

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Runways ready for returning helicopters

New pavement at Fliegerhorst Kaserne makes airfield safer

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The timing was auspicious. While the 4th Brigade helicopters were flying missions in Iraq, Fliegerhorst Kaserne was able to re-pave its runways and taxiways to make a safer airfield for the aircraft when they return.

“The airfield has been closed to fixed-wing aircraft due to the condition of the runway. It hasn’t been repaved in 20 years,” said Jay Stotzky, Fliegerhorst’s airfield manager.

Over the past 20 years, the repeated freezing and thawing of the pavement caused cracking to such an extent that large chunks of asphalt were loose and liable to be sucked up by the helicopter’s blades or into the turbine engines causing damage to these expensive flying machines. Weeds poked through the tarmac and the edges were crumbling.

“The entire runway was closed to airplanes and we closed the eastern end of the runway to helicopters and just used the western part,” said Stotzky. “Helicopters don’t need as much runway as airplanes, they land and stop.”

Most of the damage and deterioration had been to the eastern half because most of the take-offs and landings were toward the west on account of prevailing winds. By the time the aircraft reached the western end of the runway they were already flying, so there was much less wear and tear at that end. Up to the early 1990s Fliegerhorst often had medium-size cargo planes, such as the C-130 Hercules, and Air Force A-10 Warthog fighter planes land at the field. Sometimes landings were part of mission training and other times the pilots just wanted to work on their “short-field landing” techniques.

At 3,000 feet, Fliegerhorst’s runway length limits the size of the aircraft that can use it. On a hot summer day, the heavily loaded cargo planes might sink into the hot asphalt causing more damage. “We patched a few taxiways, those that were a real necessity, and then last year we got \$1.6 million to completely repave the 3,000 foot-long runway and taxiways,” said Stotzky.

And then something that is rarely ever seen happened.

“We put the design out for bids, and when the bids came in they were all lower than the estimates, something I’ve never seen before, and these bids were from big companies.” The ailing German economy may have been responsible for the highly competitive bidding, he said.

Although the airfield will likely not be used again for regular flights of Army airplanes as it was in the past, “in certain emergency situations it’s good to have something here,” said Stotzky. Just last year a small Cessna aircraft developed engine trouble in the area. The Frankfurt air traffic controllers directed the pilot to Fliegerhorst, where he and a passenger made a safe landing.

“This airfield has been used as an emergency landing site at least five or six times over the years,” said Stotzky. “But this incident got more notice than in the past. With the heightened security concerns after 9-11, a plan was in place to deal with this type of situation.”

The aircraft was directed to park far away from the airfield buildings and the MPs came out with their explosive-sniffing dogs to go over the aircraft and passenger baggage.

“The pilot did the right thing landing here and was very gracious about all the security procedures,” said Stotzky. The aircraft was found to have a minor mechanical problem; it was quickly fixed and flown away the next day.

Fliegerhorst Kaserne was initially built for Hermann Goering’s German Air Force in 1937. The construction plan provided for the project to extend over 15 years and was planned for construction in three phases. The project began in 1937, but due to the outbreak of World War II only the first phase was completed.

Fliegerhorst Kaserne was forced into operation in 1938



Photos by Dennis Johnson

The new paving prevents expensive helicopters from sucking loose asphalt into their engines or throwing it around, a real danger to any nearby personnel. Inset: Construction includes new runway lights.

before the onset of the war. Much of the planned construction was never completed. Nearly 20 percent of the airfield was damaged during the war, and in 1945 the U.S. Army occupied the casern and used it as a signal depot. The depot was renamed Fliegerhorst Kaserne and assigned artillery, transportation, ordnance and aviation units of the 7th Army.

Today Fliegerhorst Kaserne is home to aviation components of 4th Aviation Brigade including the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 501st Aviation Regiment, the 127th Aviation Support Battalion and the 709th Military Police Battalion.

Facilities include the airfield and flight hangars, a state-of-the-art flight simulator, aviation and maintenance facilities, government housing and support and recreation activities for service members and their families.

When the Soldiers of the 4th Brigade return home to Fliegerhorst, their trusty helicopters will now have a smooth and safe place to rest between take-offs and landings. (Editor’s note: Historical information about Fliegerhorst Kaserne came from the website, www.globalsecurity.org. The Army has “airfields,” the Air Force has “air bases” and the Navy has “Naval air stations.”)



Bulletin board

At the movies April 27 to May 13

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- April 29** — Win A Date With Tad Hamilton (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R) 10 p.m.
- May 1** — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m.
- May 2** — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3-4** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 5-6** — Catch That Kid (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 8-9** — Home On The Range (PG) 4 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 10-11** — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 12-13** — Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- May 8** — Catch That Kid (PG) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

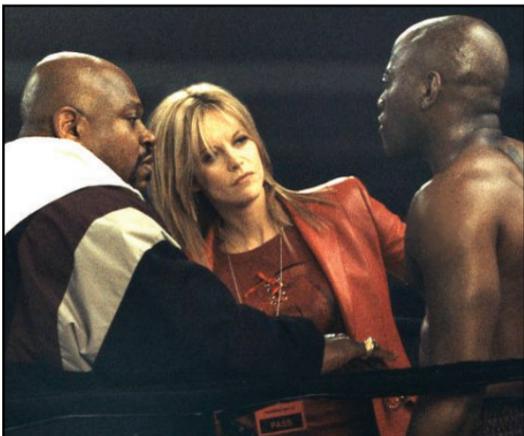
- April 30** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 1** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2** — Home On The Range (PG) 12:30 p.m. Catch That Kid (PG) 3 p.m.
- May 7** — Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 7 p.m.
- May 8** — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 9** — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

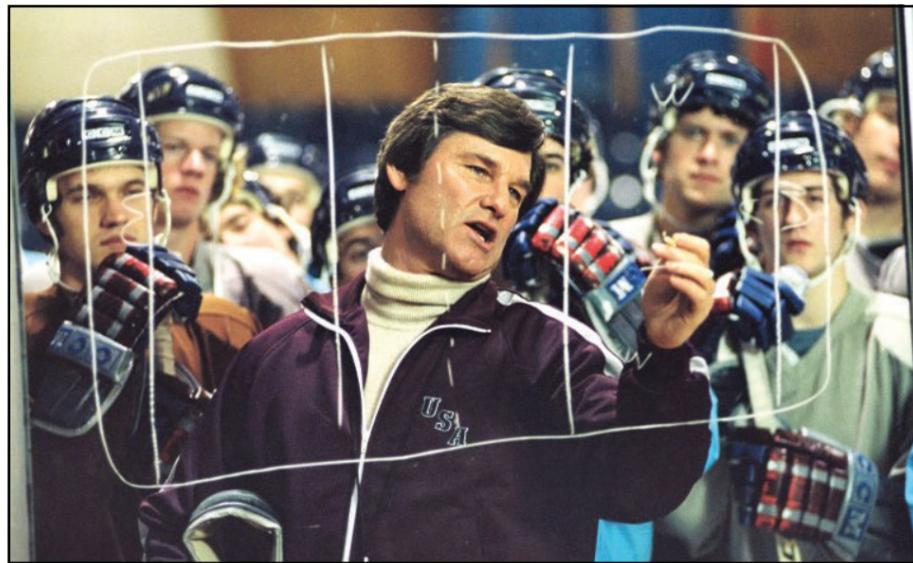
- April 29** — Calendar Girls (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — Starsky And Hutch (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 1** — Hidalgo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2** — You Got Served (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 6** — Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — Spartan (R) 7 p.m.
- May 8** — Lord Of The Rings: Return Of The King (PG-13) 1 p.m. Spartan (R) 7 p.m.
- May 9** — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 13** — Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- April 27-28** — Twisted (R) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 1** — Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2** — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 2 p.m. My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) 7 p.m.



Charles S. Dutton (from left), Meg Ryan and Omar Epps star in "Against The Ropes."



Coach Herb Brooks (Kurt Russell) gives his U.S. Olympic hockey team a lesson in "Miracle."

- May 4** — Hidalgo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 5** — Starsky And Hutch (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 8** — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 9** — Hidalgo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 11-12** — Spartan (R) 7 p.m.
- May 13** — The Passion Of The Christ (R) 3 and 8 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

- April 27** — Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 28** — Win A Date With Tad Hamilton (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 29** — You Got Served (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m. Catch That Kid (PG) 9:30 p.m.
- May 1** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m. Walking Tall (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 2** — Catch That Kid (PG) 4 p.m. Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 4** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 5** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 6** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m. Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 9:30 p.m.
- May 8** — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 9** — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m.
- May 10** — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 11** — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 12** — Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 7 p.m.
- May 13** — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

- April 28** — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 1** — Catch That Kid (PG) 5 p.m. Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 7:30 p.m.
- May 2** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 5** — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 8** — Home On The Range (PG) 5 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

- May 9** — Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 7 p.m.
- May 12** — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

- April 28** — The Passion Of The Christ (R) 7 p.m.
- May 12** — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

- April 29** — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 1** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 6** — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 8** — Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 7 p.m.
- May 13** — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- April 27** — Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 28** — You Got Served (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 29** — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
- April 30** — Miracle (PG) 7 p.m. The Alamo (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 1** — Catch That Kid (PG) 4 p.m. Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Alamo (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 2** — Catch That Kid (PG) 4 p.m. The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 4** — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 5** — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
- May 6** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7** — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m. Broken Lizard's Club Dread (R) 9:30 p.m.
- May 8** — Miracle (PG) 4 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m. Walking Tall (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 9** — Catch That Kid (PG) 4 p.m. Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 10** — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 11** — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 12** — Against The Ropes (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 13** — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Movie plots

Against The Ropes (PG-13) — This is the true story of the first female boxing manager, Jackie Kallen (played by Meg Ryan), who guided the careers of several major fighters, including world champions James Toney, Bronco McKart and Thomas Hearns.

Miracle (PG) — Kurt Russell stars as coach Herb Brooks in the story of how the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team toppled the seemingly invincible Soviet Union to capture the gold medal.

Catch That Kid (PG) — They are specialists in their fields — a rock climber, a computer genius, a mechanical whiz. Their task: to rob one of the world's most impenetrable banks to save an ailing father. Their plan is foolproof; their methods are ingenious. And they're not old enough to drive. Meet Maddy, Gus and Austin: three kids on a mission without permission.

Starsky And Hutch (PG-13) — Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson team up again in this movie remake of the popular 1970s TV show. Stiller plays the tightly wound Detective David Starsky who is thrown together with Owen Wilson's easygoing Detective Ken Hutchinson on a high-stakes case. Platinum-selling rapper and actor Snoop Dogg plays their savvy street informant Huggy Bear.

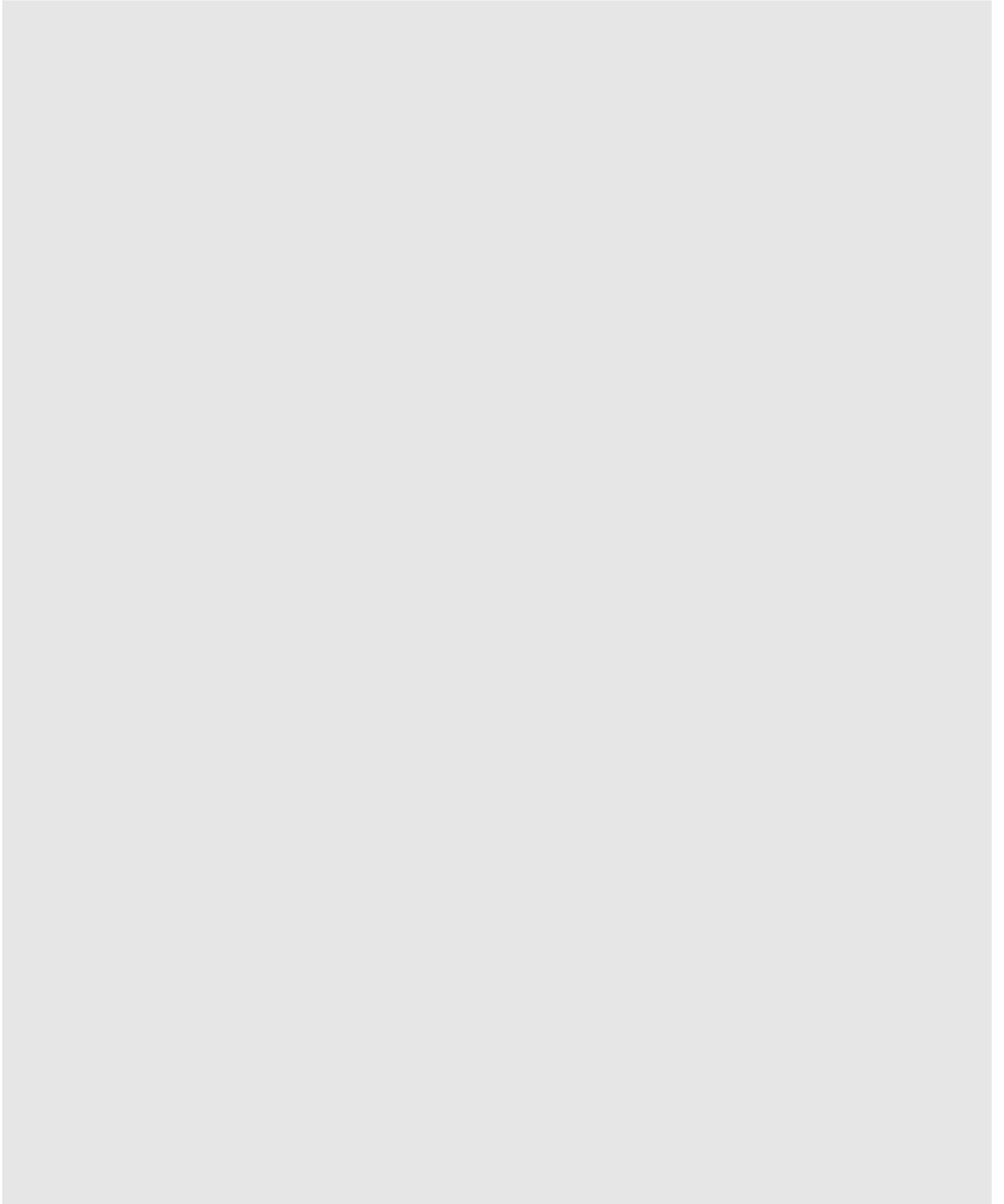
The Alamo (PG-13) — In the spring of 1836 nearly 200 men held the Alamo for 13 days while under siege by Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico. Led by three men — Col. William Travis, James Bowie and David Crockett — the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as Gen. Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence. Stars Dennis Quaid, Billy Bob Thornton and Jason Patric.

Man On Fire (R) — Denzel Washington stars as a government operative who reluctantly agrees to take a job protecting a child (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings.

The Ladykillers (R) — Tom Hanks stars as Goldthwait Higginson Dorr III, Ph.D., a charlatan professor who has assembled a gang of "experts" for the heist of the century. It quickly becomes evident that Dorr's thieves lack the mental capacity to do the job and have seriously underestimated their upstairs host — unsuspecting church lady Mrs. Munson (Irma P. Hall).

You Got Served (PG-13) — Elgin (Marques Houston, IMX) and David (Omarion, B2K) are best friends and leaders of the best dance crew in the area. When another group challenges them to a battle, David and Elgin — along with their buddies (Raz B, J Boog and Lil' Fizz of B2K) must create and perfect the most cutting edge moves to remain on top.

Herald Union classifieds



Extension raises uncertainty in Dexheim

Parents, teachers help students deal with separation

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Dexheim Elementary School students and parent volunteers planted flowers outside the school entrance April 16. Their goal was to stay focused on matters at hand while coming to terms with the news rocking the community that 1st Armored Division Soldiers, including parents of many of the children, would spend an additional three months in Iraq.

"I think the parents just don't know what to do," said principal Ora Flippen-Casper. "With all the plans they made, they're overwhelmed. They were accepting it, but then ... it's not easy. It's there and it's something we can't change."

The news has affected students too, said school officials.

"A lot of them are mad," said Beckie Frantz, school counselor. "I see a lot of them are sad, but they're mad too because a lot of them had plans — they were going to go to Paris, going to go to Garmisch. The kids who were going to PCS feel like they're in limbo."

"They're understandably a little upset that mom or dad isn't coming home," said Andrea Hightower, a parent volunteer and secretary of the school's Parent Teach Student Association. "But they're resilient. They're bouncing back."

"It's really new," said Mary Kohler, a parent volunteer.

"So far it's still sinking in," said Hightower.

"What I'm seeing, I've already seen it at Fort Stewart [her husband, now assigned to 123rd Main Support Battalion, deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq last year]. From what I've seen they're doing really well," said Kohler.

Like their Soldier parents, Dexheim children are doing their best to keep it together and go forward, said officials.

"The idea of doing the planting — and the parents came on a Saturday to paint the boxes — that really helped. They're always thinking about what they can do for the kids," said Flippen-Casper.

"This is their class spring project to do — if they want to put up plaques, they can do that too," said Sherry Rehberg, school nurse and PTSA treasurer. "We were going to use it for the welcome home for the Soldiers."

"We have 401 single Soldiers here in Dexheim, and our kids were making welcome home signs for their barracks doors. We had to put them on hold," said Frantz.

The school has responded swiftly to help children and



Photo by Karl Weisel

Tracy Magnan (right), PTSA president, plants flowers with Dexheim Elementary School students. Parental involvement is key to helping children stay on track, say educators. Anyone interested in participating should drop by the school office.

parents stay on track despite the unexpected extensions.

"Our crisis team members met yesterday because I wanted to have something in place in case we have unusual behavior, inappropriate behavior," said Flippen-Casper. "I sent a message out to classroom teachers to monitor the kids. If there is a problem we have to figure out what it is. Everyone is aware — we are here to provide support."

"It's funny how it surfaces," said Frantz, describing how some children use schoolyard confrontations to act out the stress. "There's one little boy who had his dad home, and now he's gone again. Virtually every arena of his life has been upset. When you come down to it, it's not the playground. You could be experiencing any kind of emotion, and if you want there are people here you can talk to," she said.

Meanwhile school officials scrambled to anticipate what the extension will mean for the upcoming school year. Flippen-Casper said she hoped parents would go out of their way to register their children despite the uncertainty. "We have no idea what the early registration is going to look like. We have no idea because we don't know which families are going to leave because their spouse has been extended," she said.

"We think, too, how does this affect their education," said Frantz. "You've got all these kids with gaps, with sketchy school records. There's no continuity in curriculum, and it affects them."

Both educators said it was a stroke of good luck that students had their annual bout with standardized Terra Nova tests behind them when the news broke. Now school officials are brainstorming activities to keep children focused.

"We do what we have control over to sustain them," said Flippen-Casper. Dexheim's personal scale, the school has about 75 children in kindergarten through sixth-grade, helps people connect for support, she said. "It could go one way or the other, but in this case it's a positive."

"It's a family oriented place," said Frantz.

"For this small a school, you'd be surprised at the parent participation," said Rehberg. "It really means a lot to them and it keeps their spirits up."

"Whatever you do out here, you have to do as a community," said Kohler.

"The families are always in my thoughts and in my prayers, and we will be here for them," said Flippen-Casper. "We just have to maintain ourselves so we can be there for them."

Focus on Dexheim Elementary School



School bits

Appreciating teachers

Department of Defense Dependents Schools will honor those who teach during National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-8. Call your school or Parent Teacher Association for information on programs in the schools. (DoDDS-Europe Release)

Working in the Senate

Students from Giessen Middle-High School and Gen. H.H. Arnold High School will participate in this year's Model United States Senate program in late April. Students will research current issues, prepare

bills for discussion, organize caucuses and simulate the Senate's legislative process.

Students on stage

After an initial run in Wiesbaden the Missoula Children's Theater of Montana stages its inimitable rendition of "Red Riding Hood" with DoDDS students in Baumholder May 3-8, Giessen May 10-15 and Hanau May 17-22. Call your child's school for details.

Sign in for security

Parents and all other visitors to DoDD Schools are reminded that they must check in at the main school office for a visitor's pass before conducting business in the school. Officials asked that everyone comply to assure security and safety in these days of

heightened concern.

Bingo at Argonner

The Argonner Elementary School Parent Teacher Association hosts Polish pottery bingo April 29 at 6 p.m. Bring the children; refreshments will be on sale.

Maryland graduation

University of Maryland-Europe will hold commencement for graduates of its various degree programs May 30 in Heidelberg. Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, will deliver the keynote address.

Olympics need volunteers

Volunteers are sought for the Kaiserslautern Special Olympics Spring

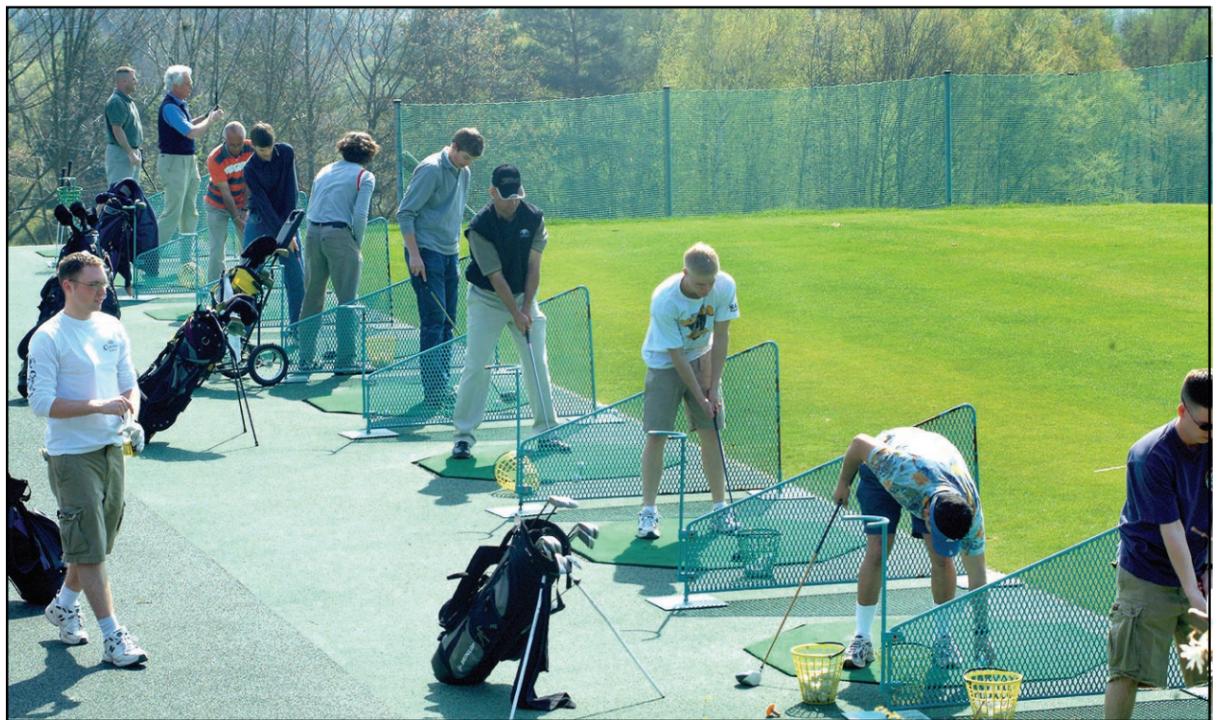
Games to be held May 12. More than 600 "buddies" are sought to accompany individual athletes during the games. For details and to volunteer send email to Larry_Zani@compuserve.com.

Talent on stage in Hanau

Hanau High School will stage a talent show featuring 20 acts to raise funds for the senior and junior proms April 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Entrance is €2 and finger foods and beverages will be on sale. All are welcome. For details call civ (06181) 55711 or mil322-8714.



Sports and leisure



Photos by Karl Weisel

Springtime — time to hit the greens

Golfers in Baumholder and Wiesbaden can get in the swing of things at the Rolling Hills and Rheinblick Golf Courses. May 2 is the season opener at Baumholder's Rolling Hills Golf Course with a scramble tournament. Cost is \$25 for members and \$25 plus greens fee for non-members. The course also features Thursday Night Scrambles May 16 to Sept. 20. Sign up between 3 and 5:30 p.m. in the Pro-Shop. Tee-off is at 6 p.m. Call mil 485-7299 for more information. The Rheinblick in Wiesbaden features Commanders' Payday and Friday Night Scrambles. Call mil 336-2816 for details.

Things to do ... Things to do

Spring Bazaar

The International Community Center on Hanau's Fliegerhorst Kaserne holds the fourth annual Morale, Welfare and Recreation Spring Bazaar May 7-9 featuring vendors from all over Europe. The club also hosts a Children's Fest May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring food, rides and a host of special activities for children including face-painting.

Explore Europe with the the USO

Rhein Main Area USOs feature the following trips and events in the coming weeks: **Six Flags Holland** May 1; **Rhein River Cruises** May 2, 9, 22 and 30; **Keukenhof Gardens and Amsterdam** May 7-9; **Poland Shopping Extravaganza** May 14-16; **Europa Park** May 15; **Trier by Train** May 15; **Nürnberg by Train** May 22; **Eric the Red's Rheingau Wunderbar Tour** May 23; **Hachenburg Brewery and Museum** May 28; **Evelin's Wellness Paradise** May 28; **Holiday Park** May 29; **Remembering Verdun** May 31; **Legoland** June 5; **Strasbourg** June 5. Stop by your local USO office in Hanau, Wiesbaden, Rhein Main or at the Frankfurt Flughafen for details and to sign up.

Body World exhibition extended to June 13

The "Body World" exhibition of anatomical studies at the Naxos-



Photo by Harriet Rice

The Army Soldier Show comes to Hanau May 16, Baumholder May 21 and Wiesbaden May 23. See below for details.

Event-Halle in Frankfurt Fechenheim has been extended through June 13. The exhibition hall is located at Wächstersbacherstr. 83. Military ID card holders get reduced admission when they show their ID cards upon entry.

Army Soldier Show

The Army's most talented performers will present free shows at Hanau's Fliegerhorst Fitness May 16, Baumholder's Wagon Wheel Theater May 21 and Wiesbaden's Taunus Theater May 23 at 7 p.m.

Comedy After Dark

Hanau's International Community Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne features Comedy After Dark May 22 at 10 p.m. The show is open to

adults only. Call civ (06183) 51-266 for tickets.

Women's Conference

The New Testament Gospel Worldwide Ministries hold their second annual Women's Conference, "Behind Closed Doors," April 30 and May 1 at the church in Erlensee. Penny Francis is the keynote speaker. Call Sgt. Morton at civ (0175) 3560411 for details.

English Theater

Frankfurt's English Theater presents the comedy drama "Lobby Hero" by Kenneth Lonergan through May 7. The musical "Kat and the Kings" will be presented May 14-31. Call the theater at civ (069) 2423 1614 for reservations.

Sports shorts

Unit-level volleyball

Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center hosts a Unit-Level Volleyball Championship May 1-2. Admission and participation are free. Call mil 343-7201 for details.

Galaxy set to face Centurions

The Frankfurt Galaxy take on the Cologne Centurions at home in Frankfurt's Waldstadion May 1. The men in purple defeated the Centurions 20-10 April 10 in Cologne. Frankfurt plays the Scottish Claymores May 16 and the Berlin Thunder May 22 at home. Call the Galaxy hotline at civ (0180) 5266216 for tickets.

Fitness certification

Wiesbaden's Tony Bass Fitness Center holds a Yoga Fit certification course May 1-2 (cost is \$300) and an ESA Fitness Instructor course (cost is \$315) May 15-16. Call mil 337-5943 for details.

Deadline near for Frankfurt Run

The American-German Business Club invites runners to join their team for the JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge 2004, 5.6-kilometer run to be held June 16 in Frankfurt. Registration and payment deadline is May 7. Download registration forms at www.jpmmcc.de (click on

"Lauf2004" and then "Läuferrmeldung") and fax to civ (069) 9735 8101. Call civ (069) 9735 8275 for more information on the American-German Business Club.

Cosmos clinch berths

Both the men's and women's lacrosse teams of the Frankfurt Cosmos clinched berths in the 2004 German Lacrosse Championships. The men defeated Aachen and Maastricht April 18 to qualify for the playoffs for the top eight teams in Germany, tentatively set for May 15 and 16. The Cosmos women also advanced to first place in their league and qualified for the championships to be held May 29 and 30 in Frankfurt.

Dexheim Biathlon

Team 221st Sport and Fitness hosts the fourth annual Dexheim Biathlon May 29 at 10 a.m. Registration is at 8 a.m. that day. Cost is \$20 including a commemorative T-shirt. Call mil 334-5746 or 5685 for details.

Giessen castle run

Giessen's Schiffenberg Castle holds a 7.5-kilometer run and 3-kilometer family fun walk May 29 at 11 a.m. Registration is from 9:30-10:45 a.m. The cost is \$15 with a commemorative T-shirt or \$10 without one. Walkers enter free. Call mil 343-7201 for details.

Sports and leisure



Mountain bikers race through the woods surrounding the Rheinblick Golf Course during the military and civilian Masters heat of the Wiesbaden U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series Race April 17. Photo below: Michael Gallagher, overall winner, cycles toward the course's fastest time of 40.01.

Bikers hit the trails in Wiesbaden race

Course offers variety of challenges for U.S. Forces mountain bikers

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Two Heidelberg speed racers pedaled their way to the fastest finishes for the men and the women at Wiesbaden's U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series Race April 17.

Michael Gallagher, winner in the military Seniors category, and Nicole Trano, winner of the civilian Open category, were the first men and women across the finish line of the 19.6-kilometer race spread out in the woods around Wiesbaden's Rheinblick Golf Course. Gallagher, who raced in both heats, clocked his fastest time at 40 minutes, one second. Trano lead the women with a time of one hour, 19 minutes and 13 seconds. She was a minute and five seconds faster than the second fastest female.

"We had about 50 competitors from all over Europe including Italy and England," said Joseph Harris III, director of the 221st Base Support Battalion Outdoor Recreation and Education Program. "Most of the bikers are also taking part in the U.S. Forces Mountain Bike Championship Series. Some of them were back from downrange.

"We expected some kids to turn out, but unfortunately not a single child turned out for this year's race," Harris said, attributing that to the recent spring school break and upcoming end-of-year academic requirements.

Featuring a wide variety of terrain including plenty of



forest trails, inclines and downhills, rocks and even some "good old mud," the 4.9-kilometer course was designed to appeal to all ages, Harris said. "We drove it and drove it on our bikes to make sure it was appropriate for all ages. . . . This is what they want — lots of ups and downs. Some people like the hills better while some people like the flats."

"You couldn't have asked for better weather," said Staff Sgt. Robert MacLean, a member of the 221st BSB Provost Marshal's Office, who volunteered to provide security and bike assistance during the race. "The trails were very well marked."

MacLean was among several volunteers from the PMO and other Team 221st organizations who joined the Outdoor Recreation staff in managing the Wiesbaden mountain bike race. "They're a good group of volunteers," Harris said.

While last year's mountain bike race was held in the fields and trails around Dexheim's Anderson Barracks, the Wiesbaden event took some planning on Harris' part. "We had to tackle a few environmental issues and work with city officials to get approval to run the race." Issues included ensuring that frog breeding grounds and local bird sanctuaries wouldn't be disturbed, he said.

The race was run in two heats with the military and civilian Open (age 18-29) and Masters (age 40 plus) categories taking off first and the military and civilian Seniors (age 30-39) going second. Each biker went four laps around the 4.9-K course.

Winners were: **men's military Open** — Jack Cartwright first, Steven Laird second, Derrick Weyand third; **men's military Seniors** — Michael Gallagher first, Kyle Odom second, Glen Stowers third; **men's military Masters** — Ned McDevitt first, Kevin Hawkins second, Bryan Schulte third; **men's civilian Open** — Thomas Essick first, Lee Semonski second, Jonathan Yoesting third; **men's civilian Seniors** — Michael Bradford first, Lewis Plotts second, David Guth third; **men's civilian Masters** — Jim Buere first, Rainer Schulz second, Dennis Latourelle third; **women's military Open** — Trisha Paine first; **women's civilian Open** — Nicole Trano first, Angie Cartwright second.

The Team 221st Outdoor Recreation and Education Program will host another mountain bike race in Dexheim Aug. 21. For more information on that and other outdoor opportunities call Dexheim Outdoor Recreation at mil 334-5818 or Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation at mil 337-5760.