

# the **Gateway**

The Gateway to Europe

Vol. 61, No. 23, Nov. 21, 2003, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

## News Briefs

### **NCO grads**

Congratulations to the following airmen who graduated from the Kisting NCO Academy Nov. 7.

Members of Class 2004-1 included:

- **Tech. Sgt. Eric Bohl**, 469th Air Base Group
- **Tech. Sgt. Patrick Murphy**, 485th Intelligence Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Robert Speigner**, 726th Air Mobility Squadron

## **Giving thanks for America's guardians of freedom**

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

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** – Since the Pilgrims' original Thanksgiving celebration in the autumn of 1621, the hard work, sacrifices and continued vigilance of America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coast guardsmen have brought countless blessings to all Americans.

The greatest among these are the freedom to pursue individual goals and the continuous opportunity for a better way of life.

Embodied with the American spirit of compassion, tolerance and progress, the men and women of America's armed forces continue to protect and preserve our nation's abundant blessings - providing the gift of peace

See **Thanks**, Page 4



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

### **Pitchin' in**

(Left) 1st Lt. Karie Caywood, 469th Air Base Group, volunteers to help base post office workers like Senior Airman Stacey Bailey pitch mail Nov. 12. The post office is always in need of volunteer support, especially following Thanksgiving, when the holiday mailing season begins. For more information on volunteer opportunities, call 330-6384.

## **USAFE airmen apply courage, move forward**

By **Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell**  
USAFE News Service

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** – Using the words "proud" and "forward leaning," U.S. Air Forces in Europe's two key leaders said they are impressed by what they've seen throughout the command thus far.

USAFE's mission of being ready to fight, postured to respond and providing superior services to the command's world-class people is not only being met but is continually being expounded upon,

said Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Gary G. Coleman, USAFE command chief master sergeant.

"In our base visits since taking command, one common thread is apparent; our airmen and civilian workforce - both at home base and deployed - are busy doing incredible work in support of the Global War on Terrorism and fulfilling America's national security objectives," Foglesong said.

See **Courage**, Page 4

## Buckle up

# Click It or Ticket

As the national safety belt use rate jumped to 79 percent, it is clear that more and more Americans are aware of the dangers of driving without a safety belt.

Unfortunately, young adults are many of the 59 million Americans still tempting fate and driving unbuckled. So, how do we get young adults to buckle up when they think tragedy won't happen to them?

It's simple, surround them with the strong message, "Click It or Ticket; If you won't buckle up to save your life, then buckle up to save yourself a ticket," and back it up with a strong enforcement push which, at Rhein-Main, includes increased random seatbelt checks and suspension of driving privileges for up to a year.

That's exactly what's going to happen this Thanksgiving holiday as more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies and military bases in all 50 states and several countries launch the national *Click It or Ticket Mobilization*, a nationwide law enforcement effort to protect young people and others from the leading risk they face – traffic crashes.

The two-week enforcement wave, which began Monday and runs through Nov. 30, is based on a proven public health model to increase belt use called "high visibility enforcement."

All too often we are called upon to pull fatally injured young people from cars – and we'd rather write a thousand tickets than face one more of these



## Seatbelt violations

The 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight will cite seatbelt violators and suspend driving privileges, to include anyone with base driving privileges:

- 1st offense: 7-day suspension
- 2nd offense: 30-day suspension
- 3rd offense: 180-day suspension
- 4th offense: 365-day suspension

tragedies. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death among young people. Half of those killed would be alive today if they had simply put on their seat belt.

The high visibility enforcement model of *Click It or Ticket* is based on years of research showing that for most people who don't wear seat belts – especially young people – the possibility of receiving a ticket is a more credible incentive than the threat of injury or death. Safety messages don't work. Enforcement messages, backed up by strong enforcement activities, do.

We are committed to supporting *Click It or Ticket* because we are losing too many servicemen and servicewomen in traffic crashes. In the fiscal year 2002, 321 military personnel across all services lost their lives in traffic crashes. Unfortunately, military personnel by virtue of age and gender typically epitomize the low belt user: males ages 18-34.

*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 the 469th ABG/PA office at 330-7804 or e-mail at [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil).*

**Col. Bradley Denison**  
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

**330-7779**

We are doing everything we can to get the word out to those who face the greatest risk – young adults. By buckling up their seat belts, young people could save more than just money from hefty fines, they could save their lives.

*(Courtesy 469th ABG Safety Office)*

## the Gateway

### Editorial Staff

Col. Bradley Denison.....Commander  
2nd Lt Uriah Orland.....Chief, Public Affairs  
Staff Sgt. Matt Summers.....Editor  
Monika Salfelder.....Public affairs specialist

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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 Dec. 5 edition of the Gateway is 4 p.m., Nov. 27.*

## Community College of the Air Force graduates

The 469th Air Base Group Education and Training Flight held the first CCAF graduation ceremony at Rhein-Main in more than two years Tuesday. Although 10 Team Rhein-Main

airmen were among the 7,502 airmen awarded degrees in the October 2003 CCAF graduating class, only six were able to attend the graduation ceremonies. Attendees were:



**Staff Sgt.  
Lisa Barron**  
469th Air  
Base Group  
Dental Assisting



**Staff Sgt.  
Melissa Cornett**  
469th Air  
Base Group  
Logistics



**Master Sgt.  
J. A. Saafir**  
469th Air  
Base Group  
Human Resource  
Management

**Staff Sgt.  
Walter Branson**  
726th Air Mobility  
Squadron  
Logistics



**Master Sgt.  
Steven Felderman**  
469th Air  
Base Group  
Airport Resource  
Management



**Tech. Sgt.  
John Williams Jr.**  
469th Air  
Base Group  
Criminal Justice



**Graduates unable to attend:** Master Sgt. Samuel Cooks, Defense Energy Support Center – Aviation Maintenance Technology; Staff Sgt. Kristen Mahoney, 726th AMS –

Information Systems Technology; Staff Sgt. Anthony Trevino, 726th AMS – Aircraft Systems Maintenance Technology and Staff Sgt. Kimberly Tyson, 469th ABG – Paralegal.

## 'One click, one call' service arrives for AF pay issues

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — A one-stop customer service phone number and Web page are up and running, linking several call centers and online resources Air Force people use when managing personnel and pay information.

A single phone number and a companion Web site now make it easier for active-duty and reserve component military, as well as U.S. appropriated fund civilian employees to find what they need quickly, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

Customers can find answers to questions by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or visiting [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst). Until now the burden has been on Air Force people to determine which agency handles a particular issue before contacting customer service by phone or on the Web.

Several of the linked call centers reside

at the personnel center, where leaders have been facilitating the consolidation of Air Force customer-service operations.

"We are making sure that customer service is a lot more than a 1-800 number," said Maj. Gen. Tom O'Riordan, personnel center commander. "Our focus is making sure we meet the needs of the field, and that we accelerate those changes which make life simpler for the commander and our airmen."

Customers calling from international locations and hearing-impaired employees should continue to dial the number they currently use to access support for personnel or pay matters, officials said.

The new toll-free number should begin accommodating foreign area calls early next year, officials said. (*Courtesy of AFPC News Service*)

## Civilian employees receive recognition

The following Team Rhein-Main non-U.S. civilian workers were honored during a service recognition ceremony Thursday at the Zeppelinhaus:

### 35 years of service

Doris Scherb, base chapel  
Vassilios Kapoutsis, commissary

### 20 years of service

Tajudeen Kutti, Rocket Sports Lounge  
Marcel Rautenkranz, fire department  
Ahmed Shraiki, environmental office

### 15 years of service

Kurt Seip, fire department  
Michaela Petri, housing office

### 10 years of service

Jang Bahadur, commissary  
Andreas Winter, security forces  
Carolus Moenke, security forces

## Thanks, from Page 1

and hope to all who live under our protective wings and the promise of a secure future for others.

This Thanksgiving, as we take the time to celebrate our blessings with family and friends, take a moment to remember our fellow "brothers and sisters" who are deployed to ensure those same freedoms in Afghanistan and Iraq - preserving and defending our freedoms away from their families.

Also take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices, support and blessings of our nation's often unsung heroes - our military spouses, sons and daughters - whose support is crucial in upholding the principles we cherish.

To all of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe team - active duty, guard, reserve, civilians, contractors and family members - thanks for all you do. Your courage and unwavering dedication are a true blessing to us all.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

**Members of the Rhein-Main Community Spouses Club prepare meals for airmen who could not attend the Airmen's Dinner Tuesday at the base chapel. The club sponsored the meal for single, unaccompanied and TDY airmen at Rhein-Main. More than 300 airmen were served during the meal.**

## Courage, from Page 1

"Our military operations increasingly cross multiple theaters and unified commands," the general continued. "With more than 1,500 USAFE members deployed to expeditionary bases across the globe, and approximately 2,700 more Air Force professionals deployed to our European theater to support our home bases, it's apparent that we're a very busy, forward leaning and engaged command. Chief Coleman and I couldn't be more proud of the great work we've seen."

And this great work can not only be found in home base and contingency operations, but also in the increased services provided through the command's 12 newly rolled out combat and special interest programs, said Coleman. The programs were implemented to enhance and expand upon established programs that increase readiness, take care of our people and improve mission effectiveness.

"We're in the service business. It's imperative that the services we provide be world-class, just as our people are," said Coleman. "Whether it's improving services to each other or to our sister components and alliance partners,

providing a top-notch product makes life easier and is one of the simplest ways we can take care of each other and our families."

These special interest initiatives are meant to aid USAFE members in professional and personal growth - spiritually, mentally and physically, said Foglesong. Some of the programs are already in afterburner, and all of them should be fully operational by May 2004.

"USAFE is already doing many great things - we're simply adding to and enhancing existing programs," he said. "We're committed to providing guidance with latitude and resources in support of these programs, and the energy seen across the command to get these important initiatives going is awe inspiring."

Although most of the programs focus on year-round quality of life improvements within the command, one program is designed specifically for this time of year; when family separation, inclement weather and holiday finances all add up to make life stressful - especially for single airmen, said Foglesong.

"Project CHEER, which stands for Creating Hope, Energy, Enthusiasm and Recreation, is designed to create an en-

vironment of energy and enthusiasm for our single airmen, both enlisted and officers, during the sometimes difficult winter months," said the general. "Orchestrated through wing Project CHEER programs, USAFE members can expect to see a variety of non-traditional, high-energy events coming their way to improve morale, quality of life and mission readiness during the upcoming months.

"The holiday season is a time for us to step back, take it easy and spend time with our families," Foglesong continued. "But it's also a time of year when we need to ensure we're taking care of each other, not only through programs like Project CHEER, but through simple human compassion and sincerity.

"We need to take care of our Air Force family," he said. "If you know someone who is going to be alone for the holidays, invite them to spend time with you and your family. And, if you see someone struggling, ask how you can help.

"There's no doubt that USAFE's people are its strength," he said. "Thanks for your hard work as we continue to embrace service as our hallmark. Bring your courage, be each other's wingman and let's keep the momentum rolling."

## Warriors of the Week



Tech. Sgt. LaTanya Dinkins

**Unit:** Det. 3, 401st AEW  
**Time in service:** 13 years  
**Time at Rhein-Main:** 4 months  
**Duty Title:** Chief of supply  
**Home base:** Moody Air Force Base, Ga.  
**Hometown:** Baltimore, Md.  
**Hobbies:** Running, reading and bowling  
**What has been your best AF experience?**  
 Education and travel. She is 9 credits away from a bachelor's degree.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Smith

**Unit:** Det. 3, 401st AEW  
**Time in service:** 15 years  
**Time at Rhein-Main:** 3 weeks  
**Duty Title:** NCOIC, information management  
**Home base:** Minot Air Force Base, N.D.  
**Hometown:** Danville, Ill.  
**Hobbies:** Hunting and fishing  
**What has been your best AF experience?**  
 Deploying to Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia and serving with a very tight-knit unit.

## First call-to-service airmen graduate from basic training

The first person to enlist into the Air Force under the National Call to Service program graduated from Basic Military Training on Nov. 14 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Airman Hector Barreto of Ingleside, Texas, joined seven other airmen graduating who were among the first to take advantage of the Air Force's 15-month active-duty enlistment.

The program's enlistees comprise 1 percent of the Air Force's fiscal 2004 goal of 37,000 enlisted accessions. They incur the same eight-year military-service obligation as traditional four- and six-year enlistees.

The 15-month active-duty enlistment period begins after the completion of basic and technical training. The initial enlistment is followed by either a 24-month active-duty extension or selected regular Reserve duty. The recruit chooses how he or she spends the remainder of the military-service obligation — active duty, selective regular Reserve, inactive Ready Reserve or other national-service programs designated by the secretary of defense.

The recruits will serve in one of 29 career specialties and receive one of three incentives that include a \$5,000 bonus, \$10,000 in college-loan repayment, or education benefits mirroring the Montgomery GI Bill program, officials said.

*(Courtesy Air Force Print News)*

## Executive leadership program

The Department of Defense has allocated a minimum of two Air Force nominees to participate in the 2004 Executive Leadership Development Program, scheduled to begin in Sept. 2004.

This program is designed specifically for highly motivated, active duty officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, commitment to public service, integrity and who have an interest in moving into senior management positions.

While placed in simulated environments, these officers must be able to operate in real-life situations which involve short deadlines, be receptive to a unique training methodology whereby the participants assume responsibility for their learning, and have the ability to conceptualize and analyze problems effectively.

Military participants contribute a vital perspective on the missions, operations culture and customs of the military and in turn, learn from their civilian counterparts and senior managers/executives. These shared experiences enrich both military and civilian participants who are being groomed for further leadership roles.

To be eligible, an officer must be in the grade of major and have completed squadron officer school and intermediate developmental education, either in-residence or by correspondence/seminar. Active duty military personnel must apply to HQ AFPC/DPAPE no later than Feb. 15.

Additional information is available on the Air Force Personnel Center website at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme).

For further questions or application to the program, contact the military personnel flight at 330-7448. *(Courtesy of AFPC)*



(Above) Pfc. Nicholas Chappell, an information systems specialist with the 1st Personnel Command, augmented the 64th Replacement Company when the R&R program began. (Left) Bradley Polhemus, son of Lt. Col. Michael Polhemus, 726th Air Mobility Squadron commander, and his wife Heidi handed out 'goodie' bags to the first group of soldiers taking R&R.



(Above) More than 16,000 soldiers have taken advantage of the Army's R&R program since it began Sept. 26. The 64th Replacement Company and the 726th Air Mobility

## Still 'The Gateway to Europe'

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Matt Summers  
Public Affairs

It's been nearly two months since the Army dusted off a program that hadn't seen full-scale action since the Vietnam War.

Since then, more than 16,000 soldiers on one-year tours supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom have taken advantage of the service's Rest and Recuperation Program, better known as R&R.

With only two weeks notice, the 64th Replacement Company at Rhein-Main put their motto "The Gateway to Europe" to the test in preparation for an operation that will eventually dwarf the number of regular customers served.

"My soldiers and civilians are proud of

what they do and we're honored to take on this monumental task," said Maj. Lisiane Valentine, 64th RC commander. "The crazy hours have been tough, but excellence is what our 'team' has demonstrated."

Manpower issues, quirky arrival times and continuing to provide quality service to all customers have challenged the company at times, according to Valentine.

The company continues to process soldiers and their families PCSing to and from Germany, soldiers deploying to other contingencies, casualties returning to home station and the feeding of military and civilian personnel coming, going and staying on Rhein-Main.

The seven-day a week R&R operation requires an additional 24 soldiers to augment the 64th RC, so getting new soldiers up to

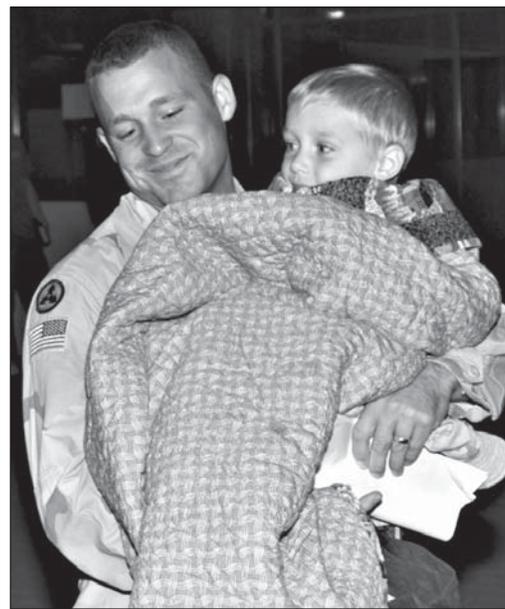
speed is essential. The arrival of many flights in the wee hours of the morning has forced the company to completely restructure work schedules with no relief in site, as officials plan to continue the R&R program as long as troops are supporting OIF.

"Helping to take care of soldiers is the 'name of our game,'" said 1st Sgt. Willie Lemons, 64th RC. "We want to make life as simple as possible for these soldiers, expedite the process and let them take advantage of some leisure time."

Soldiers from the 64th RC meet each R&R aircraft at the passenger terminal. They also man the in-



Army Reserve Rodriguez, 464 Company, processing soldiers at tent city.



*(Above) Spc. John Arquette, 181st Transportation Battalion, shares a long-awaited moment with his son Gavin. To a person, the soldiers working the R&R mission at Rhein-Main say moments like this makes the long hours and hard work worth it.*

*Squadron have been there every step of the way. Soldiers receive briefings when they arrive at Rhein-Main and when they head back downrange.*

processing center at tent city.

Company personnel brief soldiers staying in Germany for R&R on several items such as safety concerns, leisure activities available and when to report back to Rhein-Main for transportation back downrange. When soldiers return to tent city following their leave, 64th RC personnel sign them in from leave, prepare them for boarding an aircraft and brief them on how they will return to the theater of operations.



*Sgt. Gilberto Rodriguez, 64th Replacement Company, assists a soldier off*

“We’re soldiers 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Spc. Dusty

Bissell, 64th RC human resource specialist. “It’s all worth it knowing that

we’re helping our fellow soldiers out.”

Sgt. Gilberto Rodriguez, an Army Reservist with the 464th Replacement Company in Kaiserslautern, the sister unit to the 64th RC, deployed to Rhein-Main in the early stages of the R&R program to provide assistance.

“It’s an honor to serve,” he said. “It feels great to help out these soldiers who are supporting us downrange.”

Back on the home front, Valentine says the support of Team Rhein-Main makes it possible for her company to “provide world-class service to America’s heroes.”

She said support from agencies across the base, from Army and Air Force units to contractors and private organizations, has been key to the program’s success.



*1st Lt. Rosemary Reed, 64th Replacement Company, briefs soldiers in tent city prior their departure for Kuwait. Several thousand soldiers have taken advantage of R&R leave in Germany.*

“Being an Army unit on an Air Force base, you can never expect the outstanding service and support that we’ve received,” she said. “There’s no better place to be than Rhein-Main.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

## Touring the USO

*The Honorable Edward Powell Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Service Organizations, talks with 1st Lt. Eric McGreevy, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, during a visit to the passenger service terminal Tuesday. Powell visited several USO offices in Germany, but spent a majority of his time at the Rhein-Main office in the passenger terminal. Since January, the office staff and volunteers have served more than 448,000 customers transiting the Air Force's largest passenger terminal. The USO is always looking for volunteers. To find out more, call 330-6424.*

# Rumsfeld: *Up-or-out policy 'lousy idea'*

*SECDEF examines ways to lengthen average tours; expand years of service*

**By Kathleen Rhem**

American Forces Press Service

**TOKYO** — The U.S. military's "up-or-out" personnel policy is "a lousy idea," Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said in Yokosuka, Japan, Saturday.

Speaking aboard the USS Blue Ridge, flagship of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet, the secretary told sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines that he believes the practice of forcing people to separate or retire if they are not promoted is wrong for the military.

"There's something wrong with a process that (forces people to retire in their 40s)," he said. Other reasons to consider longer military careers are that people are living longer and that knowledge and experience are becoming more and more valuable, he said.

Rumsfeld made brief remarks and took questions aboard the ship. Rumsfeld's comments included remarks on the situation in Iraq and the importance of the U.S. mili-

tary presence in Asia. He also spoke in depth about a number of personnel issues.

Aside from the up-or-out policy, Rumsfeld shared his thoughts on troop rotations, the balance of the active and reserve components, and civilian versus military people in various jobs.

Regarding assignments, Rumsfeld said he believes military servicemembers change assignments too quickly to "clean up their own mistakes." He said he is concerned people "just trip along the tops of the waves and never really get engaged."

He said he hopes to be able to lengthen the average length of military tours and expand the number of years people are able to serve in the military.

He expounded on the virtues of the total-force concept as "the right concept."

"We need to have active-duty forces, and we need to have ready Reserve and Guard forces that are capable of supplementing the active force during a period of spike in activity, as we have now in Iraq and Afghanistan," Rumsfeld said. "The problem we've got is that we have an imbalance. We have people in the Guard and Reserve where we really need to have those

skills on active duty," he said. "And we probably have some skills on active duty that would be better off in the Guard and Reserves."

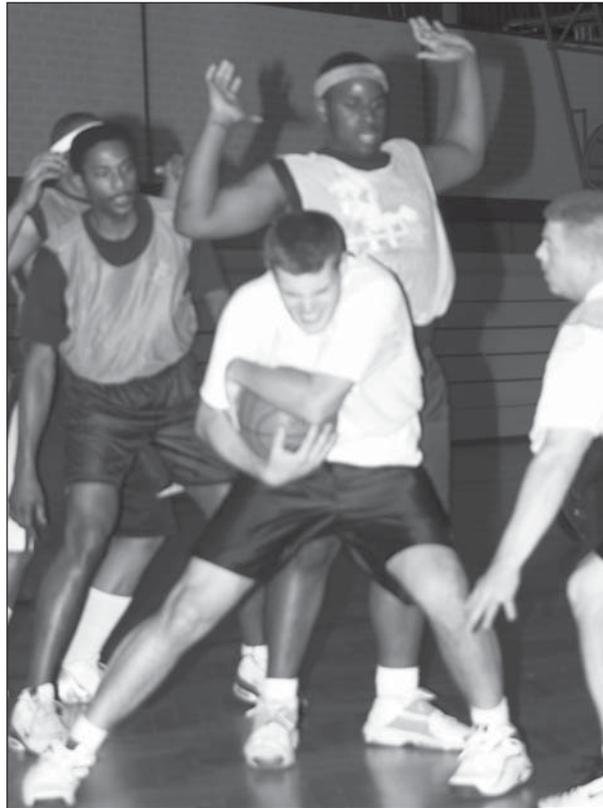
A decrease in the total number of U.S. military forces is not likely, Rumsfeld said; however, an increase may eventually be in order.

"One of the things we can do is increase the size of the force," he said, "but we've got a lot of things we can do before we increase the size of the force."

Current commitments, such as in Bosnia, Kosovo and the Sinai, need to be looked at very closely, he said. Officials are also looking closely at moving some jobs into the civilian workforce.

"At the moment, we have something like 300,000 men and women in uniform doing jobs that everyone agrees could be done by civilians," Rumsfeld said, acknowledging it makes more sense to keep some jobs in the military that technically could be done by civilians.

"There (are) a lot of things we can do to reduce the stress on the force," he said. "The people part of it is so critically important that we've got to make sure we do it right."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

## Championship form

*(Left) Jacob Strawn, 469th Air Base Group, wraps up a rebound during the championship game of the Rhein-Main Intramural Basketball League Preseason Tournament Monday night. The 469th ABG defeated American Forces Network-Hessen 59-53 in the finale. (Above) Marcus Redmond, 469th ABG, hits for two of his game-high 25 points in the championship game. The intramural regular season began Wednesday and runs through Dec. 10.*

## Sports Briefs

### Youth sports

Registration for youth basketball and cheerleading runs through Dec. 31.

The basketball season begins in January. Basketball is for children ages 5-15 and gymnastics is for ages 10-15.

For more information, call the youth center at 330-7125.

### Varsity basketball

The Rhein-Main Rockets Varsity Basketball Team beat Wiesbaden 72-69 Nov. 8 at the base fitness center. Forward Eddie Lawler led the Rockets with 13 points, while guard Mark Cave netted 12. Guard Marcus Redmond dropped in 11.

The Rockets weren't so lucky in action Saturday against SHAPE from Belgium. The visitors handed Rhein-Main a 91-75 defeat. Lawler again led the Rockets with 24 points, while Redmond and Doug Boyce hit for 16 and 15 respectively.

Hanau is the next opponent for the Rockets. Tip off is at 3 p.m. Saturday at the fitness center.

### All conference

Kimberly Kirk, daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Jim Kirk,

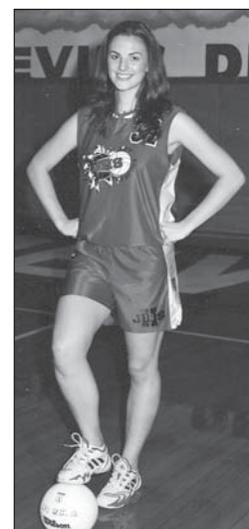
726th Air Mobility Squadron, recently achieved 2003 First-Team All Conference honors in volleyball for Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe.

The 6-foot-2-inch senior hitter/middle blocker was also selected for the 2003 DoDDS European Championship All-Tournament Team.

At the H.H. Arnold High School awards night banquet she was named best hitter, received a team captain award and was recognized for having the most blocks and kills.

She helped the Warriors to a fourth-place finish in the Division 1 DoDDS European Volleyball Championship Tournament.

Kimberly also plays fast-pitch softball as a catcher and shortstop.



**Kimberly Kirk**

**To show how much they care**

*Brandon Hodges (left) and his sister Brittany fill a care package Nov. 14 to send downrange to their father. Twenty families at Halvorsen-Tunner American School at Rhein-Main have members currently deployed. Third-grade teachers Veronica Hodges and Katie Bowker, have been taking donations for more than a month from individuals and several organizations on base to include the dental clinic and commissary.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

**Clothing Drive**

The Chaplains' Service at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center seeks clean, serviceable men's and women's clothing for the services loan closet. The clothing will be used by soldiers from downrange who are treated at the medical center. They are looking for items such as gloves, hats, warm-up suits, sweatpants and shirts. To donate, contact Tech. Sgt. Henry Liverance or drop off donations at Bldg. 343 or at the office of Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Bolon, 469th Air Base Group first sergeant in Bldg. 347.



**Holiday Parade & Base Tree Lighting**  
**Dec. 4**

The Parade begins at 4:30 p.m. at the main gate and finishes at the community bank parking lot. Look for Santa to make an appearance in a horse-drawn sleigh.

A tree-lighting ceremony is set for 5 p.m. near the chapel. The chapel choir will perform and the names of the unit greeting card winners will be announced.



*The Zeppelinhaus will cater refreshments at the chapel following the ceremony.*

WINTER WONDERLAND

86th AIRLIFT WING  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**

Prices: E1 - E4	GS1 - GS6	\$13.00
E5 - E6	GS7 - GS8	\$15.00
E7 - O3	GS9 - GS11	\$19.00
O4 - UP	GS12 - UP	\$23.00

Club members take \$3.00 off prices

Ramstein AB Officers' Club  
5 December 2003, 1800

## Movie & cookout

In celebration of National Military Family Month, several base organizations and businesses sponsor a free movie and cookout beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday in Gateway Gardens.

A free showing of "Harry Potter – Chamber of Secrets," begins at 10 a.m. at the base theater.

For those children not attending the movie, there are games, crafts and activities at the youth center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A free cookout begins at noon continuing until the movie is finished.

Officials request participants pick up tickets at the family support center to help plan for the meal.

For more information, call 330-7992.

## Thanksgiving meal

The 64th Replacement Company Dining Facility presents a Thanksgiving Day meal Thursday.

The meal features baked turkey, sweet ham, fried and baked chicken, prime rib, fried catfish and various fixins.

Hours of operation are:

- Breakfast – 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.
- Thanksgiving Meal – 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Dinner meal – 3 - 4 p.m.

## Chapel Worship

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

■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass takes place at 9 a.m. every Sunday. CCD classes are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Daily Masses are offered Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Penance – 0800-0830 Sunday or by appointment

■ Protestant worship:

Sunday School is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m.

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

For more information please call the chapel at 330-7501.

## Youth Center closed

The Rhein-Main Youth Center will be closed Thursday and Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving.

## Stocking giveaway

From now until Dec. 22, when you bowl three games at the Rocket Bowling Center your name is entered into a drawing for "The World's Largest Christmas Stocking Giveaway."

The winner will be announced Dec. 22. For more details, call the center at 330-7219.

## Bowl all night

The Rocket Bowling Center plays host to a "Millennium Bowl All Nighter" from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Nov. 29.

Bowling and shoe rental are free. This Project CHEER event also features karaoke from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and various games and prizes. The grand prize is an XBOX. The winner must be present.

Although the event is targeted towards single and unaccompanied servicemembers, all Team Rhein-Main members are welcome.

## Thrift Shop

Check out the great deals on winter clothes and household items. The thrift shop is located in Bldg. 340.

Hours are as follows:

- 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
- noon - 6 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of the month
- 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. the last Saturday of every month.

The store will be closed Nov. 27 and Nov. 29.

## Talent show

The youth center sponsors a Family Talent Show from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the youth center gym.

All ages are eligible, but participants must sign up by Dec. 3 and a practice run is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 4.

Winners have a chance to compete by video for prizes at the Air Force level, where top prize is a chance to perform with Tops in Blue.

For more information, call 330-7125.

## Movies at Rhein-Main

**Tonight** - "My Boss's Daughter," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Saturday** - "Dickie Roberts," (PG-13), 5 p.m., and "Cabin Fever," (R), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - "Runaway Jury," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

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

**Thursday** - "Matrix Revolutions," (R), 7 p.m.

**Nov. 28** - "Elf," (PG), 2 p.m., and "Cold Creek Manor," (R), 7 p.m.

**Nov. 29** - "Radio," (PG), 5 p.m. and "Matchstick Men," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 30** - "Pirates of the Caribbean," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Dec. 3 - "Looney Tunes: Back in Action," (PG), 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)

## For sale

For sale: 19" Zenith TV - \$65; microwave (220) - \$40; microwave (110) - \$45; 3-piece leather couch set w/coffee table - \$375; mattress/box spring (queen) - \$350; JVC DVD/Stereo Sys. (220) - \$100. All in good working order. Call Karie at 016099826935.

## Santa workshop

The Halvorsen-Tunmer Parent / Teacher/ Student Association sponsors a Santa Workshop from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10 at the school.

There will be a variety of vendors with holiday gifts for sale in the classroom next to the music room. Pictures with Santa, gifts, crafts and goodies are available to all. There will also be a drawing for a GameBoy-SP and other prizes.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 330-6272.

## Story hour

Story hour at the library is set for 3-4 p.m. Dec. 12 for ages 3-6. Pre-registration is required.

# Christmas markets

*Getting into the holiday season by taking a step back in time*

**By Monika Salfelder**  
Public Affairs

One of the oldest German traditions is Christmas Markets.

The first real "Christkindlesmarkt" was held in 1628 at Nürnberg. Its origins can be traced as far back as 1559 when the tradition of giving children gifts at New Years changed to presenting presents at Christmas.

Christmas Markets have stands which sell a variety of Christmas decorations, handicrafts, ceramics and glass works, as well as food and drinks, of which "Glühwein" (spiced and hot red wine) is the most popular.

The Nürnberg Christmas Market has more than 160 stands and an impressive opening ceremony, during which the "Nürnberg Christkind" recites a prologue, which is accompanied by festive music.

Concerts take place every day of the market. The specialty of the Nürnberg Market is "Nürnberger Christstollen" (Nürnberg Christmas Cake).

The nearest markets to Rhein-Main are Frankfurt and Dreieichenhain, which specialize in "Bethmännchen" (marzipan



Courtesy photo

***Shoppers enjoy one of the more than 160 stands at the Nurnberg Christmas Market, the oldest in Germany.***

cones) and "Quetschenmännchen" (plum figures).

Another famous one, which isn't too far away, is Heidelberg. The Christmas Market there is at the University Plaza (Universitaetsplatz) and you can find nearly 80 wonderfully decorated stands.

Mannheim and Mainz are also rather close. At Mannheim the stands are around the "Wasserturm" (Water Tower), which gives a romantic atmosphere, whereas at Mainz the Christmas Market is on the historical market place in front of "Dom

Sankt Martin" (Saint Martin Cathedral).

Cologne has a bigger variety of Christmas Markets than any other city.

It has five different markets, the biggest of which is located at the famous "Kölner Dom" (Cologne Cathedral) and consists of 160 stands. One of the five is in medieval style.

Not all of the Christmas Markets have a long tradition. For instance, Trier, although Germany's oldest city, has only had a Christmas Market since 1980.

Rothenburg ob der Tauber, also a medieval city, has a smaller Christmas Market and is only about a two-hour drive away.

If you haven't been to a Christmas Market, you should plan on visiting at least one during your assignment to Germany.

The Tickets and Tours Office in the Community Connections offers weekend trips to several of the Christmas Markets.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Tickets and Tours at 330-7459.

## Christmas Market locations and hours of operation

**Dreieichenhain:**

Dec. 6-7 and 13-14  
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays

**Frankfurt (Romer):**

Wednesday thru Dec. 22  
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

**Koln:**

Monday thru Dec. 23  
11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily

**Mainz:**

Thursday thru Dec. 23  
11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays - Fridays  
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays

**Mannheim:**

Thursday thru Dec. 23  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

**Nurnberg:**

Nov. 29 thru Dec. 24  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays - Wednesdays  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays  
10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays

**Heidelberg:**

Thursday thru Dec. 22  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

**Rothenburg ob der Tauber:**

Nov. 28 thru Dec. 21  
12:30 to 7 p.m. Mondays - Fridays  
10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays

**Trier:**

Monday thru Dec. 22  
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays - Saturdays  
11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sundays

**Wiesbaden:**

Wednesday thru Dec. 23  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays - Fridays  
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturdays  
10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays

**Wurzburg:**

Nov. 28 thru Dec. 23  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

**Fraport:**

Nov. 28 thru Dec. 26  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily