

# Flying into Africa

by **1st Lt. Matthew Wunderlich**  
37th Airlift Squadron

The C-130 Hercules touched down on an unremarkable stretch of dirt in central Africa. Less than four minutes later, the aircraft was accelerating and airborne – climbing away from the landing zone and setting a southeasterly course toward civilization. The mission was over for the C-130 crew as they commenced their meandering journey back to Ramstein. For the Soldiers on the ground, the fun was just beginning.

The operation was a joint mission integrating Army and Air Force assets and deploying these capabilities to the heart of sub-Saharan Africa Jan. 19 to 24. The mission required C-130s from the 37th Airlift Squadron and the 38th Airlift Squadron. The troops provided training for African forces in support of the Global War on Terror.

“The desired insertion into this area was a dirt landing zone nearly 100 miles from a suitable hardened runway – ultimately dictating a mission best suited to the versatile C-130 Hercules,” said Capt. Justin Dahman, 37th AS pilot.

The aircraft utilized by the 37th AS in this mission were C-130E models constructed in 1963 and are veterans of nearly every conflict America has faced in the past 45 years. The planes and their crews have spent months flying tactical airlift missions in support of opera-



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Wunderlich

**Staff Sgt. Ed Lewis, 37th Airlift Squadron flight engineer, inspects the C-130 at a forward location before the mission.**

tions Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

“The versatility of this airframe enables Airmen to perform low-level operations and airdrop missions while remaining capable of short-field takeoffs and landings. The dirt

landing zone in Africa tested the C-130’s capabilities to its fullest,” said Capt. Justin Brumley, 37th AS pilot.

————— See Africa, page 7

## Six days and counting until Valentine’s...

by **Petra Lessing**  
435th Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs

Red hearts in department stores, flower shops, candy stores, bakeries and window displays

signal Valentine’s Day is just around the corner. Thursday is the day for lovers and a day of friendship, the day to show and receive affection and love.

In many countries



throughout the world, Valentine’s Day is celebrated and observed Feb. 14. Husbands and wives, girlfriends and boyfriends exchange flowers, cards and gifts, and have romantic dinners.

Also, dear ones such as parents, grandparents, relatives and good friends are included in the custom to show they are loved and appreciated.

————— See Valentine, page 15

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### 86th Airlift Wing Flying Statistics

These figures represent hours flown this fiscal year by members of the 86th AW, as well as the mission capable and home station logistics departure reliability rates.



C-130:	2989.6 hours
C-21/C-20/C-37/C-40:	2320.9 hours
OIF/OEF support:	1758.0 hours
MC rate:	95.7%
HSLDR rate:	99.1%

### Inside

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435th MUNS Airmen make *g* catch, pg. 12

**PLUS:** After 33 years, Airman finds German father, pg. 19

# How do you handle change?

by Lt. Col. Frank Battistelli  
386th Expeditionary Mission  
Support Group

Have you ever returned to a base where you were once stationed or go to a town where you once lived and things were just not the same? The chemistry was different, people changed and you didn't seem to fit in quite as well as you did the first time. Your recollection of the way things once were was different than what you found upon your return.

You may have had high expectations, but unfortunately you were disappointed.

The same holds true in today's Air Force.

Ask one of your senior NCOs or field grade officers what the Air Force was like when they entered the service 15-plus years ago. They would probably tell you that performance reports were done using typewriters – e-mail was virtually nonexistent – and, most notably, manning was great. However, over the years technology has significantly changed the way we do business and budget crunches have leveled manning.

As a mission support squadron commander, I asked my flight chiefs and supervisors to read a book called, "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson. The book is about change and was especially important to the squadron at the time,

given the major transformation of personnel initiatives. The book discussed that as the world changes and paradigms shift, it's important for people to adapt and change with it. Unfortunately, people don't always respond to change – especially in the Air Force.

Here's what I mean:

When is the last time you asked your supervisor why you do something a certain way and the answer you got back was, "That's the way we've always done it," or "Because that's the way I learned it"?

We tend to get hung up on antiquated procedures and fail to acknowledge that changes have occurred around us. Hey, typing an evaluation performance report on a typewriter worked very well, but you don't see us typing anything today. In fact, most of you have noticed that we are now digitally signing performance reports and never see the paper product until it's in our record.

This is exactly what I mean. We must embrace change by looking at the way it can enhance our quality of life or work centers and move out of our comfort zone.

“ We must embrace change by looking at the way it can enhance our quality of life or work centers and move out of our comfort zone. ”

If you look at how change has impacted our world, you'll realize it's almost impossible to ignore.

Thomas L. Friedman, in his book titled "The World is Flat," discusses how the world has become flat over the last decade. By flat, he means international barriers have been broken and the playing field has become level.

For example, if you are having computer problems at your home in Nebraska, you may pick up the phone and call a 1-800 phone number for computer support. To your surprise, you are connected to an English-speaking technician in a foreign country 10,000 miles away from you. The same holds true for purchasing merchandise online or telephonically. Technology has virtually eliminated the commercial boundaries and, in essence, flattened the world.

Once one begins to accept the world is changing all around them, they will have to make a decision, embrace change and keep the momentum or remain stagnant and risk missing opportunities.

My challenge to the men and women in today's Air Force is to be in-tune with the changes occurring around you and embrace them. Don't get caught up in complacency; instead, ask yourself how you can enhance your life or work center by accepting, adapting to change and then slowly making the transition.

## Correction

Drew Dix is the first enlisted man in Special Forces to have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Information in the Feb. 1 issue, page 9, was incorrect. The KA regrets this error.



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## Bronze Star recipient

**Staff Sgt. Jayson Wells, team leader of the 332nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, Balad Air Base, Iraq, was awarded the Bronze Star medal Jan. 24 for meritorious conduct from Jan. 9 to June 25, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Wells was deployed from the 435th Civil Engineer Squadron.**



*Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Bressler*

**Col. Earl Matthews, 435th Air Base Wing commander, presents the Bronze Star Medal and Air Force Combat Action Medal to Staff Sgt. Jayson Wells, 435th Civil Engineer Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, Jan. 24.**

**FEELINGS ABOUT RECEIVING THE BRONZE STAR** "I am humbled."

**ROLE IN DEPLOYED LOCATIONS** "Quick Reaction Force EOD team leader in Anaconda, Iraq."

**DEFINING MOMENTS OF DEPLOYMENT** "Watching my friends get blown up, but hearing their voices over the radio saying they were OK. It was the only day in Iraq that two EOD teams were traveling in the same convoy together and both teams were hit by improvised explosive devices."

**RELATIONSHIP WITH ARMY COUNTERPARTS** "Life-changing. When a man is willing to die for you so that you can do your job, the relationship is life-changing. Words cannot express my gratitude for Sergeant 1st Class Thomas, Staff Sergeant Reinhard, Staff Sergeant McGarity or any of the guys from the 3-8 Cav."

**WHAT HE SAW** "There wasn't an event that stands out more than the rest. The citation only describes one day of many. All I can say is that the things I heard, felt and experienced can only be shared with those that were there and a few people known as 'EOD techs'."

**HIS EXPERIENCE** "Thanks to God for letting me live. Thanks to my family for their support. Thanks to my CE commanders who ensured we had the gear and training necessary to get the job done."

## KMCC project picking up

*LBB striving for construction completion in 2008*



**Members with the Hallenbau Huther GmbH company construct the overhang above the AAFES entrance Jan. 25 on Ramstein.**



**This sky-lit walkway is one of the two main shopping corridors in the mall of the KMCC.**



**A worker for the German construction company, Bamberger, prepares the floor before laying the natural stone inside what will be the food court at the KMCC, Jan. 28.**

**Photos by Senior Airman Megan Carrico**

**Jan. 25**

6 a.m.: An Airman was driving too fast for conditions and struck a culvert. His vehicle sustained damages consisting of dents to the driver's side front quarter-panel, wheel well, scratches on the roof, fiberglass topper cracked and rear window shattered.

6:50 a.m.: While traveling off base, an Airman was backing his vehicle and rear-ended a local national. The local national and all four passengers complained of possible whiplash, but denied on-scene medical attention. The Airman's vehicle sustained damages consisting of a bent license plate, cracked bumper, minor dents and scratches. The local national's vehicle sustained damages consisting of the trunk being bent and dislodged, a broken light cover and misaligned rear bumper.

6 p.m.: A Soldier's vehicle was broken into off base. His vehicle sustained minor scratches on the driver's side door and the following items were taken: Gore-tex jacket, MP3 player, CD case and vehicle maintenance manual.

**Jan. 26**

1 a.m.: A Soldier and an unknown individual were involved in a verbal altercation that turned physical when the unknown individual struck the Soldier in the face. The Soldier was treated for a bruised nose and bruises to the upper cheek bones.

9:25 p.m.: A civilian's secured vehicle off base, was broken into. The front side window was shattered and a GPS was taken.

KMC

Compiled by the 569th USFPS

**BLOTTER**

9:30 p.m.: A civilian's unsecured vehicle parked off base was entered and the following items were taken: laptop, carrying case and computer mouse.

**Jan. 27**

Between 8 p.m. and 11:30 a.m.: An Airman's vehicle was secured and parked off base, when an unknown individual shattered the front window and took a GPS and digital camera from the vehicle.

Between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.: A Soldier's vehicle was parked off base and left unsecured. An unknown person took a car radio and a GPS from the vehicle.

10:40 p.m.: A dependent was traveling off base and was involved in a vehicle accident with a local national. The dependent was attempting to leave the priority road and struck the local national's vehicle as she was making a left turn, causing minor damage to both vehicles.

**Jan. 28**

9:30 a.m.: While operating a government vehicle, a Soldier struck the drop arm mechanical box, causing the side panel of the box to be removed. The vehicle sustained a 12- to 15-inch scratch on the wheel cover.

**Jan. 29**

7 a.m.: A dependent was traveling off base and was struck by a deer. The vehicle

sustained minor dents and scratches to the front bumper.

Between 7:30 a.m. and 10 p.m.: A Soldier had the following items taken from an unsecured location: green A-bag, chemical suit, black shirts and black socks.

**Jan. 30**

4:30 p.m.: A major accident occurred at the installation gate when a local national drove a truck into the bollard due to inattentive driving. The vehicle sustained disabling damage and the bollard was bent over and scratched.

**Jan. 31**

5:45 p.m.: A local national, traveling off base, failed to yield the right-of-way and struck a civilian, causing minor damage to both vehicles. The local national was cited by Polizei.

Between 10:30 p.m. and 7 a.m.: An Airman's vehicle was secured off base. An unknown individual broke into the vehicle, causing scratches to the driver's side door and removing the door lock assembly. The individual took an iPod valued at \$800.

**Quick Stats**

Major traffic accidents: 8  
 Minor traffic accidents: 19  
 Damage: 9  
 Larceny: 12  
 Assault: 2

## CAR THIEVES IN THE KMC: Top 5 most commonly stolen items

1. Gas coupons
2. GPS navigation systems
3. Cell phones
4. Wallets/purses
5. Military gear (i.e. helmets, gas masks, Gore-tex jackets)

**LOCK YOUR CAR. HIDE YOUR VALUABLES.**

**Take Note****Housing office hours**

The KMC Housing Office will be closed from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Tuesday for training.

The KMC Housing Office will be closed Feb. 18 due to an American holiday. Normal hours will resume at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 19.

**Munitions news**

The 435th Munitions Squadron will be closed March 3 to 28 to conduct a semi-annual inventory.

Issue and turn-in requests need to be

submitted to munitions operations by Feb. 15. After Feb. 15, only emergency requests will be honored. Normal hours will resume March 31.

**Service Credit Union closed Feb. 18**

All Service Credit Union branch offices will be closed Feb. 18 in observance of President's Day. All Service Credit Union branch offices will resume normal hours of operation Feb. 19.

**Passport fees**

Passport fees have gone up, effective Feb. 1.

First-time applicants (16 years and older), and lost or stolen passport fees increased from \$97 to \$100 and from \$82 to \$87 for children under 16. Renewal fees increased from \$67 to \$75.

There are new application forms and old forms will not be accepted.

For details, visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or contact the passport office at 480-2240.

# Strength of the families, Army

General stresses Army commitment to families, urges families to stay

Story and photo by

Staff Sgt. Adam V. Shaw

16th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Scott G. West, commander, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, met with the 16th Sustainment Brigade Family Readiness Group leaders, Family Readiness Support assistants and senior leader spouses at Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Jan. 24.

"The visit lays the groundwork for the upcoming deployment and shows the senior leaders' commitment to the spouses," said Eric Jones, FRS assistant, 16th SB.

FRG leaders from the 18th Combat Service Sustainment Battalion, 16th SB, Grafenwöhr, also spoke with General West, via video teleconference.

"Anytime that you can bring the family leaders from all over the brigade together, it builds cohesiveness – not just with each other, but with senior leadership," Mr. Jones said.

General West started the FRG meeting by referring to an AFN TV spot that features

Gen. David D. McKiernan, U.S. Army Europe commander, and the motto, "Strength of the families, strength of the Army."

"Truer words have never been spoken," General West said. "I couldn't be a Soldier if my family didn't support me."

General West also expressed the importance of getting family members to stay at their home station and addressed the concerns of families who plan to return to the U.S. when Soldiers deploy to Iraq, through a process the Army calls 'early return of dependents.'

"I know that it's tough to be out here alone, but I encourage family members to stay in Europe," said General West. "Even if they choose to leave,



Brig. Gen. Scott G. West, commander, 21st Theater Sustainment Command

it is still our responsibility to the families to keep them informed and support them, no matter where they are."

The general, who has served in the Army for 32 years and married his wife, Patti, the day he joined, said family care is a top priority. General West and his wife have two daughters.

"When the Soldiers deploy, so do the families," he said as he addressed the family leaders. "We do a great job of taking care of the Soldiers while they are deployed. We need to make sure the families are also getting taken care of. You have every right to hold us accountable; don't hesitate to ask."

The hour-long question-and-answer session reassured FRG leaders that the Army takes its commitment to Soldiers' families seriously.

"It's important for family members to see that there is this umbrella that can take care of them and address concerns and issues," said Sebrena Pitts, spouse of Col. Martin Pitts, 16th SB commander. "If the family is healthy, everything works itself out."

## Postal Ops: We deliver for you!

by 1st Lt.

Troy Shettlesworth

435th Communications Squadron

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind us, the KMC postal team paused to reflect on the record mail volume processed during the 2007 holiday season.

Having worked 55 hours per week on average, the postal team delivered more than two million pounds of

mail, including 70,000 parcels, to more than 30,000 customers in December.

"No matter how great the volume of mail each day, the postal team did not go home until it was all delivered to the recipients' mailboxes," said Master Sgt. Al DiRisio, Ramstein Northside postmaster.

Postal manning has fallen in recent years while deployments have increased. American post offices in the KMC deploy Airmen

in every Air Expeditionary Force cycle, yet continue to meet mission requirements at home.

"This is a significant challenge as Ramstein mail volumes have soared from 4.6 million pounds in 2002 to more than 13 million in 2007," said Sergeant DiRisio.

"Of course, the success of the postal team could not be realized without the outstanding efforts of dedicated volunteers," said Staff Sgt. Pamela Cianfrocca, NCOIC, Ramstein Customer Service.

Recent customer feedback suggested that parcel delivery service was needed on Mondays. Unable to meet this need with current manning, the postal team looked to the community for help.

Each Monday, the Ramstein Northside Post Office parcel pick-up window is manned primarily by volunteers. More than 500 volunteers have stepped forward since the program was implemented in November 2007, donating more than 2,000 hours.

"This critical support dramatically improved the quality of life of both the postal team and the entire KMC," said Lt. Col. Amy Dayton, 435th Communications Squadron commander.

A major Air Force Smart Operations 21 effort was scheduled to begin Monday and will identify ways to reduce the demanding workload without sacrificing services.

One initiative currently under review uses electronic inboxes instead of physical mailboxes; customers will receive an e-mail message in lieu of a paper notification when a parcel is ready for pick up.

Ramstein APO customers can sign up for e-mail notifications in their post office or by sending an e-mail to postal.service@ramstein.af.mil.

Volunteers are still needed. For more information, stop by your post office customer service desk or e-mail postal.service@ramstein.af.mil.

### Post Office Hours

#### Ramstein Northside and Southside:

Parcel pick-up, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday (Southside closed on Mondays); Finance, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; Customer service, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday

#### Kapaun:

Parcel pick-up 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; Finance, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; Customer service, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday

#### Sembach:

Parcel pick-up and customer service, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; Finance, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday

*"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."*

– *Unofficial Postman's Motto (adapted from Herodotus' Histories)*



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Bressler

Tech. Sgt. Todd Smith, 435th Communications Squadron, locates a package at the Ramstein Northside Post Office Dec. 11.



Photo from author's collection

*A Comet I – Note the Small, Square Windows*

# A beautiful near thing

by **Dr. Marshall Michel**  
86th Airlift Wing historian

After World War II, one of the few areas where Great Britain had a technological advantage over the United States was in jet engine development, mainly due to engine designer Frank Whittle.

During the war, jet engines had been used to power small aircraft, but many thought that jet engines were unsuitable for commercial use since they had such high fuel consumption. Nevertheless, Great Britain rushed to develop the world's first commercial jetliner – the beautiful de Havilland Comet Mark I. The clean, low-drag design had a swept-wing leading edge and was powered by four turbojet engines, buried in the wings close to the fuselage to avoid the drag of engine pods.

The buried engines called for increased structural weight and a higher risk of cata-

strophic wing failure in case of a fire. But, in fact, the buried engines caused no major problems.

The Comet went through the most exhaustive tests ever given to an airliner, including a water tank to pressure test the entire forward fuselage section for metal fatigue, especially the windows.

The British Overseas Airways Corporation bought 10 aircraft. When the first BOAC Comet took off for a flight from London for Johannesburg, South Africa, on May 2, 1952, it proved to be an immediate success. Cruising at 35,000 feet, the Comet was smooth and fast. It was about 50 percent faster than the mainstay of American airlines. The Douglas DC-6 cut hours off long trips. It seemed as if Britain had an insurmountable lead in commercial airliner development. Then, things began to go wrong.

In October 1952 and March 1953, Comets

## AIRCRAFT

*awful and awesome*

crashed on takeoff, but no passengers died. Then, on May 2, 1953, a Comet crashed in a severe tropical storm six minutes after taking off from Calcutta, killing 43. That was followed by another Comet crash off the Italian island of Elba eight months later, which killed 35. No cause for the accidents was established, but modifications were made to cover every possibility of a likely cause.

Comet flights resumed in 1954, but less than two weeks later, a Comet on a flight from London to Johannesburg crashed near Naples, killing 21. The fleet was immediately grounded again.

After exhaustive tests, the weak point on the Comet proved to be the corner of the tiny, square windows – when the windows developed a crack, they would tear out, ripping a large slice in the fuselage wall.

The windows were redesigned, but Comets did not resume commercial airline service until Oct. 4, 1958. By that time, the Boeing 707 was ready to enter service, carrying twice as many passengers as the Comet. A total of 114 Comets were built, but 13 were lost in fatal accidents and the Comet never recovered its reputation.

Britain's lead in the commercial aviation was lost and was never again regained.

## MILITARY Matters

### Civil Engineers' corner

The intersection at Maxwell and Kisling avenues will be under construction in April.



The intersection will be reconfigured to improve safety and traffic flow, but will require road diversions on both streets during the 30-day construction time. The road diversions will be announced prior to implementation. Watch for more updates in the KA and CE corner.

Applications are available for a special duty assignment as a dormitory manager (9D000). Eligible applicants must be staff sergeants stationed at Ramstein or Vogelweh and must have their commander's endorsement. The positions require a two-year commitment and have an option for a third year.

If you are interested, con-

tact Master Sgt. Bradford Berry or Mr. Stan Hall at the Dorm Reception Center at 480-3676 or e-mail [Bradford.berry@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:Bradford.berry@ramstein.af.mil).

### Inspector General's corner

Commanders, civilians leading an organization designated as a unit IAW AFI 38-101, Equal Employment Opportunity, Equal Opportunity, and Civilian Personnel Office, must immediately report all allegations of wrongdoing and any adverse information against colonels or the equivalent to SAF/IGQ. Additionally, an informational copy must be provided to the IG at the level of notification. EEO offices will report allegations to SAF/MRBA.

Contact your local IG for template and assistance.



### Chiefs' corner

Did you know that we have over 100 chief master sergeants in the KMC?

Have you ever wondered how the rank came to be?

The rank of chief master sergeant did not come into being until the authorization of the Military Pay Act of 1958 and is the highest U.S. Air Force enlisted rank.

The official term of address is chief master sergeant, or chief. All chiefs are expected to serve as mentors for company-grade and field-grade commissioned officers, as well as noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted members.

They are also expected to serve as advisors to unit commanders and senior officers. By federal law, only one percent of the Air Force enlisted force may hold the rank of chief master sergeant.



The command chief master sergeant was created in November 1998 and serves as senior advisors to commanders at wing, numbered Air Force, field operating agency and major command levels.

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force is appointed by the Air Force chief of staff and serves as the personal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff and the secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale and proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force.

Nov. 1, 2004, the CMSAF insignia was updated to include the great seal of the United States of America and two stars in the upper field.

This puts the insignia in line with those of the Army and Marine Corps.

The laurel wreath around the star remained unchanged to retain the legacy of the chief master sergeants of the Air Force.

# Baby bottle tooth decay is preventable

by Airman 1st Class Jennifer Franklin  
435th Dental Squadron



Baby bottle tooth decay, a severe form of early childhood cavities, stems from the frequent consumption of any liquid containing sugar.

Even healthy beverages such as milk and juice (even watered-down juice) contain a natural sugar. Other examples include soda, Kool-Aid and sports drinks. The sugar in these liquids then becomes food for the bacteria. They form acid that dissolves tooth enamel, or the outer layer of the tooth.

Children who develop these patterns of early childhood cavities have a greater chance of continuing to get cavities in both baby and permanent teeth.

Here are some things you can do to prevent such patterns:

- 1** Never put a child to bed with a bottle or sippy cup containing any liquid other than water.
- 2** Encourage children to drink from a cup by age 1.
- 3** Limit sugary drinks to meals or snacktime; otherwise, fill bottles and sippy cups with water.
- 4** Avoid frequent consumption of gummy-type candy. These can stick to the teeth for a prolonged amount of time.
- 5** Visit your local dentist within six months of the first tooth eruption or by age 1.
- 6** Ensure your child is exposed to fluoride. Fluoridated toothpaste and bottled water with fluoride are good sources of fluoride for children.

*February is National Children's Dental Health Month. To mark this occasion, a variety of dental related topics will be discussed throughout the month.*

## From Africa, page 1

The landing zone was distinguishable from the surrounding area only by the cerise panels cordoning off the first 500 feet of the runway. With only 3,500 feet of runway available, the successive C-130s touched down and offloaded successfully. The offloaded cargo included forklifts, trucks and basic supplies – all delivered with minimal time on the ground in order to avoid encroaching dust storms. Airmen from the 37th and the 38th airlift squadrons successfully accomplished the mission providing food, water and equipment for the Army personnel.

“By exercising the truly global reach of American assets in this remote area, Airmen from these two airlift squadrons enabled joint ops and furthered the Global War on Terror,” said 1st Lt. Frank Laras, 37th AS navigator. “The outstanding support of maintenance assets and planning cells fostered this mission’s success.”

With actions in support of AFRICOM, the C-130 crews demonstrated this airframe’s lasting importance as well as the reliability of Ramstein Airmen in accomplishing the mission even in the harshest of circumstances. With the 86th AW providing airlift to Africa, Ramstein is no longer just the gateway to Europe.



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Wunderlich

The cargo compartment of a C-130.



Courtesy photo

## DON'T TRASH YOUR BASE

### 4 rules to live by when it comes to trash:

- 1.** Only on-base residents are allowed to use dumpsters on base.
- 2.** Trash should be put inside the dumpster, not on the ground by the dumpster; bulk garbage should be placed outside the night before pick-up, not earlier.
- 3.** Bulk garbage should not be placed on top of underground dumpsters. Off-base residents are allowed to take their garbage to the Ramstein Recycling Center (garbage should not exceed more than a normal household amount).
- 4.** Security forces will issue tickets to all personnel not following base rules on garbage disposal.

For details, call the Civil Engineering Customer Service Line at 480-6540 (Ramstein), 489-6621 (Einsiedlerhof), 496-7422 (Sembach), or the Ramstein Recycling Center at 480-4191.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tony Ritter



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ruth Holcomb

# Fasching 2008

Fasching is a pre-Lenten Carnival season when people get to loosen up and go a little crazy. It is compared to the American Mardi Gras. Fasching is an annual festival used as a way of driving out the evil spirits of winter and encouraging the coming of spring and good crops. Various events were held this week, including Ramstein-Miesenbach's Fasching parade Feb. 5. The Ramstein-Miesenbach parade is known as the biggest in the Westpfalz area.

(Clockwise from top left) Parade participants in their decorated float look for children to throw candy to; People dress up to celebrate Fasching in Ramstein village Feb. 5; Staff at Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School welcomed their new assistant principal, Steve Austin, by initiating him into the German tradition of "der Weiberfastnacht" (Women's Carnival) Jan. 31. In keeping with tradition, the women of the school play pranks on the men, including cutting off their ties; Young girls dance in the streets of Ramstein village to celebrate Fasching Feb. 5; A member of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band bangs his drum as he marches through the streets of Ramstein village during the Fasching celebration on Feb. 5.



Photo by Werner Begander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Bressler



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Bressler



# Around the **KMC**

Take a look at what's going on in your military community!



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kenny Holston

## Rolling into action

The reflection of Airman 1st Class Kenny Holston, 435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs still photographer, appears in an Air Force humvee mirror as he takes position behind the door of the humvee to capture an action photo of security forces members participating in a two-week long Creek Defender course. The Creek Defender course covers an array of tactical training methods that security forces members will need to be successful in a deployed environment.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kenny Holston

## Hollywood celebs visit Ramstein

Master Sgt. Jeannette Louie takes her own portrait with movie and TV star Gary Sinise during his recent visit to Ramstein Jan. 25. Mr. Sinise, Medal of Honor recipients Mike Thornton and Drew Dix, and actor John Ratzenberger visited Ramstein to help boost morale and say thanks for all the great work accomplished by the armed forces.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tony Ritter

## Ramstein LE desk upgrade

Staff Sgt. Justin Allen, 435th Security Forces Squadron, works as a combined controller at the renovated Ramstein Law Enforcement Desk. After more than a year, the redesign and refurbishing of the Ramstein LE Desk, Bldg. 2371, is complete. Renovations began in November 2006.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Bressler

## Dr. Seuss Family Night

Servicemembers and their families enjoy a Dr. Seuss family night hosted by the Ramstein Community Center Jan. 28. The community center hosts many events to improve the quality of life at Ramstein.



Photo by Barb Gonzales

## Turnin' their tassles

Ramstein High School seniors, (from left) Chelsea Green, Elizabeth Bailey, Ashley Smith and Chase Cooper smile for the camera at the close of their recent mid-year graduation ceremony.

## AROUND THE KMC School Notebook

### Valentine's Day party

Ramstein Kids' Club members are invited to a Valentine's Party from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Club E in the Ramstein Enlisted Club. In honor of Black History Month, Kids' Club members will be entertained by the Kaiserslautern African American Heritage Committee Dance Troup at 7 p.m. Call 480-2333 for details.

### Families invited

Kaiserslautern Middle School PTSA is hosting "Bring Your Family to School Week" Monday to Feb. 15. This is a National PTSA initiative to involve more parents in their children's schools. Parents are encouraged to spend their lunch at school (11:15 a.m. to noon, Tuesday to

Friday). A highlight will be a visit by the commissary's home economist, Kay Blakley. For details, e-mail Teresa. Buchannan@eu.dodea.edu.

### Talent Show

Ramstein and Vogelweh Youth Centers will host the annual Base-Level Youth and Family Talent Show at 2 p.m. March 1 at the Hercules Theatre. Sign-ups will be taken until Feb. 15.

This competition is open to all eligible ID card-holders, ages 3 and up. Divisions for competition are vocal, instrumental and performing arts (musical variety, dance and specialty categories).

Call your Youth Center for details: Ramstein at 06371-473157 and Vogelweh at 0631-536-6504.



Courtesy photo

### Persistence pays off

Kevin Molina won the Kaiserslautern Middle School Spelling Bee Jan. 29. More than 70 students entered the preliminary round and 12 students were in the final round. Last year, Kevin placed in the top 10, and this year he reached his goal. "I'm going to win the school spelling bee, and then I'm off to Washington, D.C.," he said.



Photo by Sharon Emerling

### 'Conflict and Compromise'

Landstuhl Middle School eighth-grader Nicole Pisierra explains her interest in the Cuban Missile Crisis at this year's annual History Fair competition, themed 'Conflict and Compromise.' According to the event coordinator, Kurt Kiefer, it was impressive that the students who participated did it purely on a voluntary basis, showing great desire and motivation.



Photo by Selinda Torbert

### Be my Valentine

Landstuhl Elementary students make Sweet Heart Care Packages for troops downrange Jan. 30. More than 30 children, ages 5 to 8, participated in the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Kid's Konnect program for children of deployed parents. The items were donated by the USO Kaiserslautern. The children added a personal touch by drawing pictures and making Valentine's Day cards for the troops.



# Job Shadow Day a hit



Photo by Christine June

## Auto skills

*Don Breton, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Pulaski Auto Skills manager, explains to students and parents about the importance of an exhaust system in vehicles Feb. 1 as part of the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day at Auto Skills on Pulaski Barracks. Garrison personnel also gave tours at the libraries, child and youth services facilities and fitness centers. Job Shadow Day is a nationwide initiative dedicated to giving students a unique opportunity to "shadow" a workplace mentor.*



Photo by Robin Muschalek

## Student teachers

*Mason and Madison Muschalek lead a group of kindergartners at Vogelweh Elementary School for Job Shadow Day Feb. 1. Mason and Madison shadowed their mom, Robin Muschalek, who works at VES.*



Photo by Don Borstad

## Off to combat

*From left, Scott Sublousky, Jessica Wagner and Sara Sublousky shadowed Lt. Col. Joe Sublousky, 1st Combat Communications Squadron commander, Feb. 1. Students were up at 5:15 a.m. and their day included firing an M16 Laser rifle, using night vision goggles, riding in a Humvee and working with a self-defense instructor.*

“ They had to brief the squadron of approximately 300 Airmen. It was hard standing in front of so many. ”

– Jessica Wagner

## RES hosts annual Asian and Antique Auction

For the second time in the KMC, Ramstein Elementary School Parent Teacher Association is sponsoring an Asian and Antique Furniture Auction March 1 in the school gym.

RES is located at Bldg. 996, behind the Ramstein Commissary. A silent auction kicks off the event. Silent bidding will begin at 10 a.m. with a live auction at 11 a.m. There will be 250 items auctioned, and the auction will run until everything is sold. The event is open to all ID card-holders. Delivery service for a price will be provided. For safety purposes, this is an adult-only event. Items for auction include Asian furniture, porcelain, Tiffany lamps and an assortment of decorative pieces from Hong Kong and Tibet. All payment must be made in U.S. dollars, checks or money orders. The proceeds will go to the PTA to support school activities and enrichment programs benefiting all students at the school.



Photo by Sally Friday

## Mentors meet mentees

*Master Sgt. Kristine Jones and her fourth-grade mentee, Stacy Adler-Brown, meet at Kaiserslautern Elementary School Jan. 24 for National Mentor Month.*

# 435th MUNS Airmen

## different kind of fishing trip



by Staff Sgt.

**Kerry Solan**

435th Air Base Wing

Public Affairs

The second day of their fishing trip was unlike the first.

Up to their chest in mud, Airmen from the 435th Munitions Squadron were still catching fish, albeit with bare hands in sucking mud, in an attempt to save hundreds of them from suffocating in the muck.

“Time was of the essence; fish were going belly up as we were rescuing them,” said Master Sgt. Scott Windorf, 435th MUNS first sergeant.

In an effort to revive the ecosystem in one of Grafenwöhr’s many fishing lakes, the wels catfish – native to Germany and the largest freshwater predators in Europe – were to be evicted from one of the lakes. According to Grafenwöhr’s fishing program authorities, draining the lake was the best way to achieve that goal.

As the lake was drained, a dam was built in a creek to keep a neighboring lake from refilling the tapped lake.

But, for some reason the dam failed, and fish from the lake poured by the thousands into the small creek and were caught in mud-thickened water.

That’s when the munitions Airmen came in.

The group, Sergeant Windorf and his son, Zachary; Airman 1st Class Johnathan Farmer; Staff Sgt. David Kieper; and Airman 1st Class Jeremy Burney, were on the second day of a fishing trip. The first day, they’d spent culling catfish from one of the area lakes. At 7 a.m. the following day, they were preparing to enjoy a quiet day fishing when they were approached by anxious game wardens, who needed help in rescuing the trapped fish that were quickly dying in the over-crowded creek waters.

“There were so many fish – we had to feel around in the mud for them, and pull them out,” said Sergeant Windorf.

The group spent nine hours catching, washing and filling tanks with the fish. The fish were then transplanted to another base lake.

“It was incredibly cold and muddy,” said Airman 1st Class Jeremy Burney, 435th MUNS munitions maintainer. “Our hands and arms were numb, which made it almost impossible to pick them up.”

At the end of the day, the team guessed they saved about 150 fish.

“It was almost as if they knew we were trying to help,” said Sergeant Windorf. “They weren’t flipping around or fighting much. A lot of them were so tired – even when we set them loose, we’d have



Courtesy photos

**Master Sgt. Scott Windorf, 435th Munitions Squadron’s first sergeant, holds a 25-pound catfish he pulled from a log jam, while Staff Sgt. David Kieper, 435th MUNS, looks for more stranded fish.**

to hold them so they could get their bearings in the water and build energy to swim away.”

While the team said they were happy to help, as true sportsmen, they recognized there was also something in it for them.

“It was worth the time and effort because we all love to fish,” said Airman Burney.

Sergeant Windorf agreed.

“I hoped these 10- to 70-pound fish would be the ones we’d have the chance to catch next spring or later,” he said. “There was no way we were going to let them die without a fight. Time will tell, but it sounds like the fish owe us one.”



**Staff Sgt. David Kieper, Zachary Windorf, Airman 1st Class Jeremy Burney, Master Sgt. Scott Windorf and Airman 1st Class Jonathan Farmer stand in front of the lake that was drained to evict its large wels catfish.**

# Send us your **VACATION** photos

Your submission must include the name of the photographer, the date of the photo, first and last names of those in the photo and location. Write "Destinations" in the e-mail subject line. E-mail to [editor@kaiserslauternamerican.com](mailto:editor@kaiserslauternamerican.com).



Photo by Jason Piatek

Staff Sgt. Kerry Solan stands at the edge of Killarney's Lower Lake at Ross Castle, County Kerry, Ireland, Jan. 13.



Photo by Jerry Cushenberry

Hunter Fischbach and Louie Cushenberry in Wenceslas Square in Prague, Czech Republic, October 2007.



Photo by Beverly Clark



Photo by Barbara Dale



Courtesy photo

Troy Clark sits by the water in Alghero, Sardinia, Nov. 11.

Barbara, Julia and Robbie Dale hand-feed a kangaroo at the Glen Forest Wildlife Sanctuary, in Coffin Bay, South Australia, Jan. 8.

Joe and Teresa Hernandez pose with a guard Dec. 31 in London, England.

# February

## Mark your calendar

The **Ramstein Officers' Spouses Committee** will host a luncheon Wednesday at the Ramstein Officers' Club. Social/check-in is at 9:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 10 a.m. It is Carnival Casino. For details, visit [www.RamsteinOSC.org](http://www.RamsteinOSC.org). Make reservations by Monday to Brooke at [Reservations@RamsteinOSC.org](mailto:Reservations@RamsteinOSC.org). Make childcare reservations by e-mailing Elaine at [Childcare@RamsteinOSC.org](mailto:Childcare@RamsteinOSC.org). Lunch is \$13 for club card members and \$15 for non-members.

Out-think, out-run and out-last the competition in the **U.S. Air Forces in Europe Project Cheer's Survivor game**, a spin-off of the popular TV show "Survivor." The contest is only open to Department of Defense ID card-holders, who are 18 or older and assigned to USAFE. Teams of five (minimum two men and two women) will test their physical and mental abilities in various challenges with activities sponsored by the 435th Services Squadron from Feb. 18 to March 18. Sign-ups for teams are now being taken at the Ramstein Community Center. Sign-up deadline is today. Call 480-6600 for details.

**Kaiserslautern Landstuhl Spouses Association** presents 'Make it, Bake it, Fake it.' Let your talents shine. You can use your hands to make it, your oven to bake it or don't tell a soul and fake it, 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at Landstuhl Community Center. Enjoy an Italian Dinner (\$14) and auction. Make reservations by Tuesday at [klsa\\_reservations@yahoo.com](mailto:klsa_reservations@yahoo.com). For details, visit [www.klsagrapevine.org](http://www.klsagrapevine.org).

**Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program classes** begin Feb. 21 for couples to learn how to stop the frustration and damage that fighting can cause in a relationship. Classes are 4 to 6 p.m. in the Southside Chapel's Interfaith Conference Room on Ramstein every Thursday for six weeks. For details, call 479-2370 or 06371-46-2370 (ask for Joy); or 486-8366 or 06371-868366 (ask for Dorian.)

## Meetings

The committee for **Women's History Observance Month** meets at 2 p.m. every Wednesday at the North Chapel on Ramstein. The purpose of the meetings is to organize events and activities to recognize the achievements and contributions of women. Anyone interested in becoming a committee member can call the Equal Opportunity Office at 489-8534 or e-mail [bill.white@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:bill.white@ramstein.af.mil).

**KMC-Christian Home Educators** support group meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall of Faith Baptist Church, Einsiedlerhof. The topics are Dads Speak Out and Academic Fair. Those currently homeschooling or interested

are welcome to attend. For more information, contact [rose\\_waschek@yahoo.com](mailto:rose_waschek@yahoo.com).

### The Alpha Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

a women's friendship organization, meets in members' homes the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30. We get together for social, cultural and community service activities and are not affiliated with any college or college alumni. For more information on our chapter, e-mail us at [bspalphanu@yahoo.com](mailto:bspalphanu@yahoo.com). Information on BSP Alpha Nu can be found at [www.bsp-alpha-nu.org/index.html](http://www.bsp-alpha-nu.org/index.html).

**The KMC Adoption Support Group** meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Landstuhl HAWC, Bldg. 3722.

**Army Community Service Classes:** Unless otherwise noted, reservations are required and classes meet at Bldg. 2925, Wing C, at Pulaski Barracks. For more information, call 493-4203 or 0631-34064203. Resumix meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 9 a.m.

**The KMC Top 3** meets at 8 a.m. the second Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Feb. 14 at Martini's Lounge at the Ramstein Enlisted Club.

**The Rheinland Pfalz Quilt Guild** meets at 9:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Ramstein North Chapel and at 6 p.m. the

## Black History Month

The 21st Theater Sustainment Command Equal Opportunity Office on Panzer Kaserne hosts an **African American/Black History Month event** noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday at Armstrong Club on Vogelweh Housing. The event includes educational material, entertainment, food and giveaways.

The **Ramstein Commissary celebrates Black History Month** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 20. The event features a special guest speaker, performances by children from Ramstein Elementary School and a buffet.

The **KMC African American Heritage Committee** meets at 1:30 p.m. every Friday in the Ramstein Enlisted Club conference room. Topics include current and upcoming events leading to the celebration of Black History Month in February and other events to carry forward throughout the year. For details, e-mail [jamaal.cottrell@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:jamaal.cottrell@ramstein.af.mil).

fourth

Thursday of the month at the KLSA building on Pulaski Barracks. For details, visit [www.rpqg.edu](http://www.rpqg.edu).

### The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Kaiserslautern Chapter 158

holds its monthly meeting 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Ramstein Officers' Club. Guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Gregory Brundidge, Air Combat Command/A6. There will be a free buffet lunch for AFCEA members and new applicants. Scholarship awards are available to junior officers, enlisted, civil service and family members currently employed or residing in the KMC.

For reservations, visit <http://kaiserslautern.afceachapter.org/luncheon/signup.php> by 3 p.m. Feb. 19.

**435<sup>th</sup> AIR BASE WING**

**2007 ANNUAL AWARDS**

*Yesterday's Past... Meets Tomorrow's Future*

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
LT GEN CHARLES "CHARLIE" CROOM, DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE INFO. SYSTEM AGENCY (DISA) & COMMANDER JOINT TASK FORCE GLOBAL NETWORK OPERATIONS, ARLINGTON, VA.

**CONTACT YOUR FIRST SERGEANT FOR TICKETS**

**22 FEB 2008**  
**RAMSTEIN OFFICER'S CLUB**  
COCKTAILS: 1730  
CHINES: 1815  
EVENT BEGINS: 1830



## From Valentine, page 1

Valentine cards have a long tradition. Legend says that the Duke of Orleans, while in prison in the tower of London in 1415, kept sending love letters to his spouse – and not only on Feb. 14. Ever since, he has been looked at as the founder of valentines. In the 17th century, author Samuel Pepys from London, revived this tradition of writing a love letter to his wife Feb. 14. She was thrilled and, in turn, gave him flowers. The British noble society took over the tradition of giving flowers and sending love notes soon after and it was spread throughout England and France.

According to another legend, the custom of giving flowers goes back to ancient Rome, where a friendly priest, called Valentine, gave advice to young people, in particular regarding marriage. He did this despite Emperor Claudius' prohibition. Claudius did not want his legionaries to get – according to Christian customs – tied to wives and houses. But Valentine looked for couples, found them and married them. He passed out flowers to young couples who were walking by the garden of his monastery and asked the men to stay at home rather than going out to the battle.

One day, Emperor Claudius wanted to meet Valentine and find out about his wisdom. The emperor requested Valentine to believe in Roman gods again. Then, they

would be friends. But, the priest told him that he never would ask him to do so if he knew about the glory of God and his son Christ.

During his visit with Claudius, a council member asked Valentine what he thinks of the Roman gods. Valentine answered that they are demons. The council immediately requested the blasphemer's death. During a delay Valentine asked for, he impressed the emperor with the truth of Christian belief. Claudius was deeply touched. But, when Rome's governor said Val-

**The Greeting Card Association estimates that one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent world-wide each year.**

entine was a magician, Claudius feared a revolt by his people and passed the priest on to Asterius, a judge, to decide on his fate. While standing in front of the judge, Valentine performed a miracle. He made the judge's blind daughter see again by praying and laying his hands on her. Asterius and his family got baptized after that. But since their new Christian belief was counter to Roman religion, they were tortured and killed. Rome's governor also decided to torture Valentine and behead him Feb. 14, 269.

Before he was killed, many young people visited him in jail. One jail guard's daughter came to see him several times. She helped him keep his spirits up and told him that he did the right thing by

ignoring the emperor and going ahead with the secret messages. On the day he was to die, he left a note thanking the girl for her friendship and loyalty. He signed it with "Love from your Valentine." That might have started the custom of exchanging love messages Feb. 14.

One hundred years after Valentine's death, he was canonized. In 1550, in memory of Valentine, a memorial chapel was built in St. Valentin in South Tyrol, Austria. Visitors can admire a wooden statue of the saint.

Since Valentine's martyr death, Feb. 14 is observed as a day of love. In former times, the night before Feb. 14, women tied laurel leaves to the four tips of their pillows. This was supposed to be a guarantee for dreaming of their true love. People also believed that a woman would marry the man she would see first in front of her house on Valentine's Day. This was enough reason for a young man to be out early in the morning and to reassure the feeling of his beloved one with a bouquet of flowers.

In the 18th century, people in love started to send romantic greeting cards. In Germany, recognition of Valentine's Day started in the 1950s when American Soldiers brought the British tradition to Germany.

The Greeting Card Association estimates that one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent world-wide each year, making it the second largest card-sending day behind Christmas.

## Valentine's Day in numbers

**120:** Number of single men who are in their 20s, for every 100 women of the same ages (U.S. Census Bureau)

**904:** Number of dating service establishments in the U.S. as of 2002 (U.S. Census Bureau)

**2.2** million: Marriages in the U.S. each year (U.S. Census Bureau)

**214** million: Roses grown for Valentine's 2007 (Society of American Florists)

**1** billion: Number of traditional Valentine's cards sent world-wide each year (Greeting Card Association)

**2.5** billion: Dollars in merchandise that U.S. jewelry stores made in February 2007 (U.S. Census Bureau)

**14.9** billion: Dollars that the chocolate production industry brings in per year (U.S. Census Bureau)

## Language of Love

The Five Love Languages Seminar is 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Ramstein South Chapel Conference

Room. Learn to communicate your love and have a healthier marriage. Registration is not required, but space is limited. Call the Ramstein North Chapel at 480-6148 or 06371-47-6148.



## Classes and training

**Free swing dance classes** are from 7 to 8:45 p.m. every Wednesday in February at the Ramstein Community Center. For details, call 480-6600.

The cut-off date for the April **Community College of the Air Force** class is Feb. 29 to be considered for the April class, CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base. The CCAF graduation is 2 p.m. April 25 at the Ramstein Officers' Club. Guest speaker is Lt. Col. Raymond Staats, CCAF commander. For details, call 480-2032/2308.

Skies Unlimited program hosts **art classes with Philippe Devaud** Mondays at the Landstuhl Teen Center, Bldg. 3819. Registration is required and space is limited. Call 493-4516 or 0631-3406-4516/4122.

**Spouse Tuition Assistance Program** applications for Term IV (term dates March 31 to June 8) are due by Feb. 29 to Bldg. 2120, Room 416 on Ramstein. STAP is open to command sponsored spouses of active duty Air Force members. STAP will pay up to one-half of the unmet tuition cost or up to \$300 per term. For more information on STAP, contact the Ramstein Education Center at 480-2032.

There are two **Learning Resource Centers in the KMC** – on Kapaun in Bldg. 2784 and on Ramstein in Bldg. 2104. Hours at Kapaun are 12:30 to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Hours at Ramstein are 3 to 10:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

**Conversational German Classes** are beginning. Level I classes start March 3 on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Army Education Center, Bldg. 285, Room 1, on Rhine Ordnance Barracks and Landstuhl Army Education Center, Bldg. 3701. Classes are 9 to 11 a.m. at ROB and 5 to 7 p.m. at Landstuhl education centers. Conversational German Level II classes start March 4 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the ROB and Landstuhl education centers. Classes are 9 to 11 a.m. at ROB and 5 to 7 p.m. at Landstuhl. Conversational Level III classes also start March 4 at the ROB and Landstuhl education centers. Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ROB and 7 to 9 p.m. at Landstuhl. Classes are 10 weeks and cost €65 per student – cash only. Payment is due on the first day of class. For details, call the instructor, Viktoria Ehrhardt, at 0631-72255.

**Hazardous Material Monitor Training Class** will be 9 to 11 a.m. the first Monday and Tuesday of every month in Bldg. 2215 on Ramstein. For details, call the HAZMAT Pharmacy at 480-6311/2711/7325.

The **German American Friendship Association** of Siegelbach has German classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Registration is at the school in Siegelbach 3 to 5 p.m. Sundays and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

Registration is €70 for 12 class sessions. Each session is two hours long. Textbooks and workbooks can be purchased at registration or the first night of class and cost about €30. For times and details, visit [www.gafriendship.org](http://www.gafriendship.org) or call Denise Burton at 06301-716 990 or Elke Müller at 06301-30923.

**Marriage Enrichment Tools Seminar** is from 8 to 10 a.m. every third Wednesday at the Ramstein South Chapel Conference Room. METS is for seriously dating, engaged, newlywed and married couples. METS is sponsored by the 435th Air Base Wing Chaplain's Office. For details, contact the Ramstein North Chapel at 480-6148 or 06371-47-6148.

## Chapel news

The **U.S. Army Garrison Chaplain's Office** will host events for the Lenten season, now to March 14. Every Friday evening during Lenten season, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at 5:30 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m., followed by a soup dinner. Lenten lunchtime concerts by British musician Brian Jeffries will be held at noon every Friday at the garrison's chapel. Every Wednesday and Friday, Roman Catholic Mass will be celebrated at 11:45 a.m. at the garrison's chapel on Daenner Kaserne. For details, call the Chaplain's Office at 493-4098 or 0631-3406-4072.

The **Protestant Women of the Chapel** will host "Family Fun Fellowship" from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Kapaun Chapel Annex. Bring your favorite game and snack to share.

## Volunteers, donations needed

The German-American and International Women's Club Kaiserslautern is looking for volunteers on sorting and selling days of its annual Pfennig Bazaar, March 1 to 3, in the Industrial Hall (Industriehalle) in the Kaiserslautern Garden Fair area. Also, donations including clothes, household items, toys, books and baked goods are needed. They can be dropped off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 15 at the club's new storage location on Hackstrasse 4 in Kaiserslautern, or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 23 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 25 and 26 in Industriehalle. For details and directions, call Pamela Miod at 06381-996868, e-mail [euroconn@hotmail.com](mailto:euroconn@hotmail.com), or visit [www.gawc.com](http://www.gawc.com).

## Army tax centers open for business

IRS-trained e-filers will prepare and file 2007 tax returns. All U.S. military and civilian ID card-holders, including retirees, are eligible for this free service. The 21st Theater Sustainment Command operates two tax assistance centers in the KMC and one in Mannheim.

### Kaiserslautern Tax Assistance Center

Located on Kleber Kaserne, in the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center (across from the Shoppette) Bldg. 3210, Room 101. For details, call 483-7688 or 0631-411-7688. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Appointments and walk-in services are available. The center is open from now until June 16.

### Landstuhl Tax Assistance Center

Located in Bldg. 3701, ground floor (same building as the Education Center). For details, call 486-6334 or 06371-86-6334. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Appointments and walk-in services are available. The center is open from now until June 16.

### Mannheim Tax Assistance Center

Located on Taylor Barracks, across from the Auto Car Care Center, Bldg. 343. For details, call 381-7978 or 0621-730-7978. Walk-in hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. Appointments are scheduled a week in advance for complicated returns.



Advertisement



USAG

*Kaiserslautern*

# HAPPENINGS

## Club Events

February 08

### KAZABRA CLUB VALENTINES KARAOKE

**February 14, 8pm-Midnight**

Serenade your sweetheart and you could be rewarded with cash prizes and more! Plus complimentary bar snacks, and roses for the ladies.

### GREEK NIGHT

**February 15, 9pm-2am**

Come dressed in a Toga or Greek attire and win a trip from Enjoy tours for the being the best dressed! While there, enjoy a Greek buffet, acropolis style, and join in on all the fun and games!

### MIDNIGHT BINGO

**February 17, 9pm-Midnight**

Doors open at 7 p.m. Special games and prizes, plus free finger foods, soft drinks and a raffle for a trip from Enjoy Tours. (No federal endorsement of sponsor intended).

### K-TOWN COVERALL

**Play Progressive Bingo**

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 4p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m., For your chance to win a 2007 red Dodge Caliber, with monthly number increases, or play to win a 42' plasma TV with bi-weekly number increases.

### ARMSTRONG'S CLUB EMERALDALLEY

**Room Rental Service**

Want to have a private party and challenge your friends to various games including video games, and Nintendo Wii? Or how about a championship round to see who's the best overall in Virtual Bowling? Call 489-6000 or 0631-3549986 to make your reservations.

### Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday 5 - 11 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Sunday 4 - 11 p.m.

### LANDSTUHL CLUB TEXAS HOLD'EM

**Fridays, registration 6pm, first deal 7pm**

Play the weekly tournament to qualify for the championship round, plus weekly prizes for the qualifiers.

**Saturdays, registration 6pm, first deal 7pm**

Play the Saturday version for weekly cash prizes.

### CRAZY KARAOKE

**Wednesdays, 9pm - 1am**

Come out for the best karaoke in the KMC with Nev Humphrey's Crazy Karaoke. Enjoy the all-you-can-eat chicken wings while you are there!

## Activities in The KMC

### MAIN EVENT BOXING TOURNAMENT

**SPORTS & FITNESS**

**Miesau Fitness Center**

**Tomorrow, February 9, 7pm**

Don't miss out on one of the most exciting sport events of the year! Main Event Boxing at the Miesau Fitness Center, starting at 7 p.m., with registration and weigh-in from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.. Tickets for spectators are \$5 for VIP seating, \$4 for adults, with children 12 and under being free.

### HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

**Story Hour**

**Landstuhl Library**

**February 13**

Starting at 10 a.m. for preschoolers, 3:30 p.m. for school age children. Children get to listen to special Valentine stories, with arts and crafts available for them to make their own special Valentine.

### PULASKI ARTS & CRAFTS CENTER

The USAG-Kaiserslautern Pulaski Arts & Crafts Center is seeking a concessionaire to operate a professional quality framing and matting concession service as well as provide military art examples. Request for additional information may be obtained by calling 483-8040 or 0631-411-8040. Cutoff date for request is February 15, 2008.

## Upcoming Events

*You Won't Want to Miss...*



USAG Kaiserslautern  
**TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**  
Adapted by Christopher Sergel  
from the novel by Harper Lee

Performances  
February 22 at 7:30pm  
March 31, 5/8, 14, 15 at 7:30pm  
March 9 & 16 at 3pm

Adults \$12  
Students (12 & up) and Seniors (60 & up) \$8  
Children 11 & under \$6

For more information  
call 493-4128 or 0631-3406-4128

WWW.GERMANY.COM

USAG Kaiserslautern  
**Spring Bazaar**  
Over 100 vendors from around the world!  
Rhine Ordnance Barracks

**Feb 29 - Mar 2**  
**Fri. 10am-8pm**  
**Sat. 10am-7pm**  
**Sun. 10am-5pm**

Food and beverages available  
Strollers welcome  
ID cardholders only  
Happy Hop,  
Merry-Go-Round  
& Petting Zoo  
for the kids.

From 489-4128  
& 0631-3406-4128  
Please bring your ID card  
to the Special Events  
Center, Bldg 222 of RDB  
493-4128, 0631-3406-4128

### MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE (MTC)

**KMC Onstage**

**April 6-12**

Missoula Children's Theatre, the nation's largest touring children's theatre, will soon once again be packing their sets and costumes to visit Army Europe sites, holding tryouts, casting shows, teaching community theatre performances skills, and producing live performances at thirteen US Army Garrisons. They will be coming to the Kaiserslautern area, April 6-12, and will be holding open audition and casts for 50-60 various local school age youth to perform in the production. Call Shay Berchtold at 486-5412 or 06371-86-5412, or Central Enrollment at 493-4516 or 0631-3406-4516 for details.

For more information on MWR activities throughout Germany visit [mwrgermany.com](http://mwrgermany.com)

For questions regarding MWR events and programs listed on this page, call Marketing at 493-4128 or 0631-3406-4128.

# Was ist Los?

## KMC cultural highlights

### Compiled by Petra Lessoing

435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The following is a list of performances and events happening in the KMC and nearby. Dates are subject to change.

### Performing arts:

#### Pfalztheater Kaiserslautern:

- "Die Fledermaus," an operetta by Johann Strauss, 7:30 p.m. today and Feb. 24.
- Chamber concert: Flute-bassoon dialogue with works by Ludwig van Beethoven, P. Gabaye and Heitor Villa-Lobos, 11 a.m. Sunday.
- "Ludus Danielis – The play of Daniel," a rock oratorio in Latin, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21 and 23.
- International soloists, dancers and a band present "Abba Fever," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17. Call the ticket hotline at 01805-625262.

For more information, call 0631-3675-209 or visit [www.pfalztheater.de](http://www.pfalztheater.de).

#### Fruchthalle, Kaiserslautern:

- Jazz stage meets Folk with the band Deutsch, 8 p.m. Feb. 15.
- German Radio Philharmony Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern performs a symphony concert with works by Robert Schumann and Gustav Mahler, 8 p.m. Feb. 21.

For tickets, call the culture office at 0631-365-1410.

#### Stadthalle, Landstuhl:

- Oscar Javelot, Lord of Pan, and his orchestra perform classical and traditional music, 8 p.m. Feb. 22. Tickets cost €15.50 to €20.50.

For advance tickets, call 06371-9234-44 or e-mail [stadthalle@landstuhl.de](mailto:stadthalle@landstuhl.de).

#### Weilerbach, Bürgerkeller:

- Petra and Sven Puchelt present ballads and folk music, 8 p.m. Feb. 16. For details, visit [www.dreschflegel.de](http://www.dreschflegel.de).

#### Nationaltheater Mannheim, Am Goetheplatz:

- "Lohengrin," an opera by Richard Wagner, 5 to 9:45 p.m. Sunday. For details and tickets, call 0621-1680150 or visit [www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de](http://www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de).



Courtesy photo

### Kung fu show

**"The return of the Shaolin," a kung fu show about the life of the Shaolin monks and the mystic secrets of Qi Gong, will be presented at 3 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Fruchthalle in Kaiserslautern. Tickets range from €24 to €44. For advance tickets, call 01803-776842 or visit [www.proticket.de](http://www.proticket.de).**

[nationaltheater-mannheim.de](http://nationaltheater-mannheim.de).

#### Staatstheater Saarbrücken:

- "Picasso on the Move," four choreographies to reflect the painter's works in dances, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 and 23.
  - "La Traviata," an opera by Giuseppe Verdi, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26.
- For details and tickets, call 0681-3092-486 or visit [www.theater-saarbruecken.de](http://www.theater-saarbruecken.de).

### Miscellaneous:

- Olsbrücken, PWV hut on Oberberg, Burning of Winter Celebration, 6 p.m. Saturday.
- Kaiserslautern, Theodor-Zink-Museum, Steinstrasse 48, new display, "Lotte Reimers – Ceramics from Four Decades," officially opens 11 a.m. Saturday. Display hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
- Völklingen, Völklinger Hütte (former iron works), "Sculptures of the American Dream," display by American pop artist Duane Hanson, continues through May 12. For details, visit [www.voelklinger-huette.org](http://www.voelklinger-huette.org).

### Flea markets:

- Kaiserslautern, Messeplatz, Saturday and Wednesday
- Kaiserslautern, Real (across from Daenner Kaserne), Saturday
- Ramstein, Flurstrasse 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
- Bad Dürkheim, Saline (Kurpark), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- Metz, France, Parc des Expositions, 6 a.m. to noon Feb. 16

### ✓ it out!

The Urban Comedy Tour continues at Ramstein when laugh experts Mike Troy Smith and Lavar Walker entertain at Club E Feb. 15 in honor of Black History Month. Admission is \$5 for club members and \$10 for non-members, with enlisted and officers welcome.

Mike Troy Smith has appeared on the Dave Chappelle Show, The



Mike Smith



Lavar Walker

Dave Attel Show and the Jon Stewart Show on Comedy Central. His film credits include the current

movie hit, 'American Gangster' with Denzel Washington.

Lavar Walker has the ultimate cure for pain – a dose of laughter, two tablespoons of chuckles and a booster shot of good times.

Mr. Walker really is a 'pharmacist' during the day and a comedian at night. He has performed on Jamie Foxx's Laffapalooza,

Robert Townsend's Partners in Crime and has traveled the U.S., performing in most major cities. After obtaining a doctorate degree in pharmacy in 2002, Lavar decided to relocate to Atlanta where he is a lead pharmacist and he knows laughter is the cure for all pain.

Doors open at 10 p.m.

# ROOTS

## One man's search

by **Staff Sgt. Kerry Solan**  
435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Two phone calls, two people, two completely different outcomes.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Westerlund, Ramstein Area Defense Counsel paralegal, said he expected it.

His attempt to reach through language, countries and time (more than 30 years), led him here – to Germany – to find his German biological parents.

“I went between wanting to find them and not wanting to find them for a long time,” said Sergeant Westerlund.

For Sergeant Westerlund, it was a shock to find out he was adopted: the oldest son of (Ret.) Lt. Col. Ned and Brigitte Westerlund, he combed his sandy-brown hair the same way his father combed his own and was hard-headed and stubborn just like his mother.

“When they told me, all I could say was, ‘No way.’ I didn’t believe it at first, but after looking at my birth certificate and my naturalization papers, doubt became reality.”

Sergeant Westerlund’s desire to find his roots was always with him – more so after he joined the Air Force, a move he believed was an opportunity to find his biological parents.

Meeting his wife, Brandy, while stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., “...was both a blessing and pivotal in the decision to find them,” he said.

“She stood behind me the whole time,” said Sergeant Westerlund.

“Brandy never pushed too hard; she always gently encouraged me.”

After being taken off of a profile that left him world-wide and mobility disqualified, an assignment to Osan Air Base, Korea, came open. Knowing that a follow-on was to come, Ramstein was his first choice – it was his shot to find his parents. But, he wasn’t sure if he wanted to take the step to begin searching.

“I was trying to imagine the way the conversation would go: ‘Hi, I am the son you gave up for adoption 33 years ago...’”

Sergeant Westerlund already knew the circumstances surrounding his adoption; his biological mother was only 17 or 18 when she became pregnant by Walter Meier, a German soldier. But his mother’s father refused to let her keep the baby, saying she was too young. Walter didn’t have the time to care for a baby. Adoption was the answer.



*After 33 years, Walter Meier meets with long lost son, Staff Sgt. Timothy Westerlund. Sergeant Westerlund was adopted in Germany and used his assignment at Ramstein as an opportunity to find his biological German father.*

Mrs. Westerlund, married for two years to then Army warrant officer and Vietnam veteran Ned Westerlund, was a nurse at a Kinderklinik located in Nuremberg, Germany, where Tim’s biological mother delivered. That is when Mrs. Westerlund knew about the newborn.

The adoption began in Tim’s first months and was finalized when he was about 2 years old.

Before beginning his search, he thought long and hard about the family that raised him. He asked himself if they would be mad or encourage him to go forth with it? Armed with the names of his biological parents on an adoption certificate, his wife’s encouragement, his parent’s blessing and a German national’s help (Frau Heide Schmitt, who previously worked with Sergeant Westerlund), he had the push he needed to get his search started.

The first step was to write to the city hall in Nuremberg to see if they would give him known addresses. Trying it this way was a shot in the dark because the question remained if the German government would release that information. After three months, Sergeant Westerlund received a response from Nuremberg’s city hall, which included names and addresses of his biological parents.

“I was nervous – would they say ‘I’ve been looking for you for years’ or ‘Forget it?’” he said. “What would my mom and dad back in the United States, the ones that adopted and raised me, say about this attempt?”

“It was hard to find it within myself to say, ‘OK, I’m going to do this.’”

Frau Schmitt worked her magic, called her sources and nailed down the phone numbers. She even offered to make the two pivotal

phone calls.

First, his mom. “After saying she didn’t want anything to do with me, she hung up,” he said. “It discouraged me in trying to reach my dad.” But, Frau Schmitt persisted, and they called Sergeant Westerlund’s father.

“I was surprised when Frau Schmitt called me and told me someone was looking for me,” said Herr Meier. “I had an immediate feeling that it was about (Tim). My family talked about it often ... that one day a young man would be standing in front of me, telling me that he is my son.”

Herr Meier is a tour bus driver and has been for more than 30 years. As fate would have it, he was currently resting in Saarbrücken after completing one of those tours. Walter and Tim immediately made plans to meet in Landstuhl.

Herr Meier said he was apprehensive about meeting his son – wondering whether Tim would be angry, or have questions he couldn’t answer, as he had no information or influence regarding the adoption.

Sergeant Westerlund was hopeful about the meeting. He brought with him his family – his wife, Brandy, and his two children, Austin and Makenzy.

“He said he thought of me often, but didn’t have the time nor the capabilities to look; he didn’t even know if I knew he existed,” said Sergeant Westerlund.

Herr Meier said the meeting was everything he hoped it would be. They had lunch and chatted for a few hours.

“I was lucky and very happy (when I first saw Tim),” said Herr Meier. “Naturally, I looked right at him and thought to myself, ‘He looks just like his mother.’ I saw his son, Austin, and, right away, I could see myself in him.”

The two have kept in touch and have plans to meet again.

Sergeant Westerlund says he’s thankful for his wife, Brandy, his adoptive family, and Frau Heide Schmitt for making this a reality. One day, he said, he’ll try again to call his mother.

“I understand her reaction, though. I just want to give her some time,” he said. “I am blessed that one parent out of two would even give it a chance. Maybe one day it will be both.”



*Staff Sgt. Timothy Westerlund as a young child, after being adopted by Lt. Col. Ned and Brigitte Westerlund.*

*Courtesy photo*

# NOW SHOWING



(Editor's note: Schedules and synopses are provided by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Movie times and dates are subject to change by the individual theaters. Please check with the theater to ensure accuracy.)

**Today**  
**"August Rush"**  
 (PG) 3 p.m. (G)  
**"Untraceable"**  
 (R) 7 and 10:30 p.m. (G)  
**"Cloverfield"**  
 (PG-13) 3, 7 and 10:30 p.m. (N)  
**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (H)

**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (H)

**Saturday**  
**"August Rush"**  
 (PG) 3 p.m. (G)  
**"Untraceable"**  
 (R) 7 and 10:30 p.m. (G)  
**"Cloverfield"**  
 (PG-13) 3 and 7 p.m. (N)  
**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 10:30 p.m. (N)

**Monday**  
**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (G)  
**"This Christmas"**  
 (PG-13) 7 p.m. (N)

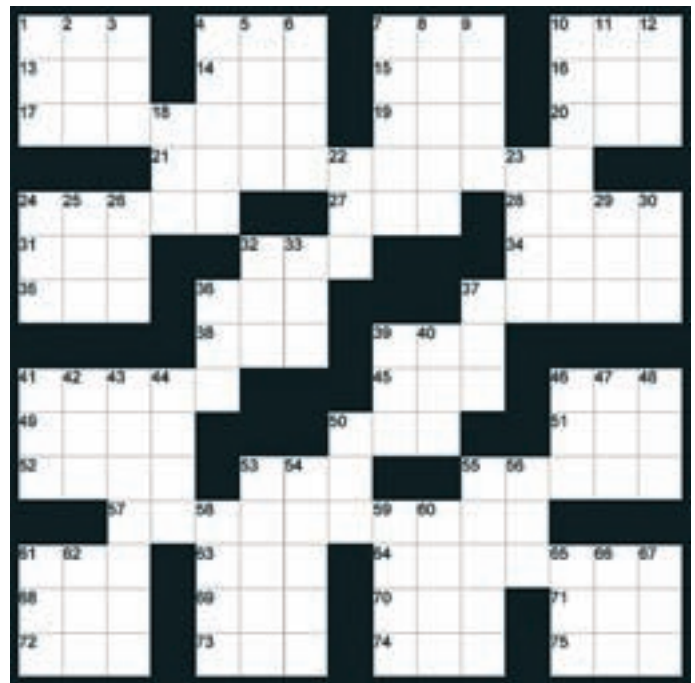
**"This Christmas"**  
 (PG-13) 7 p.m. (H)  
**Sunday**  
**"August Rush"**  
 (PG) 3 p.m. (G)  
**"Untraceable"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (G)  
**"Cloverfield"**  
 (PG-13) 3 and 7 p.m. (N)

**Tuesday**  
**"This Christmas"**  
 (PG-13) 7 p.m. (G)  
**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (N)

**Wednesday**  
**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (G)  
**"Cloverfield"**  
 (PG-13) 7 p.m. (N)

**Thursday**  
**"This Christmas"**  
 (PG-13) 7 p.m. (G)  
**"The Mist"**  
 (R) 7 p.m. (N)  
**"Cloverfield"**  
 (PG-13) 7 p.m. (H)

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**FRI FEB 08 - WED FEB 13:**  
**Alvin And The Chipmunks**  
 (PG) - Sat & Sun 15:45  
**Atonement** (R)- Sat & Sun 13:30  
**Cloverfield** (PG13)- Fri & Sat 19:00, 22:30, Sun - Wed 19:00  
**Charlie Wilson's War** (R)- Fri 17:15, 20:30, 22:30, Sat 15:15, 20:30, 22:30, Sun 15:15, 20:30, Mon- Wed 17:15, 20:30  
**I Am Legend** (PG 13)- Sat & Sun 17:15  
**National Treasure: Book Of Secrets**(PG)- Fri 22:30, Sat 13:30, 22:30, Sun 13:30  
**PS, I Love You** (PG13)- Fri 17:30, Sat & Sun 15:15 Mon - Wed 18:00  
**The Bucket List** (PG 13)- Sat & Sun 13:30  
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## Guadalcanal

by Capt. Tony Wickman  
**71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs**

- ACROSS**
- Epoch
  - Picnic pest
  - Prohibit
  - Mock
  - \_\_\_ Abner
  - Homer's bartender
  - Oklahoma town
  - Decorative vase
  - South Pacific islands home to Battle of Guadalcanal
  - Wear
  - Earth
  - MoH recipient for duty at Guadalcanal; 1<sup>st</sup> Marine division commander
  - Korean or Thai
  - Golf prop
  - Region
  - USAF 4-star
  - Alias letters
  - Column
  - Giant great
  - Even
  - Royal domain; kingdom
  - USAF E-2
  - Actress West
  - US opponent at Guadalcanal
  - Ancient
  - Fed. agency enforcing rules to protect the environment
  - Mistakes
  - Cleo killer
  - Damage
  - Horse gait
  - Curtis LeMay's HQs
  - Place where justice is administered
  - Operation \_\_\_; name for Guadalcanal offensive by Allies
  - End of USAF websites
  - Command to a horse to turn to the right
  - Grumman F4F; used in defense of Guadalcanal
  - Pilot with 5+ kills
  - \_\_\_ jiffy; quickly
  - Before
  - Pub order
  - Each
  - \_\_\_ up, impatient; disgusted; bored
  - Young woman making her entry into society
  - Box or enclosed place for storing grain, coal, or the like

- Care for
- Shield for a cop
- Worship
- Indian princess
- European country
- In favor of
- Terminate
- Female reproductive cells
- Seventh letter of Greek alphabet
- Fortune; lot
- In the past
- Place in a particular position or posture
- Football stat
- Snakelike fish
- Appendage
- Point at
- Barbie's pal
- The Joy Luck Club writer Amy
- Color of circle on Zero used at Guadalcanal
- USA equivalent to AFSC
- European mount
- F-22 or F-35
- Airport abbrev.
- EA-6B
- Hollywood dog
- Flightless bird
- Score for 1 DOWN
- Illustrative or decorative material
- Perform
- Locale
- In or to the front; in advance of; before
- Brad Pitt, perhaps
- World's 2nd busiest airport in 2007 (airport code)
- Saying for the weekend
- Due
- Slender piece of relatively rigid or flexible metal
- Chart
- Frozen water
- Taxi
- The Greatest
- X, to Cicero

Check out [www.aafes.com/ems/](http://www.aafes.com/ems/) for more information.



**The Mist (R)** – Following a violent thunderstorm, artist David Drayton and a small town community come under vicious attack from creatures prowling in a thick and unnatural mist. Local rumors point to an experiment called “The Arrowhead Project” conducted at a nearby top-secret military base, but questions as to the origins of the deadly vapor are secondary to the group’s overall chances for survival.

Retreating to a local supermarket, Drayton and the survivors face-off against each other before taking a united stand against the enemy. Starring Thomas Jane and Marcia Gay Harden.



**Untraceable (R)** – FBI agent Jennifer Marsh is tasked with hunting down a serial killer who posts images of his victims on the Internet. As time runs out, the cat-and-mouse chase becomes more personal. Starring Diane Lane and Colin Hanks.

**Cloverfield (PG-13)** – Five young New Yorkers throw their friend a going-away party the night that a monster the size of a skyscraper descends upon the city. Told from the point of view of their video camera, the film is a document of their attempt to survive the most surreal, horrifying event of their lives. Starring Michael Stahl-David and Mike Vogel.



Answers to the Feb. 1 crossword puzzle.

- DOWN**
- South African golfer Ernie
  - \_\_\_ Grande
  - Everything
  - Jordan capital
  - High time?

# Flu season still lingering

Laboratory results from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and electronic medical surveillance of medical records show that the American military community in Europe is not immune from getting the flu.

"While there are few cases at the moment, everyone should be aware that the flu season generally extends through March," said Maj. Scott Newberg, Europe Regional Medical Command's chief of policy and plans for the Force Health Protection office. "Now is a good time to head to your local health clinic and get immunized against the flu."

Major Newberg said that the Army requirement that all Soldiers receive the flu vaccine was successful in Europe, with nearly all Soldiers being vaccinated by Jan. 1, but not all dependents and retirees took advantage of the free vaccine.

"The more family members and retirees who get the vaccine, the better our communities will be protected," Major Newberg said. The flu virus isn't easily transmitted within a community when the vaccine is protecting the majority of the population, he said.

"If you want protection, the vaccine is the easiest and least painful way," Major Newberg said.

The Flu Mist, or nasal spray, is still available at military health clinics for those who want to protect themselves and their families.

Major Newberg said that it is a myth that the flu vaccine gives you the flu. What is true is that the vaccination will either prevent the flu or lessen its severity. Sometimes people avoid the flu vaccine because of a misunderstanding; perhaps they tried the vaccine once and later became sick.

"It takes about two weeks for your body to develop antibodies from the vaccine; the antibodies protect you from the flu virus," Major Newberg said.

During that two-week period, individuals may be exposed to one of many viruses or bacteria that circulate in the wintertime. Other bacteria and viruses may cause some people to associate their illness with their recent vaccination.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends the flu vaccination for certain categories of people who are at a higher risk and would suffer serious consequences if they were to catch the flu virus.

"Children from ages 6 months up to age 5 and adults age 50 and older are at higher risk," Major Newberg said. "And the CDC also recommends children age 8 and under, who have never been vaccinated, should have two doses four weeks apart. This will improve their antibody response and help them fight off the virus."

This year, Army clinics offered the flu vaccine in a nasal spray in addition to the familiar shot in the arm vaccine. Both types of vaccines are available in most clinics.

Major Newberg advises that in addition to the flu vaccine, there are other ways to stay healthy.

"Stay healthy and protect yourself against flu and many other wintertime respiratory diseases by following simple precautions," Major Newberg said.

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Do not touch your mouth, nose or eyes.
- Cover your coughs with your hand or use the crook of your arm.
- Eat healthy.
- Exercise daily.
- Most importantly, do not smoke.

Protect yourself and your community this year – visit your local health clinic to get the flu vaccine.

(Courtesy of Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs)

Your  
Health

SPORTS  
SHORTS



## Main Event Boxing Tournament

The U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern Sports and Fitness Division hosts its annual Main Event Boxing tournament today at 7 p.m. at the Miesau Fitness Center, Bldg. 1220. For details, call 486-8401 or 06371-86-8401.

## Pilates classes offered

The Ramstein Southside and Vogelweh Fitness and Sports Centers offer Pilates classes in February: Southside Fitness Center, 7:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; Vogelweh classes are 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Walk-ins are welcome. For details, call 480-0290.

## 2008 baseball/softball registration

KMC Youth Sports at Ramstein, Vogelweh and Sembach host registration Monday for the upcoming 2008 baseball/softball season. Registration can be done at the youth sports Web site, [www.435thyouthprograms.com](http://www.435thyouthprograms.com) between Monday and Feb. 29. Payments may be made online at the time of registration or in person at your local youth center. Late registrants will be charged a \$5 late fee. For details, call 480-5660.

The U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern Child and Youth Services will begin spring sports registration for soccer and baseball/softball at 9 a.m. Saturday. To register, visit the Central Enrollment Office in Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks. For details, call 493-4516 or 0631-3406-4516/4122.

## Valentine's Sweetheart Fun Run

Ramstein Fitness and Sports Centers host an "After Dark Sweetheart Fun Run/Walk" at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The event is free and open to all ID card-holders. The run/walk will be held on the rails to trails running course on the southside, near the fitness center. For details, call 480-0295.

## 3-on-3 indoor volleyball tourney

The Vogelweh Fitness and Sports Center presents a 3-on-3 indoor volleyball tournament Feb. 16 starting at 9 a.m. The event is free and open to all ID card-holders and family members. For details, call 489-7329.

## 3-across-3 no-tap tournament

The Sembach Bowling Center hosts a fun tournament, featuring three games on three different lanes. The tournament is slated for Feb. 16 and is sponsored in part by Enjoy Tours. For details, call 496-7569.

## Halo 3 tournament

Interact with other Halo fanatics in tournament-play at the Ramstein Community Center at 1 p.m. Feb. 16. This event is open to adults only. For details and to sign up, call 480-3104.

## Intramural basketball champs



Courtesy photo

**The Ramstein Intramural Basketball Championship was Jan. 17 at the Southside Fitness Center. Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe won against 723rd Air Mobility Squadron, 50 to 43.**

# Kingfish dominate divisionals

The Kaiserslautern Kingfish Swim Team won six of the eight relays at the Benelux Divisional Swim Meet Jan. 26 at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club in Baumholder to bring home the divisional title.

The Kingfish competed against teams from Brussels, NATO and SHAPE.

The day's competition started with more than 200 swimmers and parents on their feet, cheering for their home team during the medley relay event.

"Going into the meet I was anticipating winning only three or four of the eight relay events," said Kingfish Coach Bob Clinton. "The medley relays got us off to an outstanding start and that was carried through the entire meet."

The entire team put forth an impressive effort during the competition with many swimmers achieving personal best times in individual events. Swimmers achieving three personal bests were Jacob Bishop, Sophia Bishop, Blake Davis, Jordan DeGraaf, Elizabeth Doe, Erika Eifler, Michael Fischer, Sarah Fischer, Emily Gage, Taylor Glass, Kevin Tarnowski and Stephen Tarnowski. High-point swimmers placing first in all three individual events were Madeline



Courtesy photo

Lilly Thomas, 13, dives into the divisional swim competition Jan. 26.

Bishop, Blake Davis, Olivia Grazak, Drew Thomas, Lilly Thomas and Emma Thomas. The team had a total 768 points to win the division title. SHAPE, NATO and Brussels placed second, third and fourth.

The team's qualified swimmers will next compete in the European Forces Swim League Championship Meet held in Berlin Feb. 16 and 17. The Kingfish will compete against the best swimmers from the 18 teams which make up the EFSL's four divisions. (Courtesy of the Kaiserslautern Kingfish Swim Team)



## SAC meeting

There will be a Sports Advisory Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the HAWC conference room to announce the base Commander's Trophy winner.

## Women's basketball championships

The women's basketball base championships are 7 p.m. Thursday in the Southside Fitness Center.

## Soccer sign-up and meeting

Soccer season sign-ups and a coaches' meeting are at 10:30 a.m. March 6, in the Southside Fitness Center.

## Air Force vs. Army

Air Force vs. Army Base Basketball Championships, "Who will win the Title?" 6:30 p.m. March 10 in the Southside Fitness Center.

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Phone: 06371-16148 (Ofc.) • 06383-5597 (Home)  
**Schedule of Services**  
Sunday School 9:45am, Morning Worship 11:00am  
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Wed Bible Study 7:00pm (Classes for all ages)  
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POC's: Mario Manfre 06841-8090954  
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**New 260sqm 6BM free-**stand house in Herschberg, 10min to hospital, gar, fenced yard, E1400, Immobilien T. 017665881298

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**!Bann FSH 320sqm 5BR** 3BA BIK 2FP Gar 2Bal Bar Office Sauna sell for €249000 0163-8402165

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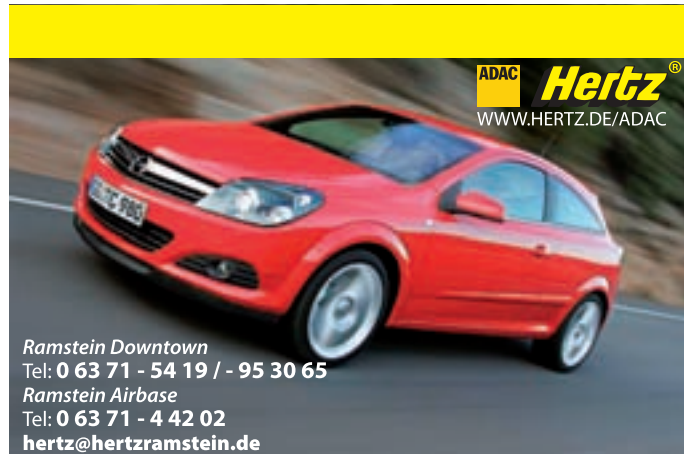
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**WANTED**  
= see photo @  
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**14-year-old autistic girl** needs a part-time babysitter for single (teacher) father, two-three times per week in the evenings and occasionally for the day when students have no school. Good pay and bonus for longevity. Home is in Siegelbach. Call: 015157565479 or 0631-7168774 after 4 p.m.

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**Looking for a babysitter** for my 4 yr old, occassional

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**Career Transition Trainer** Inverness Technologies is seeking PT career transition trainers at various military bases in the Kaiserslautern, Heidelberg & Baumholder areas. Will perform 2-3 workshops/month helping military members transition into civilian workforce. Exc opp for spouses of military or DoD personnel. Must know US job mkt & have experience in job search techniques. Exp in military, training, career counseling or

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**  
= see photo @  
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**Professional Services** are offered by registered businesses as well as private people. To ensure a satisfactory service experience, please always ask for credentials and deny payments up front. For cleaning services, arrange for payments after a final walk-through and inspection of the clean house.

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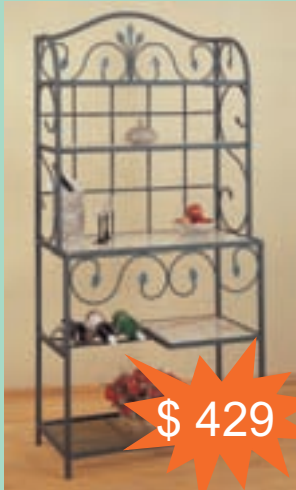
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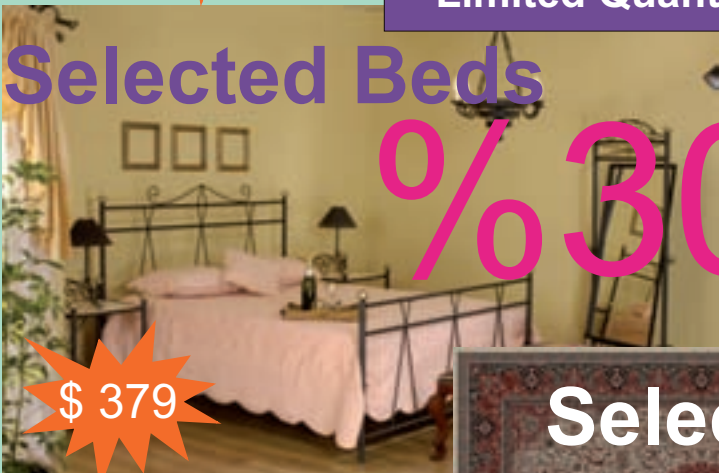
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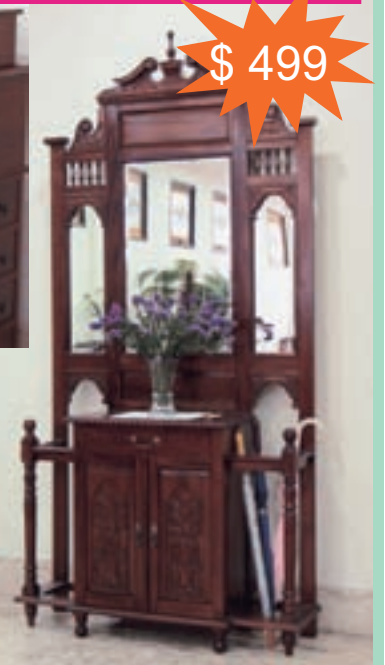
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