



Soldiers begin arriving directly to Stuttgart



Staff Sgt. Howard Whitaker (center) is greeted by Maj. Gen. James B. Allen, GSMC Commander and Alfons Schwedler, Assistant to Stuttgart Lord Mayor, Manfred Rommel.



Joshua Bootz (center) gets some help from Maj. Gen. Allen at the Nellingen Barracks Replacement Regulating Detachment. Joshua's dad, Capt. John Bootz and his brother, Justin, also participated.

photos by Bob Crockett

by Lois R. Giovacchini
Command Information Officer

A page was turned in the history of the Greater Stuttgart Military Community and of American forces in southern Germany as the Stuttgart Aerial Port of Debarcation/Embarkation (APOD/E) opened last week. This port permits soldiers and their families arriving and departing from Stuttgart and the surrounding region to travel directly to and from Stuttgart, and bypass the Rhein-Main Air Base completely.

The Stuttgart APOD/E accepted its first stateside arrivals for pinpoint assignments in GSMC and several outlying communities on Tuesday, May 2. Approximately 20 soldiers and family members arrived at the Stuttgart International Airport around noon.

The incoming personnel were greeted at the airport by Maj. Gen. James B. Allen, Jr., Greater Stuttgart Military Community Commander and Herr Alfons Schwedler, Assistant to Stuttgart Lord Mayor, Manfred Rommel. Out on

the tarmac, Allen shook hands and welcomed the soldiers and their families as they deplaned. Schwedler greeted the arrivals on behalf of the city of Stuttgart.

Following this the new arrivals were processed through customs and transported by bus to Nellingen Barracks, about 20 minutes away. At Nellingen they went to building 3620, home to the newest member of the GSMC family, the Replacement Regulating Detachment of the 21st Replacement Battalion, headquartered at Rhein-Main Air Base.

The first group of arrivals were greeted at Nellingen by Col. Thomas L. Prather, Jr., deputy commander of 2nd COSCOM representing Nellingen-Esslingen-Echterdingen military subcommunity. Prather commented on the significance of APOD/E and highlighted the work done to renovate the RRD facility, which had formerly been a dining hall.

Then Maj. Gen. Allen, assisted by one of the junior newcomers, Joshua Bootz, cut the ribbon to open the new building. The youngster and his brother, Justin, were traveling with their father, Capt. John F. Bootz, assigned to 5th General

Hospital in Bad Cannstatt.

The RRD is responsible for in-processing of all arriving personnel. The RRD verifies the soldier's pinpoint assignment, notifies the gaining unit of his arrival and the approximate time they can expect the sponsorship bus.

All incoming soldiers must be processed through the RRD. As a result sponsors will not be able to meet arrivals at the Stuttgart airport. Sponsors should meet incoming personnel at the local sponsorship bus stop within their subcommunity. Times for the buses may fluctuate since they are dependent on flight arrival time.

In addition there are bus stops to accommodate soldiers assigned to surrounding military communities. The other communities serviced by the Stuttgart APOD/E are: Heilbronn, Schwaebisch Gmuend, Schwaebisch Hall, Goepfingen, and Neu Ulm. All personnel will arrive weekdays, Monday through Friday, as part of an effort to ensure that they can be quickly processed and sent to their duty assignments.

The port will also be used as a depart-

ure point for personnel leaving the Stuttgart area. The 21st Replacement Battalion anticipates that approximately 1,000 soldiers will arrive through the Stuttgart APOD/E each month and a slightly higher number will depart through the port on a monthly basis.

With the opening of the Stuttgart APOD/E and another one in Nuernberg, in-processing of soldiers and their families will be expedited. Incoming personnel with pinpoint assignments in south and south-central Germany will no longer be required to endure hours on a bus getting from Frankfurt to their duty location. Accommodating arrivals and in-processing locally represents a marked improvement in services for military personnel, Department of Army civilian employees and family members.

Maj. Gen. Allen summed up the day's historic arrival by saying, "Besides being more convenient for soldiers and their families, the APOD/E system will make transition to Europe easier and thereby enhance the readiness of our forces. It's just one more way the Army is taking care of soldiers."

news briefs

1989 road construction

Effective immediately through August 20, 1989 road construction will begin on the entrance way of 5th General Hospital, Bad Cannstatt. Soldiers and civilian counterparts assigned to 5th GH and patients with appointments should allow themselves

additional time when traveling to work or making clinical appointments.

GSMC spring clean-up

On Thursday, the household toxic waste pick-up vehicle (Umweltmobil), owned by the city of Stuttgart, will make two stops in the GSMC. This vehicle allows family housing occupants to remove any toxic household waste from their homes.

The vehicle will be located at the following places in GSMC: Robinson Barracks on the parking area in

front of PX from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., and at Patch Barracks between bldgs. 2337 and 2338 from 1 to 2 p.m.

For more information, call the Environmental Management Office, DEH, at 420-6019.

Preseparation briefing

A preseparation briefing will be conducted on Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Robinson Barracks Theater.

Inform soldiers who will ETS within the next 120 days to attend the briefing.

For more information, call 420-6345.

Commander's comment

New program offers direct travel to Stuttgart

Do you remember when you arrived in Germany? You stepped off the plane in Frankfurt only to find out that your journey was not over yet. Well... things are getting better!

Until now our soldiers and family members were required to fly into Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt. Then they had to continue their travels, most frequently with a long bus ride, to reach their final destination within the Greater Stuttgart Military Community.

A new Aerial Port of Debarcation/Embarkation (APOD/E) is currently open at Stuttgart International Airport. The opening of this port is giving soldiers and their families needed relief from excessive travel requirements and in-processing difficulties. New arrivals to Stuttgart and other communities throughout southern Germany are benefiting from the inconveniences we experienced.

In addition, these ports are accommodating outgoing military personnel and their families. Other types of official travel, including relocation of Department of Defense civilians, student travel, and emergency leave are also being serviced through our local port.

The opening of the Stuttgart APOD/E, along with another APOD/E in Nuernberg, marks the beginning of a new era for the military within Germany. The



APOD/E system will go a long way toward easing permanent change of station moves for members of the Army family. This, in turn, allows the family to adapt to a new assignment and a new home more quickly. Not only is the program advantageous for soldiers and their families, but it also enhances the overall readiness of our forces.

Soldiers with specific assignments in the Stuttgart area will not have to travel through Frankfurt. Instead they will be able to fly directly into our community. The extended bus travel from Frankfurt to here is replaced by a short bus ride from Nellingen Barracks to other GSMC installations.

Soldiers arriving at the Stuttgart APOD/E will be initially greeted at the airport. From there they will be transported to Nellingen Barracks where the Replacement Regulating Detachment (RRD) of the 21st Replacement Battalion will in-process the soldier.

The RRD will meet all incoming personnel and verify their military assignments. They also inform the gaining unit of the new arrival. When in-processing is completed, the soldier boards the local sponsorship bus which provides transportation to subcommunities and outlying regions.

The time required for processing can be minimized by using this new streamlined, local approach. Actual processing time is likely to decrease significantly since the RRD is servicing fewer people than are currently processed by their central facility at Rhein-Main. By decentralizing we can provide more convenience and better service for servicemembers and their families.

The RRD is designed to serve as an interim sponsor for all new arrivals. They welcome and assist incoming soldiers until they are sent to their new units where the

unit sponsors take over the orientation process. The facility was renovated and designed with this interim sponsorship mission in mind. Sponsors are discouraged, however, from traveling to the airport to meet new arrivals as RRD processing is an important and necessary procedure. Sponsors may meet new arrivals at the regular GSMC drop-off points.

The reception center at Nellingen has been equipped with many modern comforts. For example, parents can attend to the needs of their children in either the nursery area or the children's playroom. The lounge area has been outfitted with a television, a video cassette player, and microwave oven.

Giving new arrivals a good first impression of Stuttgart is one of the program's fringe benefits. We are developing better morale at the start when it is most important. The introduction of the APOD/E to Stuttgart ensures that members of our community, others in this region, can utilize the most direct and efficient path in and out of this area.

This program also shows the Army's commitment to making life better for military personnel. A hardship was identified, excessive travel time, and a solution was developed to ease the situation.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of this service to expedite your travels. By requesting flights to and from Stuttgart for official travel, we can guarantee that APOD/E use is maximized. Let's keep this innovative program on track by demonstrating that it's a needed service which can operate successfully.

Streamlining procedures to make military life easier and more efficient is a goal we can all support.

Take care of soldiers
Maj. Gen. James B. Allen

chaplain's corner

Talking out tension eases worries

by Lt. Col. John F. Teer, Ph.D.
Protestant Chaplain, Patch Barracks

"Yes, I worry! Do you mean to say that Christians shouldn't worry? I've tried to live a Christian life for many years, but during this time I've certainly done my share of worrying."

Do these words sound familiar to you? It's not much help when someone tells you not to worry about something. It's fairly normal to have some degree of worry in our lives. The problem comes when worry becomes a vicious habit. It wears us down as nothing else can. It may even be the cause of some serious physical illnesses if we allow it to get the better of us. But you say, "I have very real worries. It's easy to say 'Forget them,' but I can't."

This may be somewhat true, but a way to increase our ability to cope with worry is to know what some of the things are that bring worry to our lives. For the purposes of this article, I'll simplify these causes to: (1) Too much concern for self, (2) Tensions within oneself, (3) Tensions in the home, and (4) Resentments of long standing.

What are some ways of releasing the inner tensions which bring on worry? There are good ways and there are decidedly harmful ways of doing it. If, for instance, we go right on bottling up these emotions, the body will try to get rid of them somehow. Occasionally the explosive nature of these inner feelings blows up into an ulcer or high blood pressure or a dozen other types of illnesses.

Surely we don't want to wait for the body to do this. A better way is to release tensions by physical activity. The homemaker who decides to scrub the kitchen floor when she feels herself to be a "bundle of nerves" is

very sensible. The enthusiastic swinging of her arms may bring about wonderful release of repressed emotions. The person who makes it a point to run or walk a couple of miles in the morning and again in the evening is a person who is taking out an insurance policy on health.

A still better way is to talk out your tensions. We must learn to talk out our problems with those whom we love and those in whom we have confidence. A sealed tea kettle over a flame will soon explode, but the slightest opening will release the steam, and the danger is past.

It's a wise husband who helps his wife with the evening dishes in order that together they may talk over the day's activities. It will probably be a private conversation also because children have a way of becoming scarce around a kitchen when it's time to wash or dry dishes. By the time the dishes are finished the couple will have had a chance to unload their cares to each other and then the evening can be one of rest and contentment.

I recommend this prescription for dealing with worry: (1) Be interested in others. A person who is busy helping others doesn't have time to worry about him or herself; (2) Don't bottle up your tensions. Talk them out; (3) Spend at least ten minutes a day away from others in order that you may give your undivided attention to prayer. Use audible prayer if at all possible. Remember that prayer is a two-way conversation and open your heart and mind to allowing God to talk to you; (4) During times of particular stress, memorize one appropriate Bible verse a day, particularly one of positive affirmation of faith and trust and repeat it over and over again. It will crowd out insidious thoughts; (5) Then, knowing that you don't face your problems alone, go right ahead and do or face the very things you feared the most. God will be within you to help you put your worries in the proper perspective.

GSMC APO hours

ROBINSON PX APO:

Sun, Mon	Closed
Tues, Fri, Sat	1100-1700
Appointment time	0930-1030
Wed	0900-1100
Thur	1200-1800
Appointment time	10:30-11:30

5TH GEN HOSP APO:

Thurs	1300-1500
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FLAK APO:

Mon, Tues, Fri	1000-1600
Appointment time	0830-0930
Wed	0900-1100
Thur	1100-1700
Appointment time	0930-1030
Sat, Sun	Closed

PATTONVILLE APO:

Mon, Fri	0900-1500
(lunch)	1200-1245
Wed	0900-1100

KELLEY APO:

Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri	1000-1600
Appointment time	0830-0930
Wed	0900-1100
Sat, Sun	Closed

PATCH APO:

Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri	1000-1600
Appointment time	0830-0930
Wed	0900-1100
Sat, Sun	Closed

PANZER APO:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	1000-1600
Appointment time	0830-0930
Wed	0900-1100
Sat, Sun	Closed



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Asian-Pacific Americans: partners in progress

Andrea Dabbs
Equal Opportunity office

"These States are the amplest poem,
There is not merely a nation but a team-
ing Nation of nations."

— Walt Whitman

The United States is a nation composed almost entirely of immigrants and their descendants. Different cultural interactions have become a vital part of this unique American culture; the nation's spirit and heritage is constantly revitalized by these differences. The United States owes a debt of gratitude to Asian and Pacific Americans for their contributions to our nation's heritage and its future.

For these contributions, the President authorized a proclamation designating May 6-14, as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week. It is 11 years since the original proclamation was signed designating May as the time to celebrate Asian-Pacific heritage. May was chosen because several significant events in Asian and Pacific American history occurred during this month. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in America, and May 10, 1869, the Golden Spike, signifying the contributions of Chinese-Americans in building this country's transcontinental railroad, was driven.

Since the arrival of the first Asian-Americans into the United States their role in our nation's defense has been prominent. The most decorated Army unit



"... being an Asian-Pacific American, provides me the opportunity and responsibility to defend freedom. Not the word, but the freedom one feels . . ."

— Tuia

of World War II was the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all Japanese unit that served in Europe. There have been a total of nine Medal of Honor recipients starting with Pvt. Jose B. Nisperos, a Philippine Scout (1911), to Cpl. Terry T. Kawamura, who served in Vietnam (1969).

Asian-Pacific migration is rapidly and permanently changing the face of America, altering its ethnic makeup, its landscapes and cityscapes, and its tastes in food, clothes, and music. There have long been Chinatowns in American cities, but now there is Koreatown in Los Angeles, Little Saigon in Orange County, Calif., Little Odessa in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Monterey Park, Calif., was

the first U.S. city to have a Chinese-born woman as mayor. Delaware, has a Chinese-born Lieutenant Governor. Let it also be noted that Hung Vu and Jean Nguyen became the first Vietnamese-born Americans to graduate from West Point.

These changes do not represent social decline or breakdown. The newcomers bring valuable skills and personal qualities: hope, energy, and fresh perspectives. The question is not whether the new Americans can be assimilated — they must be — but rather how the U.S. will be positively changed by that process.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage

Week fosters an increased national awareness of the history and contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans and inspires a renewed sense of pride among Americans of Asian and Pacific ancestry.

In the Greater Stuttgart Military Community Asian-Pacific Americans are currently working at all levels within the military and civilian sectors. Maj. Saesae Tuia, HHC, 2nd COSCOM, a native born Samoan and former resident of Hawaii, is the highest ranking field grade officer in GSMC. He was asked, "What does it mean to be an Asian-Pacific American?" He replied, "It provides me the opportunity and responsibility to defend freedom. Not the word, but the freedom one feels, sees, touches, and enjoys. Everyone enjoys freedom and it is everyone's responsibility to protect it. So, with that in mind, an Asian-Pacific American is a man or woman who is giving of him/herself in order to protect family and country, even if that means laying down one's life for that freedom."

Activities scheduled throughout GSMC for the week of May 6-14 are designed to educate, inform, and encourage future achievements and success within our community. We honor minority groups by recognizing their participation in our growth as a nation.

There are distinctions between us, but we are still fellow citizens representing the United States. During this Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week, let's recognize the participation, partnership, and progress as we all work together for a better America.

Commentary

A nostalgic remembrance of teachers past

by Steve Snyder
Stuttgart Citizen staff

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

— Henry Adams American sage and wit

My influence stopped in 1974 in upstate New York when, after six years, I abandoned the classroom. I was sick and tired of the endless custodial (baby-sitting) aspects of the job. Dealing with an unappreciative public got old, too.

I must confess, though, to feeling a certain nostalgia for colleagues left behind. They were, without a doubt, the best and brightest.

During this Teacher Appreciation Week, tribute is due those staunch souls who've stuck by their blackboards. There are approximately 400 of them scattered across GSMC. There is an honorable profession and a very old one.

Socrates was one of the earliest and best practitioners of the art of education. He roamed through ancient Greece,

questioning people's assumptions about what was good, beautiful, and true. The truth, alas, is often upsetting. Critics of the Greek philosopher were so bent out of shape that they put him to death. His executioners, ironically, very much needed just the sort of lessons Socrates was trying to teach.

My grandmother never drank hemlock but did teach elementary school for nearly 40 years. Her mind remained active and probing to the end of her 83 years. I remember her continual reading, common sense patriotism, and unflappable dedication to education. She was of an older, and perhaps a better, America.

In high school in Pennsylvania, I had the good fortune to fall under the tutelage of Sister Mary Thomas and Elmer Koons. The good sister taught at the Catholic school I had attended. Hers was among the most formidable intellects I've ever encountered. Possessing one of the sharpest tongues in the Western Hemisphere, she used it to discipline her pupils while forcing them to think. To cross her was to suffer swift intellectual humiliation and yet her words left no scars and

bred no bitterness.

Elmer Koons taught English at the public high school. He brought Shakespeare alive for at least one archetypal jock. That achievement was on the order of making bricks without straw. Tough to duplicate unless you have a direct pipeline to God.

Switching from sitting in class to standing in front of it, I met comparable personalities during the time I taught school. But Gail Blechinger was in a class by herself.

Blechinger was nearly six-feet tall, forthright, and consummately professional. Her life was complicated by a handicapped son, frequently ill husband, and a car continually on the blink. Minor annoyances never cramped Blechinger's style, though. She could out-think, out-teach, and out-party anyone I knew. Gail was a darling of the gods. Those who knew her led charmed lives.

The teachers in my life have taught me one invaluable lesson. The lesson is that life will never be easy but should be interesting. For imparting that essential wisdom, I salute them. I'm sure their counterparts in GSMC will understand.

updates

Buying used POVs

The car buyer and seller should sign a written contract of sale. A written contract is not necessary for the sale of a car, but it is a useful precautionary measure. There are no guarantees inherent in the sale of a used automobile. If the buyer and seller have any understanding about the auto, such as the passing of an inspection, they should be included in the written contract.

The owner of the automobile must go

to the local German automobile registration office to take the auto out of the German registry system. At that time, the German license plates will be taken by the registration office and the title will be marked 'stillgen.' The car must then be driven directly to the closest USAREUR vehicle registration office. The buyer should examine the title to assure that it lists the sellers name and the 'stillgen' buyer.

USAREUR will accept the physical possession of the German title as proof of ownership.

PCS packing

The big PCS season is still down the road, but customs officials warn that now is the time to start preparing. "Get rid of things which are prohibited entry into the United States," said Normon Kaucher, customs program manager for the U.S. European Command.

These include soil, plants, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat products, narcotics, prescription drugs, poison, obscene publications, trademark violations, explosives and live ammunition.

G/A Friendship week schedule

The 35th annual German-American Friendship Week kicks off with many activities geared to enhance the friendship between the two nations:

Monday

9 a.m. in Stadionbad, Ludwigsburg; German-American Swimming Competition. For more information, call Mr. Kohler, 07141-910241.

Tuesday

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Boeblingen; International Women's Club, Boeblingen, organizes an outing to Maulbronn Monastery. Guests are welcome. Please register with Margarete Roth, 07031-272932.

Wednesday

7 p.m. at Kelley Barracks; Friendship concert with Music School Filderstadt and the 84th U.S. Army Band. For more information, call Ms. Patzelt, 0711-7292353.

Thursday

6 p.m. at Flak Kaserne; German-American Basketball Tournament. For more information, call Ms. Steegmayer, 07154-23472.

Friday

6:30 p.m. departing from Pragsattel; Streetcar Party at night with music and dancing. Please register with Ms. Andrews, program director USO, 0711-8566875.

Saturday

9 a.m. at Pattonville Elementary School; Flower Market (sale of window flowers) in City of Remseck, Ludwigsburg-Kornwestheim Military Community. For more information, call Ms. Steegmayer, 07154-23472.

Citizen's response

"As a military spouse, what would make you feel (more) appreciated?"

Friday is Military Spouse Appreciation Day and, in recognition of their vital contributions to our military community, the Citizen asked them "as a military spouse, what would make you feel (more) appreciated?"



Pam Thayer
wife of SFC Ronald Thayer
Nellingen Barracks

"There should be more emphasis on the family as a whole. We need more family gatherings. There aren't many now."

Sheryl Hendricks
wife of Staff Sgt. Eric Hendricks
Wilkins Kaserne

"I would like a hug every morning and less field duty (for my husband)."



Sabine Robertson
wife of Sgt. Darrell Robertson
Robinson Barracks

"Everybody always has parties but nobody ever does anything for the women in the office. We need more family get-togethers."



Julienne Foss
wife of Sgt. John Foss
Nelson Barracks at Neu Ulm

"Other Army wives invite you over once a year for a tea party but you don't see them otherwise. I would like to have the Army treat us as people and not simply women here because he's (husband) here."



Marie Gross
wife of Spec. Kurt Gross
Wilkins Kaserne

"If the commander of our unit would be more involved in family-oriented things — trips, get-togethers, etc."

Hospital visitation policy allows sibling visits to newborn infants



Jean Yannello, left, discusses baby Vincent's sleeping habits with Capt. Lorraine Fritz, clinical nurse at the Newborn Nursery at 5th Gen. Army Hospital in Bad Cannstatt.

"... Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births."
Shakespeare, *HENRY V*

Births are more joyful at 5th General Army Hospital these days because of an innovative sibling visitation policy which allows brothers and sisters of newborn infants to get to know their latest family member.

The policy is in effect in the postpartum unit, located at 5th General Hospital. The change took place in January. Before then, the postpartum visitations were limited in number and scope because of lack of space. The Newborn Nursery's expanded facilities have changed all that.

"Mothers stay two or three days after birth and their children can now come and visit," said Clinical Head Nurse, Capt. Lorraine Fritz, explaining the policy change.

The new facilities "allow us to use more space for moms and babies to stay together 24 hours a day if they want to," she added.

Fritz said that "mothers and children like it" and "it's really important to prepare for the new child and to let family members prepare."

For siblings, it's "good to let them touch and feel so they know their new sibling is the real thing," said Fritz. It's also "important for kids to know that their mother's

okay," she added.

Visitation is limited to children over two years old. In related news, the Department of Defense has for the first time — issued a convalescent leave policy that sets six weeks as the recovery time for military women following childbirth.

The policy, which took effect Feb. 13, stipulates that "convalescent leave following normal pregnancy and childbirth normally shall be 42 days." Before, convalescent leave for maternity purposes was an individual service policy, ranging from 28 to 30 days.

According to a DoD manpower official, the policy was issued "to standardize the practice among the services."

"On average, the services were granting 30 days of convalescent leave and five days of annual leave to new mothers," he said. A survey conducted last year at military installations worldwide showed that "many installations had no specific policy on the subject," he said.

The amount of time — six weeks — was determined because "it's the number that satisfies most mothers' needs," the official said.

Compiled from reports by Steve Snyder, Staff Writer, Citizen, and MSgt. Mary A. Peterson, AFIS.

What about the rest of the year?

by Erin Gonsalves
Military spouse

Friday is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Have you ever heard of anything so ridiculous? What possibly is there worth appreciating about a military spouse?

Here's a person, who at the drop of a hat, leaves family and friends to move to God only knows where, gives up any real hope of a continuous career, and winds up spending much of their time alone while their husbands or wives are on duty or in the field.

So what's the big deal? It's sort of like Mother's and

commentary

Father's Days. Just because our parents sacrifice a little to raise us for 18 or some odd years, we're expected to give up a day or two out of the year to thank them for what? It's not like they didn't get what they asked for.

And what are you supposed to give as a gift?

Speaking as both a parent and military spouse, how about a kiss, a hug, and simply saying, "I love you."

I had a fairly good idea what I was getting into when "we" joined the Army, just as I knew pretty much what I was getting into when we decided to have children. Though nearly five years separated the two decisions, there is one thing they have in common.

They were based on mutual trust, commitment, and most importantly, love. Without those three elements, I'm not sure how ours, or any other marriage, could survive the long separations and frustrations that come with the military lifestyle.

Proclaiming a day of appreciation for military spouses is a great idea. Everyone likes to feel appreciated. But servicemembers need to remember that there's 364 other days in the year.

You don't have to wait until a special day to set aside to show your appreciation. You already know the little things that can make a big difference in a spouse's day. Just do something especially nice now and then for her or him. Your actions speak louder than words.

This first year in the Army has been hard, but it's also been the best of our five years of marriage. We both learned a lot about ourselves and our relationship. And for that, we're both appreciative.

So to all you wives and husbands of servicemembers around the world, have a very happy Military Spouse Appreciation Day. You've earned it.

Dogs: Not always man's best friend

U.S. Harnois-Hogfoss
HQ, 5th Signal Command

A fatal tragedy was prevented by a
soldier last November.

Specialist William Stepalovitch, 587th
Signal Company, 52nd Signal Battalion,
and 12-year-old Mark Stevens, son of
Lt. Col., from the jaws of
trained attack dogs.

Early in the morning, close to Patch
Barracks in Vaihingen, young Mark was
riding his bicycle to school. After passing
a wooded area and coming out on a path,
two full grown rottweilers attacked him.

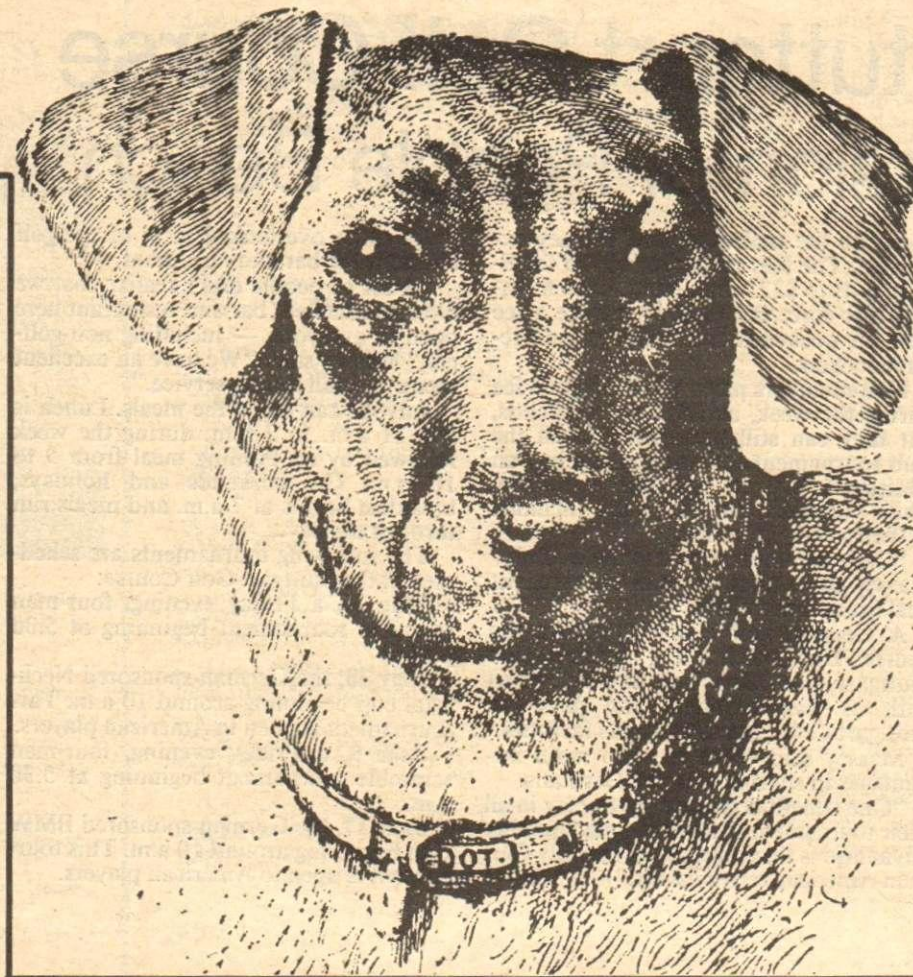
He said the trained attack dogs from a
kennel nearby were taking a walk with
the owner.

"The dogs were standing there with
the owner, an older man. I drove my
bike past them and then they started
running up to the side; jumping and
grabbing the handle bars. I was really
scared.

"I was tipping off the bike, so I
jumped off purposely, not to fall. The
dogs were right there," said Mark. The
walls on both sides of the trail and the
woods in the back left Mark with no
place to run.

The little boy said his sister, Arianne,
was already up an incline on her bike
before she noticed her brother being
attacked. She said she was scared to
move.

Stepalovitch said he heard Mark
before he saw him. "I was riding my
bicycle to work. I was coming around a
corner, I couldn't see anything, but I
heard Mark yelling. The old man was
hovering over Mark to help him out
from the dogs. Mark was yelling 'Help,



help! I'm being attacked!' I thought he
was being attacked by the man, so I went
up and grabbed him. That's when I
noticed the dogs were the ones attacking
him," described Stepalovitch.

"He (the man) grabbed one (of the
attackers). I picked Mark up and moved
him ten feet away. When I grabbed him I
was just as scared as he was, but I didn't
think about it at the time. The dogs still
kept attacking. One grabbed him. The
dogs still kept attacking. One grabbed his
arm. He came back around and took a
chunk out of his leg. Then I moved with
Mark towards the man so he could grab
the other dog," he added.

Stevens said the attack lasted about
two minutes. "One bit me in the calf and
the other one pulled me to the ground.
They ripped my backpack and totaled
my books."

Stepalovitch explained that he grew up
in a neighborhood with a lot of dogs. "I
didn't want to hurt them. The pedaling
attracts them. I tried to walk Mark away
when I led him to the man, but they were
already after him."

He then brought the boy to the front
gate of Patch Barracks and helped

arrange for transportation to the medical
clinic. "I took Mark, set him on my bike,
rode him to the military police station
and told them what happened. They took
him to the clinic," said Stepalovitch.

"I told his sister to stay there and
watch the man so he wouldn't leave, just
to get information and such. But he was
so shook up, he left. We picked up
Mark's books and bike and rode to the
MP station and then to the clinic,"
Stepalovitch said.

Mark said he was hurting a little bit.
"I was shocked a little. My arm really
hurt. There were only puncture wounds
though."

"I've gotten hazed a few times by
those dogs. Usually when the man
walking them sees anyone coming he
gathers them up. These dogs were bred to
be mean. If he didn't have a leash on
them, he couldn't control them. There
were choker chains but you couldn't get
near them to grab it," explained
Stepalovitch.

Later Stepalovitch led the MPs and
polizei to the kennel he knew the dogs
came from. The man explained he left
because he was so nervous and wanted to

put the dogs away. They checked the
shot records and he apologized. The case
is under investigation.

Mark's parents were out of town, but
as soon as they found out about the
attack, they hurried home. "When we
found out, there was tremendous terror;
you know what parents are like. We went
to pieces, of course. When we got home,
Mark was stable," said Mark's father, Lt.
Col. Jonathan Stevens.

On the lighter side, Stevens said that
they were misled by this "hero's"
description. "I asked the details and both
Arianne and Mark described Bill
(Stepalovitch) to me. The hero that saved
him was approximately 6'5", 200 pounds
and really strong because he was able to
pick up Mark with one hand. He also
had phenomenal acrobatic abilities
because, not only could he pick up Mark
and drive his bike, he then came back
and Arianne said he picked up all his
stuff and Mark's bike. I've tried this, but
hurt my hand. So I thought this person
must have been bigger than life. Well,
physically he isn't, but bigger than life he
is. I even found out that after he saw
Mark that morning in the clinic, he
refused medical attention right away
because he said he had formation."

After Stepalovitch told his NCOIC
about (the attack) what happened, he
received treatment in the same room
with Mark. Mark's father found out
where Stepalovitch worked and wanted
the whole family to meet him.

Mark said he didn't recognize his 6'5"
hero at first. "I said thanks, then I
realized he isn't that tall at all!"

Mark and his whole family are truly
grateful at the this soldier's courage.

They all agreed that if Mark ever told
his teachers that his homework or books
were chewed up by a dog, he wouldn't be
lying this time.

"All of us read a lot about human
nature and people in situations like his.
Someone said something to the effect of
this: heroes are not special people with
special talents. They are normal people
doing extraordinary things. This young
man did things that I wonder if I would
have thought of. He didn't think of
himself at all. He saw someone in trouble
and didn't know who he was, just that a
person needed help and he was there,"
said Stevens.

Stepalovitch has been awarded an
Army Achievement Medal and
paperwork has been submitted for the
Soldier's Medal.

Community leash laws curb unpredictable pets

More than 100 bite cases reported in Stuttgart in 1988

By Capt. James R. Swearingen
Chief of Animal Medicine
167th Medical Detachment

It happened every three days. A dog or
cat bit someone in 1988. Who knows
how many bite cases there will be this
year? Whatever the number, the problem
of animal bites is magnified by the
possibility of rabies.

The solution to this problem is
control. Control of your pet.

Why is proper control of your dog or
cat important? For one reason there were
116 military-related people bitten in the
Stuttgart area in 1988. Of these 116 bite
cases, 50 were children and 66 were
adults. Five individuals were required to

undergo the rabies vaccination series.
Twenty-three people suffered wounds to
the head, with the rest of the bites
occurring mostly on the arms and legs.
There were 2,628 confirmed cases of
rabies in wild and domestic animals in
West Germany last year, with 74 cats
and 19 dogs found positive for rabies.
Tetanus and various other bacterial
infections can also result from animal
bites. These are only a few reasons why
proper control of pets is essential.

There are a number of regulations and
laws concerning pet control. One very
important point to remember in
Germany is that you should always have
your dog on a leash when walking in a
wooded or rural area if it is posted with a
red sign with the word "Tollwut" on it.
This word means rabies and the sign

marks an area where recent cases of
rabies have been found. In these areas, if
your dog is off leash and straying, it is
subject to being shot by the
forestermeister, no questions asked.

In government housing areas it is
required that all dogs and cats be either
on a leash or under immediate voice
command by a responsible person
capable of controlling the animal. If your
dog is not trained to respond to voice
commands, it must be kept on the leash.
Dogs and cats are not allowed on
balconies, in stairwells, or in basements
without a responsible person present. At
all times, pet owners are held under full
liability for the actions of their pets. It is
highly recommended that all pet owners
obtain pet liability insurance.

All dogs and cats involved in a biting

incident are required by regulation to be
examined by a veterinarian and put
under quarantine. If an animal bite
results in serious injury or if an animal is
a repeat biter, that animal may be
removed from government quarters.
Loss of government quarters by the
owners can also occur.

All the rules and regulations are in
effect to protect the health and welfare of
the military community. Doing your part
can allow all of us to live in a healthier,
happier place. If you have a pet with a
training problem, the Stuttgart
Veterinary Services facility will be glad
to try to help. You can also join a dog
training club for approximately 30 DM
per year. A well-trained dog is much
easier to control.

Tee off at Stuttgart Golf Course

GSMC's version of Pebble Beach

by Lionel R. Green
Stuttgart Citizen sports writer

Whether for the challenge or the nostalgia of the sport, golfers love their game, and they play it with the same intensity of athletes in other sports.

For those serious golfers or for those who just like to play the sport, the Stuttgart Golf Course offers both groups a challenge.

"This is the longest American golf course in Germany," said Rick Massey, the manager of the Stuttgart Golf Course. The course is an 18-hole stretch, 6,995 yards long.

The club house has recently been renovated along with the pro shop and locker rooms, Massey said. The driving range has also been upgraded. Instead of driving off grass, driving mats made of artificial turf have been instituted.

Along with the course, the Stuttgart Golf Club has many benefits to offer the frequent golfer.

Club members pay a yearly green fee

based on the rank structure, Massey explained. The fees range from \$125 for E-1s to E-4s to \$225 maximum. Club members also have the right to reserve a tee time on weekends and holidays, and reserve lockers.

Non-members pay a \$9 daily green fee during the week, and \$12 on weekends, but they can still participate in all the club tournaments. Non-members pay an additional \$10 to maintain handicap, while members' handicaps are included in their yearly green fee.

"Club members save money overall," Massey said. "But, it's still an excellent deal for non-members."

A German golf club also shares the course. This club has 300 members (the Stuttgart Golf Club had 480 last year) with its own president and pays the Stuttgart Golf Course to use its facilities.

Massey said there are two main advantages in sharing with the Germans.

"One benefit is that we get to play in all their tournaments," he said. "And another advantage is that it promotes friendly German-American relationships."

An often overlooked facet of the golf course is the bar and restaurant.

"A lot of people don't realize that we have an excellent bar and restaurant here open to everyone — including non-golfers," Massey said. "We have an excellent menu and full dining service."

Anyone can enjoy the meals. Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the week followed by an evening meal from 5 to 10 p.m. On weekends and holidays, breakfast begins at 7 a.m. and meals run through the day.

The following tournaments are scheduled at the Stuttgart Golf Course:

May 26, a Friday evening, four-man scramble tournament beginning at 5:30 p.m.

May 28, the German-sponsored Neckartal cup beginning around 10 a.m. This tournament is open to American players.

June 9, a Friday evening, four-man scramble tournament beginning at 5:30 p.m.

June 17, the German-sponsored BMW Cup beginning around 10 a.m. This tournament is open to American players.

Play ball!

Don't strike out, wear protective gear

by Rolf M. Hetterich
GSMC Safety Manager

Perhaps Ron Cey, former Dodger third basemen, could tell a young player the importance of wearing a helmet. After all, he took a 100-mile per hour Goose Gossage fast ball in the temple. It stunned Cey and hurt him, but it didn't

kill him because he was wearing a helmet. The Goose, one of the great relief pitchers of all time, probably didn't do it on purpose, but nobody ever does it on purpose.

So wear a helmet and have a safe trip to the batter's box.

It's that time of year again: baseball season. The Major League season is under way and little leaguers all around

are set to play ball with visions of pitching no-hitters like Nolan Ryan and hitting a bottom-of-the-ninth inning homer like Kirk Gibson's blast in Game One of last year's World Series.

But, baseball isn't all no-hitters and game-winning homers.

Baseball, like all sports, presents its players with a potential for accidents and injuries. According to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 500,000 athletes sustained baseball-related injuries in 1987.

Personal protective equipment can prevent baseball-related injuries. For example, wild pitches are the greatest threat to batters. Therefore, batting helmets are an essential safety item for protection. To be effective, though, the helmet must fit comfortably.

Catchers are involved in most of the action in a baseball game. Thus, they are more vulnerable to injuries. They require extra protection, to include a helmet with face mask, a chest protector, and knee and shin guards.

Collisions on the playing field often result in injuries. Fielding players should always call out their intentions.

Throwing the bat while running to first base is a major source of injury among younger players. Coaches should inform players exactly what to do with the bat after hitting the ball.

The majority of injuries during a baseball game can be prevented by what you do before the game.

First, conduct an inspection of the field for holes, ditches, foreign objects, and uneven slippery areas. Also, inspect the playing and protective equipment for defects and fit.

Always keep a first aid kit on hand.

Assign responsibility to people for keeping loose equipment off the field. Have players remove watches, rings, pins, and other metallic jewelry before the game. Also encourage players who wear glasses to wear safety glasses instead.

The coaches must emphasize safety in practices. Make players safety-conscious.

Safety should be a priority in baseball programs. Baseball is a better game if it's made a safer game. So, get out there and PLAY BALL!



briefs

GSMC softball

The GSMC Community Women's softball team will be practicing Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Coffey Barracks.

For more information, contact SFC Shepard, 4212-395, or the GSMC Sports Office, 6315/7055.

Karate classes

Summer will soon be here, school will be out, and your children will be looking for something to do. Wouldn't it be nice if they were already involved in an activity?

Taekwon-do is a sport that offers discipline, camaraderie, a sense of achievement, and it is enjoyable. The instructor, Lesek Kwak, is a second degree black belt holder.

Classes are held at the Pattonville YS on Monday and Wednesday, and the RB YS on Tuesday and Thursday. There are classes offered for children 6-12 years of age, and adult classes, also. The cost is \$26 per month.

For more information, call Pattonville YS, 4282-550, or RB YS at 420-6140.

Drivers needed

The Robinson Barracks YS needs volunteer drivers with 2/3 license for our Summer Camp Program. This is an opportunity for volunteers to support the community, and serve as a role model for its children. Come out and take advantage of our exciting field trips during our Summer Camp Program.

For more information, call RB YS, 420-6140/6016.

Coaches needed

Head football coach Joe Brant is seeking to fill a few positions in voluntary assistant football coaches in the Stuttgart American High Varsity and Junior Varsity football program.

Any interested person with some experience at the junior or senior level of youth football are encouraged to contact Coach Brant at ETS 4282-843/881.

AFRC tennis deal

It's two sets in one at the Armed Forces Recreation Center this spring in Garmisch!

From now until June 1, you can get two Tennis Weeks for the price of one — just \$159. (Hotel room not included.)

The program includes five days of instruction, transportation to and from you hotel, welcome buffet, awards dinner and video analysis of your game. Classroom sessions will cover strategy and tactics, nutrition, conditioning, and weight training for tennis players.

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, AFRC offers this bargain to you and your family (12 years and older). For reservations, call ETS 440-2575 or civilian 0842-750575. Or write the Central Reservations Office, HQ, AFRC, AFPO 09053. The civilian address is Central Reservations Office, HQ, AFRC, Gernackerstrasse 2, 8100 Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Stepping Out with Evi Hofielen

May 8 - May 14
DAILY

SOCIETY THEATER
— Entertainment
and show, Stutt-
gart, Killesberg, 4
p.m. and 8 p.m.

**HORTICULTURAL
SHOW** — With
Europe's first
bamboo bridge,
"Phenomena" ex-
perimental show,
super playground
for children. Bie-
tighheim-Bissing-
en.

Monday, May 8
YOUTH CONCERT

— Works by Pou-
lenc, Saint-Saens, Jolivet, etc., Liederhalle, 7 p.m.
"KRUZ" — "Roehre," Wagenburgtunnel, Neckarstr.
34, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9

DIXIELAND AND SWING ORCHESTRA — Dixie-
land Hall, Marienstr. 3, 7:30 p.m.

TOKYO STRING QUARTETT — Liederhalle, 8 p.m.

BLUE GRASS JAMBOREE — "Roehre," Wagenburg-
tunnel, Neckarstr. 34, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10

MERRY WINE CRUISE ON NECKAR RIVER. De-
parture: Across from Wilhelma, 6:30 p.m.

BALLET NIGHT — Wuerttemberg State Opera House,
7:30 p.m.

ROYAL GARDEN RAMBLERS — Dixieland Hall,
Marienstr. 3, 7:30 p.m.

LUDWIG HIRSCH & BAND — Theaterhaus Stuttgart-
Wangen, Ulmer Str. 241, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 11

"MOON OVER PARADOR" — Feature film in En-
glish, Kino Atelier 2, Kronprinzstr. 6, 5:15 p.m.,
7:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m. thru Saturday May 17.

BALLET NIGHT — Wuerttemberg State Opera House,
7:30 p.m.

**BOBBY BURGESS AND THE BIG BAND EXPLO-
SION** — Dixieland Hall, Marienstr. 3, 7:30 p.m.

"JUDITH" — Opera, Forum am Schlosspark, Ludwigs-
burg, 7:30 p.m.

"TOTE HOSEN" — Rock and Pop, Sporthalle Boeb-
lingen, 8 p.m.

STUTTGART PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA —
Liederhalle, 8 p.m.

Friday, May 12

"HEROES" — Feature film in English, Amerika Haus,
Friedrichstr. 23A, 6 p.m.

PEARL & THE JAZZS — Dixieland Hall, Marienstr. 3,
7:30 p.m.

ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND — Buergerzentrum
Waiblingen, 8 p.m.

BALLET NIGHT — Wuerttemberg State Opera House,
8 p.m.

THE JEFF HEALEY BAND — Theaterhaus Stuttgart-
Wangen, Ulmer Str. 241, 8:30 p.m.

LITTLE MARTIN & THE ROOSTERS — Chicago
Blues, Musikhalle Ludwigsburg, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 13

SOCCER — SV Stuttgarter Kickers vs Bayern Muen-
chen, Neckarstadion, 3:30 p.m.

"FIDELIO" — Opera by Beethoven, Wuerttemberg
State Opera House, 7:30 p.m.

OLIVIA MOLINA — "El Tango," Liederhalle, 8 p.m.

"DEAD FACTS" — "Roehre," Wagenburgtunnel, Neck-
arstr. 34, 9 p.m.

STREET FEST — Schwaigern near Heilbronn, also Sun-
day, May 14.

"UPFUNKCOOLO" — Theaterhaus Stuttgart-Wangen,
Ulmer Str. 241, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 14

**BADEN-WUERTEMBERG BODY BUILDING
CHAMPIONSHIP** — Schwabenlandhalle, Fel-
lbach, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"WEDDING PRESENT, SPACEMAN 3" — "Roehre,"
Wagenburgtunnel, Neckarstr. 34, 9 p.m.

VOLKSMARCH

Saturday & Sunday: AALEN-HOFHERRNWEILBER,
POC: Karl Braun, Volkmarweg 14, 7080 Hof-
herrnweiler, tel: 07361-49999.

Sunday: WESTERNHAUSEN, POC: Liselotte Braun,
im Aeckerlein 4, 7109 Schoental-Westernhausen,
tel: 07943-482.

PREVIEW

PINK FLOYD — Open air concert, Neckarstadion,
Sunday, June 25.

"HAMBURG FISH MARKET" — Karlsplatz, Sunday,
July 16.

DATES, INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



High school carnival

The Stuttgart Elementary & Jr. High School P.T.S.O. will be sponsoring a community-wide carnival May 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the school. Over 6,000 prizes will be given away and 10 game booths to be played. The event is for ID card holders only.

For more information or to help, contact 0711-853335.

DSTS meeting

The West Germany — West Berlin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will hold their chapter meeting May 20 at 12:30 p.m., at the Pattonville Barracks Recreation center in Heidelberg.

For further information, call Janice Jones at 0711-3481137.

ASMC luncheon

The Stuttgart Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will host a luncheon May 17 at 11:30 a.m. at the Flak Community Club, Ludwigsburg.

The luncheon is open to all members and nonmembers alike. For reservations, call 4282-756.

SAME meeting

The Society of Military Engineers monthly meeting will be on May 18. A tour of the Audi plant in Neckarsulm will be conducted; bus departure is 237th Engineer Bn HQ, bldg. 28, Wharton Barracks, at 2 p.m.

Make reservations NLT Thursday by contacting 4262-487.

RB chapel prayer group

A charismatic prayer group will meet Sunday nights in the Robinson Barracks Chapel Annex, bldg. 118, at 7 p.m. All denominations are welcome to attend.

For details, contact 420-6209 or 0711-859522.

Special spring olympics

Community youth are invited to nominate their mother for the Krabbenloch Community Rec center's mother of the year contest.

1989 Special Olympics spring games will be held at the Stuttgart American High School in Pattonville May 31.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m., and events will run through 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with medal presentations, running events, and as huggers.

For additional information, call 420-7112.

'Mother of the Year' contest

Short essays on why your mom is the best, must be submitted to the center by today! Contest winners will be announced May 14. A \$3 entry fee will be charged. The 1st place essay will win mom a dinner at her favorite restaurant, 2nd place wins a pair of tickets to the Entertainment Branch's production "The King & I", 3rd place wins a box of candy.

For further information, call 4282-553.

Nellingen May program

May 14 — excursion to the Wilhelma Zoo, loading time is 9:30 a.m., departure is at 10 a.m. Bring DM for entry and lunch; sign up in advance.

May 17 — soldiers' dinner from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.; cost will be \$1.50 per person.

May 19 — Asian-Pacific Week will be celebrated from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 for children under 12 years of age, and \$5 for adults.

May 27 — excursion to Heidelberg, loading time is 9:30 a.m., departure is at 10 a.m. The cost is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults.

Piano lessons will be starting soon at the Nellingen Recreation center.

For more information, call 4216-234 or 0711-3482093.

"Pink" travel pass

Effective immediately, the Deutsche Bundesbahn (Germanrail) offers for DM 50 a 'rosaroten (pink)' travel pass for journeys over 50 km.

This pass will be on sale until September, and is

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valid for six months. With this rail pass, you are guaranteed 30% reductions on single and return journeys; children only pay half of the rate.

The passes may be purchased at all DB ticket offices and at travel agencies which sell rail tickets. A passport photograph and early application is required.

CFLC May program

The Chaplain Family Life Center, Robinson Barracks, is announcing the following upcoming activities for the month of May:

May 15 — "Thought Stopping" — stopping obsessions, worries, any thoughts you don't like;

May 16 — "Breathe Counting Meditation" — deep relaxation and mind clearing;

May 17 — "Improving Marriage Communication, Part I"

May 18 — "Improving Marriage Communication, Part II"

May 22 — "Stopping Irrational Thoughts" — changing self talk that causes stress and emotional disturbance;

May 23 — "Assertiveness Training" — learning to stand up for your legitimate rights;

May 30 — "Self-hypnosis" — reduces stress and facilitates auto-suggestion.

All groups will meet at 7 p.m. at the center; instructor for May 15, 16, 22, 23, and 30 is Ch Zabel. The classes on May 17 and 18 will be instructed by Loretta McGinley.

For additional information and sign-up, call Ch Zabel at 420-6219/7339.

Buga 89 in Frankfurt

Visit the National Horticulture Show in flourishing Frankfurt until October 15.

German Railway offers special 1st and 2nd class round-trip train tickets at 50% off! If you're traveling by car, you'll be directed to the Messe area (motorway A5, A648, exit Messe).

For further information, contact: Buga (Bundesgartenschau) — Press Department — Woogstrasse 64, 6000 Frankfurt/Main 50, phone number 069-17989.

Patch Club May schedule

Entertainment at the NCO/Enlisted Club:

Friday — Goldfinger Dico (Soul), 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; May 13 — Master Juke Disco, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; May 19 — Kenny's Country; May 20 — Atomic Dog Disco, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; May 26 — Easy G (Rock'n Roll), 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.; May 27 — USA Sound System Dico, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Entertainment at the Officer's Club:

Friday — Skyline Band; May 19 — Goldfinger Disco; May 26 — G Force Disco; all events are scheduled from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

For additional information, contact Mr. Kiefer at 430-7135.

Detective Tails



