

the **Gateway**

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003

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*News Briefs*

**Knuckle busters**

Congratulations to the July Knuckle Buster Award winners from the 726th Air Mobility Squadron.

Winners included:

- Staff Sgt. Antonio Waller
- Staff Sgt. William Cornett, deployed from Blue Ash Air National Guard Base, Ohio
- Staff Sgt. Andrew Marachalk, deployed from Charleston AFB, S.C.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Rosenberg, deployed from McChord AFB, Wash., was the Golden Bolt Award winner during a Foreign Object Damage walk in July. Sergeant Rosenberg received a FOD travel mug and a day pass from Lt. Col. Michael Polhemus, 726th AMS commander.

**New food choice**

The Cargo Point Italian Restaurant opened Monday behind the Gateway Inn.

The restaurant offers Italian food and a limited American menu. Hours of operation are 5-10 p.m. daily. The restaurant does not accept credit cards or checks.

To place an order, call 330-7311.

**Citizenship changes**

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces interested in becoming a U.S. citizen may be eligible to apply for citizenship under special provisions provided for in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Interested members can sign up in the 469th Air Base Group commander's support staff in Rm. 110 Bldg. 347. Deadline to sign up is Sept. 10.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Pyle

*Staff Sgt. Dennis Snyder, a flight engineer with the 56th Rescue Squadron, Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, scans for obstacles as a HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter comes to land following a training mission in Sierra Leone. The 398th Air Expeditionary Group was in Senegal to provide support for peacekeeping efforts in Liberia.*

# Reflecting on a remarkable year

By Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong  
Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)** – As we look back on the accomplishments of the past year, one word comes to mind — Wow!

We've come a long way since we started our quest fulfilling our vision. There is no doubt that through the extraordinary efforts of the men and women on the U.S. Air Forces in Europe team, we are leading the way for the most respected, all-purpose expeditionary air

and space force in the world.

From the Berlin Airlift to Operation Iraqi Freedom, USAFE has been pivotal to the success of combat operations and humanitarian relief efforts around the globe.

With this in mind, we celebrated a milestone in May, the 16th Air Force's 50th anniversary, and reflected on its five decades of service to the nation and to our NATO allies in the Southern Region. From providing a key forward presence

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USAFE

## Airman Information File

August 2004

### Enduring Principles -- PRIDE + Two

Over the years, we've recognized seven enduring principles shared by remarkable leaders. These principles are summarized in our "PRIDE + Two" formula -- Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, Enthusiasm, Morals and Courage. Good leaders live by these principles and don't allow them to sway over time.

**Preparation.** Good leaders must be technically proficient in their team's business. They don't have to be the expert -- but need enough skills to be credible. They understand their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as those of their followers and competitors.

**Respect.** Good leaders respect themselves, their team and their competitors. They must stand their ground and carry themselves with authority. They demand as much of themselves as they do their team. They understand what every team member brings to the fight and value their inputs.

**Integrity.** There is no grey area when it comes to integrity -- it's foundational. Leaders can't succeed if their people can't trust them. Good leaders fight to protect their integrity. Once lost, they can never get it back.

**Discipline.** Effective leadership requires both personal and professional discipline. A single lapse of discipline costs both the leader and their team. Good leaders follow the same rules they make. A team won't follow the rules if the leader doesn't stick by them.

**Enthusiasm.** Enthusiasm is contagious and requires passion and fire. The whole team will be excited when they see the leader's zeal for the mission. Leaders ought to find something else to do if they aren't passionate about leading.

**Morals.** A leader must know right from wrong. There is a growing acceptance that almost anything is justified in the name of success. A leader must resist the urge to sacrifice personal morality at the altar of success.

**Courage.** The final and most undernourished principle is courage. In the end, nothing else matters if you don't have the courage to pull the trigger on those principles listed above. Leaders must always be willing to step up and execute.

PRIDE + Two is a formula to use every day as you lead on the front-lines of USAFE. Continue to bring your courage and act on these enduring principles -- there is no room for compromise.

General Doc Foglesong

CMSgt Gary Coleman

*"Bring Your Courage"*



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

## Clean machine

*Master Sgt. Thomas Armstrong, an aerospace ground equipment mechanic deployed to Rhein-Main from the 176th Wing, Kulis Air National Guard Base, Alaska, changes an air filter on a floodlight in the AGE/Transient Alert System/Cryogenics maintenance facility Wednesday. Seventeen civilians and 11 military members manage 146 permanent and 26 TDY pieces of equipment at the facility.*

# 23 Airmen to receive new stripes

Twenty-three Team Rhein-Main Airmen were among the 13,625 of 33,306 eligible senior airmen recently selected for promotion to staff sergeant – a 40.91 percent selection rate.

The Air Force released the promotion list Aug. 11. The complete list of selectees is posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web page, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom>.

Team Rhein-Main promotes include:

**469th Air Base Group** – Senior airmen **Derrick Adams**, (deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va.); **David Day**, **Charles Edwards**, **Michael Nix** and **Ray Rodriguez**, security forces flight; **Kristin Farmer**, finance; **Gregory Hutchings**, civil engineer flight; **Tracie Lawrence**, **Randi Petty** and **Desiree Townes**, clinic; **Justin Molyneux** and **Demetric Odds**, communications flight; and **Jesse Venable**, (deployed from RAF Mildenhall, U.K.)

**726th Air Mobility Squadron** – Senior airmen **Aaron Bickel**, **John Cook**, **Matthew Dexheimer**, **Frank Gozukizil**, **Brian Harrison**, **Robert Herren** (deployed from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.), **Dwight Hine**, **Dennis Meier** (deployed from McChord Air Force Base,

Wash.), **James Steber** and **Dana Wells**.

**Det. 1, 2nd Air Postal Squadron** – Senior Airman **Aline Ulloa**.

**485th Intelligence Squadron** – Senior airmen **Kristopher Dunn**, **Jonathan Noha**, **Jordan Perks**, **Oliver Pierson**, **Kenneth Sturgis**, **Richard Turner** and **Ryan White**.

“Certainly the Air Force has had another banner year in terms of promotion,” said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley, AFPC's enlisted promotions branch chief. “The Air Force has singled out those senior airmen who have shown they are ready for the next big step in their career. This group has worked hard for their stripes and will make valuable contributions as our newest (non-commissioned officers).”

The average score for those selected was 272.33 points, with the following averages:

- 130.85 enlisted performance reports
- 58.23 promotion fitness exam
- 54.29 specialty knowledge test
- 16.43 time in grade
- 10.88 time in service
- 0.79 decorations

The new staff sergeant selects will be promoted sometime between September

## ALS a must

Senior airmen must attend Airman Leadership School prior to promotion to staff sergeant.

The ALS curriculum consists of leadership, communicative skills and profession of arms lessons totalling 24 academic days.

The nearest ALS is located at Ramstein Air Base. Airmen attending from Rhein-Main are in TDY status during the five-week course.

For more details, log on to <https://wwwmil.ramstein.af.mil/435abw/435msg/435mss/homepage1/als/INDEX.htm>

and August 2005, based on their promotion sequence number. The PSN, commonly referred to as a line number, is based on date of rank, total active federal military service and date of birth.

Airmen who tested should receive their score notices by the end of August. They can see how their PFE and SKT scores rank against others within their Air Force Specialty Code. Airmen can also get an electronic copy of their score notice through the virtual MPF Web site.

## Carrying on with the mission

The one constant in the Air Force is change.

As members of the most elite military force in the world, we find ourselves facing professional and personal challenges on a daily basis. Since arriving at Rhein-Main, I have been awestruck and inspired by the dedication and positive mental attitude our troops bring to the mission here at the "Gateway to Europe".

Although Rhein-Main is scheduled for closure next year, a visitor would be hard pressed to guess that our mission will soon be transferred to other bases in Europe.

A recent flood at the Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal clearly illustrates the impact of change and the importance of dedication and positive mental attitude.

On July 23 our community experienced a storm that could have crippled the mission at Rhein-Main. Some 500,000 cubic tons of water rained down on the terminal, causing ceiling tiles to collapse. At exactly the same time, storm drains in the Gateway Gardens Housing Area backed up causing basements to flood and damage to family property.

Without hesitation or complaint, Rhein-Main's professionals worked round the clock to insure that the mission continued. Operations at the terminal were temporarily moved to other buildings and members of Team Rhein-Main worked tirelessly to restore

work areas. Families worked together to minimize the disruption to their lives and damage to personal property.

In my short time here, I've heard countless praise for our troops. Base leadership, as well as U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Force leaders, recognize the tremendous efforts being made by each of you.

Take time to reflect on the great legacy of our base, but remember that change is ongoing.

From the Berlin Airlift to the Global War on Terrorism, Team Rhein-Main has been there and will be a part of our enduring military history.

John F. Kennedy once said: "Change is the law of life. And those who only look at the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

This idea will be key to our success in the challenging months ahead.

I encourage each member of our community to work together to ensure a smooth transition. It's imperative that we continue to value one another's contributions and that we clearly communicate our expectations.

Rhein-Main will close, but for now our talented men and women continue to provide outstanding support to the Air Force mission. I feel fortunate to be assigned here with the dedicated professionals at Rhein-Main and look forward to continued challenges and the change that comes with being a member of the U.S. military.



By Lt. Col.  
**Katherine Callies**  
469th Air Base Group  
Medical Flight  
commander

Commanders Action Line

The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.

If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil) or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.

Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.

The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf. If you have any questions, call Public Affairs.



Col. Bradley Denison  
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

**330-7779**

## the Gateway

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by deadline does not guarantee publication, however, all articles will be considered. The staff may be reached by calling 330-7804. All photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for the Sept. 3  
edition of the Gateway is  
4 p.m., Aug. 26.



### Welcome to the World

Master Sgt. **Philip Segers**, 469th Air Base Group Communications Flight, and his wife **Colleen** announce the birth of a daughter, **Storm Sutter Segers**.

Storm was born at 4:01 a.m. July 20 at the Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fla. She weighed 7 and a half pounds and was 19 and a half inches long.

She was welcomed by her sister Jordan and brother Xavier.

## Warrior of the Week

### Staff Sgt. Michael Chin

**Unit:** 469th ABG chapel  
**Time in AF services:**  
6 years  
**Time at Rhein-Main:**  
8 months  
**Duty Title:** Chaplain's assistant  
**Hometown:** Englewood, Fla.  
**Hobbies:** Spending time with family, ice hockey and lifting weights  
**What has been your best Air Force experience?**  
The opportunity to travel the world and meet new people



## 'Voice of Enlisted' strong at Rhein-Main

By Airman 1st Class Eric Donner  
Public Affairs

The name is somewhat of a misnomer. While it sounds like membership is restricted to only the NCO corps, the Air Force Sergeants Association is a non-profit organization open to all enlisted Airmen.

AFSA, founded in 1961, represents the professional and personal interests of active duty and retired enlisted members of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Since then it has gained respect from the leaders in Congress and the Pentagon as the "Voice of the Enlisted," according to the AFSA Web page.

The organization has been a key player in creating benefit plans for enlisted, achieving equality in officer and enlisted hazardous duty pay and opposing

plans to turn the commissary service over to a national chair that would impose a user fee for services, according to the organization's Web site.

Closer to home, AFSA is active in the local community.

"We've supported the 469th Annual Awards Program, the base Christmas party and have donated to Community College of the Air Force graduations," said Master Sgt. Robert Tejada, vice-president of AFSA's "Gateway to Europe" Chapter 1677 at Rhein-Main. "Some of our upcoming events include POW/MIA events scheduled for Sept. 14."

The local chapter meets each second Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the Zeppelinhaus.

AFSA and AFSA Auxiliary members receive members-only benefits and services.

"AFSA members have many benefits," said Sergeant Tejada. "For example, we have legislative presence on Capitol Hill, scholarship and education programs, and home-buying and relocation services geared towards military members and first-time buyers – just to name a few."

Some members also appreciate the intangibles the organization offers.

"(Being a member) keeps me abreast on what's going on in Congress that could personally affect my future when I retire and my current professional Air Force career," said Tech. Sgt. Joleo Dianala, Chapter 1677 treasurer. "I personally find networking with other members of the base to be one of the benefits of becoming a member."

For more information about AFSA membership, e-mail Master Sgt. Dennis Caskey, Chapter 1667 president.



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during the Cold War, to leading the way in expeditionary air power during Operation Allied Force, this numbered air force continues to play a vital role by implementing expeditionary leadership for our command.

As we reflect on the past, we're also mindful of the challenges ahead. The USAFE Transformation Office stood up in June to oversee current transformation efforts in the command while fostering cultural change to meet future demands. Currently the USAFE Transformation Flight Plan is being developed to update the command's strategic vision and guide improvements in three transformational areas: organizations, operational concepts and technology. More specifically, their aim is to help USAFE make better use of limited resources (Airmen, time and money) to meet four strategic principles — influence global actions, readiness, theater engagement and a NATO leadership role. As we move forward, the Transformation Office will work with all of us to do away with an evolutionary mindset and replace it with a revolutionary one this next year.

With this progressive mindset, a wing structure was reinstated at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey in March to provide the level of experienced leadership,

supervision and knowledge necessary to ensure the base can continue to successfully execute its evolving mission — to serve as a key expeditionary focal point for ongoing operations in Iraq. Additionally, the 38th Combat Support Wing was activated in May to enhance USAFE's ability to provide support to more than a dozen geographically separated units throughout Europe. The new wing provides support advocacy for many GSUs in theater. The diversity of missions and populations is unmatched by any other wing in the Air Force.

The restructuring and reorganization we've incorporated increases our operational capability, internally and externally. Together with our partners and allies, USAFE provides unparalleled warfighting capability.

USAFE sets the standard for AF expeditionary operations by continuing to focus on theater engagement and security cooperation efforts to build relationships, expand our allied partnerships and improve our strategic capabilities through a multitude of events. We do this with courageous Airmen, innovative ideas, realistic training and well-maintained equipment and facilities.

USAFE's realistic planning and training was cemented through Air Forces Europe when it became the world's first certified AF warfighting headquarters in April. During the three-phase Austere Challenge Exercise designed to validate our ability to perform our missions, the AFEUR Air Operations Center and staff successfully fought a 1,500 sortie / day war, planned a large scale Non-combatant Evacuation Operation and

deployed, bedded down and sustained thousands of combat forces.

Moreover, our new Air Expeditionary Force Branch has improved the timeliness of readiness reporting in the AEF Reporting Tool by over 40 percent. This literally took our command from "worst to first" in the AF and gave the AEF Center and warfighting commands an accurate picture of forces available for deployment.

We have also provided significant capabilities to several contingency operations and made noteworthy progress on several key mission enablers.

Since the start of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, we have transported more than 17,000 patients out of Central Command and throughout Europe. Medical warfighters performed interoperability / training missions fostering international relations in eight countries treating 12,000 patients in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, host-nation military and local medical personnel. Every patient evacuated from OIF / OEF has been helped by one of our 300 Air Force medics stationed at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center or the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein. Our team of medical professionals is truly amazing.

We've accomplished significant training as well. We sent more than 130 combat and combat support aircraft to 13 deployed training events and participated in three high-tempo home station training events with over 100 aircraft. The deployed training events took place in 10 countries and involved the air forces from the United States, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Germany, United Kingdom, Croatia, Romania, Spain and Slovakia and involved 1,600 USAFE members. The average time deployed was approximately 20 days and an excess of 2,100 training sorties were produced. With home-station training events, USAFE produced over 600 additional training sorties to practice additional contingency mission profiles for a total of over 2,700 deployed



Photo by Airman 1st Class Steve Czyz

***Participants in the Silver Flag Exercise work as a team to successfully erect a tent in the "deployed location" on Ramstein Air Base, Germany July 21. Silver Flag is an exercise to provide Airmen in the ranks of technical sergeant to major with expeditionary leadership skills prior to a real-world deployment.***



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley

*An F-15C Eagle from the 493rd Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, takes to the skies as a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall, England, sits on the parking ramp. Aircraft from RAF Mildenhall were temporarily relocated to RAF Fairford and RAF Lakenheath while Mildenhall's flightline was under construction.*

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or exercise readiness-training sorties.

We are proving our expeditionary ability day in and day out. In MEDFLAG 2004, we deployed a 3rd

AF-led Joint Task Force to two locations in the Republic of South Africa to conduct real world medical care and humanitarian civil assistance projects. USAFE was also the lead component for Combined Endeavor 2004, the linchpin that tested 39 nations' communications systems from different locations, where the results of these tests will be used by our coalition forces in Iraq to improve interoperability among our allies.

In addition to training, USAFE attended 17 air shows in 13 European countries and provided 23 fly-bys in six European countries. The most significant was USAFE's superb lead of the multi-nation fly-by at Normandy for the 60th D-Day Anniversary. The culmination of these events form an incredibly important cornerstone of our engagement and interoperability campaign and contribute directly to the magnificent relationships we maintain with air forces around the area of responsibility.

These outstanding efforts ensured USAFE's capability to offer highly ready, lethal forces to combatant commanders around the world.

However, whether we are deployed or at home station, all of us have roles and responsibilities to protect ourselves and our team members as the Global War on Terrorism continues. To help increase the readiness of our war fighters, the USAFE Inspector General developed eight Euro Thunder (a full spectrum threat response exercise) and two Euro Flash (a force protection response exercise) inspections. Maximizing the effort in these exercises will significantly increase each wing's proficient responsiveness should a terrorist strike occur within USAFE.

Ultimately, USAFE's readiness is directly tied to how well we take care of each other — and we have proven that we do it exceptionally well.

The 14 Combat and Special Interest Programs instituted within the command help us translate our vision, mission and goals into concrete results. We can be incredibly proud of USAFE's accomplishments since program

inception. Results clearly indicate our organization is focused and energized on key mission enablers: readiness, quality of life and services.

We've improved in 58 of 75 metrics tracked with an average improvement across all indicators of 20 percent. We did so well in two areas that we no longer need to measure them because the standard of excellence has been institutionalized. Dedicated professionals in USAFE blew so far past our goals in seven indicators that we recently increased them, establishing new standards of excellence. In addition, our successes with many of the initiatives have led to recent expansions in the target audiences as well.

In line with making our command a better place to live, work and play, USAFE Services is investing toward improving future quality of life with 31 projects throughout Europe, to include new clubs, bowling centers, child and youth centers, lodging, fitness centers, skills development, car washes, dining facilities, swimming pools and community centers / libraries.

We continue to make progress in keeping each other safe. USAFE has maintained a pretty successful safety record so far. And although this is great news, several mishaps could easily have been worse, so we need to remain vigilant. We've also reduced motorcycle mishaps with Spangdahlem's motorcycle club setting a strong example. We urge you to continue to do things the SMART and right way and recognize those who do by submitting them for a USAFE SMART Award.

We know the examples represented here are only a fraction of what has been accomplished this last year. Chief Coleman and I encourage you to stay vigilant and focus ahead on taking our USAFE team to the next level of excellence — increasing readiness, taking care of our people and accomplishing the mission in a superior way.

Thanks for all you do. It's really no surprise, with the motivation and dedication of our USAFE team, that we represent the world's most respected air and space power. I look forward to what feats our team will tackle in the year ahead!

# Airman receives Congressional award

**Story and photo by**  
**Airman 1st Class Eric Donner**  
Public Affairs

A member of Team Rhein-Main recently received one of only two types of medals presented by the Congress of the United States for his dedication to self-improvement and voluntary service.

Senior Airman Michael Nix, 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight, received the Silver Congressional Medal Award from Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing commander, during a ceremony Monday at the Zeppelinhaus. The other type of Congressional award is the Medal of Honor.

The Congressional Medal Award was established in 1979 to recognize young adults, ages 14-24, with the gold, silver and bronze medals. Congress looks at four diverse program areas including voluntary public service, physical fitness, personal development and expeditions.

The Silver Congressional Award Medal is for those young adults who complete 200 hours public service and 100 hours of personal development and physical fitness. The recipient must also complete a two-day expedition and exploration activity.



"I highly encourage supervisors to promote this program," said Airman Nix. "By participating in the award program, I've learned to believe in myself, to never give up and to never be afraid to dream."

Airman Nix worked closely with an advisor, Tech. Sgt. Michael Pena, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, to meet all goals and have them validated.

"Sergeant Pena was responsible for establishing the Congressional Awards Program here at Rhein-Main," said Airman Nix. "His commitment and dedication is unparalleled."

Airman Nix's community service included volunteering with the Deutschland Young Marines as a unit staff member, instructing youth ages 8 to 18 in a drug demand reduction program. Airman Nix's also acted as "McGruff" to help raise drug awareness and install confidence in law enforcement among Team Rhein-Main youth. He volunteered at the United Service Organizations office, supporting troops returning from and heading downrange. Airman Nix also helped the American Red Cross collect more than 150 pounds of supplies to send downrange.

In the personal development area, he completed 27 credit



***Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing commander, presents the Silver Congressional Award Medal to Senior Airman Michael Nix, 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight. Airman Nix completed 200 hours of community service and 100 hours of personal development and physical fitness to earn the award.***

hours toward a degree in Applied Arts and Science from Texas State University. Airman Nix is currently continuing his education, while improving his Spanish speaking and comprehension.

For physical fitness requirements, he set goals to improve his physical conditioning. He developed a workout routine to include running, biking and pushups. Airman Nix also competed with the base soccer team.

To achieve his two-day expedition and exploration goal, Airman Nix arranged a trip to a Marine Corps battle site and cemetery in the Belleau Wood, France. He chaperoned 16 Deutschland Young Marines to a Memorial Day ceremony which included demonstrations by the U.S. Marine Corps Band, Color Guard and Silent Drill Team.

"I have watched Airman Nix develop into a role model for the military and civilian community," said Sergeant Pena. "His enthusiasm for volunteer work is unparalleled. He is a model airman who is not afraid to chase his dreams and career goals."

"It was a tremendous pleasure to serve as his Advisor and Validator for the past two years," he added.

According to Sergeant Pena, Airman Nix's Gold Medal record book is currently pending approval at National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"If he receives approval, he may very well be the first ever military member to earn the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals," said Sergeant Pena.



## Closure Corner

This section is devoted to giving the Rhein-Main Community the most up-to-date information concerning base closure issues. All dates presented in this section are subject to change based on: manpower figures, personnel assignment information and ongoing U.S. Air Forces in Europe coordination.

A team from U.S. Air Forces in Europe presented an enlisted force structure assignment briefing Tuesday at the base theater to provide information concerning how base closure will affect assignments for members of the 469th Air Base Group.

Following are key points taken from the briefing:

- Regardless of DEROS, all members will be given equitable assignment consideration.

- The most important date to remember when talking about assignments for members of the 469th ABG is a member's date of availability. Flight chiefs are currently working on plans to figure out what jobs and specialties will be needed until the closure of the base Dec. 31, 2005 and what specialties, i.e. the base clinic, can leave earlier based on need. Not all facilities will remain open until closure, therefore, not all personnel will be required to stay. Once Col. Bradley Denison, 469th ABG commander, reviews this data, he will approve date of availability for each member.

- A member's DEROS remains firm unless the date of availability changes. In these cases, the DEROS date will be changed to match the date of availability.

- People with a DEROS December 2005 or before will receive assignments through the normal channels, EQUAL and EQUAL PLUS.

- People with a DEROS after December 2005 fall into two categories.

### Category 1

Members that have 12 or more months remaining on their original tour from their date of availability.

Members in this category can volunteer for USAFE bases. The deadline for flight chiefs to get the assignment preferences to the commander's support staff is Monday. Volunteers will be arranged on least amount of time left on their tour. If the service member is selected, their DEROS will be curtailed to the date of availability and given a consecutive

overseas tour (only if the request base can support it).

If there are more requirements in USAFE than there are volunteers, then:

- The remaining members in Category 1 will be sorted by the most amount of time left on their tour. Individuals will be assigned on a continuation of tour to fill USAFE requirements. They will depart on their DOA and their original DEROS will remain the same at the new location.

If there are no more USAFE requirements to fill, but there are still individuals in Category 1, then:

- The member's DEROS will be curtailed to the DOA and they will receive an assignment through the EQUAL system.

### Category 2

Members who will have 11 or less months remaining on their tour from DOA are placed in Category 2.

If there are additional requirements in USAFE to fill, then:

- Volunteers from Category 2 will be sorted based on least amount of time left on their tour. If selected, their DEROS will be curtailed to DOA and they will be given a consecutive overseas tour (if manning at the requested location supports).

If there are no more USAFE requirements to fill, but there are still individuals in Category 2, then:

- The member's DEROS will be curtailed to the DOA and they will receive an assignment through the EQUAL system.

Airmen who will receive assignments within USAFE should find out within the next six weeks where they will be stationed.

For those Airmen receiving assignments through the EQUAL system, there are eight assignment cycles annually, four for CONUS and 4 overseas.

The responsibility to volunteer by assignment cutoff dates falls upon the individual.

The next EQUAL list for overseas will be published in November. This is for Airmen with a DEROS in May, June, July, August or September of 2005.

For those Airmen with a DEROS of August, September, October, November or December 2005, an EQUAL list will be published in February. (*Note: Airmen with a DEROS in August or September can choose from either list.*)

For clarification on this information or questions about any assignment processes, contact the 469th ABG Commander's Support Staff at 330-7448 or visit Rm. 110 Bldg. 347. Look for more assignment information in the Sept. 3 *Gateway*.

## DUI Tracker

### Days without DUIs (As of Tuesday)

#### 469th Air Base Group

115 days

#### 726th Air Mobility Squadron

204 days

#### 64th Replacement Company

95 days

#### Tenant Units

60 days

#### Others

22 days

The 469th ABG Top IV provides a

fund at the main gate for permanent party personnel who take a taxi back to the base instead of driving while intoxicated.

The money used must be reimbursed the next duty day.



## **Golf tourney**

The 469th Air Base Group Top IV sponsors a golf tourney Aug. 26 at Rheinblick Golf Course in Wiesbaden.

The tourney is open to all members of Team Rhein-Main.

Format is four-person teams, best-ball scramble. Cost is \$20 and includes greens fees, a cart, range balls and rental clubs if needed. The fee also includes lunch.

E-mail Master Sgt. John Smith,

469th ABG Civil Engineer Flight Fire Department, to sign up. Free transportation will be limited to the first 20 people who request it.



## **Strongman title**

Adam Combs won the Rhein-Main Strong Man Competition Saturday at the fitness center.

He bench pressed 435 pounds, squatted 415 pounds and dead lifted 425 pounds for a combined total of 1,275 pounds.

## **USAFE tourney**

The Rhein-Main Rockets finished 4-2 in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Small Units Softball Championships at Camp Darby, Italy, recently.

Rhein-Main finished 4-0 in round-robin play. They defeated Royal Air Force St. Mawgan, 21-17, RAF Fairford, 10-8, Sembach, 21-8, and RAF Menwith Hill, 18-8.

The Rockets were 0-2 in the double-elimination tournament bracket with a 24-9 loss to RAF Menwith Hill and a 19-10 loss to RAF Fairford.

## **Soccer practice**

The Rhein-Main Varsity Soccer Team practices at 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the field near the transportation roundhouse.

## **Hockey tickets**

The National Hockey League World Cup of Hockey and the Kölnarena have teamed up to offer special rate tickets for U.S. troops and their family members to see Germany vs. the Czech Republic at

7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Köln.

Tickets are 29.25 Euro each. Members can order via phone at 0221-8020 (mention USA Army) and leave your name and creditcard details. Tickets can be picked the day of the match at the will call window near the southwest gate.

Members can also order via e-mail at [ticketing@koelnarena.de](mailto:ticketing@koelnarena.de).

## **Fitness challenge**

The Rhein-Main Flight Fitness Challenge is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at the fitness center.

Teams of five will compete in a 1 and a half mile run, push-ups, sit-ups, dips and a four-person relay race.

Winning team receives bragging rights and a traveling trophy.

## **Youth registration**

Registration for youth soccer and flag football continues through Sept. 2 at the youth center.

Soccer leagues are for ages 5-15. Cost is \$30 for youth center members 5-9 and \$45 for members 10-15. Non-members will pay an additional fee.

Flag football is offered for 10-12-year-olds and cost \$45 for members.

Sports physicals are required before registration.

## **3-on-3 basketball**

The youth center sponsors a Teen Back to School 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament from 7:30-10 p.m. Aug. 27.

Join the youth center for basketball, snacks and loud music. Volunteers are welcome.

Call 330-7125 for more information.

## **Bowling clinic**

A youth bowling clinic is set for 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sept. 1-2 at the Rocket Bowling Center.

The clinic is open to youth 6-13 years of age and cost \$10. Registration begins Monday and ends Aug. 30.

Call the youth center at 330-7125 for more details.

## **Military Olympians**

Twenty-one military athletes and coaches are on the 2004 U.S. Olympic team currently competing in Athens.

Following is a recap of events already completed:

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski finished in a four-way tie for 13th place in the men's 10-meter air pistol event Saturday.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson of the Army Marksmanship Unit finished in 13th place with a 118 in men's trap.

■ Army Spc. Hattie Johnson finished in a five-way tie for 14th place among 44 competitors in the 10-meter air rifle competition Saturday.

■ Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Callahan tied for 30th in women's 10-meter air pistol shooting Sunday.

Other military Olympians competing, coaching or serving on team staffs include:

**Boxing** - Army Staff Sgt. Basheer Abdullah, head coach.

**Fencing** - Air Force 2nd Lt. Seth Kelsey.

**Modern Pentathlon** - Army Capt. Anita Allen and Army 2nd Lt. Chad Senior.

**Rowing** - Navy Lt. j.g. Henry Nuzum and Army Capt. Matt Smith.

**Shooting** - Army Maj. Michael Anti; Army Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Duloher; Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Gartland, gunsmith; Army Reserve Maj. David Johnson, rifle coach and Army Sgt. Jason Parker.

**Track and Field** - Army National Guard Capt. Dan Browne; Air Force Capt. Kevin Eastler; Army Sgt. John Nunn and Air Force 1st Lt. James Parker.

**Wrestling** - Army Staff Sgt. Shon Lewis, Greco-Roman wrestling coach; Army Sgt. Oscar Wood.

**Paralympics** - Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Casey Tibbs. He lost his right foot in a motorcycle accident in 2001. Tibbs is ranked No. 2 in the world in the 400-meter event.

## ITT closure

All Ticket and Tour services related to Enjoy Tours and other travel related information have ceased in the Community Connection, Bldg. 349.

Customers can access a wealth of sources in the local community. Similar services are available online and in the local SATO offices at the Frankfurt Airport, Hanau, Weisbaden and Darmstadt.

Other local travel information is also available at the family support center and local USO locations.

For more information, call 330-6158.

## New hours

The auto skills center is now open Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more details, call 330-7467.

## German culture

Robert Emmerth continues his German culture series from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday in the family support center classroom in Bldg. 347.

The series includes history, politics, transportation, culture and more. Participants can attend one or all classes in the series.

For more information, call 330-7992.

## Midnight barbecue

The family support center sponsors a midnight barbecue at 12:00 a.m.

## Chapel Worship

The following worship opportunities are offered by the Rhein-Main Chapel:

### ■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass – 9 a.m. every Sunday.

Penance – 8-8:30 a.m. Sundays or by appointment.

### ■ Protestant worship:

Worship and Kids Own Church take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



Thursday behind Bldg. 426.

The event is the center's way of saying thank you to deployed troops working the night shift.

## Friday feast

The family support center sponsors their monthly "Friday Feast," Aug. 27 at the Taverne Niko Restaurant in Weisbaden.

Participants should meet at the shoppette parking lot at 6:30 p.m. to car pool to the restaurant.

## Castle illumination

The city of Bad Homburg invites guests to visit the palace of Bad Homburg illuminated by 1,000 candles from 2-7 p.m. Aug. 28-29.

Participants can view the rooms of the last German emperor Wilhelm II and his family.

The entrance fee is 3.50 Euro. Bad Homburg is approximately one hour from base.

## Warner Brothers

The youth center sponsors a trip to the Warner Brothers-Germany theme park Aug. 28.

The trip is open to all active youth center members 6 years old and up. Participants under 10 must be accompanied by a parent.

Cost is \$25 and includes transportation and entrance fees. Register now at the youth center.

## Glow bowling

The Rocket Bowling Center offers glow bowling starting at 7 p.m. Aug. 28.

The event includes a disco ball and rock and roll music. Bowlers pay \$1.50 per game all night.

## Library news

Time for Reading takes place from 2-2:30 p.m. each Wednesday at the library. Parents must remain at the library during the program.

## At the club

The Zeppelinhaus offers a Mexican

## Movies at Rhein-Main

**Tonight** - "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," (PG), 7 p.m.

**Saturday** - "The Chronicles of Riddick," (PG-13), 5 p.m. and "I, Robot," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - "The Stepford Wives," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** - "Collateral," (R), 7 p.m.

**Aug. 27** - "The Terminal," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Aug. 28** - "Garfield," (PG), 5 p.m., and "Catwoman," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 29** - "Around the World in 80 Days," (PG) 7 p.m.

**Sept. 1** - "Alien vs. Predator," (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

[www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp)

buffet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The club offers social hour from 5-7 p.m. every Friday. Guests can enjoy free finger food.

For more details, call 330-7120.

## Free bowling

The Rocket Bowling Center offers free bowling from 4-10 p.m. each Thursday for single/unaccompanied and transient troops.

Participants have to show their dorm keys to receive free bowling and shoe rental. All others can bowl three games for \$4.

## Charlie's hours

The German Post Agency and Telekom office, better known as Charlie's, in Bldg. 349 is open from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The shop is open 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Call 330-6303 for more details.



*(Left) Point Alpha was an observation point on the former West/East German border near Fulda that was manned primarily by the U.S. Army's 11th and 14th Armored Cavalry Regiments from 1953 to 1990. The fabled "Fulda Gap" was nearby. Western forces suspected the gap was the planned route of attack by Communist forces if they ever decided to push into the west. (Below) A U.S. Army M-60 A3 tank is one of the static displays at the Point Alpha memorial.*

*If you go...*

## Bringing the Cold War back to life



# Day Trippin'

**Story and photos by**  
**Staff Sgt. Leo Brown**  
Public Affairs

In the Cold War's darkest days, the name "Fulda Gap" could put chills in West Germans and Americans alike.

The area, east of Fulda, was a likely spot for Soviet and East German armored divisions to pour through in an attack on western Europe. Although the threat is now long gone, visitors to the Point Alpha memorial and museum near the small town of Geisa can catch a glimpse of the Cold War.

Manned primarily by the U.S. Army's 11th and 14th Armored Cavalry Regiments from 1953 to 1990, Point Alpha provided an excellent observation post for keeping a close watch on East

German and other communist forces.

The drive from Rhein-Main to the Point Alpha memorial and museum, which opened in 1995, is about one and half to two hours.

Visitors can view static displays of U.S., West German and East German vehicles, including an Army M-60 A3 tank and a West German helicopter.



They can also ascend a large observation tower, which gives a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside and villages.

A short drive (or walk) from Point Alpha brings the visitor to the

museum (which sits in what was East Germany). The museum features several East German uniforms, weapons and documents. The museum displays are in German, while some of the Point Alpha displays are in English.



Depending on traffic, the drive to Heidelberg Castle takes approximately 45 minutes. From A5 (Basel), follow the signs for 656 (Heidelberg). Signs direct you to the castle area. Parking is available at several area garages. Most of the garages are within a short walking distance to the castle. There is no parking at the castle. One of the entrances to the castle grounds, however, has roughly 300 steps.



The castle is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Hours for Dec. 24 and 31 are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Cost is 2.50 Euros per adult and 1.50 Euros per child. Handheld audio tours are available for an additional 3.50 Euro or 2.50 Euro per person for groups of 20 or more. Guided tours in English (various prices for families and students available) begin at 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. A tour at 10:15 a.m. is available on Saturdays and Sundays. Tours are limited to 21 people per tour.



For more information, call 066-5191-9030, fax 066-5191-9031, e-mail [pointalpha@t-online.de](mailto:pointalpha@t-online.de) or log on to [www.pointalpha.com](http://www.pointalpha.com).