stuttgart military community's volunteers will take place at the Patch Community Club, April 25. The ceremony begins at 3 p.m., followed by an ice cream social.

Bad Wilbad treetop walk trip

MWR Tours will depart Panzer Kaserne, April 28, for a full day in the Black Forrest Enjoy with a guided tour of the Bad Wilbad, followed by an afternoon on a treetop walk of 1,250 meters at a height of 20 meters

above the forest floor and funicular. Call 431-2104 or 07031-15-2104 for details.

Ongoing AER

The 76th annual AER Campaign continues until May 15. AER serves as an expedient and valuable tool for leaders to help Soldiers resolve short-term cash flow issues. Common categories of assistance include, but aren't limited to, rent or mortgage, utilities deposits, food, emergency travel, vehicle repair, non-receipt of pay or loss of funds, funeral expenses, and repair or replacement of major appliances. Of every dollar contributed, 87 cents goes to help your fellow Soldier. Personnel can make a one-time donation or have an allotment out of their pay. Call the USAG Stuttgart AER Office at 431-3362/3348 or 07031-15-3362/3348, or stop by ACS, Bldg. 2915, 2nd floor, Panzer Kaserne. Visit www.aerhq.org to learn more.

Walk the Alsace

Volksmarch near Strasbourg with the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club, May 5-6. On May 5, travel by train to Barr for an 11k walk at the foot of the Vosges Mountains, followed by dinner in the hotel and a wine tasting. On May 6, take a guided city tour, have lunch and then some time to shop before returning to Stuttgart. For more information and to sign up, email tours@sgawc.org.

CCVP dates

Learn how the German political system works during a visit to the state parliament building and Stuttgart's city hall, plus see a few of Stuttgart's downtown landmarks. The free tour includes lunch and transport to and from outside Panzer Kaserne Exchange. The next dates are May 15, Sept. 10 and Dec. 10. Registration required for community residents age 14 and up. Email the garrison PAO at usarmy.stuttgart.imcom-europe.mbx.usag-stuttgart-media@mail.mil.

New SHARP guidance

In February, the Pentagon released and made effective U.S. Department of Defense Instruction 1020.03, "Harassment Prevention and Response in the Armed Forces." The 23-page instruction sets a common framework to guide each of the services' policies to prevent all types of harassment, ranging from offensive jokes to sexual harassment. The new policy will allow troops to file harassment complaints wherever they feel most comfortable. The policy supersedes the department's past policies on sexual harassment for service members and provides new procedures for all types of harassment prevention and response. Through a department-wide

oversight framework, this policy increases leadership commitment and accountability and provides additional resources and requirements to protect service members. Preventive measures in the policy are set in place to identify and address problematic behaviors early, in an effort to prevent these behaviors from escalating. Visit <https://go.usa.gov/xnHv2>.

AAFES and MOMC

During April, the Month of the Military Child recognizes the contributions of warfighters' children to the armed forces community. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service salutes military children throughout April with in-store events and giveaways. Celebrations continue all month long with family-friendly events. Call 431-3461 or 07031-2042-109/110, or visit www.ShopMyExchange.com/MOMC.

Support your local police

The 554th Military Police Company, the police force for the Stuttgart military community, will conduct a change of command ceremony, 11 a.m., May 17, on the parade field in front of Bldg. 2949, Panzer Kaserne.

Culture App

Tune-in to AFN Stuttgart, Thursday mornings, 8-9 a.m., for Culture Corner to hear about what's going on off-post, and download the USAG Stuttgart mobile app to view garrison information and the off-post calendar.

Have the courage to help a buddy!

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suicidepreventionlifeline.org
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Distracted driving assuming epidemic proportions

Story by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

It doesn't matter if you're driving State Highway 79 through Stuttgart, Arkansas, or Autobahn 831 through Stuttgart, Germany; when a distracted driver is paying more attention to something other than his hands on the wheel, everyone else is in danger.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, a time for considering a 100 percent preventable public health issue. According to the National Safety Council, more than 40,000 people were killed on America's roads last year; in 2015, 3,477 lives were lost attributable to distracted driving.

In Germany, available stats from 2013 show 3,540 fatalities. On Sept. 21, 2017, the Bundesrat (Germany's upper house of parliament) increased the penalties of drivers caught using mobile devices; fines went up to 100 euros if using your phone while driving and 200 euros if doing so while involved in an accident.

The World Health Organization estimates that by 2030, "road traffic injuries are projected to be the fifth leading cause of death worldwide, surpassing HIV/AIDS, all forms of cancer, violence, and diabetes."

Even when a driver isn't texting or talking on a handheld phone, there are plenty of other distractions that can affect driving safety.

"You've never felt violence of action before you feel it at 130 kilometers per hour on the Autobahn," said Master Sgt. Craig S. Saccento, Provost Sergeant, USAG Stuttgart.

In July 2017, the German government debated increasing the fines for rubbernecking after an increase in incidents where drivers slowed down or blocked traffic to get a better glimpse at accidents. Some "gaffers," the German expression for looky-loo drivers, impede traffic by stopping to record accidents on their cell phones. The Federal Minister of Transportation called the actions of gaffers to be "irresponsible and disgraceful" after emergency responders were delayed following the crash of a tourist bus that month.

As incidents of distracted drivers have increased and governments increase fines as a deterrent, the WHO considers the annual deaths of more than 1.2 million people in road crashes due to distracted driving to be akin to an epidemic.

"One of the most dangerous driver behaviors is the spreading epidemic of distracted driving, which has increased with the proliferation of cell phones and increasing mobilization of people across the globe," stated the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "Today, there are more than 600 million passenger cars and 4.6 billion cell phone subscriptions worldwide, with 2 billion of those subscriptions sold in 2009 alone."

Distracted drivers are about four times as likely to be involved in crashes as those who are focused on driving, and drivers who

are texting can be more than 20 times more likely to crash than non-distracted drivers, the NHTSA noted.

"Drivers who send and receive text messages take their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds out of every 6 seconds while texting. At 55 miles per hour, this means that the driver is traveling the length of a football field, including the end zones, without looking at the road," the NHTSA said.

The joint-service Stuttgart military community is an Army garrison, and Army Regulation 385-10, "Hand-Held Device Use," clarifies that using hand-held devices is prohibited. Since May 2009, U.S. Army-Europe regulation 190-1 prohibits using cell phones when driving a motor vehicle or riding a bicycle.

Playing games, using cameras or computers, eating, drinking, putting on makeup, reading maps, using a GPS, watching videos or even adjusting the radio while in motion are examples of other distractions. Many European-spec vehicles don't come with cup holders so drivers in motion aren't fumbling around with water bottles or scalding coffee. In some European countries, it's illegal to even open a bottle of water while behind the wheel. In Portugal, no phones are permitted while driving, hands-free or not.

To protect yourself and others, the smartest course of action is to wait until you're at a safe place to stop before fiddling with anything that can distract you when you're behind the wheel.

AR 385-10 and more

Vehicle operators on DOD installations and operators of Government-owned vehicles, on or off the installation, will not use cellular phones or other hand-held electronic devices unless the vehicle is safely parked or they are using a hands-free device.

This prohibition includes text messaging using hand-held devices.

Government-supplied electronic equipment that may be used for text messaging or other hand-held uses is prohibited for use by DOD personnel while driving any vehicle, whether or not on official Government business.

The only exceptions to this prohibition are emergency responders (such as military police, ambulance, fire emergency, EOD and HAZMAT responders) while in the performance of their official duties.

To learn more, visit the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center's website at <https://safety.army.mil> and the U.S. Department of Transportation at www.distraction.gov.

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The Girl Scouts Gold Award: The highest, most prestigious Girl Scout award

Story by Lisa Dennis
Stuttgart Advisor
Girl Scouts of America

Mika Taylor, an Ambassador of the Stuttgart Girl Scouts Overseas Troop # 509, has completed more than 200 hours of dedication and research to meet the requirements for her Gold Award.

"The Gold Award stands for excellence and leadership," said Natasha Hodges, Stuttgart Girl Scout Leader. "Some rewards of completing this project are possible advanced rank in the military, college scholarships, as well as becoming a role model in the community, learning more about yourself and how to best become a leader."

The main goal of her project, "Mind Drive," was to address literary deficiency by taking advantage of the time children spend in waiting areas and providing them an opportunity to read instead of watching television or playing on portable electronics, Taylor explained.

"My motivation to tackle the issue of literacy was my younger sister, Roberta. She had reading gaps after attending both German and Japanese schools, along with learning to speak both Spanish and English at home, all by the young age of five," Taylor said. "The culmination of all of these multi-language experiences created an extremely challenging learning experience for her and she quickly fell behind in reading. Now, after years of support, she enjoys reading and learning, and grows more every day."

"The experience with my sister taught me the importance of not only books, but how reading can change a life," Taylor said.

Taylor hoped to give the youth in the Stuttgart military community an alternative, more educational form of entertainment to improve their reading skills, promote reading together as a family and

provide resources to families who are in transition. Small baskets of books and literacy education were placed in waiting rooms around the community where children would be present, Taylor said.

Literacy in American communities is becoming an increasing issue; according to a survey by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development over the past two decades, Americans' reading proficiency has declined across most age groups.

"By providing a reading alternative to the younger generational preference for electronics, I had hoped my project would grant everyone in the USAG Stuttgart community an opportunity to read more," Taylor said.

Taylor created a series of literature basket stations that function along the lines of a bookmobile. Through donations, she collected books and categorized them by age group. She also created stickers with the Gold Award label on it and mixed them accordingly in each of 20 baskets with 40 books each. Taylor created a list of basket rules:

1. Pick up a book and enjoy your reading journey!

Where to find a literacy basket

There are currently 20 baskets at 20 locations throughout the Stuttgart military community:

- Patch Barracks: Army Health Clinic (including Family Advocacy, TRICARE, and the Optometry Clinic); Skies Unlimited; Arts and Crafts; and Java Café.
- Panzer Kaserne: In Bldg. 2915, the lobby, Army Community Service, USO and ID cards; Panzer Hotel; Housing Office; Dental Clinic; and Starbucks
- Robinson Barracks: Robinson Barracks Zentrum
- Kelley Barracks: Health Clinic, Kelley Hotel, STC, and Java Café.

2. If you like the book, you can take it with you and finish reading it. Afterwards, please take it back to where you picked it up or drop it off at another literature basket location.

3. If you really love the book, keep it and read it over and over again! Pay close attention each time you read, because you can discover something new each time you do. Please also consider exchanging or donating one of your books that you don't like reading anymore; I'm sure someone else will.

4. Keep reading! It really does nourish your intellect, creativity, and future!

While much of her project was an individual effort, Taylor credited support from her family (Katherine and Lt. Col. Mike Taylor, and her little sister Roberta); Stuttgart

troop leader Hodges; Troop 592 leader LaRona Mitchell; who will help continue the project after Taylor is gone; Col. Neal Corson, commander, USAG Stuttgart, for fully approving and encouraging the project; and Michaela Ratcliff and Kirk Thompson for their sponsorship. "Please be sure to keep reading," Taylor said.



Photo by "Boogie in the Morning"
Sgt. Lawrence Holmes, AFN-Stuttgart
Ambassador Scout Mika Taylor, Stuttgart Girl Scouts Overseas Troop # 509, is interviewed on AFN Stuttgart about her "Mind Drive" project.



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Be aware of the dangers of electrical shock in April

Story by John Reese

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

An electric shock occurs when a person comes in contact with a source of electrical energy. Electricity travels in closed circuits, normally through a conductor. Sometimes, however, a person's body, an effective conductor of electricity, mistakenly becomes part of the electric circuit. Electrical energy flows through a portion of the body to the ground, resulting in a shock. The human body can feel a faint tingle at as little as 1 milliamperes.

Electrical injuries represent a serious workplace health and safety issue. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that there were nearly 6,000 fatal electrical injuries to U.S. workers between 1992 and 2013, and 24,100 nonfatal electrical injuries from 2003 through 2012. In 2015, there were 2,480 nonfatal electrical exposures that resulted in injuries requiring time off from work.

"In the past in garrison offices, we've found a high use of 'temporary wiring' devices, power strips and extension cords," said Assistant Chief Leonard J. Fagan, USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency-Fire Department.

The National Fire Protection Agency defines temporary wiring as approved wiring for power and lighting during a period of construction, remodeling,

maintenance, repair, or demolition, and decorative lighting, carnival power and lighting, and similar purposes. It may be used for 90 days, such as decorative lighting during the holiday season. The power strips

(uninterrupted power supply) systems in the building. These are strictly used to ensure office equipment, such as computers, keep running during power failures," Fagan explained, adding that

internal burns to organs and affect the heart. This makes burns caused from electrical shock different from chemical and fire burns. The burns from an electric shock can result in tissue damage and organ failure and can eventually lead to death.

Electrical shock may also cause ventricular fibrillation, a life-threatening condition where the heart's electrical activity becomes disturbed, affecting its ability to pump blood. If this is not treated immediately by defibrillation, ventricular fibrillation can be lethal, as the heart muscle cells start moving independently. Under certain circumstances, even a small amount of electricity can be fatal. A person who experiences an electrical shock should be evaluated by a healthcare professional. If you or a co-worker receives a shock, seek emergency medical help immediately.

Most electrical accidents result from unsafe equipment or improper installation, unsafe environment or unsafe work practices. Some ways to prevent these accidents are through the use of insulation, guarding, grounding, electrical protective devices and safe work practices. By applying safe work practices such as de-energizing electric equipment before inspection or repair, keeping electric tools properly maintained, exercising caution when working near energized lines and using appropriate personal protective equipment, workers can protect themselves from electrical hazards.

"When a building is renovated, each planned workspace has a calculated wattage allotment. This is how the new electrical system for the building renovation is calculated," Fagan explained. "When people bring personal equipment from home, it drives up the amount of electricity being used in the building, causing overloads and brown-outs."

(Editor's note: Information for this story was provided by Lisa Rivers, Fort Rucker, Alabama.)



Courtesy Photo

The most common cause of fires from extension cord, power strip, power tap or surge protector is primarily due to improper use and overloading.

are another issue, posing a threat of fire if the wrong rating of strip is used.

"It is important to ensure amperage or wattage rating is not exceeded and that the unit has a certification label, such as CE, TUV, etcetera," Fagan said. "There are lots of euro shops (like dollar stores found in the U.S.) with cheap units that have not been tested for the European market."

Power strips and extension cords

should never be used on appliances that get hot; those need to be plugged directly into a power receptacle, Fagan warns.

"Many office buildings have central UPS

German workplace safety regulations require office electrical equipment to be annually certified. "We've found toasters, refrigerators, coffee machines, etc, plugged into UPS receptacles."

Running appliances also drains the UPS batteries a lot quicker. Toasters, refrigerators, coffee machines and similar appliances should only be located in common kitchens of office buildings, Fagan advised.

Exposure to electrical energy can result in no injury or devastating damage or death. The severity of injury from an electrical shock depends on the amount of current flowing through the body, how the current traveled through the body, length of time the body remains in the circuit and the current's frequency.

An electrical shock may cause burns or leave no visible mark on the skin. Lower-voltage electrical shocks can result in superficial burns on the surface of the skin, while higher-voltage shocks can result in



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MOMC celebrates military kids

Family Advocacy Program
Army Community Service

From deployments to new schools, military children are faced with unique challenges that non-military children their age never experience. Their ability to adapt to changes deserve respect and admiration.

April is the Month of the Military Child. USAG Stuttgart's Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child and Youth Services (CYS) and the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program (FAP) have teamed up to celebrate our military children.

This year's theme, "Brave Hearts, Resilient Souls," highlights the unique lifestyles, contributions and sacrifices military children have due to their parent's service to the nation.

CYS and FAP offers many different programs in support of military children and their parents. For example, the CYS Child Development program offers childcare from six weeks up to the age of 12. These programs provide a warm, safe place to be while parents are working. CYS also offers programs at the garrison's Youth Centers for 6th -12th grader.

FAP conducts several parenting



Photo courtesy of Family and MWR

classes throughout the year. Its New Parent Support Program offers parents support for pre-natal through children age three, with classes and education on potty-training, discipline, lactation support and developmental appropriate play. FAP also conducts parenting education such as "Screamfree Parenting," "Positive Discipline" and Gottman's "Bringing Baby Home." FAP educators teach students at school topics that build personal development and life skills. FAP recently conducted a successful workshop titled Parenting in the Digital Age. Through these programs, military children are exposed to character, social and emotional development.

CYS also offers numerous sports

programs. Many military children are already involved in a sport before moving to Stuttgart and fear they won't be able to continue it here. Once enrolled in sports, children can continue to grow and make new friends with other military children. FAP also conducts bi-annual self-defense workshops in collaboration with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa to empower military children.

The CYS SKIES program (School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills) offers activities such as music lessons and voice lessons, dance classes, gymnastics, Jujitsu, Kung Fu and German language. FAP recently developed new prevention programming that aims to model positive, healthy relationships to Stuttgart military community members. Through this new programming, we are able to reach some of our most at-risk population all while providing educational and fun outings for the whole family.

In addition to being the Month of the Military Child, April is also Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Upcoming MOMC events

Throughout April, the garrison is holding a variety of fun and exciting events to officially recognize the resilience of our military children.

April 14 – Legoland family trip: Building Lasting Memories. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. There are 15 spaces on the bus for youth grades 6-12 to attend without a parent. These children will be chaperoned by CYS staff for the duration of the trip. Cost: \$26 per child (ages 3-16), \$37 per adult (ages 17 and up). Please sign up at Parent Central at 430-7480 or 0711-680-7480.

April 27 – Teen Center Lock-in/ Smart Strong Kids/Operation Megaphone. Learn self-defense with MARFOREURAF instructors, 6 – 8 p.m. Sign up at Parent Central and Outreach Services at 430-7480 or 0711-680-7480, The Hub, or call ACS FAP at 431-3518/3362 or 0703-115-3518/3362.

April 28 – Spring Fest at the Patch Fitness Center, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free to all families. Come out and support military children with a day of fun activities, bounce house, face painting, balloon animals and more.

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Nature shows off during

Story and photos by Kevin S. Abel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

After the six more weeks of winter having come to an end that Phil the Groundhog predicted, Tulips of Keukenhof, Netherlands are evidence that spring is here with the gates to the gardens opening on March 22.

Experience the romantic spring atmosphere of the lowlands in a sea of over seven million tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, orchids, roses, carnations, irises, lilies and many other flowers.

With romance and flowers are inextricably linked, Keukenhof has dedicated this year's displays to the floral romance.

History of the Keukenhof

In the 15th century, the area provided fruits and vegetables to a nearby castle. The castle was built later in 1641.

In the mid-19th century, landscape architects Jan David Zocher and his son, Louis Paul

Zocher, rethought the gardens. Their reworked vision borrows from English landscape and endures as the basis of the garden.

The garden was established in 1949 by the mayor of Lisse. The idea was to present a flower exhibit where growers from all over the Netherlands and Europe could show off their hybrids – and help the Dutch export industry.

Since 1950, millions of tulips have flowered in the atmospheric garden around the pond with its vistas and centuries-old beech trees.

Present day Keukenhof

This year is the 69th year for the gardens, whose name means “kitchen garden” in Dutch, is also known as the Garden of Europe.

Gardeners begin planting the 80 acres of the garden with tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in mid-September to prepare for the eight-week season.

Keukenhof can make for a full-day outing by offering flower shows,

typical Dutch windmill to explore with a view of adjacent flower fields, canal boat ride, children's playground and petting zoo, restaurants and food trucks, which give the whole place a relaxed, festival atmosphere.

Ensure that you get a park guide, alongside information on Keukenhof, the guide also provides handy tips for creating your own Keukenhof.

The eight-week season ends with, a classical music festival May 12-13, when visitors to the park in folkloric costumes watch orchestras, soloists and ensembles play amid the flowers

Getting there

Keukenhof lies in Lisse, about 45 miles west of Amsterdam, in the heart of the Bollenstreek (Bulb Region), and is easy to reach via the A4 (exit Nieuw-Vennep) and the A44 (exit 3 Lisse). Follow the 'Keukenhof' signs.

Direct travel from Amsterdam Center by Hop on Hop off

Keukenhof bus that departs every 30 minutes from the newest attraction in Amsterdam: the A'DAM Lookout. With this non-stop bus service to Keukenhof will take less than an hour.

GPS coordinates of Keukenhof, Netherlands - 52.271256 4.546365

Dogs at the park

Dogs are permitted at Keukenhof, providing that they are kept on a leash. Dogs are not permitted to enter the pavilions and restaurants, except for guide dogs.

Tickets

Tickets cost €17 online, €18 at the ticket office for adults and €8 euros for children ages 4 to 11. Kids 3 and younger are free. It will also cost you €6 to park your car.

The park is open until May 13 from 8:00 – 7:30p.m. The ticket office is open from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

For more information and to buy tickets online visit the park's website at - <https://keukenhof.nl/en/>



Orange Red Tulip - Keukenhof, Netherlands



Purple Diamond Tulip - Keukenhof, Netherlands



Spring Sweet Tulip - Keukenhof, Netherlands

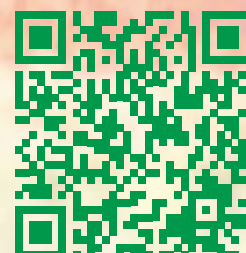


Double Diamond Tulip - Keukenhof, Netherlands

Tulip season at Keukenhof



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At the Exchange, veterans reconnect to military community with new retail careers

Army & Air Force Exchange Service
News Release

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is helping veterans in the workforce reconnect with their military family through a special management training program, reaffirming the Department of Defense retailer's commitment to hiring those who served.

The Veterans Retail Management Training program introduces veterans to the business that drives the 122-year-old Exchange benefit. Participants in the immersive program receive two weeks of classroom training at the Exchange's Dallas headquarters learning about the organization's enduring mission to take care of service members and their families.

From Dallas, veterans are assigned to Exchanges across the United States for on-the-job training in main stores, Expresses, troop stores and Military Clothing stores, working alongside mentors in the field. Trainees who successfully complete the program are offered permanent positions.

The Exchange has offered retail management training for years but only recently developed a program focused solely on recruiting and retaining veterans-a priority for the organization. Currently, eight veterans are participating in the program, the second time it has been offered. A third class is planned for June.

"The Exchange is committed to extending career opportunities to our veterans," said Exchange director/CEO Tom Shull, a West Point graduate who served as an infantry company commander. "We are leaning forward to continue the tradition of welcoming home veterans to our ranks. They are a force-multiplier to our efforts to deliver a customer experience authorized shoppers will find nowhere but their Exchange."

Denise Evans, who served in the Army

from 1981 to 1991, is looking forward reconnecting with the military by working at the Exchange.

"I wanted to be somewhere I belong, where I can finish out my career," said Evans, a program participant who is finishing her management training at Fort Belvoir. "The leadership here sees that I still have something to offer."

Patrick Fatuesi, assistant store manager at the Sheppard Air Force Base Exchange, completed the management program in the fall. He spent 32 years in the Army, retiring as a sergeant major. His Army career, he says, prepared him well for leadership roles.

"At the Exchange, you're going to learn from the ground up-just like the military," Fatuesi said. "This organization is giving us-veterans-a chance. It's absolutely phenomenal."

In 2017, the Exchange hired more than 1,200 veterans worldwide, and 11.5 percent of the Exchange's workforce are Veterans. In 2018, for the fifth consecutive year, the Exchange was named a Military Friendly Employer(r) by Victory Media.

"The Exchange puts a lot of stock in hiring veterans," Shull said. "Veterans understand what the Exchange means and what we do for those who serve."

Hiring veterans and military spouses is one way the Exchange gives back to the military community. 100 percent of Exchange earnings support Quality-of-Life programs including military uniforms at cost; school lunches below cost for Warfighters' children overseas; Child Development Centers; Youth Programs; Fitness Centers; and more. The Exchange has hired 1,000 Wounded Warriors since 2010-second only to the Army.

Veterans interested in careers at the Exchange and the retail management training program can visit www.ApplyMyExchange.com for more information.

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SAAPM is for all Stuttgart military community members

Story by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

During April, when an emphasis is placed on sexual assault awareness, Soldiers learn about SHARP (sexual harassment, assault response prevention) while Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen learn about SAPR (sexual assault prevention and response), but the message for all branches is the same and it's clear: There is no place for sexual harassment, sexual assault, or retaliation in our services.

As Stuttgart is a joint-service military community, all service members and Department of Defense civilians are encouraged to develop their situational awareness for Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month. Some training is mandatory. However, USAG Stuttgart will conduct a SAAPM event, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., April 27, next to the main Exchange on Panzer Kaserne.

"This event will provide information to members of the Stuttgart military community," said Cinda Robison, prevention

coordinator, USAG Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program. "Those attending can take SHARP interactive training that highlights the services provided by the garrison. Such training builds resiliency and makes for better, stronger service members."

The keys to combatting sexual assault are leadership involvement and prevention.

"Readiness is my number—one priority for the Army. Sexual assault and retaliation for reporting these crimes negatively impact unit readiness by eroding trust."

Gen. Mark A. Milley
Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army

"Regardless of branch of service, leaders, including civilian leaders, have a responsibility to set the conditions that enforce standards to prevent incidents and respond to when they happen," Robison said.

April is also Alcohol Awareness Month, and a Ready and Resilient Healthy Lifestyle event will be combined the SAAPM activities at the same place and time.

"Participants will learn about ASAP services and can take the 'Fatal Vision Roadster Go-cart Test Drive,' where you try to drive wearing goggles that simulate driving under the influence," Robison explained. "Those who attend ASAP training will also receive credit for an hour of annual ASAP face-to-face training."

Robison said the value in these events is its being "experiential and that way people will remember it. It is more likely to be stored in the long-term memory when strong emotions are tied to it ... plus with a sparkle in their eyes."

"It just is going to be downright fun for everyone!"

Additionally, the American Red Cross are scheduled to present refresher (not certification) CPR training, the Army Health Clinic-Stuttgart will present smoking cessation information and the Army Criminal Investigation Division will provide information on vape juice with real or synthetic cannabinoids.

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is a crime. It is an intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

The term includes sexual offenses consisting of rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy or attempts to commit these offenses

Additional info

If you need to report a sexual assault, call the garrison SHARP office at 431-3656/3227 or 07031-15-3656/3327. For the 24/7 hotline, call DSN 537-SAFE (7233) or 0631-413-7280

For questions about garrison ASAP resources and services, call 431-2530.

For more information and resources, visit www.preventsexualassault.army.mil or www.sapr.mil/index.php/research/opa-dmdc.



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Celebrate Earth Day

Garrison, Army and nation to observe Earth Day

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Army joins the nation in celebrating Earth Day on April 22; locally, the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division will observe Earth Day with the garrison's schools during the first week of May.

The theme for Army's Earth Day 2018 is "Sustain the Mission / Secure the Future." It embodies the Army's commitment to support readiness through environmental protection.

The Army has participated in Earth Day since it was first observed in 1970. The day highlights the Army's environmental stewardship achievements and their benefits to warfighting readiness. Army Earth Day supports the Army's mission by preserving the natural environment



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class William Phillips

Do your part April 21 by helping out on Earth Day, an annual celebration to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

on Army installations and contributes to the well-being of its communities.

Military readiness is compatible with, and mutually benefits from, sound environmental stewardship practices. Though the holiday was originally

"I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

Theodore Roosevelt

26th U.S. President

efficiency in new construction and renovation, reduces dependence on fossil fuels and improves national security.

"The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard." – Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day

Earth Day is a time for everyone in the Stuttgart military community – all service members, families, civilians and contractors – to consider their environmental footprint and the influence they have on natural resources. By wisely using resources, the Army can assure its strength and quality of life now and for generations to come.

(Editor's note: Information for this article came from the Army Environmental Command and the Army's "Stand-To!")

Earth Day provides opportunities to share Army environmental successes:

- ✓ The Army is a steward to more than 1.36 million acres of land, of which 1.3 million acres are wetlands.
- ✓ The Army protects 224 threatened and endangered species on 119 installations within the U.S. borders.
- ✓ Army lands include more than 58,275 historic buildings, more than 84,676 archeological sites and more than 109 Native American sacred sites.
- ✓ The Army has cleaned up remnants of past practices at more than 11,000 sites.
- ✓ Army installation environmental activities also include sampling and analyzing air and water, maintaining environmental permits, providing safe drinking water, properly storing and disposing of waste, and environmental analysis of Army actions.




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USO offers new reading program called "United Through Reading"



USMC Sgt. Robert Lange records his reading of a book for a child with the United Through Reading program; once done, the book and the recording are free to be sent to the child.

Story and photo by Shannon Speights
USO Stuttgart Center

USO Stuttgart now offers "United Through Reading," a program that enables a service member to record reading to a book to a child and then sending the recording and book back home - for free.

"Goodnight Moon," "All the Places You'll Go," and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," are just some of the titles the USO has on hand to choose from. Once a service member picks the selection and gets snug in the comfy chair, a USO volunteer will press record and leave the room. Then, with silly voices and animated gestures, a parent can make a memory that will last a lifetime. Upon completion, the volunteer will package up the recording and book, and send it to the eagerly awaiting children.

United Through Reading is perfect for those who know they are about to deploy or are here unaccompanied. It can also be used to send to nieces or nephews or grandchildren back in the states. Sarah Kemp, manager, USO Stuttgart Center, used the program downrange herself.

"I made recordings for my 3-year-old nephew when I was at USO Kandahar for 21 months," Kemp said. "Upon my return, he recognized me by shouting excitedly, 'You're the lady who reads to me on tv!'"

The many benefits of the program include cultivating a love of reading, strengthening family bonds and celebrating milestones such as birthdays or holidays. While Facetime and Skype are great tools, when fast internet and timing works out, United Through Reading recordings can be watched anytime, day or night, children are missing

their loved ones.

Recordings can be made during normal USO operating hours. Stop by the USO Center on Panzer Kaserne to learn more.

UNITED THROUGH READING.

United Through Reading serves Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserves, and Special Operations Forces for all types of separation including deployment, drill weekends, and duty nights. It also serves non-custodial parents, geo-bachelors, and the wounded, ill, and injured at medical facilities around the World.

Meet USO volunteer Frieda Campbell

Story by Ryann Hangsleben
USO Stuttgart Center

Frieda Campbell has been a constant presence at USAG Stuttgart since the early 1990s and has served as a volunteer at the USO since 2004. She has seen the comings and goings of thousands of military and support personnel through the garrison, and is always a positive, friendly and welcoming source of information about our host nation. Born and raised in Germany and married to an American service member who has since passed, she knows a wealth of information, and welcomes the chance to share her knowledge and experiences with others.

At the USO Center in Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne, Campbell can be found regularly

maintaining the shelves of travel brochures lining the walls. She personally ventures out to local landmarks and attractions to request the information, and organizes it all to make it easy to navigate. Her efforts have sparked many travel plans for community members, leading them discover local treasures.



Frieda Campbell

Campbell was USO Stuttgart's Volunteer of the Month for January. Visit USO Stuttgart most any Monday, grab a cup of coffee and sit down for a chat with her to learn all about the American military presence, here, over the years.

Much has changed, but Campbell remains an invaluable resource and so much more for all stationed at this garrison.

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Children of service members grow up differently

By Ch. (Maj.) Kelly O'Lear
Command Chaplain
Special Operations Command -Africa

This is the Month of the Military Child. Being a father of four, I can appreciate the sacrifices military children face. Research reveals some of the unique aspects of the military child. I've added some family experiences to clarify the points.

- Military children are less likely to know their hometown. One of my sons told someone he was from "the Bronx" but later claimed to hail from "Westchesterington." He was born in Newport News, VA.
- Military children are more likely to wake up early. This work ethic has paid dividends to my adult sons.
- Military children are more likely to struggle with separation anxiety. Deployments, temporary duty, and moving from duty station to duty station has empowered my kids with resiliency, friends all over the world they enjoy visiting, but has also can create a sense of worry regarding future insecurity.
- Military children living overseas are better at cultural adaptation. Military kids are comfortable in different



Photo by USMC Cpl. Koby Saunders

Returning from a deployment can be tough on your children and spouse, ask your unit's chaplain for assistance.

cultures because they experience them growing up as their brains and attitudes form.

- As adults, military children are more likely to respect their parents' career. Of course, they get irritated when it's time to pack up and move (again!). However, they look back and appreciate their parent's service as they mature and assume their own responsibilities in life.

As a parent of two adult and two

minor children, I can appreciate all that goes into being a military kid. But navigating military life can also

be difficult for families. One source of resiliency is spiritual development. A child's faith is "caught" as much as it is

"taught." As adults, children typically mirror their parent's religious and spiritual values.

In the Bible, Moses charges the Israelites to share their rich spiritual heritage with their children:

"You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 11:19

I want to encourage you to take time as a parent to examine the faith and values you want to pass on to your children. Scripture also tells us:

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:10).

The kids are watching, they are learning, and the future is before them.

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Piranhas swim to break records and bring home medals

Ami DeBrine
Stuttgart Citizen

The Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team's Fall/Winter season was a long one; the swimmers started practice in August 2017 and worked hard to qualify for the season-ending European Forces Swim League (EFSL) championship recently held at the London Aquatics Center in Olympic Park, London.

The team's determination saw their training pay off as they broke records and placed for medals while swimming at the individual championship against the best athletes European Forces' teams have to offer.

"As my fourth year coaching



Photo by Zoe Kalinowski

Piranha David Cicero, 9, breaks a record during the EFSL championship held at the London Aquatics Center, Feb. 25.

the Piranhas, this is the first time we had 73 swimmers attending the championship; that's about 20 more swimmers than previous years," said Piranhas head coach

Andrea Symak. "I was very pleased with our swimmers' performances."

David Cicero, age 9, swam to break three EFSL records and six team records.

"This season was very challenging," Cicero said. "Switching teams partway through the season and waking up to practice in a cold pool at 4:30 a.m. was the hardest part."

At the end of the two-day meet, the Stuttgart swimmers earned 63 individual medals, eight relay team medals, broke three EFSL records, 15 team records and were awarded trophies for top pentathlon times and high points in specific age groups:

"Champs was fun. I like to compete and race my friends," Cicero said. "Chasing after my friend Leon from my old team helped me improve my times. It was so exciting to get my first high points award. Hard work and showing up for practice pays off!"



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Navy bowler strikes out; in a good way

Bardia Khajenoori
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

If the house average at Panzer Kaserne's bowling alley has crept up in recent months, there's a good chance the arrival of former All-Navy Bowling Team star Lt. Cmdr. Sandy Longworth has something to do with it. The Sailor came to Stuttgart around six months ago, bringing with her an exceptional bowling pedigree along with an extensive history of participation in the sport.

"I've been involved in regular league bowling since I was eight years old, and I think I got my first bowling ball at eight ... I was super excited about that," she said while playing a few games at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

Her first experience playing competitively was in high school in an interstate league that held tournaments across Georgia and the Carolinas. It was there that she played alongside Jason Sterner, who would go on to a professional career.

"We kind of grew up bowling together in those tournaments, which is definitely a cool experience to look back on," Longworth said.

She continued playing in college and into her career as a naval officer, to the extent that the bowling center is typically one of her first stops at a new duty station. It can be a comforting environment in a new and unfamiliar place, and it doesn't take long before people strike up a conversation, especially after seeing her play.

Her consistently-high performance is all the more remarkable given the on-and-off nature of her participation – a consequence of her work responsibilities.

"You do what you can. I did a two-year tour onboard the USS Higgins, a Navy destroyer, and during that time I wasn't able to bowl at all," Longworth said. "I did a nine-month deployment and a two-month exercise, then another two-month exercise ... I was so busy, I didn't miss it at the time."

However, after moving to Pensacola, Florida, home to the best competition she's regularly faced, she started up

again with the support of an assistant manager at the bowling center and an encouraging group of players.

While scores can vary widely between facilities and competitions, depending on the particular oiling pattern of the lanes, a typical average for a nonprofessional bowler is around 160 out of a possible 300. Longworth's current average is between 189 on-post – her lowest in ten years – and 203 off-

post. She admits she is still recovering from a year out of the game due to a hectic schedule.

"In Pensacola, even pregnant with my daughter, I was averaging 208 in two different houses for two years," Longworth said.

That consistency got her named to the area's all-star team, but an even greater honor was competing on the women's All-Navy Bowling Team at the 2015 Armed Forces Bowling Championship. Having to qualify for the team at the tournament site added to the pressure.

"I'd never been so worried in my life about whether I would make the team or not. It was a humbling experience," she said.

The first three days on-site were spent qualifying, followed

by a day of practice and three days of competition for those scoring highly enough to make the teams. Longworth did qualify, despite her nerves, ultimately performing well and having a fantastic time.

"I met some phenomenal people," she said, adding she remains in touch with a few of her competitors to this day.

The pastime becomes a family affair once a week when Longworth's husband joins her for a good-natured, yet competitive, game.

"He gets very excited when he beats me ... it's worth bragging rights in the house," she said.

Their young children have also started bowling, and that accessibility is part of what makes the game so appealing to her.

"It's for anybody. I can bowl with my kids, I bowl with my spouse, and we all really enjoy it," she said.

Longworth has submitted her application for this year's Armed Forces Championship, marking her first availability in three years. In the meantime, she will keep pressing to beat her 277 season-high and all-time best games of 299.

For those of us with more modest ambitions, she advises paying more attention to your headspace than flashy techniques.

"It takes practice, time and patience," she said. "But, if your mental game is not solid, you will not do well in competition."



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
Former All-Navy Bowling Team star Lt. Cmdr. Sandy Longworth lines up to send the ball down the lane, helping improve the house average at Panzer Kaserne's bowling alley.






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Army garrisons offer a 'galaxy' of bowling

Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

With more than 70 bowling centers operated by the Army worldwide, you can't throw a rock – or roll a bowling ball – on an Army post without hitting one.

"Bowling is a lifetime sport that anyone can do," said Jim Einhorn, bowling tech at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne.

That goes some way to explaining bowling's popularity. Einhorn knows a thing or two about the enduring appeal of the game; the former Army Europe men's bowling champion started working as a pinsetter in a semi-automatic bowling machine as a teenager, earning 25 cents a line. He previously managed a facility in Heidelberg and still bowls when he can, although he now spends more time assisting with league play in addition to other duties at the bowling center.

Organized leagues typically run winter and summer leagues. There are currently four weekly leagues in play: a Tuesday night unit league, a Wednesday mixed doubles, a Thursday morning ladies and a Saturday morning youth league.

The volunteer-run youth league is particularly active, featuring 40 young bowlers who are so devoted to the game that they created their own league t-shirts.

"Bowlers enjoy the inclusiveness and camaraderie of the game," Einhorn said.

Players in the Stuttgart military community tend to be of varied skill levels, with some very talented players in the European theater; particularly capable and committed players can even reach the heights of service wide competition. The facility undergoes rigorous inspections in order to maintain sanctioning by the U.S. Bowling Congress, the primary membership organization for bowling in the U.S. Any individual league may request to be officially certified.

Outside of league play, the center offers weekly promotions including \$1 games for women on Tuesdays and Penny-per-Pin Thursdays, where players pay a penny for every pin they knock down. Party packages combine group bowling, shoe rental, pizza and drinks at a great value, while the fully-equipped snack bar serves up a variety of fresh foods to satisfy bowlers and non-players alike.

Stuttgart boxers bring home 1st Place from tournament

Results provided by Tom Hlavacek
Sports Specialist, CYS Sports and Fitness

The following results are from the USAG Bavaria St. Patrick's Day Boxing Invitational, March 17, held at the Memorial Fitness Center, Rose Barracks, Vilseck.

Lt. Welterweight:

Simons Martinez, Stuttgart DEC
Brandon Petrig, Vilseck 3-0

Welterweight:

Tomas Carrillo DEC Justin Bakal, Stuttgart: 3-0
Yul Wells, Hohenfels RSC'd John Jezierski, Grafenwoehr, 0:20, 1st Round
Rudy Miranda, Stuttgart RSC'd Noel Perez, Visleek. 0:20 3rd Round

Middleweight:

Oscar Bonilla DEC Darrell Wells, Vilseck, 2-1
Otilio Torres, Stuttgart DEC Jacob Tirado Grafenwoehr, 3-0
Jose Arias, Stuttgart RCD'd Dave Truong, Grafenwoehr 1:16 1st Round

LT. Heavyweight

Braden Manibusan, Vilseck

RSC'd Brandon Wieland, Kaiserslautern, 1:29 3rd Round
Christian Quakenbush, Grafenwoehr DEC James Reynolds, Vilseck, 3-0
Edward Mata, Visleek RSC'd Urbahn Rosa, Stuttgart 1:23, 3rd Round
Rex Hawkins, Hohenfels DEC Calvin Robins Vilseck 3-0

Heavyweight

Nicklos Jeffers, Stuttgart DEC Randy Martina, Grafenwoehr, 3-0
Robert Hasslocher, Grafenwoehr DEC Matias Sanchez Stuttgart, 3-0
Xavier Gonzalez, Grafenwoehr DEC Deshawn Walker, Kaiserslautern, 3-0
Calvin Collins, Grafenwoehr DEC Jonathan Martinez, 3-0
Kim Bethelmie, Stuttgart DEC Aaron Ward, Grafenwoehr, 3-0
Michael Umhra, Stuttgart, RSC'd Jeffery Perry, Grafenwoehr, 1:07, 2nd Round

Super Heavyweight

Jose McSherry, Vilseck DEC Colby Auman, Vilseck, 2-1
Hector Rivera, Stuttgart ABD Darius Leder, Visleek 0:52 2nd Round
Timothy Purce, Kaiserslautern DEC Patrick Geary, Vilseck, 3-0
Kenneth Flucker, Vilseck KO'd Bryer Sparks, 1:11, 1st round

Noteworthy:

Uncontested
Eric Iniguez, Stuttgart
Roniel Crespo, Stuttgart
Tabitha Allen, Stuttgart – Female.

Team awards:

1st place: Stuttgart 75 points
2nd place: Vilseck 64 points
3rd place: Grafenwoehr 49 points
4th Kaiserslautern 14 points
5th Hohenfels 12 points

Most outstanding boxer:

Oscar Bonika, Stuttgart



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