

the **G**ateway

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

Training in flames

Senior Airman Jason Tucker (left) and Airman 1st Class Jayson Conroy, 469th Air Base Group firefighters, practice extinguishing a fuel-spill fire at the Frankfurt International Airport fire training area Aug. 24. The training gives the firefighters skills needed to fight an aircraft fire.

News Brief

Slow down

The 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight has increased its efforts to control the speed of vehicles traveling between the Main Gate and Gateway Gardens on Ellis Road.

The speed limit varies between a low of 30 kilometers per hour (19 miles per hour) and a maximum of 70 kilometers per hour (44 miles per hour).

Individuals who violate the speed limit may be issued a DD Form 1408, Armed Forces Traffic Ticket.

All personnel must present their copy of a traffic citation to their commander, first sergeant or flight chief the next duty day following the receipt of the citation.

CSAF visits USAFE, speaks on decreased Air Force manning

By Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – Although the Air Force is required to reduce personnel manning numbers, a decrease in recruiting rather than forced reductions, is the right way to make it happen, the service's senior uniformed leader said during a visit here Aug. 30.

Throughout this process, ensuring America's Airmen know they are appreciated is a number one priority, said Gen. John P. Jumper, the Air Force chief of staff.

"Retention and recruiting for the Air Force throughout this crisis over the last

three years has remained superb," the general said. "Even after Stop-Loss was lifted and people feared that Airmen would be leaving the Air Force in great numbers, especially in the Guard and Reserve, it just didn't happen.

"And so we find ourselves in a position where we have 20,000 people more than we should have by law," he continued. "I want to try and deal with it without any forced reductions in the force. I don't want anybody to be forced to leave that doesn't want to. The Secretary of the Air Force, (Dr. James G. Roche), and I are ab-

See **CSAF**, Page 2



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

CDU visit

Col. Bradley Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, describes the partnership between Rhein-Main Air Base and Frankfurt International Airport to Helmut Heuser (left) and Uwe Becker, members of the Frankfurt Christian Democratic Union party, during a visit to the base Monday. The group visited the base to continue German-American relations in Hessen.

Air Force Clubs: "Get In On It"

This year during its annual membership drive, Air Force Clubs is asking club members to "Get In On It".

"What we mean by "Get In On It" is for new and existing members to take advantage of all that their club has to offer," said Ed Nunn, Rhein-Main club manager. "There are a lot of benefits that club membership provides, but folks may not be aware."

The 2004 Air Force Club Membership Campaign kicked off on Wednesday and runs through Nov. 30. As always, the goal is to increase worldwide club membership and inform the Air Force community about the benefits of club membership as well as the various activities the clubs offer.

The "Get In On It" campaign offers free cash rewards to both existing as well as new members. Both new and current members are eligible for club card account credits, being distributed during prize drawings held by each major command.

During the campaign, Bank One (sponsor of the Air Force Club card) is offering a free cash rewards program. Members earn two points for all purchases in services activities as well as the base exchange. They earn one point for any purchase off base. As points accumulate, members re-

deem points for select merchandise.

"Each MAJCOM is awarding a total of six prizes," said Michael Wage, 469th Air Base Group Services Director. "There is one grand prize drawing for \$3,000; two drawings for \$1,000 and three drawings for \$500 for a total of \$6,500. There is also a drawing for new members and one for current members."

For more information about the "Get In On It" membership campaign, see your base club manager. (*Federal endorsement of sponsor not intended.*)



Air Force Clubs Membership Benefits

- Air Force Club members find a home away from home at any Air Force Club. Whether Air Force Club members are on temporary duty, vacation or in the midst of a PCS move, their welcome is assured in any Air Force Club.

- Air Force members understand the importance of maintaining esprit de corps through military tradition. Pinning on ceremonies, dining-ins, Air Force Balls, promotion and awards ceremonies are made special by Air Force Clubs. Air Force Clubs are the center of every community celebration. Holiday parties, brunches, and special events are planned to bring Air Force families and friends together.

- Air Force Clubs feature full cashier services that allow members access to free check cashing, on the spot dues and

MasterCard payments, and in overseas locations, currency exchange.

- Each year Air Force Clubs and Bank One demonstrate their support to Air Force members and their families pursuing their educational goals. Air Force club members and their families from around the world submit essays to compete for \$25,000 in scholarships.

- The *Members First* program was implemented Air Force-wide Oct. 1, 2002. This program rewards membership by providing discounts to members. The program enhances the value of club membership, recognizes that creating membership value is essential to club success, and underscores the fact that membership must have exclusive benefits.

One Team, One Fight

Teamwork is essential for any group or organization to be successful. It's no different here for Team Rhein-Main.

Being one of the newest members of the team and the Army representative, I wanted to seize the opportunity to address the relationship between the Air Force and Army.

Since my arrival the night of "The Flood", I've been inspired by the cooperation, communication and professionalism of all the personnel working and residing on Rhein-Main.

When the rain started to fall July 23, it appeared to me to be just another storm that would come and go without any cause for alarm – as they often do in Germany. Walking outside of my office an hour later and stepping into six inches of water made me quickly realize this was no ordinary storm. It wasn't long after when the fire alarms started to sound and emergency vehicles began to roll. What ensued was crisis intervention at its finest.

Within a few hours of the rain starting, Team Rhein-Main was quickly working to determine how to protect personnel, property and continue operations without having any negative impact on unit missions.

Meetings were conducted throughout the night with continuous communications amongst the leadership. Volunteers quickly engaged to provide assistance where needed. Thus, what could have been a real disaster turned out to be an opportunity to showcase the great talents of the team.

The flight crews and leadership of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron were abso-

lutely amazing that night.

Already airborne in route for Rhein-Main were several flights, one of which contained 300 1st Armored Division Soldiers returning home after 15-months of combat in Iraq.

Even though the terminal was "under water", the 726th AMS team's quick thinking and hard work allowed the plane to land, process through an alternate terminal and the Soldiers to return home to their families without the delay of a diversion to another location. Later that night, other flights carrying Rest and Recuperation Soldiers returning to Germany to begin a well-deserved break were also able to process through Rhein-Main without delay.

Away from the terminal, Pacific Architects and Engineers personnel and base firefighters were working miracles of their own.

The single Soldier quarters for the 64th Replacement Company had four feet of water in the basement. Although Soldiers don't reside in the basement, there were personal belongings, as well as a recreation room where Soldiers would relax and play pool during their off-duty time. Also located in the basement are several rooms where equipment is stored.

Within a few hours of the storm passing, this team had acquired pumps from Ramstein and was busily working to rid the basement of the water in an effort to minimize damage.

By daybreak, most of the water was gone and nearly 900 Army customers were



*By Maj. Jerry Wood
64th Replacement
Company commander*

Commanders Action Line

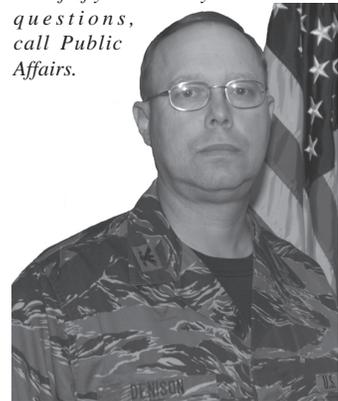
The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

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 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

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the Gateway

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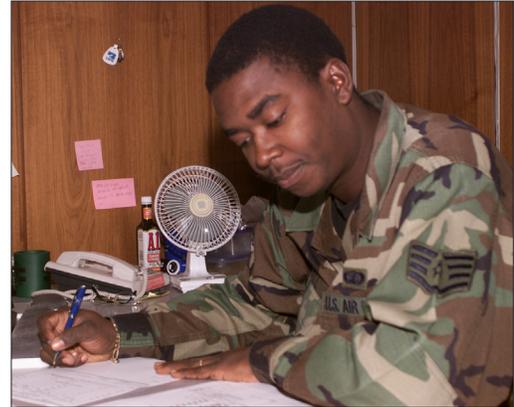
*The deadline for the Sept. 17
edition of the Gateway is
4 p.m., Sept. 9.*

Warriors of the Week



Staff Sgt. Rachel Gardner

Unit: 469th ABG Finance Flight
Time in Air Force: 8 years
Time at Rhein-Main: 12 months
Duty Title: NCO in charge of customer support
Hometown: Clearwater, Fla.
Hobbies: Reading and studying politics, swimming and playing with my kids.
What has been your best Air Force experience?
 Getting the chance to travel and show my children different cultures outside the United States.



Staff Sgt. Tim Hall

Unit: 469th ABG Finance Flight
Time in Air Force: 8 years
Time at Rhein-Main: 16 months
Duty Title: NCO in charge of customer service
Hometown: Greeneville, Miss.
Hobbies: Playing all sports, traveling and playing "bones".
What has been your best Air Force experience?
 Having the opportunity to travel the world and meeting my wife.

TEAM, from Page 4 -

served without any negative impact to them or their anxious families.

This type of teamwork and cooperation between the Army and Air Force is truly a blessing.

Teamwork will continue to be essential to the successful closure of Rhein-Main. Whether it's Air Force flight crews working hand-in-hand with Army R&R team members, Air Force personnel enjoying some fine chow in the 64th RC Dining Facility or families working together in Gateway Gardens to help beautify the community, teamwork and cooperation between us will be the key ingredient to success.

I'm proud to be a member of this great team and look forward to the exciting year ahead as we move ever closer to the closure of this historic air base. Keep up the great work. One Team...One Fight!

Cracking down on drugs

By 1st Lt. Uriah Orland
Public Affairs

A multinational law enforcement team conducted a narcotics suppression operation to deter use, possession and distribution of drugs at Rhein-Main Aug. 21-22.

The team, headed by the Air Force Office of Special Investigation Detachment 515, included six members of the 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight, 18 personnel from the German police and an Army military working dog team from the 230th Military Police Company from Baumholder, Germany.

The operation was conducted from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. at Gateway Gardens.

A total of 96 cars and 151 individuals were searched during the six-hour period.

"Every vehicle that came through the gate was searched manually by the team members, as well as randomly by three different drug dogs," said Staff Sgt. Michael Logan, 469th ABG Security Forces non-commission officer in charge of investigations.

In addition to the searches, the German police conducted background reviews on all individuals, checking for criminal histories.

The operation was hailed as a success, with all agencies involved working exceptionally well together and paving the way for future cooperation, according to Sergeant Logan.

"An operation of this magnitude demonstrates not only the readiness of your law enforcement to do what is expected of them, but also that nothing will go by the wayside as we prepare to draw down and eventually close Rhein-Main," said Sergeant Logan.

40 years of service

Logistics professional plans to kick back, relax in retirement

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

Thomas Jefferson once said, "I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."

Charles "Chuck" Kotyrba, 469th Air Base Logistics Flight, says the same thing.

After 40 years of government service, Mr. Kotyrba has decided to lay the pen down and retire. As he does, he looks back and feels the best thing he could have done was serving in the military for 20 years and then as a government service employee for another 20 years. His formal retirement ceremony was Aug. 20.

Mr. Kotyrba was drafted into the Army in October 1963. Following boot camp he attended advanced individual training at the U.S. Army Veterinary Food Inspection Service School in Chicago.

"The Army exposed me to people from across the country," said Mr. Kotyrba. "One kid didn't even know how to tie a tie," he added as he made the

motions as if he was tying a tie.

In November 1967 he received a one-year assignment to serve in Vietnam as a medic assigned to the 28th Combat Support Hospital. In November 1969, he returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty.

The military offers many people a variety of different experiences and people join or choose to stay in the military for many different reasons, said Mr. Kotyrba.

"What other job do you know where you would have the opportunity to clean a commode," he added jokingly. "I mean from the inside out. That's where I got my nickname 'commode head.'"

Before joining the military, his home was in upstate New York, but in the Army he changed his home town to San Antonio, he said. Nowadays, he sees himself as a "Texas-hillbilly gun nut."

"Even the army military police thought I was crazy," he said. "I used to drive a lime-green convertible Fiat. The car had a gun rack with a shotgun in it."

"The MP's said I had to take down the shotgun – in town everyone thought I was a hillbilly with a gun – but on base I was crazy," he added with a laugh.

He said he doesn't regret anything in his life.

"You can't look back at what could have been done," he said. "You have to keep looking forward."

"In my life I have seen everything from the invention of the ball point pen to a man on the moon," he said. But he



Mr. Kotyrba

feels that he really has made a difference with his work and the time he has given to the government.

"I don't care what anyone else says, the military has done me well," he said.

After his last day of work, which was Aug. 31, he isn't sure what he plans to do.

He has one year left on his housing agreement here in Germany and may stay here longer. However, he may return to his house in San Antonio.

"Maybe I will spend the summers here and the winters in Texas, I'm just not sure yet," he said.

He said that you need to know where you want to go and take the time to get there. So he will just listen to the grass grow until he does.

"But while I am here in Germany I'm going to drink beer and eat bratwurst," he concluded.

Career highlights

- Drafted into Army in October 1963
- Served as medic in 28th Combat Support Hospital, Vietnam, from November 1967- December 1968
- Served as ambulance company commander, Vietnam, November 1969 - March 1970
- Commissioned as 1st Lt., U.S. Army Medical Service Reserve, March 1970
- Achieved Masters of Business Administration from Boston University in 1977
- Retired as major, December 1983
- Contracting specialist at San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, from September 1985 to September 1994
- Contracting officer at Rhein-Main from September 2002 to August 2004

The few, the proud compete at R-M

Marine security guards test skills, knowledge

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Eric Donner
Public Affairs

Seventeen Marines from embassies and consulates throughout Europe came to Rhein-Main for the first day of the Company H Marine's Security Guard Skills Competition Aug. 23.

Marine Sgt. Zachary Peters, assigned to the Bucharest, Romania embassy, finished first in the competition after completing the final two days at Hanau, Germany, and Belleau Wood, France. Sergeant Peter's score will be compared with other high achievers at the battalion level for a battalion award. In past years the Marine with the highest rating received a meritorious promotion, according to officials.

The Marines in the competition are assigned to Company H, Marine Security Guard battalion, Quantico, Va., and serve at consulates and embassies in 14 countries in southern and western Europe.

Company H is one of two companies in the MSG that hold an annual skills competition. The other is Company A, also assigned to the European region.

"The competition brings the Marine Corps-ness back in to them," said Marine Staff Sgt. Rivera Hernandez, Frankfurt Consulate. "It also breaks up the monotony of everyday activities."

The first day of competition included practical and written tests in physical training, weapons handling, arrest techniques, pressure-point control, nuclear, biological and chemical techniques, and first-aid skills.

Day two included weapons firing at the firing range at

Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau. Day three involved a professional military education test about the battle at Belleau Wood, France, during World War I and an awards ceremony.

"It provides a means to challenge the best of the Marine Security Guard detachments as well as providing a venue by which to share ideas and



Marine Sgt. Avery Smith, a security guard at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, disassembles and function checks an M-4 rifle and M-9 pistol during the security guard skills competition Aug. 23 at the Rhein-Main Fitness Center.



Marine Sgt. Jason Peterson, a security guard at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria, applies a field dressing during the first-aid skills portion of the competition Aug. 23 at the base fitness center.

procedures relating to operational proficiency and security," said Marine Capt. Sean Riley, executive officer company H, Frankfurt Consulate.

The competition, begun in 2000, tests skills taught during initial training and used daily on the job.

Marines assigned to the MSG battalion are on a special duty assignment and represent the United States in more than 100 countries, according to the U.S. Marine Corps Web page.

To be selected for the program, Marines go through a screening process that includes interviews, evaluations and inspections to ensure they are qualified for the position. Once selected, they attend the MSG course at Quantico, Va.

Currently there are more than 1,000 Marines assigned to 121 detachments organized into seven regional companies, according to the Web page.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

Fitting tribute

David Fisher, President of the Steuben-Schurz Society, (left) and Geeta Pasi, Deputy U.S. Consulate General, unveil a sign notifying motorists on Autobahn A5 of the Berlin Airlift Memorial, near Rhein-Main Air Base, during a ceremony Wednesday. The Steuben-Schurz Society, the oldest German-American friendship organization, donated money to the German Highway Department to erect the sign in honor of those who gave their lives during the Berlin Airlift in 1948-49.



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.

Tenant closure dates

Following is a list of tentative closure dates for tenant units and their facilities at Rhein-Main. Keep in mind these dates may change based on mission needs:

- Halvorsen-Tunner American School – July 15
- European Support Activity – Personnel began departing in June 2004. Facility closes and final personnel depart in October 2004.
- Defense Courier Service – Closes no later than June 30, 2005.
- 64th Replacement Company Dining Facility – Last day of service is Sept. 30, 2005.
- AAFES base exchange and food court – Last day of service Sept. 30, 2005. Shoppette, Lil Tony's and base theater – Sept. 1, 2005. The barber and beauty shops, TKS, Sixt Rental, Sid's and Willi Geck Gift Shop are all businesses on contract. The businesses located within the BX currently have the same closure plan as the facility, but traffic and profitability will determine their final closure plans. The retail and food court facilities in the Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal will close when the terminal closes in October 2005.

*The 2004 Air Force Ball
57 Years of Faithful Service
"Defending America's Freedoms"*

Friday, 24 Sep 04, Ramstein Officer's Club

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

TICKETS

<i>E-1 to E-4: \$10</i>	<i>E-5 to E-6: \$15</i>
<i>E-7 to E-9: \$25</i>	<i>All Civ: \$25</i>
<i>O-1 to O-3: \$25</i>	<i>O-4 & up: \$30</i>

See your Group POC for more Information

The local POC is Master Sgt. John Smith,
469th Air Base Group Fire Department.
Call Sergeant Smith or e-mail him to sign up.

Rhein-Main blotter

compiled by Staff Sgt. Mark Long

Aug. 2 — The security forces control center received a complaint about a computer with possible pornography on it. Patrols found more than 150 unauthorized images on the computer. The person was confronted with the evidence and resigned his position.

Aug. 5 — An individual reported that their vehicle was damaged in the parking lot of the Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal. The estimated cost of damage to the vehicle is approximately \$300 to \$600. At this time, there are no suspects, leads or witnesses.

Aug. 6 — An individual called the police for assistance because another individual had choked her. The suspect was apprehended and fire department personnel were dispatched to provide medical treatment to the victim.

Aug. 7 — An individual reported to police that his car was vandalized at a night club in Hanau. The individual said the passenger window was shattered and his stereo, compact discs and other numerous items were taken.

Aug. 8 — Security forces received an anonymous call

from a female who said she saw a naked individual leaving her building and running down the road in Gateway Gardens. Patrols responded to the scene and found that the individual had fled from an apartment after being assaulted and thrown out. The suspect was found near the room where he was staying.

Aug. 8 — An airman reported that one of his tires had been vandalized while parked at the Gateway Gardens dormitories. The airman said an individual entered his apartment and would not leave. Fifteen minutes later, the suspect left the room. The airmen said shortly afterward he noticed his tire had been cut and was going flat.

Aug. 8 — An individual reported his vehicle was vandalized in the parking lot of Bldg. 166. Damage to the vehicle consisted of a large scratch to the driver's side of the vehicle. Estimated cost of the damage is \$300.

Aug. 11 — The fire department reported damage to a government vehicle. The vehicle was accidentally damaged during a drill. The estimated cost of damage to the vehicle is unknown. The damage consists of a panel broken off the top driver's side.

Aug. 12 — An individual re-

**Crime Stop Hotline
330-7171**

ported that vandalism was done in the men's locker room at the fitness center. The vandalism was explicit in nature. Estimated cost of repairs is unknown. There are no further leads, suspects or witnesses.

Aug. 13 — Two individuals were observed via a surveillance system placing a cloth around another individual's head. Patrols found that the victim had been assaulted downtown.

Aug. 14 — A staff sergeant reported that an unknown individual had gained entry to her apartment. Upon arrival patrols performed a search of the area with negative findings. There were no witnesses or leads.

Aug. 21 — An individual was charged with driving while impaired. They were stopped during random vehicle searches at one of the housing gates. During the search, a patrolman smelled alcoholic emitting from the person. The person was administered an intoxilyzer test and found to be over the limit and charged accordingly.



DUI Tracker

Days without DUIs (As of Tuesday)

469th Air Base Group

129 days

726th Air Mobility Squadron

218 days

64th Replacement Company

109 days

Tenant Units

74 days

Others

36 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.





Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

‘Iron Mike’

Mike Jones, 469th Air Base Group Clinic, takes a swing during the Team Rhein-Main Golf Tournament sponsored by the 469th ABG Top IV Aug. 26 at Rheinblick Golf Course in Weisbaden. Eighteen teams competed and the winning foursome included Thomas Hall Jr., Jeremy Long, Samay Thabaun and John Watson. The team shot an 11-under 61.

Sports briefs

Youth sports

The Rhein-Main youth soccer and flag-football seasons kick off Sept. 11.

Call 330-7125 for more information.

Massage therapy

The fitness center offers massage therapist appointments available every Friday from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Call the fitness center at 330-6062 for more information or to make an appointment.

Rifle shooter wins military’s only medal

By Tim Hippi

Special to American Forces
Press Service

ATHENS, Greece – Army Maj. Michael Anti won a silver medal Aug. 22 in men’s 50-meter three-position rifle shooting in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

“I wish I had the gold, but I’m just excited to have a medal,” said Anti, 40, of Winterville, N.C., who is assigned to the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga. “We have such a great unit and such a great Army for them to allow me to do this. There are people overseas risking their life to allow me to compete here, so it’s a big deal.”

China’s Zhanbo Jia won the gold medal with 1,264.5 points. Anti, a marksman in the Army World Class Athlete Program, took the silver medal with 1,263.1 points. Austria’s Christian Planer claimed the bronze medal with a 1,262.8 total.

Anti entered the final round in seventh place. After shooting marks of 10.4, 8.8, 9.3 and 10.6, he moved into fourth place with a 10.8 on his fifth of 10 shots in the finale.

An 8.5 on his ensuing shot, however, cost him dearly. He quickly rebounded with marks of 10.4 and 10.8 to move into third place. Then an 8.1 dropped him back to fourth. He capped the performance with a 10.4.

“I’m just thrilled to death that I won the silver with my final,” Anti said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

Eatin’ up yards

Matthew Heistan, 726th Air Mobility Squadron receiver, goes for big yardage as teammate Jason Eighmey looks on in intramural flag football action Aug. 23 vs. the Consulate. The Consulate won 21-6. Five teams compete in the base intramural league. The regular season runs through Sept. 22. The top four finishers will move into the playoffs.

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.

CAIB meeting

The Rhein-Main Community Action Information Board meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the conference room of Bldg. 347.

Anyone with an issue or concern they would like to see addressed can e-mail Wanda Pohlman or Judith Maughan or call the family support center at 330-7992.

Oktoberfest

The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight sponsors the final Oktoberfest celebration at Rhein-Main from 5-9 p.m. Sept. 17 in Gateway Gardens.

The event includes free bratwurst and brotchen, a volksmarch, human foosball, bouncy castles and a kinderplatz where kids can enjoy rootbeer floats and other kid-specific activities.

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.



Participants can also purchase the official Rhein-Main Oktoberfest stein for \$10.

Friday feast

The family support center sponsors their monthly "Friday Feast," Sept. 24 at the Gasthaus Rudolph in Liederbach.

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

The Give Parents a Break program is set for 6:30 to 9 p.m. Sept. 24 at the child development center. The program is open for children 6 weeks to the 5th grade. Referrals are made through commanders, first sergeant, chapel, clinic, family advocacy, family support center or CDC.

Call 330-7017 or 330-7992 for more information.

Walking tour

The family support center offers a "rain or shine" walking tour of Frankfurt beginning at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 16 at the shoppette parking lot.

The tour covers use of public transportation and provides a brief history of Frankfurt. Participants should wear civilian clothes and comfortable walking shoes. The FSC staff suggests bringing at least 25 Euros for lunch and extras.

Spa trip

The family support center sponsors a trip to the Taunus Therme in Bad Homburg at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 22.

The Japanese-style spa includes hot tubs, Jacuzzis, saunas and outdoor and indoor pools. Admission is paid by the family support center and community spouses club.

Participants should meet at the shoppette at 5:30 p.m. to carpool.

Bowling league

The Winter Bowling League at the Rocket Bowling Center begins Sept. 19. There is a kickoff meeting set for Sept. 12.

Call 330-7219 for more details.

At the club

The Zeppelinhaus offers a homestyle

Movies at Rhein-Main

Tonight - "The Chronicles of Riddick," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Saturday - "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," (PG-13), 5 p.m. and "The Manchurian Candidate," (R), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - "Two Brothers," (PG), 7 p.m.

Monday - "Shrek 2," (PG), 2 p.m., "Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban," (PG), 5 p.m.

Wednesday - "Without a Paddle," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Sept. 10 - "Troy," (R), 7 p.m.

Sept. 11 - "White Chicks," (PG-13), 5 p.m., and "Collateral," (R), 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 - "The Notebook," (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 - "Anacondas: The Hunt For The Blood Orchid," (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

buffet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. This is also the free buffet for club members with September birthdays.

An Italian buffet is set for Sept. 15 and a Greek buffet for Sept. 22.

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

For more details, call 330-7120.

Cooking class

The family support center sponsors a German cooking class from 6 - 8 p.m. Sept. 20 at Our House, Bldg. 627B-2 in Gateway Gardens.

Participants can learn how to prepare wurstsalad (sausage salad) and bratkartoffel (fried potatoes).

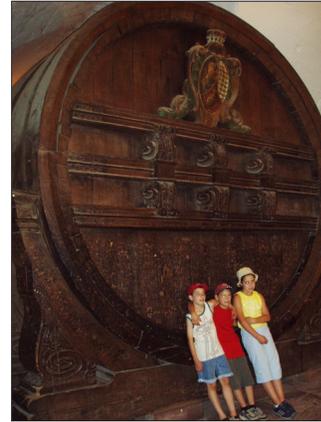
Call 330-7992 for more information.

New library hours

The base library has new hours.

It's open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. The library is closed Sundays and Mondays.

Call 330-6494 for more details.



(Left) The final renovations to Heidelberg Castle were completed in 1610. In 1883 the German government decided to leave the ruins as they were. (Above) Youngsters pose for a shot in front of a wine vat dating from 1664. The vat can hold 45,000 liters or 11,900 gallons of liquid.

History upon history in Heidelberg

If you go...



Day Trippin'

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

Visitors to Germany are often inspired by the country's castles and palaces.

The rich history and artifacts can be fascinating. But few items on Germany's tourist stops will likely make people gasp as deeply as they do when they see Heidelberg Castle's two wine vats.

The first vat, located in one of several magnificent buildings on the castle grounds, and humbly called the "kleines fass" (small barrel/vat) dates from 1664 and was built under Carl Ludwig in 1664. It can hold a mere 45,000 liters of wine (a little over 11,900 gallons).

Apparently, the "kleines fass" was too small, for in 1751, the mother of all vats was constructed. It can hold a whopping 221,726 liters (a little over 58,560 gallons). Obviously, these Germans loved their wine.

They also loved spectacular views, and Heidelberg Castle offers a grand

view of the city below. Visitors can also tour the castle courtyard and the German Pharmacy Museum.

"It's more than 900 years of history in one place – in six buildings," said Douglas Montoya, a tour guide and an economics student at the nearby University of Heidelberg, the third oldest university in Europe behind Prague and Vienna. "Each building represents a different period. Each ruler owned a palace."

Mr. Montoya noted that several renovations were done over the centuries, the last one in 1610. In 1883, the German government decided to leave the ruins as they were, he said.

Frederick Palace, built from 1592-1610, features numerous statues on its courtyard wall. Mr. Montoya said some of the statues are replacements, but the originals can be seen inside the palace.

The castle is also known for its illumination festivals during the summer. The last one of the year begins at 9:30 p.m. Saturday.



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 062-2153-8414, e-mail info@schloss-heidelberg.de or log on to www.cvb-heidelberg.de or www.heidelberg-schloss.de.