

The Franconian News

Serving the Franconia Military Community in Ansbach, Bamberg and Schweinfurt

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Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012

USAREUR Band and Chorus play full house in Ansbach

By Bryan Gatchell,
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

ANSBACH, Germany – On either side of the stage were Christmas trees. A prop hearth hung with stockings was at stage right. Speakers were wrapped like presents. This was how the stage was set in the Onoldiasaal of the Onoldia Convention Center here.

The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus, returning to Ansbach after nearly five years, performed their final public holiday concert of the season. Maj. Bruce R. Pulver served as commander and conductor, Capt. Bryan J. Ralls as executive officer and Sgt. Maj. Frank T. Suri as the enlisted bandleader. The group's repertoire consisted of many different musical styles and genres, often with short dramatic sketches performed by members of the chorus between the musical pieces.

"Just to show you how popular the band and chorus are: It has taken us almost five years to get them back to Ansbach," said Lawler. "Your band and chorus members are true ambassadors of German-American friendship. When I started my command, there were



Bryan Gatchell / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Maj. Bruce R. Pulver conducts the U.S. Army Europe Band during the "Holiday Traditions" concert at the Onoldiasaal in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13.

two things that everyone asked me to do: Have a German-American Volksfest and bring back the band. Thank you for meeting 50 percent of my requirements."

The Volksfest is scheduled for

April 19 through 21.

The concert, titled "Holiday Traditions," ran through a gamut of different winter holiday musical traditions, as well as some nontraditional pieces. Among

the traditional were a medley from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" performed by tenor Sgt. Lucky Tagaloa, "O

(BAND, on Page 4)

Spreading holiday cheer



Heidi Sanders / USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

Capt. Petero Lole, commander of USAG Bamberg Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, right, serves turkey during a Christmas dinner for single and wounded Soldiers Dec. 12 at the Warner Conference Center. For more on this story, see [Page 2](#).

Schweinfurt community members cash in on financial course

By Spc. Latoya Dallas,
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – The cost for the 30 donated membership kits: \$2,610. Total debts diminished and money saved in three months: \$84,158. Having absolute financial peace: priceless.

A 13-week course geared toward those wanting to handle money more responsibly culminated in a graduation Nov. 27 at Ledward Chapel.

More than 30 single Soldiers and married individuals had been gathering there for an hour and a half each week to attend Financial Peace University, the brainchild of financial guru and New York

Times bestselling author, radio host and motivational speaker Dave Ramsey.

Fifty-six percent of enlisted military personnel report difficulty with family finances, and 47 percent are over their heads with their own expenses, Ramsey said on his website. Service members have more important things to worry about than money.

So Ramsey created the Financial Peace University: Military Edition, an intensive 13-week program helping community members here dump their debt, take control of their money and learn new behaviors around money (CASH, on Page 3)

Bamberg community spreads holiday cheer to single, wounded Soldiers

By Heidi Sanders,
USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany – Being away from friends and Family while stationed overseas can be difficult – especially during the holiday season. Several organizations at U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg helped brighten the spirits of single and wounded Soldiers by hosting a Christmas dinner for them Dec. 12 at the Warner Conference Center.

The idea to host the Christmas dinner came from the German-American Kontakt Club, said Capt. Petero Lole, commander of USAG Bamberg Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. Previously, the club has arranged for Soldiers to spend the holidays with German families but wanted to try something different this year, he said.

“Sometimes the single Soldiers get forgotten over the holidays,” Lole said.

Several post organizations helped put the event on, Lole said. The Bamberg Spouses and Civilians’ Club and the Kontakt Club helped provide funding for the event, and family readiness groups and the chapel supplied desserts. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers also helped with the event. Organizations and individuals helped prepare the food and serve dinner.

One of the volunteers was Colleen Grosenick from Pennsylvania, who is in Bamberg for the holidays to visit her sister, 1st Lt. Megan Grosenick with the 54th Engineer Battalion.

Grosenick said she often volunteers at homeless shelters and other

organizations back home, so she decided to spend the day helping prepare and serve food to the Soldiers.

“It is nice they do things like this, especially in a foreign country,” Grosenick said.

The evening started with a social hour, complete with an array of appetizers. The main course consisted of a variety of side dishes and meats, including deep-fried Cajun turkey.

“He said ‘deep-fried turkey’ and we came running,” said Pfc. Larry Torres, with the 54th Eng. Bn, after hearing about the dinner during an in-processing briefing.

Torres, who arrived in Germany a couple of weeks before, said the dinner was a nice way to get into the holiday spirit despite being away from Family and friends.

“My wife and I just got married and she is back in the states,” Torres said. He said he hopes his wife will be able to join him after Christmas.

Pvt. Vince Ducibella, with the 54th Engineer Battalion, arrived in Bamberg less than a week before the dinner.

He said the event helped make his first Christmas away from home a little easier.

“This is a great distraction from being like, ‘Oh man, I am going to be alone for the holidays,’” Ducibella said.

Spc. Jose Castillo, with the 54th Eng. Bn, said the meal was a nice change from the dining facility.

“It is a pretty nice setup,” Castillo said.



Heidi Sanders / USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

Volunteers serve a Christmas dinner to single and wounded Soldiers Dec. 12 at the Warner Conference Center.



Col. Kelly J. Lawler
U.S. Army Garrison
Ansbach, Commander

Lt. Col. Michelle L. Bienias
U.S. Army Garrison
Bamberg, Commander

Renate Bohlen
USAG Bamberg, Public Affairs
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Bamberg website at www.bamberg.army.mil or the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach website at www.ansbach.army.mil.

All Family and MWR programs provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with special needs. For assistance please contact the facility manager prior to your visit.

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(CASH, continued from Page 1) founded on commitment and accountability.

Arcelio Alleyne, manager of USAG Schweinfurt's financial readiness program, brought Ramsey's course to the community here. As FPU class coordinator, business degree holder and a man "crazy about saving and investing," Alleyne's classes nowhere resembled the stuffy economics class of high school yore.

The financial university offers a humorous and common-sense approach to honing money skills, and participants aren't asked to share personal financial information.

"This stuff works," said Alleyne. "I hope that those who went through this program do not give up because it's not easy. It isn't finished when you get the Dave Ramsey certificate."

The biggest concept that FPU graduates Staff Sgt. Nathan J. Hickson and his wife Noemi Hickson learned was the importance of budgeting.

"I am able to tell my money where to go instead of wondering where it went," said Hickson. His wife added, "And one doesn't have to lean on credit or loans to own cars or anything if they are willing to budget for it."

It isn't uncommon for families to go into debt during the holiday season. About 13 million Americans are still paying for last year's shopping, according to an ABC report.

This won't be the case for the Hicksons this month.

"We have other financial priorities. So, it will be the bare minimum for the kids this Christmas," said Hickson of the couple's six children. "Kids want everything, but it's more important to think about the long-term than for our family to be in debt."

The "debt snowball" was an eye-opener for 1st Sgt. Clifton Morehouse and his wife Jesquenia Morehouse.

"People will see that they have all this money saved up over here, but they really don't because there is still this lingering debt," said Clifton. "If you have \$6,000 in the bank and \$5,000 in debt, you really only have \$1,000."

"Before the class," said Jesquenia, "my mindset was 'You can't take the money with you when you die. So, you might as well enjoy it why you're making it.' But now I look at money in a long-term perspective because when I get older I want to be financially secure and have a comfortable retirement.

You do have to take care of yourself when you get older. You won't be working forever, but money can last forever if you have a plan."

Another FPU course will be available to the Schweinfurt military community in March. Stay connected to www.teamschweinfurt.com and click on the "Meetings & Training" calendar for dates. For more, contact Arcelio Alleyne at 09721-96-6933. Become one of the millions who have changed their lives forever through Financial Peace University.



Danielle Hanson / USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Service

Students of the Financial Peace University are all smiles as they hold up money signals. Months of hard work and dedication culminated in a graduation ceremony at the Ledward Chapel Nov. 27. The course helps community members dump their debt, take control of their money and learn new behaviors around money.

Bamberg Dental Clinic encourages patrons to keep appointments

By Lt. Col. Scott J. Rankin, Bamberg Dental Clinic commander

BAMBERG, Germany – The initiative to reduce missed dental appointments started several months ago when Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, former commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, emphasized the issue.

In an effort to meet Hertling's goal of dropping the missed dental appointment rate to 2 percent, the Bamberg Dental Clinic wants to work with the U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg community to ensure the goals are met.

The failed appointment rate for the Bamberg Dental Clinic has decreased from 6.6 percent in April to 5.4 percent in October. It

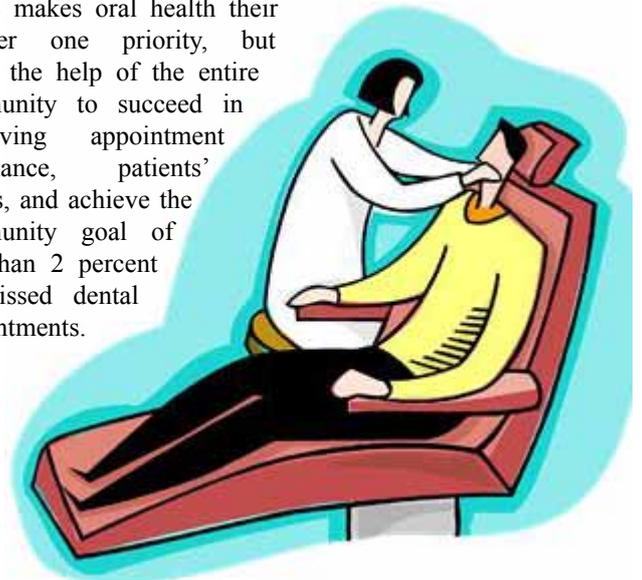
is moving in the right direction, but it is nowhere near the 2 percent failed appointment rate.

When patients miss dental appointments, they not only delay the completion of their own dental treatment, but also the dental treatment of other patients. Furthermore, each time a patient fails a one-hour appointment, the clinic encounters a minimum loss of \$363.

Dental appointments are usually made four weeks in advance, allowing time to plan accordingly. If a patient is unable to attend their dental appointment, it is important they notify the clinic 24 hours in advance. The more time the clinic has to fill the open slot, the more chances other patients have to

receive dental care.

The USAG Bamberg Dental Clinic makes oral health their number one priority, but needs the help of the entire community to succeed in improving appointment attendance, patients' access, and achieve the community goal of less than 2 percent of missed dental appointments.



Stress may be more than just holiday blues

WASHINGTON – Everyone, including Soldiers and their Families, experience stress once in a while. But too much could lead to a variety of problems including post-traumatic stress disorder and even suicide.

First, stress is not necessarily a bad thing and can even be useful, especially for Soldiers on the battlefield. Stress causes energy-pumping hormones ...

To read more on this story, click [here](#).



Unified Endeavor preps U.S., multinational Soldiers for ISAF missions and beyond

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Just as ground troops must become proficient at weaponry and a myriad of warrior skills and tasks, there is also an expectation that commanders and their staff master their mission of orchestrating movements on the ground. More than 1,800 U.S. and multinational Soldiers from ...

To read more on this story, click [here](#).





The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus perform "Feliz Navidad" for their "Holiday Traditions" concert in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13.

(BAND, continued from Page 1)

Hanukkah" performed by bass Sgt. Paul Grant, and "Do You Hear What I Hear?" by the brass quintet.

Among the less traditional was a swinging version of "Feliz Navidad" with Tagaloa. During "Frosty Rap," Sgt. Kailin Eskander attempted to sing a mellow country version of "Frosty the Snowman" while Sgt. Tyler Goodwin interrupted her performance with a rap accompanied by the band's rock ensemble "Night Fire." An a cappella version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" incorporated Jacques Offenbach's cancan "The Infernal Galop," Mykola Leonovych and Peter J. Wilhousky's "Carol of the Bells" and Toto's "Africa."

The Onoldiasaal had a full house, which gave the performance a standing ovation.

"The music was really, really nice," said Mariechen Thamm, resident of Ansbach. "I loved the music."

"Our Ansbach friends love you, and so do we," said Lawler to the group. "Your performance was magnificent, and we're proud to serve alongside you in our great Army."

Members of the band and chorus were also excited about performing for Ansbach. Sgt. Maritess Key, who is new to the group, performed her first Christmas concert with them.

"I cannot explain how happy I am," said Key. "Of course, the first time it's nervousness, fixation, but after that it's just happiness inside me because you get smiles. ... They were very responsive."

Concerning her experience as a new member of the band, Key was also positive.

"They are very helpful. They will train you on whatever you need to be trained on, and you can catch up quickly."

To learn more about the USAREUR Band and Chorus, who are currently searching for new members, visit www.eur.army.mil/band.



Photos by Bryan Gatchell / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Sgt. Paul Grant, a bass soloist with the U.S. Army Europe Chorus, sings "O Hanukkah" during the "Holiday Traditions" concert in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13.



The U.S. Army Europe Woodwind Quintet, part of the USAREUR Band, plays "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow," during their "Holiday Traditions" concert in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13.



Maj. Bruce R. Pulver conducts the U.S. Army Europe Band during the "Holiday Traditions" concert at the Onoldiasaal in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13.



Sgt. Kailin Eskander, an oboist with the U.S. Army Europe Band, sings "Frosty the Snowman" during U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus "Holiday Traditions" concert in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13.



The U.S. Army Europe Chorus sings "Feliz Navidad" from the balcony of the Onoldiasaal in Ansbach, Germany, Dec. 13 during their "Holiday Traditions" concert.

Faces of Schweinfurt: Jenni Lowell – spouse, mother, Army wife

By Margaret Gotheridge,
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

She's like most mothers. There's the hustle and bustle of getting the kids out of bed, then dressed and out the door for school. There's the daily grind. Dinner, kids' sports, afterschool activities, work, paying bills, things to do, people to see. If she's lucky, there may even be some "me" time, but doubtful.

But those tan combat boots no longer thrown haphazardly near the door can trigger a wave of emotions unfamiliar to the typical mom.

"I miss the can of shaving cream I put away every day when he is home," she says.

Jenni Lowell: teacher, mother and Army spouse. She's married to the Army, and her husband is deployed to Afghanistan.

For Jenni Lowell – married to Maj. Harvey R. Lowell, executive officer of 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment – life can be rough.

Jenni and Harvey Lowell met when they were teenagers and became high school sweethearts. Jenni was 14 and Harvey was 17. After attending college in Idaho, Jenni married Harvey in 2000 once he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy. During their marriage they have been through four deployments.

Like many military spouses, Jenni Lowell turns the chaos of single parenthood into order while her spouse is deployed. She was willing to share her experience.

Q: During the deployment what do you think is your most important role within your home as a military spouse?

A: Being the rock that my kids can rely on and making sure everybody is happy and healthy, surviving the best that we can. I mean we have to move on and ensure that we still have fun, laugh, giggle and play.

Q: How do you both prepare your family for deployments?

A: I let my kids know as much as possible every step of the way, not "your dad's going to be leaving tomorrow." We inform our children every step of the way and stress the importance of spending time together. We make sure that the kids know that "today is just family day," no extra friends coming along, just us as a family. The kids know that Dad is in the Army, and that means Dad leaves and Dad comes back, Dad leaves and comes back.

I guess the trainings kind of help out with preparing for the deployment too. Before they go up the kids get used to dad being gone.

I feel the more open I am with my kids I think the easier it is. Some people say don't tell your kids anything, but I have found that if I explain the dangers of Afghanistan, my kids understand why daddy is not here or why he cannot call, write or Skype more often.



Margaret Gotheridge / USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Jenni Lowell and her children bake cookies for dad, who is deployed to Afghanistan. "There are concerns, issues and problems that I deal with every day," Lowell says about life as an Army wife. Lowell gives us a glimpse into what life is like being married to the Army.

Q: What affects you most during the deployment?

A: Sometimes I would love to come home and just vent – talk or just bounce ideas off of somebody, but there is nobody there to bounce off the ideas. Sometimes I think I just need an adult conversation to be able to get ideas, make sure I am doing something right or having another opinion is always nice to have as well. The comfort of knowing that someone is going to be there when you have had a bad day at work or the kids are being ornery, just a simple hug to say it's going to be OK is all I need sometimes.

Q: How do you communicate with your spouse down range and how often?

A: Through Facebook, email and Skype, now that we have Skype up and running. We try to Skype at least once a week, but it doesn't always work because of the time change difference, it makes it a little harder. And when the guys are busy ... the guys are busy and I can't control that. We try to designate Sundays as Skype days.

Q: How has your communication changed since your first deployment?

A: The first deployment we didn't have much communication. For the first three months I didn't hear from him at all.

We used to write letters and now we email or message each other instead. I loved receiving the hand-written letters. Now technology is so easy we just get reliant on emails and messages

that the hand-written letters have gone out the door. It is sad because I have all the letters that my husband has ever written me from high school, college and past deployments. I think it is fun to reminisce and go back through them. I don't think it is as much fun to sift through emails.

Q: What do you miss most about him that you don't give a lot of thought to until you realize that he isn't here?

A: I miss his smile and his laugh. I miss that more than anything. I miss him playing and laughing with the kids. I think that is the number one thing because that fills the house with joy. I miss the sound of his car pulling into the driveway and the front door closing late at night. I miss his teasing. It's not always funny when he's home, but I sure miss it when he is gone. I miss the can of shaving cream I put away every day when he is home. I think it's the simple little things that I miss the most about him. He truly adds a lot to our family and when he is gone there is an empty feeling that can't be filled.

Q: What are your biggest fights/issues with your husband while he is deployed?

A: Normally we are really good, except for a couple weeks ago I brought up a concern with him about one of our kids and he said, "It's just fine, don't worry. They are gonna be all right." I was like "but you are not here, you are not seeing it, living it, and you do not understand what is going on."

There are concerns, issues and problems that I deal with every day. When I do bring up an issue, problem or concern, he will just tell me it's OK, and then I feel he just brushed it off and doesn't understand. In reality, I'm frustrated because he doesn't have to deal with the problems, issues or concerns that I have to. Yet, I am not living in Afghanistan, so I don't truly understand what he is going through either. I am learning that I don't understand 100 percent what is going on over there and he doesn't understand 100 percent what is going on over here. We just need to have empathy towards each other, be kind to one another, do not compare and contrast each other's situations, and support one another.

Q: What do you think affects your children the most when he is deployed?

A: The kids have a hard time when their daddy is not able to attend events like soccer games, celebrate special moments, birthdays and holidays or even go on trips or vacations. I like traveling and going to places, but I feel guilty going to all these places without him because I want to make memories as a family and not just me and the kids all the time. Sometimes you just have to do it just to have fun – we are in Europe, so you gotta go play too.

Q: Is the deployment a little bit easier or harder since the kids are a little bit older?

A: I think the deployment this time is a bit harder because the kids are older and more aware. They really miss their daddy. They sometimes cry at night, saying, 'I miss Daddy.' I have to play the good guy and the bad guy, and it is hard to be both at the same time.

Q: How does your husband help stay involved down range?

A: He reads stories, sends emails to make sure everything is going OK. He likes to hear all their stories, look at pictures to see what they

are doing and how they are developing. He is always interested in what the kids tell him. He still teases them on the phone and makes up funny songs to sing to them.

Q: Do you ever have a breakdown moment?

A: I think everybody has their breakdown moment. I think when I am sick and I don't feel good that is when I have my breakdown moments. When I am sick I don't have enough energy to chase after the kids and get everything done. I just need an extra set of hands or for someone to have pity on me.

Q: What do you do during those times?

A: I curl up with the kids on the couch and we watch a movie and eat popcorn.

Q: Do you have any stress relievers that you often use?

A: The gym. The gym is awesome. There is an awesome group of ladies that I have been working out with. Functional fitness is awesome and it helps out a lot. When I don't go to the gym, I get sassy.

Q: How do you adjust when he comes back during redeployment?

A: We have always adjusted pretty quickly, except for the fact that I am pretty strong willed. I think I may have a hard time adjusting this time because I have gotten so use to juggling work, college, household duties and the kids.

I have become really independent knowing I can do this on my own. Not that I want to do this on my own, but I have established a routine and it is hard to change a routine. I just need to realize that my husband wants to help and together we need to establish new routines or go back to the old ones.

I think dealing with change is the most difficult part of being a military spouse. I have learned that marriage is something you have to work on; it's not an easy thing. It's a daily thing that you have to work on, just like raising kids. It's not something you just forget about.

"I miss his smile and his laugh. I miss that more than anything. I miss him playing and laughing with the kids. I think that is the number one thing because that fills the house with joy."



Stephen Baack / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Boston, an Apache helicopter pilot with C Company, 3rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, explains the ins and outs of his aircraft during a Dec. 13 visit from about 30 students – half from Ansbach High School and half from Heilsbronn Realschule – to 12th Combat Aviation Brigade at Katterbach. The German students spent that day and the next with their American counterparts as part of an exchange program. For more on this story, look for it in the Jan. 3 issue.

USAG Bamberg seeks issues, volunteers for AFAP symposium

By Heidi Sanders,
USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany – U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg will have its Army Family Action Plan symposium Feb. 7 and 8, and needs volunteers and issues to make it a success.

AFAP was created by Army spouses who wanted to improve the standard of living for their Families. The AFAP attendees have addressed more than 650 issues since its inception three decades ago.

Kimberly Millner, with Bamberg's Army Community Service who is coordinating this year's symposium, said even though Bamberg is slated for closure in 2014, issues brought to AFAP can still impact the community and the Army.

This bottom-up program is systematic with issues worked at a garrison level and then moved up to the Installation Management

Command Europe level. In turn, these issues can then be moved up to Headquarters, Department of the Army.

"We still want best issues from our community to send forward to IMCOM," Millner said. "We want as many issues as we can get that can be used to affect the whole Army. We want them to think big Army."

Issues are submitted, prioritized and discussed in small working groups made up of military and civilian community members during the symposium.

The top issues will be presented to USAG Bamberg Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Michelle L. Bienias, who will select several issues and send them forward to the Installation Management Command Europe AFAP conference.

Top issues presented at last year's AFAP symposium in Bamberg included the limited

knowledge of dental policies and procedures for family members, different regulations for Exceptional Family Member Program within Installation Management Command Europe and Military Personnel Division, and the timelines of transportation of household goods.

AFAP issues can be submitted until Jan. 25, either by dropping them in boxes that will be placed in various locations around post or by sending an email to Millner at kimberly.a.millner.civ@mail.mil.

Millner said volunteers are also needed to help with the symposium. Positions available include delegates, facilitators, issue support and recorders/transcribers. See sidebar for descriptions of the positions.

The symposium will take place Feb. 7 and 8 from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day at the Warner Conference Center.

For more information or to volunteer, call Millner at 0951-300-7777.



File photo

Delegates take part in Bamberg's Army Family Action Plan symposium in November 2011. Issues and volunteers are needed for this year's symposium, which will take place Feb. 7 and 8.

Have a voice Volunteer for AFAP

By Heidi Sanders,
USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

Are you ready to be part of improving lives of Soldiers, retirees, Department of the Army civilians, and their family members? Then you are a good candidate to be an Army Family Action Plan volunteer. The following volunteer opportunities are open for the AFAP Symposium, Feb. 7 and 8.

Delegate

Duties: Represents the Army Family by prioritizing issues and recommending solutions. Requires: an open mind and ability to listen and respect others

Facilitator

Duties: Manages the group process to achieve the goals of the workgroup. Stimulates group discussion and encourages all to participate. Requires: Flexibility and patience

Recorder/Transcriber

Duties: Captures basic ideas on paper in full view of the group. Prepares issue papers and brief-out slides. Requires: Neutrality

Issue Support

Duties: Ensures issues are not currently being worked in the AFAP process. Requires: Prior knowledge of the issues



SOLDIERS • FAMILIES • CIVILIANS

Community identifies QOL issues, recommends solutions at annual conference

Story by Margaret Gotheridge, USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – A three-day grassroots conference here aimed at identifying and pairing recommended solutions to community issues culminated in a final briefing to garrison leadership Dec. 13 at the Conn Club.

Delegates of Soldiers, military spouses and community members gathered Dec. 11 through 13 at the Conn Club as part of Schweinfurt’s Army Family Action Plan conference to identify and elevate the most significant quality of life issues impacting the community.

The yearly AFAP conference draws community members – both Soldier and civilian – to tackle issues that, for the past several months, have been submitted by the Schweinfurt military community. The AFAP delegates evaluated each issue and developed their own recommended solutions. The participants discussed the issues with subject-matter experts for a better comprehension of the problems.

Army Family Action Plan is an Army-wide initiative with annual conferences held at most Army installations.

This year’s issues were categorized under focus areas dealing with the services and facilities for force support, medical, dental, and family and youth services. This year’s conference focused specifically on Schweinfurt’s closure, slotted for October 2014.

Some of the concerns will be handled by garrison staff, while those impacting a greater Schweinfurt audience can be forwarded by leadership to higher headquarters for review. Below is a list of this year’s AFAP issues.

Closure concerns

- Consolidation of shuttle bus services could prevent community members from utilizing garrison services.
- Possible school consolidation lends itself to bullying situations and a loss of specialized classrooms.
- Abandoned vehicles and those not properly disposed of or resold as a result of less incoming personnel
- The loss of or the decrease of Child, Youth and School Services sports and after-school programs
- Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS, will scale back programs, activities and opening hours at their facilities due to decreasing number of single Soldiers.

High school concerns

Students at Schweinfurt High School held a Teen AFAP conference Dec. 4 at the high school. Representatives from the conference presented their issues Dec. 13 at the Community AFAP conference.

- Secure a recreational facility for dogs in the USAG Schweinfurt housing areas.
- Rabbit holes have created safety hazards and have interrupted community activities on Kessler Field.

Issues

- Safety of Soldiers participating in organized physical training on the East Conn gate access road (Euerbacher Strasse)
- Cleanliness of government quarters before a permanent change of station
- Cost of haircuts within U.S. Army-Europe
- Monetary and housing support for families during a separation or divorce
- Medical treatment facility for retirees, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents
- Commissary operating hours



Margaret Gotheridge / USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Col. Geoffrey Mangelsdorf, commander of 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, addresses delegates of the 2012 Army Family Action Plan conference held at the Conn Club Dec. 11 through 13. AFAP is the Army’s grassroots process to identify and elevate the most significant quality of life issues impacting the community.

Illesheim Christmas play



(Top and right) Illesheim Elementary School students perform in a lively musical, “Elfis and the Sleigh Riders.” Dec. 13

Elfis is the North Pole’s most popular singer. This year, Santa surprised Elfis with his own band. All is well until the background singers decide they deserve solos. “Elfis and the Sleigh Riders” reminds that friendship and love are important gifts to give this holiday season. Nearly 300 children participated.



Photos by Thomas B. Hamilton III / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

USAG Bamberg recognizes, awards employees for service

By Simon Hupfer,
USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany – U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg employees were publicly recognized and received awards during a Dec. 13 ceremony at Warner Conference Center here.

The ceremony included recognition of 76 employees who were honored for 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of government service, and a presentation during which three garrison employees received cash awards and a time-off award.

The honorees received their certificates from Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Michelle L. Bienias, who thanked every employee personally.

“You have demonstrated a deep interest in the welfare of this community. You have dedicated your knowledge and expertise to make this a place where Soldiers choose to be stationed and where Families enjoy living. You are indeed outstanding employees and I am very proud of you and what you do every single day,” Bienias said in her remarks and extended her thanks to the entire workforce: “Thanks to all the employees and the entire garrison workforce for making USAG Bamberg one of the best locations in Europe and the Army to live, work and play.”

“Warner Barracks has been and still is praised as one of the most beautiful and best

U.S. installations within this country and, in economical aspects, we are still operating this installation at the highest and best economical rates throughout USAREUR,” said Eduard Mayer, USAG Bamberg’s works council chairman. “The work of our awardees made this possible.”

USAG Bamberg’s Employee of the Year
Vernon Morey, chief of the Military Personnel Division and Central Processing Facility

Runners-up were James Cagney, force protection specialist, and Barbara Baeuerlein, administrative assistant to the Human Resources director.

20 years of service

Saul Arizmendi
Mark Bradley
Lydia Gray

Petra Harrell
Terri Hofstetter
Lee Kjonaas

25 years

Marlene Belt
Marcus Bertuch
Josefine Burkard
Rudolf Deubzer
Terrence Durbin
Uta Gawantka
Regina Gruber
Karin Heepen
Oskar Herrmann
Stefan Krug

Michael McCullom
Christina Mount
Ulrike Pauer
Roland Pompe
Claudia Price
Antonio Santos
Stefan Schlueter
Alexander Woeber
Klaus Zeller
Robert Ziegler

Michael Langhammer

30 years

Michael Becker
Hans-Juergen Betz
Wilhelm Bielawski
Karin Burger
Elvira Cretti
Wilson Delahoz
Dieter Dietz
Robert Dotterweich
Gerhard Eichhorn
Rolf Eser
Helmut Foertsch
Gerhard Gerhaeuser
Irene Goins
Peter Heinrich
Scott Helgelien
Konrad Herzig
Archibald Johnson
Doris Koehler

Berni Ludwig
Juergen Mann
Lydia Mayer
Jonathan Nolan
Uwe Rauch
Michael Ries
Uwe Schlegelmilch
Claudia Schubert
Perminder Singh
Thomas Trautner
Rainer van der Heyd
Miroslav Vrbicky
Dieter Wagner
Bernd Wedel
Khin Maung Win
Udo Winterstein
Harald Wolf

35 years

Helmut Bichelhuber
Alfred Bowman
Rainer Brueckner
Leslie Graham
Joachim Raab

Christa Roney
Karl-Heinz Schraudner
Richard Sidley
Karin Stiefler
Allen Vance

40 years

Renate Feldt
Hans Graf

James Kissinger
Adam Stoecklein



Michael Langhammer / USAG Bamberg

U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg recognized 76 employees for government service during a Dec. 13 ceremony at Warner Conference Center.

Know what is required to report birth of a child overseas

By Jessica Lipari,

USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany – Welcoming a child in to the world is a joyous occasion, but for parents who have a baby while stationed in Germany, a few extra steps are required to ensure proper documentation of the child's citizenship.

Having a baby in Germany does not mean the baby is a German citizen, but parents will receive a German birth certificate, or a Geburtsregister. The child will be a U.S. citizen, but the parents will need to file additional paperwork reporting the birth abroad.

Reporting a birth abroad is required, and there are several forms and pieces documentation needed to complete this. Soldiers and Department of Defense civilian employees must file this paperwork at a U.S. Army Garrison and are not allowed to go to a U.S. Embassy in Germany unless it is an emergency. Since the paperwork has to be sent off to be completed, it is important to do this as soon as possible after birth to ensure the baby and Family can all travel together whether for leisure or a permanent change of station.

Both parents and the child need to be present at the passport office to complete the report of birth abroad. For single parents, additional paperwork is required, including a special power of attorney, appropriate parental affidavit, physical presence form and a DS-3053. It is recommended that single parents contact the garrison passport

office to verify the additional requirements before making an appointment.

While filing an Application for Consular Birth Abroad, Form DS-2029, a passport is also filed for and a Social Security number application can be completed at this time.

Either a no-fee passport or a tourist passport may be applied for; the tourist passport is \$105. The fee for filing the report of birth abroad is currently \$100. Money orders are required to pay for these at the time of applying and can be obtained at the post office.

The passport application is form DS-11 and should be completed online at www.travel.state.gov. The application should not be signed in advance; the parents will need to sign the application in front of the issuing agent at the garrison passport office after taking an oath.

Documents that are required in addition to the two applications, DS-2029 and DS-11, are:

- Child's German birth certificate
- Sponsor's passport or birth certificate to prove citizenship
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Divorce decrees (if applicable)
- Affidavits of parentage (if applicable) – needed if single, divorced or child was conceived out of wedlock
- Supporting documents (if applicable) – adoption papers, naturalization certificates, command sponsorship orders

- Two passport-size photographs of child applicant

All documents must be originals and will be sent with the report of birth abroad application and returned with the completed application.

To file this paperwork in the Franconia Military Community, an appointment at a passport office is required.

USAG Ansbach's Passport Office is in Bldg. 5817 at Katterbach Kaserne and is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. It is also open Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. and closed on federal holidays. For more information, call 09802-83-3456.

USAG Bamberg's Passport Office is in Bldg. 7290 and is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and by appointment only from 1 to 4 p.m. It is also closed on federal holidays. For more information, call 0951-300-8928 or visit www.bamberg.army.mil/directorates/dhr/passport.asp.

USAG Schweinfurt's Passport Office is in Bldg. 40 at Conn Barracks and is open Mondays and Wednesdays through Fridays from 8 to 11:45 a.m. and 1 to 3:45 p.m. It is closed on federal holidays and the first Thursday of the month. For more information, call 09721-96-8829 or visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dhr/passports/index.htm.

Avoid an alcohol-related incident this holiday season – enjoy a tasty mock-tail

D'Arcy Giovine

USAG Ansbach Legal Assistance Office

It's the most wonderful time of the year – the holidays! It's time to drag out the decorations, the lights, the cookbooks and the ugly Christmas sweaters. 'Tis the season to gather with family and friends to celebrate and rejoice. With all this comes an excess of food and drinks. As we all know, too much of a good thing can be dangerous, especially if that good thing is alcohol.

We want to encourage everybody to have fun and be safe. We cannot overstate the importance of having designated drivers for your holiday parties. Anyone willing to drive around guests who have been too merry are the most important part of any party. As the host or hostess, you also want to be sure to provide dazzling and tasty beverages for the VIPs of your party.

Make your holidays just a little bit merrier with this list of fantastic mock-tails so you and your guests can jingle bell rock safely and responsibly. With safe rides arranged for your guests, feel free to deck the halls and fa-la-la-la-la-la to your heart's content. May you have a merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy New Year's!

Mock Bubbly

- (2) 2 liters ginger ale, chilled
- (1) 46 oz pineapple juice, chilled
- (1) 64 oz white grape juice, chilled



Directions

- Fill a ring-shaped cake pan halfway with ginger ale. Freeze until partially frozen. At this stage you can place edible flowers, or pieces of fruit around the ring. Fill the rest of the pan with ginger ale and freeze until solid. Place into punch bowl before serving.
- In a large punch bowl, combine one bottle ginger ale, pineapple juice and white grape juice.
- Serve in champagne flutes and garnish with frozen fresh raspberries.

Rudolph's Mock Sangria

- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 black tea bags
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 cups pomegranate juice
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 orange, sliced into thin rounds
- 1 lemon, sliced into thin rounds
- 1 lime, sliced into thin rounds
- 1 apple, cored and cut in half-inch chunks
- 3 cups soda water

Directions

- Pour boiling water over tea bags and cinnamon sticks and steep for five minutes. Discard tea bags and stir in sugar to dissolve.
- In a large jar or pitcher, combine tea, cinnamon sticks, pomegranate juice, orange juice, orange, lemon, lime and apple. Refrigerate for at least one hour, preferably over night.
- Just before serving, stir in carbonated water. Serve in mason jars over ice.

Families welcome home their Soldiers

3-159 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion personnel return from Afghanistan

Photos by Thomas B. Hamilton III, USAG Ansbach Public Affairs



Brooke Covington waits for her husband's arrival inside a Storck Barracks hangar Dec. 16. Along with her homemade sign, Brooke holds her daughter Zoey, also pictured at left.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Neil Covington embraces his daughter Zoey upon his return Dec. 16 from Afghanistan.



A formation of Soldiers assigned to 3rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, march into a Storck Barracks hangar, signalling their return from Afghanistan.

USAG Ansbach opens Warrior Zone at Storck Barracks

By Stephen Baack,
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

ILLESHEIM, Germany – Like an early Christmas present to its Soldiers, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach opened a brand-new activity center Dec. 11 at Storck Barracks.

The “Warrior Zone” is equipped to give Soldiers plenty of outlets to socialize, relax, entertain themselves or simply decompress after a long day. The majority of the space inside the facility is devoted to a large recreational room that includes an air-hockey, foosball and pool table, a big-screen TV, dartboards, comfortable chairs and a bar with snacks and refreshments.

Deeper into the facility are a DJ booth, video game area and a quiet room for visitors to hang out, read or study.

Col. Kelly Lawler, USAG Ansbach commander, led the ribbon- and cake-cutting ceremonies, and spoke at length about the work that went into the Warrior Zone. Lawler said the facility, which served as a child development center at one time, has come a long way since he stepped foot inside during an early stage of its renewal more than a year ago.

“It’s come a long way. ... Be proud, be happy for what we have,” Lawler said. “Stuff like this does not just happen.”

Lawler said the Warrior Zone is part of Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s dividends that service members benefit from.

“Be thankful for that and acknowledge that,” he said, adding that the only way service members hold onto those dividends are by continuing to take advantage of them.

The Warrior Zone also helps fill a greater

need for the Army by allowing Soldiers to relax and recharge, something leaders like Lawler value as a vital component to the Army Force Generation process of developing and sustaining a ready force.

“We need the Illesheim community to remain ready and resilient to support current and future ARFORGEN requirements,” Lawler said. “This facility will enable an individual Soldier to have a platform to increase his readiness and resilience.”

Darlene Hines, special events coordinator and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers adviser for MWR, said Illesheim needed a place like this and seeing it finally open feels “so good – I’m so happy.”

“It’s been a couple of years in the making,” Hines continued. “This was all done before my time, but the planning, the renovating – it’s never easy to do a construction project, whether it’s from the ground up or a renovation project. There’s just a lot of time and thought and effort, and we certainly have put a lot of



Photos by Stephen Baack / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Leaders join junior Soldiers to cut the ribbon on Storck Barracks’ new Warrior Zone, opened Dec. 11. Aaron Tippin, second from right, joined in on the fun and later signed autographs in the facility before his concert that night.

time, thought and effort into this location, so it’s very exciting for us to see it come to fruition.”

Although she is a BOSS adviser, Hines is quick to point out the Warrior Zone was designed with all service members in mind; not just single Soldiers. The Warrior Zone equally welcomes any service member 18 and older of any rank, along with a guest.

At this early stage, the hours of operation are Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to midnight, but that may change as staff examines the habits and reactions from those who use the facility.

“Once all of our Soldiers are safely back home again, we will then adjust to see if people want to come in Monday through Wednesday as well,” Hines said. “That’s something that will be gauged at a later date. ... At some point we will, as they come in, ask them, ‘What are we missing? What do we need? Do you like the hours? Do you not like the hours?’”

Feedback is welcome now, and www.facebook.com/ansbachfamilyandmwr is one way service members can provide it. To learn more, call DSN 467-4584 or 09841-83-4584.



Two Soldiers play air-hockey after the grand opening of the Warrior Zone at Storck Barracks in Illesheim. The facility also offers a pool table, foosball table, extra-big-screen TV, video game room, DJ booth and a quiet room.



Franconia Military Community Announcements

Flu Vaccines

Flu vaccines are now available at your local health clinic. An annual average of 36,000 deaths and 226,000 hospitalizations occur each year in the U.S. due to influenza infections. Annual flu vaccinations are the most effective method for preventing influenza virus infections and its complications. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/flu-shot-video>.

Care Experience

Returning an Army Provider Satisfaction Survey can generate money for the local health clinic. Positive responses to the questions that generate money for the clinic are great, but honest responses about the customer experience is necessary to improve the clinic's quality of service. Beneficiaries who do not receive a survey within six weeks of a visit to a local clinic should ensure their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is up to date.

CID Seeks Qualified Soldiers

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, is recruiting qualified Soldiers who are interested in pursuing a career as a federal law enforcement officer. For more information, visit www.cid.army.mil/join_CID.html.

Army Suggestion Program

The Army Suggestion Program encourages Soldiers, civilians and any concerned individuals to submit ideas regarding how the Army can increase efficiency and cut costs. Approved suggestions are assessed on how much they save the Army and can earn individuals thousands of dollars. For more information, or to submit an idea, Army Knowledge Online registered users can visit the ASP website at <http://asp.hqda.pentagon.mil/public/>. Those unable to access AKO can submit a DA Form 1045 to their installation coordinator.

DEERS Validation

Soldiers are responsible for ensuring Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information is updated. Please see the ID card section to update your DEERS information.

OneSource Mobile

Army OneSource is now available for smartphone browsers. The launch of a mobile device version will optimize Army OneSource the mobile experience for visitors. Visit www.myarmyonesource.com today.

Recycling Idea

Use chopsticks, lollipop sticks or twigs from the garden to make window or tree decorations for the holidays.

Get EFMP Registered

Is your Soldier coming back from deployment? If your Soldier is receiving orders to another location, it is not too early to start your Exceptional Family Member Program paperwork. Family members can start the paperwork now. Your local Army Community Service EFMP manager can assist in determining what you need to do. Remember, if you have someone registered in EFMP, the registration has to be updated every three years or when the condition changes.

Sexual Assault

Your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator is available 24 hours a day. Call 0162-510-2917 for the 24-hour hotline.

Pre-Separation Briefing

Planning to move from Soldier to civilian? Take advantage of the transition services offered by the Army Career and Alumni Program, such as a Department of Labor two-and-a-half-day job assistance workshop, resume preparation assistance and information about veterans benefits. Make an appointment to attend the mandatory ACAP Pre-Separation Briefing; offered weekly and about an hour long. Separating Soldiers can start the ACAP process one year before separating. Soldiers who will be retiring can start two years out from their projected retirement date.

Trial Defense Services

If you're a Soldier and you are questioned by law enforcement, Criminal Investigation Division or members of your command about suspected acts of misconduct, you have the absolute right to remain silent. You have the right to refuse to answer any question, even from your commander, and you have the right to talk to an attorney. If questioned, you should immediately demand to speak to an attorney. As a Soldier, you are entitled to free consultation and representation by a military defense counsel. All communications with a trial defense attorney are privileged and will not be released to your command. Let a U.S. Army trial defense attorney help you. To learn more, speak with a free trial defense attorney.

Teen Stress

The National Military Family Association created a kit to give the people in military teens' lives a way to help them manage stress and affirm the positive aspects of military life. To obtain a copy of the tool kit and learn more, visit <http://www.myarmyonesource.com/News/2010/07/OperationPurple>.

Involved Consideration

Missed appointments diminish a medical facility's ability to provide efficient health care. The next time you cannot make your medical appointment, be considerate and cancel your appointment. We need your involvement to provide better care.

Scout Program

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects three young people — of the Boy or Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts or Venturing Crew — who have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting and the community. The first-place winner receives a \$5,000 award, the second-place winner receives a \$3,000 award and the third-place winner receives \$1,000. To learn more, visit www.vfw.org/Community/Scout-of-the-Year-Scholarship.

PTA Scholarships

Apply for European Parent Teacher Association scholarships. For more information, visit <http://europeanptaonline.org/EPTAScholarship.aspx>.

Post-911 GI Bill

Take advantage of your military benefits. Earn a degree or skill with your Post-911 GI Bill. Find out more about your benefits by visiting www.gibill.va.gov.

Edelweiss Resort

Ongoing specials and packages are available for Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. This full-scale resort and alpine lodge is in the heart of the Bavarian Alps and ski country. The hotel is part of USAG Garmisch with nearby AAFES shopping and gas facilities. There are often deals and package specials available. For more information, visit www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com.

Utility Tax Relief Services

The Tax Relief Office offers a new service for U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, Bamberg and Schweinfurt customers. With the implementation of the Utility Avoidance Program, customers can sign up and save 19 percent tax on their electricity, gas and water bills. To learn more, call the Warner Barracks' Tax Relief Office at 0951-300-1780, Leward Barracks' Tax Relief Office at 09721-96-1780, Bismark Kaserne's Tax Relief Office at 09802-83-1780 or Storck Barracks' Tax Relief Office at 09841-83-4553.

Family Advocacy Programs

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program is here to provide help and support by offering New Parent Support Program, Newborn Network, play group, parenting classes, communication classes, victim advocacy and anger/stress management classes. Contact your local ACS for dates and class schedules.

Immediate Appointments

Are you tired of waiting on hold while scheduling a medical appointment at a health clinic? With TRICARE Online, you don't have to wait on hold. You can schedule appointments, refill prescriptions and manage your health needs better. Register today at www.tricareonline.com. To learn more, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7VeUlyTMA4.



PROTECT YOURSELF - PROTECT YOUR FAMILY - PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

AGAINST

SEASONAL FLU

GET AN INFLUENZA VACCINATION

AVAILABLE AT YOUR HEALTH CLINIC

ARMY MEDICINE
Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve

This Health Clinic Offers

e-Healthcare

Now you can...

- E-mail a Doctor or Nurse
- Request Appointments
- Request Medication Refills
- Get Your Lab Results

It's Easy To Get Started

Ask Us About Secure Messaging

Just give your e-mail address to our staff.

ARMY MEDICINE
Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve

Ansbach Community Announcements

Send all announcements to Ansbach Public Affairs at usarmy.ansbach.imcom-europe.list.webmaster@mail.mil.

'I Am a Professional'

Next month, all agencies, Soldiers, civilians and family members within the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach community are invited to step back and think about our privilege to serve in the greatest profession on Earth. "I Am a Professional" allows the force to re-energize and raise awareness of the Army Values and why we serve. The commemoration and ceremony is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Bismarck Theater. Please also note that while USAG Ansbach encourages you to take part in this opportunity to reaffirm your commitment to the Army and its values, it is a voluntary event.

Inclement Weather Info

In the past couple of weeks there have been many questions and requests for information about weather conditions. We have heard you and have created a website filled with this information. Visit our new "What You Should Know when Inclement Weather Comes to USAG Ansbach" at www.ansbach.army.mil/web%20pages/InclementWeather.asp. You can find the link to the webpage under the Weather Information menu item on the left side of the homepage and, when the popup menu shows, select "What you should know."

Volunteers needed at Arts & Crafts

Seeking volunteer and contract teachers one to two times per month for sewing, cake decoration, felting, general crafts and more. Open to all ID cardholders. No experience needed – just a happy personality and a creative idea to share. Send an email to AnsbachArtsCrafts@eur.army.mil.

Research Assistant Opportunity

An energetic, dynamic and knowledgeable person is required to fill the new health promotion research assistant position that will be assigned to assist the Health Promotion Operations responsible for the Franconia Military Community area. The HPRAs are responsible for the day-to-day administrative support of the program as well as researching trends, statistics and collecting existing data necessary to track the impact of the HP program on the local installation. The HPRAs support the mission of HPO

by developing strategies and protocols and managing, coordinating and producing research that supports and invigorates the installation health promotion process. These activities directly respond to the health promotion strategic and operational plans as they relate to continuous quality improvement of the health of the installation. The project will involve developing research methodologies, collecting, organizing, analyzing, interpreting, reporting, communicating and disseminating high-quality data and information regarding installation characteristics, activities and operations. Completion of a bachelor's or equivalent work experience is required with associated research knowledge. Minimal travel is required. This is a contract position equivalent to a GS-7. Anyone interested in applying should email their resume to darrel.d.kniss@us.army.mil.

Eagle's Nest Recreation Hall

The Barton Barracks Eagle's Nest Recreation Hall, next to the Duggan Gym, offers a full kitchen with an area to seat more than 30 people. The Eagle's Nest is open to all community members. To learn more or to reserve, call 0981-183-7848 or send an email to usarmy.ansbach.imcom-europe.mbx.ioc@mail.mil.

Parents' Night Out

Enjoy a night out by enrolling your children in the next Parents' Night Out program, Jan. 11 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Visit Parent Central Services or Webtrac to sign up. To learn more, call 09802-83-2533 or 09841-83-4880.

ISCC Thrift Shop Needs Volunteers

Looking for a fun and rewarding way to help others and give back to your community? Look no further than the Illesheim Spouses & Civilians Club Thrift Shop. Volunteer openings include sorting donations, organizing clothes, tagging items and general housekeeping. Volunteers will receive \$5 store credit for working a full shift. Profits from the Thrift Shop are given back to the Illesheim community in the form of welfare grants and scholarships. Thrift Shop hours are as follows: Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursdays from noon to 3 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon, and the first Saturday of each month from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, send an email to illesheim.iscc@gmail.com.

Bowling Membership Club Card

Join the Katterbach and Storck Bowling Center club for \$25. The membership is valid for one year and members will receive \$1.50 games, free show rental, a free T-shirt and a few bowling towels. To learn more, call Katterbach Bowling Center at 09802-83-2638 or Storck Bowling Center at 09841-83-4530.

Movie Night

Enjoy a movie free at the Storck Library every Friday at 3 p.m. To learn more, call 09841-83-4675.

Stress and Anger Management

Don't be an angry bird! Help is available through a stress and anger management class. The class is offered on the first Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Katterbach Army Community Service or on the fourth Tuesday of the month (with the exception of December) from 2 to 4 p.m. at Storck ACS. Sign up today by calling the ACS Family Advocacy Program at 09802-83-2516.

Brown Bag Lunch

Bring a lunch and explore a new town with Army Community Service. The meeting place is ACS on the first Wednesday of every month at Katterbach and the fourth Wednesday of every month at Storck Barracks. Meet at 10:30 a.m. Cost is 10 to 15 Euros. To learn more, call 09841-83-4555.

Health Clinic Improvements

The Katterbach Health Clinic has a new front entrance

BOSS PRESENTS
Santa's Calling
DEC 20 & 21

- Sign up forms available:
 - Christmas Tree Lightings
NOV 30: Storck Barracks
DEC 7: Katterbach Boardwalk
 - Concierge at the Von Steuben Community Center, Bismarck
● Storck Community Activity Center
- Turn in forms by DEC 17 to:
 - BOSS Office, Bismarck
 - Storck CAC
- Details:
CIV 09802.83.2921 • DSN 467.2921

BOSS
BETTER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

MWR

just in time for the 2012 flu vaccine campaign. Stop by the Katterbach Health Clinic for your 2012 flu shot and experience the renovations, which are designed to improve the patient experience.

Closures and Changes

Resurfacing of B-14

Resurfacing is ongoing for state road B-14 along Urlas and Shipton Kaserne. The speed limit is reduced to 50 kilometers per hour. Access and exit to and from Obereichenbach will remain the same. During phase one, two lanes going toward Katterbach will be resurfaced. Entering from Katterbach and exiting toward Ansbach will remain possible. There will be a detour exiting toward Katterbach and entering from Ansbach, offering two possibilities to turn around: One at Hotel Windmühle and one at Obereichenbach. During phase two, two lanes going toward Ansbach will be resurfaced. The current access near the traffic light will be blocked and drivers coming from Katterbach toward Ansbach will be detoured by Soldiers Lake. The detour for exiting toward Katterbach

Plan Ahead
its easy and effective

- Tell the FMWR Staff that you are the Designated Driver
- Receive the Designated Driver Wristband
- Enjoy coffee or sodas on us!

Be a Designated Driver

U.S. ARMY
MWR

Don't be an angry bird!

Help is available.
Stress and Anger Management Class

KATTERBACH ACS
1st Wednesday of the month • 2-4 p.m.

STORCK ACS
4th Tuesday of the month • 2-4 p.m.

Sign up today!
ACS Family Advocacy Program
09802.83.2516 • 467.2516

MWR

For more information on Ansbach community announcements, visit <https://www.facebook.com/U.S.Army.Garrison.Ansbach>

USAG ANSBACH OFFICIAL SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

ANSBACH AND ILLESHEIM SHUTTLE SERVICES



In observance of the Christmas/New Year's Holiday Season the USAG Ansbach Shuttle Service will not be available on the following dates:

24 - 26 Dec 12 Host Nation and U.S. Holidays
31 Dec 12 - 1Jan 13 Host Nation and U.S. Holidays

FOR INFO CALL: DSN: 468-1800/7755, CIV: 0981-183-1800/7755

THE USAG ANSBACH TMP WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL MILITARY, FAMILY MEMBERS AND CIVILIANS A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS



and entering from Ansbach will remain in place.

Sports, Health and Fitness

Sweat Shop

Sweat Shop is a new class at Katterbach geared toward customers that need a cardiovascular component as a mode of physical fitness. Unlike some classes that are high intensity, this is a full class of cardiovascular activities aimed to boost the body's maximal ability to utilize oxygen. The class takes place Mondays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person per class.

TRX Training

This new mode of training is offered at Storck Barracks Bunch Physical Fitness Center on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. TRX is core-based training that has benefits not achieved from other modes of training like traditional weight training. The class is limited to eight people and will be first come, first served. The cost is \$3 per person per class.

R.I.P.P.E.D. Season 9 Launch

R.I.P.P.E.D. has recently taken the community of Ansbach by storm. With its unique activities and instructions, R.I.P.P.E.D. aerobic classes attract more than 30 people per

class; the highest participation was 50 people in one class. Season 9 elements will be part of the new activities for the next three months. The fee per participant is \$3. To learn more, call 0151-1157-0210.

New Aerobic Class at Katterbach

A new aerobic class called "Power XTREME" is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. at the Katterbach Fitness Center. This class includes a variety of fitness components for optimal health and fitness improvements. To learn more, call 09802-83-2771.

Youth and Teens

FRG Child Care Night

Child care is available for mission-related Family readiness group meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. To learn more, call Parent Central Services at 09841-83-4880 or 09802-83-2533.

Ansbach Girl Scouts

What is green, almost 100 years old and hip and cool as ever? Girl Scouts! Come be a part of the adventure and fun that is Girl Scouts. Any girls kindergarten through 12th grade are welcome. To join or learn more, email gansbach@yahoo.com or call 0151-445-12471.

Weekly Reminders

Safety Hazard on B-13

A safety hazard exists on B-13 between Ansbach and Illesheim north of Oberdachstetten, where there is a steep decline that goes under a railroad overpass. One lane of traffic goes down the hill and two lanes of traffic goes up the hill. Do not pass.

Pet Reminder

Remember that all pets at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach installations need to be on leashes when outside. Also, pick up after your pets.

Used Clothes and Shoes Container

We need your help! The used clothes and shoes containers are provided to the community at no cost. Unfortunately, they are often mistreated as garbage bins. Please be sure that only clothes and shoes are placed in these containers. Please also ensure neighbors are aware of the purpose of these containers. If these containers are continued to be misused, the respective contractor will be unable to continue to provide this service.

Safety Training and Information

The U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Safety Office recommends this [website](#) containing many safety topics, in both English and German, which can be used for information and training in your organization throughout the year. As time goes by, more will be added, but there is a vast volume of workplace and off-duty subjects; including videos and slide shows.

Reserve Space

Did you know? You can use the Von Steuben Community Activity Center at Bismarck Kaserne for your official Family readiness group meeting, unit meeting or official use training conference area. The space is available for no cost for official usage Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call for reservations today at 09802-83-2930, or stop by the concierge in the Von Steuben Community Activity Center.

Java Time

Come to Java Cafe for warm drinks and free Internet access at Storck Barracks' Bowling Center. The cafe is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cafe is now open Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 09841-83-4530.

Spouses and Civilians' Club

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians' Club is a great way to meet people, develop new interests and get involved

BARTON BARRACKS
EAGLE'S NEST
RECREATION HALL

The Barton Barracks "Eagle's Nest," located next to the Duggan Gym, offers a full working kitchen with an area to seat 30 plus people. The "Eagle's Nest" is open to all Community Members. For more information or to reserve please contact the IOC at 09811837648 or send an email to: usarmy.ansbach.lmcom-europe.mbx.ioe@mail.mil

with your community. For more information, email asccgermany@googlemail.com.

Taxi Service

Ask for a driver with a U.S. installation pass and provide the following information: pickup point, number of passengers, destination, name and number, and time of pickup. If traveling to the airport, notify the driver of number of passengers and bags. For a taxi in the Ansbach area, call 0981-5005 or 0981-19410; in Illesheim, call 09841-7200.

Ansbach Veterinary Clinic

The Veterinary Clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. The clinic is closed on federal and training holidays. For more information, call 09802-83-3179.

Deployment Specials

Ansbach Arts and Crafts team has you covered. Place orders now and save and avoid rush fees. Located on Barton Barracks and open Monday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 0981-1837627.

BOSS PRESENTS
Santa's Calling
DEC 20 & 21

- Sign up forms available:
 - Christmas Tree Lightings
NOV 30: Storck Barracks
DEC 7: Katterbach Boardwalk
 - Concierge at the Von Steuben Community Center, Bismarck
 - Storck Community Activity Center
- Turn in forms by DEC 17 to:
 - BOSS Office, Bismarck
 - Storck CAC
- Details:
CIV 09802.83.2921 • DSN 467.2921

WARRIOR ONE

Weekly Events
Thursdays: Pool Night.....5 - 10p.m
Fridays: Open Mic Night.....5p.m. - 12a.m.
Saturdays: Poker Night.....5p.m. - 12a.m.

Special Event
20 Dec: BOSS Christmas Dinner.....7p.m. - 10p.m

CIV: 09841.83.4584 DSN: 467.4584
Storck Barracks.....Bldg. 6642

Bamberg Community Announcements

Please send all announcements to Bamberg Public Affairs at usarmy.bamberg.usareur.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

Holiday Hours

Many offices and services around post will have reduced hours during the holidays. The hours are posted on the garrison website www.bamberg.army.mil/directorates/dfmwr/docs/2012HolidayHours.htm. Please check ahead to ensure the services you need are available.

AAFES to Reduce Operating Hours

Due to decreasing sales at Bamberg concession shops and services, The Exchange is reducing hours for some of their facilities effective Jan. 1. To encourage contractors to serve the Bamberg community as long as possible, even with the declining troop strength, allowing reduced hours will assist in The Exchange's efforts to continue serving the community.

- The Cleaners/Stripes will be open Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and are closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
- The Day Spa will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will be closed Sunday and Monday.
- The Optical Shop will be open Tuesday through Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shop will be closed Thursday, Sunday and Monday.
- The Car Care Center will be open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be closed Sunday.

Reduced operating hours may extend to the rest of the concessionaires in the near future. For more information, call 09721-47592051.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Meal

Ray's Diner will have a special menu from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 17 to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The standard price is \$4.60, \$3.95 discounted. The menu will include beef steamship round, lobster tail, baked chicken, garlic mash potatoes, chicken rice pilaf, seasoned broccoli, seasoned cauliflower, potato frittata, brown gravy, cream of potato soup, coleslaw, pasta salad, potato bar, salad bar, assorted pastries and assorted beverages.

Super Bowl Party and Texas Hold-Em

The Birchview Lanes Bowling Center will host a Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament beginning at 5 p.m. Feb. 3.



Yoga with Kimberly
\$5 per session
Mon/Wed/Fri, 10 a.m.
Thursdays, 7 p.m.

Private Yoga Session: \$35 by appointment
Yoga 10 Class Pass: \$45
Yoga Freedom Pass \$70 per month

For more information, contact the Freedom Fitness Facility @ DSN 469-889/9086 or civ: 0951-300-889/9086 or email: instructor@gorbtl@mail.com

There is a \$25 entry fee for the poker tournament with rebuys the first two hours. The poker tournament will go into the Super Bowl with a \$10 cover charge. With entry to the Poker Tourney persons will receive free cover charge to the Super Bowl event. Super Bowl will be played on giant blow-up projector screen. Cover charge will provide a buffet and great door prizes. For more information, call 0951-300-7722.

Changes for Bamberg CDC

From now to Jan. 11, hourly care services at the Bamberg Child Development Center will be temporarily reduced to 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The change is necessary due to the holidays and staffing issues. Also, beginning Jan. 7, the Strong Beginnings program will move from the School Age Center back to the Child Development Center. Other than the location, the teachers and program hours will remain the same.

Emergency Placement Care Program

The Emergency Placement Care Program, which provides a safe and caring environment to children in crisis, is looking for Emergency Placement Care Providers who will open their homes to children in need. For more information, call Army Community Service at 0951-300-8397/7777.

Extended Holiday Postal Hours

The Postal Service Center will be open Dec. 22 for the holiday season. The finance lobby and mail room window will be open Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The mail room window will also be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

Holiday One Acts

The Stable Theater will present "Christmas Tales" Bamberg's Holiday One Act Plays Dec. 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Join us for a cozy evening of holiday cheer with the 2012 Bamberg Holiday One Acts "Christmas Tales," including "Ebony Scrooge - A Modern Christmas Carol" and Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner." Open to all ages. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children older than 5. For more information or to make a reservation, call 0951-300-8647 or email stable.theater.tickets@eur.army.mil.

Ray's Diner Christmas Celebration

Ray's Diner will host a Christmas celebration from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 20. The cost is \$7.50 or \$6.40 for family members of E4 or below. The menu will include roast turkey, steamship round, honey-baked ham, savory bread dressing, buttered mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, seasoned corn, turkey gravy, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, cranberry sauce, assorted pastries, assorted beverage and a salad bar.

Adult Christmas Craft

The Community Activity Center will host an adult Christmas craft at 4 p.m. Dec. 20. Make a Christmas decoration for your home or as a gift to a special friend. Pick one of four crafts for \$10 or pick more and get a discount. For more information, stop by the CAC or call 0951-300-8837.

Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program

Starting in January there will be a Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program offered to military dependents 18 and older who have a PCS/DEROS no earlier than July 1. Other restrictions may apply.

Call for Auditions

The Stable Theater will have auditions for the musical *Legally Blonde* Jan. 9 and 10 at 6:30 p.m. No experience is required. Prepare a short song to sing. Men, women and teenagers are invited to audition. Shows will run the middle or end of March. For more information, call 0951-300-8647.



CIRCUIT PT
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 11:45 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE OLD SCHOOL PUSH-UPS, SIT-UPS & RUN?
Revamp your fitness routine with this lunchtime workout geared toward getting your heart pumping as well as target major muscle groups.

This class is FREE to all US ID card holders 18 and over.

For more info contact FFF @ 0951-300-8890 or email TonyaL.Williams.NAF@mail.mil

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS

Tap Dance - The Sequel

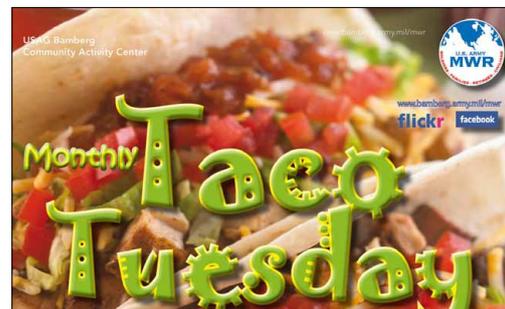
The Stable Theater is offering advanced tap dance classes for adults. Each session is \$5. This continues from the recent tap classes led by Nora Sobering. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Adults with prior tap dance experience are welcome. The class will be fast paced and will rely on previous steps learned. Call to register in advance at 0951-300-8647.

Club Beyond Winter Blitz

Club Beyond will be having its Winter Blitz camp Dec. 30 through Jan. 5 in Innsbruck, Austria. The cost is \$250 for the general camp package or the basketball package and \$310 for the skiing or snowboarding package with rentals, or \$290 without rentals. Spots are limited, so sign up now. For more information, email Laura Reisinger at lreisinger@clubbeyond.org.

English as a Second Language Classes

English as a Second Language classes will take place each Monday and Tuesday in the Family Advocacy Program classroom, Building 7487 on Armor Drive behind the flower shop. ESL Level 1 will meet from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Level 2 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and Level 3 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The last class for the year will be Dec. 18.



Monthly Taco Tuesday
\$6.00
at CAC

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Enjoy our Taco Buffet Bar for \$6.00 per person. Choose between 2 hard or soft tacos, or nacho chips with your choice of toppings.

Sept. 18, Oct. 23,
Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 15
Feb. 19

Contact the Community Activity Center at
Tel. 0951 300 8837

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

So when that guy tried to cross the line with my battle buddy, **I GOT HER OUT OF THERE.**

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS MY DUTY.

24/7 Bamberg Sexual Assault Hotline: 0162 510 2917

I AM STRONG

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

Loyalty Duty Respect Selfless Service Honor Integrity Personal Courage

All U.S. ID cardholders are eligible to attend. For more information, contact Jeffrey Card at jeffrey.p.card.civ@mail.mil or 0951-300-7777.

Parenting Skill Builder Classes

The first three Tuesday mornings of each month from 9 to 11 a.m., the Bamberg Chapel Family Life Center will have classes. Learning the skills to parent with Love and Logic can help make parenting fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. You will learn practical tools and techniques to build respectful, healthy relationships with children and help prepare children for the real world. For more information, call 0951-300-1570/8141.

Red Cross Volunteer Orientation

Come and learn how you can become a volunteer with the American Red Cross from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 21 and Jan. 4 and 18 at the Army Community Service building. Please call and RSVP no later than the day before each scheduled orientation. For additional information, visit the American Red Cross office, Building 7029, or call 0951-300-1760.

CPR, AED and First Aid Certification

Come and learn how to give CPR, first aid and use an automated external defibrillator with the American Red Cross Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Army Community Service building. The cost of the CPR and First Aid Certification is \$55. You can log onto www.redcross.org to register. Once on the ARC site, go to "take

YOGA with Jenn

\$5 per class

Power Yoga :Tues/Thurs/Fri, 11:45 a.m.
50/50 Yoga :Tues, 5 p.m.
Saturday Special Yoga : 1 Sat a month(90 minute session)

Additional discount: Yoga 10 class pass \$45 per month
Yoga Freedom Pass \$70 per month
Private sessions for \$35

WARNING: Bring a towel & bottle of water – you WILL sweat!

For more information, contact the Freedom Fitness Facility @ DSN 469-8890 or email Jenn.ellis.corton@gmail.com.

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS

a class" and enter your APO zip code to find the course, register and pay online. You can also register in person at the ARC office. For more information, stop by the American Red Cross, Bldg. 7029, or call 0951-300-1760.

Closures and Changes

ACS Holiday Closures

Army Community Service will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, and Dec. 31 through Jan. 1.

AAFES Closures for Inventory

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will be closed for annual inventory. The Shoppette will be closed 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Jan. 17 through 18. The Main Exchange, PX, PXtra, Powerzone and Bookmark will be closed Jan. 19. The Car Care Center and Military Clothing Sales will be closed Jan. 20.

Vehicle Registration Office Closure

The Vehicle Registration Office will close at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 21 and 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 31. The office will be closed all day on Dec. 24 through 26 and Jan. 1. For more information, call 0951-300-7580.

Post Shuttle Cancellation

The post shuttle will not run Dec. 24 to 26 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1.

Closure

BASOPS Maintenance Division Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Station and Customer Service Team in Bldg. 7102 at Warner Barracks Bamberg will be closed Dec. 21, starting at noon, for the annual Christmas party.

Car Care Center Hour Changes

Beginning Jan. 2, the Car Care Center will have new hours of operation. It will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and closed on Sundays.

Youth and Teens

Applications sought for the Military Youth of the Year
The Military Youth of the Year is a Boys & Girls Club of America recognition program who partners with the Military Child and Youth Services. Local clubs recognize members ages 14 to 18 as Youth of the Month winners and select a Youth of the Year, who then participates in state competitions. State winners each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and participate in regional competitions. Five regional winners each receive a \$10,000 scholarship and compete on the national level. The National Youth of the Year receives up to an additional \$50,000 scholarship and is installed by the president of the United States. Stop by the JFK Youth Center Bldg. 7663 to pick up an application or call 0951-300-8871 and ask for Destiny Cilumba for more details.

Children's Christmas Craft

Make a sweet snack for Santa's reindeer at 4 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Community Activity Center. There is no cost. For more information, call 0951-300-8837.

Kids-On-Site Child Care

The child care at the gym, Kids-On-Site, is available Monday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Your free hours of deployment hourly care can be used if you qualify, otherwise the cost is \$4 an hour. Punch card must be pre-purchased at Parent Central Services. Please stop by Parent Central Services to sign your contract and pick up your punch cards. Reservations can be made on Webtrac at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/bambergcym.html> or call 0951-300-8660.

Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Troop # 40 in Bamberg is looking for boys ages 12 and older interested in becoming Boy Scouts. The troop meets every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., except on holidays. The boys work on requirements for advancement

ZUMBA!

Ditch the workout, join the party!
\$5 per class - or 5 for \$20

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS

and earning merit badges. The troop is also looking for adult volunteers and Eagle Scouts to assist with troop activities. Don't delay, become a Boy Scout today. For more information, call Cliff Leach at 0160-1585894.

Sports, Health and Fitness

Circuit PT

Looking for an alternative to the old-school push-ups, sit-ups and run? Revamp your fitness routine with Circuit PT. This lunchtime workout will get your heart pumping and target major muscle groups. This class is free to all ID cardholders 18 and older. The class is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 0951-300-8890 or email tonya.l.williams.naf@mail.mil.

Fitness Classes

The Freedom Fitness Facility offers a variety of fitness classes. To see a complete schedule, go to www.bamberg.army.mil/directorates/dfmwr/docs/fff/FFF-FitnessSchedule.htm.

Running Club

Join the Bamberg Running Club for all levels of runners (but especially targeted for beginners) using the Jeff Galloway training method of running/walking. The Bamberg Running Club meets two times a week for 45 to 60 minutes of training, plus weekend runs. This is a partnership between Freedom Fitness Facility and the Bamberg Health Clinic. To learn more, email kelly.woodruff@us.army.mil or ernest.d.johnson3.naf@mail.mil or call 0951-300-9086.

ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

Ask Your Pharmacist About Over The Counter Medications

armymedicine.mil

Schweinfurt Community Announcements

Please send all announcements to Schweinfurt Public Affairs at usarmy.schweinfurt.incom-europe.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

Estate Claim

Anyone who has any claims or obligation to the estate of Spc. Bernard Hill Jr., of 15th Engineer Battalion should contact 1st Lt. Victor A. Mathis, the summary court officer, at (DSN) 353-8962 or (COMM) 9721-96-8962.

Saturday Postal Service Hours

Both Conn and Ledward consolidated mail rooms will be open for window service Dec. 22. You can pick up your packages between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Ledward Post Office will also be open Dec. 22 during the same hours. For important holiday mailing timelines, visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dhr/postal.htm.

Winter Wrap-up 2012-2013

This winter find something fantastic for all ages and interests – everything from classes, Alpine retreats, ceremonies, events, trips, camps and so much more. Visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/infovault/winterwrapup.htm to learn more. Click on each event listed for full information. No information available yet? Check back as the event nears since the event listings are constantly updated.

Seeking Volunteer Drivers/Phone Operators

Volunteer drivers and phone operators are needed to staff a program aimed at slashing the number of DUIs in Schweinfurt by providing a vehicle pick-up service to those Soldiers consuming alcohol on weekend nights. To get involved, call 0173-794-2998 or 0160-987-98955, or visit the Schweinfurt AADD Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SchweinfurtAADD.

Seeking Cake Decorators

The Schweinfurt High School Culinary Club seeks volunteers experienced in cake decorating. Please contact Culinary Club sponsor Hana McWilliams at 09721-96-6812 or Hana.McWilliams@eu.dodea.edu.

BOSS Christmas Party

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will host a Christmas party from 5 to 10 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Warrior

Zone. This is a free event for all single Soldiers 18 and older. Enjoy games, snacks, movies and a white elephant gift exchange. Food and drink will be available for purchase. For more information, call the Warrior Zone at 09721-96-6082 or talk to your unit BOSS rep.

Photo Scavenger Hunt: Basic Challenge

The Ledward Library has an ongoing photo scavenger hunt. How well do you know your military community in U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt? Check out the photo gallery in the library and guess where in the community they came from. Submit your guesses about where the pictures were taken and the person with the most correct answers wins a prize.

Recycling Education Class

A recycling education course, for trash disposal offenders and anyone who wants to learn about recycling, is offered twice a month Wednesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Family members 9 and older are encouraged to attend with a parent. Bring a friend if he or she lives in military housing or military-leased housing. Class space is limited, so call 09721-96-6955 to sign up. Classes will be cancelled if no one signs up by 4:30 p.m. the Tuesday before class.

Closures and Changes

Schweinfurt EEO Services Limited

Schweinfurt community members requiring assistance from the Equal Employment Opportunity office must now contact the Ansbach EEO office at 0981-183-7733/7937. The best way to know how the installation closure will impact you is to stay informed. Go to www.teamschweinfurt.com and click on "Transition 2014."

Youth and Teens

Give Me 20

Looking to get fit? The Youth Center is offering a free fitness program every Wednesday and Thursday at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for youth ages 13 through 18. Program facilitators will show youths how to safely work out and stay fit. Dedicated participants will see positive results. Workouts will include sports, spinning, weightlifting and more. Participants must be registered with CYSS and have a permission slip on file. To learn more or to register, contact the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

Smart Girls

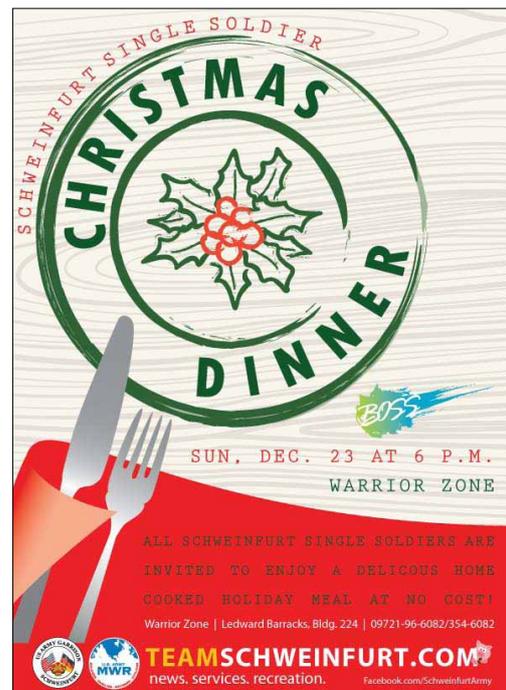
Young ladies, the Smart Girls program is up and running again. Topics include life skills, healthy eating, fitness, health care systems, positive mentors, respecting yourself, fashion shows, dinner with parents, lock-ins and more. Age groups include 11 to 14 and 15 to 18. Smart Girls meets every Monday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. For more information, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

German Class

Let's talk German! Come learn German one on one every Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. This great program is taught by our own education tech who was born and raised in Schweinfurt. This class can help your German grade go from a C to an A+ and it may even help you make friends in the German community. Test your skills by joining us on a field trip downtown. For more information, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

SKIESUnlimited

SKIES offers different classes every month for youths ages birth through 18. The program is designed to complement, expand and support the academic, life skills and athletic experiences children and youths have within Child, Youth and School Services programs and in schools. For the latest class listings, click [here](#).



SCHWEINFURT SINGLE SOLDIER CHRISTMAS DINNER

SUN, DEC. 23 AT 6 P.M.
WARRIOR ZONE

ALL SCHWEINFURT SINGLE SOLDIERS ARE INVITED TO ENJOY A DELICIOUS HOME COOKED HOLIDAY MEAL AT NO COST!

Warrior Zone | Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224 | 09721-96-6082/354-6082

TEAMSCHWEINFURT.COM
news, services, recreation. [Facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy](http://facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy)

4-H Club

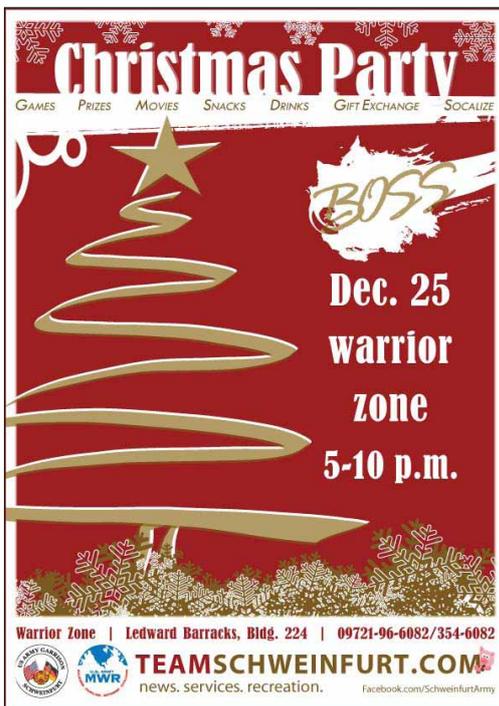
4-H is a club designed for middle and high school students. As a club, students will plan field trips, events and activities based on their four core values: head, hands, heart and health. 4-H meets every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. To participate, students must be registered with CYSS. For more information or to get involved, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

EDIS

Are you concerned about how your child is developing? If so, call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services to schedule a free screening. Screenings are available to children ages birth to 3 years old. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 09721-96-6257.

Wanted: Youth Sports Coaches and Officials

The Schweinfurt community is looking for coaches and officials for the youth sports program. No experience is necessary to participate. By registering through Child, Youth and School Services, you will become a certified coach in the National Alliance for Youth Sports. This is a great way to volunteer in the community and earn extra



Christmas Party

GAMES PRIZES MOVIES SNACKS DRINKS GIFT EXCHANGE SOCIALIZE

BOSS

Dec. 25
warrior
zone
5-10 p.m.

Warrior Zone | Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224 | 09721-96-6082/354-6082

TEAMSCHWEINFURT.COM
news, services, recreation. [Facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy](http://facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy)



COMING NOVEMBER FIRST

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT
CLOSURE?

SERVICES
MOVING
SCHOOLS
HOUSING
EMPLOYMENT

DON'T FALL VICTIM
TO THE RUMORMILL

VISIT THE SCHWEINFURT
CLOSUREBLOG

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS
GET REAL ANSWERS
BE INFORMED AND PREPARED

SCHWEINFURT.ARMY.MIL/
CLOSURE2014

For more information on Schweinfurt community announcements, visit <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/calendar/google.html>

Hunting Class

January 29, 2013 | Schweinfurt ODR

Want to hunt while you are stationed in Germany?

Let ODR help you obtain your German hunting license. This 10-week course is offered to all adult ID Card holders.

Classes will occur on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 - 10 p.m. at Schweinfurt ODR. Additional Saturday classes will be conducted at the shooting range.

Prior to the class, each participant is required to attend a mandatory information brief held in Schweinfurt on Jan. 22 or in Bamberg on Jan. 24 starting at 6 p.m.

Cost to participate is \$250 and includes class materials, books, handouts and CDs. Range fees, shooting insurance/range insurance, ammo, targets, and travel expenses are not included in this price. Contact ODR for more info.



Schweinfurt ODR | Conn Barracks, Bldg. 50 | 09721-96-8080/353-8080

TEAMSCHWEINFURT.COM
news, services, recreation. Facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy

contact Outdoor Recreation at 09721-96-8080.

Tuesday Night Cosmic Pin Bowling

Enjoy cosmic bowling every Tuesday night at the Kessler Bowling Center with funky lights and music mixed with colored pins in each lane. Games are \$1.50 each. Win a free game by getting a strike on the frame with the colored pin as the head pin. Cosmic Bowl also includes specials on food and drink.

Weekly Reminders

Newcomer Meet and Greet

Meet other spouses, learn about the community and get connected here in Schweinfurt every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Conn Club. The newcomer meet-and-greet initiative links up incoming spouses with seasoned Schweinfurt residents, offering the warm welcome our community is known for. Coffee and refreshments will be served, and children are welcome. For more information or to register, call Army Community Service at 09721-96-6933.

Inclement Weather in Schweinfurt

Know where you can find information on school closures and weather and road condition. To learn more, click [here](#).

Local Flea Markets

Flea markets are a fun way to find a bargain. The Army Community Service Information and Referral program provides a monthly list of flea markets [here](#).

Dental Clinic Space Available

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Dental Clinic now offers space available stand-by appointments for other-than-active-duty eligible beneficiaries. Appointments can only be scheduled 24 hours in advance.

BOSS Meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are on the second (at the Warrior Zone) and fourth (at the Finney Recreation Center) Tuesday of every month. For more information, call the Warrior Zone at 09721-96-6082 or the Finney Recreation Center at 09721-96-8476.

Open Mic Night

Come and share your talent with the Warrior Zone every Friday at 8 p.m. to midnight. The event is intended for single Soldiers but open to the entire community. Adults only. No early sign-ups required. For more information, call 09721-96-6082.

Single Soldiers Christian Fellowship and Supper

The Conn Chapel offers fellowship and supper every Thursday at 6:30 to 8 p.m. The program is for single Soldiers and includes Bible study, worship and a home-cooked meal. For more information, call Donna Hilley at 09721-96-1370.

Children's Story Time

Bring your child in to the library Wednesdays at 11 a.m. for Children's Story Time.

Karaoke

Karaoke all-stars, come and share your talent with the Warrior Zone, every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The event is intended for single Soldiers but open to the entire community. Adults only. No early sign-ups required. For more information, call 09721-96-6082.

Thursday Night Fun League

Jan 17 - May 16

- Every Thursday, 7 - 10 p.m.
- Open to ID cardholders AGE 18+, 4 person teams
- \$10 per week
- Cash prizes for top bowlers & teams

KESSLERBOWL
KESSLER FIELD, BLDG. 449
09721-966332/DSN 354-6332
TEAMSCHWEINFURT.COM

income by officiating. For more information, call CYSS at 09721-96-6822 or email Derek.r.walker.naf@mail.mil.

Family Child Care Providers Needed

Help the community and start a new career as a Family Child Care provider. FCC providers maintain a happy home-away-from-home atmosphere (in government-controlled housing only) for children who can't be with their own parents during the day. You can care for your own children in addition to outside customers. All training and education is provided for free. Call 09721-96-6487 for details.

Sports, Health and Fitness

Personal Training

Dedicated personal trainers are available to the Schweinfurt Community by appointment. For details, contact the Kessler Fitness Center at 09721-96-6765 or Finney Fitness Center at 09721-96-8234.

Paintball Field Open

Relieve some stress or have some good old-fashioned fun every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rental equipment is available at the Paintball Field. For more information,

SCHWEINFURT COMMUNITY

WINTER TRIPS

EXPLORE EUROPE ABOVE THE CLOUDS

SCHWEINFURT OUTDOOR RECREATION
CONN BARRACKS, BLDG. 50
09721-96-8080/353-8080

NIGHT SKIING/SNOWBOARDING
WASSERKUPPEL, RHOEN | 4 - 11 P.M.
SATURDAY - Dec. 1 & 15, Jan. 5 & 12, Feb. 2, 9 & 23

WEEKEND TRIP
GARMISCH, GERMANY
FRIDAY - 11 P.M. | SATURDAY - 9 A.M. | DEC. 9

MLK WEEKEND TRIP
FLACHAU, AUSTRIA
FRIDAY - 11 P.M. | SATURDAY - 11 P.M. | SUNDAY - 11 P.M.
FRI. JAN. 18 - MON. JAN. 21

PRESIDENTS WEEKEND
DOLOMITES, ITALY
9 A.M. - 11 P.M. | FRI. FEB. 15 - MON. FEB. 19

SKI SAFARI
3 AUSTRIAN SKI RESORTS
11 A.M. - 11 P.M. | SATURDAY - 11 P.M.
FRI. MARCH 15 - MON. MARCH 18

DETAILS AND PRICE VARY BY TRIP. CONTACT ODR FOR MORE INFO. TRIPS FILL UP QUICK, SO RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

TEAMSCHWEINFURT.COM
news, services, recreation. Facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy

EPIC OF NIGHT

@ WARRIOR ZONE

Different Styles

Different DJs

Dance Floor

1700 - 2400

DECEMBER 20, 2012

BOSS/Warrior Zone | Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224 | 09721-96-6082/354-6082
BOSS/Finney Rec Center | Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64 | 09721-96-8476/353-8476

TEAMSCHWEINFURT.COM
news, services, recreation. Facebook.com/SchweinfurtArmy

coming to THEATERS

Playing for Keeps
Now Showing | 99 Minutes

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

Rated PG-13 for some sexual situations, language and a brief intense image.

Visit www.aafes.com for more information.



IN THEATERS • DEC. 20 - Jan. 2

ILLESHEIM THEATER • 09841-83-4546

- Dec. 22 - HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 4 p.m.; KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 - ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 3 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 4 p.m.; ARGO (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 3 p.m.

KATTERBACH THEATER • 09802-83-1790

- Dec. 20 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 - LIFE OF PI (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22 - RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 4 p.m.; RED DAWN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 - RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 3 p.m.; HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 6 p.m.
- Dec. 26 - LIFE OF PI (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 27 - RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 3 p.m.; RED DAWN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - ARGO (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 3 p.m.; KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 6 p.m.

BAMBERG THEATER • 0951-297-3934

- Dec. 20 - HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 3 p.m.; HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 3 p.m.; END OF WATCH (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 - END OF WATCH (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 27 - HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 3 p.m.; ARGO (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 3 p.m.; ARGO (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 31 - ARGO (R) 7 p.m.

SCHWEINFURT THEATER • 09721-96-1790

- Dec. 20 - RED DAWN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 - KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22 - HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 4 p.m.; KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 - HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 4 p.m.; KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 26 - THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 27 - END OF WATCH (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG) 4 p.m.; PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - WON'T BACK DOWN (PG) 4 p.m.; PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Jan. 2 - ARGO (R) 7 p.m.

Eco-Friendly Tips

Water-saving Tips

Keep your showers short, and shut off the water while you're brushing your teeth, soaping up or shaving. Scrape dinner plates instead of rinsing.

Energy-saving Tips

Regularly check your tire pressure and make sure your tires are properly inflated to improve fuel efficiency.

When renting a car, choose the smallest vehicle that can comfortably accommodate you. Decline any "free" upgrades (which will cost you more in gas). The best choice: Rent a hybrid car.

Recycling Tips

Will you and your children be getting a lot of nice gifts from Santa? Make sure the wrapping paper and the packaging will be recycled in the right way, and if possible, try to reuse packaging material.

If you stay in a hotel during the holiday season: Reuse your sheets and towels instead of having them changed every day. Many hotels will not replace your towels if you leave them hanging up neatly.

Trips and Travel Opportunities

Registration for trips begin the 15th of the month before the scheduled trip and must be made no later than the Monday before the scheduled leave date or they may be cancelled. To sign up or for more information, go to Outdoor Recreation. All trips depart and arrive from ODR unless otherwise noted. No refund will be given for no-shows. Military duty restraint or illness will be refunded with documentation.



ANSBACH

Wednesdays Afternoon Ski/Snowboard \$29
Join the Outdoor Recreation team of professional ski and snowboard instructors and learn to safely slide down the slopes, ride the lifts and enjoy the world's fastest growing winter activities. Depending on the season's snowfall and slop conditions, instruction will be conducted locally at Burgbernheim, between Ansbach and Illesheim. All sessions will depart from Katterbach at 1 p.m., weather permitting. Dates are Jan. 9, 16, 23; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; and March 6, 13, 20, 27.

Jan. 5 and 12 One-Day Ski/Snowboard Steinplatte \$45
You can reach some spectacular destinations by joining us on a variety of one-day ski/snowboard trips. For a new challenge, ask about Alpine ski touring possibilities. Ski/snowboard lessons are available upon advance request, by certified PSIA and AASI instructors. The trip location is subject to change depending on the snow and slope conditions. Cost is \$45 for transportation only and \$59 with ski/snowboard equipment and transportation. Departs Storck at 4:15 a.m. and Katterbach at 5 a.m.

For more information, call Ansbach Outdoor Recreation at 09802-83-3225.

BAMBERG

Jan. 5 Learn to Snowboard \$80
Always wanted to try snowboarding? Here's your chance. Spend a day on local slope Ochsenkopf, in the Fichtelgebirge, with Outdoor Recreation's own instructor. Includes transportation, lift pass, rental and approximately 2.5 hours of lessons. Departs from Outdoor Recreation at 9 a.m. and returns at about 5 p.m.

Jan. 12-13 Ski/Snowboard Lermoos \$75
Looking for a quick getaway? Can't find time on the training holidays to go skiing? Relax and let Outdoor Recreation take care of the driving on this one-day trip to the world famous Lermoos and the Zugspitze Arena ski-areas. Space is limited. Please sign up in advance. Departs Outdoor Recreation at 2 a.m.

For more information, call Bamberg Outdoor Recreation at 0951-300-9376.

SCHWEINFURT

Saturdays Night Skiing \$35
Depending on the snow conditions, Outdoor Recreation goes night skiing every Saturday from 4 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$35 and includes transportation and ski or snowboard equipment or \$20 if you bring your own equipment. Lift tickets (which cost approximately 13.50 Euro) are not included. To sign up, call Outdoor Recreation at 09721-96-8080.

Jan. 18-21 Ski & Snowboard Trip to Flachau, Austria \$349
Three days of skiing and snowboarding in Flachau, Austria, and 350 kilometers of well groomed, easy-to-difficult runs are available for \$349. The cost also includes transportation, three overnight stays with breakfast and dinner, ski and snowboard rentals and snowboard lessons on the first day. Lift tickets (approximately 129 Euro for three days) are not included. Transportation leaves from the Outdoor Recreation Center at 11 a.m. Jan. 18 and returns at 11 p.m. Jan. 21. To sign up, call Outdoor Recreation at 09721-96-8080.

Feb. 15-18 Ski & Snowboard Trip to Dolomites, Italy \$349
Visit two ski resorts and experience three days of spectacular skiing or snowboarding in the Dolomites, Italy. Includes transportation, three overnights with breakfast and dinner, free ski or snowboard rental and a free three-hour entrance to the pool across the hotel. Lift ticket, which costs approximately 135 Euros for three days, is not included. Departs Outdoor Recreation at 9 a.m. Feb. 15.

For more information, call Schweinfurt Outdoor Recreation at 09721-96-8080.

Was ist los in Franken?

Herrieden Christmas Market

The traditional Christmas market of Herrieden takes place on Dec. 21 and 22 at the Vogtei Platz (downtown near the town square); the booths will feature not only handmade crafts and decorations, but also local specialties like cookies and bratwurst, and hot drinks like "Heisser Blutser" (only available in Herrieden). The booths gather around a central bonfire that keeps visitors warm. The market opens at 4 p.m. on both days, but the opening ceremony with the Christkind is Friday at 5 p.m.

Blues Gang in Schweinfurt

The Blues Gang will perform in Schweinfurt at the Kulturwerkstatt Disharmonie (Gutermannpromenade 7) Dec. 22 at 8 p.m.

Swinging Xmas 2012 – Würzburg

Swinging Xmas brings you "Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer," "White Christmas" or "Jingle Bells" at the Bockshorn Theater Würzburg (Veitshöchheimer Str. 5) Dec. 22 starting at 8:15 p.m. Admission tickets for 20 Euros can be purchased from the theater at 0931-4 60 60 66 or the Falkenhaus am Markt, 0931-372398; for more details visit www.swingingxmas.de.

Christmas Friends – "Winter Wonderland" in Schweinfurt

The Christmas Friends are hosting a "Winter Wonderland" in Schweinfurt at the Kulturwerkstatt Disharmonie (Gutermannpromenade 7) Dec. 23 at 4 p.m.

Weissenburg Weihnacht

The Christmas market in Weissenburg is open until Dec. 23; the "Christkind" will pose for photos with visitors Dec. 20 at 4:30 and Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. For more program details, visit www.weissenburg.info/weihnachtsmarkt.

Ansbacher Weihnachtsmarkt

The Ansbach Christmas Market will be open until Dec. 23 with wooden booths and a large assortment of Christmas items and decorations, as well as culinary specialties from the region. Opening hours are Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.weihnachtsmarkt-ansbach.de.

Bamberg Christmas Market

The Christmas market in Bamberg is open until Dec. 23; daily opening hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more details, visit www.weihnachtsmarkt-bamberg.de or www.bamberg.info.

Medieval Market in Fürth

Fürth is hosting a medieval market in conjunction with its regular Christmas market until Dec. 23; it is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For program details, visit www.mittelaltermarkt-fuerth.de.

Christkindlesmarkt

The Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt will be open until Christmas Eve in the heart of Nürnberg's Old Town. More than 180 market stands – all decorated for Christmas with fresh greens and lights – invite you to enjoy traditional Christmas ornaments of all shapes and sizes, the local gold-foil angel called "Rauschgoldengel," "Zwetschenmännle" made of prunes, toys and games, and delicious holiday treats to eat and drink. Experience this one-of-a-kind atmosphere Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. For details visit the English-language website www.christkindlesmarkt.de/en.

Erlangen on Ice

The city of Erlangen is offering a free ice skating rink downtown at Marktplatz between Paulbrunnen and Palais Stutterheim in conjunction with the traditional

Christmas market (until Dec. 26); skating is available daily from 1 to 9 p.m.; skates can be rented for 2.50 Euros on site. Special opening hours for the holidays will be available on a short notice at www.erlangen-marketing.de.

Nativity Scenes in Handwerkerhof

The Handwerkerhof in Nürnberg (Königstor, across from main train station) is featuring an exhibition of nativity scenes until Dec. 29; admission is free. For more information, visit www.handwerkerhof.de/en/home.

Winterdorf in Bayreuth

The annual winter village in Bayreuth with little wood huts and local specialties in the Ehrenhof of Altes Schloss (Maximilianstraße 12-14) stays open until New Year's Day. Opening hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday from 12:30 to 11 p.m. For more information, visit www.bayreuther-winterdorf.de.

"Castle Church" on fire

The Kirchenburg in Ostheim /Rhön (97645) is Germany's largest fortified church, built to offer residents of the town a refuge in times of trouble. On Dec. 30 the church is turned into a winter fairy tale, lit up with several hundred torches. The event begins at 6 p.m.

Tollwood Festival in Munich

The Tollwood Festival is ongoing at the Oktoberfest site (Theresienwiese) in Munich until New Year's Eve; craftsmen offer their goods inside two tents and outside on the festival ground. The best thing to do is drift along the stands outside and inside the two big market tents. Jewelry, hundreds of different teas, wooden toys, ceramics, originally hats and beautiful silk dresses – the range is too big to just make one tour. Tollwood campaigns join with exhibitors to increase the offer of fair-traded goods continuously. Detailed information, site plan and programs can be found at www.tollwood.de/english/winterfestival-2012.

Nürnberg Silvesterlauf

The traditional New Year's Eve Fun Run in Nürnberg with races for all age groups begins at 10:45 a.m. with the start and finish line at the Wöhrder Wiese (Prinzregentenufer – Erfahrungsfeld der Sinne). For details and registration, visit www.silvesterlauf-nuernberg.de.

New Year's Eve Concert with Bamberger Symphoniker

The Bamberg Symphonic Orchestra will play Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphonie Nr. 9 d-moll op. 125 with the final chorus "Ode to Joy" at the Konzert und Kongresshalle (Mußstraße 1) in Bamberg at 4 and 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.bamberger-symphoniker.de.

Ball at Castle Burgellern in Schesslitz

Schloss Burgellern (Kirchplatz 1, 96110 Scheßlitz) is hosting a formal New Year's Eve ball complete with Champagne reception, seven-course dinner and dancing to a live band; fireworks go off at midnight and dancing goes on until the wee hours. The castle even offers rooms for an extended stay. For details, tickets and reservations, visit www.burgellern.de.

Dance Party in the Rockfabrik Nürnberg

Rock and party hits will play at the dance party in the Rockfabrik Nürnberg (Klingenhofstraße 56) starting at 8 p.m.; the admission is free until 9 p.m.; after that it's 7 Euros per person. For more information, visit www.rockfabrik.de.

Silvester Gala Evening in Gunzenhausen

A New Year's Gala with large buffet, dancing and a show and entertainment program expects you in Gunzenhausen at the Stadthalle (Zum Schießwasen 17). The doors open at 7 p.m., start is at 8 p.m. For details, call 09831-5040 or visit www.naturpark-altmuehlal.de.

AAFES Corner 
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Defense Commissary Agency
Corner

Bring your own bag

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Click [here](#) for printable online coupons.

Click [here](#) for recipes from Kay's Kitchen.



Christmas Markets 2012

Ansbach – Weihnachtsmarkt (Johann-Sebastians-Bach-Platz): Now-Dec. 23; www.ansbach.de

Aschaffenburg - Weihnachtsmarkt (Schlossplatz): Now-Dec. 22; www.aschaffenburg.de

Bamberg - Weihnachtsmarkt (Maxplatz): Now-Dec. 23; www.bamberg.info

Bernkastel-Kues – Weihnachtstmarkt – Now-Dec. 23; www.weihnachtsmarkt-bernkastel-kues.de

Coburg - Weihnachtsmarkt: Now-Dec. 23; www.coburg-tourist.de

Dinkelsbühl - Weihnachtsmarkt (Spitalhof): Now-Dec. 23; www.weihnachtsmarkt-dinkelsbuehl.de

Erlangen - Medieval Weihnachtsmarkt (Neustädter Kirchenplatz): Now-Dec. 24; www.erlangen.de

Fürth - Weihnachtsmarkt (Freiheit): Now-Dec. 23; www.fuerth.de

Forchheim - Weihnachtsmarkt : Now-Dec. 24; www.forchheim.de

Garmisch – Weihnachtsmarkt: Now-26; www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de

Heidelberg - Weihnachtsmarkt (Karlsplatz): Now-Dec. 22; www.heidelberg-tourismus.de

München - Christkindmarkt (Marienplatz): Now- Dec. 24; www.muenchen-tourist.de

Nürnberg – Christkindlesmarkt: Now-Dec. 24; www.christkindlesmarkt.de

Rothenburg ob der Tauber – Reiterlesmarkt: Now- Dec. 23; www.rothenburg.de

Schweinfurt – Weihnachtsmarkt: Now-Dec. 24; www.weihnachtsmarkt-sw.de

Würzburg – Weihnachtsmarkt: Now-Dec. 23; www.wuerzburg.de

Weekend Christmas Markets 2012

Bad Kissingen – Lichterglanz (lights aglow): Now-Dec. 24; www.badkissingen.de

Bad Windsheim - Weihnachtsmarkt : Dec. 20-23; www.bad-windsheim.de

Gunzenhausen – Weihnachtsmarkt – Dec. 20-23; www.gunzenhausen.de

Herrieden – Weihnachtsmarkt: Dec. 21-22

Wasserburg am Inn – Weihnachtsmarkt: Dec. 21-23; www.wasserburg.de



Bryan Gatchell / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

A shop sells loaves of Fruchtebrot (fruit cake) and Lebkuchen hearts at the Nürnberg Christmas Market in the town's Hauptmarkt Nov. 30.