



## Celebrate Fasching, Deutschland's '5th season'

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Fasching season officially began Jan. 7 ... sort of. In 2020, Fasching will be celebrated from Feb. 20 to 25 with fests, parades, music and many "foolish" events. This year, most street parades will take place between Feb 22 and 25. However, in some areas of Germany, Fasching guilds commemorated the beginning of Fasnet, as it's known in Swabia, at the exact same time and day as when the silencing of the guns of the Great War is commemorated — 11:11 a.m., Nov. 11 — with local and ceremonial events that prepared for the official start of the foolish season in January.

See FASCHING, p.3

Photos by Brian Cann

**Fools, fans, witches and bands comprise the 2019 Neuhausen Fasching Parade. During the 2020 event, Neuhausen's Fasching fools will storm the town hall and "force" the mayor to hand over the keys to the city.**



# Improvements to Patch infrastructure continue in 2020

By Col. Jason Condrey  
Commander USAG Stuttgart

Have you ever driven by construction workers on our installations, digging deep into the cold ground, and wondered what they are up to?

Utilities and construction work, like the ongoing project at Patch Barracks, is never easy in the winter. Inevitably it causes us minor inconveniences, delaying us as we are re-routed through post to avoid the work underway or creating additional traffic back-ups.

Next time you drive past, think about it this way. This work being done is improving our garrison. At Patch, they are putting in cleaner and more efficient heating pipes. Other

projects around the garrison include improvements to schools, parking, communication lines, access points, security measures and on-post housing. *(Read more about the Patch improvements on p.9.)*

We're constantly improving the foxhole for those of us who now work and live at USAG Stuttgart and for those who will call this garrison home in future years. I ask for your patience and understanding as we undertake these improvements.

Construction also affects parking. Our numbers continue to grow and our ongoing construction efforts inevitably take spaces away. Please continue to be conscientious and follow traffic and parking rules, to keep roadways clear

for regular traffic and emergency vehicles. We will do our best to communicate changes, early and often.

We continue to make efforts that improve maintenance in on-post housing. We have reduced our backlog of service requests in recent months, but have since received hundreds more. Increased manpower and streamlining maintenance response procedures will help. We will continue to work hard on this problem and communicate our efforts online, on AFN and during the March 26 housing town hall at Patch Barracks.

Meanwhile, our local community partners are also undertaking improvements. The Stuttgart airport is undergoing renovations from mid-April to the end of June. The project repairs and extends the east end of the runway. This will have an impact on us - incoming and outgoing

PCSing personnel, temporary duty and military flights. Delta will suspend its nonstop Stuttgart - Atlanta service on March 29. Delta will continue to offer one-stop service from Stuttgart to the U.S., through their partners Air France and KLM via Amsterdam and Paris. Presuming no delays, Delta will resume daily direct flights to Atlanta on June 18.

Before closing, I'd like to offer my thanks to our outstanding garrison postal professionals. From Nov. 1, 2019 to Jan. 14, 2020, they processed more than 209,000 parcels, with support from U.S. European Command, 52nd Signal Battalion and volunteer family members - a great community effort.

I stand in awe of the hard work being done across the garrison. We are all working together in the spirit of our motto, "I'm glad I live here."



Condrey

# Garrison commemorates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Michael Collier  
Public Affairs Volunteer  
USAG Stuttgart

Community members gathered recently at Patch Barracks to remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the iconic civil rights leader from the 1960's.

During the lunchtime event, held Jan. 23 at the Swabian Special Events Center, Dr. Marllon Atherton spoke about King's history and impact on future generations. Atherton, a decorated combat veteran and senior pastor with CORE Global Ministries, highlighted the virtues of tolerance.

"I believe it's an important day for us to reflect and remember and not forget what (King) did for us in the past," Atherton said. "It goes back to finding your purpose. If everybody discovers their purpose and works selflessly and bring that to the forefront, we're able to work together. Not thinking about the color of your skin, or your sex or where you came



Photo by Sgt. Alexis "Lexi-G" Gonzalez, AFN Stuttgart

**Decorated combat veteran and senior pastor Dr. Marllon Atherton speaks about King's history and impact on future generations.**

from ... but being able to pull those things together, to work together, for the community and the uplifting of mankind."

Musical guests PB&J, an American

music group from the Kaiserslautern military community, offered a live performance, to include a soulful rendition of "Lean On Me." The band chose songs that resonate King's

message, connecting his ideas to people through music, said singer Journi.

"When you're not strong, I'll be your friend, somebody to lean on," Journi said. "These are words that resonate with the message that Martin Luther King was sending with the non-violent approach, the non-confrontational approach to a positive change for the future, for positive change."

Community members in attendance praised the relevancy of Atherton's speech and enjoyed the music. Some reflected on the ways King had impacted their lives. One participant, Marcus Jones, said communities are striving to become more aware about equal rights.

"We can always look back to Martin Luther King and his teachings to provide guidance, even today," Jones said.

The event was sponsored by the garrison Equal Opportunity Office and coordinated by Sgt. 1st Class Pierre Boynton.



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Photos by Kevin Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Scary fools in carved wood masks spook people along the Sindelfingen parade route.



## FASCHING

*continued from p. 1*

During the various Fasching parades in Southern Germany, Narren, or Fasching fools, will be seen with wooden masks in the images of witches, devils and grotesque animals. In Swabia and Southern Germany, the costumes are called “Häs.” Be on the lookout for Narren, who will walk up to you and either ruffle your hair, paint your face, take away a hair band or give you a piece of candy.

Fasching dates back to 1200, being a way for citizens to live it up during the week before 40 days of Lent. It’s a time to be foolish, silly or wild, as evidenced by the costumes and events, such as Weiberfasching on Feb. 20, the day when women have the right to freely cut off men’s ties with scissors and kiss any man they wish to during the day. It’s also an opportunity for women to enjoy a girl’s night out and symbolically take control for a day.

Expect to see special Fasching doughnuts called Fasnetsküchle or Krapfen, as well as other tasty, greasy foods during the traditional Fasching week, starting on Schmotziger Donnerstag, or Greasy Thursday. The

Swabian word schmotzig means lard or grease and refers to the opulent food eaten during Fasching. The remainder of the Fasching week is Fasching Saturday and Sunday, Rose Monday and Fat Tuesday.

On the evening of Fat Tuesday, the Fastnacht, represented as a witch in southern Germany, is buried in a casket and the wild days end at midnight.

At 12:30 p.m., Feb 23, the Kübelesmarkt Fasching guild hosts a huge Narrenumzug, or Fasching fools, parade on Sunday, starting at Neckartalstrasse alongside the Neckar river over the Wilhelms-bridge directly onto the pedestrians’ zone, and throughout the historic old city of Bad Cannstatt featuring over 71 Faschings guilds.

Neuhausen celebrates Schmotziger Donnerstag at Schlossplatz with the Hexentanz, or witch’s dance, 7 p.m., Feb. 20. During the event, Neuhausen’s Fasching fools storm the town hall and force the mayor to hand over the keys to the city. Celebrating this symbolic event, a huge fire is lit. Neuhausen’s parade takes place at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb 23.

*(Editor’s note: Teresa Weiss, Carola Meusel, Angelika Aguilar and John Reese contributed to this article.)*

### Fasching Parades and other events

- Böblingen: Feb. 24, 1 p.m.
- Rottenburg am Neckar: Feb 20, 1:30 p.m.
- Neuhausen: Feb. 23, 1:30 p.m.
- Weil der Stadt: Feb. 3, 2 p.m.
- Hechingen: Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m.
- Rottweil: “Narrensprung” (fool’s jump) Feb. 24 at 8 a.m.; and Feb 25 at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Stuttgart: Feb. 25, 2 p.m.
- Hofen: Feb. 25, 1 p.m. Entrance fee: E 2.50
- Bad Cannstatt: “Närrischer Wochenmarkt” (weekly market with Fasching entertainment and music), Feb. 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Marktplatz.
- Bad Cannstatt: “Rathaussturm,” Fasching fools storm the historic town hall, Feb. 20, 6 p.m. On Feb. 20 (“Schmotziger Donnerstag”), various restaurants and bars in downtown
- Bad Cannstatt offer music and Fasching parties until 2 a.m.).
- Bad Cannstatt: Närrisches Tribunal (Fasching Fools’ Tribunal) / Schnurren Schnitzelbänk on Marktplatz in Stuttgart and Bad Cannstatt, Feb. 24, 5:45 p.m.
- Bad Cannstatt: Geizgrufen at Marktstrasse, Feb. 25 at noon, followed by a children’s parade at 2:30 p.m. through the downtown area. The procession to end Fasching time will start at 11:45 p.m. with Fasching fools taking the straw puppet symbolizing Fasching from Marktstrasse to Wilhelmsbrücke to burn and drown the puppet. This tradition is called ver-brennsäuft in the Swabian dialect.

# Guardisman Wilkins named Dec. Volunteer of the Month

Story and photo by USO Stuttgart

Maj. Dana Wilkins jumped right into the USO Stuttgart team after hearing its compelling in-processing brief, earning him the USO Stuttgart December Volunteer of the Month.

Wilkins is a member of the National Guard who spends many a free day helping USO make events great for the Stuttgart military community. In December specifically, he dedicated more than 10 hours to the very popular pictures with Santa event. Without his many trips to the dumpster, this holiday event could have been a big mess.

His jolly demeanor is a great addition to any shift he helps cover at the USO center, and the staff and volunteers greatly appreciate him dedicating his time away from work to serve the community.



## Be a 2020 TDVAM aware Valentine

By Shady Gutierrez, Domestic Violence Victim Advocate and Kristy Garcia, Family Advocacy Program  
USAGStuttgartArmyCommunityService

The garrison's Family Advocacy Program, or FAP, wants you to know that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

TDVAM is a national effort to raise awareness about dating violence, promote programs that support young people and encourage communities to prevent this type of abuse. This is an issue that impacts not only youth, but their parents, teachers, friends and communities as well. Dating violence can take place in person or electronically and can affect all socio-economic status, genders, races and cultures.

Studies show that one in three teens will experience dating abuse by the time they become an adult, whether it is physical, emotional, verbal or sexual. Teen dating violence

mirrors adult intimate partner violence. Young women ages 16-24 are the most vulnerable population to become victims of abuse, this age group is three times higher than the national average. Another study reports that 81 percent of parents believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know about it. Dating violence is preventable especially if education about healthy relationships starts early. It is important that teens build a strong foundation to lay the groundwork of what a healthy relationship looks like. A healthy model can be used to build future relationships.

During February, FAP is in partnership with Stuttgart High School and the Patch Youth Center, better known as "The HUB," to raise awareness. It is really important that the teens in our community know about the resources. FAP will use social media to post facts and resources on the Army Community Service Facebook page.

There will also be an information



Courtesy photo

table located at the Panzer Main Exchange, 3-5 p.m., Feb. 7; please stop by to get more information.

Show your support for this important issue by wearing the color orange, Feb. 20.

Raising awareness will allow us to educate the community about prevention and identification, helping to give victims a voice to speak up and work alongside parents, teachers and other adults to help break the cycle.

**Hotline help**

If you or someone you know has been a victim of dating violence, free and confidential help is available 24 hours a day through the National Dating Abuse Hotline by calling 1-866-331-9474 or through a live chat at [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org).

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# The Hatch Act, partisan politics and you

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The 2020 election cycle is underway, with federal, state and local election candidates and issues headed for the ballots.

All U.S. citizens should exercise their franchise to vote. It's one of the fundamental rights of American citizenship and an important civic responsibility. Service members and civilian government employees may express their political viewpoints and support candidates of their choosing. When questions arise about what is permissible and prohibited with regard to a specific political activity, the Hatch Act is the sole source of information.

U.S. service members and civilians are limited when it comes to political activities. Some restrictions are based in federal law, others in military regulations. The 1939 Hatch Act is based on an 1801 executive order by President Thomas Jefferson. Since 1939, military personnel and federal employees have been subject to restricted election season activities to avoid the implication of partisan federal endorsement of candidates or issues. Service members and Department of Defense civilians need to know about the Hatch Act before engaging in political activities. As a representative of the DoD, the goal is to avoid the appearance that the military is sponsoring a specific candidate, party, campaign or cause.

Military and DoD civilians shouldn't participate in partisan political activities that imply or appear to imply DoD sponsorship, approval, or

endorsement. Ignorance of the law is no excuse for service members to wear their uniforms at partisan political or for federal employees to imply their agency supports a particular cause or candidate—don't run afoul of the regulations while supporting favorite causes or candidates. The main purpose for these restrictions is to avoid the implication or inference that military members represent some official point of view.

The major military prohibition is against any type of partisan activities. A partisan activity is defined as "activity directed toward the success or failure of a [particular] political party or candidate for a partisan political office or partisan political group."

The law's purpose is to ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation.

If service members express their own personal views on public issues or candidates via social media, they must clearly state that those are the individual's views and not the DoD's.

The following are excerpts from DoD Directive 1344.10. The entire directive can be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website.

A member of the Armed Forces on active duty shall not:

- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities (read the directive for exceptions).
- Use

official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.

- Serve in any official capacity with or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.
- Speak before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Conduct a political opinion survey under the auspices of a partisan political club or group or distribute partisan political literature.
- Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee or candidate during a campaign, on an election day, or after an election day during the process of closing out a campaign.
- Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for any political cause or candidate.
- March or ride in a partisan political parade.
- Display a large political sign, banner, or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a private vehicle.
- Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner, or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military

installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.

- Attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces, except as a member of a joint Armed Forces color guard at the opening ceremonies of the national conventions of the Republican, Democratic, or other political parties recognized by the Federal Elections Committee or as otherwise authorized by the Secretary concerned.
- Commissioned officers shall not use contemptuous words.
- Subject to any other restrictions in law, a member of the Armed Forces not on active duty may take the actions or participate in the activities permitted in subparagraph 4.1.1., and may take the actions and participate in the activities prohibited in subparagraph 4.1.2, provided the member is not in uniform and does not otherwise act in a manner that could reasonably give rise to the inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement.

*(Editor's note: Information for this article came from FVAP; Fort Rucker VAO; and past Stuttgart Citizen articles.)*

## Rock your vote!

Your vote is important, so make it count. Learn about voting while overseas, election deadlines, how to find your registrar and more about the Hatch Act, call the USAG Stuttgart's Voting Assistance Office at 431-2865 or 07031-15-2865. To register to vote and request an absentee ballot while overseas, check registration deadlines and find online tools available for your state vote via absentee ballot, visit [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).



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NEWS BRIEFS



Send your announcements for upcoming events to the USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

FPCA now being distributed

The distribution of voter registration/ballot requests, better known as the Federal Post Card Application, is ongoing for all members of the Stuttgart military community.



state local election office, and request an absentee ballot for all state and federal elections to include primary elections.

Work it, work it

Did you know that the



Monica Hansen Attorney at Law FAMILY LAW SERVICE

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Army has a wellness program that allows you to work out three hours a week during work time? The Civilian Fitness Program allows you to train during work hours for six months with your supervisor's approval.

Nominate your volunteer

The deadline for nomination packets for the six categories of volunteer of the year categories (youth, spouse, civilian, military, and team) is Feb. 14.

Tech Expo coming to Patch

The 52d Signal Battalion hosts a free Tech Expo at the Patch Fitness Center, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Feb. 11.

hands-on demonstrations of the latest emerging technologies. Exhibitors will provide hands-on demonstrations of various technologies including: secure communication systems; power/energy distribution; batteries; encryption devices/software; fiber optics; tactical data systems; networking technologies; IT management solutions; C4ISR; cross domain solutions; video/AV equipment; cryptographic products; cyber security; unmanned aerial vehicles; electronic warfare systems; VTC, data analytics; cloud computing; virtualization solutions; interoperability; and many more!

"If I only had a brain."

The Stuttgart High School Drama Club is performing the "Wizard of Oz," 7 p.m., Feb. 27-28 and 3 p.m., Feb. 29.



Use this QR code and you're off to see the wizard.

Suicide prevention

The Stuttgart Behavioral Health Clinic and the Army Substance Abuse Program Suicide Prevention Program will host an informal symposium at Patch Barracks Swabian Special Event Center, 2:30-4:30, April 23.

2020 ASIST dates announced

USAG Stuttgart will host Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshops at the Patch Community Club; May 20-21, Sept. 23-24 and Nov. 18-19.

DoDEA school counselors, emergency room medical technicians, Red Cross employees and medical/dental health professionals. There is no charge to attend the workshop.

No mo AKO

Since Sept. 26, 2019, all Classic, or Legacy AKO NIPR personal and organizational files were made searchable and downloadable thru the AKO 2.0 portal.

in order to avoid data loss. Instructions on conducting a search, search tips as well as information about downloading/uploading files begins in section 3.3.2 through section 3.4.3 of the AKO User's Manual.

You're invited

The garrison will host a community town hall scheduled to address concerns regarding housing and other issues, 6:30

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to 8 p.m., March 26, in the Patch Chapel. Any changes will be announced here and online.

**Mentor like a BOSS**

The garrison BOSS mentorship program is developing surveys to better place service members with SHS students similar to its Big Brother/Sister program. The program will begin with a small number of students to get it up and running. If interested, let your BOSS representative know. BOSS meetings are 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month at the 4th floor lounge of ACS, Panzer Kaserne, Bldg. 2915. Open to all single and unaccompanied personnel of any branch of service, including single parents. Free BOSS bowling takes place at 6 p.m. every third Thursday at the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne. Call 591-5006.

**Increased threat level**

Due to recent events between the U.S. and Iraq, CID notes an increase in the number of threats and pro-Iran communications (twitter, Instagram, Facebook) sent to the social media communication feeds on Army websites (see attached examples). The CID Major Cyber Crimes Unit asks to be notified of any and all communications sent to these social media feeds that are pro-Iran or threatening in nature concerning this issue so that it can gather information. Report screen shots of the communication(s) if available, and any other identifiable information such as user names, account names, IP addresses, geo-location data, etc., to usacidc.mcu@mail.mil.

**"Receipt, bitte"**

As of Jan. 1, all bakers, hairdressers, restaurateurs and other retailers in Germany are legally obliged to issue receipts to their customers. The measure is supposed to make tax evasion more difficult. "Receipt-Obligation, or Bon-Zwang, will be enforced in Germany.

**MP to CID**

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command seeks Military Police Investigators to become CID Special Agent Warrant Officers. The application timeframe runs through May 2021. For informations about application procedures, see MILPER 19-346, MPI Application Requirements for Appointment to CID Warrant Officer (MOS 311A); contact the CID Special Agent Management Division ROC team at USArmy.JoinCID@mail.mil; or call 571-305-4348/4369/4337/4112.

**Kocholympiade Valentine**

More than 2,000 chefs, including the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team, will compete in the world's largest professional competition to set culinary trends and win Olympic Chef's Gold. The Kocholympiade or culinary Olympics, is an internationally recognized event that takes place on Valentine's Day, 2020. Check the DFAC's Facebook page for the link to get tickets. See related story, p.15.

**Ride with MSF**

The USAG Stuttgart Motorcycle Safety Foundation course and training site, located on Stuttgart Army Airfield, is operational and available for use. The following are the 2020 MSF training dates. Note, the garrison's Army Traffic Safety Training Program contractor provides the instructional services for U.S. military only. Civilians or family members needing training should contact the Safety Office at 596-3832

for additional information about rider-mentors.

- **Basic Rider Course:** March 18 and June 30
- **Intermediate Rider Course** (classroom block of instruction, military members ages 26 years and below): Feb. 11, July 2, and Aug. 11
- **Experienced Rider Course:** March 25, May 14, June 11, June 30, July 15, Aug. 13, and Sept. 21



Personnel must register online via US Army Traffic Safety Training Program Registration System at <https://imc.army.mil/airs/Home.aspx>. Please note that registration is CAC-enabled.

If you have problems trying to register online or if you're an Airman, Marine, Sailor or Coastguardsman, contact the Safety Office about enrollment.



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# Motorworld: A million dollar day out

Story and photo by Paul Hughes  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Whether you are a motorsport fanatic, a casual car enthusiast or just like looking at shiny things, Motorworld will get your engine running.

Motorworld sits on a former WWI Flugfeld, or military airfield, around which developed an aircraft industry. In WWII, it became home to a German Luftwaffe fighter squadron. The allies bombed the base in 1944, before the US Army took up residence in 1945. In 1948, the site became a "GoCo," or government owned/contractor operated, facility that saw the Army working hand in hand with Daimler-Benz providing repairs and upgrades for military vehicles.

Becoming the Army's Böblingen Ordnance Depot in 1957 and covering some 6 million square feet, it was churning out an average of twelve 2½-ton trucks, twenty-five ¾-ton trucks, forty jeeps, thirty semitrailers, sixty trailers and ten sedans every month.

After the Army closed the depot in 1992, the site fell into disrepair. For 15 years, it laid in ruin and many buildings were destroyed. Motorworld — after many years of administration—opened its half million square foot facility in 2009, preserving many parts of the historical buildings. Today, Lamborghini, Ferrari, Maserati, Pagani, Bentley, McLaren, Rolls Royce and others call Motorworld home.

A cross between a museum, garage,



car dealership and conference center, everything in Motorworld is either an exhibit, a repair or for sale.

Dominating the Werkstattshalle, or main hall, are the glass box garages. For \$265 per month, collectors leave their privately owned vehicles on museum like display alongside restaurants, a hotel, a brewery, conference halls, and retail stores.

Motorworld has an aroma of old lubricants and rubber as an automotive haven should. The sounds of some of the world's most exclusive cars starting up, being tested and moved around reverberate through the open plan halls next to the gleaming exhibits, providing a feast for the senses.

Several retailers operate within the halls, including parts, clothes and

collectables stores. If you want to pit your driving skills against others, there are hi-tech race simulators with seats that pivot and swivel with the action. You can race locally with family and friends and — if you want to take it more seriously — you can compete nationally with other Motorworld centers. There is also a small children's play area and outdoor seating.

"Motorworld is one attraction in the Böblingen area, open 365 days a year," said Susanne Kirshbaum, Motorworld Center manager. "Yes, even on Sundays, where we also hold an English language Trinity church with around 300 attendees. Entry is free, but you will have to pay around a Euro for parking if you arrive by car."

You can expect to spend around 2-3

## Driving through automotive history

Throughout the year, you will find many events and festivals at Motorworld. Head to Motorworld.de (English version available) for more information.

Other motor themed attractions: The Mercedes Benz Museum has more than 1,500 exhibits and is located near the Wasen in Stuttgart. [www.mercedes-benz.com](http://www.mercedes-benz.com)  
The Porsche Museum in Zuffenhausen houses more than 80 vehicles and many small exhibits — for more info [www.porsche.com/museum](http://www.porsche.com/museum)

For more info on the US Army in Böblingen head to [www.usarmygermany.com/Units/Ordnance/USAREUR\\_BMF.htm](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/Ordnance/USAREUR_BMF.htm)

hours here, with a huge range of dining choices to choose from ranging in cost from Italian (\$\$\$), to a grab and go café (\$). Thirsty? Motorworld has a bar with its very own beer brewery on site!

If you indulge in a race simulator session and a lunch at the mid-priced Tower 66 (\$\$) — which won Böblingen's best steak and burger award in 2019 — a family of three could expect to part with \$60-\$70. To complete your million-dollar day out, just add a satin black, convertible Rolls Royce to your purchases. Of course — finance and insurance brokers are also available on site.

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# Improvements on Patch Barracks will finish early

By Paul Hughes  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The tearing up of Montana Street to install greener, more efficient heating systems has been ongoing since Jan. 7 and is now set to finish ahead of schedule, according to Ty Jones, Patch Barracks' installation coordinator.

"Progress is moving right along. The good weather and faster than expected construction progress

means we are expecting to be done before the end of February, as long as the weather holds out," Jones said.

A map showing the new construction location on Patch from Jan 28th.

In order to begin the next phase, the temporary lights on Patch Barracks will move again further down the road, closer to K&K gate beginning at noon, Jan. 28.

Virginia Weg will become



Photo by John Reese,  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

**Construction on Montanastrasse shown here Jan. 31, is expected to be completed by the end of the month.**

free-flow and Kansas loop will re-open. The first signal will move to the crosswalk that leads to Bldg. 2301, closest the K&K gate, and the second will be just past the crosswalk leading to Bldg. 2303. Bus stops remain at Washington Square.

The construction, originally scheduled for three phases, is now two. That means less traffic disruption for the community, said Tobias Pruefe, civil engineer with DPW engineering division.

# Are E-scooters savior or scourge?

By Paul Hughes  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

If you have ventured recently into Stuttgart, you'll have seen electric mobility vehicles, better known as scooters, on the streets and in the parks of the city. The rapid deployment and sheer

number of these scooters are already seen by some cities in the U.S. as a scourge, owing to the sheer number of them on the streets and regularly inconsiderately parked on sidewalks.

As communities worldwide continue to look for ways to solve the problems of congestion and pollution caused by

vehicular traffic, many governments are coming up with increasingly experimental ways to tackle the problem. Germany is no exception and this year German law moved to incorporate the use of these greener methods of transport on public roads.

This new method for getting from A-B is sometimes referred to as last-mile transportation. The theory is that you leave your car at home and take a train or bus to your destination. Then, instead of hailing a cab, you hop on an e-scooter.

If you're considering using e-scooters for your commute, here are some things to consider:

- You do not require a driving or motorbike license to operate e-scooters
- While it is not law to wear a helmet, it is highly advisable
- You must be more than 14 years old
- Costs will be around a Euro per KM
- Speed is limited to 20km per hour
- Park your scooter responsibly when you are finished or you could receive a penalty
- Ensure you park in a zone that allows it — you cannot park these scooters in the city centers or in USAG Stuttgart housing areas.
- Drunk drive laws apply to riders of these scooters. You could lose your



Courtesy graphic

license for being over the limit – as happened to hundreds of festgoers at last year's Oktoberfest.

Ride safely and courteously at all times, obey all traffic laws, and you will find this a fun and convenient way to get around the city.

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# How to learn German, the ‘schwere Sprache’

Story and photo by Joel Wasko  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Even Germans say, “Deutsche Sprache, schwere Sprache,” which translates to “German language, difficult language.”

Nevertheless, knowing any amount of German will benefit you during your stay in Germany. In order to learn German, we researched options available to everyone in USAG Stuttgart.

It is not difficult to find German classes in Stuttgart. The difficult part is finding the right class for you. Many factors, such as cost, timing, or teaching style, might influence your decision to take either private lessons, group courses, university courses, or use online resources. But one should also ask, why am I learning German and what is my goal.

For example, Sgt. Tyler Baldwin is learning German because he started dating a German.

“I want to impress her family. But also so I feel more comfortable when I’m out on the economy,” Baldwin said.

Baldwin is taking German 112 through the University of Maryland Global Campus Europe (UMGC) and is using his tuition assistance to cover the cost.

“It’s important because of points you receive while being enlisted in the Army but also because it’s free,” emphasized Baldwin.

“When you take German courses with UMGCE, you have the unique opportunity to earn college credits in a classroom of like-minded students committed to learning about the language and culture of their neighbors and host country,” said Andrew Boone, associate vice provost, UMGCE Europe.

“The other advantage is the building of a solid foundation of grammar and vocabulary, professors with an



Claudia Garbers teaches German to children at the USAG Stuttgart Child Development Center through song as part of the preschool Strong Beginnings program.

understanding of the military community, and the use of English to explain the concepts,” said UMGCE Prof. Mark Werth.

Although college level courses are available to most everyone in the community and Pell grants exist for those who do not receive tuition assistance, some people prefer to take it slow and want to try German without commitment. For those individuals, the Patch Library has a free language app called Mango. Simply set up your library account during a visit at the Patch Library; once your account is created, access the online resources, download the Mango app, and select German. Learn with every finger swipe and test your pronunciation with the app’s audio function.

Still prefer a classroom, a tangible teacher and no commitment?

“A good way to start is with Army Community Service German Immersion. It’s free, no registration, start any time, all ages are welcome,” stated Jeffrey Plumley, ACS coordinator. “Our new class layout will start in February with classes on Mondays

and Wednesdays, and focus on language but also a strong focus on culture, such as history, politics, idioms, and more. Afterward, you’ll know if you want to take additional German courses.”

“I wanted a course that works for me and my daughter’s schedule who has also taken German through SKIES,” said Emily Hoey, who said she needs a structured course.

Hoey is taking German A with Frau Hoffmann through Family and MWR’s Child and Youth services’ School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills, better known as SKIES Unlimited.

“Our classes are 10 sessions which amount to 15 hours. We have 5 different instructors who teach various levels of German,” said Frau Edith Hoffmann, a German teacher since 1982 and self-proclaimed liaison between American and German communities.

“While SKIES Unlimited caters to children, German is taught to adults as well. The classes are actually considered German family courses since

children and adults can take the language courses,” said Stephen Kimbro.

For those who prefer to take a step back and let their children do the work to become their own personal translator, you could consider SKIES Pre-School/Strong Beginnings German taught by teachers, such as Claudia Garbers, who visits various Child Development Centers and tailors to the kids by singing songs according to the season or teaching German culture like Fasching. Additionally, the Kelley Child Development Center offers a German enrichment program, which is a half-German, half-English speaking program.

“We incorporate as much German and German culture into the activities and lesson plans,” said Katie Whitaker, co-teacher, German Enrichment Class.

And there are still many other options available. For example, if you want to practice your German skills with other language learning enthusiasts seeking German conversations, consider the USO. Their “Language Learners” meet every Thursday from 5:15–5:45 p.m. to speak German. There is no registration required, a proficient German speaker will be there to guide you and other individuals eager to practice their German.

And if that still does not quench your thirst to learn German, there are many individuals who teach private lessons, which can be great for those requiring flexible hours and one-on-one teaching. And for those brave enough to fully immerse themselves into the German teaching system, you can always consider professional institutions, such as the Volkshochschule at [www.vhs-aktuell.de/programm/german.html](http://www.vhs-aktuell.de/programm/german.html) that will test your abilities and then place you in the correct class; Berlitz; Deutsch Amerikanisches Zentrum; the Anglo German Institute; and others located in the Stuttgart area.

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# Coronavirus: What providers, patients should know

By Military Health System Communications Office

With news of the contagious and potentially deadly illness known as novel coronavirus grabbing headlines worldwide, military health officials say that an informed, common sense approach minimizes the chances of getting sick.

Many forms of coronavirus exist among both humans and animals, but this new strain's lethality has triggered considerable alarm. Believed to have originated at an animal market in Wuhan City, China, novel coronavirus has sickened hundreds and killed at least four. It has since spread to other parts of Asia. The first case of novel coronavirus in the U.S. was reported Jan. 22 in Washington State.

Anyone contracting a respiratory illness shouldn't assume it's novel coronavirus; it is far more likely to be a more common malady.

"For example, right now in the U.S., influenza, with 35 million cases last season, is far more commonplace



Photo by Airman 1st Class Elora J. Martinez

**A dental assistant with the 319th Medical Group, demonstrates proper sanitary procedure by putting on a face mask at the medical treatment facility on Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.**

than novel coronavirus," said U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Dr. (Lt. Cmdr.) David Shih, a preventive medicine physician and epidemiologist with the Clinical Support Division, Defense Health Agency. He added that those experiencing symptoms of respiratory

illness - like coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, and fever - should avoid contact with others and making them sick, Shih said.

"Don't think you're being super dedicated by showing up to work when ill," Shih said. "Likewise, if you're a duty supervisor, please don't

compel your workers to show up when they're sick. In the short run, you might get a bit of a productivity boost. In the long run, that person could transmit a respiratory illness to co-workers, and pretty soon you lose way more productivity because your entire office is sick."

Shih understands that service members stationed in areas of strategic importance and elevated states of readiness are not necessarily in the position to call in sick. In such instances, sick personnel still can take steps to practice effective cough hygiene and use whatever hygienic services they can find to avert hindering readiness by making their battle buddies sick. Frequent thorough handwashing, for instance, is a cornerstone of respiratory disease prevention.

"You may not have plumbing for washing hands, but hand sanitizer can become your best friend and keep you healthy," Shih said.

Regarding novel coronavirus, Shih recommends following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel notices. First, avoid all non-essential travel to Wuhan, China,

the outbreak's epicenter. Second, patients who traveled to China in the past 14 days with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, should seek medical care right away (calling the doctor's office or emergency room in advance to report travel and symptoms) and otherwise avoid contact with others and travel while sick.

CDC also has guidance for health care professionals, who should evaluate patients with fever and respiratory illness by taking a careful travel history to identify patients under investigation, or PUIs, who include those with fever, lower respiratory illness symptoms, and travel history to Wuhan, China, within 14 days prior to symptom onset. PUIs should wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available. Workers caring for PUIs should wear gloves, gowns, masks, eye protection, and respiratory protection. Perhaps most importantly, care providers who believe they may be treating a novel coronavirus patient should immediately notify infection control and public health authorities (the installation preventive medicine or public health department at military treatment facilities).

Because novel coronavirus is new (as its name suggests), there is as yet no immunization nor specific treatment. Care providers are instead treating the symptoms - acetaminophen to reduce fever, lozenges and other treatments to soothe sore throats, and, for severe cases, ventilators to help patients breathe.

"Lacking specific treatment," Shih said, "we must be extra vigilant about basic prevention measures: frequent handwashing, effective cough and sneeze hygiene, avoiding sick individuals, and self-isolating when sick"

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# Eligible veterans authorized post access, shopping privileges

By Anna Morelock  
USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

As of Jan. 1, certain veterans received access to Commissary and Exchange services.

Within Germany, due to international agreements with the German Federal Ministry of Finance, this access also requires veterans to register with the U.S. Army Customs Agency-Europe and the German Zollamt, or German customs office, in their areas. While purchases made at these facilities are free from U.S. taxes, German customs will levy duties based on the applicable euro rate.

To obtain installation access and a "Pink Card" to make purchases, veterans must be enrolled with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They, and their VA-documented caregivers, will need to complete these steps:

## Veteran ID card

To obtain post access and shopping privileges at garrisons within Germany, veterans must have a Veterans Health Identification Card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the U.S. The VHIC must be the newest version that displays the veteran's eligibility status. Under the new authorization, eligible veterans include Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and veterans with documented service-connected disabilities or their VA documented caregivers. VHICs are not issued overseas. To learn more about the VHIC, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>.

## Obtaining installation access

Besides their VHIC, veterans residing in Germany will also need to fill out Army in Europe Form 190-16A, which can be requested by emailing [usarmy.stuttgart.id-europe.mbx.iaacs-office@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.stuttgart.id-europe.mbx.iaacs-office@mail.mil) or by calling 431-2875 or 0703-115-2875. Forms should be returned to Installation Access Control Services via encrypted email, dropped off in person at the USAG Stuttgart IACS office, Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne. IACS staff are available to answer any questions in advance of a guest's arrival via email at or by phone at, or IACS staff can provide a secure website link to which veterans can upload their completed forms. Once background checks are complete in three to five days, veterans will be notified and can come to the to be issued an installation pass. Under this pass, the veteran may also sign on their spouse. Veterans who are only visiting Germany may obtain a temporary installation pass with their VHIC through the same process.



Photo by USAG Stuttgart

Eligible veterans with a "pink card" may now shop at the Panzer Exchange and others across Germany.

## U.S. Customs registration

To register with the U.S. Army Customs Agency-Europe, Veterans will need their passport or Personalausweis, valid residence permit if residing as an ordinary resident in Germany (or travel itinerary to prove they are visiting Germany for at least 30 uninterrupted days), and their VHIC reflecting their eligibility status. Veterans can bring these forms to the Stuttgart Customs Office in Bldg. 2913, Panzer Kaserne. Call 596-2731/2732/2657 or 09641-70-596-2731/2732/2657.

The Customs office will provide the veteran with a status verification form, AE Form 550-175K, which will need to be presented to the German custom office, or Zollamt. The customs office can provide information on area German customs offices.

## German Customs registration

AE Form 550-175K needs to be presented at the German customs office for further processing and issuance of the actual authorization, Form 0216 and Form 0217, which is also referred to as a Pink Card.

No later than the fifth day of each month, veterans must present their Pink Card to the issuing German customs office along with all of the original cash register receipts for purchases made the previous month.

Purchase of rationed items, such as alcohol, coffee and cigarettes, is not permitted.

German customs will levy duties based on the euro rate applicable in the month when the purchases were made. For more information, visit [www.zoll.de](http://www.zoll.de). For items with a single-item price of less than the U.S. dollar equivalent of 50 euros, duties will be charged at 17.5 percent MwSt (German Value Added Tax). For items equivalent to 50 euro or more, the regular tariff of 19 percent MwSt will be charged. For more information on tariff rates used to determine duty rates, visit [www.zolltarifnummern.de](http://www.zolltarifnummern.de).

## Caregiver access

Veterans who cannot access post can also authorize their VA authorized caregiver as their "shopping assistant." This person can shop or register on behalf of the authorized veteran. Caregivers need the following documentation to register:

- Primary or family caregiver letter issued by the VA
- Written request for Shopping Assistant Authorization, dated and signed by the VHIC holder

request for Shopping Assistant Authorization, dated and signed by the VHIC holder

- VHIC, passport or Personalausweis with valid residence permit of veteran.
- Passport or Personalausweis of VA authorized primary or family caregiver with valid residence permit or other immigration documents.
- VA eligibility letter

After following the above process, the German customs office will issue the caregiver's Pink Card with the remark "Erfüllungsgehilfe." Only the authorized caregiver is authorized to shop on behalf of the authorized veteran. They are not authorized to shop on their own behalf.

## Other European access

Veterans' use of DeCA and Exchange services at other European installations, such as those in Italy, Belgium, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, is still pending.

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# What the heck is a VOIP? Garrison's new phone system explained

Story and photo by John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The engineering leading to Voice Over Internet Protocol, better known as VOIP, goes back to the early days of the ARPANET, before it grew into the internet, in the 1960s-1970s. The use of VOIP by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart goes back about a year, and the change from a landline to a computer-driven telephone network meant that roughly 99 percent of the garrison DSN phone numbers changed.

"Basically, what it means is that instead of the signal being routed via cable, the signal is now being routed over the same rail as your internet," explained Dexter Nelson, garrison IT specialist. "It's the same way you'd go on to Google."

To be clear, the recent switch to VOIP by the garrison affected only garrison telephone numbers. For example, the phone number for the garrison headquarters previously began with 431. With VOIP, the new HQ number begins with 596. (The DSN prefix for Germany remains 314.)

Unlike landline telephones of the past, the garrison's VOIP phones are specially tailored to work on the internet.

"The biggest advantage of VOIP is that it's less costly, because now it's going the same route as you basically going on your system, pulling up a webpage and carrying out business," Nelson said. "So it's no longer required to be connected from the device, plugged into a port and then going through a server."

The savings comes much like using the internet to make calls, send texts, etc. The Army doesn't need to spend money with telephone corporations.

VOIP is Army-wide and was already common for years for the Army throughout the continental U.S. before it arrived in OCONUS. Like your office computers, peripheral devices and milk at the commissary, VOIP phones have a targeted lifecycle of use before replacement.

"VOIP allows the Network Enterprise System to manage the phones the same way we do for computers, printers and other devices," Nelson said. "We have the ability now to push software and firmware updates to the phone."

Receivers on the garrison's VOIP phones indicate when it is undergoing an update.

There are still a few phones being



An example of one of the VOIP phones now being used by the garrison.

swapped out for the Directorate of Public Works, which chose a different model VOIP phone than the other directorates. The government's security features must be met before switching from landlines. Regardless of phone model,

as an Army telephone network, security measures are part of the system.

"The phone that the garrison put in place had to meet security parameters," Nelson said. "That, for us, is important."

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# Rest, take time out for things that keep you sharp

Ch. (Col.) William Lovell  
Chaplain USAG Stuttgart

Prior to serving in the Army, I worked for a tree-trimming company. My boss had a simple rule about our work schedule: No cutting trees after 3:30 p.m.; all equipment is serviced and all chains are sharpened before leaving the shop. His rule was not driven by altruism, but by money.

Very simply, 40-plus years of trimming trees taught him that most work accidents, bodily injury and broken equipment happen at the end of the day when tree trimmers are fatigued and their chainsaws blades are dull. By

creating intentional recovery and maintenance of the equipment in the work schedule, he increased both the quantity and quality of work while reducing his insurance premiums due to accidents. He could also confidently pick up more business, knowing he was fully staffed with uninjured, well-trained professionals.

There is a real danger in humans doing nothing but work and not taking time for rest, recreation and restoration.

In the book of Genesis, God rested from his work on the 7th day not because he was fatigued or needed a break. Perhaps, like my former boss, he recognized

the danger of humans doing nothing but work and was modeling recovery for them by his actions; there is more to life than our labors.

By all means, seek excellence in your job performance. But take time out for the things that keep you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually sharp.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

# From weird beginnings, Valentine celebration evolves into economic powerhouse

By Patrick Buffett  
Army.mil

Catholic scholars offer a story about a priest named Valentine (later proclaimed as a saint) who was sentenced to death for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons. He is said to have fallen in love with a young girl – possibly his jailor’s daughter – who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged he wrote her a letter confessing his feelings and signed “From your Valentine.”

With heavy church influence in the 5th century, St. Valentine’s Day celebrations are said to have evolved from drunken and naked pagan rituals to still-tipsy yet tasteful festivals that honored spring renewal and the blossoming relationships of young couples destined for matrimony and making babies. Years later, English poet Geoffrey Chaucer and playwright William Shakespeare greatly romanticized the annual tradition and handmade paper cards with

admissions of adoration became the token-of-choice in the Middle Ages.

The migration of Valentine’s Day

Kansas City, Mo., for churning out the first factory-produced greeting cards in 1913 — insert “first sales rack was

of the holiday was forever changed.

Suffice to say, the modern version of Valentine’s Day does tend toward impression over expression. High-cost jewelry, reservations at the fanciest restaurant or other equally expensive testaments of love are expectations imposed by advertisers and cheeky individuals who make statements like, “You can’t put a price tag on love.” Certainly, there’s nothing wrong with going all out for your special someone, but it doesn’t have to go beyond what is economically manageable and personally meaningful.

The history of this observance tells us one thing – there is no obligation to follow conventional Valentine’s Day traditions since there is no historical precedence for doing so. How anyone expresses their feelings is a choice of the heart, and the three simple words “I love you” may be the best gift of all.

*(Editor’s note: This is an excerpt from a Fort Lee, Va., 2018 Army.mil article.)*



to the New World was inevitable (actually, it’s now celebrated in more than 20 countries). Americans can thank the industrial revolution and a company called Hallmark Cards of

set up a year earlier” joke here. With profits sure to be made, other companies soon joined the fray with everything from boxed chocolates to fresh-cut flowers, and the U.S. installment



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# Army team to compete in Stuttgart at World Culinary Olympics 2020

By Sarah Hauck

U.S. Training and Doctrine Command  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team is the national military culinary team and competes at local, national and international culinary competitions to showcase the talent and professionalism of service members. Members of the team are selected through military competitions and qualifying events, where they are evaluated on their culinary skills and knowledge, methods and character. It is managed by the Training and Doctrine Command's Sustainment Center of Excellence through the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence. JCCoE trains and develops food service professionals, from all services, throughout their careers from advanced individual training through advanced professional courses.

The team, made up of members from across different branches of the Armed Forces, will also help support Team USA at the competition.

Through the competitions they participate in, USACAT members are able to hone and expand their culinary skills, and help advance the quality of food service at military dining facilities by sharing the specialized cooking skills they develop.

"USACAT, to me, shows a different aspect of conventional Army cooking, which is more bulk cooking," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eveline Rosado-Haliday, Advanced Culinary Training Division chief and USACAT manager. "USACAT develops a more skilled and detailed aspect of food service."

The team has traditionally been the



Photo by Sarah Hauck

**USACAT team member Staff Sgt. Samantha Poe, prepares a chocolate beet cake as practice for the World Culinary Olympics 2020 to be held in Stuttgart, Feb. 14-19.**



Photo by Terrance Bell, USAG Fort Lee Public Affairs

**For members of the USACT, white coats and sauté pans will soon replace camouflage and rucks to compete in the 25th IKA Culinary Olympics, the world's largest international culinary art exhibit. Staff Sgt. Marc Paul Susa, USACAT captain, prepares dishes for a 60-guest run-through during team preparations Jan. 24. Susa is a two-time Olympian, Joint Culinary Training Event master's winner and multi-year USACAT team member.**

principal means of mentoring and developing young chefs.

Staff Sgt. Samantha Poe, has been a member of the USACAT since 2012. During her time with the team, she has been able to find success thanks to continued educational and mentoring opportunities. Poe enjoys working with young Soldiers and being an example of what food service professionals are capable of.

"No one is going to do it for you," Poe said. "You have to put yourself out there. What's the worst thing that could happen? You fail. Ok. Train, learn, try again."

For Poe, competitions like the Culinary Olympics allow her to step out of her usual responsibilities as an enlisted aide and provide her the opportunity to broaden her skills. During the event, she will focus on pastry.

"Events like this, push you to be better," she said. "It pushes you to never stop learning. It pushes you to try new things, get out of your comfort zone and just never settle. It keeps you on your toes."

With 15 years of experience and training in food service, Poe has gained skills that have earned her two trips to the Culinary Olympics, first in 2012 as an apprentice and this year as a primary team member. Most recently, she was the first military chef to win the AFC Nationals Pastry Chef of the Year.

Her culinary journey didn't begin with the Army though, having started in the civilian sector. But the military provided her with a path to follow her lifelong passion of being able to change a person's day with a single plate of food.

Feeding the military and making a difference has kept her motivated to continue to improve her skills through the Army and competitions.

"The benefit of the military, combined with the unique group that we get to serve, is something that means a lot to me," Poe said. "My husband is infantry. I've seen firsthand how much these guys appreciate a meal, that feeling it brings forward. That is something unique from being in the civilian world, where you're just cooking for paying patrons. It is something that I love being able to do; my passion in life and serving my country. It's the best of both worlds."

Team captain Staff Sgt. Marc Susa said the team has been able to pull together in a positive way through physical training sessions as well as meetings to learn from each other. They've been able to create a menu and product they all can be proud of.

"We are a team. We learn from one another..." he said. "We have to work well together or the final product will suffer. If we don't work well or there is tension in the kitchen, it effects the dish. Judges will be able to see the disconnect

between the elements, if we aren't all on the same page working toward the same goal of a quality product."

Each competition, like the Culinary Olympics, supports building a food service Soldiers' career through continuing education hours which count toward culinary certifications.

Susa, who also works as an enlisted aide, has a goal of one day earning the highest certification of Certified Master Chef, like his mentor.

When he joined the Army following 9/11 after time in the civilian culinary world, Susa never dreamed a decade of his military career would include being a USACAT member or winning awards like Military Master Chef of the Year 2018.

Susa learned from a young age that culinary arts is about showcasing passion and personality through food.

"My mother and grandmother are my inspiration. They have always been my biggest supports," he said. "As I was growing up, I was fortunate enough for them to be able to show me what good food tastes like."

According to Susa, his command is also supportive of his culinary arts career, including allowing him to dedicate some of his time to training and mentoring others.

The Soldiers working in food service are the inspiration for his service, Susa explained.

"I want to be able to share the same passion I have for creating food with Soldiers. I want to give back what was given to me when I was a young Soldier. Especially for me, to get to this level in our field, is a true blessing. I want to share that and encourage Soldiers so they can work hard to achieve high levels of success within food service."

Each of the USACAT members expressed their hopes of inspiring young students in food service that through professional development their careers can be ones of respect and passion.

"Culinary arts is more than just fine dining," Susa said. "Eating is more than just food on a plate. It is the flavor, the smell, the way the food looks; everything that we put into it. If we can channel that we can greatly elevate the Army dining experience. With the right training, food service Soldiers can go out there to the larger military community and hone their skills to make food that looks and tastes amazing."



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