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Questions about VA benefits?

Make an appointment with the Department of Veteran Affairs Overseas Military Service Coordinator (OMSC).

The OMSC is available on the following dates:
Jan. 29-Feb. 2
Feb. 21-23
March 5-9
March 22-23

Receive assistance with eBenefits enrollment, disability compensation, claims development, education benefits, housing, survivor benefits and more.

Active-duty service members, veterans, survivors, spouses and dependents may make individual appointments. Call DSN 637-8155/8156, comm. 0444-61-8155/8156. Email julie.machak@serco-na.com or kathryn.dunbar@serco-na.com.

Renew ZTL pass before end of February

VICENZA — Military and civilian personnel who live downtown Vicenza or other areas that require a Limited Traffic Zone permit, or “*permesso ZTL*” have until Feb. 28 to renew the permit with the Vicenza local police office.

According to Lewis Smith, chief of Housing Division, United States Army Garrison Italy, many passes expired Dec. 31 but residents have until the end of February to renew.

“The local police office in Vicenza is only working on pass renewals on an appointment basis. The housing office will provide assistance to personnel by accompanying them to the office,



translating on their behalf and obtaining the renewal,” said Smith.

Renewing a Vicenza ZTL pass involves a little preparation. To renew, drivers must have their existing pass, photocopies of their driver’s license or passport, and copy of their paid TARI (refuse collection) tax for 2017.

Drivers must also purchase a €16 renewal stamp from the *Tabaccheria* near the police office on the day of the appointment.

“The housing department is here to assist anyone who needs help renewing their ZTL pass. We have some blocked appointment times with the local police, and we will accompany residents to the appointment to help them renew. We can also help residents obtain copies of their 2017 TARI tax receipt, as that is usually paid by the landlord. We encourage anyone who needs assistance to make appointments now to avoid a last-minute rush,” said Smith.

To schedule an appointment or obtain a copy of the paid TARI tax, call housing at DSN 637-7950/7951, comm. 0444-61-7950/0444-61-7951.

Garrison launches survey to weigh quality of life

VICENZA — The U.S. Army Europe South Community Health Promotion Council launched an online survey here Jan. 8 to take the pulse of the U.S. Army Garrison Italy community on a range of quality of life issues.

While there have been surveys looking at different aspects of life here such as recreation, child care, and information-sharing in the past, this one is intended to be all encompassing. Military personnel, family members, and U.S. employees are encouraged to participate.

“The Army Public Health Center developed a Standardized Community Strengths and Themes Assessment that is based on a nationally recognized process sanctioned through the National Association of County & City Health Officials,” said USAG Italy Community Readiness and Resiliency Integrator Amy Cates.

“The information we receive from this survey is important because it will provide feedback on areas of quality of life we’re doing good in and in areas that need improvement.”

Community members can take the online survey now through Feb. 8 at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/R/USAGItaly>.

According to Cates, there is an incentive to complete the survey, which should take less than 10 minutes.

“We were fortunate to receive a certificate from Morale, Welfare and Recreation for a free two-night stay at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort [in Garmisch, Germany] to give away. We will have a drawing from a list of emails from those who complete the survey.

“But even without the drawing, everyone’s input is critical to help assess the needs of the USAG Italy community. The results will help us make the right decisions about resources, programs and services. Results may also open doors to new opportunities,” she said.

Survey results will be shared with the community after garrison leadership has an opportunity to review the data.



Precision guidance munitions crew chief Airmen from 731st Munitions Squadron set up and inspect a munitions stand Nov. 30 at Camp Darby. Inspections are performed on a regular basis to ensure munitions are serviceable and able to be shipped.

Camp Darby delivers 'boom' to USAFE

Story and photo by Senior Airman Cary Smith
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

CAMP DARBY — Minutes from the Pisa International Airport and the city of Livorno, tucked away in a stretch of woodland, sits the largest stockpile of conventional munitions within United States Air Force in Europe.

At any moment, the 731st Munitions Squadron at Camp Darby must be able to supply a multitude of munitions to

U.S. and NATO bases. Fortunately, the 731st Munitions Squadron has a unique framework of a dozen career fields to help provide the means to take the fight to the enemy.

Embedded within the squadron are aerospace ground equipment Airmen, vehicle maintenance technicians, finance personnel, communications, and even medical technicians.

These sections work with the ammo troops to ensure Darby is capable and

See **SUPPORT**, page 8

Tax center to open for season

VICENZA — Tax season is about to kick off, and the Vicenza Tax Center will open in February.

Active-duty service members, military retirees, Department of Defense civilian employees, and authorized dependents are eligible to use the center for free tax preparation and e-filing services beginning in early February.

To ensure your return is filed on time and without unnecessary penalties, all are encouraged to visit the Tax Center as soon as possible after receipt of the W2.

While “complex” returns require an appointment with one of our preparers,

during the normal tax season (Feb. 1 to April 17), the center will offer walk-in services for “simple” returns.

To assist with tax returns, tax preparers will need to review several documents. Please be sure to bring all relevant documents with you to the Tax Center, which may include:

- Military ID Card
- W2
- Forms 1099 and/or 1098
- Social Security cards or other proof of Social Security numbers for all members of the household

See **TAX CENTER**, page 3

Relief act caps interest on pre-service debt

VICENZA — Interested in saving money on credit card or loan payments?

Soldiers who are still making payments on debt incurred prior to entering active duty service may be entitled to a significant interest rate reduction.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) sets a six percent interest rate limitation (including any fees or service charges) on debt a Soldier incurred, either individually or jointly with their spouse, before entering active duty.

The interest rate cap applies to all debts incurred before entry into active-duty service, including student loans, credit cards, mortgages and car loans, and remains in effect for the duration of a service member's active-duty service.

Interest in excess of six percent must be forgiven, not just merely postponed, and the amount of the monthly payment must be reduced to reflect the lower interest rate. In appreciation of military service, some lenders may go above and beyond the requirements, voluntarily reducing interest rates below six percent.

How much could someone save? As an example, consider a \$10,000 car loan at 18 percent interest payable over 60 months. The monthly payment on this loan would be \$253.93.

If the interest rate were reduced to six percent, the monthly payment on the loan would drop to \$193.33, a savings of \$60.60 per month and \$3,636.00 over the course of the loan. Another example: consider \$75,000

in student loan debt payable over 20 years. The monthly payment on this loan at nine percent interest would be \$674.79, but at six percent would be \$537.32. This is a savings of \$33,000 over the life of the loan.

The SCRA does provide some recourse for creditors. If a person's ability to pay an interest rate above six percent is not "materially affected" by one's service obligation, the creditor can seek a waiver of the limitation.

However, few creditors are willing to incur the necessary legal expenses to secure court approval of the higher rate.

In order to take advantage of the interest rate reduction, service members must provide written notice to the creditor and a copy of the military orders bringing the Soldier on active duty.

A letter containing the following information is sufficient: 1) account number, 2) start date of active-duty service, 3) a request for a reduction in interest rate pursuant to the SCRA, and 4) a copy of active-duty orders.

Service members may also pick up a template for the letter at the Vicenza Legal Assistance Office. Once the service member provides proper notice, his or her creditor must retroactively reduce the interest rate to six percent for the entire period of active service.

For more information, contact the Legal Assistance Office in Building 166 on Caserma Ederle at DSN 637-8834, comm. 0444-61-8834.

(Legal Assistance Office)

In Memoriam

Marta Fogato

VICENZA — Marta Fogato, a 12-year U.S. Army host nation employee, died Jan. 5 at the Vicenza San Bortolo Hospital from an undisclosed illness. She was 44.

Fluent in English, and with a degree in Japanese Language from the University of Venice, in 2005 Fogato was hired as a local national civilian employee by the garrison's Directorate of Resource Management. In 2009, she was promoted to the position of budget analyst, with the main responsibility of overseeing funding requirements for the Housing Division.

To those who were aware that Fogato had fought her illness for more than two years, her untimely passing leaves an unfillable void.

"Marta was a great professional and extremely competent in her job. A sensible and discreet woman, she was a model of unselfish devotion to her family, friends and colleagues, and will be remembered for her intelligence, kindness and generosity," said Stefania Villanova, RM director, U.S. Army Garrison Italy.



"She always wore a kindly smile and talked with a gentle voice when speaking to us in the office. She was also a woman of incredible energy, and lived a life of service to others while pursuing her many interests,"

added Marina Borgo, friend and colleague of 12 years.

"Despite her illness, she managed to continue working until the last hospitalization. Her courage and stamina say a lot about the wonderful person she was."

Surviving Fogato are her husband, Satoshi Iketani, and their three teenage children: Natsumi, Yuuichi and Masaki. Fogato had met the love of her life during a college exchange in Japan, and he came back to Italy with her. She is also survived by her parents, Enrico and Lisa Xodo.

Vicenza community members joined family and relatives Jan. 9 at the local parish Church of Sant'Andrea to pay a final tribute to their friend and colleague.

50-year-olds may catch up on TSP contribution

Federal employees who participate in the Thrift Savings Plan and will turn age 50 during the year are eligible to make TSP catch-up contributions.

"Catch-up contributions" are supplemental, tax-deferred contributions that employees age 50 or older (or turning age 50 during the calendar year) can make to the TSP beyond the maximum amount they can contribute through regular contributions.

To be eligible to make catch-up contributions, participants must be:

- Age 50 or older anytime during the calendar year in which the catch-up contributions are being made (even if you become age 50 on Dec. 31, 2018);
- Currently employed and in Pay Status;
- Making regular contributions to a civilian or uniformed services TSP account (or both), and/or an equivalent employer plan (such as 401(k), 403(b), or 408 plan), that will equal the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. See <http://www.tsp.gov/> for the current year's limit.

Employees are not eligible to make catch-up contributions (or regular contributions) within six months of making a financial hardship withdrawal from the TSP, nor while in a "non-pay" status.

Visit the TSP website <http://www.tsp.gov/> for additional information regarding catch-up contributions.

VFW CORNER

VFW POST 8862 meetings take place the 2nd Thursday of each month at the La Rondine on Via Paolo Calvi, Vicenza, at 5:30 p.m. Maps are available at the Retirement Services Office, Bldg. 305.

Anyone who would like to join the VFW should contact Bob Helie at 327-085-2787 or email rahelie@hotmail.com to see if you are eligible.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
(VFW POST 8862)

Tax tips for honeymooners

by Capt. Tara J. Arndt
Tax Center Officer in Charge

VICENZA — The Vicenza Tax Center is gearing up for tax season and will host its opening ceremony in early February 2018. Tax Center personnel would like to remind the community that taxpayers can get free tax assistance and useful tips by consulting our trained professionals. It is our highest priority to prepare and file your income tax return accurately and in accordance with all IRS guidance and revenue findings.

For those recently married, there are certain taxation rules that will now apply differently to you and your new spouse. For example, a taxpayer's filing status is determined on the last day of the tax year, Dec. 31.

Thus, if you and your new spouse wed anytime during 2017, you will be treated as married for the entire year for tax purposes. That means neither party is eligible to file as single taxpayers. Instead, your options are to file as "married filing jointly," which combines your incomes and allowed deductions on one return, or "married filing separately," meaning you and your spouse will file separate returns. It can be confusing to decide which filing status is right for your family. Tax professionals have put together the following tips to assist in navigating this issue.

Generally, filing separate returns will result in a higher overall tax. If you and

your spouse both earned income during the tax year, the combined income may place you in a higher tax bracket, which could potentially increase your tax liability and cause you to lose certain tax benefits available to taxpayers in lower brackets. If only one of you worked during the year, filing jointly could reduce withholding and estimated payments.

If filing jointly, however, the IRS will apply any future joint refunds toward certain debts your spouse may have brought into the marriage, such as past-due federal or state income taxes, unpaid child support, or unemployment debts to a state. If you are not responsible for your spouse's debt and do not want to share your portion of a tax refund to satisfy the debt, you may either file separate returns or an "injured spouse" allocation form.

Consider also that if either you or your new spouse had health insurance through a government health insurance marketplace, your combined income and change in family size could reduce the amount of the premium tax credit to which you would otherwise be entitled. That means you could be required to pay back some or all of the credit that had been applied in advance in order to reduce your monthly premiums. Under these circumstances, it may be in your best interest to file separate returns.

To determine which filing status is right for you, review your withholding status (W-4) and estimated tax payments with a Vicenza Tax Center certified preparer.



The Outlook accepts submissions and wants to hear what readers want in your community newspaper!

Email content for consideration:
karin.j.martinez.civ@mail.mil;
call editor for deadline.

Anyone with questions about submissions or comments/concerns should contact the Outlook Editor at the USAG Italy Public Affairs Office, DSN 637-8031, comm. 0444-61-8031.

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Helping hands

Medical officers in right place at right time

by **Spc. Kyle Harvey**
173rd Airborne Brigade Public Affairs

VICENZA — Two United States Army surgeons were first on the scene of a tragic accident on Highway B66 in western Austria, aiding a man in the fight for his life.

A farm tractor heading northbound on B66, a two-lane highway, attempted to turn left but overlooked a semi traveling toward it in the oncoming lane. The tractor was struck head on.

The two officers, Maj. Adrian Arnett, battalion surgeon for Brigade Support Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and Maj. Andrew Galdi, senior physician assistant for 173rd Abn. Bde., were driving with their families near Feldbach, Austria, at the end of November when they came upon the crash.

Communicating to each other through handheld radios and quickly realizing the accident had just happened, the two rushed to the victim's aid.

"There was no question that we were going to get out and help," said Arnett.

The Army doctors retrieved aid bags from their cars and ran to the wreckage. Upon reaching the victim, Arnett found a pulse in the man's neck while Galdi assessed his other injuries.

Observing oil and gasoline leaking from the tractor, Galdi said he made the decision to cut the cloth door from



The scene of an accident in Austria where medical personnel from the 173rd Airborne Brigade rendered assistance. (U.S. Army photo)

the tractor to pull the man from the wreckage. A gnarled steering wheel and cab interior held onto the large man, forcing both Soldiers to muster their strength to pull him free.

"Once we laid him on his back, we checked him again, and he (wasn't) breathing. His pulse was irregular and pretty faint," said Arnett.

Discovering the victim was no longer breathing on his own and had lost consciousness, the docs rapidly began chest compressions, and then

administered a breathing bag to keep the man's body oxygenated and blood flowing to his vital organs.

"We applied the basics of what you get from Bayonet First Responder or Combat Life Saver Class — how to stop hemorrhages, how to maintain someone's airway ... I think every Soldier should have those skills in their arsenal," Arnett said.

Roughly 30 minutes into the rescue, first response Austrian Emergency Services arrived.

"They had a significant amount of equipment, but not the clearance to use it, so that's where it was beneficial for us because we could use all the equipment and save the time necessary for a doctor to have to be called," Galdi said.

Austrian Emergency Services provided them with an automated external defibrillator, an oropharyngeal airway, and much-needed fluids for the patient.

Continuous chest compressions, defibrillation, and other advanced cardiac life support techniques were conducted for the next 15 minutes, but the 69-year-old man died of injuries sustained in the accident, according to emergency personnel.

"We are always saddened when a patient passes, but are comforted that we provided hope where there was none," said Galdi.

Although it was determined that the injuries sustained in the accident so severe that accident victim could not be saved, the surgeons were satisfied they had made every effort to save him, because this is what they are trained to do.

"I think a lot of people probably drove by and thought, 'I wish I could have done something,' and I hope that when people have those skills and the ability to help, they put those into effect," Arnett said.



Children from Livorno Elementary/Middle School welcomed Italian elementary students from a school in Lorenzana in December.

Local Italian schoolchildren visit with Darby students for cultural exchange

Story and photo by **Chiara Mattiolo**
DMC Public Affairs Office

CAMP DARBY — American students played host to Italian elementary school students of Lorenzana (Pisa) during a site visit to Livorno Elementary and Middle School here in December.

During the visit, the Italian students toured the post library, where they enjoyed a story hour before moving to the school building. Once at school, they had lunch and recess with American students of the same age. The experience was meant to be a relationship-builder.

"It is important for students to understand we live in a global community," said Ken Kirk, assistant principal of LES/LMS. "Today's children will be required to build relationships and solve problems with people from around the world. It is our job as

educators to provide students the experiences that broaden this reality and opportunities for students to interact with others in this context."

After recess, all of the students played together at the gym to acquire confidence, and then moved into the classroom to share some experiences and introduce themselves to one another.

"This was a very interesting cultural exchange. We loved the school, which offers a variety of activities in a well-equipped building," said Italian language teacher Alessandra Mancini.

Other teachers agreed.

"The Livorno Elementary and Middle School has a great gymnasium for the kids and so many opportunities for extracurricular activities such as music, theater -- and a great playground," said Daniela Celani, history and geography teacher.

Children played together and became good friends in no time.

TAX CENTER

(Continued from page 1)

- A copy of last year's return, if possible
- Routing and bank account numbers for IRS payment or refund
- Identity theft PIN (if the IRS has assigned one)

Those who anticipate an absence during the filing season and are married planning to file a joint return will need to execute a power of attorney authorizing their spouse to sign the return on their behalf. Powers of attorney can be completed at the Legal Assistance Office in Building 166 on a walk-in basis during normal business hours.

Those filing a return on behalf of another person pursuant to a power of attorney must present the original document to the preparer before e-filing.

Although you may work and live overseas, all United States citizens are considered legal residents of one of the 50 states or U.S. territories.

Unless you are a resident of a state that has a tax or filing exemption, you must file a return in your state of residence.

The USAG Italy Tax Center can assist with determining state of residence and filing a state income tax return.

Anyone with questions about eligibility for services, or how the various tax rules apply to a specific situation, will be able to meet with trained, knowledgeable and IRS-certified tax preparers to discuss the circumstances.

The center is located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate on Caserma Ederle, Building 166. Hours of operation will Feb. 1-April 17, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.

After April 17, tax center staff anticipate processing most returns at the Ederle location by appointment only. They will also operate a satellite location at Caserma Del Din in the Sigholtz Center. That facility will be open during the normal tax season on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.





Parents who have questions about their child's development should discuss with their primary care provider. The Educational and Developmental Intervention Services system provides assistance if needed. (Courtesy photo)

Intervention services put children on right track

by Tamara Passut
Contributor

VICENZA — Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) is the Army’s interpretation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures free and appropriate public education to all children.

Early Intervention is for children from birth to age 3 with, or at risk for, developmental delay, and Related Services for children ages 3 to 21 receiving school educational assistance on an Individualized Education Plan. Providing these interventions ensures that children are given the best opportunities to overcome delays and reach their greatest potential.

Milestones

As babies begin smiling, making eye contact, babbling and crawling, parents tend to count the milestones and take every opportunity to post the new accomplishment to social media. However, parents may instead notice a delayed milestone or other developmental concern.

If this is the case, making an appointment with the child’s primary care provider is a great opportunity to discuss their child’s developmental skills development and identify potential delays.

The child’s primary care provider, using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and discussion with the family, may identify concerns and suggest a referral for early intervention services through the EDIS Program.

These services are available at the U.S. Army Health Center-Vicenza on Caserma Ederle to all command-sponsored families within the garrison. EDIS serves two populations: children who qualify for Early Intervention and those for Related Services.

Occupational, physical therapy and more

Related Services are provided to support children receiving special education services at Department of Defense schools. The services are educationally based occupational therapy, physical therapy and behavioral health support services. Children needing Related

Services are referred to EDIS through the school programs.

Referral for Early Intervention can be through the child’s primary care provider. Families may also contact EDIS without a referral to ask questions about their children younger than age 3 by calling 0444-61-9230.

“EDIS providers frequently see parents who ask for assistance saying ‘I don’t know how to get her to talk’ or ‘how do I get him to walk’,” said Mary Jo Rooney, EDIS program manager at USAHC-Vicenza. The EDIS providers are available to answer simple questions over the phone and provide full assessments and educational services.

Evaluating the child

EDIS offers screening, evaluation and service provision in the child’s natural environment.

Using a play-based assessment and intervention model, the EDIS provider will assess the child’s motor, cognition, communication, self-help and social skills development. The whole family will be involved in the assessments and planning process.

“If they are in our services and receiving weekly home visits, we let the family guide the services. We help develop goals for their child and find out where in their day they are having some issues. Then we provide strategies and activities to help build a skill as well as calm the frustrations they and their parents may be experiencing” said Rooney.

Transition when needed

Services offered are voluntary, with the exception of Family Advocacy referrals. Depending on the needs of the child, they may include home based early intervention services for young children under age 3 or coordination of related occupational therapy, physical therapy and behavioral health assistance for older children.

Once a child reaches the age of 3 or leaves this duty station, the EDIS coordinator and primary care provider will assist the family’s transition to the DODEA elementary school services or, if there is a PCS, provide information on early intervention services at the next duty station.

Passut is the Patient Advocate and Public Affairs Representative for U.S. Army Health Center-Vicenza.

Patients must take action on automated appointment calls, referral reminders

VICENZA — Regional Health Command Europe has automated referral reminders.

Since Nov. 29, all patients being referred for specialty care receive automated calls reminding them to make an appointment with a clinic specialist and/or host nation specialist. Automated calls will be placed to the phone number listed in the patient’s electronic medical record.



Expect an automated call after two days, seven days, 14 days and again at day 20, if the appointment is not scheduled.

Patients will receive a total of four automated reminders for each referral unless they take action to interrupt the call schedule. The calls will stop after the patient acknowledges the automated call survey. Patients may also contact the clinic at the phone number listed in the automated script; report appointment date and the name of the specialist, or by letting them know you do not plan to use your referral.



Every Wednesday 1:15-2 p.m. in the Training Classroom (located on the 2nd floor by lab)

Tour the clinic, ask questions about overseas healthcare and get started on the right foot with a positive patient experience.

Children are welcome if childcare cannot be arranged.

At the movies



Den of Thieves (Rated R)

An elite unit from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department squares off against a crew of successful thieves who plan a seemingly impossible heist — the city’s Federal Reserve Bank.

Jan. 12	7 p.m.	The Post	(PG-13)
	10 p.m.	Proud Mary	(R)
Jan. 13	3 p.m.	Paddington 2	(PG)
	6 p.m.	The Commuter	(PG-13)
Jan. 14	3 p.m.	Paddington 2	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Proud Mary	(R)
Jan. 17	7 p.m.	The Commuter	(PG-13)
Jan. 18	7 p.m.	The Post	(PG-13)
Jan. 19	7 p.m.	12 Strong	(R)
	10 p.m.	Den of Thieves	(R)
Jan. 20	3 p.m.	Paddington 2	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Den of Thieves	(R)
Jan. 21	3 p.m.	12 Strong	(R)
	6 p.m.	Den of Thieves	(R)
Jan. 24	7 p.m.	Den of Thieves	(R)
Jan. 25	7 p.m.	12 Strong	(R)
Jan. 26	7 p.m.	Pitch Perfect 3	(PG-13)
	10 p.m.	The Shape of the Water	(R)
Jan. 27	3 p.m.	Ferdinand	(PG)
	6 p.m.	The Commuter	(PG-13)

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Vicenza>.
Movie schedule is provided by AAFES.

Admission

3D first run: Adult \$8.50/Under 12 \$5.75
3D second run: Adult \$8/Under 12 \$5.50
First run: Adult \$6.50/Under 12, \$3.75; Second run: Adult \$6/Under 12 \$3.50
Schedule is subject to change without notice.

2017: *The Year in Review*

Editor's note: The articles on pages 5-9 are some of the top Outlook stories of 2017. We hope you enjoy our "year in review."

January

Vice Chief of Staff visits, emphasizes mission

This article first ran Jan. 27, 2017.

by Staff Sgt. Lance Pounds
USARAF Public Affairs Office

VICENZA — Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Daniel Allyn visited with Soldiers and civilians to discuss the Army's top priorities and upcoming changes Jan. 12, during a town hall at the post theater on Caserma Ederle.

In his presentation, Allyn discussed garrison support, Africa's significance to the United States, leader development and readiness, and Army modernization.

According to the Vice Chief, Soldier readiness is closely tied to the support of those who work in garrison.

"Installations where our Soldiers and families serve enable everything else that comes from a strong Army -- a ready Army," he said.

Allyn attributed garrison support success to the "great volunteer spirit that so many of our family members have ... Anywhere there is a void, (family members) are ready to step in and fill it."

He added that having a symbiotic relationship between garrisons, family members, volunteers and the local communities is vital in supporting Soldier readiness.

Currently, the Army is focused on security and stability efforts in Africa, which Allyn said has been a "lily



Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Daniel Allyn visited Jan. 12 to discuss the Army's top priorities and upcoming changes during a town hall at the post theater on Caserma Ederle. (Photo by Mark Turney, VMC Public Affairs Office)

pad" from which violent extremist organizations have planned and launched their operations.

Allyn elaborated on why Africa matters to the U.S. Army.

"It's a critical region of the world. On one hand, it is fraught with instability, ungoverned spaces and underemployed youth. On the other, it has a lot of opportunities," he said.

One opportunity the general discussed was strengthening African partners' ability to sustain both national and regional stability. This would prevent

violent extremist organizations from finding ungoverned spaces to hide, he said.

Another opportunity comes from engaging with partner nations.

"Our asymmetric advantage over any adversary on the planet is the leaders of the U.S. Army," Allyn said. "The distributed missions and small teams that perform on the African continent help train and develop security forces in each of these nations, (offering) a great opportunity to have a strategic impact in often small and distributed locations,"

Allyn added.

Allyn said he often talks to leaders across the Army about small teams and how those teams sometimes perform strategic missions more than a thousand miles from their higher headquarters on behalf of the Army and U.S. national objectives.

"That's pretty exciting," he said.

Allyn also discussed U.S. adversaries' technological gains. Leaders are aware of adversarial advances in cyber electromagnetic activities, long-range precision fires for artilleries and missiles.

"These are capabilities we've got to close the gap on very rapidly, and our near-term modernization efforts will be focused on exactly that," he added.

According to Allyn, the Army is actively seeking opportunities to field ground mobility vehicles and to develop mobile protected firepower solutions.

The general said this is an exciting time to be a junior Soldier.

As the nation prepares for a new commander in chief, so does the Army. With that preparation comes many changes, most notably to manpower and modernization.

"We are growing, and this is just the beginning," Allyn said, adding that the Army is seeking to increase its total manpower to 476,000 by the end of the year. "I can assure you ... your job is secure."

February

Garrison fire department earns regional-level honors

This article first ran Feb. 10, 2017.

By Andrea Stone
Contributor

VICENZA — United States Army Garrison Italy can rest easy knowing that it has the best fire department in Installation Management Command – Europe.

The department, which provides services to 12 geographically separated garrison properties in the Veneto and Tuscany regions, was recently selected as the 2016 Fire Department of the Year for IMCOM-E.

"This is a huge accomplishment," said Lt. Col. Michael S. Parsons, garrison director of Emergency Services. "I know how much hard work and dedication went into making (this) selection a reality. This achievement was a team effort and indicative of the quality of firefighters and professionals they all are."

The competition doesn't end for the department, though. They are currently being judged in a field of 115 U.S. Army fire protection programs. After those results are announced, they will compete against all fire departments in the Department of Defense.

The award means a lot to USAG Italy Fire Chief Scott M. DeLay, he said.

"I've been a fire chief for a long time and have managed some of the best fire response agencies in the Army and DoD. This award is probably the most special because it has taken the entire team to pull the organization together," he said.

In 2015, the department was reorganized when all Army Fire and Emergency Services programs throughout Italy were combined into a single organization.

"We have established a new level of performance criteria for all of USAG Italy," said DeLay. "It is a challenge bringing all these noncontiguous parts together



Capt. Rob Zappia leads a daily near-miss report with firefighters (left to right) Simone Cupini, Luca Sivori, Federico Croce and Matteo Manfron. (Photo by Mark Turney, VMC Public Affairs Office)

into a single program with a single purpose – providing the best to our community at the standard that supports the Army and IMCOM missions."

Part of the department's strength is due to the commitment of the Italian firefighters, as well.

"We have an all-star cast of standouts, but without the dedication of the Italian workforce to this community, there is no way we could have been this successful," he said.

Their accomplishments have been noticed by the broader military community, as well, with FES receiving its highest rating ever in the Interactive Customer

Evaluations (ICE online).

"When we get the service ratings, it is a proud moment for all of us," said DeLay. "It means that we touched someone's life long enough for them to go back home or to work and submit their comments to the program."

The department will continue to build on its momentum.

"The awards our team received were not expected. We were building programs that are capable and sustainable for the community we serve. The byproduct is an award, and that feels good," he said. "I see a spring in the step of every responder and smiles of pride."

Joint Viking takes training to Arctic Circle

This article first ran March 10, 2017.

By 1st Lt. Mackenzie Sims
173rd Airborne Brigade Public Affairs

SETERMOEN, Norway — Exercise Joint Viking here brought together reconnaissance, infantry, armor and artillery assets in a NATO combined-arms exercise.

For the past several weeks, paratroopers of Troop B "Bulldog Troop," 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade have been in Norway for the simulated, high-intensity warfare exercise set in challenging arctic conditions.

The Soldiers participated in classroom and cold-weather environment training alongside soldiers of Norway's Northern Brigade, and received instruction on a variety of skills critically important to conducting operations north of the Arctic Circle.

"The importance of Joint Viking is

twofold," said Capt. Thomas Huens, commander of Troop B, 1-91 Cav. Rgt. "Expanding our capability to fight in arctic or cold-weather environments is extremely valuable. At the same time, as a U.S. Army Europe-based unit, we have a great opportunity to train and interface with our NATO allies."

The exercise took place over an exceptionally large geographic area, with a maneuver area covering more than 200 square kilometers of forest and mountain terrain.

"Looking to the future, we don't want to wait until we (have) to operate together in a combat environment to learn how to integrate and be effective.

"Joint Viking is a unique opportunity to conduct maneuver operations over an extremely large maneuver space in a multinational setting," said Huens.

The 1-91 Cav. Rgt. paratroopers received specialized instruction in the employment of BV 206 all-terrain tracked personnel carriers, cold-weather tents, emergency stoves, and cold-weather injury prevention in preparation for live-fire training and maneuver exercises as part of Joint Viking. Furthermore, Troop B took advantage of the opportunity to train in winter search-and-rescue operations.

Paratroopers participated in practical exercises such as methods of conducting area searches for victims of avalanche events, identifying areas with high risk of avalanche and using emergency personal locator beacons in search operations.

The brigade routinely trains alongside NATO allies and partners to build interoperability and strengthen the alliance.



Paratroopers of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade were in Norway February for Exercise Joint Viking, a combined-arms exercise that took place north of the Arctic Circle. (Courtesy photo)

April

Vicenza community members gain valuable insight at sponsorship rodeo

This article first ran April 28, 2017.

Story and photo by Laura Kreider
VMC Public Affairs Office

VICENZA — United States Army Garrison Italy conducted the second Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo April 13 at the gym on Caserma Del Din.

The event, an Installation Management Command-Europe initiative, is designed to help Soldiers, civilians and family members learn more about sponsorship resources from their garrison agencies.

"Based on last year's experience, the event was planned for 600 attendees," said Jeanette Mitchell, installation sponsorship liaison. "This year, there were 450 after less than three hours."

Sixteen organizations provided information to let community members know how strongly the USAG Italy Command Team feels about good sponsorship. The lot included primary agencies such as the Directorate of Human Resources/Inprocessing, Army Community Service, Housing, First Sergeant Barracks Program, Medical Command, Airport Liaison, and Finance — all available to visitors after an initial presentation at the U.S. Army Europe TASP booth.

In addition to the mandatory booths, there were also some optional booths, such as Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Army Substance Abuse Prevention, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Child and Youth Services Employment Readiness, and Spouse Sponsorship representation. Also, participants had the chance to see some outside agencies including the Education Center, Religious Services Office, and Outdoor Recreation.

At this year's TASP, one of the ACS briefers was Steve Mendiola, USAG Italy Army Emergency Relief officer.

"I truly believe that it was an eye-opener for some who have been here for some time, and this time took the time to hear, listen and understand what we are doing here at ACS," he said.

"ACS involvement was a pleasure — to be able to give firsthand (information) to all of the assigned service members about all of our services."

After opening remarks by Garrison Commander Col. Steve Marks, attendees received a 15-minute presentation at each station, getting the TASP Passport stamped at each. Before completing their visit, Soldiers had to return the passport to the outprocessing booth.

"It was really helpful and a great experience to help incoming members to our community," said Kim Shumpert, DHR Central Processing Facility, who



Soldiers gather in the Caserma Del Din gym April 13 for the second U.S. Army Garrison Italy Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo. Approximately 600 participants visited providers from supporting agencies.

helped at the outprocessing booth. "Soldiers visited mandatory booths, but if they (wanted) additional information, there were the optional booths."

Jenise Jestler, University of Maryland, also thought that the event was supportive. "It's a great opportunity for the whole community — for Soldiers, but also for their families, to find out what it is offered. People are always busy, and when you are new, you don't know where to start. This is a way to move forward," she said.

May

Camp Darby invests in motorcycle safety

This article first ran May 26, 2017.

by Chiara Mattiolo
DMC Public Affairs Office

CAMP DARBY — The Motorcycle Mentorship Program is strongly supported by the Army through aggressive campaign to promote its values and success.

At Darby Military Community, Safety & Occupational Health Specialist Chiara Chelossi, promoted a full day of safety events May 19 to emphasize the program.

"The purpose of the MMP safety day is to establish a motorcycle-riding event where seasoned riders can create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding and enjoyment for those who are less skilled. Such an environment can create positive conduct and behavior and serve as a force that supports the commander's accident prevention program," Chelossi said.

The opening event was an informational briefing held at the post theater.

Topics discussed with subject-matter experts included an accident trends overview here and in the local area, Italian Traffic Code news (such as specific motorcycle requirements), and reaction techniques, appropriate following distance and separation, defensive driving, group braking techniques, general road hazards and required safety gears.

"Management support and community member involvement are the key to success in promoting an increase in organizational MMPs across the installation and Army," said Chelossi.

The day continued with a practical motorcycle-driving lesson but the scheduled drive trip to San Gimignano was cancelled because of inclement weather.

"I strongly believe that events such as the safety day, where useful information is communicated and safety techniques are shared between experienced drivers/riders and seasoned riders, serve to increase the safety through our community members," Chelossi said.



Veteran conference brings distinguished speakers

This article first ran June 23, 2017.

By Karin J. Martinez
Outlook Editor

VICENZA — A can't-miss opportunity for community members will take place on Caserma Ederle July 11 in the form of Vetracon 2017, a veteran transition conference by American Dream U and hosted by the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program.

The conference comes to the Golden Lion from 8 a.m. to noon, and Soldiers, spouses, Department of the Army civilians and retirees are welcome to participate. Six dynamic guest speakers will share "TED-type" talks on a variety of subjects, to include entrepreneurship, goal-setting, networking and leadership.

According to Jess Holland, Director of Business Development at American Dream U, the organization's mission is to help service members and their families thrive in their transition from the military, by finding their dream job or starting a business. But this is more than a transition event, said Tamara Elston, chief of Military Personnel Division, Directorate of

Human Resources.

"Everyone can take something away from this event," Elston said. "It's not often that we get the opportunity to listen to and participate in something with this caliber of speakers. These are reputable professionals who often receive substantial fees to speak. With American Dream U, they're doing it on their own dime because of American Dream U's commitment to men and women in uniform."

Since its founding in June 2013, the organization has had nearly 15,000 service members, spouses, dependents and veterans attend 47 events worldwide, Holland said. They also reach people online through specific online programs, estimating a reach of about 4,500 people annually.

"The speakers are willing to give their time because they want to share their knowledge and help those who have served them. Intuitively, they understand everything that service members do for them, and this is (often) the first time they've had an opportunity to use

their skills as speakers to share with service members. So they jump on that opportunity. It's a way for them to give back in any way they can," she said.

Guest speakers for the Ederle event include Ashleigh Mooney, a business owner who hopes to inspire entrepreneurship and encourage perseverance; Garrett Gunderson, founder and chief wealth architect of Wealth Factory and a best-selling author; Kate Buck, social media manager and CEO of KBJOnline; Jeremy Hendon, who has built several companies, developed apps and co-authored multiple books; Bob Donnell, author, speaker, trainer and more; and Phil Randazzo, writer, consultant and founder of American Dream U.

The agenda for the half-day conference includes not only the speaking engagements, but also some question-and-answer time with the speakers. An agenda will be publicized in future announcements on the USAG Facebook page, www.facebook.com/vmcitaly.

Learn more about American Dream U at their website, www.americandreamu.org/events.



USAG Italy changes leadership

This photo first ran July 28, 2017 with an accompanying article.

Col. Erik M. Berdy, USAG Italy incoming garrison commander, speaks during the garrison change of command ceremony on Caserma Ederle July 21. (Photo by Antonio Bedin, 7th ATC RTSD-South)

Public Health Activity-Italy receives recognition as 'Star Site' for excellence

This article first ran Aug. 25, 2017.

By Capt. Jordan N. Yolles
Vicenza Veterinary Clinic

VICENZA — Public Health Activity-Italy was recognized as an Army Occupational Health Star Site Aug. 2 at U.S. Army Garrison Italy headquarters.

Brig. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commander, Regional Health Command Europe, presented the organization with the Safety and Occupational Health Star Flag and certificate in a ceremony attended by more than 40 guests.

Lieutenant Col. Andrew Sims, commander, PHA-Italy, said, "This is a distinct honor and a significant step toward an improved culture in safety. Our personnel are our greatest resource, and protecting their safety speaks directly to conserving our fighting strength. This sets the highest standard for PHA-Italy moving forward with an unparalleled safety culture."

The Army Safety and Occupational Health Star Strong Program is modeled after an Occupational

Safety and Health Administration program which recognizes organizations for excellence in safety management systems.

In 2012, Medical Command adopted OSHA'S Voluntary Protection Programs criteria for safety management systems.

This is the first time the certification has been granted to an organization that spans four countries and includes all tri-service components.

The recognition process is intense: the entire Activity needed to demonstrate a strong culture of safety and show how they integrate safety into veterinary clinical practice, food safety and food defense activities across all 26 supported countries in Europe and Africa.

This included successfully fulfilling 243 core elements under four major categories: employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention, and training.

PHA-Italy not only fulfilled the requirements of ASHMS but also developed an impressive list of best practices to be shared worldwide.

Official taxis allowed to pick up fares on installations



(Courtesy photo)

This article first ran Sept. 29, 2017.

By Karin J. Martinez
Outlook Editor

VICENZA — Beginning Oct. 1, taxi drivers in Vicenza may enter Caserma Del Din and Caserma Ederle when called by customers.

The initiative is a new one, as taxis have not previously been allowed on the military installations here to pick up or drop off fares.

Supported by the Italian Base Commander and U.S. military leadership, the policy authorizes several pickup locations that are marked with taxi signs such as the one in the photo at left.

In addition to the already established taxi pickup location on Viale Della Pace outside Gate 2, taxi drivers will be allowed at the commissary parking lot and Ederle Inn on Caserma Ederle, and in front of the AAFES Express (shoppette) on Caserma Del Din.

Keeping safety in mind, only drivers who are members of the Vicenza Taxi Union and cleared for entrance will be authorized entrance onto the installations to pick up and drop off. Italian authorities, in partnership with the Directorate of Emergency Services, have provided background checks and issued badges for those drivers.

According to Lt. Col. Mike Parsons, director of Emergency Services, this initiative is a great stride for the Vicenza

Military Community.

"Leadership has heard the voices of Soldiers who have asked for this service for awhile," said Parsons. "The new policy provides access to safe, legal taxis for our community."

To make it easy for those needing a ride, there is an app for Smartphones whereby customers can book the taxi with a simple tap. Download apptaxi.it/get for the app that includes not only Vicenza, but also 18 other cities such as Milan, Rome, Venice and Padova. Other app features include paying with credit card in the app, sending GPS position if you don't know the address where you are, canceling or otherwise managing reservations.

To call a taxi, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, dial 0444-920-600.

Sexually transmitted infections on rise locally, nationally

This article first ran Oct. 27, 2017.

by Tamara Passut
Contributor

VICENZA — According to the Army Public Health Report from the Army Public Health Center, there has been a rise in positive cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) within our community.

This rising trend is in line with a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control, which publicized the 2016 rate of STIs in the United States as being higher than ever reported for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.

In 2016, three people in the Vicenza Military Community tested positive for gonorrhea; there have been six cases since January. Chlamydia cases have also increased from 41 confirmed last year to 45 so far this year, a 37 percent increase in just eight months.

Educating the community on these risks is seen as the most effective solution to stop this unfavorable trend and the threat to the community. Many people carry an STI but are unaware because they don't have symptoms and haven't been recently tested. They may think they can have unprotected sex but don't realize they are spreading dangerous and potentially life-threatening infections to their partners.

Antibiotics may create bigger problem

The immediate goal of STI screening for at-risk people is to identify and treat them before they spread the infection and develop complications such as cancer or infertility.

Screening also enables individuals to inform their



sex partners so they also can be tested and treated. It is important to remember that many infections are still contagious during treatment, so complete abstinence is essential to ensure the infection is resolved completely and won't spread to others.

Even with appropriate treatment, the World Health Organization has advised that resistance to antibiotics for gonorrhea is occurring, creating a gonorrhea "super-bug" strain which is being seen in more than 50 countries worldwide.

"The development of antibiotic-resistant strains means it's even more important than ever to take proper precautions or practice abstinence outside of monogamous relationships.

"While abstinence is the only perfect method of prevention, using a latex condom every time there is any sexual contact will greatly reduce the risk of infection from chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomoniasis and HIV," said Lt. Col. Orlando Ruiz-Sosa, chief of Preventive Medicine for Army Public Health Nursing at the U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza. "Condoms may not protect completely against herpes, genital human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and HPV-associated diseases, e.g., genital warts and cervical cancer."

Contracting an STI will impact a person mentally and physically, Ruiz-Sosa explained. Mentally, it may cause depression, anxiety and loss of focus on the mission. Carriers may also have physical symptoms and miss unit training for more medical appointments, blood tests and medication management.

Prevention is key

The good news is that these infections are completely preventable, and there are free condoms in the Del-Din Clinic, USAHC-V Pharmacy, Primary Care and Preventive Medicine clinics. You can also purchase condoms at the PX, Shoppette, commissary, as well as at local pharmacies and pharmacy vending machines on the economy.

Anyone with signs/symptoms of a STI, or with concerns regarding possible exposure, is encouraged to make a primary care appointment for evaluation, treatment and testing or contact Army Public Health Nursing at DSN 636-9645, comm. 0444-61-9645. Make an appointment with your medical provider at www.TRICAREonline.com or call the clinic directly: Caserma Ederle: DSN 636-9000, comm. 0444-61-9000; Del Din: DSN 636-9880, comm. 0444-61-9880.

Additionally, if your partner has informed you he/she has an STI, or you suspect you have an STI, report directly for testing at the Health Clinic laboratory on Caserma Ederle and request self-referred STI testing. Results may take one to two weeks and will be available to access via the TRICARE Online Patient Portal.

(Passut is the Patient Advocate and Public Affairs Representative for USAHC-Vicenza.)

November

This article first ran Nov. 22, 2017.

Annual event brings leaders, residents together

CASERMA EDERLE — Approximately 60 towns attended the ninth annual Meet the Mayors event in the Golden Lion conference center on Caserma Ederle Nov. 8.

Representatives from about 50 towns throughout the provinces of Vicenza and Padova were on hand to share information in the way of history, culture, events and local specialties.

U.S. Army Garrison Italy Commander Col. Erik M. Berdy visited each table and had his picture taken with all the town representatives that included 19 mayors, 16 deputy mayors and many council members.

(Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)



SUPPORT

(Continued from page 1)

ready to provide firepower to support USAFE, or any combatant commander lucky enough to receive their aid.

If an order comes through to Darby, the Airmen will prepare shipping containers. To do so requires help from other sections in the squadron, such as aerospace ground equipment.

"As AGE, we're normally in a maintenance flight, but here at Darby, we're directly plugged in with the 731st," said Tech. Sgt. Philip Tunstall, 731st MUNS AGE section chief.

When munitions are shipped from Darby, Tunstall works closely with the inspection and munitions maintenance sections to power the test and maintenance equipment and to pressure wash the shipping containers.

"Before any missiles can ship, the containers must be absolutely clean inside and out," said Tunstall. "We recently received two more pressure washers that stand six feet tall and more than 10 feet

long, so we can now increase our mission capability for large orders."

During shipments, vehicles receive the brunt of wear and tear because Airmen travel around to bunkers housing stockpiles of munitions. Instead of working in a logistics readiness squadron, the vehicle maintenance crew at Darby are assigned to 731st MUNS.

"We maintain Darby's fleet of vehicles, including forklifts and semi-trucks that we help certify Airmen to operate," said Staff Sgt. William Peters, 731st MUNS ground transportation training and validation noncommissioned officer in charge.

The vehicle maintenance crew gathers their tools and follows Airmen from the munitions storage section during large shipments. If any vehicle were to break down, the crew could provide on-the-spot repairs.

Working in a geographically separated unit doesn't just require well-oiled equip-

ment — tuneups are also needed. Tech. Sgt. Leslie Charles and Brett Randall, 731st MUNS independent duty medical technicians, are responsible for handling all the medical needs of Darby's personnel.

"As IDMTs, we're typically attached to small units, but with as many Airmen as there are here, we handle everything under the sun," said Charles. "A typical week includes everything from pharmacy to water testing to minor trauma accidents. Sometimes we have to be creative with how we provide help with the resources we have."

Charles said during hers and Randall's careers as IDMTs, they've used a wire shower shelf with towels and duct tape to splint a broken leg, turned an IV bag into heat and ice packs, and made a patient litter out of uniform tops and mop handles.

This support to the mission could not happen without a budget. All of the contracted civilian employees, deliveries,

equipment purchases and transportation fees are finalized by one finance Airman.

"Here at Darby, I do all things finance from helping an Airman with issues in their paycheck to briefing the commander on fiscal budgets," said Tech. Sgt. Otis Smith, 731st MUNS financial manager. "My job here is unique and requires me to be proactive, not reactive — sometimes digging into maintenance technical orders or instructions to better understand our budget and what equipment we need."

Smith sees himself as the glue that helps hold the mission together, supporting a wide range of duties.

"We are a big family here with an open door policy to help each other out. Everyone has to do their part and take up several responsibilities to complete the mission," said Smith. "Every day I come in and my job requires something different from me, makes me learn something new, and I love that."

839th Transportation downloads 400 vehicles at depot

*This article first ran Dec. 15, 2017.
This is a shortened version.*

**Story and photo
by Chiara Mattiolo**
DMC Public Affairs Office

LIVORNO — Thanksgiving is a holiday for most Americans but this year it was another day of work to keep the Army ready as the 839th Transportation Battalion Surface Deployment & Distribution Command (SDDC), Italy Detachment, downloaded a vessel loaded with 398 armored vehicles at the Port of Livorno, Nov. 23-24.

Despite the large number of vehicles, this is easy, routine duty which must go on despite holidays, said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. John Hoteck.

“We perform an average of one port operation per month. With the excellent team of experts in the battalion, Italy Detachment, everything goes smooth and seems simpler than it really is,” said Hoteck.

Vehicles at the port were downloaded and transferred to a staging area, waiting to be transported to a final destination with 405th Army Field Support Battalion, U.S. Army Africa, located at Leghorn Army Depot. According to Lt. Col. Crystal Hills, 405th commander, logistics is very much a team effort, and 839th is key to making the team successful.

"AFSBN-Africa continuously ships and receives APS [Army prepositioned stocks] equipment around the globe in support of Army priorities," said Hills. "The majority of our equipment is received or shipped through the Port of Livorno, and 839th's mission is absolutely vital to our battalion operations."

Part of the downloading operation is contracted; in this particular shipment, contractor drivers took care of positioning the vehicles in the staging area, following 839th Trans. Bn. directives.

“It is extremely important to perform a detailed coordination with the contractor



Monica Simoncini, cargo control manager, 839th Transportation Battalion Italy Detachment, checks vehicle documents with Transportation Specialist Sandro Maccheroni during Port Operations Nov. 23-24.

drivers to create staging area, which will consequently grant a smooth flow during the loading on trucks phase,” said Monica Simoncini, battalion cargo control manager.

The armored vehicles will support the 405th Army Field Support Battalion-Africa mission at Leghorn Army Depot.

An important phase of port operations is to check all cargo documents.

“As we download the vehicles and ensure them in the staging area, we also check all the documents against the serial number of each MRAPs to ensure a quick customs clearance,” said Simoncini.

The major challenge during each port operation, no matter how complicated, is always safety, according to Hoteck.

“Due to the size and weight of these armored vehicles and the tight, congested area inside the vessel, our personnel trained together with the contractors -- driving the vehicles every

time they begin to download the vessel to ensure maximum safety,” explained Hoteck.

In 1997, the terminal was designated as 839th Transportation Battalion. The battalion has detachments in Greece, Turkey and Italy, which serve as the single port managers for operations throughout seaports in Southern Europe, the Balkans, the Adriatic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and Northern (and Western) Africa.

"Camp Darby serves as a logistics hub, projecting power by land, sea and air, in support of coalition forces. This mission is accomplished each day with the support of over 500 host nation partners," said Catherine Miller, deputy garrison manager at Darby.

The importance of Camp Darby as a vital logistics hub to Army readiness is reflected in a major construction project that will increase security and rapid deployment.

“The project consists of the construction to relocate the ammunition handling railhead to the Ammunition Storage Area. Work includes a new rail line from the Italian State Railroad mainline through the Leghorn Training Area to the ASA railhead, including right of way, exchange delivery, exchange storage, railhead delivery, support maneuvering, dock, storage track and improvements to the Italian Railway System to accommodate tie-in of the Camp Darby Rail track,” said Stephen Donnelly, Public Works.

All construction must meet USAF and Department of Defense standards and Italian laws.

“As Camp Darby is located in a unique strategic location for rapid movement of equipment via air, rail, boat or even road, it is imperative to improve the security and safety of the movement phase,” said Col. Renato Vaira, Italian Base Commander.

News briefs

Register for school year 2018-19
Families of returning students in Vicenza are encouraged to register early for the 2018-19 school year. Registration for all Vicenza schools takes place at the elementary school building in Villaggio Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Those with elementary students will go to the front entrance of VES, and families with middle and high school students will register in the VTC room, Room 263. This early bird registration is for returning students only. Parents/guardians are reminded that registration is required each school year.

MP desk relocates temporarily
Through April 20, the Military Police Desk will be at the back of the building to allow for construction. All patrons having business with the MP Desk will have to proceed to the rear of Building 4B, to the double doors, and use the intercom there to contact the desk for entry. All MP-related functions will be conducted through this access point. The Pass and Badge office will remain in its current location throughout this construction project. For more

information, contact the MP Desk at DSN 634-7626, comm. 0444-71-7626.

Resiliency through art
The Art Center is a great option for creative endeavors. For those feeling stress, depression or anxiety, check out the Resiliency through Art program. The center offers **Adult Resiliency through Art** Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Art Center; Wednesdays 5-6:30 p.m. at the Del Din Fitness Center (2nd floor); and Thursdays 5-6:30 p.m. at the Art Center.

There is also time set aside for **Youth/Teen Creative Expression:** Tuesdays 3-6 p.m. at the Youth Center on Villaggio; and Thursdays 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Caserma Ederle library. Call the Ederle Art Center at DSN 634-7846, comm. 0444-61-7846 for more information.

CYS recruiting fair
Community members eligible to work on Caserma Ederle: Family and MWR and Child & Youth Services are now hiring. Head into the recruiting fair Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and find out more.

The fair will take place at the Ederle Teen Center, Building 373. What to bring: resume, proof of education (high school diploma or equivalent) and two references. Please note: An active USAjobs.gov account is preferred.

English as second language
Army Community Service offers English as a Second Language classes each Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, and Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m. Those interested in participating in the classes should call ACS at DSN 634-7500, comm. 0444-71-7500. Or stop by the Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center, Building 108 on Caserma Ederle. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, 1-5 p.m.

Financial peace
The Vicenza Garrison Chapel and donations will offer the Financial Peace University to Soldiers, civilians and family members Jan. 17-March 14. The Dave Ramsey financial class is free and teaches participants how to budget, save and become debt free.

A book is included, as well as a snack each time. Class starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. in the Caserma Ederle chapel classroom. Register by emailing vicenzafpu@gmail.com.

Passport office schedule
The USAG Italy Passport Office will operate under the following schedule effective Jan. 15:
Walk-ins: Mon-Tue, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.; and Wed and Fri 9-11:30 a.m.
Appointments: Thurs, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Wed and Fri, 1-3 p.m.
The office is closed all federal holidays.

Gym Rat Program
United States Army Garrison Italy presents the Gym Rat Program at the Ederle and Del Din fitness centers. The program is about power, strength, size and grit from head to toe and will consist of squats, dead lift and bench press. Testing days and times are as follows: Tues, Thurs, Fri at Ederle Fitness Center: noon-7 p.m.; on Del Din noon-6 p.m. Participants must make an appointment at the fitness centers to participate. Call DSN 634-7616 for more information.

VENETO & NEARBY

**Sagra del Broccolo Fiolaro
Fiolaro Broccoli Festival**
Jan. 12-21, Creazzo, sports center, Via Torino 10. The *broccolo fiolaro* is a typical crop of the Creazzo hills. Its name derives from the several sprouts along the stalk of the plant, which in Venetian dialect are called *fioi*, or offspring. Food booths featuring gnocchi with broccoli, traditional *fritola*, or doughnut, and typical Creazzo dishes. Open at 6:30 p.m.

**EXPO Internazionale Canina
International Dog Show**
Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., **Jan. 14**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Padova, Via Tommaseo, 59. This competition brings together more than 700 of the finest pedigreed dogs from all over the world. Admission fee: €8; reduced €4; free entrance for children under 12.

**Antiquaria
Antique Show and Market**
Jan. 13-21, Monday-Friday 3-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Pordenone, Viale Treviso1. Furniture, paintings, antique artifacts, jewelry and many curiosity and rarities. Admission fee: €10; reduced €5 (senior citizens older than 65). Free for children younger than 17.

**Motor Bike Expo
International Motorcycle Show**
Jan. 18-21, 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Verona, Via del Lavoro, 8. Admission fee: €18; reduced €15 for children ages 6-10; free for children under 10.

**Prima del Torcolato
Torcolato new wine festival**
Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Breganze, Piazza Mazzini. The *Torcolato* is the gem of Breganze’s winemaking tradition. It is produced from pressing dried Vespaiola grapes which are hung (*torcolate*, in the local dialect) on strings from the wooden beams of the attics of farmhouses; 2:30 p.m. public pressing of this year grape harvest. Torcolato wine tasting 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.; local product exhibit and sale; folk music and dancing.

**Elezione del Papà del Gnocco
Election of Father of Gnocco**
Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Verona. This carnival is one of the oldest in Europe. Its symbol is The Father of Gnocco (*gnocco* is a traditional Italian first course pasta). He is a man with a long white beard who wears a red cloak and holds a large fork topped by a big dumpling as his scepter. Every year, people in Verona elect a different one. Candidates try to buy people’s vote by offering them gnocchi and wine.

Robert Capa Retrospective Exhibit
Through Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Bassano del Grappa, Museo Civico, Piazza Garibaldi 34. Robert Capa is considered one of the most important photojournalists in the world. On display: 97 of his black and white photos which trace the main conflicts of the 20th century. The section “Portraits” features a series of photographs of his friends; among them, Pablo Picasso, Gary Cooper, Ernest Hemingway, and many others. Entrance fee: €12; reduced: €10.

Van Gogh Alive Exhibit
Through Jan. 28, Verona, Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Piazza Brà; Mondays-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fridays-Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Explore Van Gogh’s work and life experiences during the period 1880 to 1890. See his works in hyper-fine detail, with special attention paid to key features. Entrance fee: €14; reduced €12; get family discounts by buying tickets online at <http://www.ticketone.it/van-gogh-alive-verona-biglietti>.

Keiko Tanabe – Veneto: A Watercolor Journey
Through Jan. 28, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:40-7:30 p.m.; Sundays 4:40-7:30 p.m., Vicenza, at the ArtsBox, Contrà San Paolo 23. On display are watercolor paintings by the Japanese artist Keiko Tanabe of the places she visited in Veneto in 2016. Free entrance.

Botero Exhibit
Through Feb. 25, Verona, AMO Palazzo Forti, Via



Achille Forti 1; Mondays, 2:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesdays-Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. The exhibition is divided into sections devoted to the different themes. The first section focuses on sculpture, passing on to versions by ancient masters, works in which Botero combines Latin American and western culture; other sections are dedicated to religion, politics and Latin American life. Entrance fee: €14 (it includes an audio guide). Special discounts for combination tickets with "I Love Lego" exhibit.

I Love Lego Exhibit
Through Feb. 25, Tuesday-Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Monday 2:30-7:30 p.m., Verona, AMO Palazzo Forti, Via Abramo Massalongo 7. Five different "worlds in miniature" cover dozens of square meters of exhibition space: from the ideal contemporary city to the adventures of pirates, from medieval landscapes to the Ancient Rome, up to the conquest of space in the not-too-distant future. As an homage to Verona, there is a reproduction of Piazza delle Erbe. Entrance fee: €8; reduced €4 (children ages 6-12). Special discounts for combination tickets with Botero exhibit.

**Van Gogh – Tra il Grano e il Cielo
Van Gogh Exhibit – Between Wheat and Sky**
Through April 8, Vicenza, Palladian Basilica, Piazza dei Signori, Mondays-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. The main works by Van Gogh are on display for a major monographic exhibition dedicated to the great artist featuring over 120 works among paintings and drawings. Curated by Marco Goldin, this is the biggest exhibition ever dedicated to Van Gogh in Italy and retraces Van Gogh’s life and artistic evolution throughout an insightful art itinerary. Entrance fee: €14; reduced €11 (for students younger than 26 and senior citizens older than 65); €8 (children ages 6-17); free for children younger than six.

Andy Warhol Exhibit
Through May 1, Treviso, Casa dei Carraresi, Via Palestro 33/38. Mondays-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. This exhibit focuses on the concept of Superstars. Also, with the help of video contributions, visitors are able to experiment the New York climate of the 1960s and 1970s and understand the pursuit of the pop icons. Entrance fee: €12; reduced €10 (students younger than 26); €8 (children ages 6-18); free for children younger than 6.

**Presepi
Nativity Sets in Vicenza**
Through Feb. 4. Free entrance to admire nativity sets at the following locations in Vicenza:
Cathedral, Piazza Duomo
S. Michele ai Servi Church, Piazza Biade
Santi Felice e Fortunato Church, Corso SS. Felice e Fortunato
Sacra Famiglia Church, S. Lazzaro, Via P.L. Da Palestrina
Maddalene Church, Strada Maddalene
S. Croce dei Carmini Church, Corso Fogazzaro
Cuore Immacolato di Maria Church, S. Bortolo, Via Medici
S. Maria Ausiliatrice, Viale Cricoli
Chiesa di S. Lucia Church, Borgo S. Lucia
S. Giuliano Church, Corso Padova
S. Pio X Church, Via Giuriato
S. Maria Assunta Church, Strada di Casale
Monte Berico Church, Viale X Giugno



ANTIQUE MARKETS

Lonigo: Jan. 14, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Via Garibaldi, Piazza XX Settembre, Via Ognibene, about 20 miles southwest of Vicenza (about 100 vendors)

Montegrotto (Padova): Jan. 14, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza 1° Maggio, about 34 miles southeast of Vicenza (about 70 vendors)

Portobuffolè (Treviso): Jan. 14, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Beccaro, about 88 miles northeast of Vicenza (250 vendors)

Vicenza: Jan. 14, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza dei Signori, Piazza Duomo, Piazza Garibaldi, Piazza Palladio, Piazza Biade and Piazza Castello (220 vendors)

Villafranca (Verona): Jan. 14, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Castello (90 vendors)

Verona: Jan. 20, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Piazza S. Zeno, about 38 miles west of Vicenza (50 vendors)

Bassano del Grappa: Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Terraglio

Cittadella (Padova): Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., downtown squares and streets, about 21 miles north east of Vicenza (about 70 vendors)

Este (Padova): Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Maggiore and Via Matteotti, about 28 miles south of Vicenza (60 vendors)

Godega di Sant’Urbano (Treviso): Jan. 21, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Via Roma, about 78 miles northeast of Vicenza (234 vendors)

Montagnana (Padova): Jan. 21, 8 a.m. to sunset, Piazza Maggiore 150, about 27 miles south of Vicenza (60 vendors)

Padova: Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Prato della Valle and Via Umberto I, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza (180 vendors)

Soave (Verona): Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antonio Marogna and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, about 23 miles west of Vicenza, (110 vendors)



Fried Dough Festival, Florence

TUSCANY

Birraio dell’Anno National Beer Contest
Jan. 19, 6 p.m.-1 a.m.; Jan. 20, noon- 1 a.m.; Jan. 21, noon-10 p.m., Florence, Obihall Theatre, Via Fabrizio De Andrè. More than 150 Italian beers compete for the best one. Street food and booths feature a great variety of Tuscan specialties; beer tasting; entrance fee: €7 (includes a screen-printed glass); €15 three-day entrance.

Militoscana Military items exhibit and sale
Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Jan. 21, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Florence, Marathon Wellness Center, Viale Malta 10. More than 60 collectors feature helmets, uniforms, military maps and medals from WWI and WWII; entrance fee: €6; food court and free parking available.

Sagra delle Frittelle Fried Dough Festival
Jan. 20-March 19, Saturdays 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., San Donato in Collina, Rignano Sull’Arno (Florence). Food booths feature a great variety of *frittelle* (fried dough, a *Carnevale* pastry), the famous *Vin Santo* (sweet wine), and other local specialties. This year, also gluten-free *frittelle*.

Il Cinquecento a Firenze 16th Century in Florence
Through Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Florence, Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza degli Strozzi. This exhibit is devoted to the art of the 16th century and showcases over 70 works of art by such artists as Michelangelo, Bronzino, Vasari, and others. Entrance fee: €13; reduced €10.50 for people younger than 26 or older than 65; €5 for children ages 6-18.

Palio di Buti Buti’s Race
Jan. 22, Buti (Pisa). The first *Palio* in Tuscany every year, the *Palio di Buti* originates from the religious celebration of St. Anthony, protector of domestic animals. According to a tradition dating back to the 19th century, all domestic animals in Buti were to be blessed by the parish priest. After the horses had been blessed, their owners would challenge each other to horse races, which continues today in the tradition of the Palio. The horse race is preceded by dinners in the streets, theatrical performances and a pageant in historical costumes at 2:30 p.m.; spectators can follow the competition on giant screens.

Made in New York: Keith Haring. The origins of street art.
Through Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Florence, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Via Camillo Cavour 3. American street artist and social activist, Keith Haring, is one of the few contemporary artists that have pervaded the subconscious of the general public. He was a prolific artist both on the street and in the studio, making him one of the true street art legends. His classic colorful figures have become an iconic symbol in popular culture, instantly recognizable to many even if they don’t know the name of Keith Haring. While many of his colorful figures have instant commercial appeal, much of the work of Haring revolved around themes of politics, sexuality, war, religion and AIDS, largely in

response to the street culture Haring experienced in New York City. Ticket: €10; reduced €6.

Winter Park
Open daily through February 25, Florence, Obihall Center, Lungarno Aldo Moro; ice skating rink, a snow tubing track and a downhill ski slope. All necessary equipment can be rented on site. For opening and prices, visit <http://firenzewinterpark.it/>.

ANTIQUE MARKETS

Bolgheri (Livorno): Jan. 13-14, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., downtown squares and streets

Florence: Jan. 14, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Santo Spirito and Borgo Tegolaio (about 100 vendors)

Forte dei Marmi (Lucca): Jan. 13-14,8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Dante

Montepulciano (Siena): Jan. 13-14, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Grande

Piombino (Livorno): Jan. 13-14, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Cappelletti, Corso Italia, via Fucini, Piazza Gramsci

Pisa: Jan. 13-14, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Piazza dei Cavalieri

Pistoia: Jan. 13-14, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via Pertini

Vicopisano (Pisa): Jan. 14, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Domenico Cavalca

Pontedera (Pisa): Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., main squares and streets downtown

Certaldo (Florence): Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Boccaccio and Via 2 Giugno

Florence: Jan. 20-21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Indipendenza, (about 130 vendors)

Lucca: Jan. 20-21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antelminelli, Piazza S. Giovanni, Piazza San Giusto, Via San Giovanni, Corte Bertolini (about 230 vendors)

Marina di Grosseto (Grosseto): Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via XXIV Maggio

Ponte a Egola (Pisa): Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Garibaldi and Via XXV Aprile

Quarrata (Pistoia): Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Risorgimento

CONCERTS/SPORTS

Arch Enemy – Jan. 17 Milan
Lady Gaga – Jan. 18 Assago (Milan)
Rod Stewart – Jan. 31 Assago (Milan)
Omar Sosa – Feb. 3 Florence
Jake Bugg – Feb. 6 Milan
Steven Wilson – Feb. 9 Milan; Feb. 10 Rome
Metallica – Feb. 10 Torino; Feb. 12 and Feb. 14 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)
Dropkick Murphys, Flogging Molly

Glen Matlock – Feb. 14 Padova
Russ – Feb. 15 Milan
Toto – March 10 Assago (Milan); March 23 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)
G3 – Joe Satriani, John Petrucci, Uli Jon Rot – April 2 Rome, April 3 Florence, April 4 Milan
Bob Dylan and his band – April 3-5 Rome; April 7 Florence; April 8 Mantova; April 9 Milan
Norah Jones – April 8 Milan; April 9 Torino
Afterhours – April 10 Assago (Milan)
Roger Waters – April 17-18 Assago (Milan); April 21-22 amd April 24-25 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)
Phill Rudd – May 5 Bologna; May 13 Rome
Anastacia – May 6 Brescia; May 7 Rome; May 9 Bologna; May 10 Milan
The Vamp – May 22 Milan
Iron Maiden – June 16 Florence; July 9 Milan; July 17 Trieste
Marilyn Manson – June 19 Milan
Pearl Jam – June 24 Padova
Sons of Apollo – June 24 Milan
Ringo Starr – July 8 Lucca; July 9 Marostica; July 11 Rome
Deep Purple – July 9 Verona
Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds – July 16 Lucca
David Garrett and his band – Oct. 17 Rome; Oct. 19 Florence; Oct. 20 Assago (Milan)

ITALIAN ARTISTS
Fiorella Mannoia – Jan. 13 Milan
Biagio Antonacci – Jan. 20, Livorno; Jan. 26-27 Padova
Ornella Vanoni - Jan. 26 Brescia; Feb. 1 Rome; Feb. 16 Padova; March 21 Bologna
Caparezza – Feb. 9–10 Conegliano
Zucchero – Feb. 26; March 2 Assago (Milan); March 3 Florence
Gianna Nannini – March 29 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna); April 6 Conegliano (Treviso); April 7 Padova; April 11 Livorno; April 13 Assago (Milan)
Angelo Branduardi – April 10 Milan; April 20 Torino
Lorenzo Live– May 15-16, and May 21-22 Verona; March 10-11, March 13-14; March 16-17; March 19-20 Florence

Harlem Globetrotters – March 3 Assago (Milan); March 4 Rome; March 5 Livorno; March 6 Torino
FIM Superbike World Championship – May 5, July 6-8 Misano Addriatico (Rimini)
MOTUL FIM Superbike World Championship – May 11-13 Imola (Bologna)

Tickets are available in Vicenza at Media World, Palladio Shopping Center, or online at www.ticketone.it and www.getticket.it.



Joe Satriani
(Photo by Cesare Greselin)



Palio di Buti, Buti (Pisa)

Family & MWR Events

ENTERTAINMENT & TRIPS

Family Movie Night Thursdays & Sundays, 6-8 p.m. The Arena, Caserma Ederle

Every Thursday and Sunday, the Arena plays the latest family-friendly movies. For \$29.95, your family may enjoy two hours of bowling for up to six people, one large cheese pizza, six bottled beverages of your choice and free shoe rental.

Sunday Night Football Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 7-11:30 p.m. Warrior Zone, Caserma Del Din

Head to the Warrior Zone on Sunday nights and root for your favorite team. Kick back in the lounge area while enjoying hot food and cool drinks. Every Sunday until Super Bowl (Feb. 4).

Library Lego® Club Jan. 16, 23 & 30, 3:30-5 p.m. Library, Caserma Ederle

Drop in to the library on Tuesdays and let your children explore their creativity with our Lego® collection. Children can set their minds to create anything from a spaceship, a castle, a car or something else entirely. All Lego®s are provided. Open to ages 4-12 years.

Del Din Paint Night Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m., \$25 Warrior Zone, Caserma Del Din

Discover your inner creativity with a canvas, paints and something cold to drink. Simple instruction will be lead by an Arts & Crafts Center instructor, and every participant will walk away with a completed 30x40 centimeter canvas at the end of the evening. Fee includes canvas and paint supplies. No experience needed. BOSS Soldiers receive 20 percent off.

Ljubljana, Slovenia Express Jan. 20, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$95 ODR, Caserma Ederle

Ljubljana is often compared to Prague due to its stunning architectural

beauty and is still considered to be one of Europe's hidden gems. Whether you stroll down the riverwalk sight seeing or visit one of the cities many museums, this city has much to offer. Trip includes transportation, guided tour, trip facilitator. Tourist passport needed. Call DSN 634-7291, comm. 0444-71-7291 for more information.

Ski/Snowboard Trip: San Pellegrino Jan. 20, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m., \$50 ODR, Caserma Ederle

Ski the *Tre Valli*, the Three Valleys in San Pellegrino. Rental equipment must be reserved in advance. The trip guide will provide guidance on the resort and inform the group about ski and snowboard lesson opportunities. Lessons available to those ages 12 and older. Cost does not include lift tickets.

Arts & Crafts Open House Jan. 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Arts & Crafts Center Caserma Ederle

Join the center for an exciting event to see who they are and what they do. The Ederle Arts & Crafts Center has been in transition since January 2016, but has worked out a new vision and is ready to show it off. See the new, improved center, works of local artists and community musicians.

Dachau Memorial and Munich Jan. 27, 3 a.m., \$105 ODR, Caserma Ederle

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the opening of the Dachau concentration camp. Come pay your respects to the tens of thousands of people who lost their lives in this death camp. Afterwards, participants will spend time in Munich to finish the day on a lighter note.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Romp-N-Stomp Playgroup Jan. 17 & 24, 10-11:30 a.m. Bldg. 308, Caserma Ederle

Romp-N-Stomp Playgroup is a time for learning through play. Parents

with children ages birth to three years old are invited to this weekly playgroup. Working parents are encouraged to drop in and spend time with their families during their lunch hour. Call DSN 634-7500, comm. 0444-71-7500.

Volunteer Orientation Jan. 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m. ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Learn how to register on and navigate the Volunteer Management Information System. Bring a notebook and pen to take notes, and bring a laptop (if you have one) to follow along. No need to sign up, just stop by.

Spouse Sponsorship Training Jan. 18, 1-2 p.m. ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Learn how to be a successful sponsor and help make someone's transition to Italy better. Participants will learn about available resources and the sponsorship process. This is a fun and friendly open forum that allows for discussion, comments and questions.

Fill Your Toolbox Jan. 18, 1:30-2:10 p.m. ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Family Advocacy welcomes parents and youth of elementary and middle school age to join them for a fun hands-on activity that teaches a skill both parents and youth can use. Learn about stress and anger management and resources. No registration required.

Bringing Baby Home Jan. 18, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

This class is provided by the New Parent Support Program. Second time parents are encouraged to attend as with every birth you become a new parent and no two children are alike. Learn practical tips about newborn behavior, sleep, SIDS, how to soothe a crying baby and more.

Let's Move! Jan. 23, 10-11 a.m. SKIES Martial Arts Room Caserma Ederle

Families with children ages 2-4 years are invited to attend our fun and energetic gross motor skills class. Children of all skill levels are encouraged to attend. Occurs every week on Tuesday.

Teen Workforce Preparation Workshops Youth Centers, Caserma Ederle

The Teen Center staff and partners will help teens get ready for that after school or summer job. Join in on the monthly workshops to build your resume and prepare for success. Workshops schedule is as follows:

- Financial Readiness
Jan. 15, 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
- Certified CPR
Feb. 8, 2-4 p.m.
- Certified First Aid
Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m.
- Introduction to Babysitting Course
March 8, 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
- Ethics in the Workplace
April 12, 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
- Interviewing Skills & Resume Writing
May 24, 2-4 p.m.

Lunch will be provided during lunchtime classes. Open to students

in grades 9-12. Call DSN 634-7659, comm. 0444-71-7659, for more information.

FITNESS & SPORTS

*Purchase tickets for all fitness classes at the front desk and present to instructor.

Zumba® Jan. 13, 16-20, 22-27; time varies \$5 per class/\$35 for 10 classes Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Zumba® exercise classes are "fitness parties" that blend upbeat rhythms with easy-to-follow choreography for a cardio and total-body workout that feels like a celebration.

Slow Flow Yoga Jan. 16, 18, 23 & 25, 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$5 per class/\$35 for 10 classes Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

This vinyasa series class — meaning breathing is linked to movement — is moderately paced so you will learn the fundamental asanas (postures) and principles that create a successful and effective yoga practice. Set to music, this class will invigorate your entire body. Ideal for beginners.

Taekwondo Jan. 16, 18, 23 & 25, 10-11 a.m. \$12 per class/\$70 for 8 classes Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Self defense class based upon the Taekwondo techniques that will provide students the tools for self defense.

Cycling Jan. 16, 17, 19, 22-24 & 26 Time varies; \$5 per class/\$35 for 10 c Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Maximize calorie burn by doing a variety of different drills that include endurance, sprints, hills, climbs and seated drills.

Kettlebell Strength & Conditioning Jan. 16, 18, 23 & 25, 9-10 a.m. \$5 per class/\$35 for 10 classes Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Build strength, power and endurance in this full-body kettlebell workout. Torch calories and learn proper kettle bell technique. All skill levels.

Pilates Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-11 a.m. \$5 per class/\$35 for 10 classes Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Along with core strength, Pilates aims to improve structural alignment of the body to help prevent future injuries. This class is for anyone who wants to try something new, feel healthy and strong.

HIT Fit Dates & times vary \$5 per class/\$35 for 10 classes Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

HIT Fit is a cardiovascular workout incorporating interval training. This class won't be easy, but it sure gets results. Open to all fitness levels.

For more information, see the FMWR calendar on the USAG Italy website: www.italy.army.mil. Click on Links/ Recreation.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

“Make a career of
HUMANITY.
Commit yourself to the
noble struggle for
EQUAL RIGHTS.
You will make a
GREATER PERSON
of yourself, a
GREATER NATION
of your country, and a
FINER WORLD
to live in.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance
Stephanie El-Sayed, Guest Speaker
Golden Lion, Caserma Ederle
January 17, 3:30 p.m.
The community is invited.