

the Gateway

The Gateway to Europe

Vol. 62, No. 1, Jan. 9, 2004, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

News Briefs

NCO grads

Congratulations to the following airmen who graduated from the Kising NCO Academy Dec. 18.

Members of Class 2004-2 included: **Tech. Sgt. Ulysses Dotson**, 469th Air Base Group; **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Penberthy**, 485th Intelligence Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. William Smith Jr.**, 469th Air Base Group.

ALS grads

Congratulations to the following airmen who graduated from Airman Leadership School at Ramstein Dec. 17.

Members of Class 2004-2 included: **Staff Sgt. Eric Pelican**, 469th Air Base Group (*Leadership award*); **Senior Airman Harley McCurter**, 469th Air Base Group (*Distinguished graduate*).

Award winner

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Wade Miller, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, for his recent selection as the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group Crew Chief of the Year for 2003. The 721st AMOG consists of eight squadrons, two detachments and five operating locations, and more than 1,800 people.

New officers

Congratulations to the following airmen selected to hold offices of the 469th Air Base Group Top IV for 2004:

- Master Sgt. Guy Wells – President
- Tech. Sgt. Monica Adams – Vice President
- Tech. Sgt. Eric Cone – Secretary
- Tech. Sgt. Barbara Wells – Treasurer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

LOX of fun

Airman 1st Class Dave Hill, looks over his technical orders while he adds liquid oxygen into a C-17 Globemaster III at Rhein-Main Dec. 23. Airman Hill is deployed to Rhein-Main from the 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. In its normal state liquid oxygen is 297 degrees below zero. It's used for breathing purposes in case the aircraft loses pressure or experiences other in-flight emergencies.

MLK Jr. Day

Community service foundation of doctor's dream

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

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) - Americans all over the world will pause Jan. 19 to reflect upon and honor the commitment and legacy of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The national holiday honors the steadfast efforts of this great American who relentlessly fought for the dream of human dignity and equality — regardless of a person's race, gender, faith or skin color.

Although Dr. King's dream of a vibrant multiracial nation united in peace and reconciliation was targeted for our country, he inspired nonviolent liberation movements around the world. On this holiday, we commemorate a man of action — a man who brought his courage. Dr. King put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day and ultimately paid the highest price to make democracy a reality for all.

Civilians to see pay increase

By Maj. John Thomas

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — While a civil service pay bill awaits congressional action, Air Force civilian employees should see an average 2-percent increase in their January paychecks.

Air Force Personnel Center officials here said a 2-percent increase for general schedule employees will go into effect automatically and that they are ready to process an expected total 4.1-percent pay increase if and when it passes Congress. The additional 2.1-percent average pay increase would be retroactive to the effective date, which should be Sunday, officials said.

Officials here plan to work quickly to ensure individual personnel records are updated as soon as possible, they said.

"If the proposed increase in pay goes

through, we're prepared to facilitate the change as soon as we get the go-ahead from DOD," said Charles Huerta, director of civilian personnel operations at the center.

After that he said he expects people will see the increase, as well as any back pay, within two paychecks after the change is processed.

"This is not the first time this has happened, so we're confident we know how to update records accurately and fairly quickly," Huerta said.

Answers about individual civilian personnel records are available by calling (800) 616-3775 weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST.

Hearing-impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893, or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio.

Overseas employees will first dial the AT&T toll-free direct access number for the country that they are in, and then (800) 997-2378.

FEGLI rates rise

Some Air Force people covered by Federal Employees Group Life Insurance will see an increase in premiums in January.

Civilian employees in the Option B 70 to 80 or older age bands are slated for the increase the first full pay period of the new year, according to officials.

Today's generally lower mortality rates are the reason for the FEGLI premium changes that began last January, Office of Personnel Management officials said.

Quarterly Award Winners

The following airmen and civilians from the 469th Air Base Group were recently chosen as fourth quarter award winners for 2003:

Airman Category

Airman 1st Class Brandon Cunningham,
Civil Engineer Flight

NCO Category

Tech. Sgt. Monica Adams,
Commander's Staff

Senior NCO Category

Master Sgt. Guy Wells,
Communications Flight

Company Grade Officer Category

Capt. Jack Spencer,
Legal Office

Category I Civilian

Tamiko Thompson,
Legal Office

Category II Civilian

Cliff Lewis,
Civil Engineer Flight

The winners advance to the Kaiserslautern Military Community and Rhein-Main Community Quarterly Awards competitions.

The Rhein-Main awards breakfast is set for 7:30 a.m. Jan. 29 at the Zeppelinhaus.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

Click it or ticket

Airman 1st Class Erin Lannaman (left), 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight and Tech. Sgt. Mike Wolcott, 469th ABG Safety Office, check to make sure a motorist is wearing their seatbelt during a random seatbelt check. All occupants of automobiles on Rhein-Main are required to wear seatbelts. Drivers, or their passengers, in violation will receive driving suspensions from seven to 365 days.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

'De' ice man

Staff Sgt. Tony Trevino, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, de-ices a C-141B Starlifter prior to takeoff from Rhein-Main recently. The main purpose for de-icing planes is because frost and snow can affect flight controls and the lift a plane needs to get off the runway. The de-icing solution, 60-percent de-icing compound and 40-percent water, is heated to more than 175 degrees Fahrenheit before it's sprayed onto the aircraft.

FSC garners command-level award

By 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland
Public Affairs

The Rhein-Main Family Support Center was named U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Outstanding Family Support Center, Category II, for 2003.

In the award-winning year, the center spearheaded numerous programs that benefited the Rhein-Main community and deployed troops alike.

The FSC increased their operating hours by 60 percent in support of Op-

erations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. This increase allowed deployed troops free access to the Internet and video teleconferencing seven days a week.

In 2003 they served more than 48,000 personnel, facilitated more than 100,000 outbound e-mails, and served more than 40,000 cups of coffee.

A major initiative for members stationed at Rhein-Main was the opening of the Women, Infants and Children Overseas office in Gateway Gardens.

The WIC program is used by 93 percent of eligible members, who average savings of \$200 per month on food purchases.

The FSC also managed the Summer Hire Program, providing various summer positions for 29 youth from Rhein-Main.

"The best example of the staff's dedication is their willingness to greet more than 800 troops at the AMC terminal on Christmas day," said Judy Maughan, family support center director. "We truly have the best FSC staff in USAFE."

Rhein-Main personnel manager best in USAFE

By 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland
Public Affairs

A member of the 469th Air Base Group was named the 2003 Personnel Manager of the Year for U.S. Air Forces in Europe here Dec. 31.

Master Sgt. Rahim Saafir, mission support flight superintendent, beat out 76 other superintendents from units throughout USAFE for the unit level award.

"Sergeant Saafir is the resident personnel expert," said Capt. Chris Aliphath, mission support flight commander. "He is the behind the scenes action officer for a lot of the important personnel issues affecting all of our lives."

As superintendent of the mission support flight, Sergeant Saafir oversees personnel matters affecting more than 250 active duty personnel and 350 civilians in the 469th Air Base

Group, as well as four tenant units supporting 2,500 personnel.

He orchestrated the base wide issue of the new Common Access Card, managed the Weighted Airman Promotion System program for E-4 to E-7 eligible members, and developed tracking procedures for accurate reporting of duty status changes resulting in 100 percent accuracy for the last three quarters.

In the community he served as the president of the 469th ABG Top IV and currently on the African American Heritage Committee. He also serves on the Student Advisory Committee at H. H. Arnold High School and the Military Equal Opportunity representative for Rhein-Main.

"Master Sgt. Saafir has it all; vision, courage, drive, integrity," said Col. Bradley S. Denison, 469th Air Base Group Commander.

Resolutions

Focus on improving self, 469th ABG as well

Every year many of us strive to make our lives better by setting New Year's resolutions.

There are a lot of different areas where we all can improve, including the group as a whole. There are three areas I'd like to focus on this year—DUI's, fitness and Combat Proud.

Last year the 469th Air Base Group had two DUI's and Rhein-Main had seven over all. This is seven too many. Any time someone drinks and gets behind the wheel, they put themselves and our community in danger. There are numerous ways to avoid driving under the influence if you plan ahead.

Our goal and hope is to have zero DUI's in 2004. I ask all of you to please support me on this goal.

Our second resolution is to increase our fitness level.

The Air Force recently changed its fitness standards and now requires all members to pass the new fitness test. This requires us all to workout more so we can

pass the sit-ups, push-ups and, most of all, the mile and a half run.

Our third resolution is to take more pride in our community. Combat Proud is a program stressed by, not only General Foglesong, but Rhein-Main as well.

When we are out and about in



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

Gateway Gardens and on the main base we need to be aware of our surroundings. When you see trash on the ground, stop and pick it up. When things are out of place, take care of them and keep things looking neat and orderly. Also, during daylight hours, be sure to turn off outside lighting.

These are only a few areas where we can improve the lives of

those in our community. I urge all of us to set high, but achievable goals, and then work hard to reach them.

If we all take a little time and focus on these three areas we truly can achieve them.

Let's have a great and safe year!

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 the 469th ABG/PA office at 330-7804 or e-mail at Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil.

Col. Bradley Denison
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

330-7779

Commander's Action Line

Rhein-Main Force Protection—Your life depends on it

Terrorists also depend on you. A dynamic threat environment demands our utmost vigilance and discipline.

The following tips will help guard information about yourself and maintain a low profile:

— Avoid use of rank or military addresses on tickets, travel

documents or hotel reservations. When possible, travel on tourist passports.

— Be cautious about giving out information regarding family travel plans or security measures and procedures. Avoid using name and rank on answering machines.

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The deadline for the Jan. 23 edition of the Gateway is 4 p.m., Jan. 15.

Bailey set to take reins of 435th ABW

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey will take command of the newly created 435th Air Base Wing at Ramstein during a dual change-of-command, wing re-organization ceremony set for 10 a.m. Jan. 25 at Hangar 3 on Ramstein.

Prior to her new assignment, General Bailey served as director of the Aeronautical Enterprise Program Office, Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

She was responsible for developing, maintaining and leading a comprehensive long-range roadmap to find crosscutting and common solutions to support affordable current and future mission capability. The AEPO also supports the managers of development systems and programs for electronic combat, common avi-



General Bailey

onics, support equipment and joint modeling and simulation. The programs have an annual budget of \$170 million and a total value of \$2 billion.

General Bailey earned a bachelor of science degree with honors from Purdue University in 1973. In 1977 she was commissioned a second lieutenant through Officer Training School.

She will also take command of the Kaiserslautern Military Community. As the 435th ABW commander, General Bailey will assume responsibility for base support functions to include the mission support, security forces, communications, civil engineer, logistics readiness and medical groups. The 469th Air Base Group at Rhein-Main will also fall under the 435th ABW.

The 86th Airlift Wing will be comprised of an operations group, maintenance group, contingency response group and a USAFE Air and Space Communications Group. It will focus entirely on its combat and contingency support for tactical and humanitarian airlift operations within the U.S. European Command theater, including Africa.

Col. Robert C. Kane, currently serving as the wing's vice commander will take command of the 86th AW.

Brig. Gen. Erwin F. Lessel III, the current commander of the 86th AW, will be reassigned as deputy director of Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB.

The activation of the 435th ABW is part of a U.S. Air Forces in Europe reorganization to separate support functions from its operational airlift and contingency support missions.

The command-wide plan is aimed at increasing organizational efficiency, according to USAFE commander Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong.

(Staff report)

Warrior of the Week



Tech. Sgt. Retonja Jackson

Unit: 469th Air Base Group Legal Office

Time in service: 14 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 3 years 7 months

Duty Title: NCOIC, Military Justice

Hometown: Alamogordo, N.M.

Hobbies: Sports (all of them) and traveling

What has been your best AF experience?

The opportunity the Air Force has given me to travel to many different countries.

MLK, from Page 1

The catapult for his dream was community service. His personally held belief that "everybody can be great, because everybody can serve," still holds true, especially today. This year's theme is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On ... Not A Day Off." I encourage you to use the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as an opportunity to make a difference in your community. Be it interacting with your host-nation neighbors or mentoring the child of a fellow airman who's deployed down range, make it your personal commitment to serve humanity with the great strength that empowered Dr. King's victories.

As members of an Air Force that recognizes the strength of its diversity, we also share a common bond — as people we are all equal. Dr. King's life exemplified our core value of "service before self," and recalling his work through community involvement lays firmly another stone on the path toward his dream.

January



- Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Binnicker visited the base to talk with troops and learn how the base is supporting operations downrange.
- Staff Sgt. Lisa Snook was one of only 10 people Air Force-wide to be selected for a first-ever, two-year dental-hygiene program.
- Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley, 3rd Air Force Commander, visited the base.
- The base fitness center hosted its 6th Annual Health and Fitness Fest with more than 75 participants.
- The 469th Air Base Group Services Division won its fourth intramural basketball title in a row.



Team Rhein-Main 2003



March



- Rhein-Main hosted dependents from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, who were voluntarily relocated to the United States at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Three Team Rhein-Main members were selected for promotion to E-8.
- Master Sgt. David Banker placed first in the U.S. Forces Powerlifting Championship at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, for the second straight year. His winning lifts totaled 1,350 lbs.
- German Air Force members deployed to Rhein-Main defeated the base soccer team 6-3 in a friendly match dubbed World Cup 2003.

April



- The Rhein-Main Community Spouses Club awarded \$20,000 in scholarships during its annual award dinner April 15.
- The 726th Air Mobility Squadron won the Air Force Supply Effectiveness Award in the satellite category.
- Thirteen-year-old Tate Litchfield earned his Eagle Scout rank by building and delivering morale packets to troops transiting Rhein-Main on their way to Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Peter Bodde, Consulate General in Frankfurt, visited the base for a Tuesday night airmen's dinner.
- The 469th ABG Communications Flight dialed in its second straight intramural volleyball title.

M



- Office won the U.S. Air Force Unit Safety Award for Category 1.
- The Rhein-Main Community Spouses Club held its annual bazaar May 16-17.
- Miami Dolphins stars Zach Taylor visited Rhein-Main on May 18.

August



- Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong took command of U.S. Air Forces in Europe. Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman became the command chief master sergeant.
- The Rocket Bowling Center underwent major renovations, including a resurfacing of the lanes.
- Airman Steve Albert won the USAFE USO award for his volunteer service.
- Thirty-five members of Team Rhein-Main, including 11 deployed members, were selected for promotion to staff sergeant. The selection rate Air Force wide was 49.79 percent.
- The 469th Air Base Group won the intramural flag football championship with a 14-13 win.

September



- The first aircraft carrying more than 260 soldiers on R&R landed at 12:30 a.m. Sept. 26 at Rhein-Main.
- Tops In Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment group performed in Hangar 425 Sept. 26.
- Five airmen and civilians from Rhein-Main participated in marathons in Berlin and Scotland.
- The base fire department finished 3rd at the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Firefighter Combat Challenge. Airman 1st Class Brandon Cunningham set a new USAFE record in the individual competition.
- The Hispanic Heritage Club sponsored a block party in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Octo



- The base fire department finished 3rd at the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Firefighter Combat Challenge.
- The 13-15 year old Rhein-Main youth team finished 4th place at the Kaiserslautern Youth Soccer Cup. Adam Swingle led the team.
- The Keystone Club sponsored a block party at the teen center.

2003 - A Year in Review



January

German civic leaders from the Rhein-Main area took a tour of Ramstein Base hosted by the 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office.

Brig. Gen. Erwin Lessel, 5th Airlift Wing commander, visited the base and hosted a town hall meeting.

The 469th ABG Safety Offices in Europe Outstanding Category II units. Community Spouses Club hosted 18.

Rich Thomas and Jason ... on a USO tour.

February

Hundreds of people enjoyed Rhein-Main's version of Oktoberfest.

The base sponsored its first "Free-for-All" property transfer at Bldg. 341. More than 1,100 items were transferred to units throughout Germany.

The Women, Infants and Children office opened at Rhein-Main.

The base sponsored several events of Fire Prevention Week.

Rhein-Main soccer team took Eastern Military Community away with 13 goals.

The base sponsored a haunted house at

February



German Bundeswehr personnel began providing security at the gates to Rhein-Main.

The 726th Air Mobility Squadron set a record with 607 C-17 launches. The passenger terminal surpassed the previous Air Mobility Command record for passengers processed by more than 10,000 with

52,041, including a record 3,717 on Feb. 7.

More than 170 children "shadowed" their parents at work Feb. 3 during Shadow Day at the base.

Former Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. (ret.) Herbert Carter, was the guest speaker at a kickoff event Feb. 6 to celebrate African-American History Month.

June



Col. Bradley S. Denison took command of the 469th Air Base Group June 19.

Lt. Col. Michael Polhemus assumed command of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron during a ceremony June 20.

Lynyrd Skynyrd rocked Rhein-Main during a concert June 12 at Hangar 38.

Donal McRae was recognized during a

ceremony June 15 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Forty-two base youth participated in Bobby Charlton Soccer School June 23-27.

Twenty-nine Team Rhein-Main members were selected for promotion to E-6 and E-7.

July



Security forces began a bicycle patrol to increase visibility and improve community relations.

Master Sgt. Douglas Ackerman was named one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2003.

The Gateway Inn competed for the Innkeeper Award, the Air Force's top trophy for lodging operations.

The 469th Air Base Group "A" team three-peated as intramural softball champions with an 18-0 win over the 726th Air Mobility Squadron.

The 726th AMS hosted Polish school children during a tour of the flightline and a C-17.

November



Ten Rhein-Main airmen took part in Community College of the Air Force graduation, the first in more than two years at Rhein-Main.

Base residents spruced up the main base and housing areas during the annual fall clean-up.

The 64th Replacement Company hit the 16,000

soldier mark for its R&R reception program.

Halvorsen-Tunner American School students and staff prepared care packages to send to the more than 20 family members deployed downrange.

Kimberly Kirk achieved 2003 First-Team All Conference honors in volleyball for Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe.

December



The 726th Air Mobility Squadron captured an Air Force-level and two Air Mobility Command-level awards for 2003.

Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Vice Commander visited the base Dec. 17-18.

1st Lt. Jeffrey Adams was named Outstanding Security Forces Company Grade Officer of the Year

for USAFE.

Col. Bradley S. Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, threw the switch to light the base Christmas tree Dec. 4.

Airman 1st Class Brandon Cunningham took 3rd in the Air Force at the World Firefighters Challenge.

Officials examine anthrax court decision

Federal judge orders halt to vaccination without consent

By **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department will stop anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation around a recent court decision is resolved, Department of Defense officials said.

Defense officials and lawyers with the Justice Department are examining a decision handed down by a federal judge in Washington on Dec. 22 that ordered the DoD to stop anthrax vaccinations for U.S. servicemembers without their consent, Pentagon officials said Dec. 23.

"The lawyers are examining it," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon press conference Dec. 23. "And at the appropriate time, they will be making a recommendation as to the way forward."

DoD officials still considers anthrax vaccinations for servicemembers deploying to high-threat areas as crucial.

"We don't send soldiers into battle without helmets," said a defense official.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also stressed the military need for the vaccinations.

"This drug that we're using, the vaccine has been around for 40 years," said

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers during a press conference. "It is not experimental. It's approved by the (Food and Drug Administration).

"And from a military standpoint, I think it's extremely important. As you know, when we went into Iraq, we had all the troops in their chemical protective gear, because we thought there was a very real threat of either chemical or biological weapons, and in particular, anthrax was a big worry."

Anthrax is still a worry in many parts of the world, Myers said.

"The one thing you can do to protect people is this vaccine," the chairman said. "From a military standpoint, I think it's very important we have this capability to protect our troops and enable them to do their job."

Dr. William Winkenwird, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the vaccines are needed to protect American troops. The FDA guides everything the department does, he said.

"We follow FDA regulations scrupulously in the use of the anthrax vaccine and all medically regulated products," Winkenwird said during an interview.

The FDA has licensed the product for

all use, the doctor said. Other independent groups agree with the FDA assessment.

Winkenwird said the DOD was surprised about the decision. He said it was out of step with current science and out of keeping with the need for force protection.

The doctor said about 1 million American servicemembers have received the vaccinations since the program started in 1998.

Some 650,000 servicemembers have received the six-shot series since June 2002. Of that number, only around 10 service members have refused to get the shots.

"Most people realize and appreciate the threat that we face and are persuaded by the scientific evidence regarding the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine," Winkenwird said.

The FDA approved the vaccine in 1970. The District Court decision questioned the FDA contention that the vaccine was effective against aerosolized anthrax — the most likely bioterror weapon. This judge's decision is counter to the FDA's own decisions, the opinion of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and the judgment of the most eminent experts on this topic.

At Rhein-Main

Prior to the decision to halt anthrax vaccinations, the immunizations office at the Rhein-Main clinic administered the vaccination only to those individuals with orders in hand for deployment to a high-threat area. This practice will continue if and when the vaccination program is restarted.



Around Rhein-Main

Family, goal days

The 86th Airlift Wing Fiscal Year 04 plan includes three more family days and six more goal days. These days include:

- Family days – Jan. 16, May 28 and July 6.
- Goal days – Feb. 13, March 15, Apr. 9, June 11, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3

Family days provide compensatory time off for high operations tempo and recognize the importance of families. On these days, military members receive a day off and civilians can take leave or use compensatory time.

Goal days recognize superior, wing-wide readiness and mission accomplishment. The new goal day criteria are designed so

that every member of the wing contributes to earning a day off.

EQUAL list

The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for people returning from overseas May through July will be available Tuesday.

Individuals should contact their military personnel flights to update their preferences by Jan. 30, said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center. Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-February.

People can view the lists from the AFPC home page at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm>, or at the MPF in Bldg. 347. Those on temporary duty during the advertising period can contact the nearest personnel office for assistance.

Child care

Give parents a break program expands

By KC Radloff

469th Air Base Group Services Division
Family Member Programs Flight Chief

The Rhein-Main Give Parents A Break program expanded to include the youth center in January.

Normally offered the last Friday of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., the program is held at the child development center for children ages 6 weeks to kindergarten and a new service at the youth center for children in first through fifth grade.

The program provides child care for parents needing a break due to the challenges of military life. With frequent deployments, long working hours, remote tours, etc., parents often find it difficult to cope with the demands of parenting.

Additionally, most Air Force families are far from family who might otherwise offer support.

The Rhein-Main Family Support Center, through the Air Force Aid Society, provides funding and oversees enrollment eligibility for the program.

The family member programs flight of the 469th Air Base Group Services Division provides child care and oversees the registration, reservations and reporting to the AFAS officer.

Give Parents A Break provides commanders, first sergeants and other base officials a way to help families who need a break from parenting.

Pre-registration with the child development center or the youth center is required and space is limited.

Registration includes completion of AF Form 1181, proof of current im-

munizations, and a current referral certificate.

Active duty Air Force families are eligible for the Give Parents A Break program. Families require a referral certificate to register for the program.

Referral certificates are available from the squadron commander or first sergeant, chaplain, base doctor or other base medical professional, family advocacy and the family support center.

Registration begins each Monday following a Give Parents A Break program and ends the Monday of the week the program is offered. If the program is full, patrons may request priority placement for the following month's program.

For more information, contact the family support center at 330-7992 or the family member programs flight at 330-6675.

Thank you ...

Following are thank you notes from various Team Rhein-Main organizations to those who have given of their time and effort in the service of others.

On behalf of the German guard forces, I would like to express our gratitude for the manifold signs of appreciation we received from many members of the Air Base community during Christmas time, especially the gifts and the invitation to the fellowship meal at the base chapel, for which members of community contributed delicious homemade food.

Best regards,

Lt. Col. Matias Krempel
German Barracks Commander

We would like to recognize and thank the Rhein-Main Youth Center Keystone Club "Teenz on the Go" for their fantastic volunteer efforts on Dec. 25. Several teenage members of the club, Youth Center staff and volunteers made goodie bags with sandwiches and homemade cookies

that were handed out to R & R troops arriving Christmas morning at 2 a.m. The teenagers also handed out over 100 toys so the soldiers could not only walk in the door on Christmas morning, but walk in the door with gifts in their hands for their waiting children. Kudos to the Keystone Club for continued community service and most definitely making a positive difference in the lives of many.

Team Rhein-Main

I would like to thank all the people who volunteered to help at the post office this past holiday season. Unfortunately myself and another member of my staff were TDY during this time but I really appreciated the outstanding support provided by various units across the base and numerous civilian volunteers. On behalf of the entire post office staff, thanks again for your "sierra hotel" support and I welcome you all to come over and volunteer throughout the year. Last but certainly not least thank you to my staff.

Sincerely,

Tech. Sgt. William Smith
Rhein-Main Postmaster



Photo by 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland

Givin' up the rock

Marcus Redmond, 469th Air Base Group point guard, penetrates and dishes to a teammate in the opening round of the Rhein-Main Intramural Basketball Tournament Wednesday. The 469th ABG defeated the Consulate 69-37. Redmond netted 27 to lead the 469th ABG. American Forces Network won 2-0 by forfeit over the 726th Air Mobility Squadron. Five teams, including the 64th Replacement Company, are competing in the double-elimination tournament. The championship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the fitness center.

Sports Briefs

Resolution 2004

The Tony Bass Sports and Fitness Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield sponsors an open house from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Events include a cardio master class from 9 a.m. to noon for \$5; free chair massages from 10 a.m. to noon; a bench press competition from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (cost is \$20 including a tank top/registration is from 9:30-10:30 a.m.); martial arts demo from noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 337-5541.

Fitness fest

The fitness center sponsors the 2004 Rhein-Main Fitness Fest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 24.

Participants can receive exercise tips, try their hand at three aerobic stations, three strength endurance stations and a 5K run. There will also be prize giveaways and activities for children.

For more information, call the fitness center staff at 330-6062.

Ski trips

The Outdoor Recreation Office in Heidelberg offers several one-day ski trips this winter to Engelberg, Switzerland.

Trips depart at 4:30 a.m. from Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. Dates are Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 2 and 20.

Their are glacier tunnels, cross-country trails, toboggan runs and walking paths.

Prices are \$50 with Outdoor Recreation equipment rental; \$55 with ODR snowboard equipment rental and \$45 with no ODR equipment rental.

Call 388-9282 to make a reservation.

Bowling center

The Rocket Bowling Center has Colorama Bowling set for 7 p.m. Jan. 17. Bowl with disco lights and DJ tunes. Cash and other prizes are available. Karaoke takes place in the Liberty Cafe.

Red Pin Bowling is scheduled for Jan. 31. Participants who bowl a strike when the head pin is red wins a prize.

Call 330-7219 for more information.

Super Bowl XXXVIII

The Rocket Sports Lounge sponsors a Super Bowl XXXVIII Party beginning at midnight Feb. 1. There will be three big screen televisions, the kitchen's open late and there are great giveaways.

Walking group

A walking group meets Monday through Friday from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. at the backgate of Gateway Gardens. Call 69715953 to register.

Country dancing

The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight sponsors a Country Dance Night from 7-11 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Zeppelinhaus.

Instructors will be on hand to teach the latest line dances from 7-8 p.m. After that it's showtime.

Admission is free for club members and \$5 for nonmembers.

Scholarships available

The Rhein-Main Community Spouse's Club has applications available for scholarships for graduating high school seniors with a sponsor assigned to Rhein-Main.

Completed application packets must be delivered by Jan. 30 to:

Applications are located in the family support center and the base library or see Cecilia Kitterman, School Liaison Officer.

For more information, call 330-6272.

Spouse scholarships

The Aerospace Education Foundation has 30 \$1,000 scholarships available to Air Force spouses. A GPA of 3.5 or higher is a requirement.

Applications are available at the edu-

cation center in Bldg. 347 and are due no later than Jan. 30 to:

Aerospace Education Foundation
1501 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22209
Call 330-7484 for more details.

New hours

Charlie's T-Online and Deutsche Post office has new operating hours. They are as follows:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 - 6 p.m.
- Wednesdays and Saturdays – 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Sundays – Closed.

Cooking classes

The family support center sponsors a German cooking class from 3-5 p.m. Jan. 19 at Our House.

An Italian cooking class is set for 6-8 p.m. Jan. 21 at Our House.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

Heartlink class

This interactive class for those new to the military and "seasoned" military spouses is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at Our House.

Participants will learn about the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, support resources and other services.

Lunch and other valuable prizes will be provided.

Call 330-7992 to register.

Combat POCs

Following is a list of Rhein-Main representatives for U.S. Air Forces in Europe Combat Programs and Special Interest Items:

Combat Care
Tech. Sgt. Tom Proctor
Combat Education
Mary-Jo Kelly
Combat Flightline
Tech. Sgt. George Tamayo
Combat Touch
Maj. Kevin Cody
Combat Intro/Exit
Master Sgt. Rahim Saafir
Combat Fitness
2nd Lt. Cheryl Johnson
Combat Nighthawk
Capt. Nolan Diestro

Movies at Rhein-Main

Tonight - "The Last Samurai," (R), 7 p.m.

Saturday - "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" (R), 5 p.m., and "Kill Bill," (R), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - "In the Cut," (R), 7 p.m.

Wednesday - "Peter Pan," (PG), 7 p.m.

Jan. 16 - "Mystic River," (R), 7 p.m.

Jan. 17 - "Brother Bear," (PG), 5 p.m. and "Scary Movie 3," (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 18 - "Stuck on You," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Jan. 21 - "Cheaper by the Dozen," (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

For rent

For rent: Apartment in Walldorf. Available Jan. 24. 95 sq. m.; 2 bedroom, 1.5 baths; balcony; garage. 15 min. from base. Call 330-7820 days, 06105951956 nights.

Wanted

Searching for a clarinet teacher for our 8th grader. Our child has played clarinet for one and a half years. Live in Frankfurt. 06995638799.

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 – 8-8:30 a.m. 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.

German Empire marks 133rd birthday

Although many think of Germany as a land steeped in history, the Germany of today has its roots in the formation of the German Empire or First Reich on Jan. 18, 1871.

Following a victory over Napoleon III of France in 1870, Prussian Chancellor Otto von Bismarck won the consent of the German princes to unite Germany (excluding Austria) under the Prussian king as German Emperor.

On Jan. 18, 1871, in Versailles, the king proclaimed the German Empire. William I became Kaiser or king and Otto von Bismarck became chancellor.

The new Germany kept roughly the same constitution as the North German Confederation had, but a few things were changed. A national Parliament, the Reichstag, was elected by the people. It could control the budget, but couldn't overthrow the government. The federal council, Bundesrat, was the conservative's check on the influence of the Reichstag. The Bundesrat consisted of princes.

The various German armies remained separate for each German state, but they had to follow the common Prussian command.

The unification caused problems within the rest of Europe. The Russians were hostile towards the new unification because they feared if Germany became powerful, they might cut off Russia from the rest of Europe. The general consensus around Europe was that the new unified Germany would throw off the European balance of power.

The new unified Germany became a mixture of a Prussian dominated and federalist state. Prussia was, by far, the most powerful state in Germany.

Though Austria-Hungary was not part of Germany, Bismarck intended to preserve a good relationship between it and Germany. He feared actually allowing Austria-Hungary's Catholic-dominated population into Germany for fear of religious conflict, since Prussia was mostly Protestant.

In 1871, a new German constitution was written, and it basically declared that Prussia was in control and could largely



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

The Niederwald Denkmal statue above the town of Rudesheim on the Rhein celebrates the birth of the German Empire in 1871.

defy the Federal Council. The new constitution granted universal and equal manhood suffrage.

The Imperial Government was given control of all common problems such as national defense, foreign affairs, tariffs, and commercial matters.

After unification, Germany was the strongest military power on the continent. Germany's position geographically was between large military powers, so diplomacy had to be carried out very carefully.

Bismarck had to be as sure as possible that no one would attack Germany, at least no coalition.

First, in 1879, Bismarck made a secret alliance with Austria-Hungary. In 1881, Bismarck signed a tri-treaty with Russia, Austria, and Germany: the Alliance of Three Emperors.

In 1882, Italy joined this alliance, making a triple alliance along with Austria and Russia.

Under Bismarck, Germany maintained a stable and reliable foreign policy, because Bismarck maintained an anti-imperialistic stand and maintained diplomacy. Germany managed to stay on good terms with just about everyone but France, who was still mad about its defeat in 1870.

(Information courtesy of German History website)



Courtesy illustration