

HERALD UNION



Keeping up with changing COVID-19 rules

Nadine Bower and Lena Stange
USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Keeping up with the different measures implemented to contain the COVID-19 virus can be hard. It seems like every state, city and county has released its own set of restric-

tions, resulting in a patchwork of different rules and regulations; leaving people confused and frustrated. As an example, on the way from Wiesbaden to Frankfurt, a traveler faces three different sets of rules and regulations.

To address Germany's COVID-19 response the chancellor discusses appropriate measures with the minister presidents of the German states. Due to the differing numbers of new infections across German cities and states,

measures applied will vary. In addition, states do not necessarily implement the measures as agreed.

"The Robert-Koch-Institut is the decisive factor in the evaluation of the corona situation," said Carl-Michael Baum,

chief of citizen affairs for the city of Wiesbaden. "The RKI communicates the situation, the numbers, to the federal government and suggests measures and determines risk areas."

Within Germany, the in-
See 'COVID confusion' on Page 2

Fire extinguisher training



Lisa Bishop/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

ABOVE: Capt. Kathleen Stewart, U.S. Army Medical Command, puts out a training fire at a fire extinguisher training Oct. 21 on Clay Kaserne.

LEFT: Thilo Schleich, fire prevention inspector for the Directorate of Emergency Services, shows the differences between U.S. and German fire extinguishers.

As a part of Fire Prevention Month, DES offered the training to all personnel at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden. The training, conducted by Schleich, reviewed the types of extinguishers used to fight fires in specific circumstances, the inspection and lifecycle of garrison extinguishers, the differences between U.S. and German extinguishers, and gave participants the opportunity to use a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher to put out a training fire.

Garrison inaugurates elevator at MCC

Lena Stange

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden officially inaugurated the newly constructed outside elevator at the Mission Command Center with a ribbon cutting Oct. 26 on Clay Kaserne. The elevator gives employees with disabilities better access to the MCC.

"Employees with disabilities are vital to our Army as Soldiers and civilians. The Americans with Disabilities Act and the National Disability Employment Awareness Month remind us of this," said Col. Mario A. Washington, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander. "The elevator is one more step toward being a truly inclusive garrison."

Washington, together with Ron Vitiello, U.S. Army Europe Equal Employment Opportunity director; Brent O'Brien, USAG Wiesbaden Equal Employment Opportunity officer; Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wyatt, USAG Wiesbaden Equal Opportunity advisor, and Rob Donner, Mission Command Center employee, cut the ribbon in front

See 'Elevator' on Page 3

CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 100 community members give their time to help others. **Page 4**



PLAY 'I SPY' WITH THE KIDS

Can you spot all the ornaments? Challenge the whole family to a game of "I spy!" **Pages 8-9**

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES

Post office handles suspicious packages with care to keep customer and employees safe. **Page 14**



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**U.S. Army Garrison
Wiesbaden Command**

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e-Newsletter

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COVID CONFUSION

Continued from page 1

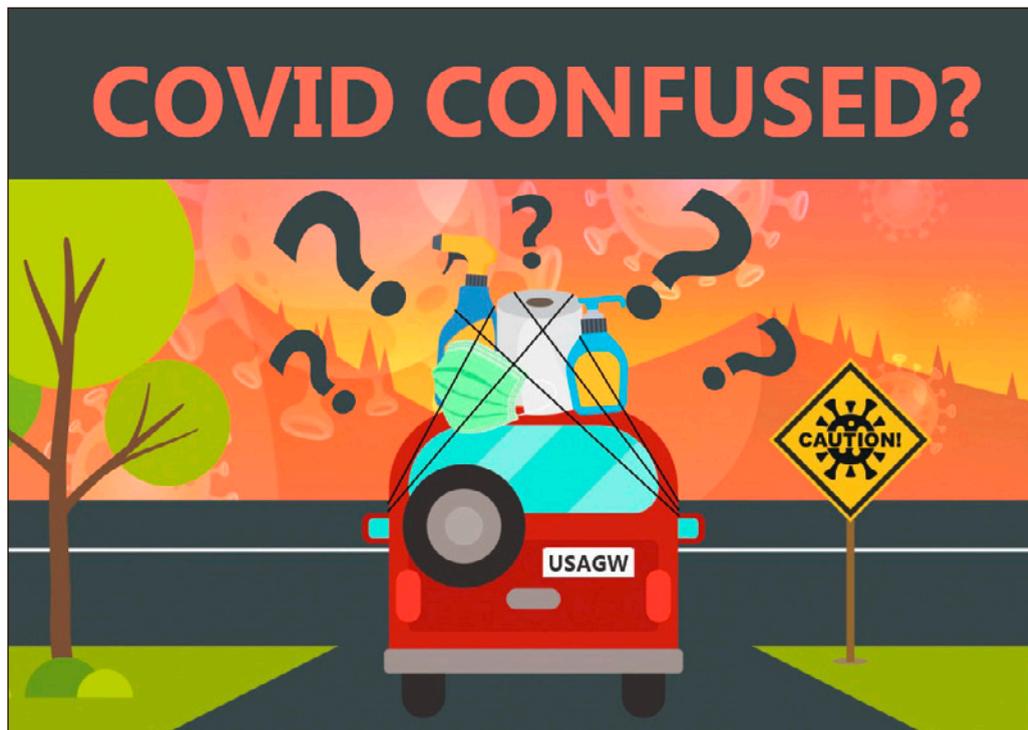
idence rate (number of infections per 100,000 people within seven days) up to 20 is green, up to 35 is yellow, up to 50 is orange and above 50 is red.

The predefined measures are minimum requirements. Individual municipalities are free to implement stricter measures when deemed necessary. This is what contributes to the patchwork (Flickenteppich), they talk about in the German news, meaning measures taken differ all over the country.

“Sometimes, measures implemented by state governments are overturned by the local courts, this can result in differences between the German states,” Baum said. “In Hessen, the state government has defined measures that have to be implemented by the municipalities when certain thresholds are reached.”

In a press conference, the mayor of Wiesbaden, Dr. Oliver Franz, said that it was the desire of the city of Wiesbaden to work together with the surrounding counties and cities and create more common regulations, so that it would be easier for the people to follow them.

In order to stay up-to-date



USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

on COVID, the German news, the Wiesbaden website (wiesbaden.de) and the RKI website (rki.de) are good resources, Baum said. The RKI website is available in 10 languages.

For information in English, community members can go to the garrison website home.army.mil/wiesbaden and the garrison Facebook page [facebook.com/usagwiesbaden](https://www.facebook.com/usagwiesbaden). Translations of press releases by the cities of Mainz and Wiesbaden and the state governments of Hes-

Stay up to date

- wiesbaden.de
- rki.de
- [mainz.de/en/service/protection-against-coronavirus-infections.php](https://www.mainz.de/en/service/protection-against-coronavirus-infections.php)
- home.army.mil/wiesbaden
- [facebook.com/usagwiesbaden](https://www.facebook.com/usagwiesbaden)

sen and Rheinland-Pfalz are available there in addition to Army-internal regulations such as general orders.

Additionally, the city of Mainz offers the COVID

website in English as well with updated information on the current regulations. This can be found at [mainz.de/en/service/protection-against-coronavirus-infections.php](https://www.mainz.de/en/service/protection-against-coronavirus-infections.php).

COVID Busters at the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic



Lt. Col. Kelly Olson and Lt. Col. Benjamin Bancheck walked around the garrison Oct. 30 with scary-sized nasal swabs to remind people to stay safe over the Halloween weekend. They stopped by the garrison headquarters for a photo with Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Truchon and Deputy Garrison Commander Scott Mowry, who reminded community members to “wear your masks, wash your hands and watch your distance.”

Photo by Emily Jennings/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

ELEVATOR

Continued from page 1

of the elevator.

“This thing is an asset,” said David Fulton, director, Wiesbaden Mission Support Element. “The impetus for this was feedback from our disabled employees.”

The former stair lift was ADA-compliant, however, it moved very slowly, Fulton said.

This October marks the 75th anniversary of recognizing NDEAM and also the 30th anniversary of the ADA.

“This is just a great resource to unveil this month,” Fulton said.

Thirty years ago, President George H. W. Bush signed the ADA, a comprehensive disability rights legislation, that prohibits discrimination in hiring, and guarantees equal access to education and public facilities.

“Having a disability can create significant barriers for the quality of employment and life in general,” Wyatt

said. “We are happy that this elevator will make the lives of people with a walking impairment or a disability a little bit easier.”

The elevator, which was funded by U.S. Army Europe, was finished and approved by all authorities Oct. 20, said Klaus Hahn, chief of construction with the Directorate of Public Works. The construction started at the beginning of March and got interrupted by the COVID pandemic at the end of March. Construction restarted at the end of May.

“Taking into account the corona break, the time frame was pretty solid,” he said. “I think the elevator is a real asset for the building. It is very quick and very quiet, and it looks good.”

In order to keep birds from flying into the windowpanes of the elevator, horizontal black lines were affixed to the glass. That looks more aesthetic than the usual bird deterrents, Hahn said.

The walkway to the elevator features hand rails that include



Lena Stange/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

(From left) Ron Vitiello, U.S. Army Europe Equal Employment Opportunity director; Col. Mario A. Washington, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander; Brent O'Brien, USAG Wiesbaden Equal Employment Opportunity officer; Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wyatt, USAG Wiesbaden Equal Opportunity advisor; and Mission Command Center employee Rob Donner cut the ribbon Oct. 26 to officially inaugurate the new elevator in front of the MCC on Clay Kaserne.

energy-efficient LEDs that radiate light downward and in a 45 degree angle onto the path, he said. The LEDs are not visible, since they are located at the downside of the hand rail,

but the path is still bright and the light is not blinding.

“Everybody involved in this project worked together as a team,” Washington said. “The elevator not only satis-

fies a need for better access to the MCC, but is also a modern and aesthetic piece of technology that adds to the quality of life here at USAG Wiesbaden.”

Halloween decorating contest winners keep neighborhood scary



Lisa Bishop

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Col. Mario Washington announced the winners of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Halloween decorating contest on American Forces Network Oct. 27. Both winners live in the Aukamm community.

For the stairwell category,

the Master Sgt. Michael Hernandez-Alvarez family won with a combination of yard and balcony decorations, including a blowup tree and pumpkin patch. The balcony included cobwebs, lights, caution tape, grave stones and a banner.

The Sgt. Maj. Kevin McMullen family won for the duplex and standalone house

category with a graveyard lawn, complete with a life-size skeleton to greet visitors at the front door. The extensive display also had lights for night-time viewing.

The contest was created by leadership spouses and the garrison Public Affairs Office as a way to recognize community spirit for Halloween.



News flash

Upcoming holidays

Community members should be aware of the following U.S. federal and training holidays, which may affect some garrison services.

- Nov. 26 — Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 27 — Training holiday
- Dec. 21-23 — Half-day Soldiers
- Dec. 24 — Training holiday
- Dec. 25 — Christmas Day
- Dec. 26 — Germany holiday
- Dec. 28-30 — Half-day Soldiers
- Dec. 31 — Training holiday
- Jan. 1 — New Year's Day

On holidays, call before you go. Find the garrison phonebook at home.army.mil/wiesbaden. For holidays, go to www.eur.army.mil/Community/Employee-Resources.

Soldiers should confirm with their local chain of command whether they have a federal or training holiday off.

Fitness center dress code

In response to Soldier feedback, USAG Wiesbaden's fitness center policy for ACU wear has been updated:

"Wear of the Army Combat Uniform for exercise is authorized when required for unit-level physical readiness training, and when time for individuals is limited in order to maximize time available for training, such as during the standard lunch period of 1130-1300."

Prior to this update, ACUs were only authorized during the lunch period. Read the entire policy at: <https://home.army.mil/wiesbaden/application/files/2216/0517/9784/20FitnessCenter.pdf>.

Newsletter

Be the first to get the Herald Union news straight to your inbox by signing up for the e-newsletter at www.herald-union.com.

24-hour EO hotline

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden anonymous military Equal Opportunity hotline is available 24 hours a day at (0162)278-7598.

Mental health resources

- 24/7 On-Call Duty Chaplain — (0611)143-548-7777 or 7778
- Behavioral Health Clinic — 06371-94641320 or DSN 590-1320
- 24/7 Military Crisis Line www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/military-crisis-line, DSN 118, or Civ. 001-800-273-8255
- Military Family Life Counselors — Hainerberg Elementary: 0152-2390-2413/2498; Wiesbaden Middle School: 0152-0269-8526; Wiesbaden High School: 0151-4558-3637

Chapel volunteers bring garrison community to life

Emily Jennings

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Volunteers play an important role in meeting the spiritual needs of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community.

"Volunteers are the hands and feet of our ministry and quite often the creative heads and hearts, too," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Dillard, garrison chaplain and Religious Support Office director.

The biggest thing volunteers do is to support their community in ways the chaplains sometimes cannot, Dillard said. On average chaplains serve about 1 to every 1,000 Soldiers, civilians and others, he added.

"Of course our primary focus is on the unit and the mission, but there are a lot of needs that we can't meet because we are counseling with an individual or we are in an important meeting to strategize and to address major themes," Dillard said. "Volunteers can bring a greater frequency of connections with their neighbors, and they can bring a greater depth of connection with their neighbors."

Several volunteer ministry groups serve the Wiesbaden community. Protestant Women of the Chapel, Catholic Youth of the Chapel, Cadence International Hospitality House, Club Beyond Youth Ministries, Mom's Café, Thrive!, Latter Day Saints Seminary, Catholic Religious Education, Life Teen and Wednesday Night Alive! serve as educational and auxiliary ministries. One such group is Catholic Women of the Chapel, a group of women who meet to learn religious teachings and provide social support to one another.

"We need that time away from our distractions of life just to be able to refocus ourselves on God, and that gives us the strength to continue in our daily tasks," said Blanca Cook, Wiesbaden CWOC president.



Emily Jennings/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Dara Quintero, study leader for Catholic Women of the Chapel at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, speaks to a group of women about the parables of Jesus in relation to the history of church and the "Our Father," while holding daughter Antonia Oct. 22 at the Hainerberg Chapel.

"The USAG Wiesbaden chapel community is blessed with a tremendous pool of committed volunteers," said Clinton Lowin, director of religious education for the RSO. Approximately 100 people volunteer in some capacity for one of the educational auxiliary organizations or mass and worship services, he added.

Stephanie Tanner, a volunteer coordinator for Catholic Youth of the Chapel, a group that works with teens "to bring them closer to Christ," said not being able to meet in person due to COVID-19 has been a challenge, but she leans on fellow CWOC members, a group she is also a member of.

She said she enjoys being a part of a group of women who share the same values and help each other when needed.

"It's like a support group. Not just spiritually, but emotionally, too," Tanner said. "It gets us out of our routine, and you have people to talk to and share your experiences with, and you always have somebody to help you if

you need help, and it's a great place to make friends. We learn and we pray together."

The group helps with the annual priest breakfast, Stations of the Cross and meatless meals during lent, retreats (although not this year due to COVID-19), and social and learning support, Cook said. They also help others in the group and the chapel as needed for baby showers, meal support for individuals who are sick, beautifying the chapel grounds and even cleaning up. "We help wherever we're needed," Cook said.

"I think this, honestly, is the best religious community I've ever been in," Tanner said. "And not just the Catholics, but the Protestants, too—everybody supports everybody else. It's just a really good, positive environment."

For more information on services and ministry groups, go to home.army.mil/wiesbaden and search "religious services."

USAG Wiesbaden Education Center

Virtual assistance is available. Contact your school or the center by email. Follow the Education Center on Facebook for the latest updates.

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 usarmy.wiesbaden.imcom-europe.list.education-center@mail.mil	

Memorial held for military working dog

Lisa Bishop

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Sgt. Mathew Dobson said a final farewell to his working dog partner, Diana, at a memorial service at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Oct. 30. Diana, a 4-year old patrol explosive dog (enhanced), passed away unexpectedly Oct. 16.

“She was an amazing dog,” said Dobson, a member of the 525th Military Working Dog Detachment. “She worked harder than any Soldier I know; in the end, that is what she is, a Soldier.”

According to Sgt. Steven Staples, detachment sergeant, the Belgian Malinois came down with a sudden illness on Oct. 16 and was rushed to Kaiserslautern for exploratory surgery where surgeons took samples but did not observe any clear reason for her sudden and serious decline in health.

Within a few hours Diana passed away. “She worked until the day she died,” Dobson said. “We worked together every day to protect this community.” Dobson and the 525th MWD Detachment are awaiting the



Emily Jennings/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Members of the 529th Military Police Company Honor Guard prepare to deliver a 21-gun salute Oct. 30 in front of the Clay Chapel in honor of military working dog Diana of the 525th Military Working Dog Detachment. The 4-year-old patrol explosive dog (enhanced), passed away unexpectedly Oct. 16.

results of a necropsy to explain Diana’s cause of death.

“It’s hard for people to understand,” Dobson clarified. “It’s a partnership. When I got better, she got better.”

Dobson was Diana’s first handler, training her in patrol and explosive detection duties. She was considered an enhanced dog because she was able to detect explosives off leash up to 200 meters away from her handler.

Under normal circumstances, working dog funeral

services would be ceremonial, including speakers. Because of COVID-19, Diana’s service was a viewing, giving people an opportunity to pay their final respects. Following the service, the 529th Military Police Company did a 21-gun salute to Dobson’s working dog partner.

“It’s a really hard loss,” he said. “It’s a loss to the entire community. You can’t replicate a working dog, especially a dog like Diana. She was always eager and ready.”



Emily Jennings/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

A memorial for Military Working Dog Diana is displayed at the front of the Clay Chapel Oct. 30. Diana, a 4-year-old patrol explosive dog (enhanced), passed away unexpectedly Oct. 16.

Army recognizes American Indian Heritage Month



USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

November is National American Indian Heritage Month, honoring American Indians and Alaska natives. In celebrating the month, the Army recognizes not only the significance of individual contributions but also the value of a diverse and inclusive environment.

“The U.S. Army is dedicated to leveraging the strength of our diverse force and ensuring equality for all of its

LEFT: The Indian and Mountain Men Club Wiesbaden eV performs at the American Indian Heritage Month observance Nov. 17, 2016, at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

members,” said Army senior leaders. “Native American (American Indian and Alaskan Native) Soldiers have served in the Army with great honor, dedication and distinction, building a legacy of courage, professionalism and selfless service that will inspire generations to come.”

America’s highly capable Army will continue to leverage the strengths of its diverse, all-volunteer force, which includes more than 9,000 Native Americans.

More than 20 Native American Soldiers have been presented with the Medal of Honor, our country’s highest military decoration.

Avoid mold

Lena Stange

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Mold is a common phenomenon and can be found in many homes. It can, however, be controlled with a few easy measures.

Mold develops due to improper ventilation and not controlling humidity, said Victor DiMarzo, special projects officer with the Directorate of Public Works' Housing Division. Frequent ventilation is important, and cross ventilation is most effective.

Controlling the humidity is very important, he said. If the house is kept very warm in winter, long showers are taken and the windows stay shut, humidity will build up.

"Anything above 60% of humidity is considered wet," he said.

In the winter time, the variance of temperature between the inside and the outside causes condensation, DiMarzo said. The moisture should be wiped away.

"If you let that condensa-

tion remain, it forms mildew," he said. "Mildew is an organic substance upon which mold can grow."

A small amount of mold in the shower caused by a lack of ventilation should not be a great concern, as long as it is removed, he said. People should follow the instructions, the housing office provides.

"You need to remove the mold from the affected surface by scrubbing the area with a stiff brush or sponge and then you would apply a solution of one cup of chlorine bleach to two gallons of warm water. Then, you wipe it with fresh water. With proper ventilation it should be eliminated," DiMarzo said.

If larger areas are wet or moldy, this measure is not enough.

"Let's say you notice in the living room the wall is wet," he said. "That's a sign that there is some sort of leak."

In this situation, it would be necessary to call an expert to fix the leak. Then, it's important to air out the area, he said.



Keep mold at bay

- Keep humidity levels as low as you can -- no higher than 50%.
- Increase ventilation by running a fan or opening a window, especially in the bathroom and the kitchen.
- Ventilate your house for a minimum of 30 minutes daily.
- Move furniture four to six inches away from walls so air flows between them.
- During winter months, make sure rooms are heated properly.

People can buy devices and hygrometers that measure the humidity. There are even mold alarms, DiMarzo said. These devices help to keep humidity and mold at bay.

Drivers must slow down for Soldiers performing PRT

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Drivers are required to slow down to a maximum speed of 15 kilometers per hour when passing troops conducting physical readiness training between the hours of 6 and 7:30 a.m. Monday to Friday.

On the map at right:

GREEN roads are shared roads between vehicles and runners.

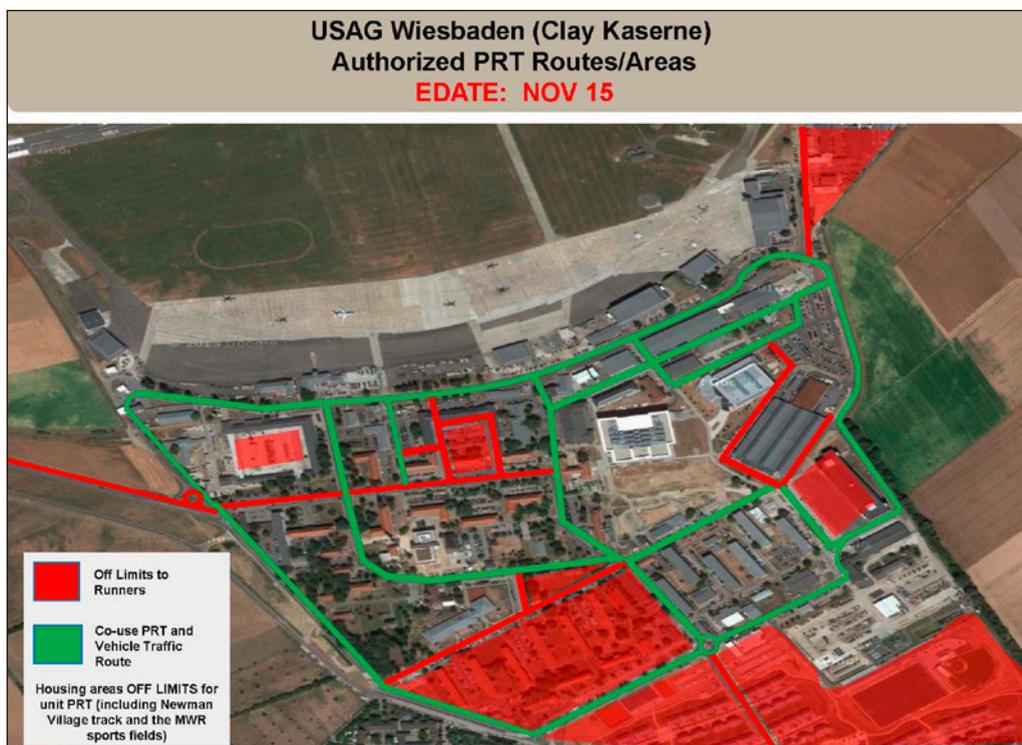
RED roads are off limits to runners. These include all of Boyd Boulevard, the welcome center area (Bldgs. 1023N/E/W), and the area around the dining facility, mailroom and AAFES military clothing sales.

RED shaded areas are off limits for unit level PRT. These include Newman Village (including the perimeter track and MWR sports fields), the 1200-series of stairwell housing

near the main child development center, the Directorate of Public Works compound and parking lot, and the parking decks.

DPW will remove all the current GREEN/AMBER/RED signs and add "15 KPH when passing troops in formation" signs to all speed limit signs on the GREEN routes. The Directorate of Emergency Services will increase patrols along GREEN routes to ensure compliance and issue tickets to violators.

Requirements for running formations will be road guards with reflective gear at all times (and flashlights during times of year that it is dark during PRT hours) and reflective gear for all runners in the formation during times of year when it is dark during PRT hours, in line with other Army installations.



Drivers are required to slow down to a maximum speed of 15 kilometers per hour when passing troops conducting physical readiness training between the hours of 6 and 7:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. Green roads in the above map indicate roads that are shared between vehicles and runners.

Community notes

Thanksgiving meal at the DFAC

Make your reservation now for Thanksgiving at the Strong Europe Cafe dining facility. Reservations will be required to control seating and comply with COVID hygiene requirements; both carry out and dine in will be available. Open to DoDID cardholders only. Single Soldiers and meal cardholders have priority.

Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 26. Holiday meal rate is \$9.20, with a discount rate of \$6.85 for spouses and dependents E1-E4. For reservations, call (0611)143-537-0724/0726.

Offerings include turkey, beef, ham, sweet potatoes, dressing, green bean casserole and more. Go to facebook.com/usagwiesbaden to see the menu.

Thanksgiving meals

The Wiesbaden Entertainment Center and Rheinblick Restaurant (Cem Klein's Restaurant and Bistro) are offering to-go meals on Nov. 26.

The WEC offers a 12, 16 or 20 pound turkey to serve anywhere from four to 12 people. Prices start at \$94.75 and includes four sides and gravy. Pre-order by Nov. 23 at (0611)143-548-9406.

Cem Klein's offers a turkey dinner with all the sides and pie for \$29 per person or less. Pre-order by Nov. 24 at 0176-23668142 or email sabrina@cemklein.de.

Christmas mailing deadlines

To ensure delivery of cards and packages by Dec. 25, the Wiesbaden Postal Service

Center recommends items be mailed by the following dates:

- Nov. 27: SAM parcels
- Dec. 11: Priority parcels and first class letters
- Dec. 18: Express mail

Support CFC

USAG Wiesbaden has raised more than \$10,000

toward its \$50,000 CFC goal. Go to <https://givecfc.org/> and donate to your favorite cause.

Flu shots

Public flu vaccination clinics have been postponed. New dates, once scheduled, will be posted to the garrison Facebook page.

ISPY

Can you “spy”
each of the items
typed in red?

ANGEL: Holiday Assistance Program helps bring joy to all

The Holiday Assistance Program provides gifts for children through Angel Trees, stocks the Army Community Services food bank, and helps families in need during the holidays.

“It’s such a huge effort that we could not do it without all the volunteers,” said Federica LeMauk, ACS Financial Readiness Program manager, who is in charge of the HAP.

Each tag on the Angel Trees contains a wish from a child whose family may be suffering a financial burden. To participate: take a tag, purchase the gift listed, attach the tag, and place the new, unwrapped item in any Angel Tree box or drop off at ACS.

Besides the Angel Trees, volunteers also prepare bags of groceries at the Commissary that customers can buy while doing their shopping. The contents are then used to stock the food bank at ACS. The bags have a variety of items, including ingredients to make a meal, said volunteer Tammy Simmons-Tumaliuan, who selects the items and prepares the bags. Each is filled with different amounts of items, so there is something for every budget. Just pick a bag, purchase it at the register when buying groceries and the items inside will go to families in need.

Anyone can use the food bank, LeMauk said. “There may be family circumstances that are creating a need. It doesn’t matter what rank you are; we want to offer a little extra help during the holidays.”

Christmas food baskets will be distributed by Dec. 9. For more information, call ACS at (0611)143-548-9202.

BIRD HOUSE: Holiday decorating contest

Show your holiday spirit and you could win a prize in the Home for the Holidays Decorating Contest. Just have your outdoor lights and decor up by 5 p.m. Dec. 3 to be included in the judging. Santa’s elves will visit all housing areas and the barracks. Winners will be announced at the Tree Lighting which will be live-streamed on MWR’s Facebook page. For more information on MWR holiday activities, visit: <https://wiesbaden.armymwr.com/happenings/home-holidays>.

TRIANGLE TREE: USO tree give away

E-6 and below Soldiers can sign up with the USO for a free Christmas tree. Sign-ups run Nov. 18 to 30 with pick-up at the USO Cottage on Dec. 1. There is a limited number of trees.

GLITTER BULB:

A virtual tree-lighting ceremony

Ring in the festive season with an online viewing of the tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 4. Visit the MWR website for more details.

BABY IN A MANGER:

Religious services limited by COVID-19

Be sure to check Religious Services Office Facebook page for service times.

STOP SIGN:

Offices and stores have different hours during the holiday season.

See page 4 of this issue for a list of federal, host nation and training holidays. See the garrison website for holiday hours.



Other items to find:

Santa’s socks; Cupid; 5 golden
a bear; a bird riding on a cow.



Merry
& Bright

FIREMAN'S HAT: Staying safe during winter holidays

The Wiesbaden Fire Department reminds community members to keep basic fire safety tips in mind when decorating for a holiday.

Holiday Decoration & Lighting

- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and avoid using candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Inspect new and previously used light strings, and replace damaged items before plugging lights in.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
 - Be sure to use outside light strings for outdoor decoration.
 - Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

Holiday Entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires.
- When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- Provide plenty of large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. Ensure all cigarettes are completely extinguished before emptying the ashtray into the trash.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and out of reach of children (preferably in a locked cabinet).

GIFT BOW: Post office shipping deadlines

Nov. 23 to Jan. 9, the post office has adjusted hours, including Saturday hours. Shipping deadlines are Nov. 27 for space available mail and retail ground parcels; Dec. 11 for priority parcels and first-class letters; and Dec. 18 for express mail. See the garrison website for more information.

en rings; a pickle; a basketball player; two monkeys;
; the sun; two owls; a paper star; a Christmas gnome

Germany honors victims of war, regimes

Mourning day highlights value of peace

Lena Stange

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Every November, Germany commemorates and mourns victims of war and violent regimes on Volkstrauertag, Germany's official annual day of remembrance. This year, it was Nov. 15.

"It is an important day both in political terms and for the public; a day for mourning the dead that also serves as a reminder of how precious peace is," writes the Volksbund Deutsche Gräberfürsorge e.V. on their website.

The Volksbund is a humanitarian organization and the initiator of the Volkstrauertag. The members organize various commemorative events

throughout Germany every year on that day.

Volkstrauertag was initially introduced in 1919 as a remembrance day for the deceased in World War I; a sign of solidarity with the family members of the fallen.

In 1922, the first official ceremony in the German Reichstag in Berlin took place. The President of the Reichstag Paul Löbe appealed to the people to turn away from hatred and violence and promoted reconciliation and understanding.

After the Nazis took over in Germany, the meaning of the day changed. It became a day to honor fallen heroes, while all political and social groups, and minorities that did not fit the Nazi ideology, such as fallen Jewish WWI soldiers, were excluded from the commemoration.

Since 1945, the day is also

dedicated to civilian victims of war. It is for soldiers, for women, men and children who became victims of war, violence and Nazi persecution in Germany and in occupied countries. It is also for all victims of dictatorships, people who were persecuted for political, religious or racial reasons.

In 1952, the Volkstrauertag was re-introduced as a national day of mourning with a clear demarcation to the Nazi hero commemoration. It is protected by law and takes place every year on the Sunday two weeks before the first Advent.

Nowadays, the Volkstrauertag is a day of remembrance and mourning for all victims of war and violence and at the same time, it reminds Germany of reconciliation, understanding and peace.

This year, its focus is the end of the war 75 years ago as well as the development from Cold War and Iron Curtain to a peaceful and unified Europe,



Nadine Bower/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

The city of Wiesbaden, together with representatives of the U.S. Army, the Bundeswehr (German army) and the German War Graves Association, commemorated the dead of both world wars and the victims of National Socialism during the National Day of Mourning ceremony Nov. 15. Col. Mario Washington, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, participated in the ceremony and laid down a commemorative wreath at the memorial on Wiesbaden's South Cemetery.

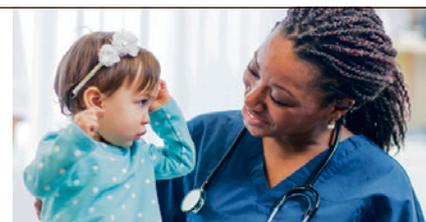
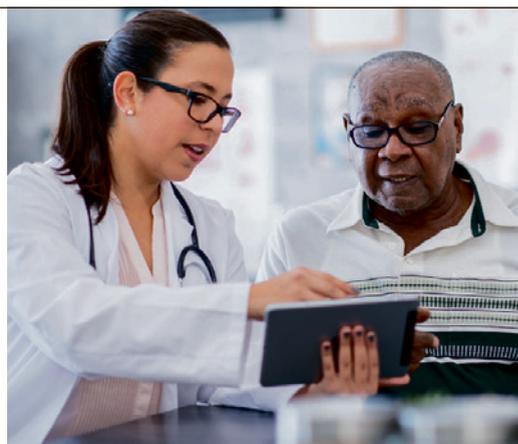
which nevertheless has to deal with many new challenges.

The article is based on a brochure by the Volksbund Deutsche

Gräberfürsorge e.V. for this year's Volkstrauertag: <https://www.volksbund.de/mediathek/mediathek-detail/volkstrauertag-2020-handreichung.html#>

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A technical letter from a bank or a business partner can be hard enough to understand when it's in English, but answering the mail, or even getting copies of your certificates, resumes and other documents in another language, can be all the more frustrating when you're stationed overseas. Of course, you could try to use online translation apps but you never know, you might just as easily inadvertently offend a recipient or invent another language! Professional translators working for the Army are often unavailable for non-official, personal translations because of restrictions on the nature of their workloads and on the proper use of Government personnel and resources. So, what's a person to do?

Some options do exist but you should bear in mind that professional translations can take time and they can be expensive. Your Garrison's Legal Assistance Office usually will be able to tell you what's in a letter from a landlord or a bank but translation is not a routine service provided by the LAO. As a service to the public, however, the Wiesbaden Legal Assistance office provides a list of local translators with various language capabilities who will translate for a fee. Please note

that this list is not endorsed, or in any way approved, by the United States government. https://home.army.mil/wiesbaden/application/files/9015/7000/8922/Legal_Translation.pdf.

Service members are eligible for certain translation services provided by Military OneSource free of charge. Contact Military OneSource online or call 00-800-3429-6477 (from Germany) to ask if your document qualifies for translation through their service.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/confidential-help/interactive-tools-services/language-services/document-translation-services-from-military-onesource>.

And if you're looking for something out of the ordinary, here's a link to search German translator association BDUE's data base for translators and interpreters for many languages and various areas of expertise. Please note that this service is also not endorsed, or in any way approved, by the United States government. <https://search.bdue.de/>.

So, even if Europe might feel like Babel sometimes, take heart – there's help!

These resources are provided by Lydia Berweiler, Chief Translator (GM), Headquarters U.S. Army Europe, Office of the Judge Advocate



Wiesbaden High School Principal Dr. Heather Ramaglia recognized and honored her father, Vince Ramaglia, who served in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam, by placing a memento on the Our Heroes Tree. The tree was put up by the WHS JROTC to honor veterans.

JROTC honors veterans

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Wiesbaden High School JROTC Warrior Battalion honored veterans in the community who have served throughout history. The student body and faculty of Wiesbaden High School participated in a ceremony to commemorate veterans with an "Our Heroes' Tree." The Heroes' Tree stands at the entryway to the school and will stand through Dec. 1. Students and faculty are encouraged to leave a memento to honor their veterans.

Cadet Capt. Charlie Lopez served as the narrator of the ceremony. A Heroes' Tree poem was recited by Cadet Ella Griffin. Designated cadets recognized the 14 veterans currently working on the faculty at the high school. Dr. Heather Ramaglia joined in by recognizing and honoring her father Vince Ramaglia who served in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam.



Courtesy photos

Cadet Ella Griffin of the Wiesbaden High School JROTC recites a poem at the Our Heroes Tree in honor of all veterans.

WHS JROTC encourages the community to honor their veterans by placing their own ornament or memento on the tree as long as it's standing.

Cadet Sgt. Maj. Samuel Houston said, "A good reminder through time of trouble about how important it is to be selfless."

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St. Martin's Day celebrated at home this year

Kristen Beckman

Special to the Herald Union

In Germany, Nov. 11 is synonymous with St. Martin's Day, also known as Martinstag. The tradition surrounds St. Martin of Tours from the fourth century and is celebrated with a candlelight lantern procession for young children, often including music and concluding with a bonfire. However, due to current coronavirus restrictions, no organized celebrations were held for St. Martin's Day this year.

According to Carl-Michael Baum, head of the Citizen's Department of the Lord Mayor's Office of Wiesbaden, the legend of St. Martin is that "as a Roman soldier, Martin shared his cloak with a beggar and gave him one half. In later times, when he was a bishop, he did a lot of good things, where the veneration as a saint comes from."

Nadine Bower, USAG



Shutterstock.com/ Johanna Muehlbauer

Wiesbaden Community Relations chief, added that "the idea behind St. Martin is that children should learn to be compassionate and share. St. Martin was a wealthy soldier, but he noticed that there was a beggar sitting by the side of the road, almost freezing to death. Even though he knew other people would never do this, St. Martin took his sword and cut his coat in half to give the other

half to the beggar. He showed compassion and empathy and didn't care what other people would say about him."

Typically, St. Martin's Day festivities are organized by kindergartens and elementary schools, or their sponsoring associations, and the participants are the respective students of those schools. Baum added that the students, accompanied by their parents or godparents,

begin the lantern procession at the school and move through the town; some processions are more elaborate than others and even have a soldier on horseback wearing a cloak, reenacting the legend of St. Martin. Bower noted that children make their lanterns in school in the weeks leading up to St. Martin's Day: "This year, many Kindergartens and schools made them too, but

since they can't use them in a parade, children are encouraged to put them behind their bedroom windows, so they can be seen from outside."

Robert Rucinski, child and adult psychiatrist of the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic's Behavioral Health department, shared that St. Martin's Day "is a nice social activity that brings families together." Rucinski, whose four children were born and raised in Germany, added, "It's a tradition for not only the kindergartners but for the whole family. I kind of wish they had these kinds of things in the U.S."

Sven Janneck, Liaison Officer for USAG Wiesbaden and Battalion Chief (Einsatzleiter) of the Wiesbaden Fire Department (Feuerwehr Wiesbaden), said that there are typically between 80 to 100 St. Martin's Day events throughout Wiesbaden, but this year, permits were not approved due to coronavirus restrictions.

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Post office handles suspicious packages

Lena Stange

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Packages considered to be suspicious are usually found when the truck from Frankfurt airport is unloaded, said Shawn Mestres, postal supervisor at the Wiesbaden Postal Service Center. Someone picking up packages at the conveyor belt notices something and notifies the supervisor.

“There is always a supervisor present during the off load process,” he said.

Anything unusual such as powder residue, a smell, leaking, noises or wires hanging out of the box is a reason to take a closer look at the package, Mestres said. If an employee sees something, he or she immediately calls for the supervisor.

All personnel stand back, until the supervisor determines whether the parcel poses a risk or not. If a risk cannot be ruled out, the supervisor will evacuate the building and call the Directorate of Emergency Services, Mestres said. All employees will gather at their outside assembly point. DES will then determine how



Photo by Lena Stange / Herald Union file

Wiesbaden Postal Service Center employees pick up packages from the conveyor belt Sept. 3, 2019, to sort them according to their final destination.

things will be handled.

“We distinguish between suspected explosives and hazardous materials,” said Daniel Corzelius, DES fire chief. In the case of hazardous materials, the fire department has the lead and law

enforcement is on the supportive side.

“We have never had a bomb,” Mestres said. The most likely scenario is white powder residue coming out of a cardboard box, which is most of the time identified as baking soda.

Supervisors are trained to look for certain characteristics that help determine whether a package might be a threat or not, Mestres said.

When a package is leaking and DES is informed, “a team donning encapsulated protective suits enters the area utilizing different chemical detection devices in order to define the level of hazard,” Corzelius said.

They will test for nuclear, biological or chemical substances, he said. With the hazardous material identifier, up to 42,000 different substances can be analyzed.

The law enforcement side will simultaneously track the sender and receiver of the suspicious package to gain information on the expected contents, Corzelius said.

When sending a package, “all liquids should be put into a plastic bag or use absorbent material inside the box to prevent leaks,” Mestres said. “You don’t only damage your box, but also someone else’s parcels.”

Mestres also recommends taking the batteries out of any electronic device.



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Army spouse earns top scholarship

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Tunesha Griffith recently received a notification regarding her selection for a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Google's Women Tech Makers. The scholarship is given to outstanding female students who aspire to be innovators and leaders in a technical field.

Griffith, an Army spouse, is a student with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide, Wiesbaden Campus. Her course of study is a Bachelor of Science in Unmanned Systems Applications with a minor in Engineering Sciences.

"For as long as I can remember, I have been in love with technology and science fiction," said the New Orleans native. "As a young child, I watched old movies about futuristic cities and space travel and fantasized about the future. The first

Christmas present I remember asking for was a robot. After that, it was video games that my late sister taught me how to play and what I believe gave me a competitive nature and problem-solving skills."

Griffith credits video games with giving her teamwork skills after becoming a competitive gamer in the late 2000s. Playing competitive video games also allowed her to develop sharp communication skills, which helped her in her selection for a marketing internship with Ubisoft and a representative role at Nintendo, she said.

"Consistently, all of these experiences came to be very useful when I became a Microsoft community leader, where I had the opportunity to use all of the leadership skills I had learned so far," Griffith said. "By that time, I worked with



Courtesy photo

Tunesha Griffith recently received a notification regarding her selection for a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Google's Women Tech Makers.

a broader range of technology while leading youth initiatives that taught kids how to be makers instead of just consumers. And it was around this time that I felt a renewed spark — I saw how fast technology was moving, and I wanted to be a maker, too."

Griffith met a Soldier in 2017, got married, and almost immediately had to say goodbye to her life in the states for a three-year adventure in Germany. This is when she began

attending college full time.

"Naturally, my interests fell into the realm of technology since that was my interest since childhood," she said. "During my lifetime, I wanted to work on projects that positively impact the world by making life easier for people of all abilities and advancing transportation on Earth and beyond."

Griffith said she gets excited when she sees other women doing work in the field that she's going into. "After reading

a blog about an engineer at the Navy Research Lab who had worked on unmanned aerial vehicles, I reached out to her to tell her how inspiring she was to me," Griffith said. "That engineer happened to be ERAU Assistant Professor Dr. Christine Dailey Walck, who seemed just as excited as I was about my goals and future. She encouraged me to look into courses at the Daytona campus, but as destiny would have it, ERAU has a campus here in Wiesbaden.

Griffith hopes to earn her degree by the end of 2021. "Before then, I hope to have landed my first internship — hopefully at a vehicle or robotics lab or space organization," she said.

For more information on educational opportunities, contact the Wiesbaden Education Center at (0611)143-548-1302.

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