

Marines dedicate Panzer Kaserne parade ground as 'Devil Dog Field'

By David S. Jones

U.S. Marine Forces Europe & Africa
and John Reese

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The U.S. Marine Corps has long been associated with the Battle of Belleau Wood and its role in stopping the German advance on Paris in June 1918.

To commemorate that service and sacrifice across the battlefields of Europe on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, Maj. Gen. Russell A. Sanborn, commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, dedicated the parade ground in front of the MARFOREUR/AF headquarters, Nov. 8, as "Devil Dog Field" to recognize the nickname the Marines earned in World War I after their fight at Belleau Wood.

World War I consumed millions of lives and forever changed the world, Sandborn said, adding that the the service and sacrifices of the American Expeditionary Force were a decisive factor in ending the war and set the Corps on the path to the modern fighting force that it has become.

"The names Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Mihiel, Blanc Mont and Meuse-Argonne will forever be remembered as the Corps' baptism of fire with modern warfare from



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Woods, senior enlisted adviser, MARFOREUR/AF (left) and Maj. Gen. Russell A. Sanborn, commander, MARFOREUR/AF, pose next to the newly unveiled memorial shaped like the 4th Marine Brigade's shoulder patch worn when the brigade entered Germany, Dec. 1, 1918.

which future generations would carry the torch on the battlefields of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Chosin, Hue, Fallujah and many other battlefields around the globe," Sandborn said.

Marines gathered on the chilly fall morning to witness the unveiling are familiar with the Belleau Wood legacy. With the 100th anniversary of the war's end and their assignment in Germany, they now have a better appreciation of the battles the Marines would go on to fight in the last five

months of World War I and the many American cemeteries in France where the fallen are interred.

The Devil Dog Field memorial is comprised of two stones from Belleau Wood, France, donated by a French farmer, featuring a bronze plaque and bronzed World War I U.S. doughboy helmet. It rests on an oval pad of dark cobblestones in the shape of the 4th Marine Brigade's shoulder patch worn when the brigade entered Germany on Dec. 1, 1918, to serve

with the army of occupation along the Rhine River until August 1919. The memorial was made possible by private donations.

"Marines take their traditions very seriously," said Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Woods, senior enlisted adviser, MARFOREUR/AF. "We love the fact that 100 years ago, on the battlefields of Belleau Wood, France, the Germans called the Marines who fought there in that battle 'Devil Dogs' because of their tenacity, their fierceness."

Additionally, Marine officers would also serve in, and in some cases command, Army units of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 6th, 27th, 32d, 35th, 90th, and 92d Divisions of the AEF. And for the only time in Marine Corps and Army history, a Marine would command an Army division in combat when Maj. Gen. John A. Lejuene assumed command of the 2d Division on July 28, 1918, until its return to the U.S. in August 1919.

"It was because of what happened in World War I, really, because of how the Marines fought in World War I, that I believe they exist today," Woods said.

With the dedication of Devil Dog Field, every Marine assigned to MARFOREUR/AF will have a daily reminder of those that came before them in the fight for freedom in Europe.



You-know-who and spouse made their first of four visits to the garrison footprint. The second appearance was at the AFRICOM fest, Nov. 30.

RB community lights up the night

By Moneé Luckey

Volunteer, USAG Stuttgart

The Robinson Barracks Zentrum, a common community space operated by a private organization of volunteers, marked its one-year anniversary with one big family-friendly holiday party. On Nov. 14, the RB community kicked off the holidays with a lantern walk, tree lighting ceremony and a visit by Santa.

The festivities began with an illuminated lantern walk. More than 150 children walked the short procession around RB, singing German holiday songs and carrying colorful lanterns of unicorns, dragons, mermaids and owls.

"In the past, the lantern walk has been coordinated by community residents who went out on their own," said Sabrina Wilson, RBZ president. "Last year, when we had our grand opening, it coincided with the lantern walk. This year, we decided to facilitate the lantern walk and

also combine it with the tree lighting ceremony and RBZ's one-year anniversary."

The crowd enjoyed hot drinks and holiday-themed performances by the Stuttgart High School Dance Club, the RBES Show Choir, community carolers, and remarks and the tree lighting by Capt. Robert D. Ryan, commander, HHC, USAG-Stuttgart.

The evening concluded with special appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus. The jolly couple stayed for free photos with community residents, big and small, in the RBZ community room.

The USO, MWR, RB Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and the Stuttgart High School baseball team were also on hand to help bring the event to life.

"This event has been overwhelmingly successful," said Leslie Watson, RBZ treasurer. "It's just amazing to see the community come together. It is our hope that the other bases will see the success of this and want to join us next year."



Photos by Sabrina Wilson, RBZ president. The RB tree, fully illuminated on Nov. 14. RB led the way in tree lighting ceremonies for 2018.

Garrison law enforcement offers tips to a safe, happy holiday season

By Chief Ruben Santiago

USAG Stuttgart Police Department

To make sure your holiday is merry and bright, there are some things you can do, to keep you and your family safe.

"The holiday season is a fun time of year, but it is also the time of year that thieves take advantage of the season," said Jacob White, deputy chief, USAG Stuttgart Police Department. "Over a 40 percent increase in crime occurs during November, December and January."

The garrison law enforcement has the following safety tips for your protection:

- Don't think that it can't happen to you.
- Always be aware of your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you. Don't get distracted.
- Walk purposefully, stand tall, and make eye contact with people around you.
- Stay alert!
- Make yourself a tough target.
- Trust your instincts; if you feel uncomfortable in a situation, leave.
- Don't shop alone.
- If being followed or stalked, call 110 or drive directly to a police station.

Traveling?

Make sure you know before you go. The USAG Stuttgart Police Department asks that you stay alert of your surroundings while traveling. If planning a road trip over the holidays, have your vehicle serviced and checked out sufficiently far ahead to allow for repairs if needed. Don't forget to have the mechanic check your



Photo by Holly DeCarlo-White

From left, USAG Stuttgart Police Chief Ruben Santiago, Sgt. Evan Lloyd and Staff Sgt. Scott Franz ensure the residents of Robinson Barracks have a safe time at the combined tree lighting, lantern walk and first anniversary of the RB Zentrum, Nov. 14. (See related story on p.1.)

spare tire and all fluid levels along with the other preventive maintenance procedures. Keep spare fuses and a breakdown kit in your vehicle at all times (see the suggested items list on this page). Breakdown kits may be purchased from a variety of sources, or you can assemble your own at any auto parts or hardware store using a commercial version as a guideline.

If traveling by vehicle, know where you are going and how to get there and

back. Get a current map or download the latest available GPS data. Select well-traveled and lighted thoroughfares. Keep in mind that routes which are congested during rush hour may be very lightly traveled at other hours, and check for construction detours; for longer trips, get a weather forecast. Use the Autobahns and arterial streets, and avoid less-traveled roads as much as possible, especially when driving at night or in unfamiliar

locations. Maintain at least half a tank of fuel, and keep vehicle in good repair. Travel and conduct your business during daylight hours if possible.

Inform a family member and your chain of command where you will be and when to expect you back; give them your route if they don't know it. When driving, keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up at all times. And never pick up hitchhikers!

Travelers should include the following in their breakdown kit:

- A thermal blanket/bag and a gallon of water.
- A "HELP" sign/flag and flares/reflectors.
- A flashlight (check batteries semi-annually).
- Duct tape.
- Jumper cables, a tire gauge and work gloves.
- Hand tools, such as pliers, screwdrivers and Allen wrenches-some rope and at least one bungee cord.
- Towels and toilet paper in a plastic bag.
- 12-volt tire inflator.
- A new, empty one-gallon gas can.

For more holidays safety tips, call the USAG Stuttgart Police Department at 431-2140.

Before you plug into that USB port ...

By Patrick Treder

Regional CyberSecurity Manager
G6/IMCOM-Directorate Europe

This is just a friendly reminder that we are not allowed to connect any unauthorized devices to our government computers. A new tool to track these connections has been recently installed. Some of the things they are finding are personal electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets, fans, lights, batteries, thumb/hard drives and other computers. The list of banned devices also includes government-issued phones.

If you are caught with an authorized device, U.S. Army-Europe and the Regional Cyber Center-Europe will disable your network account. To regain access, you will need to be counseled, retake your Acceptable Use Policy, retake the annual cybersecurity awareness training, and then have your commander (O6/GS15) sign a form that is submitted to USAREUR authorizing official for him to decide if you should regain access to the network. On average, this has been causing people to lose network access for 30 days for the first offense.

Use force protection awareness during the holidays

By Steven R. Watts

Antiterrorism Officer
Installation Management
Command-Europe

The next two months include a number of holiday celebrations and events that could be potential targets for terrorism. In addition to holiday fests and markets, other locations such as sporting events, tourist sites, restaurants, commercial centers, places of worship and the transportation sector may be at elevated risk.

Everyone should maintain a high

level of situational awareness and apply appropriate measures to reduce the risk of a terror attack, such as shopping during non-peak hours, avoiding areas near vehicle access points and minimizing time spent in unsecured areas of airports and other mass-transit nodes.

Report suspicious activity immediately, and ensure two way communication with your unit and family for accountability.

Enjoy the holidays and your time in Europe, but exercise caution and stay vigilant.

The Citizen

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What's open and what's closed over the holidays

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

With block leave and offices closing on and around the German and American holidays, the following is the announced limited hours and office closures. Not all offices provided information by press time, so if the directorate or other agency isn't listed below, members of the Stuttgart military community should call ahead. Additional changes for holiday hours will be posted www.stuttgartcitizen.com and the garrison Facebook page as they become available.

"I'll be bowl for Christmas ..."

The Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne will be open Dec. 24, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and 25, noon-6 p.m. The Galaxy will throw a New Year's Eve party, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., with unlimited cosmic bowling, shoe rental and a buffet for \$35 (kids 5-12 years old \$20); tickets for New Year's Eve went on sale Nov. 15. The bowling alley will open on New Year's Day at 1-8 p.m. Call 431-2575 or 07031-15-2575 for more info.

Customs early closure

The Stuttgart Customs Field Office in Rm. 303, Bldg. 2913, Panzer Kaserne, will be closed noon to 4 p.m., Dec. 7, for its office holiday party. Temporary fuel authorizations may be obtained from the MP Station located on Panzer Kaserne during the office closure and after duty hours.

Directorate of Emergency Services closures

The following DES offices will be closed: Vehicle Registration, Dec. 24, 25, 26, 28, 31 and Jan. 1; law enforcement administration, Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan. 1; Installation Access Control Office, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

DFAC

The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) dining facility will be closed from Dec. 17 until Jan. 2.

Community Mail Rooms

In addition to the normal weekday operating hours, your mail room's customer service window will be open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Jan. 5. All CMRs will be closed Sundays, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Note, this is the busiest time of the year and the CMRs are packed to the rafters with parcels. The postmaster asks that boxholders check their mail regularly, as the CMRs are receiving large amounts of mail every day and there is only a limited amount of shelf space to hold it; once that shelf space is full, CMR personnel cannot unload incoming mail.

Army Post Office

The four garrison APOs will be open Dec. 8, 15, 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on Saturdays. Customers may call ahead for appointments (except at the RB post



Photo by Lisa Hibbert, U.S. Africa Command

The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who (Maj. Gen. Todd McCaffrey, chief of staff, U.S. Africa Command and his wife Lisa) greet AFRICOM deputy chief of staff Col. Heather Warden to a Whoville-themed booth. AFRICOM hosted its annual tree lighting and Weihnachtsmarkt, Nov. 30, with activities for children and booths selling holiday items and food, plus music by the USAF JAZZ and the USAREUR bands and performances by local community groups.

office) during business hours; appointments will be made for the hour before the APO opens. Dec. 11 is the deadline for Priority Mail and First-Class Mail, and Dec. 17 for USPS Priority Mail Express. The time it takes for mail to go from Stuttgart to CONUS is:

- Express mail: 2-5 days
- Priority/1st Class: 4-10 days
- Partial Airlift (PAL): 2-4 weeks
- Space Available Mail (SAM): 4-6 weeks

Note, delivery by Dec. 25 not a guarantee unless otherwise noted.

The APO holiday hours are:

- Patch, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 430-7226 or 0711-680-7226.
- Panzer, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 431-2563 or 07031-15-2563.
- Kelley, Wednesdays and Fridays,

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 421-2542 or 0711-729-2542.

- Robinson, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3:30 p.m.

Other garrison services

- The Education Center on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1.
- The Military Testing Office will be closed Dec. 17-Jan. 1.
- The Military Personnel Division and the Central Processing Facility will have a reduced in-processing schedule, Dec. 17-Jan. 1, and will conduct only the community brief on Dec. 19 and 26. CPF, Passports, and Personnel Services Branch will be closed Dec. 24, 31 and Jan. 1.

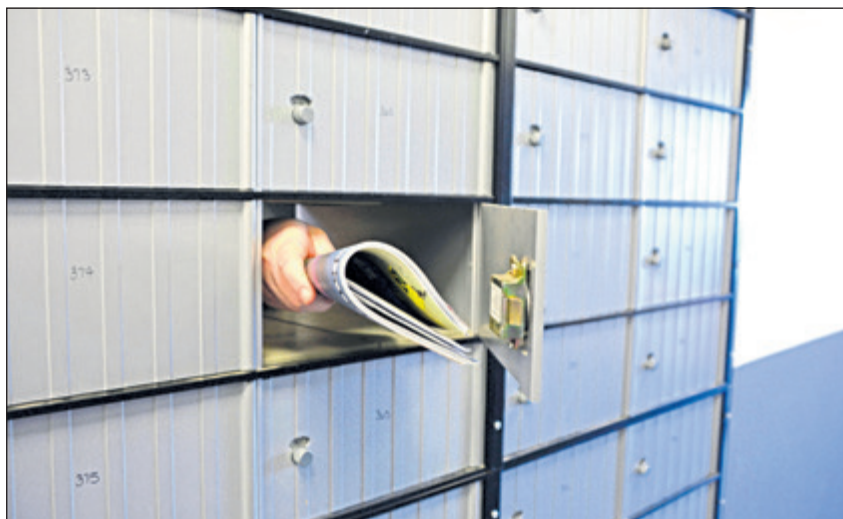


Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Come get your mail. The CMRs fill to bursting over the holidays, so much so that a new day's mail cannot be unloaded after the facilities are full.



Photo by USPS

Disabilities: Determining your level of awareness

By John D. Jones

Disability Program Manager
USAG Stuttgart

Since 1988, National Disability Employment Awareness Month has recognized the many challenges and barriers that are overcome related to recruiting and retaining persons with disabilities as employees.

Recently, the USAG Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office continued the legacy of increasing awareness through a brown bag "lunch & learn" with an interactive discussion. The highlight of the event was the panel of subject matter experts, from a variety of occupations, who gathered to answer questions from attendees. The panel included the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center staffing and recruitment specialist; local national Works Council representative for persons with severe disabilities; and legal counsel. Attendees also benefitted greatly from the expertise of Occupational Health staff member who joined the discussion.



Photo by Marilyn Jackson, 405th LRC

John D. Jones, USAG Stuttgart Disability Program Manager, leads a National Disability Employment Awareness Month "lunch & learn" discussion, Oct. 24.

Attendees at the event came from varied occupations ranging from administrative staff to senior leadership professionals. Participants were encouraged to have an interactive conversation with the panel members.

"I really enjoyed this training," said Heitza Calzada, secretary to the garrison commander. "I've never been informed of these kind of disability rights before."

The conversation during the question and answer period

highlighted the diversity of the attendees. Questions varied from technical issues about special hiring authorities to what kind of accommodations are available for Department of Army civilians and local national staff members. Of interest to many in attendance was a lively discussion about hiring veterans and how that process could sometimes overlap with reasonable accommodations requests.

To address the complexity of the topic and continue increasing awareness, the EEO Office is in the process of planning a follow up session that will feature more time for attendees to ask questions and take the conversation to a different location to reach a broader audience. Watch for additional information in upcoming issues of the Stuttgart Citizen as well as on the garrison Facebook page.

"I look forward to the next event and will bring more staff members so more people have a chance to learn about this subject," said Marilyn Jackson, 405th Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart.

'Tis the season to support the CFC charities of your choice

By John Reese

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The annual Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing and easier than ever to donate to the charities of your choice.

CFC 2018 opened its online portal Sept. 10, got in to full swing by Oct. 15 and runs until Jan. 11. Every week in October, November, December and (the last week of the campaign in January has a theme: environmental charities, for example. If you haven't already been approached by your unit/office's CFC rep, you can donate 24 hours a day here.

"The website is great because you no longer have to wait to be contacted or carry cash. You can do it at the office or while you are home," said Andy Munsterman, 2018 CFC community/

area project manager. "There are currently 7,953 different charities to choose from, so no matter what you support, you can find it online."

Paper pledges are still accepted but cash is no longer an option as of last year.

"Online is the best option," Munsterman said. "I encourage everyone to visit the website and find

something they passionately support. Your contribution is helping to support your cause and your community."

Money isn't the only way members of the Stuttgart military community can contribute. The CFC now accepts hands-on help pledges of time from

those who could volunteer instead of donating cash.

Whether you make

your pledge online or on paper, be sure to check the specifics of the charity to see how effective your donation will be.

"Your unit can be located online so that your organization gets credit for the donation," Munsterman said.

Donors may remain anonymous if they wish.

Since it began 57 years ago, CFC has raised more than \$8 billion for charities.

Did you know ...

Donations to CFC can be directed back into the Stuttgart military community by using the following codes on your pledges:

- USAG Stuttgart HHC, HQ and staff: JEJAWJ
- Directorate of Human Resources: NJPXX8
- Directorate of Public Works: MWQQQM
- Directorate of S 3/5/7 (formerly DPTMS): 5QVUPC



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Monthly visits by VA rep help with claims process and more

Story and photo by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Navigating the claim process with the Department of Veterans Affairs can be a daunting task, but it gets a lot easier when you have a knowledgeable Overseas Military Services Coordinator like Joshua Gregory in your corner.

“Basically, [OMSC is] an outreach position to try to help service members, veterans and sometimes their dependents as a point of contact [with the VA], mainly with disability compensation, but also as a point of contact for other VA service that they may have questions about.

“A separated service member will come in, head swimming with all of the information, overwhelmed, ‘I don’t know what to do,’ and I’ll just sit down with them and explain my background with the VA, what I do state-side, and how that plays into what I do here, and take the time to go head-to-toe and discuss everything they want to claim,” Gregory explained. “I’ll help them word it, type an email listing everything they need to do to claim so they can cut and paste it to their application. And if they have trouble with that, I’ll walk them through the e-benefits portion.”

Gregory noted some examples of the kinds of issues veterans and those retiring have concerns about, such as the medical program, healthcare overseas and burial benefits. He visits USAG Stuttgart one week per month or as much as there’s demand, as well as attending a few Retiree Appreciation Days and other events to let people know he’s here in Germany to help.

The first step is to make an appointment through the garrison’s Army Community Service office. ACS knows when he’s going to be here and his schedule, and can set up the appointment time.

“They don’t have to come in with a complete copy of their service treatment, medical records, but it would be helpful, especially for those about to be discharged from the military if they were to review their problem list,” Gregory said. “They get a copy and review it just so they’re aware of what’s in there, and then come in with an idea of what they want to claim.

Also provide advice on how to submit documents to get them into the system.

When service members or veterans come in, it’s helpful if they’re aware of what they might claim.

“A lot of times the service member will come in and be uncertain about whether a symptom he or she is having is a disability, and that’s something I’ve discussed through with them, because that’s what I do in the States—disability decisions,” Gregory said.

Gregory came to Stuttgart from the VA in Nashville, Tenn., with 11 years experience with the VA as an authorizer, the VA representative who makes the final review before the money and the letter go out. He’s currently a rating specialist, one of the people who review medical evidence, service treatment records, personnel records and filters that evidence through the laws and regulations to decide if the veteran is entitled to compensation.

To set up an appointment with the VA OMSC, call ACS at 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362.



OMSC Joshua Gregory brings his experience to the USAG Stuttgart ACS monthly to help service members, veterans and their family members to file VA claims.

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The Stuttgart Law Center wants to hear from you

By Capt. Nicole A. Oberjuege
Judge Advocate, US Army

The Stuttgart Law Center is the primary legal office for members of the USAG Stuttgart community. Here at the SLC, we process claims and German tickets, give notaries and powers of attorney, and provide legal consultations with U.S. and German attorneys on a host of legal issues to include family law, military law, landlord/

tenant law and personal finance.

In Client Services, meeting the needs of the military community is our primary goal. Since August 2018, the Client Services division has taken actions to increase customer service. We expanded the hours of the SLC and are now open during the lunch hour on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday to facilitate access by Stuttgart community members who live and work on Patch, Panzer, and Robinson.

Starting in December, we will be providing notary and POA services weekly on Panzer and monthly on Patch for one hour 9–10 a.m. to increase outreach to service-members, civilians and family members. The schedule is as follows:

- Panzer – ASAP, Bldg. 2948, Dec. 11 and 18.
- Patch – Chapel Annex, Dec. 19, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20.

The SLC re-instituted the bi-weekly AFN “Ask a JAG” segment to cover general legal problems and better inform the population on hot-button legal

issues. The Client Services division also submits monthly articles for the Stuttgart Citizen on preventative law topics and general information. And in coordination with the garrison Knowledge Management team, the SLC initiated an online-appointment request system so individuals can request appointments. This is the first Army installation, and first Army JAG Corps Client Services Division, to offer an online appointment process.

Further, the SLC has requested the addition of another German attorney to ease the backlog of appointment requests for individuals requesting assistance on German legal issues.

We also put in time-limited SLC parking signs to enable clients to park near the Law Center.

We want to hear from the community on ways we can better serve you and receive feedback on what is helpful. Tell us about topics you want to hear about on “Ask a JAG” or read about in the Stuttgart Citizen. We need to hear about the processes that are not

Need legal advice?

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, visit the Stuttgart Legal Assistance Office in Bldg. 3312, Kelley Barracks; call 421-4152 or 0711-729-4152; or email us-army.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.slcla@mail.mil. You can also request an appointment through the USAG Stuttgart mobile app or by visiting www.stuttgartcitizen.com/appointments.

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working, but we also need to hear about the processes and systems which are working. If you like or appreciate any of the listed changes, let us know. If you hate them, let us know. To provide feedback, please put in an ICE comment to the Staff Judge Advocate/Stuttgart Law Center/ Tax Office

We look forward to serving you.

Dear Readers,

We hope you enjoy this last edition of The Citizen for 2018.

AdvantiPro, the publisher of your The Citizen, will close its offices from Monday, December 24 through January 6. The first 2019 edition of The Citizen will be distributed on Thursday, January 10.

AdvantiPro would like to thank all of our readers & advertisers for the great support we have enjoyed in 2018!

We are very proud to serve
USAG Stuttgart
and the military community!

We hope you and your family have a safe holiday season and of course we will see you in the new year.

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Have a situationally aware holiday season

By William J. Christina
Antiterrorism Officer
Protection Branch
USAG Stuttgart

All members of the Stuttgart military community should maintain a keen sense of awareness and an elevated vigilance as they live, work and enjoy Europe during the winter holiday season.

Transnational terrorist groups and their supporters continue to plot against U.S. interests worldwide. In Europe, lone-actors and ad-hoc cells still pose the greatest terrorist threat. In recent years, terrorists in Europe have plotted against civilian, military and other official targets. Civilian targets have included tourist locations, transportation hubs, Christmas markets, concert halls, sporting arenas, festivals and shopping malls. Military targets have included installations and random attacks on service members off-post.

While allied counter-terrorism efforts routinely thwart plots in Europe, detecting and disrupting them remain a challenge, especially

when terrorists resort to simple weapons in unsophisticated attacks. This has been demonstrated in Europe on numerous occasions in 2018, with attackers armed with firearms, edged weapons or vehicles as weapons.

Personnel must reduce potential risk when traveling, or visiting attractions, entertainment, and other venues and activities. It is prudent that personnel develop, refine, and implement sound individual/family emergency

plans; ensure everyone in the family/travel group knows the plan; and continue to take appropriate measures for their safety, security and well-being.

Keep in mind, if you see something that is out of place and doesn't seem right, or perhaps someone conducting suspicious activity, report it immediately. It may be nothing of consequence. However, it could also make the difference between a successful or thwarted terrorist attack.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Angel Tree kickoff

USAG Stuttgart Army Community Service coordinators Merilee Nevins and Basil Forrest prepare the annual Angel Tree kickoff for community members to select a card for a family.

Panzer Main Exchange extended holiday return policy offers convenience

Army Air Force Exchange
Service
News Release

To make this holiday season less stressful for military shoppers, the Panzer

Main Exchange is extending its return policy for items purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24.

The Exchange's standard policy allows returns

from 15 to 90 days after purchase with a sales receipt or online order confirmation depending on the item. The holiday return policy extends those terms through Jan. 31.

"Sometimes you get that perfect gift — and sometimes you don't," said Sam Shinault, manager, Panzer Main Exchange. "With the extended return policy, service members, retirees, veterans and their family members will have plenty of time to make an effortless exchange or a trouble-free return."

Veterans who have registered to shop online can use the extended holiday return policy. They can return ShopMyExchange.com merchandise purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24 by mail or by calling 1-800-527-2345 for assistance through Jan. 31.

Military shoppers can find out more information or return items purchased in-store or online by visiting the Panzer Main Exchange customer service.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

National American Indian Heritage Month

Member of the Apsaalooke Nation (Crow Tribe) and Army veteran Kenneth Old Elk talks to participants of the National American Indian Heritage Month observance stories about his family history, at the Swabian Special Events Center, Nov. 21.

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Optometry	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Optical	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sehne	0700 - 1600	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700 - 1600	CLOSED
Burger King	0700 - 1700	CLOSED	0700 - 2000	0700 - 1700	CLOSED
Pizza Hut	1030 - 1700	CLOSED	1030 - 2000	1030 - 1700	CLOSED
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Tips on how to purchase safe toys, gifts for kids

The Stuttgart Health Clinic
News Release

In the United States, emergency rooms treated 251,800 toy-related injuries, according to the report issued last year from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And, 44 percent of the injuries were to the head and face area, the area of the body with the most injuries. An estimated 84,400 of all toy-related injuries, or 34 percent, happened to children younger than 5 years of age.

In addition, a new study published in *JAMA Ophthalmology*, "Epidemiology of Sports-Related Eye Injuries in the United States," found that basketball, baseball, and air guns were the most common causes of injury, accounting for almost half of all primary sports-related eye injuries. An eye care professional can provide recommendations for the best protection for each sport and athlete.

December is "Safe Toys and Gifts

Awareness Month" and the Stuttgart Health Clinic offers the following tips for safety: avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off; ask yourself or the parent if the toy is right for the child's ability and age; review the recommended age for that particular toy as this also addresses safety; consider whether other smaller children may be in the home that may have access to the toy; avoid purchasing toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods, or dangerous edges; and buy toys that will withstand impact and not break into dangerous shards.

Look for the letters ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials). This designation means the product meets the national safety standards set by ASTM International.

Don't give toys with small parts to young children. Young kids tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If any part of a toy can fit in a toilet paper roll, the toy is not appropriate for children



Photo by seirceil/Shutterstock.com

under the age of 3.

Do not purchase toys with long strings or cords, especially for infants and very young children as these can become wrapped around a child's neck.

Always dispose of uninflated or broken balloons immediately.

Magnets, like those found in magnetic building sets and other toys, can be extremely harmful if swallowed. Seek immediate medical attention if you suspect a child may

have swallowed a magnet.

Read all warnings and instructions on the box. Always supervise children and demonstrate to them how to use their toys safely. Test small toys or parts for safety. Try this with a cardboard toilet paper roll. If items can fit into the roll, they are too small and should be kept away from young children. You can also buy a small-part toy tester at a toy store.

KidsHealth.org recommends that bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and inline skates should never be used without helmets that meet current safety standards and other recommended safety gear, like hand, wrist and shin guards.

More information

To learn more about safe toys and gifts for children, please visit preventblindness.org/safe-toy-check-list. For more information on sports eye protection and safety, please visit www.preventblindness.org/sports-eye-safety.

Flu shots still available

Community members may still get their annual flu shot at the Stuttgart Health Clinic between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. as a walk-in or during a regular appointment.



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Photos © Dirk Kittelberger

USO to host holiday dinner for single and unaccompanied service members

By Sarah Kemp
USO Center-Stuttgart

The USO Center-Stuttgart wants to ensure everyone has a family to celebrate with during this holiday season. To do that, it will host its annual single and unaccompanied holiday dinner on at the USO Center on Panzer Kaserne 6 p.m., Dec. 13. All ranks are welcome and registration is required.

Last year's sponsor, Service Credit Union, gave the 55 participants in attendance a Visa gift card; this year, it is opened up to 100 guests.

USO volunteers prepared a delicious ham meal, complete with all the sides and pie for dessert. Service members picked a number from a hat to determine what order



Photos courtesy of USO Center-Stuttgart

Single and unaccompanied service members enjoy a complimentary holiday dinner, complete with presents, 2017. This year marks the second time of the USO hosting a holiday meal for service members.

they were allowed to pick a wrapped present from under the tree ... or to steal one from another player. The stakes were high and

the hilarity ensued. There were also a few grand prizes for the lucky people who ended up with an envelope after the reading of a story. A

silly photo booth with props rounded out the night of laughs, good food and holiday presents.

"It was a lot of fun stealing gifts from others. Like the Grinch, but more funny than mean-spirited. All my Marines had a great time," said Staff Sgt. Victor Claros.

Join us this year by registering at the link on USO Stuttgart's Facebook page or center website.

Toy Drive

Drop off a new, unwrapped toy to the USO Center during normal operating hours between now and Dec. 14. Toys will be wrapped and taken to a German kindergarten Dec. 20, to give back to those in the local community who could use it most.

National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

There will be two sessions at the USO Center

to craft your own ugly Christmas sweater: 10 a.m.-noon and 3-5 p.m., Dec. 21. The USO will provide the sweatshirts, glue and all kinds of festive decorations. Ages 12 and up only.

Christmas Day Are you stuck in a hotel or stuck with duty on Christmas? The USO and the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center have you covered. The bowling center will be open from noon to 6 p.m., with a reduced price for bowling, plus the USO will offer a free holiday hot meal from noon to 1:30. Registration is strongly encouraged, so we can plan accordingly how much food to make. Take-away boxes are also available for those who must work. Bowl, eat and enjoy! However you order it, it is going to be a good time.

(Editor's note: No federal endorsement is implied.)



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USO volunteers serve up Thanksgiving dinner at the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) dining facility, Nov. 22. The USO will be teaming up to serve a holiday meal with the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center on Dec. 25.

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Photos by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Scrooge is confronted with his possible unhappy fate by the Ghost of Christmas Future.

Don't be a Scrooge! Come see 'A Christmas Carol'

By Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Kelley Theatre Center is currently presenting the Charles Dickens holiday classic, 'A Christmas Carol,' the story about the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his realization of how he had changed for the worse as he became embittered in life, courtesy of three ghosts who take him on a review of his past, present and future.

The 22 member cast

and crew, 10 of whom are participating in their first play either as an actress/actor or as an assistant, help bring this Christmas classic to the Stuttgart community. As always, the stage setup is outstanding, but for this play, kudos really have to go out to Carena Walter who is responsible for the costume design. The details and creativity of the costumes help take the audience to the era of the play. There is no doubt, her creativity is truly

showcased in the costume she designed for the ghost of Christmas present. Keeping the costume on was probably Mike Taylor's biggest challenge when performing his role as the ghost of Christmas present.

Although not a musical, the cast really does a great job of melding the various holiday songs into the script of the play as most of the songs are sung as a chorus.

The majority of the

newcomers are children and hopefully they will continue to bless the stage with their presence as they do a great job.

The play is led by a talented group of veterans such as: Edward Gaietto, who is outstanding as Ebenezer Scrooge, Matthew Holmes, who shines in his role as Bob Cratchit, David Burmedi, who plays a gnarly Marley, and Ryan Coffey, who literally shines as the ghost of Christmas past.



Before his transition, Ebenezer Scrooge turns a deaf ear to the entreaties of poor children.

Performances will be held Dec. 7, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and matinees on Dec. 2, 9, and 16 at 3 p.m. A special invited performance for Exceptional Family Member Program participants will be held Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. The price of admission is \$17 for adults, \$15 for students and children. To reserve seats, call the ticket office at 421-3055 or 0711-729-3055, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. You can also go on-line at: usarmy.stuttgart.imcom.mbx.theatre-center@mail.mil.



The ghost of Jacob Marley, Scrooge's late business partner, comes rattling in his chains onto center stage.

NEWS BRIEFS

**Panzer tree lighting**

The 'Frosty Fest' and Panzer Kaserne tree lighting will be held 2-8 p.m., Dec. 7 in the Galaxy Bowling Center's parking lot. Events and activities for all ages will include ice skating, snow tubing, ice climbing and curling. Warm soup, Glühwein, various food items and other tasty treats will be available. The tree lighting will be at 6 p.m. and Santa Claus will be on hand for photos and greetings.

Be an angel

Operation Angel Tree gives the USAG Stuttgart military community an opportunity to highlight its

motto, "I'm glad I live here," by sharing holiday happiness with families needing assistance in providing gifts for their children. A tree containing the angel tags will be displayed until Dec. 14. During this time, community members may select angel display cards noting age, size, and wishes of community children to purchase gifts for them. Wrapped gifts need to be turned into Army Community Service in Bldg. 2915 or in the Exchange customer service area no later than noon, Dec. 14.

Now be an angel and slow down

The garrison MPs report an increase in speeding violations. They also keep a demerit point database of citations. Three to 6 points can be assessed against a license (depending on the severity of the speed violation) and drivers assessed with 12 points in a one-year period, or 18 points in a two-year period, will face the loss of driving privileges. Regulations say the maximum speed limit for vehicles on post is 30 KPH unless otherwise posted.

Garrison Army-Navy football game

Stuttgart will hold its own Army-Navy flag football games at Stuttgart High School, Dec. 8. The ladies will scrimmage at 2 p.m., followed by the guys at 3 p.m. For participation details, call 0711-680-5404 or 07031-152724.

There's still time

What do you mean, you haven't sent your season's greetings or presents yet? If you're sending cards and gifts to domestic U.S. addresses for expected delivery by Dec. 25, you need to mail by Dec. 11 for Priority Mail and First-Class Mail, and by Dec. 17 for USPS Priority Mail Express.

HR holiday closures

The following Directorate of Human Resources sections will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31: the Central Processing Facility (in-processing in Bldg. 2915), passports and Personnel Services Branch. Additionally, the CPF will be on a reduced in-processing schedule,

Dec. 17-30, and will only conduct normal community briefs on Dec. 19 and 26.

Take the tour

The next Capital City Visitation Program newcomers tour takes place Monday, Dec. 10. This last CCVP tour of the year may be full at press time, but you can still inquire about extra spaces due to no-shows and ask about 2019 tours. It is a great way to get to know the local government and get a first glance at downtown. Read more about it and sign up at www.stuttgartcitizen.com.

Last chance to evacuate!

The next Evacuation Coordinator Training will be Thursday, Dec. 20, in the Firehouse (near Panzer at Waldburgstraße 104, 71032 Böblingen. This is the last class currently scheduled. The mandatory training is in accordance with AR420-1. Pre-register per email if you plan to attend. For more information, call 431-3830 or 431-3857.

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New meeting location for CAP

The Civil Air Patrol-Stuttgart Flight now meets in the lower level of Patch Fitness Center (Bldg. 2337), Patch Barracks, Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The CAP is for community members aged 12 and up who are interested in aviation and service to the country. Call 0170 7027412 or visit www.stuttgart-CAP.com or www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

**Glad in plaid**

Join the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club, 5:30 p.m., Dec.

11, for its "Flannel and Frost Event." Wear your comfy pajamas, decorate wreaths and bring two pairs of mittens (one for a mitten exchange and one to donate). Shop and socialize at a breakfast buffet beginning at 6:30 p.m. Guests will team up with their table mates to decorate a



wreath to compete for prizes (all supplies included). All wreaths will be donated and placed in service members' barracks. Visit www.stuttgartspousesclub.org to

make your pre-paid reservation. Payment reservation deadline was Dec. 3, so check for availability.

Volunteers needed for retirees

Volunteers are needed to run the Retiree Services Office and to be on the retiree council. Call 431-2010 or 07031-15-2010.

Save lives

A two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop at the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks, is available, Jan. 29-30, for anyone



desiring to learn suicide "first-aid" by learning

how to: recognize opportunities for help; reach out and offer support; develop a safety plan that neutralizes risks; apply the "Pathway for Assisting Life;" link people with community resources. The workshop is for all Gatekeepers (chaplains and chaplain assistants, Military Police, ASAP counselors, trial defense and legal assistance attorneys, Family Advocacy Program Workers, Inspectors General, Army Emergency Relief counselors, DoDEA school counselors, emergency room medical technicians, Red Cross workers, and

medical/dental health professionals). There is no charge to attend the workshop. Call 431-2699/2865 to register.

Register your personnel

Central Processing now has a new CAC-only link for unit/command sponsors to register incoming personnel. To use the system, the sponsor must login through the garrison SharePoint using a CAC. For information on becoming a sponsor or sponsor training for service members or spouses, call 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362.

Apt app

Get the garrison mobile app, an informational mobile app including one-touch emergency contacts, quick appointment links, the bus schedule, things to do and more. Search "USAG Stuttgart" in Google Play or iTunes and download the free app.

Notice

Anyone having any claims or obligations to the estate of Mr. Larry T. Alford of the U.S. Africa Command J5 Directorate should contact the summary court officer, Maj. Josh Borrell, at 421-2184 or 0152 2449 2451.

SCSC PATCH THRIFT SHOP ADJUSTED HOURS!!

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Saturday (1 st & 3 rd of the Month)	10:00am to 2:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

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The therapy works with two different types of ultrasound. The optical ultrasound, known from organ

**Canan Kreis**

diagnostics, defines the skin layer on a screen, which is followed by bundled ultrasound provoking specific impulses. The deeper layers of the connective tissue are temporarily heated to up to 50°C. This allows loosened collagen fibres to pull themselves together and results in a reproduction of elastic and collagen fibres in the connective tissue cells where the production normally ceases after 35 years.

The heat therefore reaches layers that can otherwise only be treated via surgery. It leads to a tightening of the deeper layers, resulting in smooth skin.

The special aspect of the ultrasound therapy is that it uses the body's own repair mechanisms to gently and gradually rebuild the skin and its natural support system below.

Which face and body parts can be treated?

STK can be applied on the entire face. The treatment is ideal for the cheek, chin and neck area. Small wrinkles around the eyes can be treated, too, and eyebrows can be lifted. It can further be used to tighten cleavage, arms, elbows and legs.

What are the advantages of this method?

The very natural result and minimal side effects. The method is also mostly pain-free.

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Veterans Day observed at PES and Patch Chapel

Story and photos by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Two Veterans Day observances took place, Nov. 9 and 11, at Patch Elementary School and the Patch Chapel, respectively.

The annual PES observance took place in the morning before classes with the entire student body present to listen to 5th grade student and event emcee Averi Johnson, and guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia, senior enlisted adviser, USAG Stuttgart.

"Veterans Day is about honoring our veterans who fought in wars and died for our freedom," Johnson said.

Tia inspired the children and veterans in attendance using a mix of humor and mentoring guidance. He singled out the students for their rendition of the National Anthem as being patriotic.

"Do well in school, because you're the future," Tia told them. "On behalf of our whole team here in Stuttgart, the many services we represent, we want to tell you all, thank you so very much for being great stewards of our nation. And say to your moms, dads, uncles and aunts, 'Thank you for your service.' Write them a little thank you letter ... and maybe clean up your room a little bit ... and continue to do well in school. And



Retired 1st Sgt. James Terrell, PES administrative officer, and 5th grader Tommy Brayden Batson, sing the National Anthem with the student body after raising the flag, Nov. 9.

you'll remember this day, because we never want to forget."

Veterans and active service members were invited to stand on the school steps to be recognized by the students.

At Patch Barracks, commemorative wreaths were placed inside the chapel and later moved outside to Washington Square on the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

Joe Holder, school liaison officer, participated in both observances as both Navy retiree and representative of VFW Post 10810, including rendering taps.



Emcee Averi Johnson, 5th grade, delivers a stirring speech about the importance of Veterans Day.



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Cadets finish CAP 'Great Start' program

Story and photo by CAP Senior Member
David Winter

Public Affairs Officer

Stuttgart Flight, Civil Air Patrol

The Stuttgart Flight of the Civil Air Patrol–Ramstein Wing recently held an open house following a three-week trial period where new cadets experienced what 2019 has in store for them after joining the CAP.

After six weeks of training, eight cadets graduated the CAP's "Great Start" program and were pinned with their Cadet/Airman wings. The future leaders learned Air Force customs and courtesies, drill & ceremony, core values and proper wear of uniform. After passing the leadership and drill & ceremony test, the cadets received their first set of wings and the Curry Award to wear on the blue uniform.

"They have come a long way," said Canaan L. Eggers, cadet flight sergeant and 15-year-old Stuttgart High School student. "A few have left because it wasn't what they wanted. Those who have stayed are motivated."

1st Lt. Corwin A. Turner, cadet flight commander and 17-year-old SHS student spoke of the fundamentals the cadets learned.

"Great Start is a great program to learn all of the basics before getting into the heavier classes like search & rescue and aerospace education," Turner said.

Upon their return to the States, the cadets will have ample opportunities to work search and rescue missions. In 2018 to date, the CAP has saved 157 people.

Call 0170702-7412 to learn more about joining the CAP. Cadets can be as young as 12.



Cadet/Airman 1st Class Vivian E. Neuner is promoted to Cadet Senior Airman by Flight Commander Cadet 1st Lt. Corwin Turner (right) and her father, CAP 2nd LT. Chris Upeslaci, Sept. 11.

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By Ch. (Lt. Col.)
Stanton D. Trotter
Assistant Command Chaplain
U.S. European Command

I must confess that I am not very athletic nor was I athletic when I was a young boy. But that never stopped my parents from encouraging me to play sports. Year after year during my youth, I participated with many local park leagues. I kept thinking that one day, when I got older, I would get better and be the star player or maybe just the first string.

During one of those long basketball seasons where my team was getting hammered by almost every team in the league, my coach was determined to win some games. He started paying close attention to who was playing and making sure he was putting the best team out on the court all of the

time. This meant that I did not get to play much, but my saving grace was a league rule that stated that all members of the team had to play a certain amount of minutes each game.

Each and every game, I sat on the edge of the bench just waiting for the coach to turn to me and say those magic words: "Number 8, get in there and replace number 10." I'd tear off my warm-up outfit and run to the referee's table to check in. When the refs called for subs to get into the game, I sprinted onto the court. What I lacked in skill, I made up for in enthusiasm.

We often don't see this same type of enthusiasm with professional athletes, but I remember attending a semi-professional basketball game a few years ago where I witnessed something very similar. Because of crazy travel plans,

half of one particular team was not able to make it to a game, so the coach only had six players from his normal team. This didn't stop him or the team from playing the scheduled game; the coach hired a few local basketball players and signed them to a one-day contract. They sat on the bench, to be used only if he really needed them.

During the fourth quarter, the game was really close and one of the original six players was getting really tired. The coach looked to the bench and

his "one-day contract players." He wondered who to pick to put in the game. He looked at all of them and asked, "Who wants to play?" A young man sitting on the edge of the bench jumped right up and said, "Put me in coach. I want to play."

As we journey through life, I encourage you to look at each and everyday as a chance to get into the game and play. God calls us to live a full life in connection with those around us. He wants us sitting on the edge of our own bench and eagerly jumping in to help those around us.

Another way of under-

standing this is to think of the biblical term "Kingdom of God" and understand it as "kingdom of God." This is a realization that everyone around us is a child of God, and we are called by God to live in support of all of God's children.

The next time you see someone who needs some encouragement, a helping hand, a ride home from work, help fixing a problem or just a friendly word of greeting, realize that this is your chance to get into the game. Jump from the edge of your bench and live a daily life that says to God, "Put me in coach."

USAG-Stuttgart Religious Support Office 2018 Religious Service Schedule

Catholic Services

Dec. 7 – Vigil Mass for Feast of the Immaculate
5:30 p.m. @ Patch Chapel

Dec. 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
10 a.m. @ Patch Chapel

Dec. 12 – Advent Penitential Service
5:30 p.m. @ Patch Chapel (Penitential Service)

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Mass
4:30 p.m. @ Panzer Chapel (Christmas Eve Mass)
8 p.m. @ Patch Chapel (Christmas Eve Mass)

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass
noon @ RB Chapel (Penitential Service)
5 p.m. @ Patch Chapel

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
11:45 @ Patch Chapel
7:30 p.m. @ Panzer Chapel

Protestant Services

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
5 p.m. @ Patch Chapel
8 p.m. @ RB Chapel

Dec. 30 – Feast of the Holy Innocents
8:30 p.m. @ Panzer Chapel

Jewish Service

Dec. 7 – Chanukah Celebration
6 p.m. @ Panzer Chapel

For more information contact the Religious Support Office @ 431-3079 (Commercial 07031-15-3079) or usarmy.stuttgart.id-europe.mbx.rso-events@mail.mil



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'Young Americans' bring resilience to Stuttgart

By Joe Holder
School Liaison Office
USAG Stuttgart

In early November, the Young Americans International Outreach Tour–Fall 2018 arrived in Stuttgart as part of its three-month European tour to provide a three-day workshop for 158 Stuttgart kids, culminating in a two-act show to a crowd of more than 500 community members.

The traveling YA cast members are a group of 40 international (mostly American) women and men who arrived with a lot of energy and the knack to get kids to step outside of their artistic comfort zones. They built self-confidence, team work and resiliency.

"I was terrified trying something new," said Stuttgart High School 9th grader Kenzie Huebschman. "The YA cast members encouraging us performing

for the community is one thing I'll never forget."

To house the YA during their Stuttgart stay, community member Susanne Galvin coordinated 15 families to open their homes to the performers. She said opening her home and making the YAs feel welcome was the best experience for her husband and family.

"Coming to Stuttgart is like a breath of fresh air and a place for us to feel at home," said Chloe

Hagmann, YA tour manager. "The families here gave us the America we have missed while on tour in Europe."

The first act of the YA show highlighted all of the talent within the troop. The second act, added our kids with singing, dancing, costumes, and props.

Although the Young Americans of 2018 have gone, they will return in 2019 to once again push the envelope of the Stuttgart kids.



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
Stuttgart's "Young Americans" perform for an audience of more than 500 community members, Nov. 4.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Education

National Blue Ribbon School award

Alexander M. Patch Elementary School Principal Beverly Erdmann, second from left, and school counselor Jan Kuenning, center, accept the 2018 National Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C., Nov. 8. The school was designated an exemplary high performing school. PES was one of 349 elementary schools across the nation to receive the Blue Ribbon.

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Employment search strategies made simple

By Jessica LaGassey-Simpson
Coordinator
USAG Stuttgart Army Community Service

For many of us, finding employment in a new community can seem like a daunting task. Army Community Service is here to guide you as you begin your job search at USAG Stuttgart. ACS' Employment Readiness Program (ERP) offers services to all job seekers with I.D. cards: military and civilian spouses, civilians, contractors, retirees, and Active Duty members preparing to transition out of the military.

ERP offers the "Lunchtime Learning Series" on selected Tuesdays of the month,

highlighting a different topic each time. Attendees can bring a brown bag lunch and eat while an ACS facilitator shares helpful tips to enhance employment skills. Class topics include resume writing for the private sector; building your federal resume in USAJOBS; interview skills; how to work a job fair; marketing your volunteer experience on your resume; and "You have a LinkedIn account...now what?" In just 90 minutes, jobseekers can gain general knowledge and boost their confidence, motivating them to create a resume or refresh their current one while applying the guidelines they learned in class.

One-on-one employment assistance is also available. Clients can contact ACS to schedule an

appointment to meet with a staff member for private sector or federal resume reviews, tutorials on how to navigate USAJOBS, support for other types of online employment applications, cover letter development, and even mock interviews.

The ERP collaborates with other installation agencies and organizations to support local employment events such as the Association of the United States Army Job Fair each spring and Non-Appropriated Funds Human Resources recruitment fairs. The ERP manager maintains a hot jobs board of employment prospects as well as an email distribution list for jobseekers who are interested in receiving notifications about any position openings.

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SHS volleyball team dominates season, MVP



Photos by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The SHS Panthers volleyball team defeat the Vicenza Cougars at home in three straight matches, 25-15, 25-22 and 25-14, Sept. 22 in Stuttgart.

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Number 15, SHS senior Geneva Barriger, was named the MVP of the DODEA-Europe Division I and the Stars and Stripes MVP Volleyball Athlete of the Year.

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart High School Panther volleyball team, a powerhouse in the DODEA Europe Division I, capped off its winning season by capturing the division championship against Ramstein, Nov. 3.

The first game was a cliffhanger as the two teams ran neck and neck.

"Ramstein started out with it but we kept it up," said SHS junior outsider hitter Karen Kosinski. "We used that momentum to carry us through the game."

The Panthers beat the Ramstein Royals in three games, scoring a consistent 25 points per game as the Royals struggled in a decent of losses of a close 23 points in the first game, followed by final scores of 18 and 10, respectively.

Because the two teams were undefeated during the season, the showdown in the Kaiserslautern High School gym was well-attended and noisy. According to Stars and Stripes, the anticipation of the first game between the Panthers and the Royals matched the decibel level in the new gym.

The most valuable player of the championship, SHS senior Geneva Barriger, was named the MVP of the DODEA-Europe Division I. She was also named Stars and Stripes MVP Volleyball Athlete of the Year with 77 aces, plus 17 more during the championship.

"She was instrumental in the relentless barrage of aces and kills during the semifinals and finals of the tournament," said SHS volleyball coach Michael Rubin.

The Stripes article about Barriger does her athletic prowess justice and is recommended reading for all future incoming Panther volleyball players.

(Editor's note: Information and quotes for this story came from two articles in Stars and Stripes; a Nov. 5 article by Jennifer H. Svan and from a Nov. 16 article by Gregory Broome.)



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