



Congrats to our graduates!

Photo by Rebecca Castellano, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Gabriela De Andrade accepts her diploma. On June 3, Stuttgart High School students received diplomas during ceremony, held like a drive-in movie, in the school parking lot. The evening event on Panzer Kaserne was projected on large LED screens and broadcasted on the American Forces Network radio as family members watched safely from their car. To read more, turn to page 5.

Stuttgart clinic adds new coronavirus test system

By Rebecca Castellano
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart recently added a new weapon to its arsenal in the fight against COVID-19.

The new rapid testing platform is intended to detect COVID-19 in individuals who have been recommended for further testing by healthcare providers. COVID-19 is generally detectable in nasopharyngeal swab specimens during the initial phase of infection. Positive results indicate an active infection.

“We now have two (systems) and we can run tests internally,” said Lt. Col. Maria Bruton, commander of USAHC Stuttgart. “We’re really excited about this because if patients come through the line and we are concerned that they do have symptoms for COVID-19, we can test them and within a day we should be able to get back to them and let them know whether they are positive or negative.”

Prior to receiving the new system, a runner was used to drive test kits from U.S. Army

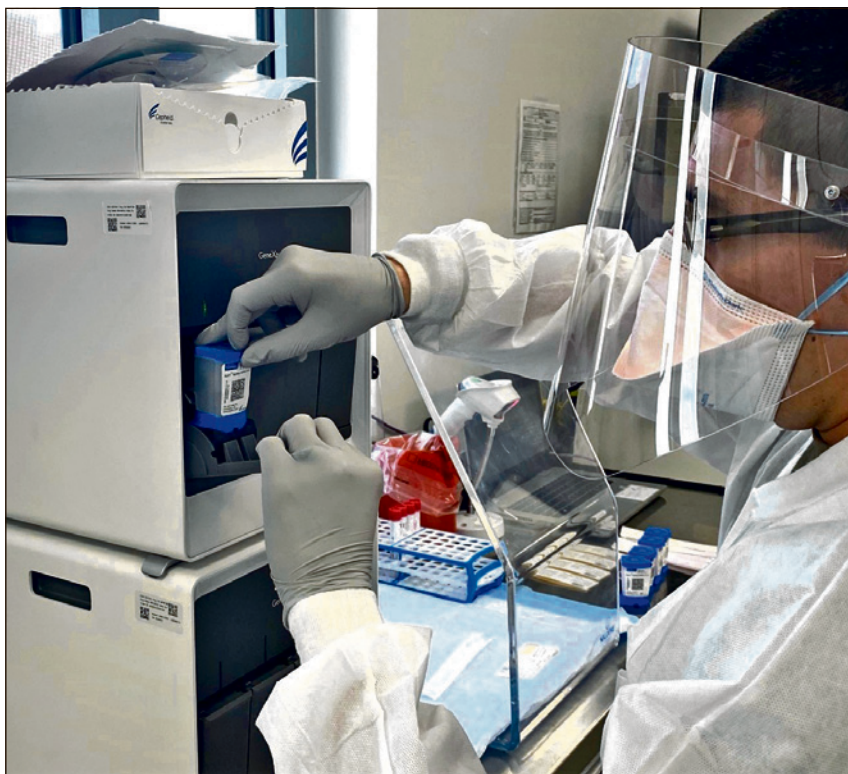
Garrison Stuttgart to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, near Kaiserslautern. Any suspected COVID-19 carriers would be required to self-quarantine while awaiting results.

“The process before would take about 24-48 hours to get a result back to the patient,” Bruton said. “With testing capabilities in-house, we should be able to run those results within an 8-hour period and contact them.”

The improved process is something Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Zachary Sleeper can appreciate. He was tested for COVID-19 on a Wednesday and told to self-isolate in his barracks room until he received the results.

“It was difficult depending on others to bring me food and supplies and all the while wondering if I had the virus,” said Sleeper, who received a negative test result four days later. “This new system is awesome because it will get people back to work and out of isolation so much sooner.”

Bruton said those with COVID-19 symptoms and anyone in need of emergency



Courtesy photo

Spc. Phillip Corona conducts COVID-19 testing at Stuttgart Army Health Clinic.

See TEST, page 2

By Col. Jason Condrey
Commander
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Opening to a new normal

As we turned our calendars to June, we watched a drastic drop in coronavirus infections in our local area. That led to the garrison reducing the health protection condition from Charlie to Bravo.

This was made possible through the efforts of our military community and the efforts of people in the greater Stuttgart area. With an understanding of the coronavirus we took steps to mitigate its spread.

It wasn't easy. Extra handwashing, maintaining six feet of distance from each other and wearing a mask when keeping our distance can't be guaranteed. We are now seeing the results of that effort.

That said, COVID-19 is still nearby. Cases still pop-up. Every day, Baden-Württemberg reports new cases and new deaths from the virus. It reminds us, we are not done with this yet.

We now look to re-opening services within U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart to a new normal.

As our German partners ease their restrictions off post, we can begin to re-open some of the services and reinstate activities that have been shut down for the past three months.

Conditions will continue to change, as we assess the virus and learn more about its transmission. A local university study is now looking at the risk children face, focusing on the number of cases for those that interact outside their homes vs those that do not. Local authorities will likely



Photo by Rick Scavetta, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Col. Jason Condrey and Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia talk with Sgt. Alexis Gonzales on the American Forces Network's morning radio show. Discussing vital information during COVID-19 operations helped community members better understand garrison restrictions, many which are lifting this month due to changes in host nation guidelines.

base their decision on opening children's activities based on the outcome of this research.

On and off post, children will have access to playgrounds. That means we must make sure they wash their hands both before and after playground use. We've also opened our child development centers. For the past two weeks, we set

new procedures in place and trained staff to prepare for children returning. For parents, these new measures will look and feel different.

We are determined to make sure children of our working parents are as safe as possible. In the coming weeks, we hope to increase our capacity, in part by hiring more care providers and continuing our

assessment to find ways to expand our childcare services.

We've also reopened our fitness centers. We're following our public health guidance and our host nation guidelines. Extra cleaning and sanitizing is required. Like childcare, it's not going to look like it was before. Each gym will allow only a certain number of people inside each room. We must prioritize service members' physical readiness, but still offer time to our civilian workforce and family members. We can't yet open 24-hour access.

Other signs of our new normal are emerging. Now, you can sit down to eat at our food courts and on-post eateries. You can hear the crash of pins falling at our bowling alley. With school out, many children's summer activities will become available.

We need to know who you are and when you take part in on-post activities. If COVID-19 resurfaces, our trace team needs to quickly reach out, to isolate the spread.

This month, as we celebrate the Army's 245th birthday, I'd like to point out that we didn't let an adversary stop us from doing our jobs and leading our lives. Like our training prepares us, we adapt and overcome.

I appreciate all that this community has done, as we have fought this virus together. As we expand services, I look forward to your feedback. Remember, every day is COVID day, until it is not. Wash your hands, mask up, maintain six feet of distance, stay vigilant and stay healthy.

TEST, continued from page 1

dental treatment will be given priority for in-house testing. All asymptomatic patient tests will be sent to partner centers for processing. Anyone who believes they have been in contact with COVID-19 should visit the drive-through testing center at USAHC Stuttgart at Patch Barracks, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Clinic soon to operate under a new normal

Beginning on June 8, Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will start transitioning back to its normal services while looking for ways to minimize the number of patients inside the clinic. "One of the ways we will mitigate that is by offering a curbside pharmacy refill service during normal

duty hours starting on June 1," said Lt. Col. Maria Bruton, SAHC commander.

Patients who called in their refill 24 hours prior can get in the drive-through line, have their prescription verified and delivered to their car by a pharmacy technician, and be on their way.

"It's just one of many ways we can limit the number of people waiting in small spaces for medical care," said Bruton,

who encourages everyone to keep vigilant in the fight against COVID-19.

"I am extremely proud of this community," she said. "The garrison team was able to put our swift, accurate and prudent guidance to safeguard our health and because this community took it seriously, we were able to reduce the rate of transmission. Now we just have to continue to adhere to their guidance."

The Citizen

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Longtime Exchange employee remembered for kindness, hard work and humor

By Larry Reilly

Director, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

During the latter part of March when the impact of COVID-19 was affecting the Stuttgart Community in many different ways, Exchange employees were mourning the loss of a friend and colleague who had dedicated years of his life to serving the Stuttgart military community.

Edward Taylor, the Panzer Food Court manager for many years, passed away just days before the impact of COVID-19 would diminish the once customer-lively arena where Taylor thrived to a food court devoid of tables and chairs while reducing a booming food service operation to a trickle of take-out orders.

The emergence of COVID-19 left little time to adequately bid farewell to the gentleman who not only meant so much to his fellow workers and customers, but also to his loving wife, Gabriele and their son, Keeyon.

“Ed was dedicated and loyal to his family, facility and the Exchange,” said Mike Ryan, general manager of the EUCOM Consolidated Exchange. “Ed was a man who gave back to the military community

by serving those who serve. His service in turn helped make our community a better place for people to live their daily lives.”

Remembered as an extraordinary leader who shared his knowledge, expertise and skills, Taylor was considered by many a fundamental part of initiating and implementing new programs.

“For many years, Taylor was the lifeblood of the Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne food courts, whose sole goal was to improve the quality of life for people in Stuttgart,” Ryan said. “Taylor’s sense of humor and his tendency to put others before himself also stood out, along with his willingness to share his ideas and information.”

Taylor joined the Army & Air Force Exchange Service in 1988 after honorably serving in the military for six years. For three decades, he rose through the ranks of AAFES, serving the communities of Heidelberg, Mannheim and Stuttgart.

“As a member of the Exchange team, he provided energy, commitment and inspiration to his associates,” Ryan said. “He gave a lot to his work during his 32 years of service at various Exchange facilities. He would take it upon himself to make personal sacrifices

in order to work and assist his community and Exchange family.”

Born Jan. 19, 1965 in Manhattan, New York, Taylor joined the Army in 1982 and served as a radio operator.

“Ed was known to friends as “ET,” a popular movie of the era where an alien visits Earth and wants to phone home. Taylor had the perfect nickname for his job,” said Cecil Moore, who first met Taylor in 1984. “The only reason he left the military in 1988 was to pursue his real dream of managing a restaurant business. He enjoyed the European culture and cuisine and chose to stay in Germany. He used to go over to the dining facility and advise them on what they should and should not serve. They actually used to listen to him.”

Taylor was well thought of as a manager and an associate and those feelings of kindness and appreciation also reflected how he felt toward those with and for whom he worked.

“As the AAFES Food Court Manager, he spoke of how he was so proud to serve the Stuttgart community and he never wanted to leave,” Moore said. “We all loved Ed. When there was a shortage of personnel



Courtesy photo

Edward Taylor, longtime Exchange employee.

on any day there was Ed serving us. If Ed noticed you were not having a great day, he would try and brighten your day by sharing a joke or offering great advice.”

As the COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, the tables and chairs of the Exchange food court will return, but something will be different; something will be missing.

“Ed was a genuine person—one we will miss greatly,” Ryan said. “Our sorrow is lessened only slightly with the comforting thought that we had the privilege to know him.”

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Sponsorship training key to newcomers' success

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Successful sponsorship can make all the difference for experiencing a smooth transition. This year, amid COVID-19 restrictions and new procedures for incoming personnel, the truth of that sentiment has never been more evident.

Sponsors are a crucial hub for important information. Being properly trained to sponsor others is an important responsibility, according to Jeremy Plumley, Army Community Service's relocation readiness coordinator.

"Army Community Service does not take this responsibility lightly," Plumley said. "The ACS Sponsorship training includes all of the information a new sponsor needs to provide the best service to incoming individuals and families."

Training includes information about regulatory guidance, virtual in-processing procedures, quarantine support systems, commonly asked questions and much more. Training can be provided through multiple platforms such as Microsoft Teams, VTC, telephone

and in person with observation of proper safety procedures, Plumley said.

"Spouse sponsorship is another important piece of the sponsorship program as it allows incoming spouses to connect with other spouses who can assist with sharing important information," Plumley said. "It's a volunteer position and a great way to give back to the Stuttgart community, by providing invaluable information to incoming spouses."

Sponsorship training is provided weekly and upon request.



Photo by Rick Scavetta, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Aide Rosales prepares for newcomers at the Army Community Service lending closet, a community asset to which sponsors can direct newcomers.

Spouse sponsorship is by request, Plumley said.

To enroll or schedule a training,

contact the Relocation Readiness Program Manager at Army Community Service at 09641-70-596-3362.

NEWS BRIEFS

Community Mail Rooms

Starting Monday, June 1,

Community Mail Rooms (package pickup) at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart left the "Red, White & Blue" cycle. The CMRs will operate Monday-Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Robinson Barracks CMR will

be open from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. With this change, no services are currently under "Red, White & Blue" cycle. The "Red, White & Blue" will remain a part of garrison policy until further notice, should it have to be reestablished due to a resurgence of coronavirus within the community.

Re-opening to a new normal

On June 4, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart transitioned to Health Protection Condition level "HPCON B," and re-opened some services. COVID-19-related mitigation measures include sanitizing, max customer capacity, face masks, physical separation reminders and attendance records. Mitigation

measures mirror those employed by similar local host nation facilities. The services and dates below represent current plans and are subject to changes due to coronavirus restrictions, direction from higher commands and host nation ordinance considerations.

- Private organization meetings are allowed, to include indoor up to 10 people; outdoor up to 20 people – with a maximum of 100 participants with assigned seating and limited co-mingling. Private organizations must use USAG Stuttgart Event COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, available online at StuttgartCitizen.com.

- On June 5, community playgrounds re-opened. On June 8,

these services re-opened: Child Development Centers, fitness centers, indoor, sit-down dining (AAFES, DFMWR, German Kantines), the Galaxy Bowling Center, SKIES lessons (group and individual), Warrior Adventure Quest, Community Clubs and Conference Rooms.

- Opening on June 15, Broadway Café (food/beverage takeaway-only) and club bars (Schwabian and Kelley Club).

- Opening June 17, FMWR Hunting Course.

- Opening July 6, SKIES lessons (group and individual) – horseback riding, soccer.

To keep up to date with all FWMR openings and current services, check the FWMR website.

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By Rebecca Castellano
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Last fall, Stuttgart High School seniors joined together on the football field to have breakfast to watch the first rays of light break the horizon.

Their goal for the class of 2020 was metaphorical: and watch the sunrise at the start of their final year in high school, with hopes to close their graduation year this May by watching a sunset, said Amanda Burkman, a SHS teacher and the senior class sponsor.

That was before COVID-19 changed their year drastically.

"We watched as it was announced that the school year was basically over," said Burkman. "And I'll be honest, we kind of lost hope."

As coronavirus cases rose into the thousands around Germany, schools on and off post were forced to close their doors. That also meant cancelling all events, like prom and Spring sports, features of graduation year that often make memories for seniors.

The news devastated two seniors, twins Gabrielle and Jordan McCullough, who were headed into their first season of running track together, according to their mother, Lavonda McCullough.

"This was a big deal for them

process took months of work.

"It's been hours of tireless online preparation, live meets, emails, Facebook posts, and phone calls," said Burkman, who was overwhelmed with community support for the massive project. "We needed screens and a stage, a way to broadcast so everyone could hear from their vehicles and at the last minute we needed generators to power it all. There was so much that went into this and so many people and organizations within our community who stepped up and made it happen."

Although the senior class is missing many traditional milestones, the memories they are making are much more unique, Burkman said.

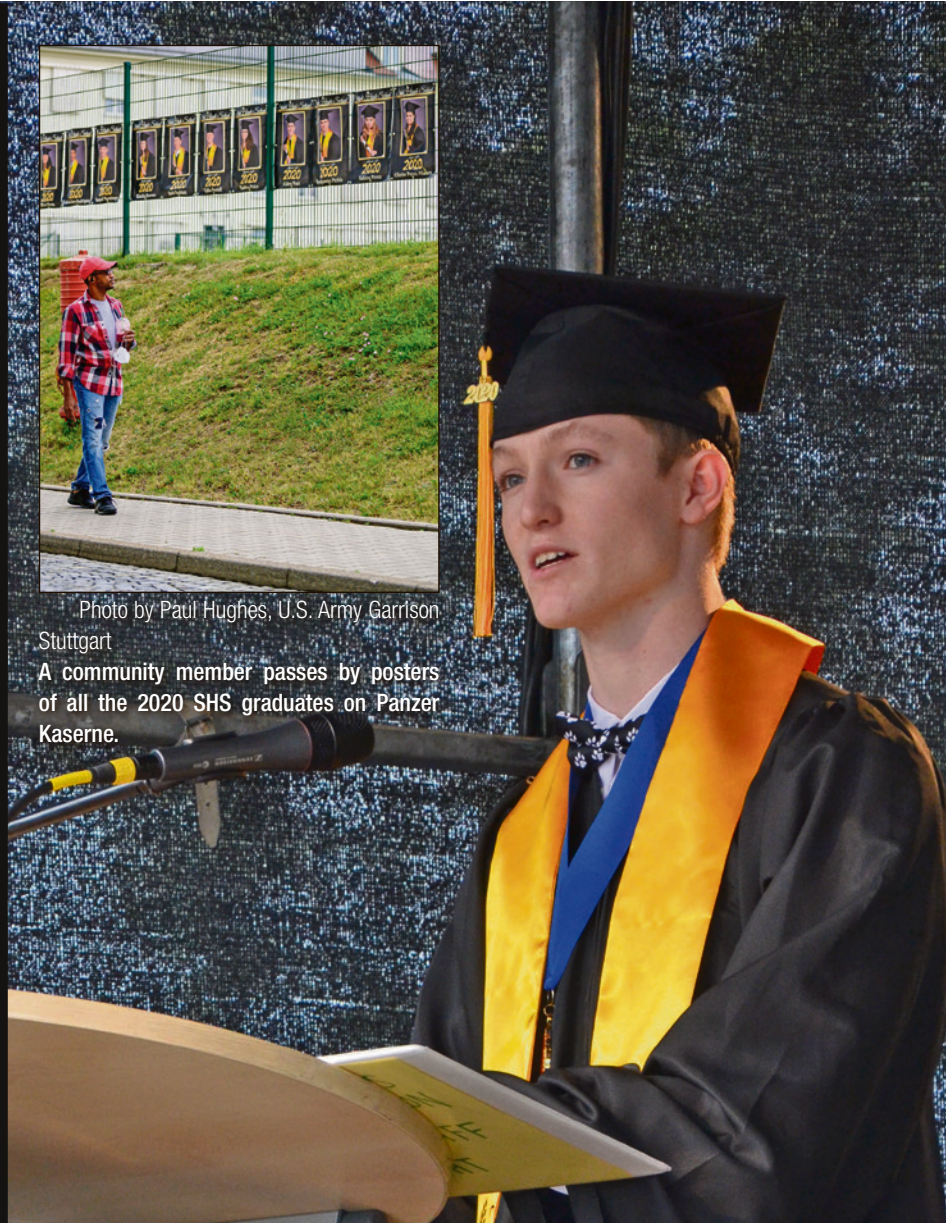
"We have so many parents, teachers, schools, and organizations coming together to seriously spoil our seniors," said Burkman. "We switched to Facebook Lives and we started a TikTok to keep them laughing and to remind them that we haven't forgotten them. While it may not be traditional, they are getting things that are far more personalized and special."

As Burkman shifted events like the senior sunset to a virtual platform, she worked tirelessly with others to make sure graduation would still be in-person.

"COVID has devastated their



Photo by Paul Hughes, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
A community member passes by posters of all the 2020 SHS graduates on Panzer Kaserne.



Graduation, Panther pride overpowers pandemic

because there's always been an injury or health issue in the way for one of them," she said. "This was the first and last chance they had to run together before heading off to separate colleges in the fall."

As the McCullough twins' new cleats sit in boxes, unworn, they remained resilient and uplifted. It took a few weeks, but they realized that prom is not as important as the lives being lost to COVID-19, she said.

On June 3, students received their diplomas during a socially distant ceremony in the school parking lot on Panzer Kaserne. The event was projected on large LED screen and broadcast on AFN radio as family members watched safely from their car. Parents wearing masks were allowed to leave their vehicle and approach the stage to take pictures when their child was announced. Burkman said the planning and approval

senior year," said Burkman. "They don't get to sign year books or even hug goodbye. But walking across a graduation stage is their first real threshold to independence and a rite of passage. It's a critical point in time for them."

The efforts have not been wasted, according to Senior Class President Charles Sheffield. He said that while COVID-19 taught his class that life is unpredictable, it also reminded them that they can overcome anything with support and teamwork.

"I think many of us would have treated our last day of school differently if we knew we wouldn't walk the halls again," said Sheffield, who wishes he could have said more to teachers and friends who motivated him along the way. "But thanks to our senior class sponsors and many more, this graduation gave us a chance to celebrate and be together one last time. Even if it was six feet apart, it was a historic night."



Photos by Rick Scavetta, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Family members wore masks to take photo of graduates and watched the ceremony from their cars.

Main photo - Charles Sheffield, senior class president, speaks at the 2020 Stuttgart High School graduation.

Stuttgart Army veterinarian fills mission-critical roles

By Michelle Thum

Public Health Command Europe

When Capt. Peony Kim joined the military four years ago, she did not realize the multiple roles a veterinarian in the U.S. Army has to fill.

“I actually didn’t seriously consider Veterinary Medicine until after graduating from college,” said Capt. Peony Kim, officer in charge of the veterinary treatment facility in Stuttgart. “I had a rather narrow view of veterinary medicine at the time.”

Kim’s older brother joined the Navy in 1999 and inspired her to explore the opportunities a career in the military offers.

“When I saw how vast the field of veterinary medicine in the U.S. Army was, from clinical medicine to research to Public Health, I knew I could never be bored,” explained Kim. “The opportunities for learning and growth seemed endless.”

Kim was born and raised in Claremont, California, commissioned as a second Lieutenant in



Capt. Peony Kim, veterinarian and officer in charge of the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility, takes care of a military working dog.

Photo by Yvonne Najera, TSC Stuttgart

student status in 2013 and joined active duty in 2016.

“It was a call to be a part of a bigger mission, to see more of the world, and to take on new challenges,” said Kim. “It is also a tremendous honor to serve and

support our canine Soldiers, the military working dogs.”

In comparison to being a veterinarian on the economy, the U.S. Army offered Kim opportunities she had not initially considered.

“From learning basic weapons maintenance to how to lead a team of Soldiers and civilians, the Army has definitely kept me on my toes,” explained Kim. “I’m thankful for the Soldiers and leaders who continue to challenge me and keep me accountable.”

A workday as the officer in charge of the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility is never the same, according to Kim. One day she might be treating privately owned animals or taking care of an injured military working dog, and another day she may be auditing a bottled water facility in Poland.

Being a veterinarian, managing a veterinary clinic, overseeing the food safety mission and leading a

team of Soldiers are only a few of the many hats a Veterinary Corps officer wears.

“There is no way I can manage all of this in a regular work week. I rely heavily on my amazing team of Soldiers and civilians to support the garrison mission on a day-to-day basis, both the animal care team and the food inspection team.” said Kim.

According to Kim, the Food Safety and Defense mission is probably least talked about when it comes to Veterinary Services, but it has the greatest scope.

“Napoleon once said, ‘An army marches on its stomach,’ Kim said. “Everyone has to eat! Foodborne illnesses are debilitating and also have the potential to be widespread - a bad combination for the fighting force.”

From commissary goods on garrison to meals ready to eat in the field, veterinary food inspectors

work to ensure that the food supply is safe. Kim has conducted several sanitary food inspection audits across Poland, Morocco, Bulgaria and Romania during the short period of time she has been stationed in Germany.

The recent outbreak of COVID-19 posed an additional and unexpected opportunity to further diversify her skillset.

Kim was recently tasked to inspect five barber shops across the garrison to ensure that preventive sanitation measures were in place for a safe reopening for service members and their families.

“Stuttgart doesn’t have its own preventive medicine team, so usually personnel come from Bavaria to help with sanitary inspections of wellness facilities,” said Kim. “Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this posed a challenge.”

Kim adapted quickly and was able to use her expertise and knowledge from previous audits to step in and help the preventive medicine team determine whether facilities would be safe to open barber shops again.

“The primary purpose of the public health inspections was to ensure that on-post barber shops and beauty salons met the same Germany-mandated COVID-19 mitigation standards needed in order to facilitate the safety of both staff and patrons,” said Capt. Charles Pham, Chief of Environmental Health Sciences at the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity Bavaria.

Based on Kim’s notes and findings, Pham was able to assess if the facilities met the necessary safety guidelines to welcome clients again.

“Army veterinarians are dual professionals: they are both healthcare providers for animals and public health professionals tasked with the assurance of the Army food supply chains,” explained Pham. “The rapid but safe re-opening of routine services is beneficial to the morale of service members and their families by providing a sense of normality during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Pham appreciated Kim’s willingness to use her public health expertise while conducting the barber shop and beauty salon inspections.

“Preventive Medicine and Veterinary Services work closely together under the umbrella of Public Health. I’m glad I was able to assist my sister team in this way,” said Kim who is looking forward to participating in more joint inspections during her Army career.

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Views of the new normal



1



2



3



4



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1. Lt. Commander Joe Hontz, a U.S. Navy officer assigned to U.S. European Command, turns in his gear to the Central Issuing Facility on Panzer Kaserne. For more on CIF operations, visit StuttgartCitizen.com.

Photo by Rick Scavetta, USAG Stuttgart

2. During graduation, Keri Kittinger, USO Stuttgart Program and Volunteer Coordinator, passed out boxes of gifts donated to Stuttgart High School seniors.

Photo by Rick Scavetta, USAG Stuttgart

3. For three months, prior to June 5, children were unable to use playgrounds on post. Handwashing before and after playground use is now recommended to mitigate potential risks related to COVID-19.

Photo by Rick Scavetta, USAG Stuttgart

4. Staff at the Panzer Hotel and guests must wear masks and interact through a Plexiglas barrier, part of the new normal at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

Photo by Rick Scavetta, USAG Stuttgart

5. A Stuttgart fitness center employee works out while a colleague wipes down gym equipment on Panzer Kaserne, USAG Stuttgart. FMWR gyms reopened in Stuttgart after being closed for several weeks during the pandemic.

Photo by Paul Hughes, USAG Stuttgart

6. Angela Ashlee, a cook at the FMWR bowling center on Panzer Kaserne recycles paper waste, an important effort to support the environment.

Photo by Paul Hughes, USAG Stuttgart

7. A U.S. Marine receives his first haircut since the barber shop at Panzer Kaserne re-opened following the easing of some COVID-19.

Photo by Rick Scavetta, USAG Stuttgart

8. Members of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars displayed wreaths during a physically distanced Memorial Day ceremony that U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart live-streamed for the community

Photo by Scott Carter, USAG Stuttgart

9. As students drove into the 2020 Stuttgart High School graduation, Dee

Dimond presented gifts to students from the Harriet R. Tubman, Number 190, OES Louisiana Jurisdiction.

Photo by Rick Scavetta, USAG Stuttgart

10. Members of the U.S. European Command honor guard perform during a private Memorial Day ceremony on Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. The ceremony was private in the hopes of recording it and broadcasting to the community, who remain socially distanced due to COVID-19.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Krystal Wright, AFN Stuttgart

Garrison assistance team supports community

Photo by Rick Scavetta, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

By Bardia Khajenoori
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

When there's something strange in your neighborhood, you may call Ghostbusters. But, when there's a pandemic afoot and you're not sure where to get tested, whether a service is open, or where to look for certain community information, you call the garrison assistance team.

In mid-March, Col. Jason Condrey, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, established the team, known by its acronym "GAT," so community members had a place to come with their questions about COVID-19 during the height of the crisis, said Carrie McEnteer, chief of the garrison's Plans, Analysis, and Integration section, which oversees the team.

Full-time garrison employees drawn from around the organization provide seven-day-a-week, twelve-hour-a-day support to the community, "providing accurate and timely responses to our customers while maintain-

ing a professional and caring demeanor during a time when members of our military community feel particularly vulnerable," McEnteer said.

The GAT maintains a list of the latest service updates readily available, she added, and reaches out to appropriate service owners and subject matter experts when they don't have answers at hand.

The GAT responded to over 800 individual customer emails and numerous phone calls in just six weeks after its inception. Many of these required a significant amount of research to obtain an answer, McEnteer said. Stephan Roedel, records manager in the Directorate of Human Resources, was one of the first members of the team.

"It's sometimes challenging as there are questions or issues that are unprecedented and take some research to find an answer," Roedel said. "But we do get a lot of positive feedback from the community, which appreciates the service we provide to help them."

Roedel appreciates the opportunity to learn more about the military community, some aspects of which local national professionals may not be closely familiar—even after two-and-a-half years of garrison employment, he said. After all, local national staff like Roedel don't use the housing office, buy VAT forms, or register their vehicles on post.

"Getting these questions and issues gives me a broader picture on what it's like to live in the garrison and not just come to work here for eight hours a day," Roedel said.

Contact information for the GAT is available on the official **garrison webpage**, **Stuttgart Citizen webpage**, and on the **USAG Stuttgart mobile app** (through the COVID section, "Contact Garrison" button, "Request Garrison Assistance" option).

Quality of life



Graphic by Thinglass, Shutterstock.com

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

This June, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart wants to develop a deeper understanding of issues that relate to community members' thoughts on quality of life, health, safety and readiness. To support this effort, an installation-wide survey will be deployed to assess our quality of life, and how we can improve community health, wellness, readiness and resiliency.

To explain the Community Strengths & Themes Assessment (CSTA) Survey for USAG Stuttgart, the Stuttgart Citizen spoke with Andy Munsterman, USAG Stuttgart's Community Readiness & Resilience Integrator, who shared information related to the survey and discussed the importance of the Commander's Ready and Resilient Council.

Stuttgart Citizen: What exactly is the Commander's Ready and Resilient Council or CR2C?

Andy Munsterman: The Commander's Ready and Resilient Council is a forum that meets quarterly to look at the community health in five areas that are important to the community. These areas include physical, emotional, spiritual, family, and social health. The CR2C is composed of leaders who have the resources to support the community in focused areas in terms of community health.

SC: How does the CR2C work here in Stuttgart?

AM: For Stuttgart, the CR2C Senior Responsible Officer is Maj. Gen Joe Jarrard. He provides leadership and oversight for our working groups – the Physical and Psychological working group that covers medical, dental, and behavioral health, as well as the Army Wellness Center and the

fitness centers. We also have the Family and Social working groups that look at how we support our families. Finally, we have the Spiritual working group that looks at the spiritual and religious health of our community, as well as moral-ethical training.

SC: What can you tell us about the survey?

AM: Every two years the Army asks the Stuttgart CR2C to conduct a survey called the Community Strengths and Themes Assessment. The purpose of this installation-wide survey is to assess our quality of life and how we can improve community health, wellness, readiness and resiliency. This is especially relevant since COVID has really changed our community. The survey only takes about 10 minutes, but will provide the Commander's Ready and Resilient Council valuable information on areas we can focus on to promote health across the board.

SC: How can community members take the CSTA survey?

AM: The CSTA Survey can be accessed right here on StuttgartCitizen.com. The survey is open now and will be available until June 30. We would love it if community members can take the survey and continue to help us make Stuttgart a great place to live, work, and raise families!

Visit the Community Strengths & Themes Assessment (CSTA) Survey for USAG Stuttgart
<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=25113745218B31B9>

NEWS BRIEFS

New hours, vehicle registration and inspection

Vehicle Registration and Vehicle Inspection resumed weekday service, Monday-Friday, according to staff from U.S. Army Garrison's emergency services directorate. Registration and inspection will again accept walk-in customers. Also, registrants whose vehicles successfully passed inspection can renew their registration up to 75 days prior to expiration. Customers should visit StuttgartCitizen.com or use the USAG Stuttgart app to find and book appointments.

Curbside Pharmacy Drive-Thru pickup

Patch pharmacy now offers curbside drive-thru pickup for refill prescriptions made with the automated refill line (06371-865601) or Tricareonline.com. Curbside refills are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are ready for pickup 48 hours after customers call in. The drive-thru option maintain physical distancing to help stop the spread of COVID-19. At the drive-thru, pharmacy personnel greet patrons, gather information and check an ID card. A runner retrieves prescription from the pharmacy and delivers to the car.



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Stuttgart senior joins Marines



The Stuttgart Citizen highlights local community members who join the ranks of the U.S. military. The nearest U.S. Marine Corps recruiter is located in Kaiserslautern and can be reached by calling **0172 7926259**

By Mac Hightower
Stuttgart Citizen volunteer

For the past few years, Thomas Lee was most likely known within the halls of Stuttgart High School for his musical talents. A member of both the drum line and jazz ensemble, Lee plays three instruments – drums, tuba and trombone – impressively well. He's performed at numerous events, both on and off post, his favorite being a drum line performance at a German-American Soccer game. Soon, he'll put his instruments down for a while as he trains to become a Marine. Stuttgart Citizen reporter Mac Hightower sat down with Lee recently to further discuss his plans:

Stuttgart Citizen: You're known for your musicianship. How has music affected your life?

Thomas Lee: The tuba was my first instrument, then drums and I taught myself the trombone last summer to be in the Jazz band. The tuba can be a bit loud, and

my German neighbors can be a bit grumpy. My teachers and my love of jazz music motivated me.

SC: So what made you want to enlist?

TL: My dad and his friends. They were recon marines in the same squad. They were all retired before I was born, but I grew up listening to their stories for as long as I can remember. I felt like they were in this sort of club that I wanted to be a part of, and figured enlisting would be my rite-of-passage into it.

SC: What will you be doing with the Marines?

TL: I'm going to be a tank mechanic at Parris Island.

SC: Do you have any future goals beyond this?

TL: My end goal, like where I'd like to be in a few years, is a detective.

SC: We wish you the best. Safe travels, and Semper Fi.

Photo by Mac Hightower, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Thomas Lee departs for Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island.



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Photos by Rachele Pezzuti, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart



Crafty young artists bring joy to local national senior citizens

By Rachele Pezzuti
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Nearly 100 posters and letters of encouragement hand-drawn by American and local national children were delivered to senior citizens at the Sindelfingen Haus Eichholzgärten by U.S. Army Garrison Commander, Col. Jason W. Condrey and the Sindelfingen Lord Mayor, Dr. Bernd Vöhringer, May 15.

The lovingly crafted works of encouragement were the result of the "Giving Joy to Seniors" campaign the city of Sindelfingen created to encourage children to make handicrafts for seniors who were isolated due to restricted visitation measures caused by COVID-19.

"I would like to thank all the little artists and wish the residents of Haus Eichholzgärten much joy with their new works of art," said Vöhringer, who further emphasized that "with such a wonderful effort, we were able to make a small contribution to bring generations together during this challenging time."

The Lord Mayor was very encouraged and greatly appreciated the participation and contributions of the American youth.

"I am especially pleased that many children of the Army Garrison have also painted pictures for our Sindelfingen seniors," said Vöhringer. "The children's artwork has brought a smile to the



faces of our residents."

"Giving Joy to Seniors" boxes were placed on Kelley Barracks, Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks to collect art donations from American children. Before long, numerous works of art started filling the boxes.

"We appreciated the opportunity to have participated in this

program and hope that the artwork we share will bring smiles and happiness to the senior citizens of Sindelfingen," said Condrey. "Our children have enjoyed being involved in a project that will bring joy to others in this difficult time."

The garrison has had its

Condrey said. "We live next door, and there is no doubt that we will get through this together."

For senior citizens living in assisted living facilities, the effects of COVID-19 were not only health concerning, but also personal as they could not leave the facility or receive any guests to include family members.

This changed after the facility created a visitors' room. "This room can only be entered by visitors from the outside, while the seniors can reach the room from inside the home," said Sylvia Schadt, director of the Haus Eichholzgärten. "The area is separated by a Plexiglas wall to guarantee special protection for the seniors."

Speaking for the senior citizens who reside in the Haus Eichholzgärten, the management shared their appreciation.

"A heartfelt thank you, on behalf of our residents, for the creative pictures from the little artists and the successful poster initiative by the city," Schadt said. "Those children who participated in the Giving Joy to Seniors campaign and their parents are cordially invited to visit the retirement home "Haus Eichholzgärten."



challenges with the Corona virus and Condrey understands and sympathizes with the challenges the German communities have also had to face.

"This health crisis has shown us just how much the US military community is connected to all communities around us,"





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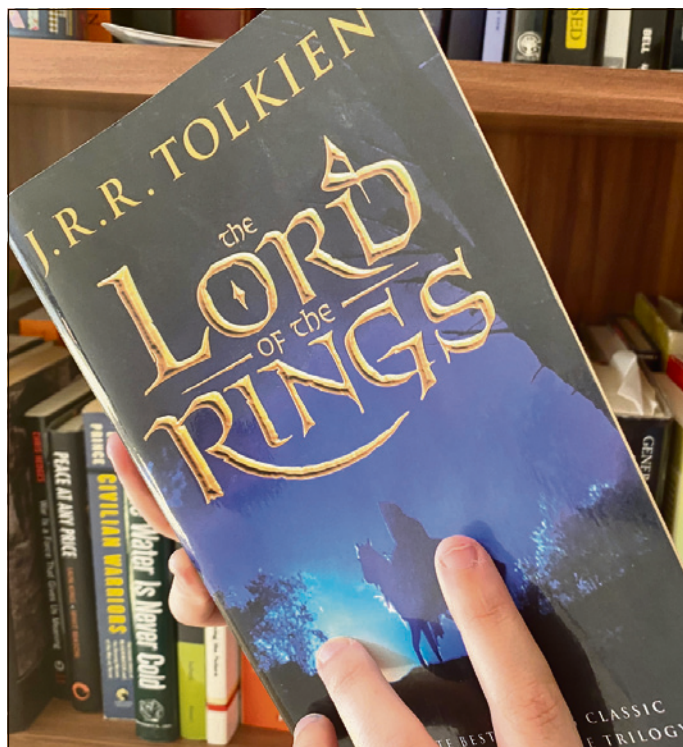


Photo by Rick Scavetta, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien is a favorite among young people and has some important messages.

**By Chaplain (Maj.)
Mike Smith**
Special Operations Command
Africa

Probably the most watched and quoted movies for my kids while growing up were from The Lord of the Rings trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien. At times it would be a quote from Bilbo Baggins as he reflected on his many adventures, other times a smart quip from Frodo as he carried the "one ring" to be destroyed in the fires of the Mount Doom in Mordor, but most often it was a wise saying from good wizard Gandalf the Grey that would come at just the right moment to bring a smile to our family during a tough time.

Towards the end of the first movie and book, Frodo, the small hobbit, speaks to Gandalf about the trials and difficulties they faced along the journey and the circumstances that Middle Earth now faced. "I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the

time that is given us." Gandalf's wisdom in words were relevant for Frodo at that time, but I believe just as applicable for the time in which we find ourselves right here in June 2020.

Gandalf recognized that sometimes we cannot do much to change the circumstances that we find ourselves living in, but we can manage and control the response to those circumstances and what we do with the time that we are given.

June is typically a "time" of transition for many families as they PCS away to their next duty station, or arrive here in Germany to begin an OCONUS assignment. It is a "time" of change as the summer heat takes over and the coolness of winter and spring fade away. It is a "time" when crops begin to grow and produce the wonderful fresh vegetables that we enjoy. However, time is a bit different this year as the COVID-19 pandemic has placed a firm grip on everything we thought as normal for this time of year. PCS moves have been delayed or some even canceled. The time previously scheduled for summer vacations has been postponed. Graduation

ceremonies for high school students have been altered to simple family celebrations, and parents have gained a new appreciation for the calling of a school teacher.

The fact is, not one of us could have done anything to change where our world is right now, as these are the circumstances that we have been dealt.

In the Bible, Psalm 90 records a prayer and meditation on the greatness of our God and his definition of time being much different than our own. He speaks that we are to "number our days" which means evaluating the use and management of our time. What we may see as terrible circumstances that have ruined our plans, God may see as an opportunity for us to strengthen the bonds of family and relationships. To recognize what is truly important in life and not become distracted with circumstances that we cannot change.

So as you and I face the summer months to come, let us not dwell on what we missed, but instead remember, "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

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Worship Services

During the most intense periods of the COVID-19 pandemic response, worship never stopped with virtual ceremonies taking place and chaplains of all denominations remaining steadfastly available to the community. Now, with the relaxation of some of the previous restrictions, in person worship once again resumes on the garrison. These services will

be socially distanced and include the mandatory wearing of masks, hand disinfecting and completion of a trace form.

Times/locations:

- Catholic Mass, Saturdays, 4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., at Patch Chapel, planned for outdoors.

- Gospel Services, Sunday on Panzer at 12:30 p.m., planned for outdoors
- Protestant service on Patch Sunday, 11 a.m., Patch Chapel, planned for outdoors
- Robinson Barracks Protestant Service is at 10 a.m., outdoor in the school parking lot
- Kelley Barracks Protestant service, is 10 a.m. in the ball field, behind the hotel
- Jewish services adjourned until September

For the latest updates, check the USAG Stuttgart App, COVID-19 button, resiliency tab

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Annual volunteer awards go virtual

By Mac Hightower
Stuttgart Citizen volunteer

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart honored the volunteers who help improve our community through a livestream broadcast of their annual ceremony.

The ceremony's virtual guests of honor had been nominated by their volunteer organizations for outstanding contributions made in 2019. Winners were announced across six categories by a panel of judges. The event was narrated by Col. Jason Condrey, commander of USAG Stuttgart, and Charlene Schuler, Army Community Service volunteer coordinator.

"Volunteers are the backbone of many programs and services whether they donate 1 hour or 2000 hours," Schuler said. "As a community, we owe our volunteers a debt of gratitude that we can never repay."

In 2019, the garrison saw 643 registered volunteers who collectively logged 65,272 hours, Schuler said. Volunteers work at everything from the Stuttgart Law Center and the American Red Cross, to the American Forces Network radio station and the Stuttgart Theatre Center. The number converted to roughly \$1,659,867 worth of labor that these selfless individuals have saved the garrison, she said.

Here are the awardees:

Volunteer of the Year—Youth

Bettina Wagner was announced winner of the youth category for her work with the American Red Cross, Stuttgart Station. Highlights of her contributions include: collecting over 100 units of blood for Soldiers, helping to earn \$400 in donations as a team lead during holiday season gift wrapping, participating in Red Cross sponsored events at Stuttgart Elementary School, and recruiting over 40 new student volunteers. Wagner said, "I enjoy volunteering at the Red Cross because I know that the projects that I am part of are guaranteed

to benefit someone, whether it be near or afar."

Volunteer of the Year—Spouse

Patricia Chang was awarded for six other nominations, and won the spouse category. Since volunteering as a legal assistant at Stuttgart Law Center, the center has seen a 600% increase in immigration clients. Chang's services are estimated to have saved USAG Stuttgart community members over \$300,000 in legal fees and expenses. She does so with impeccable customer service as evidenced by the 75 positive ICE comments she received in 2019. Chang mentions that she too is an immigrant and how "my happiest moment is when a family is brought back together with my legal assistance."

Volunteer of the Year—Civilian

Ayonna Clark received the Volunteer Award in the civilian category for her work with the USO.



Clark showcased a remarkable range of skills from her warm greeting at the front desk to researching and planning activities for children who attend USO events. Her organization praises her for the "willingness to jump in and help take on responsibility." Clark explained, "I had the privilege of enjoying different community events growing up in my hometown; and want to help give back the same opportunities to people in each community that I'm a part of."

Volunteer of the Year—Military

Pfc. Imani Robinson won the award in the military category for her leadership, professionalism, and role as cheerleading coach for a group of girls. In her nomination Lieutenant Huerth writes, "she holds herself to the Army values which translates into her becoming the best volunteer and role model and organization could ask for." Robinson summarizes her role as a volunteer, coach and mentor as, "I do things I'm passionate about without the thought of getting acknowledged, because I love to see the growth in others."

Volunteer of the Year—Senior

Ursula Werner is winner of the outstanding senior citizens section. Werner has served the USA Girl Scouts Overseas in Stuttgart for 20 years, and has been a member of the Overseas Committee Management team since 2008. She pioneered a Japanese cultural immersion opportunity for Cadette and Senior love Girl Scouts where she provided mentoring to help the Girl Scouts develop and execute a trip to Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan. Werner responded to the award stating, "why should I NOT volunteer? When I am passionate about something, I like to share my passion and knowledge with others and hope to inspire them."

Volunteer of the Year—Team

The Red Cross Volunteer Training Services team, consisting of Steve Dunlap, Debra Papalia, Zoe Doyle-Kalinowki, Carrie Smith, Jenny Seal, Lynn Goad, Cora Monaghan, Curtis Dyer, Sue Cowden, Heather Ferebee, Tisha Weech, Justine Warrior, and Karem Alvarez-Almodovar, won the award in the team category. As a team, they volunteered 1,668 hours in 2019. The team of 13 provided instructions on life-saving skills and mental preparedness, educating nearly 900 members of the USAG Stuttgart community.



Courtesy photo

Richard Roberts, from the Stuttgart Theatre Center.

National award for Stuttgart Theatre Center artistic director

Richard Roberts, director at the Stuttgart Theatre Center on Kelley Barracks, will be honored this year with a special recognition award from the American Association of Community Theatre.

The award will be presented during the 2020 U.S. Army IMCOM Europe Tournament of Plays TOPPERS in October. The special recognition award is presented to persons or organizations whose contributions to community theatre are far reaching and of a special nature.

Roberts is the director at the Stuttgart Theatre Center, Germany, part of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command- Europe, entertainment program. He began his career with Army Entertainment as a contracted director at the Heidelberg Roadside Theater. In

2005, Richard officially joined the theatre staff as a paid theatre specialist, and in 2009 he became the artistic director of the Stuttgart Theatre Center.

Roberts is known as a talented director, designer, and performer, whose attention, concern and support of the volunteers and staff has greatly increased the impact of the program on U.S. citizens serving their country overseas. He has received many U.S. Army TOPPERS and One-Act Play Festival awards, and has taken part in several national AACTFest events. AACT provides networking, resources, and support for America's theatres. AACT represents the interests of more than 7,000 theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the U.S. Military Services overseas.



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