



storied legacies of service on our installations (p. 8).

Or, maybe most literally, it's pushing yourself to the peak of performance on the world's biggest stage as the members of the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Team will when they leave their

Panzer Kaserne training base for Paris (pg. 12-13).

I hope these stories will help inspire you to explore and be all you can be.

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart



Citizen

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16-year-old Josh Pryor, an aspiring Eagle Scout, stands in front of the VII Corps whose restoration he has led page 7. Photo by Bardia Khajenoori

When security

and host nation

relations go

hand in hand

Garrison to host U.S.

swim team ahead

of 2024 Paralympic

Engineering Change:

Women at the Helm

of USAG Stuttgart

Public Works

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Memorial at Kelley Barracks this summer. Full story on

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her own career

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At the Patch Library: Adventure and Exploration

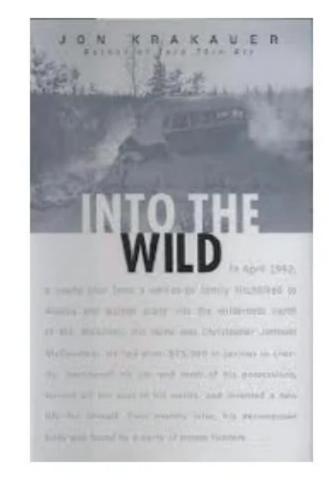
Descriptions by Amelia Harris

Covers courtesy of publishers

As summer vacation comes to a close, students are hitting the books again - but the summer fun doesn't have to stop. Dive into stories about captivating journeys, pushing personal limits, and getting on the wild side. Explore a thrilling collection of adventures for all ages at Patch Library!

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

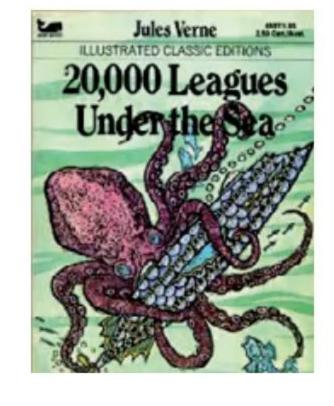
The story behind a body found inside a camping bus in Alaska made headlines shortly after it was found in Denali National Park. The corpse was Chris McCandless, a man of many names. Many people dismissed him as an



arrogant traveler, but his story inspired American writer Jon Krakauer to take a similar pilgrimage by hitchhiking to Alaska to reveal the whole truth of the mysterious traveler.

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Join French oceanographer Pierre Aronnax and his devoted assistant Conseil as they go on an expedition to destroy a menacing monster. They engage with the beast

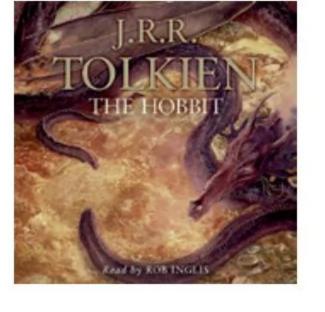


after months of searching, but Aronnax, Conseil, and Canadian Harpooner Ned Land are sent overboard. They realize that the "monster" is actually a futuristic submarine, the Nautilus. Held as captives by its eccentric commander, Captain Nemo, the three adventurers go with him on a journey of a lifetime through the seas.

The Hobbit

by J. R. R. Tolkien

From the bestselling author of The Lord of The Rings (which is this book's sequel), The Hobbit follows the journey of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit that reluctantly

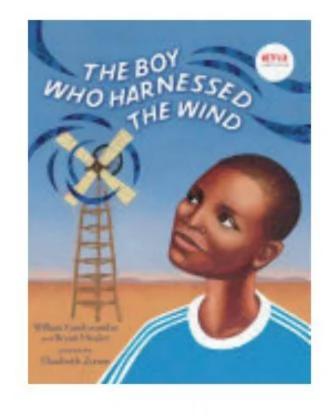


joins the quest to reclaim the dwarves' home and stolen treasure from Smaug the Magnificent. As he travels with the wizard Gandalf and 13 dwarves throughout Middle-Earth, he is forced to push the limits of his comfort zone.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Amid hardships from a drought, William Kamkwamba held his one ambition: to save his village from severe famine and poverty. With his family's crop failure and no other source of income, Kwamkamba was forced to drop school. Determined, he explored the books in his library for a solution and decided to build a windmill. With scrapped parts from the junkyard,

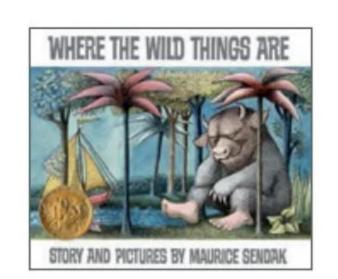


some innovation, and a little hope, his creation could bring light and water to his village again.

Where the Wild Things

by Maurice Sendak

A naughty Max is sent to his bedroom without dinner after causing mischief. He runs from home and

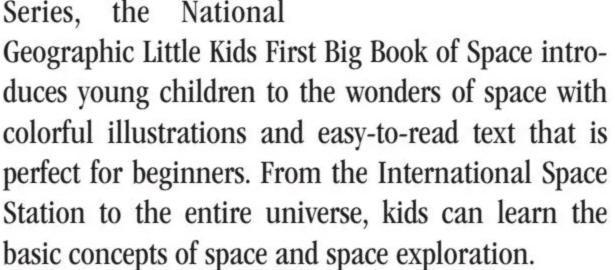


sails away on a small boat until he reaches the land of Wild Things, where he convinces the colorful monsters to make him the king.

National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Space by Catherine D.

Hughes The latest addition

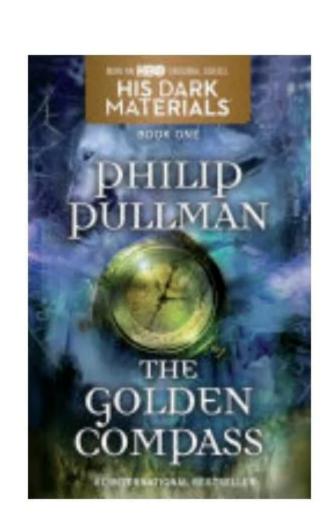
to National Geographic's Little Kids First Big Book Series, the National



The Golden Compass

by Philip Pullman

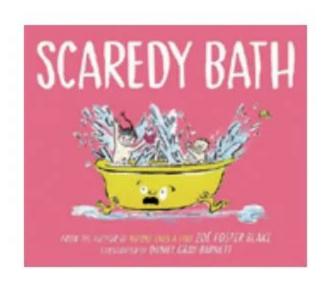
Things turn upside down for Lyra at Jordan College when her formidable uncle goes in search of other worlds. Accompanied by her daemon, she sets out to stop her uncle from conquering Dust and save her kidnapped friends from Gobblers before they meet a gruesome fate.



Scaredy Bath

by Zoe Foster Blake

Bath time for Scaredy Bath has never been more terrifying! Scaredy Bath would wait and worry all day, nervous for bath time and all the



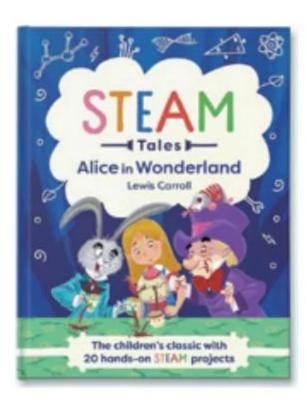
chaos that was sure to ensue. Will Scaredy Bath get

over his fear? Or will he learn to embrace the chaos and enjoy each moment?

STEAM Tales: Alice in Wonderland

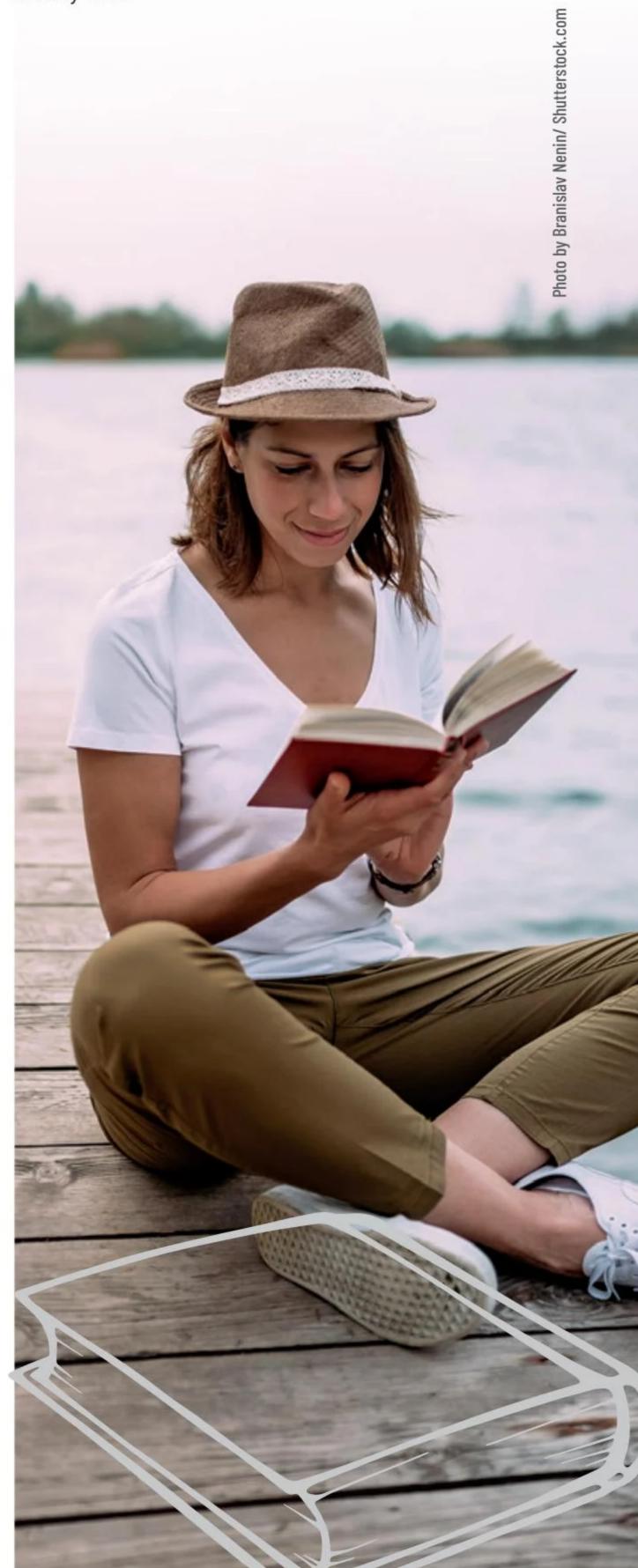
by Lewis Carroll; adaptation by Katie Dicker

Follow Alice as she visits Wonderland in this adaptation of the children's classic Alice Wonderland with a STEAM twist. Laced throughout the story are experiments to help

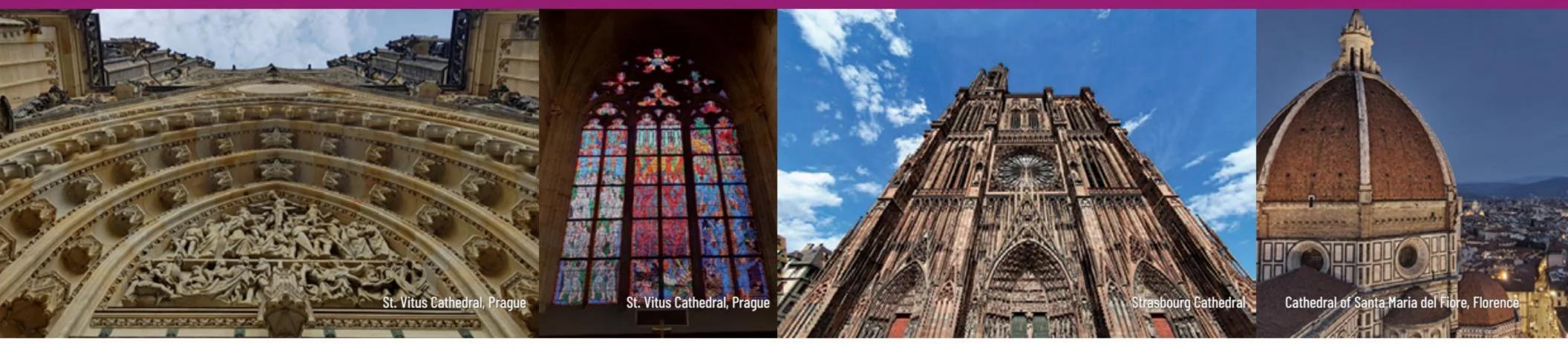


readers learn and apply scientific skills that coincide with the story. Filled with colorful pictures and interesting facts, this book seamlessly brings literature and science together for a truly innovative learning experience.

The final two selections and descriptions were contributed by **Brittany Criss**



Chaplain's Corner: Cathedrals, A Doorway to the Divine



Photos by Bardia Khajenoori

By Chaplain (Col.) David Curlin

USAG Stuttgart Command Chaplain

Walking through the grand doors of a cathedral, one is immediately enveloped by a sense of awe and reverence. These magnificent structures, with their soaring spires and intricate stained-glass windows, have stood for centuries as testaments to human longing and devotion. But beyond their architectural splendor, cathedrals offer a unique doorway to the divine, inviting visitors to explore the deep chasms of spiritual life.

A Sanctuary of Peace

Cathedrals are often situated in the heart of bustling cities, yet they provide a sanctuary of peace and tranquility. The moment you step inside, allow the noise and chaos of the outside world to fade away, replaced by an atmosphere of calm and reflection. The vast, open spaces and the soft, filtered light create an environment that invites introspection and contemplation. It is in this serene setting that many find a deeper connection to the divine, a space where they can pause, breathe, and rejoice that we are not alone in the world.

The Power of Art and Architecture

The art and architecture of cathedrals are designed to inspire and uplift the human spirit. The towering columns and vaulted ceilings draw the eyes upward, symbolizing the ascent towards the heavens. The intricate carvings and sculptures tell stories of faith, hope, and redemption, while the vibrant stained-glass windows depict scenes from sacred texts, bathing the interior in a kaleidoscope of colors. If observed with care one discovers that each element is meticulously crafted to evoke a sense of wonder and to remind visitors of the divine presence.

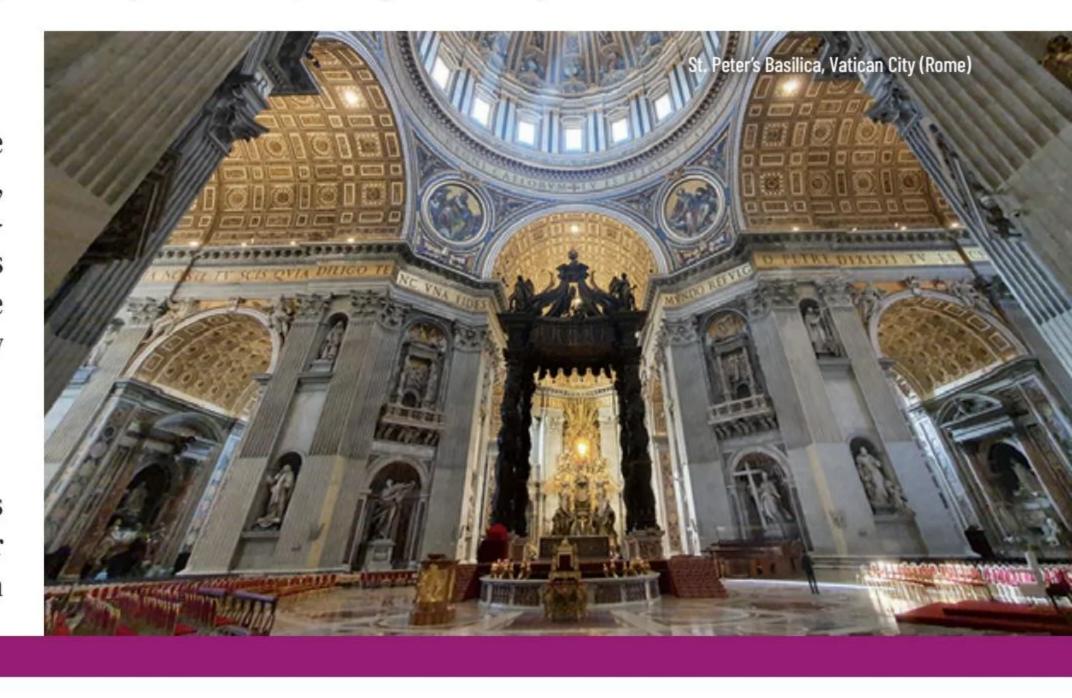
A Place of Community and Tradition

Cathedrals are not just places of individual reflection; they are also centers of community and tradition. For centuries, they have been gathering places for worship, celebration, and solace. The rituals and ceremonies conducted within their walls connect people to a shared heritage and a collective sense of belonging. Whether attending a service, listening to a choir, or simply sitting in silence, visitors can feel the continuity of faith and the strength of community that has endured through the ages.

An Invitation to Explore

Visiting a cathedral is an invitation to explore both the physical and spiritual realms. It is an opportunity to marvel at human achievement and to ponder the mysteries of existence. As you walk through the nave, pause at the altar, or light a candle in a side chapel, you are invited to embark on a personal journey of discovery. Whether you are seeking solace, inspiration, or a deeper connection to the divine, cathedrals offer a sacred space where you can find what you seek.

In a world that often feels disconnected and hurried, cathedrals stand as timeless reminders of the divine. They invite us to slow down, to look both upward and inward, and to open our hearts to the mysteries of life. So, the next time you pass by a cathedral, take a moment to step inside. You may just find that it is a doorway to the divine, waiting to welcome you.





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Aspiring Eagle Scout leads restoration of VII Corps Memorial

By Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

In 1991, Gen. Colin Powell came to Stuttgart's Kelley Barracks to honor the members of the U.S. Army VII Corps for their outstanding achievements in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Now, more than thirty years later, the efforts of aspiring Eagle Scout Josh Pryor and his own volunteer corps in renewing the installation's "VII Corps Memorial" are helping to ensure these Soldiers' legacy and sacrifices will never be forgotten.

"I'm really adamant about doing something like this because I've spent so much time in military communities, and I want to try and pay back what the military community has given me," Pryor said.

His proposal entailed repainting a roughly 150 square-foot cement pad with the VII Corps insignia near Kelley's main entrance, beautifying adjacent flowerbeds



and walkways, and adding 16 rose bushes to make a total of 111-a tribute to the number of VII Corps Soldiers who died serving in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

To make it happen, Pryor first drew up a detailed plan and gained approval from Scout leaders, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kirk Alexander, and the VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association (DSVA), which provided him a \$500 grant for supplies. He also began coordinating logistics like obtaining digging permits, securing a pressure washer, and recruiting about two dozen volunteers. Even after some unexpected painting by garrison maintenance personnel narrowed the types of work left to be done, Pryor still anticipates the cumulative effort to be several times more than the 40-50 hours originally estimated.

"In terms of scope, it's pretty big even as far as Eagle Scout projects are con-

Pryor provides a briefing to young volunteers assisting on a workday

Pryor stacks mulch at a home improvement store to be used in landscaping

Pryor briefs Garrison Commander Col. Kirk Alexander and Deputy to the Commander Rob Gwinner on his plans

Josh Pryor takes planning measurements with the help of dad Jim cerned," Pryor said. "But it's been genuinely encouraging to see the work, and how people have watched and been moved by it."

He even recounted a passing driver rolling down his car window, pumping his fist, and shouting sup-







port. Such passionate reactions have made clear that the project's impact goes much further than just aesthetic improvements, a view exemplified by stakeholders like DSVA President Col. (Ret.) Mark Rado.

"It was important for us to partner with Josh," said Rado, who was assigned to the organization from 1988-1992. "Our intent as the DSVA is to promote and preserve the proud history and lineage of VII Corps and pay honor to the 111 brave VII Corps Soldiers...based on a promise made at the very first memorial ceremony at Kelley Barracks in 1991 that we would never forget."

Rado makes it a point to return at least annually and noticed most recently that "the luster was a little worn off" the crest and its immediate surroundings. As the father of two Eagle Scouts, he thought improvements would make for a series of great projects and looked to offer the DSVA's support.

The challenge was taken on by Pryor, who has "so impressed" Rado with his focus, dedication, and attention to detail.

"When you talk to a young person like Joshua, you can't help but feel good about the future of our country," Rado said. "He's certainly satisfying a requirement, but it's much bigger than that. It's a labor of love and a commitment to 111 brave Soldiers."

And yet, when it comes to legacies, VII Corps isn't the only one Pryor is sustaining.

After being part of six Scout troops over ten years in the U.S., Japan, and Germany, the rising Stuttgart High School junior would represent the third consecutive generation of his family to become an Eagle Scout, following his father and grandfather.

Eagle Scout is the highest attainable rank within the Scouts BSA program (formerly known as Boy Scouts), achieved by only 5-8% of members, according to the data from the organization. Along with other requirements, earning the rank requires the Scout to complete a significant community service project that they plan, organize, and lead.

Josh's parents, Jim and Jill, have not only provided crucial support but also seen firsthand how the responsibility of the project has helped him progress.

"It's been very eye-opening for us," Jill said, noting the weight of tasks Josh has had to take on, such as briefing the garrison commander. "The biggest observation has been watching his growth. I think it's been tremendous, and his maturity has developed to another level. It's been really cool to see."

Nearing the conclusion of both his project and his uphill climb in Scouting has given Josh a chance to reflect on some key lessons. He's come to understand the importance of teamwork and how much more can be accomplished together with a common purpose. He's also discovered the value of volunteering and service, and how Scouting is a great way for kids to learn about them.

And finally, Josh has learned that even tasks that seem simple on paper can involve unexpected challenges to persevere through, but, as he puts it, "the reward will mean more to you than the work that goes in."

From the Historian: A Brief History of VII Corps

By Bill Butler

Command Historian, U.S. European Command

Forged in the crucible of war a century ago, the U.S. Army's VII Corps had a long history of service in Europe and the Stuttgart area. The corps was organized during the final months of World War I in Remiremont, France on August 19,

1918, to oversee units serving in Vosges Sector just west of the Rhine River valley.

Local crowds attend an Armed Forces Day open house at Kelley Barracks, then home to VII Corps, in 1964. (Archive photo)

It was responsible for operational training and keeping a vigilant watch along the Vosges Mountain ridgelines, where many newly arrived American 'Doughboys' got their first taste of trench warfare. The corps and its divisions took part in a diversionary action prior to the Meuse-Argonne campaign in October 1918. After the war ended on Nov. 11, the corps awaited its return home, where it eventually inactivated at Camp Upton, New York on July 11, 1919.

Just a few years later, in early 1922, it reactivated at St. Louis, Missouri, to serve as a headquarters responsible for the administration, organization, supply, and

training of Army reserve units in the American Midwest. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the corps organized its reserve personnel for periods of active service during Army maneuvers and command post exercises. In November 1940, VII Corps returned to full

active service at Fort McClellan, Alabama, to oversee the training activities of newly forming divisions as part of America's military build-up prior to WWII. The corps

> and its units participated in numerous large-scale maneuvers and exercises across the country as the U.S. honed the fighting skills of its troops before deploying them overseas after the December 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor.

> The VII Corps eventually made its return to Europe as part of the Allied invasion of Normandy. It served as the tactical headquarters overseeing the American landings on Utah Beach, as well as the airborne assault to secure that beachhead in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944. From this point onward, the corps participated in the subsequent drives through northern France, Belgium, and into Germany as part of the final campaigns to defeat Axis forces and liberate western Europe. After briefly providing oversight of Army units performing occupation duties, the headquarters returned to the U.S. where it inactivated in March 1946 at the Presidio in San Francisco, California.

> Not long afterwards, the VII Corps was called to active service yet again. As part of America's pledge of support to the newly formed NATO Alliance during

the early years of the Cold War, the corps activated in early 1951 at Fort Meade, Maryland, before embarking once more for European shores. After participating in preparatory deployment exercises in North Carolina, the corps headquarters moved to Kelley Barracks in November 1951, where it would remain for the next 40 years. During its Cold War service, VII Corps oversaw the operational training of its assigned units. It also conducted planning for the defense of southwestern Germany in the event of a Soviet invasion and kept a watchful eye along the Iron Curtain. Along with its parent headquarters, the U.S. Seventh Army at Patch Barracks, the corps headquarters staff was a regular participant in activities across the Stuttgart American military community.

As the Cold War neared its end, the VII Corps was called upon to participate in one of the most successful military campaigns in American military history. After Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the corps and its highly-trained Cold War units were deployed to Saudi Arabia to provide the central component of a large Allied effort to eject Iraqi troops from Kuwait. In Operation

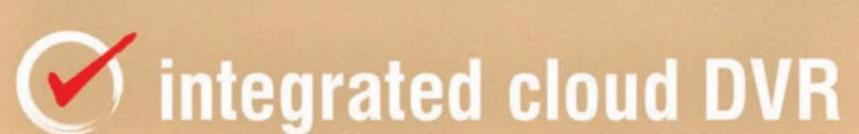
Desert Storm, VII Corps armored and mechanized infantry divisions smashed the elite Iraqi Republican Guard in a lightning ground campaign lasting only 100 hours. After the fighting ended, the corps returned briefly to its home at Kelley Barracks only to inactivate shortly thereafter as part of the extensive post-Cold War drawdown in Europe. A farewell ceremony was held at the Schlossplatz in downtown Stuttgart, where the VII Corps colors were retired on March 18, 1992.



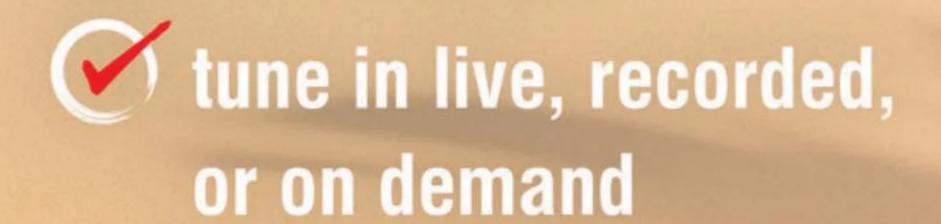














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USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The safety and security of the military community is always a top priority for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, closely followed by maintaining strong relationships with the host nation. Media Day provides an opportunity to test response protocols and ensure effective communication and collaboration between the American military in Stuttgart and the host nation.

In May, the USAG Stuttgart Fire Department prepared for an upcoming soccer tournament by engaging with their German counterparts to test their emergency response capabilities.

"Today we are preparing what equipment we use in a potential scene of massively injured. That way we are prepared for the [UEFA European Soccer Championship] that will take place this year and everybody knows the equipment and how to handle it, should anything happen. And obviously, we always hope that nothing happens," said Thomas Reibold, training officer at the USAG Stuttgart Fire Department.

The garrison fire department, along with Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 4 of the city of Stuttgart, trained on how to use the equipment.

"I like days like today, as they serve to continue growing our already great relationship with our host nation partner," said Reibold.

Media Day not only helps the USAG Stuttgart Fire Department with their relationships, but also ensures that they are trained for specific scenarios that could occur during major events.

"Media Day outlines and brings to light some of our shortfalls. It gives all our stakeholders a detailed event to go through day-to-day potential threats," said Deputy Fire Chief James Wells.

Having a strong relationship with the host nation has various benefits, such as easy access to a wider selection of important resources.

"Our resources aren't as robust as the ones off base. That's why it's important to keep a great relationship with our host nation partners, as they can provide us with resources that can keep our community safe," said Wells.

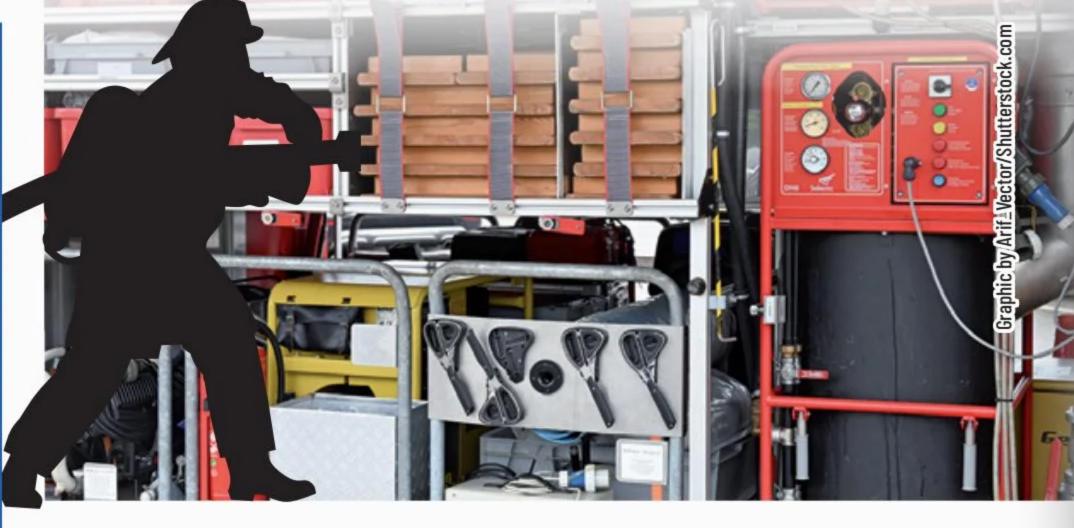
At the same time, Media Day provides the opportunity to deepen relationships and create familiarity, ensuring communication runs smoothly between both nations.

"I have had no experience working with the Americans up until now, so this is a new and fun experience," said Battalion Chief 1 Karl Grimmiger. "As we're usually not exposed to that, and since we don't speak much English, it can be a little tricky sometimes. That's why days like today help."

Days like this also help in understanding how differently both sides may prepare for a potential emergency, highlighting the shortcomings of either side when it comes to preparedness.

"It's interesting to see the differences in how we prepare. The U.S. side tends to







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think more in military terms, so their preparations tend to focus on potential terror attacks or something like that. The German side tends to think a little differently, as we tend to prepare more for accidents that could occur in big crowds and stuff," said Grimmiger.

Although there may be some tactical differences in preparedness, both sides share a common goal: ensuring the safety of the community.

"Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with our host nation partners. Our priority is to ensure our community's safety and provide them with the assurance that they are safe when they go to sleep," said Wells.



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Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks, a U.S. Paralympian and combat medic, is the most decorated athlete in the Army's World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). She and the rest of the U.S. swim team will visit USAG Stuttgart in August as they train in preparation for the 2024 Paralympic games that will be held in Paris.

By John H. Campbell

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart staff are preparing to host some very special guests in the coming weeks.

Thirty-three athletes from the U.S. Paralympic swim team are scheduled to arrive in Stuttgart Aug. 17 for a week's worth of training in advance of the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, which run from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8.

"It is a great honor to host the U.S. Paralympic swimmers who are models of perseverance," said USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kirk Alexander. "The garrison team is working hard to set these world-class athletes up for success during their final phases of training for the games."

While the garrison team provides support services daily for the 28,000-member military community in the Stuttgart region, some unique challenges have emerged in supporting this mission.

"Athletes at this level have a wide range of diets, so making sure they have the right food presents an interesting challenge," said Jasmin Elder, events coordinator for USAG Stuttgart Family & MWR. "Making sure we have the right equipment available to support transportation as the team moves throughout the area is another one."

Leaders at U.S. Paralympic Swimming say the 33 athletes have a "wealth of experience" as they have a combined 69 medals from prior competitions. Twenty-three swimmers have competed on this stage before, while the other 10 are making their debuts.

"We are exceptionally proud of these athletes, who represent the best that Team USA has to offer," said Erin Popovich, U.S. Paralympic Swimming director.

Five of Team USA's prior medals belong to U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks, who will compete in the Paralympics for the third time. Marks, a member of the Army's World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) from Fort Carson, Colo., specializes in the 100-meter backstroke S6. She is the most-decorated member of the WCAP program, according to Army News Service.

During the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo (held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), she set a world record with a time of 1:19.57 in the 100meter backstroke. In addition to taking gold for that performance, she also won a silver and a bronze medal at the games. She swims despite losing her left leg and having visual impairments she sustained while serving as a combat medic in Iraq.

"I found sport through injury," Marks said in an interview with Army News Service, "it was my place of peace."

Headlining the team is Jessica Long from Baltimore, who has won 29 medals in previous competitions. This will be her sixth time representing Team USA in the Paralympics.

Long was born in Russia and didn't have most of the bones in her legs and feet at birth. Her legs were amputated when she was 18 months old so she could be fitted with prosthetics. She started swimming for Team USA at age 12 during the 2004 Paralympic Games held in Athens.

Four swimmers are each making their fourth trip to the games. They include Mallory Weggemann of Eagen, Minn., Evan Austin of Terre Haute, Ind., McKenzie Coan of Clarkesville, Ga., and Colleen Young of St. Louis. Coan is another storied swimmer who has won four gold medals and two silver medals from Paralympic Games in London, Rio de Janeiro, and Tokyo.

In addition to Marks, Hannah Aspden of Raleigh, N.C., Lizzi Smith of Muncie, Ind., and Natalie Sims of Edina, Minn. will all make their third Paralympic appearances. Aspden won two golds in Tokyo: one in the 100-meter backstroke S9 and the other as a member of the 4x100 meter freestyle relay 34 points.

Team USA will have 14 members who are competing in their second Paralympics. Anastasia Pagonis of Long Island, N.Y., and Gia Pergolini of Atlanta each set world records in Toyko. Pagonis won the women's 400-meter freestyle S11 while Pergolini's victory was in the women's 100-meter backstroke S13.

A two-time gold medal winner in Tokyo, Morgan Stickney of Cary, N.C., set a world record in the 400meter freestyle S7 at the U.S Paralympic Team Trials Swimming competition held in late June. Stickney began swimming competitively at age 10 and had risen to top 20 status in the 1500-meter ranks before she broke bones in her left foot that would lead to its amputation. She returned to the pool in 2018 and took part in freestyle and medley relay teams that each won gold in 2021.

Among the 10 athletes taking part in the Paralympics for the first time are Noah Jaffe of Carlsbad, Calif., and Olivia Chambers of Little Rock, Ark. Each won six medals at the 2023 world championships, their first major international competition. Jaffe, who has cerebral palsy that affects his legs and one arm, was inspired to try para swimming after watching the 2016 Rio games. Chambers started swimming at age four and has dealt with vision loss since she turned 16.

Para swimming has been part of the Paralympic program since the first games in Rome in 1960. Events are open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as dwarfism, amputation/ limb loss, blindness/visual impairment, spinal-cord injury, cerebral palsy/brain injury/stroke, cognitive impairment, and Les autres.

Upon arriving at the garrison, the team is expected to train twice daily in an area swimming pool. Garrison staff are planning an event for DoD community members to meet the athletes at least once during their week-long stay. More information will be shared on StuttgartCitizen.com as details become available. The swimming competition starts August 29, the second day of the games.

Kristen Gowdy of the U.S Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) contributed to this report.



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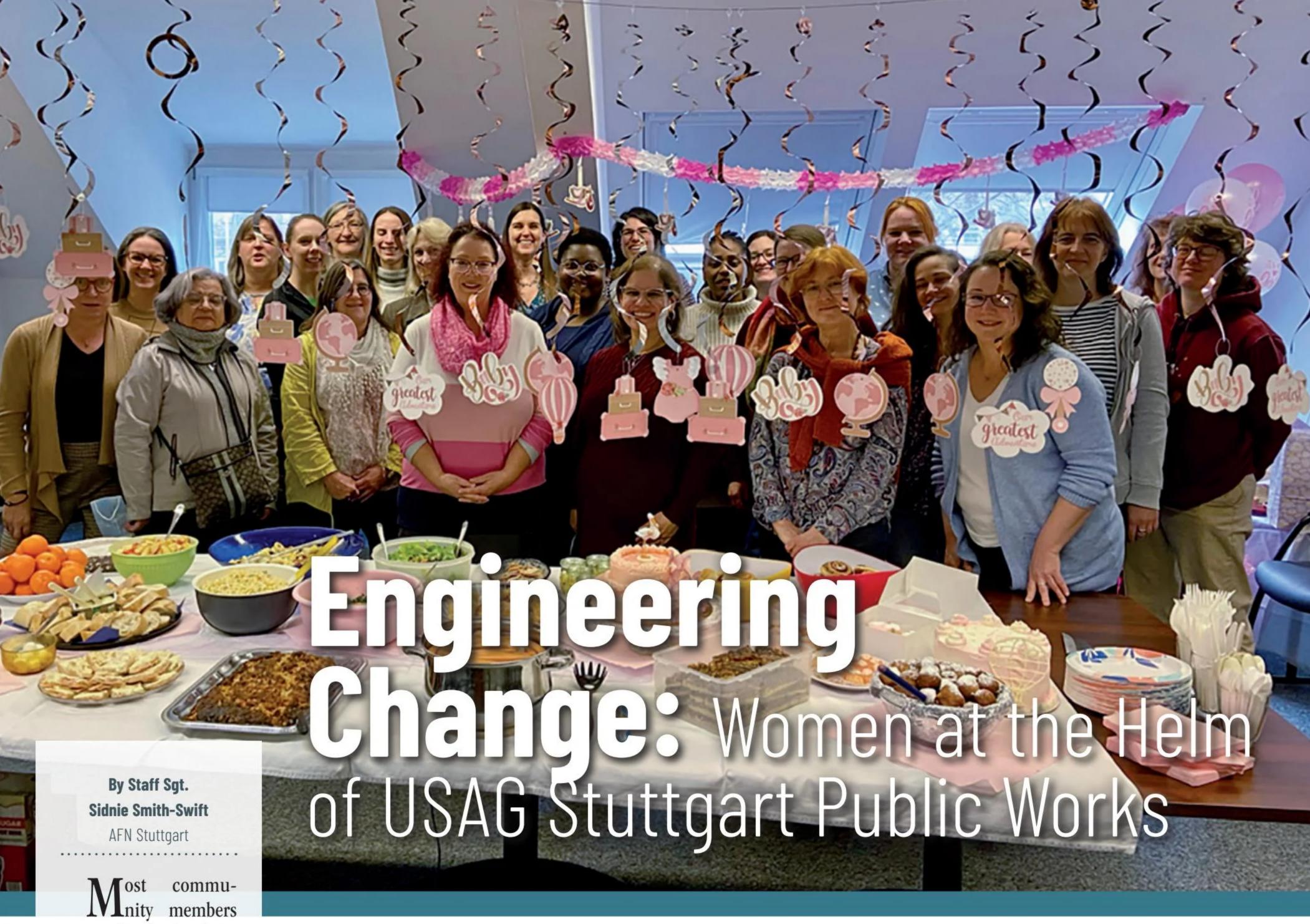
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A baby shower held for DPW Business Operations and Integration Division Yamilka Piñero Medina in early 2024 demonstrates the depth of female leadership and professional presence within the directorate. (Courtesy photo)

How a former Naval officer, a lawyer, and a geologist help the garrison run

One of the things that makes the Stuttgart DPW unique, though, is that it has an unusually large number of women in key roles historically filled by men.

Seventeen key roles, to be exact.

Both the U.S. military and the engineering discipline are traditionally male dominated, with women accounting for around 18% of active-duty personnel and 14% of the global engineering workforce in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

As a licensed professional engineer (PE) and former Naval officer with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, DPW Director Marisa Barrie is no stranger to either world.

Her decision to earn a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy was influenced not only by the challenges and opportunities of the field, but also, to some degree, by her own mother.

"My mom was a chemical engineer...she never worked with a single woman," Barrie said. "She had her hard hat and her boots, and she'd go to sites and I'd see her coming and going. I think that probably had a little bit of an influence on my decision."

While serving her eight years in the Navy, Barrie was often the only woman in a leadership role.

"I can remember times where I've looked

around a room full of officers, and I'm the only woman in the room. I've looked around a table full of senior leaders in a room and I've been the only woman," she said.

She's seen more women in leadership roles in recent years, she added, believing it reflects some progress toward hiring decisions being made based on an applicant's capabilities rather than looks or preconceived notions.

"In my last job, I would look around the room and the chief counsel, the head of contracts, the head of public works, all these folks that have really important roles, were women. It was definitely a noticeable change."

Barrie's personal experience has led her to understand the importance of representation for children.

"We're now in a generation where we're able to model women being professionals for our children—'Oh, my mom did that so I can do that too!'— and I think that's wonderful," Barrie said.

Geology, like engineering and many other STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines, remains male-dominated.

Anja Emmenecker has the equivalent of a master's degree in geology from Heidelberg University. She describes herself as an outdoor person, perhaps befitting the role of Environmental Division Chief.

to name just a few programs. That's the case for most, if not all, U.S Army garrisons across Installation Management Command.

may only think of the

Directorate of Public

Works (DPW) when it's

time for dryer vents to

be cleaned, when some-

thing stops working in

their government hous-

ing, or when a lawn

mower rides by early in

the morning, waking you

up when you had fully

sponsibilities extend far

beyond just housing -

covering construction,

utilities, master plan-

ning, building and facility

maintenance, and envi-

ronmental compliance,

In reality, DPW's re-

intended to sleep in.

THEN!



Above, Marisa Barrie holding her daughters (younger son not pictured) as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer in 2007, and below, in her office as USAG Stuttgart Director of Public Works in 2024. (Courtesy photo)





Above, Anja Emmenecker takes part in a meeting with Army colleagues and representatives of the city of Heidelberg in 2011. Below, she leads a team meeting as USAG Stuttgart Environmental Division Chief in 2024. (Courtesy photo)



THEN



Left, the official photo of 21-year-old Madeleine Bates as a Child Development Center (CDC) Assistant Director in Hawaii. Below, she provides guidance to a regionwide housing manager training in 2024, flanked by the garrison commander and command sergeant major. (Courtesy photo)



"I love hiking, jogging, doing things outside...they kind of drew me into the history of the Earth, how everything developed, and that's when I got into the geology field." Emmenecker said. "It's kind of a start up on environmental work, which I wanted to do [the whole time]."

She began working for the U.S. Army as an environmental protection specialist in Heidelberg more than 20 years ago. Today, she is USAG Stuttgart's only local national DPW chief.

When Emmenecker describes her work for the Army to locals, they are often surprised to learn that the garrison must comply with both German and U.S. environmental protection laws. She finds that people are usually impressed when they hear about her role and program, which reflect the Army's commitment to following host nation regulations.

The six full time positions in her division are nearly all filled by women; there are two male members of the team, one of whom joined about a year ago.

"Everybody was always like, 'Wow, do you only hire women?' And I said, I hire based on [professionalism] and qualifications. But there are so many qualified women out there now, which is really nice."

While her hiring decisions are merit-based, Emmenecker is proud of the fact that her team contains so many qualified women. Nevertheless, she acknowledges that workplace discrimination still exists, pointing to responses from climate surveys about experiences with sexual or gender-based harassment.

"I would like to see that it's kind of implicit that men and women are equal. I would really like people to have more respect and treat each other in a respectful way, accepting everybody's background and personality," she said.

Having the right foundation in the right environment is key to having a stable home.

Madeleine Bates is the chief of USAG Stuttgart's DPW Housing Division. Born in Berlin and the daughter of a U.S. Soldier, her role brings her full circle, having previously lived in military stairwell housing herself.

Growing up around the military and working for the U.S. Army, she has also seen changes in who holds leadership roles.

"Twenty years ago, when I started working for the government, almost everyone in my chain of command was a man," Bates said. "I'm happy to say that right now I work for a pretty dynamic woman in a very male dominated field. My garrison command sergeant major is a woman. That's something that we didn't see some years ago, and they're [both] quite incredible to work for."

Yet society's impression that men are always the default leaders has affected Bates at work. From customers ignoring her answers only to accept the same answer from a male subordinate, or subordinates challenging her authority because she was a woman, Bates has dealt with it all.

"Unfortunately, society is still somewhat lagging about accepting women in leadership roles," Bates said. "I've also heard women in leadership be referred to as mean or aggressive when they are assertive. I've never heard a male leader be referred to in that way. I would like to see society overcome its own stereotypes. Women shouldn't have to ask for a seat at the table or demand respect when they earned it."

Bates hopes that stereotypes about women in leadership roles will change.

"I shouldn't have to make myself small to make you feel better about yourself," she said.

Bates also made it her mission to overcome another potential stereotype: being a teenage mother. Balancing full-time motherhood during the day, she went to night school and eventually graduate school, taking double the course load to graduate faster. Bates went on to receive her Juris Doctor (JD) from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She is not ashamed of her past. She was told that being a teenage mother meant her life was over and that she was nothing more than a statistic, but Bates didn't let that stop her from achieving her dreams. In sharing her past, Bates hopes to inspire others.

"Find your dream young ladies, or young men. Hold onto it, even if it takes you a little bit longer."

Women's Equality Day, observed each year on August 26, celebrates the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. From not being seen as equal citizens to holding leadership positions in government, military, business and our own garrison community, women continue to inspire and lead, now and for generations to come.

"Now" photos by Bardia Khajenoori. All others are courtesy photos.



'Take Your Child to Work Day' is a national program that exposes children to future job possibilities and the value of education while helping to foster the special bond between parents and their children. Although it's officially held on the fourth Thursday of April in the U.S. each year, it can be done any day, anywhere in the world.

By Cameron Porter

405th Army Field Support Brigade

Dahlak Ghebrelul remembers when her dad would occasionally take her to his work. Originally from Eritrea, just north of Djibouti in East Africa, he



Dahlak Ghebrelul at work with LRC Stuttgart. Photo by **Cameron Porter**

immigrated to Germany in the mid-1980s and worked for the U.S. Army in Stuttgart for over 40 years, including many years with Logistics Readiness Center Stuttgart.

"LRC Stuttgart is a special place for because my dad worked here, too," said Ghebrelul, a contracting officer technical representative with LRC

Stuttgart's transportation division. "When I was little, he used to bring me to work sometimes. I was fascinated. I was like 'wow, they're speaking another language. How is this possible?""

Ghebrelul said her father, Amine, worked as a transportation counselor at LRC Stuttgart for several years, assisting Service Members and their families with their household goods shipments and working with the transportation providers to ensure deliveries and pickups were on time and in good order.

That's not far off from what Ghebrelul is doing now. Also at LRC Stuttgart working in transportation, Ghebrelul is responsible for contractual oversight of two SATO offices in Stuttgart. She and a fellow coworker oversee eight SATO contractors, helping to ensure Service Members and their families in

Stuttgart are properly booked on airline flights for temporary duty travel and permanent change of station moves. One SATO office they oversee supports personnel assigned to U.S. European Command, and the other supports U.S. Africa Command.

"We manage the annual contracts for SATO. We work in the same building as them. Daily, we work closely with both SATO customer service teams, providing oversight and support as needed," she said.

"And we help with any needed 'exception to

"LRC Stuttgart is a special place for me because my dad worked here, too."

Dahlak Ghebrelul

policy' memos. For example, a family may need an ETP when flying with their pets," said the 28-year-old German local national employee, who recently married and calls Esslingen am Neckar, just outside of Stuttgart, her home.

Thanks mainly to her dad and his 'take

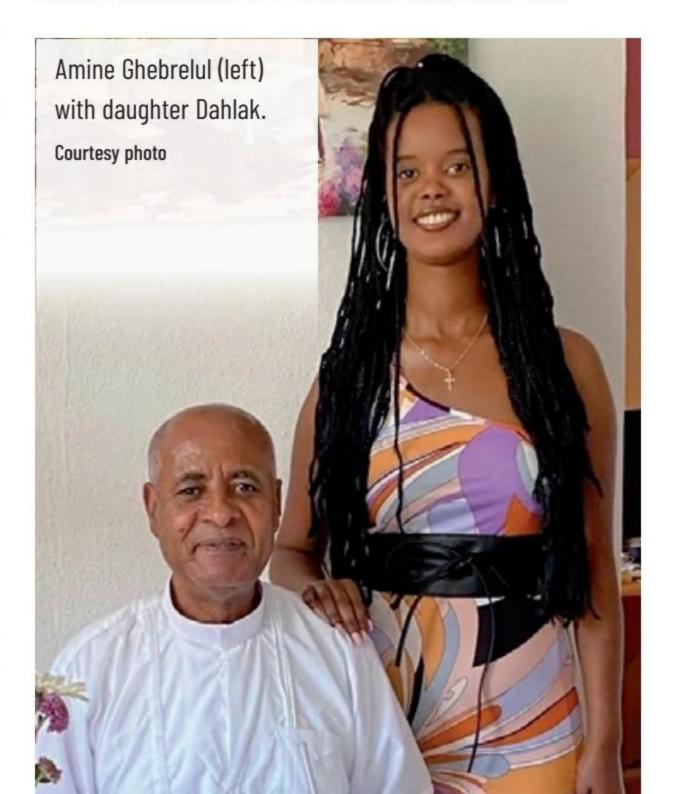
your child to work' resourcefulness, Ghebrelul said she is very happy to now be an LRC Stuttgart employee, too. She started at the transportation motor pool in November of 2021, leaving a few months later to work at the Stuttgart garrison's Housing Office.

"But my heart told me LRC Stuttgart is where I belong," she said, jumping at the chance to go back and work there as a plans and operations assistant. Now back in transportation with over 2.5 years at LRC Stuttgart, total, Ghebrelul said it feels like home and the people there feel like family.

"It's just a preference," said the graduate of Stuttgart University, who holds a bachelor's degree in teaching. "I think sometimes where you started out has a special place in your heart, and that's certainly true for me."

"We have an awesome team. We always have great get-togethers and functions. We're just a really great team that works well together serving the community and doing our best to provide good customer service support to our community members," she said.

LRC Stuttgart, under the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, provides essential logistics and support services for USAG Stuttgart, including supply, maintenance, transportation, and equipment management. It reports to the 405th AFSB, which is assigned to U.S. Army Sustainment Command and headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany. supporting U.S. forces in Europe and Africa with logistics and technology synchronization, and leveraging resources from the U.S. Army Materiel Command. The brigade provides materiel enterprise support to U.S. forces throughout Europe and Africa. For more information on the 405th AFSB and LRC Stuttgart, visit the Brigade's official website at www.afsbeurope.army.mil and official Facebook site at www.facebook.com/405thAFSB.



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Interviews by Amelia Harris and Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Michele Friedrich

Management Analyst - Plans, Analysis and Integration Office

ow long have you been in this role, and in federal service?

I've been with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart since 2022. I have a combined total of 39 years of military and civilian service and retired from the Army as a signal officer.

What are some of your responsibilities?

I manage several programs: process improvement, Installation Status Report [ISR; the Army's primary reporting tool for installation management] and readiness reporting, and I'm the garrison SharePoint administrator [organizational knowledge management tool].



Photos by Bardia Khajenoori

What does a typical day look like for you?

I spend most of I spend most of my time on the computer managing the programs and projects. A typical day is usually from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with some remote work and some office work.

ow do you feel your work impacts the community?

My efforts support our ability to create shared understanding and the commander's ability to understand the garrison's state of readiness and make better decisions by having a clearer idea of where and how some areas could be improved, or which programs to establish as a best practice.

hat do you find most rewarding about your job?

The ability to live in Europe and the interaction with my fellow co-workers. I got a chance to grow up in Switzerland and both my parents came from this area, so living here in Stuttgart is like coming home for me. Also, the ability to easily travel to almost any European country within a few hours and experience a completely different culture is what I like best. To quote our garrison motto, I'm glad I live here!

hat kind of skills do you think are most essential to VV doing well in your job?

> In the end, what we do here at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is all about interactions with people, so, people skills are what will make you successful. But it also helps to be able to think critically and analyze problems so that you can provide effective solutions to leadership for decision-making.



Quirky, but can be

"Interviews have been edited

for length and clarity."

marize your person-

serious if needed.



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would you summarize your personality in one sen-Tence?

to dialogue and always continuing to learn.

Dimitrij "Mita" Troup

Specialist - Child & Youth

I've been working in childcare since 1991, and for

[Laughs] There is no 'typical' day in child-

Stuttgart Child & Youth Services (CYS) since 2013, in

care, but it depends on whether you have opening or

closing shifts. Throughout the day, I make sure that

everyone is being taken care of: that caregivers can

take their breaks, that the children are taken care of

and that their rooms are within [child-to-caregiver]

you want to be sure that your kids are in a safe environ-

ment, that they're striving and continuing with their

development. I think Stuttgart [CYS] especially has very

good facilities, staff, and management, and we're always

the kids and myself. There's no day that I don't walk out

and haven't seen or heard something new. I'm an edu-

cator, and if I help a child emotionally or intellectually,

I see myself as a scaffolder, where I'm there to support

hat kinds of skills do you think are most essential to

There are a lot, but I think the most important

skills are being observant and open. Observant in that

as a caregiver, you have to pay attention and figure

out, "What does that child need? Where are they thriv-

ing? Where are they not thriving so much, so I can

help them?" And openness: when you work with differ-

ent people, you have to be open to different ideas, open

them in achieving something for themselves.

VV doing well in your job?

hat do you find most fulfilling about your work?

Early childhood care is very important because

Working with kids and learning every day: both

work impacts the community?

almost every one of our facilities and programs.

hat does a typical day look like for you?

ratio, and checking staff/task lists.

here for each other and the community.

Services (Kelley CDC II)

hat is your role?

the liaison between all

and management, which

means I'm partially in

the rooms but also have

ow long have you been

management duties.

working in it?

I'm basically

caregivers/rooms

Supervisory Program

I'm always striving to learn new things.

one **Universal journey**, many valuable moments

Commentary by Amelia Harris

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

I've known the military all my life, at least as much as a civilian can. Since I was little,, my family and I have traveled from place to place whenever we moved on orders. Suitcases and moving boxes pretty much became my normal. It took some time to adjust to our new station in Germany, but once I got out of my comfort zone, I could explore huge possibilities. And before I knew it, I was hopping on another plane to experience new places and learn from local customs.

After settling into each new place, my mom is always on her phone, trying to find the best tickets and tours to another country. She likes to travel and show us the world, and plans most of our trips herself. They always end up being a blast, and we make many exciting memories together.

One of my earliest trips abroad after moving into our house was to Belgium. I traveled to Brussels with my family just months after we moved. The main highlights of our trip were the Atomium and Mini-Europe (the waffles and chocolate were honorable mentions). While the Atomium exhibition had much grandeur inside and out, Mini-Europe was much smaller, yet very detailed. Moving scale models of famous landmarks from every European country were there, like the Eiffel Tower of France and the biennial Flower Carpet in Belgium, as well as lesser-known places such as tiny Malta and Luxembourg. Little did I know that most of those places were locations I would end up seeing in real life. But what is remarkable about the countries represented is how well they come together. Many of these nations used to have conflicts with each other, but now they are making great progress as part of one coherent union. Community and communication are important because solid relationships can help us accomplish more than we realize.

A sense of unity isn't limited to Europe; other countries also work well with others, inside and outside their community. India, for example, has ties with several countries with diverse cultures and, as a result, adopted some of the cultural traditions of its partners. During my trip there, I was happy when I got to donate supplies and Holi powder to kids in Maher as part of my service project. They knew everyone around them and were very close friends. And inside the various ethnic groups, everyone was respectful to everyone. Drivers were always careful to avoid hitting anything on the crowded streets, whether it was another driver or someone leading an animal through the road.

My impression was that the locals look after stray pets and livestock well, especially cows. They care for so many cattle that India has the largest population of them in the world - that's a lot of mooing lawnmowers! A key aspect of several





Smiling for a photo after taking part in a Holi celebration in Pune, India, earlier in 2024.

local religions is not harming others, and the slaughter of cows is banned because they are considered sacred. This is similar to cats in Egypt, as in ancient history, Egyptians thought cats were magical creatures - the embodiments of gods. I saw everyone from restaurant owners to regular people feed and pet them as I walked past them. Different societies have integrated longstanding religious and cultural beliefs into legal protections against the mistreatment of certain animals. These traditions were spread hundreds and even thousands of years ago by courageous believers, and I think we all can spread peace likewise.

All in all, these moments were worth the hassle of getting up early and running to catch flights. Each land was another culture shock and piece of history. It doesn't mean I would go somewhere every weekend like my mom, but I still want to take something away each time. When I move back to my American comforts, I promise that my suitcase wheels will be raring once again, and I will take with me the lessons and kindness I have learned on my travels. Until then, I'm glad I live here!

Amelia Harris is a summer hire assigned to the USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office. She is a 2024 graduate of Stuttgart High School and will attend Howard University in the fall.



By Balmina Sehra

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Living in Germany offers a great chance to immerse oneself in its vibrant culture and rich history, even if some of these experiences may seem a little quirky to outsiders. "Broom restaurants," or Besenwirtschaften, may fall into that category.

Besenwirtschaft rules allow winegrowers to serve their self-produced wines and simple, homemade food without needing a standard restaurant license. A typical characteristic of a true Besenwirtschaft is its short operating season, typically twice a year (spring and fall) between 14-16 weeks. The term itself derives from the traditional brushwood broom (besen) placed at the entrance of an establishment to indicate being open for the season.

Besen66, located along the Neue Weinsteige in Stuttgart, opened in 2006 as a way for the building's then-owner, a fashion designer, to help her partner sell wine made from vineyards he had purchased, according to the Stuttgarter Nachrichten.

It was renovated using pieces from an old church in Austria, giving it an antique and cozy feeling, which is a common ambiance that many Besenwirtschaften aim to create.

"We have a confessional, seats, and benches. It makes the whole atmosphere nicer and more comfortable," said manager Achim Feierabend in an interview with the Citizen.

"You can only sell your homemade products; nothing commercial. In our establishment, we sell our wine, and homemade grape and apple juice spritzers (known in Germany as schorle)," said Feierabend.

There are specific regulations regarding the types of food that can be offered at a



Basic, traditional food and a cozy atmosphere are hallmarks of an authentic Besenwirtschaft. Courtesy photos from Besen66

Besenwirtschaft to ensure that it retains its name.

"Traditionally, you are only allowed to serve mostly cold food, so if you use your imagination, you can create some simple but delicious meals," Feierabend said.

Amanda Black, an American living in the Stuttgart area for around three years, was initially intimidated when hearing about this particularly German cultural experience through her neighbor, but eventually fell community and coziness sitting together and making friends with strangers you have been seated with.

"For a first-time visitor, I would suggest making sure that they have room for you before going, especially when going with a large group. You have to adopt a more community kind of mindset, since most times you won't have individual seatings," Black said.

"Make sure to listen to people's recommenda-

tions, and put yourself out there," she added. "What do you have to lose?"

What truly makes a Besenwirtschaft a unique experience is the atmosphere and communal seating, allowing new connections to be made every

evening during the season, while the owners simply observe the magic as it unfolds.

"Throughout the years, I've been able to witness the connections people have made during an evening here. You learn how to matchmake and seat different people together who you think may get along," said Feierabend. "It's fun to watch them become friends. Sometimes you hear that they've become so close, they went on holiday together, and then you get to hear all about their adventures by the next besen season. It's truly magical and one of my favorite parts of this job," Feierabend said.

The next Besen season will start this fall, you can also visit https://besen-stuttgart.de/besen-liste/ for a list of all the Besen that will be open in the coming months. No government endorsement implied.



"You can only sell your homemade products; nothing commercial." Achim Feierabend

in love with the entire experience.

"My husband and I love that farm-to-table vibe that a lot of taverns and besens tend to have, and what we love about besens is that these people really show pride in their product," Black said. "You really get a feeling of what they put their life's work into."

Space is tight, but that's half the charm: it creates a sense of



"Taste of the World" day.

Priya herself was also excited to introduce South Indian cuisine to the group, since she says most local Indian restaurants have a northern influence. Simply describing differences between the regional styles can be difficult, so "this way, people get to experience it for themselves," she said. "Then we had volunteers interested in cooking their own cultural foods, and it just went from there."

the house, will feed you – whether you're hungry or not. She likes to see people

enjoying her food, so, for her, it's just a joy."

Idalia Leza has been one of those volunteer chefs, preparing dishes from her native Brazil.

"I got involved because I work right in this building and would like to share my cuisine with others," said the garrison postal employee, who developed a menu balancing traditional popularity with cost.

The "Brazilian Bites" included feijoada (a black bean and meat stew often described as Brazil's national dish), farofa (a traditional side dish of toasted cassava), and beijinho (sweet, bite-sized balls made with coconut).

Leza recalled the experience of talking, laughing, and cooking with other volunteers who assisted her in preparing the dishes. "I even got my husband to come over and help," she said with a laugh.

In addition to South India and Brazil, the 'Taste of the World' program has so far featured Filipino, Balkan, Swedish, and Caribbean cuisines.

As with all USO-sponsored events, participation is free, which center volunteers Josiah Georgia and Cheryl Fultz acknowledged was helpful in drawing them in.

"I hesitate to pay for new food; when it's free, I'm much more open to trying it," Fultz said. "It opens me up to foreign culture and history and generates a social environment, and I appreciate that."

Georgia also took away more than Brazilian flavors from his experience, explaining that a culture's food tells him a lot about pride and dedication.

"Food is obviously a great unifier and something we can all bond over," Munagala said, inviting community members who haven't yet taken part to stop by in the future. "We're getting to explore food that's not readily available locally," and at the same time balancing concerns around novelty with the familiar confines of

he brave service members who gave their all...
We Remember

Priya Munagala poses with mom Usha ('Mamagala') at her second hosting of a South Indian 'Taste of the World' event. 'Taste of the World' events are advertised on the USO Stuttgart Facebook page and in the center. Food is available while supplies last. While a specific date isn't yet available, mark your calendars for Mexican food in August.

the USO, she said.





USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR:

Summer Fun & Fall Excitement at MWR Events

By Nano Betts

USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR

Stuttgart Family & MWR brings you another line-up of exciting events this summer and fall. Prepare to fill up your calendar with a line-up of community-wide events and happenings that will bring loads of joy, help build resilience, get creative and guarantee you and your family say, "I'm glad I live here."

GOLF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AUGUST 23-25

Calling all golf enthusiasts! It's that time of year again when we gather for the highly anticipated annual Club Championship at the picturesque Stuttgart Golf Course. This thrilling tournament will determine the Club Champion, so bring your A-game and get ready for some fierce competition! The Club Champion will be determined by the 36-hole low gross score. Participants will play in the Championship Flight, competing from the white tees. This flight is designed for avid or regular golfers with a handicap of 28 or less. Entry Fee is \$65 for Stuttgart Golf Course members and \$95 for US ID cardholders. Register for both events in person at the pro shop or over the phone.

- Where: Stuttgart Golf Course, Aldinger Str. 975, Kornwestheim.
- → Contact: CIV 0714-187-9150.

C.A.R.E. FAIR SEPTEMBER 7, 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Get ready for the most informative and impactful event of the year! The Annual Community Activities Registration Education (C.A.R.E.) Fair is coming back,



bringing together dozens of government agencies, clubs, private organizations and home-based businesses that work to build connection and inclusiveness.

"C.A.R.E. Fair aims to inform and educate all members of our community about valuable resources that are here to enrich their lives and experiences," said Stephanie Holets, manager of the Army Community Service (ACS) Relocation Readiness Program.

From sports clubs to cultural societies, art workshops to educational programs, the C.A.R.E. Fair features representatives from all kinds of organizations within USAG Stuttgart, all in one convenient location. Join us and be a part of the vibrant community that makes USAG Stuttgart so special!

- Where: Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.
- > Contact: CIV 09641-70-596-3362.

RUN TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 7, 8 A.M.

Join the annual "Run to Remember" 5k and half marathon. The race will start and end on Panzer Parade Field, and the course will take you through the Local Training Area. The memorial run serves as a tribute to Service Members who made the ultimate sacrifice - "They gave their today for your tomorrow."

The event is open to ID cardholders. While the event is pet friendly, the course is not stroller friendly.



- Bib pick up and same day registration: 6-7:25 a.m.
- → Where: Panzer Parade Field, Panzer Kaserne.
- Cost: Early Bird: 5k \$20; Half \$35; Same Day: 5k - \$25; Half - \$40. T-shirts available only while supplies last.
- Register Aug. 5 Sept. 4 at any Stuttgart Fitness Center or on webtrac.mwr.army.mil.
- → Contact: CIV 09641-70-596-2724.

FALL BAZAAR SEPTEMBER 26-28, 10 A.M.-7 P.M. SEPTEMBER 29, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Mark your calendars and prepare for the most exciting 4-day shopping extravaganza of the season - the Fall Bazaar is bringing some of the finest goods in Europe directly to USAG Stuttgart! Dozens of diverse vendors will be showcasing handcrafted treasures and delicacies from all over the continent.

"Are you looking for unique and exquisite items for yourself and your home? Or perhaps you need to get your holiday shopping done early? The Fall Bazaar is a great a way to find the perfect gift for yourself, family and loved ones," said Jasmin Elder,



Family and MWR Recreation Specialist and Event Coordinator.

Discover unique arts, fashion, décor and so much more. Expect to shop for cheese, wine, artisanal olive oil, antiques, furniture, crafts, pottery, kitchenware,



rugs, and memorabilia, just to name a few! Don't miss this unforgettable opportunity to shop your heart out and admire diverse arts and crafts. And if you're hungry, there will be plenty of delicious food for sale at the Fall Bazaar.

- → Where: Bldg. 2917 & 2918, Panzer Kaserne.
- → Contact: CIV 09641-70-596-3516.

HEART GLOBAL OCTOBER 4-6

CYS SKIES is bringing back HEART Global to USAG Stuttgart for a 3-day intensive musical and performing arts educational workshop for youth. This dynamic three-day workshop focuses on music and performing arts education. It brings together students to learn and showcase their talents in a collaborative musical concert featuring various music styles, dance routines, lighting effects, stage design, costumes, and props. Young participants will engage in an intensive experience that concludes with an exciting live musical performance. The Heart Global is a great chance to meet energetic international members who encourage artistic growth. If you are a young student looking to expand your artistic comfort zone, gain self-confidence, build resilience and advance teamwork skills – then this workshop is for you.

"We have hosted the Heart Global workshop in the past and the feedback from parents and participants has been overwhelmingly positive with some parents even going so far as saying, this has been a life changing experience for my kid," shared CYS SKIES Program Director Samuel Thompson.

- Where: Stuttgart High School.
- → Contact: CIV 09641-70-596-6281.

HARVEST FEST OCTOBER 5, 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Mark your calendars for the CYS Fall Harvest Fest! Expect a day filled with fall fun and family-friendly activities, such as pony rides, pumpkin painting contest, bounce houses, robot boxing, CYS arts and crafts activities, and exciting games. This is an event



you and your little ones won't want to miss, so invite your friends and family to join in the Harvest Fest fun! See you there!

- Where: Bldg. 2917 & 2918, Panzer Kaserne.
- > Contact: CIV 09641-70-596-7480.

MOGADISHU MILE OCTOBER 5, 9 A.M.

Join the USAG Stuttgart community as we honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Battle

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of Mogadishu, Somalia, a.k.a, Operation Gothic Serpent, Oct. 3-4, 1993.

The Mogadishu Mile 5k race will take place at the Local Training Area on Saturday, Oct. 5. You will complete 4 rounds of 19 Kettlebell Ground-to-Overheads; 19 weighted Front Squats; 19 weighted Push-Ups; 400-meter Ruck Runs. You must provide your own ruck with a minimum weight of 35 lbs.

Everyone who completes the event will receive a medal to mark their participation. You won't want to miss this memorable and challenging event!

- Where: Local Training Area, Panzer Kaserne.
- → Cost: \$15.
- Register Sept. 16 Oct. 3 via WebTrac or any Stuttgart Fitness Center. Slots are limited.

PATCH LIBRARY HALLOWEEN ESCAPE ROOMS OCTOBER 24-25, 11 A.M.-4:45 P.M. OCTOBER 26, 10 A.M.-4:45 P.M.

Embrace the thrill of the Halloween season at the Patch Library which brings back its meticulously set up escape rooms. You and your team will have one hour to escape from a room by solving a series of puzzles before time runs out. This year's working title is "Escape Room for the Recently Departed." You can draw your own conclusions as to what to expect.

Because of the scary themes and complex puzzles, these rooms are recommended for teens and adults. The best team sizes are between three and five people but can include up to six people. The event is free.

"It is a fun, adrenaline-fueled activity for friends and family, but can also be a fantastic team building exercise. For instance, we're really excited that military units are starting to utilize us for official training. It is an immersive experience that challenges people to work together to overcome challenges," said Steve Roark, Library Technician.

- Where: Patch Library, Patch Barracks (Bldg. 2343)
- Registration starts Oct. 1. You can sign up on site or by calling the library.
 Contact: CIV 9641-70-596-5232.

GREAT PUMPKIN RUN OCTOBER 26, 9 A.M.

Prepare for the spooktacular fun at The Great Pumpkin Run - a 5K fun run that promises to be a hauntingly good time for all participants. Participants of all fitness levels are welcome, whether you're a seasoned runner or just getting started. The loop goes through the beautiful woods behind Patch Barracks and

starts and ends in front of the Patch Fitness Center. Don't forget to don your best Halloween costume for a chance to win a thrilling prize! The participant with the most outstanding costume will be awarded a spine-tingling reward, so let your imagination run wild! As an added



treat, registrants receive a complimentary event t-shirt (only while supplies last), making it a must-have addition to your Halloween wardrobe. Bring your friends, family, and even your four-legged pals (leashed, of course) to share in the festive atmosphere. Hurry and secure your spot early to claim your frightfully fabulous souvenir and a scary good time.

- → Where: Bldg. 2337, Patch Fitness Center, Patch Barracks.
- → Cost: Early Bird, Oct. 7-23: \$20; Same Day, Oct. 26: \$25.

 Register via Webtrac or at any USAG Stuttgart Fitness Center.
- → Contact: CIV 09641-70-596-7136.

HALLOWEEN SPOOK-TACULAR OCTOBER 31, 4-9 P.M.

Calling all Ghouls & Ghosts! To make the Halloween season even more fun, the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center is hosting a Halloween party for a frightfully good time with family and friends! Expect amazing activities like Scavenger Hunt, Candy & Door prizes and Halloween Trivia! As always, ShaWINGz

will be serving delicious bites and Prost on Post will be open with Spook-tacular drink specials. And of course, no visit to GBEC can be complete without a game or two! Enjoy the bowling special of the day: \$6 Cosmic Bowling, which includes shoe rental and 2 games per person.

→ Where: Bldg. 2998, Panzer Kaserne.

Contact: CIV 07031-15-2719.

You can find additional details about all these events and more at www.stuttgart.armymwr.com.



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Exploring Stuttgart, from parks to museums

Story and photos by Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

From modern art to luxury cars and dinosaurs to local wine, Stuttgart's museums offer something for everyone. They're great places to explore anytime, but especially to escape from rain, snow, or excessive heat — just not on Mondays, when most are closed. Numerous parks, green spaces, and scenic vantage points are also a stone's throw away. Get to know Stutgart by visiting some highlights!

City Museum Stuttgart (StadtPalais):

The permanent exhibition at this free museum tells the story of Stuttgart and its people from the 1700s through the present day. English translations are abundant. The building itself, centrally located at Charlottenplatz, was formerly the home of the last king of Württemberg, and functioned as the city's postwar library until 2011.

Hohenheim Gardens and State Arboretum:

The University of Hohenheim, founded on a basis of agricultural and natural science research, maintains 74-acres of parks and gardens—including giant trees and more than 8,000 different species of plants—less than five minutes' drive (or 30 minutes' walk) from Kelley Barracks.

Höhenpark Killesberg:

This 123-acre hillside park hosts, between its numerous grassy lawns, a free-standing observation tower, swimming pool (freibad), mini train system (the Killesbergbahn), petting zoo, playgrounds, historic fairground area with antique rides, and more. Max-Eyth-See:

About ten minutes' drive from Robinson Barracks, Stuttgart's largest lake was created during the canalization of the Neckar River in 1935. The rolling hills and wide open green spaces surrounding it are one of the area's most picturesque leisure spots. Boats can be rented to go on the water, but swimming is not permitted.

Mercedes-Benz Museum:

Covering the development of not only the brand, but the automobile itself, its nine levels provide



With unique architecture and manicured gardens, animals aren't the only attraction at Wilhelma.

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plenty of engaging information even for people who may not normally be interested in a car museum.

Planetarium Stuttgart:

The Planetarium, located next to the main train station, offers a selection of mostly science and education-focused presentations, along with musicrelated special events. Its website offers schedules, program descriptions, and appointment information. Presentations can be simulcast in English.

Porsche Museum:

A striking building directly adjacent to an S-Bahn station (Neuwirtshaus – Porscheplatz) houses dozens of Porsche vehicles from all periods of the company's history, from early models to modern racecars, with focus placed on showcasing design and technical innovation.

Schlossgarten:

Officially divided into three parts, this 600-yearold park area stretches from Schlossplatz to Bad Cannstatt, where it meets Rosenstein Park and continues the "Green U"—a corridor of about five miles of interconnected parks in the city center. The "Unterer Schlossgarten" (nearest to the U-Bahn stops of Stockach, Metzstrasse, and Mineralbader) has playgrounds, a mini "mountain biking" area for children, lakes, grilling areas, biergartens, and tree-covered pathways.

Staatsgalerie:

The collection of the State Gallery spans thousands of works from the fourteenth century to the present day, with a diverse array of styles. Everything from Renaissance art to French impressionism and American pop art can be found within its walls. Entry to the permanent collection is free on Wednesdays.

Weissenburgpark:

The Bopser U-Bahn stop provides the easiest transit connection to this park, which is known for its panoramic viewing platform near an open-air cafe and historic "Teehaus." It's a great spot for a picnic, but come early if you hope to find a spot on the lawn ahead of sunset.

Wilhelma:

This zoo and botanical gardens has its origins as a 19th-century royal bathhouse but is now home to roughly 1,200 species of animals and 6,000 types of plants on around 74 acres. It is one of Germany's most visited and species-diverse zoos.

This story was adapted from content previously published in the Stuttgart Citizen. To see the full listings of more than 30 local museums, parks, and palaces – as well as easy day trips in the region - visit the "Things to Do" menu of the USAG

MLP

Stuttgart Mobile App. This overview is provided as a courtesy to help community members explore local culture and does not imply federal endorsement. Please check days and hours of

The Staatsgalerie's home is itself a work of art. Its new building was tied for fifth in a 2010 survey to find the most important structures completed in the previous 40 years.



By Rachael L. Long

USAG Stuttgart Safety Manager

During summer months, extra daylight hours and warm temperatures encourage us to pack lots of fun activities into our day. Unfortunately, that can also mean increased potential for mishaps.

Risk Management (RM) is one tool we can all use to protect ourselves, friends and family during this time of year. RM means identifying and assessing hazards to determine the risk associated with activities. Then, we must develop and implement controls to make risk decisions. RM is a continuous, never-ending process.

Here are some essential safety tips to keep safe this summer:

WATER/SPORTS RELATED-ACTIVITIES

 Always swim with a buddy. Never swim alone, whether at the beach or in a pool.

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER



Use sunscreen

Play in

Wear a

helmet

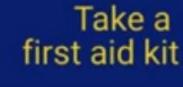
Avoid

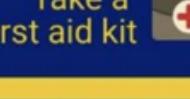
intense activity

on hot days

Take breaks

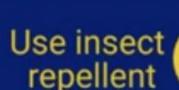
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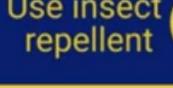


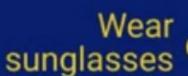






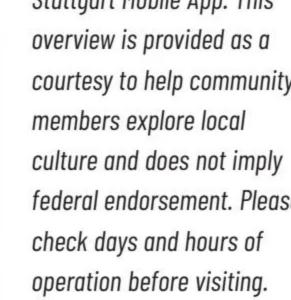












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- Supervise children closely around water. Wear lifejackets. Take swimming lessons.
- Beaches, lakes, or pools with lifeguards on duty are the safest places to swim.
- Don't push yourself beyond your capabilities. Identify hazards and wear protective gear.

SUN/HEAT SAFETY

- As always, stay hydrated. Water is best. Avoid caffeinated or energy drinks.
- During peak sun hours, avoid strenuous outdoor activities, seek shade, and take frequent breaks to cool down.
- · Keep skin covered either with sunscreen or light-weight clothing.
- Use water-resistant, broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher). Apply every 2 hours.
- Monitor the UV index. Wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses with UV protection.

GRILLING

- Always use grills outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least ten feet away from houses, trees, and deck railings. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill.
- Keep grills clean. Use gloves, long handled utensils, and have a fire extinguisher handy.
- Ensure the grill is on a flat, level surface. Don't leave the grill unattended when in use.
- If using charcoal, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container.
- For propane grills, ensure the lid is open before lighting. Check gas grills for leaks before use (see more on this below).

PROPANE TANKS

- Place and secure tanks on a firm, non-combustible base, away from excessive heat.
- Recognize the smell. For safety reasons, propane has a smell to make leaks noticeable.
- Check the cylinder for leaks. Apply soapy water to the propane tank's cylinder valve and regulator outlet of the grill/appliance. Next, slowly open the cylinder valve. Bubbles will form if there is a leak. If a leak is confirmed and there is no flame, immediately close the valve. If the leak stops, get the tank serviced by a professional before using it again.

ALCOHOL

- Be aware that alcohol increases risk of heat illness. Hydrate between drinks.
- Eat a meal before drinking. Pace yourself. Don't drink too much, too quickly.
- Be responsible. Don't drink and drive! Plan for a sober ride home.
- Check out the USAG Stuttgart Mobile App "Get Around" button for links to local regional transportation options, including the SSB app and VVS app.

DRIVING/TRAVEL

- Wear seatbelts. Observe speed limits. Never drive drunk or drowsy.
- Avoid distractions, put down the phone, and double check blind spots.
- Share the road. Always look twice for motorcycles!
- Motorcyclists: wear properly fitted, high-visibility personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Share travel plans. Check in often. Be aware of your surroundings.
- Ensure vehicles are mechanically sound before traveling (oil, brakes, tires, etc.).
- Check emergency supplies. Emergency kits should be updated seasonally.

TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION

- Know where to expect ticks. Avoid tall grass and vegetation. If unavoidable, minimize areas of exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, boots and hats. Tuck in shirts, tuck pants into socks, and wear close-toed shoes.
- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
- Use EPA-registered repellents for additional protection. Follow product instructions.
- Check family and pets frequently for ticks. Any ticks that are found should be removed.

While we enjoy these fun days of summer, don't forget to recognize the hazards associated with off-duty activities. Get out there and enjoy the warmer weather and have fun with family and friends. But do it safely! Use risk management to keep safe.



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Developmental assignments help employees enhance and advance their careers

By Balmina Sehra

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

It can be daunting to step into the unknown when changing jobs as it is uncertain whether or not the new job and professional environment will match well with the employees' skills and interests. Additionally, individuals may feel hindered due to lacking qualifications or experience in their desired field.

Luckily, Installation Management Command (IMCOM) and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart offer opportunities for employees to pursue developmental assignments in another directorate, garrison, or IMCOM region or headquarters element for up to 90 days. Opportunities vary based on funding, availability of positions, and the individual's needs and capabilities.

Andrew Munsterman, who heads the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) at USAG Wiesbaden, recently concluded a developmental assignment in the area of Workforce Development for the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Human Resources. Part of his work involved improving knowledge of the program that brought him here.

"I was able to work on building a SharePoint site, creating webinars, and public speaking," he said. "One of my main projects was building a resource that people could use and find out ways to measure and market that workforce development program."

"You can do a developmental anywhere, meaning you could go ahead and see another part of Europe if you wanted to. Of course, sometimes this can be something that deters people from wanting to do one, especially if they have other commitments, such as children," said Munsterman.

In those cases, a local developmental opportunity working in a different directorate within the same organization, may work better.

Joshua Merrill, a budget analyst in USAG Stuttgart's Resource Management Office, applied for his current position after several months serving in the same role on a developmental assignment. He believes it helped him stand out.

"It can be harder to compete if you have no experience, or in my case, access to certain programs," Merrill said. "In my job, gaining this access can take months, so because I was able to get some done during my DAP, it made it easier for me to compete for the job in the end."

Even fully remote opportunities may be available, as garrison Plans, Analysis and Integration Office Chief Jeremy Thompson experienced.

Thompson was assigned to the Army Materiel Command for his developmental opportunity, during which he was tasked with building a security, education, training, and awareness program for the Organic Industrial Base (OIB) and earned an acquisition certificate.

His assignment led him not only to grow his skills, but helped him gain a deeper understanding of senior organizational leadership.

"Every week, I was briefing three-star gener-

als, Senior Executive Service (SES) members," said Thompson, who was also able to sit in on executive-level meetings almost daily. "Being there and listening to the discussions they had really was exciting and made an impact on my view of how things are run and decided at higher levels."

"I enjoy the fact that this program emphasizes growth and development for the individual. To me, it shows that the Army has a very progressive educational process to afford opportunities that ensure the individual can grow in their field or even beyond that."

Munsterman encourages IMCOM civilian employees, including local nationals, to pursue a developmental assignment opportunity (DAO) if they are interested in one. But it's not just the employee who can take something away from a developmental assignment — their home and temporary organizations benefit too. "It demonstrates that an employee is not afraid to get out of their comfort zone and is willing to learn new things. It also helps the organization you're going to because you bring a diverse perspective, and you learn how another base, command, or section works so you can bring ideas back to your team. So, you're able to observe and learn different processes, provide yourself a challenge, and learn new skills," Munsterman said.

Garrison employees interested in developmental assignments can visit the IMCOM SharePoint portal for a list of available opportunities or contact Michael Roach, USAG Stuttgart Workforce Development Specialist.



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The Big Question: What's something adventurous you've done?



Charlotte Ross
"I went cliff jumping in
Sardinia last year!"



Natalie Cuic
"I finished a trading course online and started earning some money."



Isabella Mannings
"I took a 14 hour flight to Seoul,
I did lots of walking, visiting
landmarks and military bases."



"Last week I went to Crete,
Greece. My favorite part
of being there was the
food, and the people. I also
enjoyed the beaches, the
weather was perfect for nice
beach walks and it was very
refreshing for me."

Felix Rodriguez

"I went to Peru for 2 weeks. I explored Lima, tried the food and saw some of the culture there. I even took a cooking class on how to make ceviche. I also learned how to make a pisco sour!"



Cade Edwards
"I went bungee jumping in
New Zealand, it's more fun
after you jump off."



Stephen Moss
"I moved to Stuttgart 3 days ago."



"I just got back from
Amsterdam. I spent time visiting the Van Gogh museum and Otterlo as well. Otterlo has one of the Netherland's largest national parks, as well as the world's second largest collection of Van Gogh paintings."

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