July 27 – 67th Combat Support Hospital color casing
July 15 – Transformation Showcase/Flea Market, for weekly resort condos

ID cardholders eligible for weekly resort condos
DoD ID cardholders are eligible for weekly condo rentals at 3,500 resorts in 80 countries. The program gives Soldiers and other DoD workers affordable accommodations that would otherwise go unused, said Verity Alport of AFV. "Don’t expect to go to Virginia Beach on the Fourth of July. As with this with the same approach as a Space-A hop (flight)," Alport said, adding it’s best to search for a condo 45-55 days out.

Openings for high-demand areas as Hawaii, Las Vegas and Key West are rarely posted until a couple weeks ahead of time, especially during peak season. For eligibility requirements and more information, visit the AFVC website at www.afvc.com.

Divisions depart

Big Red One cases colors, moves to Kansas
The 1st Infantry Division marked the end of its 10-year residence in Germany at a departure ceremony at Victory Park on Leighton Barracks July 6. The colors of the Big Red One will be unfurled at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, at Cavally Parade Field at Fort Riley, Kan., as part of the withdrawal of Cold War-era forces from Europe. The unit will assume command and control of its units now in Kansas, and take on the mission of training foreign security forces in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Special attendees at the color-casing ceremony were: Gen. David McKiernan, commander, U.S. Army, Europe; Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander, V Corps; Command Sgt. Maj. Uri Sivas; U.S. Army, Europe; Lt. Gen. Wolfgang Otto, commander, German Army Forces Command; and Dr. Pia Beckmann, Lord Mayor of Wuerzburg; and Dr. Paul Reinhofer, Lower Franconia District president, who spoke during the ceremony.

Despite many deployments to distant countries in the past 10 years, Big Red One Soldiers have built lasting relationships with German friends and colleagues. For many, the ceremony marked a bittersweet day.

"When I think about the division leaving Germany, I can’t help but be saddened just a little," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, the 1st ID commander. "Like many of you, I’ve spent a large part of my military life here in Germany. We will miss the culture, the people, the partnerships, the opportunity to travel and even the challenges associated with leading troops overseas.

"Serving in Europe has also afforded our leaders the opportunity to visit battlefields and walk the ground where our forefathers fought during World War I and World War II." Hunzeker added. "We are humbly but fortunate to be able to study our profession on the ground that was fought to bring back free, dom and democracy to this great continent."

Established in 1917 during WWI, the division moved to Germany after WWII where it remained until 1955. Then it moved to Fort Riley. From there, Big Red One Soldiers answered the call in Vietnam, Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

On April 10, 1996, the division moved back to Germany, where it has had roles in peace-keeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"The Big Red One is privileged to have served more than 43 cumulative years on European soil," said Hunzeker. "The fond memories that we have all had serving in Europe help to forever link us to the group of veterans who are very proud to have worn our patch and to the generations of Germans who have shown us hospitality for so many years."

Era of care ends
Wuerzburg hospital’s inpatient services, area clinics close
by Amy Stover
US Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

The U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Wuerzburg, has changed the face of health care in USAG Franconia following ceremonies signifying the end of inpatient services and the closure of two area Army health clinics.

At a transition ceremony June 26, Thomas Zirkelbach, safety officer, presented the hospital’s history and photos of the staff through the years. Photo albums from the 1950s, 60s and 70s were displayed.

"Built in 1937 for $20 million, Wuerzburg hospital began seeing German military patients in November 1937. The U.S. Army took control of its facility in 1945, when it had to house 2,000 wartime casualties were in the hospital," Zirkelbach said.

"Through 60 years of health care one thing remained constant – the people," said hospital commander Col. Dallas Homes. "It is the people - our staff members – that bring the lifeblood to this organization. From staff who took care of patients in World War II to staff that cared for Operation Iraqi Freedom patients on the Victory Ward, the commitment to caring has never waned," Homes said.

Giebelstadt Health Clinic held a closure ceremony June 26 as clinic commander Maj. Trent Janda and Homes casued the clinic’s colors.

"This is a sad moment. This is the perfect job on the perfect post and I’m grateful to have worked here," Janda said.

Kitzingen Health Clinic on Harvey Barracks closed June 30. Col. David Carden and Staff Sgt. Salvatore Hryých, clinic noncommissioned officer in charge, closed the clinic ending 39 years of providing community health care.

"Something special happened to people when they walked through the doors of our clinic," Carden said. "They felt a special warmth, a feeling that will never go away."

Hospital inpatient services ceased June 30. Patients now requiring surgery, anesthesia, obstetrical care or care requiring a stay in a hospital will now be seen at host nation facilities.

The hospital’s dining facility, labor and delivery ward, operating room, medical surgical ward, inpatient ward, orthopedic services, surgery services, pharmacy and other specialty services ceased operations June 30. Beneficia ries are now being referred to host nation facilities for any inpatient treatment.

Kitzingen and Giebelstadt health clinic beneficiaries are now being seen at the Wuerzburg Family Practice Clinic. Kitzingen and Giebelstadt beneficiaries are required to stop by the TriCare office on the Wuerzburg clinic’s first floor to transfer their enrollment. Those who have not transferred their enrollment by Sept. 1 will be disenrolled from TriCare Europe.

For more information, call 350-2200/3722 or 0391-804-2200/3372.
The World Cup was a perfectly constructed international event that affected all of us for the best in Germany and Europe. From the opening round of group play all the way to the last week-end’s final between France and Italy, we witnessed an exciting, all-encompassing global event that our host country is rightfully proud to have hosted and performed so well in.

All the sporting venues were safe and secure. Those who attended were taken to and from the games via an exceptional system of trains, buses and trains.

There were very few acts of hooliganism or personal violence. Unruly fans were dealt with quickly, efficiently and fairly.

Our hosts provided FIFA, the Federation International Football Association, a blueprint for how these games should be co-ordinated and conducted.

And if the Germans had won the Cup, we would have witnessed an overwhelming display of national pride, pride that we saw last year during the Olympic Games before reaching its boiling point when Germany beat Argentina in the quarter-finals.

There is no question you ever seen so many German flags and so many revelers taking pride in their team’s accomplishment! What is amazing is that the party wasn’t in just one area of the country - every village, town and city throughout Germany was ablaze with black, red and gold.

The pride of this nation swelled as their team entered the semi-finals of the tournament. There was confidence, hope and anticipation in the heart of every German that, yes, they would go through to the final and, yes, win the Cup for the fourth time.

For the first 119 minutes of the game it was possible. Then it ended. Italy scored, then scored again. The German fans let out a collective sigh as they looked ahead, to next time, South Africa, of the host 10 leadership.

Associated Press sportswriter Jim Litke wrote before the tournament started that the outcome of one game can affect the global product of some participating nations as much as 14 percent. If you calculated the price of the small German flags sticking out of car windows and the number of people who bought them, 14 percent might be a low estimate. The real beauty of the World Cup, and this is strictly the perspective of an American observer, is the way it connects the world, not just on an international level, but on a global level.

Soccer may never catch on in America the way it has in Europe and other areas where we have an abundance of sporting activities in America. But in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and elsewhere, every child who has ever kicked a ball around on a soccer pitch knows the ultimate prize: to make it to the World Cup.

Every member of every country who took part in the World Cup harbored the same hopes and dreams as our German hosts. It was a weeks’ worth of history, a moment in Germany, a global community formed around the ball.

Team of Teams!

Russel D. Santala
Colonel, Air Defense Artillery
U.S. Army Garrison, Franzonia, Commander
Semper Fi – Do or pie
Spc. Crystal Daggett chokes down a final mouthful of pie, winning the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) appreciation day pie eating contest June 30. BOSS sponsored an afternoon of basketball, batting cages, boxing and pie eating at Kessler Field to kick off the Independence Day weekend.

More pie
Sha-Kara Russ dives into the women’s cherry pie-eating contest at Leighton Barracks July 4th celebration.

Masterful muggers
Tim Hines, center, and Thomas Perez hang on for glory in the mug-holding contest at Leighton Barracks festivities. Charlemagne Tertulien, right, eagerly awaits to announce the winner, which was Hines.

Big kicks
Rainier Giel, kick boxing instructor, assists student Brian Hicks with a board break during a demonstration at Bamberg’s Independence Day celebration. Giel instructs martial arts classes at the Freedom Fitness Facility.

American Girls rock Bamberg
The American Girls perform at Bamberg’s Friendship Park on Warner Barracks July 4. Independence Day activities featured a dunk tank, a paint ball “shoot the geek” course, bucking bronco, bungy swings, live music, face painting, barbecue and fireworks.

Fun on the 4th of July
Running on time
Bamberg runners set their watches before heading out on the 5 and 10K Fun Run July 4. More than 100 runners took part in the competition.

Bouncy bounce
A child joyfully jumps on an air-inflated castle slide at Bamberg’s Independence Day celebration.

Fun running
A Bamberg runner cheers as she crosses the finish line during the 5/10K Fun Run on Warner Barracks July 4.
Last delivery for Wuerzburg
The last baby born at Wuerzburg Hospital was delivered Aug. 26 by Amy Stover of St. Charles, Whitehorse and St. Gilbert. Members of the St. Theresa group which meets evenings in the EDIS playroom.

The Schweinfurt team will provide health services to the Bamberg and Schweinfurt communities. Bamberg will continue to have a clinic psychologist as well. Katterbach and Heilsheim will share a mental health provider and will be available in the community for patients with mental health issues. Soldiers and family members stationed in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Schweinfurt.

This team approach gives local communities more mental health assets and will improve access to care, said Brian Olden, Department of Behavioral Health deputy director for Environmental Services.

Last delivery for Wuerzburg
The Wuerzburg-area Dental Officer of the Day (DoD) can be contacted for after-hours dental emergencies. Call the Emergency Command Center 350-3854 or 0931-804-3854. 

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Patient Representatives at Wuerzburg Hospital offer tours to two host nation hospitals every Thursday at 2 p.m. Beneficiaries should seek medical treatment at host nation hospitals. Directions and maps to local host nation facilities are posted on notice boards in the hospital. 

Family Practice Clinic now has extended hours
Starting July 17, Wuerzburg Hospital’s Family Practice Clinic will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon-Fri, and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays and training holidays. The clinic is closed on Sundays and federal holidays. To make an appointment, call 350-3854 or 0931-804-3854.

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ER closes July 17
Emergency Department will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. until July 16. Beginning July 17, the emergency department will be closed. In emergencies, Tricare beneficiaries should seek medical treatment at host nation hospitals. Directions and maps to local host nation facilities are posted on notice boards in the hospital. 

Labor and delivery closes
Wuerzburg Hospital’s Women’s Care Center, the labor and de- livery ward, closed June 23. Patients will deliver babies at host nation hospitals. If you are pregnant and have questions about your care, please talk to your provider at your next appoint- ment.

Mental health takes team approach
by Amy Stover
U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

The mental health community in the Wuerzburg footprint are moving to more locations to provide improved service to area communities.

Social Work Services will remain robust in every local community after the transition of the hospital. Environmental Developmental and Preventive Services, which provides services to prevent, identifying mental health crises and the impact of mental health on daily life, will continue to be provided in the local communities.

Mental health resources in the Wuerzburg footprint are moving to more locations to provide improved service to area communities.

Tick time! Avoid being bitten is best medical advice
by Capt. Matthew Perry
Environmental Service Officer

It’s that time of year again. The season for outdoor activities is upon us and will take many of us into the beautiful European landscape on bike trails, Volkswalks and weekend camping trips.

While these activities are a wonderful way to get away to nature, we need to be sure nature doesn’t get too attached to us. In Europe, tick season is April through October. Ticks in Ger- many can carry several potentially deadly diseases for us and our pets.

Two common diseases here are Lyme disease, caused by the bacteria group borrelia, and tick-borne encephalitis, caused by the encephalitis virus. Both are transmitted by the bite of an infected Ixodes tick. Lyme disease is the most common of the two, but neither is spread person-to-person.

Lyme disease
A person with Lyme disease may have fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. This rash is sometimes referred to as a “bull’s-eye” rash because it is surrounded by a clear zone, as it grows, which can be up to 12 inches, will often lose the red appearance. If left untreated, it can cause swelling of the brain, facial paralysis, rashes on the hands and feet, enlargement and inflammation of the lymph glands, intermittent bouts of arthritis in large joints, and problems with sleeping, concentration and even short term memory loss.

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

Tick-Borne Encephalitis
Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) is a disease that is not seen in the U.S., but is common to Europe and other parts of the world. While it is not caused by the bite of infected Ixodes ticks. A person can also get this disease by drinking raw milk from sheep, goats, and cattle, and can contract with the virus, Anaplasma.

A person with TBE can go one to two weeks without any symptoms of the infection. Following this, the disease will follow a characteristic two-phase period. The first lasts 2-4 days and can cause fever, body aches, loss of appetite, muscle aches, nausea and/or vomiting. Then there is a period of about eight days when the virus gains a foothold in the body. After this period, about 20 to 30 percent of infected people enter the second phase which involves the nervous system and cause inflammation of the lining of the brain, irritation of the brain itself, or a combination of the two.

Because this disease is caused by a virus, antibiotics are not effective in treating it and can even cause the virus to kill off the brain or spinal cord. TBE is transmitted by the bite of infected Ixodes ticks. The case fatality rate to most of the cases is much lower. There is a non- FDA-approved vaccine available in Europe. People interested in this vaccine can contact their health care provider for further information.

Prevention

Avoid tick-borne diseases
Tick-borne diseases are a risk when spending time outdoors in the European forests and fields. Preventing tick bites will help protect you from tick-borne diseases including Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis (TBE). Ticks can carry an array of infections including bacteria, viruses, and parasites. The best prevention is to avoid tick-infested areas and use tick protective measures when you are outdoors.

Prevention

Health & Fitness

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Soldiers, units bid farewell to Kitzingen

by Spc. Stephen Baack
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

Two 1st Infantry Division units, as old as the division itself, cased their colors at a departure ceremony on Harvey Barracks June 29.

The event served as the division’s official farewell to the city of Kitzingen and surrounding communities. The 1st ID Support Command and 701st Main Support Battalion said farewell to a kaserne that has been a part of Kitzingen for the past 61 years. While DISCOM is scheduled to return to Fort Riley, Kan., the 701st MSB—the largest battalion in U.S. Army Europe—is not.

“The ‘Main Team’ Soldiers have met innumerable demands. They have always provided world-class support, and without their efforts, the many successes of this division would not have been possible,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, division commander. DISCOM is to become the division’s sustainment brigade when it stands up at Fort Riley.

“We are grateful for more than six decades of partnership with Army units here at Kitzingen.”


“This is an exciting time for our Division Support Command, as we are not parting with this brigade but moving on to yet another era in its great history,” Hunzeker said. “The enormous amount of work that this organization has accomplished to start the transformation process and to move to Fort Riley is simply amazing.”

Hunzeker, along with the commanders of DISCOM and the 701st MSB, Col. Kevin O’Connell and Lt. Col. Gregg Blanchard, respectively, thanked the Soldiers and their German friends.

“We are grateful for more than six decades of partnership with Army units here at Kitzingen,” said Hunzeker. “For more than half a century, this community has played host to a steady American presence. The relationships between our Soldiers and our German friends have remained steadfast.”

The ceremony was a chance for German communities to say goodbye to the American Soldiers, too. Both Bernd Moser, the lord mayor of Kitzingen, and Tamara Bischof, Kitzingen County commissioner, offered their remarks.

Both talked about the evolving relationships between the Soldiers and German citizens and thanked the Soldiers for the memories.

The ceremony ended with awards presented to leaders of Kitzingen and the surrounding communities.

“Saying goodbye to our German hosts and bringing to a close over 61 years of history for both Germany and America, dozens of commanders have stood here over the years and addressed the outstanding German-American relations in this community,” O’Connell said. “What made the relations here so unique are the people in this community. Each and every person here today has at one time or another contributed to this phenomenon. There are several avenues where both sides can share with the other, and over the years we have used all of them.”

“We are grateful for more than six decades of partnership with Army units here at Kitzingen,” said Hunzeker. “For more than half a century, this community has played host to a steady American presence. The relationships between our Soldiers and our German friends have remained steadfast.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank G. Cardoza, 1st Infantry Division Support Command, and Col. Kevin G. O’Connell, DISCOM commander, are joined by Kitzingen County Commissioner Tamara Bischof (right) as they furl the DISCOM colors during departure ceremonies at Harvey Barracks June 29. The ceremony was the Division’s official farewell to the city of Kitzingen and surrounding communities.

Soldiers of the 701st Main Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, present their guidons before the unit cases its colors at inactivation ceremonies at Harvey Barracks June 29. The 701st MSB was joined by the 1st ID Support Command, which also cased its colors, but will stand up with the division later this summer at Fort Riley.

Bottom, streamers on the division’s colors recall the organization’s colorful and often deployed past.

Division send off full of emotion

Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker (below), 1st Infantry Division commander, shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, V Corps commander, following Hunzeker’s comments at the division departure ceremony at Leighton Barracks’ Victory Park in Wuerzburg July 6. Sanchez spoke earlier, and talked about the Big Red One’s important legacy in Europe and his personal attachment to it. Left, Artillerymen from the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, render honors during the 1st ID’s departure ceremony. The former Big Red One artillery battalion was re-designated and re-assigned from 1st ID to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Sgt. John Queen (2)

Spc. Stephen Baack
The Point, July 14, 2006

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach (Illesheim, Katterbach)

Soldiers vie for honors in tough competition

by 1st Sgt. Bill Henson

4th Aviation Brigade Operations

For years, most unit level noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Month boards were held in stuffy conference rooms and simply asked questions from a study guide. Not any longer.

Despite 4th Aviation Brigade transitioning to become the new 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, with multiple units and hundreds of Soldiers moving within the Ansbach community, 4th Bri-

gade Soldiers recently rose to the challenge of a new and tougher NCO/Soldier of the Year competition.

Staff Sgt. John Ken-

ner led the NCOs of the Year honors while Spc. Jacob Flores won the Soldier of the Year honors.

“We are an Army at war,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, brigade command sergeant major. “This competition mirrors what is expected of our Soldiers on today’s battlefield.”

The competition, in line with the 1st Armored Division, V Corps, U.S. Army, Europe, and all Army competitions, consisted of the Army Phys-

ical Fitness Test, first aid, marksmanship, combat lifesaver, tactical tasks such as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense, first aid, weapons and communications.

Each was then given a formation of Soldiers to lead through standard shoot-move-communicate drills, such as move under direct fire with three-
to-five second rushes while reacting to indirect fire. This event was made more realistic by ar-
tillery simulators, smoke grenades and plenty of opposing forces to slow the competitors.

Tension and sweaty palms were the order of the day the following morning when the finalists faced five sergeants major and two first sergeants in the boardroom.

Five hours later, during a celebration barbe-

que, Kenner and Flores were presented Army Commendation Medals, a brigade coin and a Letter of Commendation from Col. Timothy Edens, 4th Aviation Brigade commander, and Marin for their effort and achievement.

Grounds maintenance contracts in place except for common areas

by Jim Hughes

The Point

Community leaders, the directorate of public works and area support teams came together to discuss a challenge – grounds maintenance on area kasernes.

Contract procedural changes and funding willy-nilly every contract combined to make grounds maintenance quite a challenge in the past few months, said Maj. Hector Marin, 4th Aviation Brigade chief of buildings and grounds division for DPW.

But it’s all figured out, for the most part.

Grounds maintenance contracts are in effect for some of the four areas of concern on the in-

stallations in Ansbach: airfields on Katterbach and Illesheim, tactical fenced areas in Ober-
dachstetten and Urlas, and housing areas within USAG Ansbach.

The only areas without a contract in place are the common areas on kasernes where grounds maintenance will be done by locally available manpower.

“Representatives from DPW and the ASTs met to decide how to keep the grounds on the kasernes,” Otta said. “We decided that DPW will handle large areas while the ASTs and the units themselves will take care of their own small areas by their facilities.”

ASTs in Katterbach and Illesheim are work-

ing with the tactical units on the hill at 6 a.m. to get to the common areas on kasernes on a regular basis.

The inspections are conducted monthly, but we can’t offer everything we did be-

cause of the great teamwork between the garrison and tactical units, said Sgt. 1st Class Walter Collins, Katterbach AST manager.

“They’re helping us out a lot,” Collins said.

“We’re doing more work now,” he said. “Some nice-to-have in-house work orders can’t be done at this time.”

But that strain would be more profound if not for the 4th Aviation Brigade helping with the Kasernes, said Soto, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Katterbach AST manager.

“We need residents to help us by alerting us to any unsafe situations,” she said. “We can’t be everywhere at once, so be sure to alert us to any unsafe situations.”

Residents noticing unsafe situations should immediately call DPW at 467-2133 or 09802-

832-133.

I don’t know if I can do this,” said Staff Sgt. Alma Atchison looking at long lines in front of the cash register.

It’s a get ready, set, go when entering the on-sale zone. “I don’t know if I can do this,” said Staff Sgt. Alma Atchison looking at long lines in front of the cash register.

It’s all about playing it right. The strategy is simple: one per-

son stands in line while the other shops and after the first person is done they swap places.

“Well, I’m here now. I might as well start shopping,” Atchi-

son said after seeing the strategy play out.

As customers piled glasses, vases, plates, decanters, bowls and pitchers in their baskets, it looked like tempest flared be-

fore, said Sgt. 1st Class Walter Collins, Katterbach AST manager.

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The Point, July 14, 2006

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach (Illesheim, Katterbach)

Outlet stores challenge shoppers

by Rahiba Nombamba

The Point

Several members of USAG Ansbach found shopping at the crystal outlet in Neustadt a.d. Waldnaab near Vilseck is nearly an Olympic event.

Ansbach shoppers arrived at the already-crowded parking lot in front of the outlet stores at 8 a.m. on June 24.

“They opened 20 minutes ago and people have emptied out the stores already,” said Sadie Collins, watching as people exited pushing overloaded shopping carts and carrying three bags of crystals in each hand.

The assumption proved false as there was more than enough merchandise left in the stores, though some stores opened at 7 a.m., and shoppers were already loading their buses, vans and cars with their purchases.

Collins and the Ansbach group watched as customers ran into stores and gathered about stands on the streets to grab whatever items they were looking for and race to get shopping carts while still look-

ing around for something they might have missed.

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**USAG Ansbach**

**12th CAB week**
The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade convoy was named 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. It is a component of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. The convoy was held on July 18-21.

**Vacation Bible School**
USAG Bamberg chapel hosts Vacation Bible School July 17-21 with a festive theme. For more information, to sign-up or to volunteer, call Kari Jablon, 0981-83-6655, daily during the day or 09841-685-894 evenings.

**Brunch at the lake**
Lake House hosts Sunday brunch July 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The lake house is on FOB Katterbach, Kaiserslautern. For more information, call 09802-1063.

**Control your checkbook**
US Army Community Services offers a checkbook management class July 13 at the AFS class room on Katterbach Kaserne from 9 to 11 a.m. For more information call 467-2873 or 09802-382-803.

**New customs hours**
The U.S. Forces Customs Office is open Mon-Fri from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on American holidays. For more information call Rock Modern, 468-7842 or 0918-183-842.

**Summer reading**
Paws, claws and tales is theme for free summer reading programs at Bleden and Bleden Libraries. Program is available for school children every Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. now through Aug. For more information call the Bleden library, 467-1480 or 0981-183-1740, or the Bleden library, 467-6495 or 0981-675-679.

**USAG Bamberg**

**Summer travel tips**
Wiesbaden Garrison Family is checking the German school summer holiday calendar. The calendar is for students in the 1st through 12th grades. School vacations are listed by region and month. Expect heavy traffic in the region of travel on the weekends and during school vacations.

**Show community pride**
Congratulations to Terri Samain, June yard of the month, and Wiesbaden residents who participate in the July competition. Yards and balconies are judged on cleanliness, landscaping, and aesthetic beautification. Participants must enroll with Sgt. 1st Class James Polk, housing zone coordinator.

**USAG Germany**

**Vacation Bible School**
USAG Franconia’s Vacation Bible School runs July 27-29, 5-8:30 p.m. at Leighton Chapel. VBS is open to children grades 1st through 5th. For more information call 354-6903 or 09721-966903 for more information.

**New plates**
Vehicle registration on Barton barracks has the new German license plates for US. Army. European vehicle owners. The plates begin with AN instead of the usual HD or US. Additional information and vehicle registration can be found at 468-7333.

**Get into scouting**
Cub Scout Pack 97 is gearing up for another year of fun and adventure. Parents or guardians of fifth through fifth-graders should contact Marcia Cord, 0175-444-0603, to join or learn more about the local pack.

**Learn about Bamberg**
Get to know Bamberg by attending People Enjoying Bamberg monthly meetings. Meetings are held at the Bleden Library, 0981-183-8605. For more information call 0981-183-8605.

**Help wanted**
USAG Franconia Army Lodging is looking for a desk clerk and to register, call 469-1560 or (0981) 300-1560.

**Bowling center renovations**
The Birchview Lanes Bowling Center will undergo improvements, league-certified lanes and new man-

**Go on tour**
Get on the road with the Community Activity Center staff in July and August. Visit the Kaiserslautern Zoo July 12, and take the old streetcar ride in Kaiserslautern. The 3rd Army Band will perform at the lake area July 16. For more information call 469-6859 or (0951) 300-6859.

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**Name that facility**
USAG Schwinfurt will soon have a new child care facility. The facility is being built at the Gerhard von Lichtenberg Elementary School. The facility will be open to all children attending the school.

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Joking about explosive devices no laughing matter

by Gary L. Kieffer

Entering the gates of any military installation can sometimes be time consuming. However, joking about the presence of a bomb or weapon in your vehicle will not get you a smile from the security personnel working the gate, nor will it make your entrance go any faster.

Incidents of personnel making up stories and joking about having an explosive device, bomb or weapon in their vehicles happens, occasionally,” said Lt. Col. Carol McKinney, U.S. Army Europe, office of the provost marshal.

“We have had several recent incidents. One of them was at the PX complex and another at the local military hospital,” said Lt. Col. Deborah Anderson, U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg provost marshal.

“Some of those who have informed a guard ‘jokingly’ of having a bomb, explosive device or a weapon have believed it would speed up their inspection, or thought no one would take it seriously,” McKinney said.

Remarks about bombs or weapons trigger an immediate response from security personnel.

“It’s a big deal,” Anderson said. “Military police are called, EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is called, the installation is shut down and the vehicle is thoroughly searched.

“The people responsible are detained and their installation passes suspended,” she said.

McKinney said most suspects in such cases are charged with communicating a threat or bomb threat, under Article 134 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, although some may be charged under German law.

“The German police use similar verbiage, though (the punishment) can be a bit stronger because of the potential endangerment to others,” she said.

“Regardless of whether it is an access control point joke or a threat to a facility, people need to remember that there are consequences for such actions,” McKinney said. “German police will assuredly make an arrest and will also make the individual pay for emergency services.”

McKinney and Anderson offer the following advice: at an installation gate or access control point, use common-sense; be courteous; present your identification and vehicle registration when asked and don’t joke about a bomb, explosive device or weapon.

“There’s nothing funny at all in making this kind of a joke,” said McKinney. “What people fail to consider is that when everyone responds to the threat of a bomb, this actually ties up those emergency responders who should be available to respond to real life and death incidents.”

Mental health services help Soldiers cope with combat

by Donna Miles

Army News Service

Soldiers who undergo the most intense, realistic training before deploying to combat tend to experience the fewest associated mental-health problems, the Army’s surgeon general told Pentagon reporters during a roundtable session last week.

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Kevin Kiley compared deploying Soldiers to football players preparing for a big game. Those who “put on the uniform” are better prepared when they are familiar with the type of enemy they are facing, he said.

Kiley acknowledged, however, that deployments – particularly those which expose troops to prolonged combat – put heavy stressors on even the most healthy troops. Some will need short- or long-term counseling to help with their transition, he said.

He estimated that 15-30 percent of Soldiers returning from Iraq experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress or other mental-health issues. “This is not unusual after combat,” he said.

Early diagnosis and treatment is the key to keeping these symptoms in check and preventing them from becoming full-blown disorders, he said. Toward that end, the Army provides its members mental-health support that begins before they deploy and continues throughout their deployment and after they return home.

“More than any time in our history, our Soldiers and our commanders are armed with information about combat and its impact on mental and behavioral health,” Kiley said.

“We have more resources available at home and in the theater of operations than ever before,” he said. “No matter where you are in the United States, or overseas, we have the resources available to help you.”

Kiley cited examples of that support:

• Routine use of pre- and post-deployment health screenings to assess Soldiers’ mental as well as physical health;

• A new post-deployment health assessment to assess mental and physical health three to six months after a Soldier redeploys;

• Mental- and behavioral-health specialists in theater who provide education, support and treatment, as needed, for deployed troops;

• Mental-health advisory teams that have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan four times to assess how troops are doing and how well the Army behavioral health services offered to them are working; and

• Follow-up treatment and short- or long-term counseling, as needed, to help Soldiers readjust after returning from a deployment.

In addition, Kiley will soon co-chair a new task force to examine mental-health issues in the armed forces. The 14-member task force – half of its members to come from within the Defense Department and half from the outside – will submit a report to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in May recommending ways to further improve mental-health care for service members and their families, he said.

As it provides more mental-health services to its members, the Army is helping to erode the stigma that has long been associated with seeking such services. Kiley noted the irony that a Soldier who thinks nothing of getting long-term treatment for a broken ankle or other physical ailment might be hesitant to care for the most complex and fragile organ, the brain. Making mental-health screenings and services an integral part of the Army’s health-care program is helping to change that culture, he said.

“Our efforts in education, prevention and early treatment, in my experience, are unprecedented,” Kiley said. “My goal is to ensure that every deployed and returning Soldier receives the very best health care that they need.”

(The Point, July 14, 2006)
Camp offers youth travel, discovery options

by Cheryl Boujnida

The Point

Vacation Bible School promotes hands-on learning, fun

by Cheryl Boujnida

The Point

Children and Youth Services has many options to keep youth of all ages busy during summer vacation. Children age 3 to 5 years old can attend part-day preschool at the Child Development Center.

“It’s important for children to continue to interact with others and further develop their social skills,” said Jason Etchell, CDC director. “These skills provide a solid foundation for children prior to attending kindergarten.”

Options for children 6 to 18 years old vary at CYS depending on whether parents want to enroll students in part- or full-time camp.

“We offer children the opportunity to take part in activities in a safe environment with adult supervision. Our staffs are very well trained and are seasoned professionals,” said Livilwa Markey, CYS coordinator.

Depending on their age, students can participate in activities such as intergalactic arts and crafts, wacky water games, puppet making, talent shows, solar cooking, crafts, karaoke for kids and wild and crazy dinosaur games in August.

Field trips to local attractions such as museums, a planetarium, an nature resort, swimming pools and amusement parks are also on the CYS agenda.

Two 7-year-old friends, Kalina Nichols and Alivia Spencer, had the opportunity to get up close to sea life recently. “It was fun to see sharks, sting rays, jelly fish, sea horses and different fish. Some were pretty and some were scary,” Spencer said.

Nichols said she would not be able to see such exciting things if she did not go to camp each day. Markey noted that Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited offers new programs to students.

“This year, we have partnered with the Galli Theater, a renowned theater in Bamberg, to offer students acting and the theatrical experience,” Markey said. The adventures in acting class will be offered from July 31 through Aug. 4.

To learn more about German culture, teenagers may opt to enroll in Families Learning About Germany (FLAG) Aug. 7–12, for teens to become familiar with local points of interest and to gain language skills. Parents and guardians of children 6 and up can participate in FLAG Aug. 14–19.

“Children keep busy throughout the summer, they can remain active and keep focused in a positive direction,” Markey said.

Children, ages 4 through sixth grade, can participate in hands-on learning activities at the Bamberg High School from 9 a.m. to noon daily.

“We offer memorable activities for children of all ages, which will be sure to promote excitement and the program is ecumenical,” said Joy Cox, interim VBS director. “Students will have the opportunity to learn things such as team building, crafts, stories and new songs; the music, which has biblical ties, is a wonderful tool for teaching and the children will enjoy learning the verses.”

Cox said students in fourth through sixth grades will be assistant helpers and high school students will serve as crew leaders.

“Older students serve an important purpose because they will assist the younger children to visit various stations on a daily basis,” Cox said.

The stations give children hands-on experiences in small groups. She noted 140 children took part in VBS in 2005.

“We aren’t sure exactly how many students will take part this year, but we are ready for at least 170 to 190 children,” she said. “Those enrolled in VBS can expect a fun-filled environment with a focus on learning more about Christianity.”

Kristen Daniels, VBS director and religious education coordinator, said the program will also feature a parents’ night so students can show mom and dad what they have accomplished in the one-week school.

Daniels stressed that it’s important to not only keep children busy in the summer but to point them in the direction of positive learning activities.

“Vacation Bible School is the highlight of the summer for many youth since it provides them with connections to old friends and the opportunity to meet new friends,” she said.

Parents can register children for VBS activities by stopping by the Warner Chapel or sending an e-mail to vbsbamberg@yahoo.com. For more information or to enroll students, call Daniels or Tanya Lucas at 469-8879 or (0951) 300-8879.

A day in the life of summer hies

by Cheryl Boujnida

Col. Martin Pitts, right, took command of 7th Corps Support Group from Col. Catherine Haight at ceremonies July 7 at the Freedom Fitness Facility.

Pitts, a third-generation Soldier, comes to Bamberg from Heidelberg where she served as the V Corps’ Deputy G-1, Personnel, and Administration.

“Since I have been here, I have been given every opportunity to do my job,” Pitts said. “I learned a lot about cars that I didn’t know before.”

“I am given something challenging to do,” Pitts said. “This is giving me a chance to be a leader in the future,” Coates said.

Donovan Davis, above, demonstrates how to change a spark plug as Elizabeth Millner, Austin Love and Caitlin Leeds look on during a car care class.

Kalina Nichols and Alivia Spencer play a game at Child and Youth Services School Age Services facility.

Donovan Davis, 14-year-old Bamberg High School students, rise early and head out to be part of the workforce, putting in a 40-hour week in the Summer Hire Program.

“About 35 local students work various jobs within USAG Bamberg. Garcia and Coates work for the Director of Public Works doing clerical tasks. For both it’s the first time working a ‘real job’ and getting paid for it,” said Garcia.

“I am learning more about responsibility and how to not only get a job but how to keep it,” Garcia said. “Every day is different and I always look forward to it when I am given something challenging to do.”

Garcia said some days go faster than others and that he likes to keep busy.

“It is good experience since it will allow me to have a better idea of what to expect in the future,” Coates said.

Coates, who is not sure what he wants to do career-wise, plans to buy a laptop computer and school clothes with his earnings from his summer job.

“It’s more than just earning money — this type of experience will help me to go farther in life,” Coates said. “It’s very important to be respectful when you are in a work environment and to be considerate of others.”

Coates said he enjoys working daily rather than “hanging around” and his favorite tasks include shredding paper documents and watering flowers at the newly erected park located across from Bamberg Elementary School.

Uli Martinez, USAG Bamberg Civilian Personnel Advisory Center human resources specialist, said the Summer Hire Program usually runs six to 10 weeks (June 24 to Aug. 4) and is geared for youth ages 14 through 23 years old.

“Summer Hire is designed to provide young people an opportunity to gain meaningful job experience, prepare for future educational and career goals, and support the Army mission,” Martinez said.

She stressed that all summer hires have specific job responsibilities as do their supervisors.

“Supervisors must provide students with a safety briefing, fill out check lists and monitor time and attendance policies. It’s a partnership that provides youth with worthwhile employment know-how.”

Bamberg hails new commander

by Cheryl Boujnida

The Point

Don Garcia and Dyon Coates, 14-year-old Bamberg High School students, rise early and head out to be part of the workforce, putting in a 40-hour week in the Summer Hire Program.

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Vacation Bible School promotes hands-on learning, fun

by Cheryl Boujnida

The Point

It’s fiesta time at Warner Chapel. Vacation Bible School staff are offering Bamberg youth sizzling summer adventures Aug. 14–18.

Children, ages 4 through sixth grade, can participate in hands-on learning activities at the Bamberg High School from 9 a.m. to noon daily.

“We offer memorable activities for children of all ages, which will be sure to promote excitement and the program is ecumenical,” said Joy Cox, interim VBS director. “Students will have the opportunity to learn things such as team building, crafts, stories and new songs; the music, which has biblical ties, is a wonderful tool for teaching and the children will enjoy learning the verses.”

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A summer of fun and learning awaits area youth

by Kimberly Gearhart

The Point

Visualize this: a safe, supervised place where middle school students—too old for day care, too young to stay home alone—can hang out, play games, and learn new skills with kids their own age.

That place exists in Schweinfurt—it’s called the Middle School Zone. The MSZ in Asken Manor Housing Area next to the School Age Services building, offers a secure environment for area youth in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades to spend time together, and to learn.

“A couple years ago youth services made a change from just recreational focus, but also educational,” said Samad Ali Nur, MSZ program director.

During the school year, the MSZ is open in the afternoon, offering students a place to go after school. For the summer, Ali Nur has devised a summer camp that runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Only kids who are signed up for summer camp can come in the mornings, and it’s an extra fee, usually about $40 per week. Open recreation is still for anyone registered (with Child and Youth Services),” Ali Nur said.

The summer camp program is themed “Visu-alize This” and focuses on visual arts, technology, and video production.

“We made a trip to AFN Wuerzburg, and toured the studio. We also shot some for our summer camp projects,” Ali Nur said.

For open recreation, the MSZ now offers more structured programming as well.

“It has always been a sort of come in, do your own thing, hang out kind of time, which is fine. But we needed to offer more,” Ali Nur said.

In addition to focusing on things like sports, the youth have community service day every Monday afternoon when they take part in volunteer programs and job shadow in the community.

“We have a great program here, with the best people. The kids love it,” Ali Nur said.

You can register your children at Central Registration in The Commons, building 224, Led-ward Barracks. CER suggests making an appointment by calling 354-6517 or 09721-96-6517, to insure a smooth, one-trip process.

Local scout achieves high honor

by Kimberly Gearhart

The Point

Karen Davis reads the award citation for Mariah Casarez as she receives her Bronze Star from the Girl Scouts of America.

Her plan included taking cut flowers inside for residents who could not go outside.

However, Casarez found herself moving to Schweinfurt with her mother, Sgt. 1st Class Petra Casarez, 299th Forward Support Battalion.

Determined to earn her Bronze Award, Casarez joined the Schweinfurt Girl Scouts, and helped them plant flowers at the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry headquarters.

To earn the Bronze Award, scouts must first earn two badges related to their project, one of the four scout signs, which are based on the four program goals of the Junior Scouts, and either the Jui- nor Leadership Award, Junior Aide Patch, or two special badges from a list of four.

Karen Davis, leader of the local troop, explained how Casarez went above the requirements and earned the four project badges, all four signs, both the leadership and aide patches as well as two special badges — Scouting in the USA and Scouting Around the World.

Casarez was presented with her award at Schweinfurt’s June 13 Town Hall meeting.

Units seal partnership with a scroll

by Mark Heeter

The Point

When Soldiers are together, they create a bond through their common experiences, Burton said.

“When it comes right down to it, Soldiers don’t talk about patriotism and duty and honor when they’re training together. They talk about White Sunda, Brent. They share life ex-periences and they talk about their families, and they talk about their dreams and desires, and they generally get along,” he said.

The Dagger Brigade continues to look for opportunities to train and socialize with their partners, though deployment schedules cause them to lean heavily on their rear-detachment structures, according to Burton.

“We have to take a deliberate approach to seek opportuni-ties to train and work together,” he said. “But when those oppor-tunities align themselves, it’s fantastic.”

Admitting he was new to official partnerships upon assum-ing command, Burton views them as a valuable tool for build-ing coalitions at many levels.

“There are great opportunities to find common solutions to common problems that may be faced at the national level, maybe faced down to the individual level,” he said.

“It is a powerful and enduring experience that you would not get if you were not stationed and based in this great coun-try,” he added.

Courtney and American Soldiers from the newly formed partnership train together on Conn Barracks.
Keeping customers satisfied is MWR’s goal

by Roger Teel

The Point

People who orchestrate community activities and entertainment usually try to remain behind the scenes. This is especially true for members of the USAG Franconia Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) team.

Their job is to provide the right entertainment and community recreation services—from fireworks to family fun—and cater to what people tell them they would like.

“Our programs are based on what people tell us,” said Charlemagne Tertulien, recreation and business and marketing consultant for USAG Franconia, who will soon move to USAG Schweinfurt as director of morale, welfare and recreation. He will continue to serve Wuerzburg in his new position.

Working with Tertulien in USAG Franconia are Steve Gauthier, business and recreation chief, Scott Caldwell, program coordinator and sponsorship representative, Tory Lamb, marketing and special events coordinator, and Garland Travis, entertainment and special events director.

These five steer every community activity under the guidance of Director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Jeffrey Wertz.

“Our team of MWR professionals do an outstanding job providing special events to this community, as well as overseeing day-to-day operations of MWR programs such as the fitness centers, clubs, bowling centers, outdoor recreation programs, auto crafts and arts and crafts. But they are only one part of the MWR mission that provides support to the Wuerzburg, Kitzingen and Giebelstadt communities,” said Wertz.

“Our Children and Youth programs and Army Community Service programs are among the best in the Army and continue to meet community needs during the Army’s transformation,” he added. “As staffs grow smaller as families depart, this team continues to find new ways to provide services that exceed expectations.”

As Soldiers and families from the 1st Infantry Division depart the area and USAG Franconia scales down to a provisional command, Tertulien said remaining residents will continue to receive solid MWR support.

“Everything you have been seeing in this footprint will be transferred to Schweinfurt, but support to Wuerzburg will continue,” he said.

According to Travis, many residents forget what MWR can do for them until their unit or agency plans a function and needs support. “MWR has produced many great events in this community, more so in the last 24 months. We’ve had theater productions, concerts, kinderfests, family friendly day trips, welcome home celebrations, and unit half-way parties. We extended facility hours, created sewing rooms, provided free movies, free bowling, free car turn-in at stripe yards, as well as other unseen projects and events.

“MWR is really the go-to organization and a key agency within any Army garrison.” Travis added. Keeping an open ear and open mind are part of the job.

“MWR has always had a policy of keeping an open ear to the customers we serve,” said Caldwell. “If a customer has an idea or would like to see an event or program that has not been implemented, let us know and we will see what we can do.”

He said the best way to do this is to go to the facility where the event would be staged (for example, for a sporting event, go to the fitness center) or contact any member of the MWR staff. “My door – for good or bad customer feedback – is always open,” Caldwell added.

More fireworks, more fun at Leighton celebration

“The Point, July 14, 2006

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Working with Tertulien in USAG Franconia are Steve Gauthier, business and recreation chief, Scott Caldwell, program coordinator and sponsorship representative, Tory Lamb, marketing and special events coordinator, and Garland Travis, entertainment and special events director.

These five steer every community activity under the guidance of Director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Jeffrey Wertz.

“Our team of MWR professionals do an outstanding job providing special events to this community, as well as overseeing day-to-day operations of MWR programs such as the fitness centers, clubs, bowling centers, outdoor recreation programs, auto crafts and arts and crafts. But they are only one part of the MWR mission that provides support to the Wuerzburg, Kitzingen and Giebelstadt communities,” said Wertz.

“Our Children and Youth programs and Army Community Service programs are among the best in the Army and continue to meet community needs during the Army’s transformation,” he added. “As staffs grow smaller as families depart, this team continues to find new ways to provide services that exceed expectations.”

As Soldiers and families from the 1st Infantry Division depart the area and USAG Franconia scales down to a provisional command, Tertulien said remaining residents will continue to receive solid MWR support.

“Everything you have been seeing in this footprint will be transferred to Schweinfurt, but support to Wuerzburg will continue,” he said.

According to Travis, many residents forget what MWR can do for them until their unit or agency plans a function and needs support. “MWR has produced many great events in this community, more so in the last 24 months. We’ve had theater productions, concerts, kinderfests, family friendly day trips, welcome home celebrations, and unit half-way parties. We extended facility hours, created sewing rooms, provided free movies, free bowling, free car turn-in at stripe yards, as well as other unseen projects and events.

“MWR is really the go-to organization and a key agency within any Army garrison.” Travis added. Keeping an open ear and open mind are part of the job.

“MWR has always had a policy of keeping an open ear to the customers we serve,” said Caldwell. “If a customer has an idea or would like to see an event or program that has not been implemented, let us know and we will see what we can do.”

He said the best way to do this is to go to the facility where the event would be staged (for example, for a sporting event, go to the fitness center) or contact any member of the MWR staff. “My door – for good or bad customer feedback – is always open,” Caldwell added.

More fireworks, more fun at Leighton celebration

The USAG Franconia Morale, Welfare and Recreation team includes, from left, Tory Lamb and a patriotic Steve Gauthier, the always hard at work Scott Caldwell, director Jeff Wertz and entertainment guru Garland Travis.
**Roundup**

2006 All-Europe baseball

Congratulations to Wuerzburg’s Sean Hipe and Dave Selmseyer who were named to the 2006 All-Europe baseball (high school age) team. Joining Hipe and Selmseyer were Ben Micklejohn and Ronnie Parker who were named to the second team.

Volunteers needed

Youth sports needs volunteers for coaching a variety of sports programs. No experience is necessary. For more information, call Vince Scialo at 09321-92-3273 or 01909-316-3767.

Workout longer, later

The Giebelstadt, Larson and Leighton Fitness centers have extended their hours of operation. They are open Mon-Fri. 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Giebelstadt and Larson centers will close their doors for good Sept. 1.

Last chance to bowl

The Marshall Heights Bowling Center in Kaiserslautern will close its doors for good Sept. 1.

Bamberg boxing program smokes competition

by Jim Hughes

WKF Master Trainer

Bamberg’s boxing team took second place at the U.S. Forces European boxing championships in Wiesbaden June 15-18. It was the second boxing program in infancy, just nine months past its inception, it is a considerable achievement.

“This is the first time Bamberg has participated and had a team at the WKF (U.S.) and Euro boxing championships,” said Sylvia Martin, Bamberg’s Freedom Fitness Facility (FFF) sports director. “For a small community like Bamberg, second place is an enormous success. Coach (Ferdinand) Perez has really flown with the boxing program in Bamberg and I honestly don’t think we would be where we are without his dedication to our boxers.”

“I am proud of my team. When they win, it feels like I’m winning,” Perez said.

Perez started boxing when he was 7 years old and only 56 pounds. He went on to fight for a spot on the Puerto Rico national boxing team and won a silver medal at the 1999 Pan-American Games, joining the U.S. Army the same year. Bamberg’s stable of fighters were Aida Pence, Sherwood Moore and Radleen Griffin, from 173rd Airborne Brigade and Lance Cpl. Julie Ko, from the 77th Corps Support Group.

“Boxing is the basics of any combative training,” Perez said. “It’s an art of offense and defense. That’s why it’s so attractive for Soldiers. They learn how to keep balance, block, parry, gain predominant position and use their hands to finish a fight. It takes a lot of discipline, motivation and dedication to be a good boxer and my team is good,” Perez said. “The key to our success in Wiesbaden was our way of training and my boxers’ spirit.”

“At first I joined the boxing team because I just wanted to get in better shape,” Pence said, who won the novice women’s featherweight title. “But then Coach Perez put me into the tournaments. Now my goal is to make it to the all-American boxing team and our coach will help me get there.”

The team is always looking for boxers. Open boxing practices are run by Perez at the FFF every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-8 p.m. For more information call 469-8890 or 0951-300-8890.

Bamberg’s Rasheen Griffin (right) battles Dexheim’s Alex Pereira in a U.S. Forces Europe men’s featherweight bout. Griffin won the gold medal with a 5-0 decision.

Lady Rattlers break Lady Stallions

by Scott Rouch


A day after the Rattlers were swept by the Lady Stallions in Stuttgart (23-10, 6-4), they lost the opener 6-5 before holding on for a knuckle-biting 14-13 win in the nightcap.

The Rattlers ran their record to 9-10 while the Lady Stallions’ record dropped to 13-3.

With one run in, bases loaded and two outs, Rattlers’ pitcher Laila Smith got April Hawkins to fly out to center field to end the game. “I was a little nervous, Smith said, who doubles as one of the teams two player-coaches.” After her, the heart of the lineup was coming up.”

After wasting several good scoring opportunities in game one, the Rattlers’ bats came alive in game two, pounding out 19 hits including two-run homers by Kari Santana and Smith, and a three-run blast by Maria Smith in the bottom of the fifth that gave the Rattlers a 10-6 advantage.

“We’re usually better in the second game after we’re warmed up,” Smith said. “We’re old, it takes a while,” added Hollie Norton, the team’s other player-coach.

Facing a 10-6 deficit in the top of the sixth inning, the Lady Stallions showed one of the reasons they had only lost twice all season.

After their first two batters down, they strung together six hits and a walk, scoring six runs and took a 12-10 lead.

The Rattlers responded with hits from Lindsey Byall, Norton, Karen Hicks, and Santana, scoring four runs of their own taking the lead stranding two runners in three of the last four innings.

Big wheels keep on turning

by Jim Hughes

Bamberg’s Alex Pereira (right) battles Bamberg’s Alex Pereira in a U.S. Forces Europe men’s featherweight bout. Griffin won the gold medal with a 5-0 decision.

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