



DARBY DIGEST



Your source for local news, information and culture

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www.usag.livorno.army.mil

Annual AT1 Training

AT Level I training is being scheduled on a calendar year basis, to ensure that the community is current for the new calendar year the required annual training needs to be completed by the end of this month.

All DOD military and civilians are required to take the training and have proof of completion. DOD contractors and local national employees and DOD family members over the age of 14 are highly encouraged to take the training either online with the sponsor or to attend an AT/FP orientation briefing.

Call 633-8984 for info or visit: <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/>

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Army Covenant, a concrete support to families

By Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The Army Family Covenant recognizes the sacrifices of families of deployed soldiers as being well aware of the important role the family plays in soldier's serenity. At Camp Darby, many programs have benefited from the Army Family Covenant.

"A variety of services were put together to provide help and support to Army families while increasing their quality of life, said Kerry Lawrence, Child Youth and School Services Coordinator. "Here at Camp Darby, we are truly purple and the Army Family Covenant extends to also cover Air Force families too."

Youth Services recently did a horseback riding family activity at the San Rossore National Park for families from 497th Transportation Battalion, who are deployed to Afghanistan.

"This was a really great time to spend together with other families from the unit," said Julie Gardner, the Family Readiness Group Leader for 497th Trans. "The carriage ride through the woods was extremely relaxing and my kids loved seeing the wild boar and deer bounding past us.

Lawrence added that future Youth Services Family Covenant



"Kai McKinney, gets ready to learn how to ride a horse with the help of Jennifer Kandell, Youth Services and School Age Services Assistant director, at the San Rossore National Park horse stables. (Photo courtesy of Julie Gardner, 497th Trans Family Readiness Group Leader)

events include free Valentine's Day childcare and a trip to the "Cavallino Matto" amusement park.

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Lt. Col. Steven Cade
U.S. Army Garrison
Livorno Commander

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Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldier of Quarter Board

We will have our NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board on Wednesday, 11 February 2009, at USAG HQ Conference Room.

Eligible NCOs and Soldiers from HHC USAG-Livorno, 511th MP Platoon, 3/405th AFSB, USA Health Clinic, USA Dental Clinic, 839th Trans Bn, AFN Livorno, and 497th MCT may compete. NCOs will be in the ranks of Corporal through Sergeant First Class with less than 18 years of service.

Junior Enlisted Soldiers will be in the ranks of Private through Specialist promotable with less than 8 years of active federal service.

Candidates may have no record of UCMJ, AWOL, court martial or civilian conviction during his/her current assignment. Candidates may not be flagged IAW AR 600-8-2

Questions will come from the following topics:

CSM: NCO Creed, NCO History, NCO Development Program, and the NCO Evaluation Report Program.

Board Member: Soldier Support Activities and Army Programs; PMCS; Supply Economy; Education Programs; Sponsorship; U.S. Army History; React to IED.



Board Member: First Aid; 9-line MEDEVAC; Army Physical Fitness Program/APFT; Uniform and Awards; Drills and Ceremonies; MOUT.

Board Member: Weapons; Land Navigation and Map Reading; Battle Focused Training; Army Warrior Tasks & Drills (AWT).

Board Member: Military Leadership and Developmental Counseling; Current Events; Military Justice; Chain of Command/NCO Support Channel; CBRN.

NCOs and Soldiers, please have your supervisor call SGT Everett so that he can add your name to the board schedule at 633-7345.

I expect to see at least a total four NCOs and four Soldiers. Each unit can send more than one NCO and Soldier to participate.

Please remember that these boards prepare our personnel for future boards, i.e. promotion boards, SGT Morales Board and Audie Murphy Board. It also can be used as a bullet comment for an NCOER. Centralized promotion boards at DA look for those personnel that go the extra mile, they tend to get selected for promotion quicker.

2009 Year of Non-commissioned Officers

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren announced that 2009 is "The Year Of The Noncommissioned Officer."

"At the front of every Army mission in the United States or overseas, you'll find a non-commissioned officer," said Geren. "They know their mission, they know their equipment, but most importantly, they know their Soldiers."

The secretary added that during the year, the Army will accelerate NCO development of strategic initiatives, develop new initiatives that enhance the training, education, capability, and utilization of the NCO corps, showcase the NCO story to the Army and the American people, and honor the sacrifices and celebrate contributions of the NCO Corps, past and present. "Today's NCO operates autonomously, and always with confidence and competence," he said. "Our NCOs are empowered and trusted like no other

NCO in the world, and most advanced armies in the world today are going to school on our model."

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey said the Noncommissioned Officer Corps is what keeps the Army together. "As I travel around the Army and I look at what we've accomplished over the past seven years at war, it's clearer and clearer to me that it is our Noncommissioned Officer Corps that is providing the glue that's not only holding this force together at a difficult time, but enabling us to accomplish the near impossible every day."

During 2009 we will highlight NCO achievements and accomplishments. I encourage all of you to continue mentoring your young Soldiers so that they can also join the coveted Non Commissioned Officer Corps. **ARMY STRONG!**

Sound Off Now On AFN Europe Programming

By George A. Smith,
AFN Europe Operations Manager

Experience what it feels like to have the ear of the network program director, and the chance to change what you see and hear on AFN. Go to the American Forces Network Europe (AFNE) web site to say what you think should be on the radio and how you prefer to get your military news on TV.

Go on line at afneurope.net, click on the link to the survey and sound off on the mix of music, types of information and shows airing on AFN radio. The AFN Europe survey will run Jan. 4 - Feb. 19. Your feedback will help AFN Europe decide when to have live hosted DJ shows and whether the network should change current programming.

AFN Europe broadcasts two radio services to concentrations of military personnel and families in Germany, Italy and Belgium: AFN The Eagle and the Power Network. AFN The Eagle is a family-friendly blend of music and entertainment airing on FM 106 in Italy and a mix of mostly FM frequencies in Germany and Belgium. The Power Network airs on FM 107 in Italy and mostly AM frequencies in Germany and Belgium. It features news and information shows such as *Morning Newswatch*, *National Public Radio* and *Rush Limbaugh*, as well as shows such as *Connections*, a blend of oldies and news.

The survey questions on AFN Television focus on when you watch TV, which channels you watch and how you want to see your European and base military news. The network also wants to know if you prefer getting your military TV news in a 30-minute AFN Europe Report, 2-minute newsbreaks, the web, a Podcast, or another way.

AFN Europe is not asking any questions about television programming other than what is produced here in theater. The American Forces Network Broadcast Center in California negotiates with producers to get entertainment shows such as American Idol and CSI on AFN TV.

From January through mid-February, AFN stations will be live at Post and Base Exchanges, commissaries and other high-traffic areas encouraging people to take five-to-ten minutes to go on line and fill out the survey. Stop by and fill out the survey there, or just wait until you get home or have a few minutes at the office.

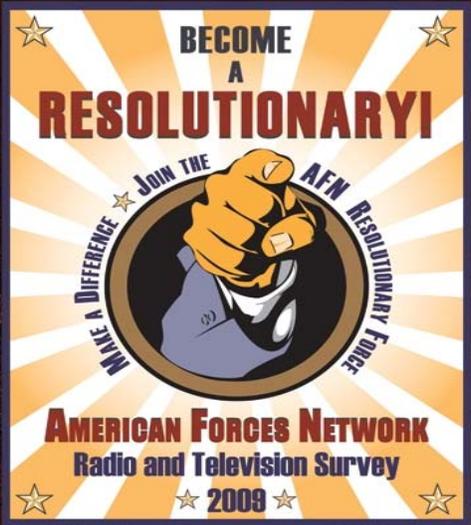
There's an added incentive to fill out a survey. The Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, is giving away a three-night stay for two adults at the resort, as well as a one-day ski or snowboard lesson, rental equipment and lift passes for the appropriate slope.

NOW IS

★

**HELP US TO
SERVE YOU
BETTER**

A CHANCE TO WIN
A PRIZE WHEN
YOU ENTER



THE TIME

★

**FILL OUT A
SURVEY
TODAY**

COMPLETE ONLINE
OR AT SELECTED
LOCATIONS

★ **WWW.AFNEUROPE.NET** ★

GO TO AFNEUROPE.NET AND CLICK THE LINK FOR THE SURVEY.

Complete the survey and be automatically entered to win a 3-night stay for two at the
Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
Package includes a 1-day ski or snowboard lesson for two adults, plus rental equipment and lift passes!

Continued from page 1

Army Family Covenant cont

The Army covenant has also helped to provide mission essential position, declared Evelyn Watkins, ACS Manager.

"Thanks to the Army Covenant, Camp Darby ACS now has an Outreach Mobilization & Deployment position," said Watkins. "This person's role is necessary to assist soldiers to be ready to go down range, take care of the family during the soldier's absence, and help soldiers to readjust to their home life and this is a critical element to a successful Army Family Covenant."

Amber Gaglione, who had previously filled that position, organized many initiatives for families of deployed soldiers according to Elizabeth Speck, Financial Readiness Manager, ACS.

"She held special events such as Halloween pumpkin carving and pizza making classes for children and spouses of deployed service members," said Speck. "She did a wonderful job because she truly cares for the families here."

"The Army has really stood by their commitment to provide concrete support to develop strong soldiers and resilient families," added Watkins.



Children learn how to ride horses during a Army Family Covenant funded horseback riding class for. (Photo courtesy of Julie Gardner, 497th Trans FRG leader).



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19

Ethnic observance activities are designed to develop an awareness of the various cultures that contribute to the American culture and way of life.

On Tuesday, Feb. 3 at noon in front of the PX/BX there will be a cake cutting ceremony to kick-off African American Heritage Month celebration.

On Friday, Feb. 27 at 6 pm at the Darby Community Club there will be a free food tasting event.

All of the Camp Darby personnel are invited to attend. Bring a friend.

Keeping safe in 2009

By David Henry

Safety Manager, USAG Livorno

Tradition dictates that every year, you should try to kick bad habits and start your life anew. So sit down with a cup of coffee, a paper and a pen, and reflect: What Safety Resolutions will you make for yourself this year? Below are some suggestions:

- Pay more attention to home and community safety, which today far surpasses the workplace in accidental death and injury rates.
- Take more online safety education through the Combat Readiness/Safety Center (CRC), Combat Readiness University (CRU) II. It's free.
- Put away your cell phone and text messages while driving. It's against policy anyway.
- Be an active participant in teens' learning to drive safely.
- Always read and follow the instructions on medications you're taking.
- Help kids understand the dangers of taking someone else's prescription drugs.
- Refresh your first-aid and CPR training.
- Organize your house/garage, remove clutter that's a mess and creates additional hazards.
- Get in the habit of checking smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries twice a year, during Daylight Saving Time.
- Have fun, but never drink and drive. Always have rescue plans, i.e., coordinate for a taxi ride home; use the buddy system or a designated driver.

Above all, aim for things that are truly important to you as a leader focused on keeping your Soldiers, Civilians and Families safe both on and off duty.

Products Recently Recalled

Viking Range Corp. Recalls Toasters Due to Shock Hazard.

The recall involves Viking Professional Four-Slot Toasters, model numbers VT400WH, VT400BK, VT400GG, VT400SG, VT400BR and VT400CB. The toaster has a label on its underside that states in part, "Viking, UL Listed 73D3, Viking Range Corporation, Model VT400 Series". Consumers should stop using the toaster immediately and unplug it, and contact Viking to obtain a free replacement toaster. For additional information, contact Viking toll-free at (888) 267-4460 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.vikingrange.com

Jardine Expands Recall of Cribs Sold by Babies"R"Us; Cribs

Pose Entrapment and Strangulation Hazards. The wooden crib slats can break, creating a gap, which can pose an entrapment and strangulation hazard to infants and toddlers. This recall involves three models of Jardine wooden cribs with the date codes identified below. Cribs with other date codes are not affected by this recall. The date code and model number are printed on the label located on the inside of the bottom rail of the headboard or footboard.

Model #	Description	Date Code	Between
DA715BC	Dark Pine Olympia Lifetime Crib	2/04	1/07
0108L00	Antique Walnut Capri Single Crib	7/06	11/07
0308C00	White Capri Lifetime Crib	12/05	11/07

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled cribs and contact Jardine to receive a full credit toward the purchase of a new crib. Jardine will provide consumers with detailed instructions for purchasing cribs in retail stores and online. For additional information, contact Jardine at (800) 646-4106 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET Saturday, or visit the firm's Web site at <http://www.jardinecribrecall.com/>

Girls Blue Denim Passport Jackets with Drawstrings

Recalled by Ms. Bubbles Inc. Due to Strangulation Hazard. The recalled blue denim jackets have a white terrycloth underlay lining and drawstring. The jackets were sold in children's sizes medium (7-10), large (11-14) and x-large (15-16). Style number BF1400 KP is printed on the hang tag attached to the garment. Consumers should immediately remove the drawstrings from the sweatshirts to eliminate the hazard, or return the garment to either the place of purchase or to Ms. Bubbles Inc. to receive a refund. For additional information, contact Ms. Bubbles toll-free at (866) 342-3802 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday.

For more information visit www.recalls.gov

DA 4755 -Hazard Reporting. Italian and English available. Anonymous or not. Online at:http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/management/so_language.asp

Frozen ponds, lakes: fun but danger-

HEIDELBERG, Germany - Winter weather conditions are ideal for fun activities, especially for children, but they also can increase the number of accidents.

The Installation Management Command-Europe Safety Office is advising everyone to stay aware while outside and follow the following safety rules when ice skating, sliding or just walking on frozen ponds and lakes:

Everyone should know, and parents shall emphasize to their children, that the most important safety rule to learn is that there's no such thing as safe ice.

Never go or skate alone. Children shouldn't be allowed on a ponds or lakes unsupervised.

Beware of ice around partially submerged objects, such as trees, logs, brush, embankments, or dam structures; the ice is thin around these objects.

Don't enter ice after dark. Don't congregate in one area. Stay away from cracks, seams, pressure ridges, slushy areas and darker areas that signify thinner ice.



Other factors that have to be taken into consideration when assessing the strength of ice are:

Ice is not only subject to temperatures from above but also from constant thawing temperatures from below due to water temperatures in the 40 degree Fahrenheit range (about 4 degrees Celsius).

Areas where there's any water movement due to either overland runoff or underground springs, and shaded or sunny areas, all lead to freezing and thawing conditions.

Snow is another contributing factor, as snow cover acts as insulator and ice may actually begin to melt despite freezing temperatures. Again, always keep in mindthere is no such thing as safe ice!

Road Condition Status Terminology – IAW USAREUR Regulation 385-55

Road Condition	Road Surface	Snow	Ice	Snow Depth	Visibility	Temperature
GREEN	Dry	None or blowing powder	None	None	More than 50 meters	Above 35F (+2C)
AMBER	Wet	Packed slush	Patches of black ice and slush	Less than 4 inches	Between 20 and 50 meters	Between 30F (-1C) and 35F (+2C)
RED	Flooded	Drifting	Sheet ice	Between 4 and 8 inches	Between 15 and 20 meters	Between 10F (-12C) and 30F (-1C)
BLACK	Heavily flooded	Heavy drifting	Extreme sheet ice	More than 8 inches	Less than 15 meters	Less than 10F (-12C)

ROAD CONDITIONS POLICY FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

GREEN: UNRESTRICTED VEHICLE DISPATCHES ARE AUTHORIZED. IDEAL ROAD, VISIBILITY, AND TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS EXIST.

AMBER: ROAD SURFACE IS WET, SLUSHY, SNOW LESS THAN 4 INCHES, VISIBILITY BETWEEN 20 AND 50 METERS, AND TEMPERATURES ARE BETWEEN 30F AND 35F DEGREES.

RED: ONLY MISSION-ESSENTIAL AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARE AUTHORIZED. ROAD SURFACE IS FLOODED, SNOW IS DRIFTING AND BETWEEN 4 AND 8 INCHES DEEP, VISIBILITY IS BETWEEN 15 AND 20 METERS, AND TEMPERATURE IS BETWEEN 10F AND 30F DEGREES.

BLACK: ONLY EMERGENCY-ESSENTIAL VEHICLES ARE AUTHORIZED. ROAD SURFACE IS HEAVILY FLOODED, HEAVY DRIFTING SNOW, 8 OR MORE INCHES OF SNOW, VISIBILITY IS LESS THAN 15 METERS, AND THE TEMPERATURE IS LESS THAN 10F.



Santa makes a special visit to the Camp Darby Story Hour at the Library. (By Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

Historic Camp Darby

As we get ready to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the liberation of Italy, it's a good chance to look back on the pictorial history of Camp Darby. The uniforms may have changed many times over the years, but not the spirits of those veterans who have served here before us.

These photos were taken circa July 1954 of a young Military Policeman, Dick Baughman.

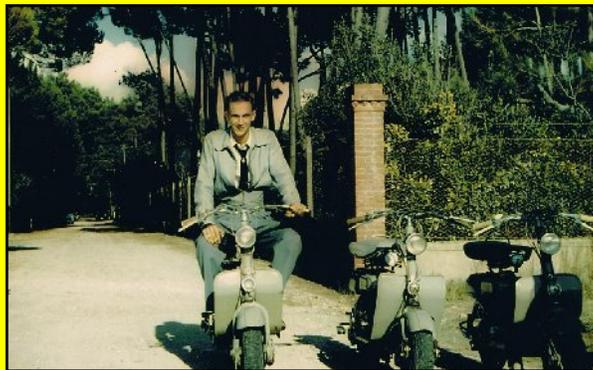
"I left Camp Kilmer (N.J.) just after Thanksgiving Day 1953 aboard the ship Gen. Harvey Taylor. Four days later, after a stop in Casablanca, I arrived at Livorno, Italy. Camp Darby was used to reassign troops to U.S.

Forces in Austria; but, I was assigned to the 68th M.P. Company that was located in Bldg 401, Camp Darby. The 68th M.P. was used to escort replacement

troops aboard troop trains to Austria, day/night patrols in Livorno and Pisa as well as guard the various supply dumps around the Camp. My work assignment was as the Company communications chief. That meant maintaining all the radios used in the

patrol jeeps and sedans. It was a great assignment. Because I was required to stay up to check in the nightly pa-

trols from Livorno and Pisa I didn't have to get up for reveille. Instead I got up about 9:30 and then went to the mess hall for breakfast. I was free to spend quite a bit of time, each day, at the beach that was near the camp." Dick Baughman





Camp Darby

January 2009

VOICE

Community News for USAG Livorno

**Army Community
Services**
Bldg. 407
USAG Livorno

Mon. Wed 8:00-5:00

Thurs 11:00-5:00

Fri 8:00-5:00

Closed Weekends

Telephone

DSN 633.7084

CIV 050.54.7084

In this issue:

New Introduction to
Painting Class

New
"HEARTS APART"
Support Group

Yellow Ribbon
Room Opening!

ACS Staff
Spotlight:
Cinzia Zahner

All-New Yellow Ribbon Room Now Open

After many months of planning, building, and interior decorating, the Yellow Ribbon Room in Bldg. 428, will finally open for business in January. The all-new facility features a full kitchen, a cozy living room with flat screen TV, VCR/DVD player and XBOX, a conference room and a fun kids room, complete with an array of toys, books, games and small scale furniture.

The building will be opening in early January and Family Readiness Group (FRG) leaders will be able to check out the key from ACS and use the facility to for official functions. All ACS classes will be held there, the first being our new Introduction to Painting class (see article below).

**Yellow Ribbon Room hours are
Tues, Weds, Thurs- 10:00-3:00**



New Introduction to Painting Class...and it's free!

Start off the new year getting in touch with your inner artist! ACS is now offering an introduction to painting class for beginner artists. Initial classes will cover the basics, starting with what supplies will be

needed (students must buy their own), proper color blending, shading techniques, and how to sketch ideas. Learn how to paint your ideas on canvas and add a little color to your life!

First Classes held:
January 6
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
January 8
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
in the Yellow Ribbon
Room



Surviving post-holiday blues with HEARTS APART

There is no question that being separated during the holidays is one of the most difficult times of a deployment. One of the best ways to cope with a separation is to accept that the holiday will be different with your Soldier gone, and connecting with other spouses who also have loved ones currently deployed.

Having a common shared experience with others can help alleviate negative feelings that can arise from having a loved one deployed. The HEARTS APART group at ACS is a social network of spouses who currently have loved ones deployed. The groups meet periodically for socials, lunches and fun outings like shopping trips and spa days.

If you'd like to get involved in Hearts Apart, contact ACS at 633-7084.

Visit Us Online at www.livornomwr.com





January 2009

Classes & Seminars

RELOCATION READINESS

Benvenuti at Camp Darby

January 5, 8:15 a.m. at CSM Shields Conference Room

New to Camp Darby and don't know where to go to get answers? Learn about Italian customs, culture, local shopping, paying Italian bills and more. Please sign up for the next Benvenuti session by calling ACS. Free childcare, but registration is required.

ARMY VOLUNTEER CORPS

Volunteer Knowledge Training

January 2, 11:30-12:00 p.m. at ACS

Join the ranks and add your skills to Team Darby!

Volunteer Action Council (VAC) for OPOCs

January 7, 11:30-12:00 p.m. at ACS

Meetings are usually the 1st Wednesday every quarter.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Interview Skills Training

January 16, 11:30-12:00 p.m. at ACS

Get tips on putting your best foot forward.

Resume Points Training

January 30, 11:30-12:00 p.m.

Learn how to make yourself attractive on paper!

MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT

Reintegration, Relationships & PTSD

January 7 & 14 10:30 a.m. at ACS

Tips on how to better manage family relationships following a deployment. Please RSVP at ACS for this class.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

Children's Playgroup

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. in the

Chapel Nursery (No playgroup January 7)

An interactive and educational playgroup for service members and their families with children from birth-3 yrs.

Military One Source



Military OneSource provides free private services and information:

- Counseling
 - Educational Materials
 - Interpretation/Translation
- Stateside: 1-800-342-9647
Overseas: 800-3429-6477
Overseas Collect: 484-530-5908
TTY/TDD: 1-866-607-6794
En Espanol: 1-877-888-0727

ACS Staff Spotlight: Cinzia Zahner!



Cinzia Zahner is the Relocation Assistant and ACS language instructor.

Cinzia Zahner is a woman of many talents. She is the instructor for both the Italian and English as second language and English as second language classes, and serves as the Relocation Assistant here at ACS.

Cinzia believes the #1 thing all Camp Darby newcomers should do when arriving in Italy is get over the fear of speaking the local language, if they want to truly appreciate the country.

Cinzia's love for the art of communication is rivaled by another artform; dance. Every Wednesday at noon in the Fitness Center, Cinzia shares this passion with others, and offers belly dancing lessons!

FINANCIAL READINESS

Budgeting 101

January 6, 11:30 p.m.-12:00 p.m. at ACS

Learn steps that help to achieve financial freedom and security.

Consumer Rights and Obligations

January 13, 11:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m. at ACS

Learn what you the consumer are entitled to and what your responsibilities are during this quickie class.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Information

January 21, 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m. at ACS

Learn the benefits of TSP in this quickie class.

Checkbook Refresher Class

January 26, 11:30 p.m.-12:00 p.m. at ACS

Learn how work ATM/Debit purchases into balancing the checkbook.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Italian conversation & grammar at the Library

Mondays 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

English as a second language at the Library

Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Beginners

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Intermediate

Intervenel! Act! Motivatel!
24-Hour Sexual Assault Response
Phone number: 335-771-4989

Yellow Ribbon Room Opening in January!

New building features:

Full kitchen complete with grill, crock pot, tableware, etc.
Conference Room that's perfect for meetings
TV with VCR/DVD player, Xbox 360, Internet capabilities
Kids Room stocked with new toys and MORE!

Community Action Council

January 14 at 3:30 p.m., location to be announced

Send your issues to:

usaglacs@eur.army.mil or log onto

www.usag.livorno.army.mil and click on CAC.

Army Family Team Building (AFTB)

January 21 & 22 time and location to be announced.

Level 1 is an introduction to the military for newcomers.

All trainings are also available online at:

www.myarmylifetoo.com

Singles ski free

By Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Single service members have another reason to be happy in 2009. They can now ski or snowboard free on upcoming Outdoor Recreation Ski trips.

“The Camp Darby Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program is paying with their profits from their past fundraising events for young troops to have free healthy entertainment, fun and sports events (such as skiing and snowboarding trips,” said Ernest Beezley, ODR director. “Plus ODR ensures that ski trip costs are much more competitive than on the ‘economy’.”

Beezley adds that the rule for the ski trips is first come, first serve.

“The only thing the single service members have to do is sign up for the trip and get fitted for their skis and boots and BOSS will take care of the cost of transportation and ski rentals,” said Beezley.

Spc. Bridget Austin, who recently took advantage of the free trip, believes this is a great way to get out of the barracks and see Italy.

“I learned how to snowboard here with the rentals and ended up enjoying it so much I bought my own board,” said Austin. “Just make sure you remember to bring money for the lift ticket and lunch.”

While BOSS pays for the transportation and rental, the cost of the lift tickets are still on the individual.

“We hope the single service members take advantage of this offer,” said Beezley. “It’s a great chance to enjoy Italy’s winter sports.”



Next Boss meeting : Jan. 27 at the ACS Single Service member dinner at 5 pm at ACS.

Upcoming events:
Ski and snowboard free

Valentine’s Day Roses: Support BOSS and show your loved one you care by purchasing a dozen red long stem roses for \$45 from BOSS. Reserve your flowers Feb. 2-12. Flowers will be delivered on Friday the 13th on Camp Darby and the Depot.

US ARMY
GARRISON
LIVORNO



THE DOOR

Toward Perfection

By Chaplain (Capt.) Kelly Porter
USAG Livorno Chaplain

Is it possible to finish 2009 without having sinned? Yes. Is it likely? No.

Each of us has a desire to be the best we can be, whether in sports or academics or career or parenting or . . . whatever consumes our time. I have met many who excel at their employment (in whatever form that is) and yet fail at home or in their personal life. They are often confused why that happens and what to do to change.

The main reason, I have observed, is because of their splitting life into components. They have a work component, a family component and a church/faith component.

For some Christians life is a balancing act, not unlike a sports entertainer spinning multiple basketballs at one time. As soon as you get one going another is slowing down and you focus your attention on that one.

For other Christians one or more components is primary and the other components are less important or even unnecessary. They have an attitude of, "I'll get to it if I have time." In the end that area of their life is malnourished at best but most likely dead.

God never intended for us to live this way. Each of these areas can be divided for discussion but in reality they all are blended to make up who we are. In the creation garden God expected Adam to work and He gave specific responsibilities to accomplish. Work is a good thing but work is not all.

God gave Adam a family in the form of woman and then they had children. Adam would have to provide for his family, teach his family, protect his family. Families are good and fun but they are not all.

God gave Adam an ability to relate to the divine. He gave the man a mind to think and the choice to choose or reject this divine relationship. When man does not choose they he has to live life the best he knows how to do.

Let's see . . . man with limited knowledge and power, God with unlimited knowledge and power. Yeah, I think I'll do it my own way. Who knows an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present God who loves me and wants what is best for me?

This is where man fails, but he is often ignorant of why he fails. It is a spiritual blindness that only God can reveal. The Holy Spirit gives man insight to a spiritual world that he could not grasp otherwise.

Proverbs 28.13 states, "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

Failure is not about the need to "pick yourself up by your boot straps". In failure is the potential to recognize God for who He is and how distant from Him I am. The remedy of failure is confession and repentance.

We all operate at this level. The perfect Christian does not exist.

"If we say we are without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1.9)

Although he will never be perfect, when a Christian does make confession and repentance a part of his daily routine the Holy Spirit perfects us so that over time we mature so that he becomes more than he thought possible. Only then does he realize that work is family is faith is school is church is leisure. Either all of life is worship or we are fooling ourselves. †

To find The Door and more pictures of events visit the Darby Chapel web page.

Regular Activities

- Mass 10:00
- Sunday School 10:00
- Prot Worship 11:15
- Women's Bible Study
Tues 12:00-13:00
Wed 17:30-18:30



“Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends.” Revelation 3:20

Consider the Call

Chaplain authorizations across the services are short. Catholic chaplain authorizations are extremely short. Of the 200 active duty Army positions, only 90 are currently filled. These priests meet a vital need for Roman Catholics across the spectrum of military operations.

Perhaps God has been calling you or a relative or friend into ministry. Consider serving those around you as a Roman Catholic Priest under the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. The AMS website has information about this unique service. Click here to learn more:

[AMS Recruitment](#)

Resources

Catholics in the Military
<http://www.catholicmil.org/>

Stay informed on issues that pertain to Roman Catholics in the US Military.

International Prayer for Peace
www.praying4peace.org

Catechism Conformity List
[Catechism Resources](#)

Why Catholic?

Prayer for Chaplain Vakoc

Chaplain Timothy Vakoc was wounded in 2004 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a priest of the Archdiocese of St Paul-Minneapolis. His painful treatments and recovery are still ongoing. Pray for Chaplain Vakoc.

You can find more information and a blog about Fr. Tim here: <http://www.caringbridge.org/mn/timvakoc/>

Holy Day Schedule

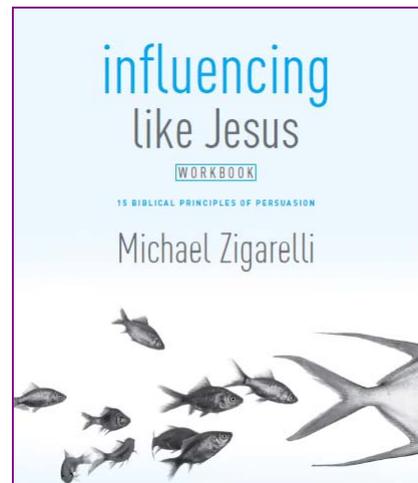
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday	Feb. 25	Noon
Holy Thursday	Thursday	April 9	4 p.m.
Good Friday	Friday	April 10	4 p.m.
Easter	Sunday	April 12	10 a.m.

Sunday School

Each Sunday the children are playing games, memorizing scripture, hearing stories and having a great time in their Sunday School class. They meet in Mertz Hall at 1000.

Parents– the kids need your help as they remember Bible verses. Once they successfully memorize and understand the list of verses they will earn a Bible Blitz New International Version Bible.

The adults are winding up their class in the Faith Lessons series. The next series is titled, “Influencing Like Jesus.” Do you ever wonder how Jesus always knew what to say in any circumstance? Forget manipulation. Learn 15 principles of persuading others to become fully devoted followers of Christ. At home. In the church. Among the world.



Commit to the Prayer Covenant

Last week’s service was an awesome (and I don’t use that term loosely) experience for me. God opened my mind to a deeper understanding of worship–that it is following Christ 100%. Every minute of every day. Period.

If you missed it, Barry and I led in an old Wesleyan prayer renewal service. At the end I brought us to a point of entering a covenant with each other. I stopped at that point and asked you to seriously consider making this covenant with each other and with God. It is a huge commitment and I don’t want you to take it lightly. Pray this week about the following five points of the covenant and come ready Sunday to finish the covenant process. *Kelly*

1. To not continue in any known sin
2. To agree with and follow God’s will for our lives
3. To pray for my brothers and sisters in this congregation
4. To read the Bible consistently
5. To encourage one another daily



Outreach Campaign Timeline

Prayer Teams Immediately see CH Porter

Cards/Posters 1 February

AFN Spots 1 February

6 Week Sermon Series 1115 Service 22 February

Movie Event 24 February

4 Week Small Group Discussions 26 February

Coming to Camp Darby Tuesday 24 February 2009

Spread the word about the movie event that will impact marriages for eternity.





University of Maryland University College *Europe*

Funding still available for UMUC Europe's Orkand Family Scholarship

Classes begin next week

University of Maryland University College Europe is pleased to announce that funding is still available for the Orkand Family Scholarship and Book Award for active-duty servicemembers and their spouses.

\$100 BOOK AWARD

Apply within minutes! Active-duty enlisted servicemembers need only to submit their name, contact, and current student information online at www.ed.umuc.edu/financial_aid/bookaward.html. No other application form is required.

\$1,000 SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIP

Eligible spouses of active-duty servicemembers may apply for the scholarship to receive \$1,000 per semester towards the cost of tuition. For details, visit www.ed.umuc.edu/financial_aid/orkand.html

REMINDER: REGISTER NOW!

On-site courses begin the week of 18 January.

Europe online courses begin 26 January.

Please visit your local UMUC Europe field representative for assistance, visit our Web site at www.ed.umuc.edu, or contact us directly at DSN 314-370-6762, CIV +49-(0)6221-3780.



VOTECH ONLINE CLASSES

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 9, 2009

CLASSES START FEBRUARY 23, 2009

NO LATE REGISTRATION FOR ONLINE COURSES

eArmyU and Active Army TA students must apply and register for courses through the [GoArmyEd portal](#).

Start date is February 23, 2009, end date for 8-week courses is April 17, 2009.

Business Administration and Management

BMGT1301 TC001 19988 186275 Supervision
 HRPO2301 TC002 20058 186345 Human Resources Management

Computer Science

ITMT1355 TC016 23547 189880 Plan Ms Server 2003 Network **(Self-Paced)**
 ITMT1400 TC020 23553 189886 Implement MS Win XP Pro **(Self-Paced)**
 ITMT1440 TC016 23542 189875 Mgt & Maint MS Srv 2003 Envir **(Self-Paced)**
 ITNW1358 TC020 23559 189892 Network+ **(Self-Paced)**
 ITSY1442 TC016 23536 189868 Information Techn Security **(Self-Paced)**

Early Childhood Professions

CDEC1319 TC001 21245 187550 Child Guidance
 CDEC2341 TC001 21258 187563 The School Age Child
 TECA1318 TC001 21267 187572 Wellness of the Young Child

Kinesiology/Wellness

KINE1301 TC004 21042 187347 Intro to Physical Fit & Sport

Protective Services

CJCR1304 TC001 18663 184922 Probation and Parole
 CJLE1333 TC001 18671 184930 Traffic Law and Investigation
 CJLE1345 TD002 13668 179886 Intermed Crime Scene Invest
 CJSA1318 TC001 18679 184938 Court Management
 CJSA1348 TC001 18687 184946 Ethics in Criminal Justice
 CJSA1348 TC002 18692 184951 Ethics in Criminal Justice
 CJSA2331 TC001 18698 184957 Child Abuse: Prevent/Invest
 CJSA2331 TC002 18702 184961 Child Abuse: Prevent/Invest
 CRIJ1301 TC001 18708 184967 Introduction Criminal Justice **(Self-Paced)**
 CRIJ1301 TC002 18712 184971 Introduction Criminal Justice **(Self-Paced)**
 CRIJ1301 TC003 18724 184983 Introduction Criminal Justice **(Self-Paced)**
 CRIJ1306 TC001 19295 185580 Court System and Practices
 CRIJ1307 TC001 19305 185590 Crime in America
 CRIJ1307 TC002 19310 185595 Crime in America
 CRIJ1310 TC001 19320 185605 Fundamentals of Criminal Law
 CRIJ1310 TC002 19324 185609 Fundamentals of Criminal Law
 CRIJ1310 TD004 13664 179882 Fundamentals of Criminal Law
 CRIJ1313 TC001 19549 185834 Juvenile Justice System **(Self-Paced)**
 CRIJ1313 TC002 19559 185844 Juvenile Justice System **(Self-Paced)**
 CRIJ1313 TD004 13666 179884 Juvenile Justice System
 CRIJ2301 TD002 13665 179883 Comm Resources in Corrections
 CRIJ2314 TC001 19569 185854 Criminal Investigation
 CRIJ2323 TC001 19580 185865 Legal Aspects Law Enforcement **(Self-Paced)**
 CRIJ2328 TC001 19591 185876 Police Systems and Practices

www.europe.ctcd.edu

www.ctcd.edu

Issue Title: PROJECTION EQUIPMENT FOR POST THEATER

Issue Description: Equipment used to show movies at our Camp Darby facility is very old...(overheats, and is quite labor intensive)

Recommendations: A post theater is a very important necessity on any military installation and very necessary to maintain morale within the Community (i.e. our troops and their families deserve their American films at low prices). It should not be that hard to maybe put a little bit of persuasive pressure on AAFES to adequately serve this community where the movies are concerned.

I understand that ultimately AAFES has to put up the money to buy the new equipment, but this is a necessity for our post, and needs to be viewed as such. The post commander needs to put pressure on AAFES to take care of the people who consistently line the wallets of its employees.

Response: Michelle Mackey, AAFES Vicenza/Livorno General Manager

AAFES has a process for equipment replacement and improvement similar to the one the military uses for large purchases and upgrades. The Livorno theater equipment falls into this program and will cer-

tainly be considered for upgrade and/or replacement based upon life cycle, condition and competing priorities.

I think it's important to clarify our mission as we address this comment. That may help put such expenditures in proper perspective.

Our mission is to provide authorized patrons with quality merchandise and services of necessity and convenience at competitively low prices and to generate earnings to supplement appropriated funds for the support of Army and Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

In FY 2006, MWR and services programs received \$228.2 million from AAFES. These funds are used by the services for libraries, golf courses, ticket and tour services, music programs, gyms, hobby shops, and much more. Every cent we earn goes back to our customers in one form or another!

Your opinion is important

We need your issues for the upcoming Army Family Action Plan. Forms can be found at ACS, the post office and the laundry mat and online or usaglacs@eur.army.mil or log onto www.usag.livorno.army.mil and click on CAC. For more information, call the ACS at 633-7084.

Issue Title: AAFES GAS PRICES

Issue Description: I would like to bring to the table more evidence about what is going on with Italian gas coupon prices. This time, however, I will approach the problem using slightly different types of calculations, which, however, will still be based on the average weekly prices excluding taxes (ACCISA and 20% IVA) displayed at Italian Unleaded Gas pumps (as reported by the Italian Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico at

<http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/>

- a) Week of 17/11/2008: 0,436 €/lt
- b) Week of 24/11/2008: 0,398 €/lt
- c) Week of 01/12/2008: 0,392 €/lt
- d) Week of 08/12/2008: 0,376 €/lt
- e) Week of 15/12/2008: 0,365 €/lt

f) Week of 22/12/2008: 0,354 €/lt

I will take into consideration the worst case scenario and assume that the price of Italian gas coupons for the month of January 09 (0.78 \$/lt) were calculated on the basis of what gasoline prices were 6 weeks prior to the issue of new gas coupons. As a result, I will use the average price reported above for the week of 17 Nov 08, that is, 0.436 €/lt. I will also use the worst exchange rate reported for the month of December, that is, 1.50 USD/EUR (which occurred on 19 Dec 08), even though the average for such month stayed well below this figure!

If we multiply 0,436 €/lt by 1.50 USD/EUR, we come out with 0.654 \$/lt (the average price of unleaded gas in dollars per liter at the Italian gas

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Continued from pg 13.

AAFES GAS COUPONS cont

pumps almost 7 weeks ago). The difference between actual gas coupon prices (0.78 \$/lt) and such figure (0.654 \$/lt) is 0.126 \$/lt. In other words, we are paying at least 12.6 cents in commissions for each liter of gas we purchase!!! This sounds like an excellent profit margin for those involved in the distribution process of gas coupons!!!!!! In fact, we are talking about at least \$12.6 of profit on a 100 liter coupon booklet and \$25.2 on a 200 liter coupon booklet!!!!

If we try to compare Italian gas coupon prices with German gas coupon prices, we can also sense that something is wrong here!!! In fact, in the months of December and January, prices were as follows:

- 1) On 1 December 2008, the price of Italian Unleaded Gas coupons was 0.86 \$/lt; German Super Plus Gas coupons, instead, cost 0.742 \$/lt.
- 2) As of 1 January 2009, the price of Italian Unleaded Gas coupons is 0.78 \$/lt; German Super Plus Gas coupons, instead, costs 0.638 \$/lt.

Basically, we were paying 11.8 cents/liter more in December, but now we are paying 14.2 cents/liter more!!!!

Response: Bartolomeo Di Muccio, Tax-free Products Administrator, US/NATO Commands in Italy

Each NATO country has a unilateral agreement with regards to tax-free benefits conferred to U.S. services and their personnel whilst serving in that country. No two countries are alike and the differences in the tax-free benefits for U.S. service members vary per country. The tax-free product privileges granted by the Italian Government date back to informal negotiations and agreements made during the period of October 1951 to February 1952 between Admiral Carney and Italian ministries. These agreements actually preceded the NATO SOFA and the BIA. The informal agreements have been kept since then and supplemented by circulars from Italian Ministry of Defense and Italian Ministry of Finance. NSA instructions incorporate these agreements and circulars and are the governing policy regarding all tax-free gas privileges in Italy.

This is also valid regarding the setting of the actual cost of tax-free gas coupons where numerous factors are taken into consideration which differ from factors taken into consideration when setting prices in other countries. For example, in Italy there

are no gas stations on bases which allow U.S. services personnel to refuel their private vehicles. This is another aspect that is taken into consideration and which affects the final cost of the tax-free gas coupon.

Currently in Germany, where AAFES "sets the price", the rationale utilized by AAFES to calculate the gas prices is based on the DOE's weekly average for each grade of gasoline in the continental United States plus the incremental costs associated with providing gasoline overseas.

In Italy the criteria and parameters used to calculate the gas prices are completely different and the stateside price is not considered in anyway whatsoever. The factors that are considered in Italy in calculating the gas price are the industrial cost of the fuel minus the discount that that the oil company offered at the time the contract was awarded, the Euro conversion rate with the dollar at the time that the Euro is purchased to pay the oil companies invoices, which are paid every fifteen days. Any profit or loss which is accumulated due to this factor is integrated into the gas price as they evolve. This is due to the fact that the tax-free gas coupons are a non profit program in the eyes of the Italian government and we ensure that this is strictly adhered to when calculating the gas prices as we are subject to inspection and verification by the Italian Ministry of Defense and Italian Ministry of Finance.

In Germany the gas prices are changed every week, whereas the gas prices are changed once a month in Italy as it would be extremely difficult to change them on a weekly basis. To change prices weekly would not only create numerous problems with the purchasing of the gas coupons by the activities, (approximately 77 MILLION liters of gas coupons are sold thru this office to U.S./NATO commands in Italy) but would also create problems on the financial side of the house when reconciling.

Therefore a cost comparison of retail fuel sales cannot be made between NATO countries or the price of fuel in the U.S.

One thing you can assure the service member is that every step is taken to ensure that the U.S. service members best interest are taken into account when setting tax-free gas coupons prices. As I mentioned above should their be a profit due to the Euro/dollar conversion rate, which changes constantly, it is immediately put straight back into the program to decrease the cost of the gas coupons.

Issue Title: VIDEO RENTAL AVAILABILITY ON POST

Issue Description: Supposedly until a high-ranking official who visited the post complained about a lack of video rentals on post, we didn't have what we now have at the shoppette...(which is still just a wall). We need something bigger... (think the entranceway of the shoppette). This isn't asking much.

Recommendations: This isn't asking much. AAFES can easily expand our selection. The system they currently have is good...we just need more of it. Otherwise, if people miss the film during its run in the theater, they have to buy it for...\$20...for a film they might not even want to watch more than once. Please give us more movies!

Response: Anna Messing, Shoppette manager

I am afraid that my answer on this will be no. The entranceway of the store is for seasonal items only (Outdoor leaving). Having videos at the entrance it is not a good idea (security issue).

The video rental program is based on a set up profile that each facility has. This profile is based on sales of the department.

Titles and quantities of all new releases are not ordered by us. The new releases are issue to each facility according to the facility's profile.

Sales of Video rental don't justify to expend the section.

Issue Title: ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Issue Description: No issue. Kudos for recent road improvement on Camp Darby and the Depot areas. Thank you for making our community look less third world.



Your opinion is important

Looking for answers to all of your burning questions? Have a recommendation on how to fix something on post. Submit your feedback on www.usag.livorno.army.mil and click on CAC. Look for answers in following Darby Digest. For more information, call the ACS at 633-7084.

Issue Title: NEW COMMISSARY FEATURES

Issue Description: We would like to know just what exactly the new facility will offer. What will the community really get from this?

Recommendations: We would really benefit from a bakery! I understand that the DECA people claim a bakery is too cost and labor intensive, but if you really were to survey the community, I'm sure you would find a greater need for such a thing, than you might think.

Also, do we really need several facings of the exact same product? Wouldn't it be better to offer a variety of new products, not previously offered? Currently the Vicenza commissary offers many things not available at the Darby facility. Please increase the variety of selection at our new facility. Please do not overlook the need for an actual bakery...(it could be limited in size and personnel), and please give some consideration to an actual meat/fish department.

Response: Stay abreast of the new commissary by visiting www.usag.livorno.army.mil front page news.

Camp Darby commissary nearing construction completion

Camp Darby community members have been watching the construction of the new commissary site morph into something that promises to be a key establishment within the community.

According to Gerri Young, Defense Commissary Agency Europe spokeswoman, the construction on the newest Commissary is on target and is expected to open its doors in May 2009.

"The new building has almost double the retail floor space than the old building and is expanding from three to seven aisles," said Young. "Customers can also expect to find nearly 500 new items lining the shelves."

Additionally, the new building has internal restrooms for patrons, which the old facility did not have, and will have bistro tables in the deli area for those who would like to eat in the store, according to Giuseppe Ricci, Livorno DeCA store director.

"Our sandwich bar has always been a popular lunch destination, so the new deli will have two sections: one for customers wanting sandwiches and another for customers wanting to buy deli meats and cheeses," said Ricci.

Most importantly, as the commissary gets ready to transition from one facility to the other, the customers will not be impacted by empty shelves or items not stocked.

"We are very careful in our planning to bring down a separate team from our region headquarters in Germany and a few other locations to stock and prep the new store while the old store is operating so the customers are not inconvenienced by the transition," explained Young.

"The original commissary was built in 1953 and underwent an upgrade in 1991.

"This new commissary will take the store into the 21st century and reflect what a modern grocery store is like," said Young. "We are excited about the new Camp Darby commissary and think the community will really enjoy the new store."



Look for these new items coming to many DeCA Europe commissaries this month!

New products for JANUARY

GROCERY AISLES

Baker's Dipping Milk Chocolate
 Quaker Cereal hot instant - 5 new flavors
 Ortega Mexican Salsa Verde 16 oz
 Ajax Dishwashing Liquid Anti Bacteria Orange 16 oz
 Tuong Ot Sriracha Oriental Sauce, Hot Chili Sriracha 17 oz
 Suavitel Liquid Fabric Softener, Field of Flowers 56 oz
 Swanson Beef Stock (Not Broth)
 Swanson Chicken Stock (Not Broth)
 Progresso Soup Microwaveable Bowl Light Home Style Vegetable Rice
 Progresso Soup Microwaveable Bowl Light Italian Style Vegetable
 Progresso Soup Microwaveable Bowl Light Vegetable Noodle
 Progresso Soup Vegetable Microwaveable
 Progresso Soup Chicken Noodle
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Light Maryland Crab
 Campbell's Soup Chunky Healthy Sirloin Burger
 Campbell's Soup Chunky Chicken Corn Chowder
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest French Onion
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Light Italian Vegetable
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Light Southwest Style Vegetable
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Light Vegetable Pasta
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Light Bowls Vegetable Pasta
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Light Bowls Southwest Vegetable
 Campbell's Soup Select Harvest Chicken Vegetable
 Campbell's Soup Condensed Disney Princess



NOT ALL ITEMS AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES DUE TO SIZE LIMITATIONS.

If your commissary does not carry your favorite new item listed, talk to your manager about special ordering. This listing is available on www.commissaries.com, all European stores, under consumer information.

Livorno Commissary will open extra day Sunday, Jan. 18 from 10:00 to 17:00.

Livorno Commissary will open extra day Sunday, Jan. 18 from 10:00 to 17:00.

Healthy Choice Soup Beef Pot Roast
 Ocean Spray Juice Cranberry Cocktail
 Juicy Juice Apple Banana Juice
 Tic Tac Mints Cherry Passion
 Tic Tac Mints Bold Apple Sours
 Trident Gum Bubblegum
 Trident Gum Watermelon
 Orbit Gum Maui Melon Mint
 Altoids Mints Dark Chocolate Cream
 Candy Wonka Giant Chewy Singles Nerds
 Trident Gum Xtra Care Cool Mint
 Whisker Lickin's Cat Treat Chicken Seafood Tartar Control
 Friskies Cat Treat Beachside Crunch

FREEZE AND CHILL

Thomas English Muffins Raisin
 Sara Lee Coffee Pecan Cake
 Hillshire Rope Sausage Italian
 Ball Park Franks Angus Beef
 Jimmy Dean Natural Breakfast Sausage (Regular and Hot)
 Food for Life Gluten Free Bread Brown Rice
 Food for Life Gluten Free Bread Rice Almond
 Food for Life Gluten Free Bread Ezekiel
 Laughing Cow Cheese Wedges Light
 Hershey Candy (Seven Types)
 Milky Way Candy Midnight
 M&M Candy (Two Types)
 Ferrero Candy (Two Types)
 Werthers Candy Milk Choc Caramel

EUROPEAN

Gerolsteiner Water
 Lakudia Greek Olive Oil (1/2 Liter and 1 Liter)
 Lakudia Greek Olives (16 Types...Whole, Pitted, Marinated, Filled)
 Lakudia Greek Olive Mustard
 Lakudia Greek Currant Vinegar
 Gourmet Italia Honey and Jam (New Flavors)
 Hohmann Salads (New Varieties)



at your commissary.

Look for banners, posters and shelf signs in your commissary that point the way to:

- Luxury products with special "Mom's Day" pricing
- Demonstrations
- Giveaways
- Special Spa Sweepstakes

Be sure to log on to www.commissaries.com and treat yourself to fascinating articles on women's health and wellness, courtesy of the DeCA Dietitian. Don't miss Kay's Kitchen, a great resource for quick and easy recipes that will put the break back in breakfast, not to mention lunch and dinner, too.



www.commissaries.com

Livorno Commissary will open extra day Sunday, Jan. 18 from 10:00 to 17:00.

ITR**633-7589**

- Jan. 24, Florence Trip, Spend the day in Florence at your leisure!
- Jan. 31, Pistoia Zoo Trip, Spend a day with the animals.
- Download a copy of the 6-month (October 2008 through March 2009) trip calendar today! Log onto: www.livornomwr.com.

Outdoor Recreation**633-7775**

- Rent ski and snow board equipment at ODR at 633-7775. Are you ready for ski season?
- Ski Abetone with ODR. Make learning to ski one of your New Year's resolutions and have a ball on Jan. 31. Great packages are available for those without ski equipment.
- Hot wax and edging services are available at ODR to prepare your skis and snowboards for the slopes! Give them a call at DSN

Darby Community Club**633-7855**

- Texas Hold'em at the Darby Community Club- May your Texas Hold'em night be full of kings! Free pasta to all Texas Hold'em players on Jan. 23.
- Super bowl Feb. 1. Start the evening off with a Texas Hold 'Em tournament at 7pm. There will be free pasta and hot dogs along with football trivia and prizes. Plus you can get a special rate of \$25 at Sea Pines Lodge for Feb. 1 with a late check out at noon the next day.

Fitness Center**633-7440**

- Shaolin Wing Chu (Kung Fu) will be coming soon to the Fitness Center!
- Start the New Years off by getting in shape with one of the many aerobic classes that are offered. Buy tickets singly or in packages of 10 for a discount.
- Buy tickets at the fitness center for Swedish massage, Deep tissue massage, Soft tissue massage, Sport massage, Hot stone massage and more! Buy 3 and get 1 of the same type FREE! Call 633-7440 for more info.

Library**633-7623**

- Save money with free DVD rentals. If the library doesn't have the one you want, they can order it from another library in Europe.

Darby Lanes

- UnitsUnits! Intramural Bowling begins on January 21st! Roster sheets are now available at the Bowling Center and must be turned in no later than January 10th. Don't forget to attend the meeting on Jan. 14th for team captains beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Auto Skills

Is your car a mess? Check out the new cleaning and detailing service at the Auto Skills Center!



Super Bowl Frenzy at the DCC Sunday, Feb 1st

Texas Hold'em at 6 p.m.

**Snacks served throughout
the evening**

**Football trivia questions
with prizes**

Don't worry about driving home after the game.... Book your room at the Sea Pines and get a \$15 discount on room rental! Don't forget to mention you'll be partying at the Super Bowl Frenzy!





January & February



Information, Tickets & Travel

16-18 January	Prague & Cheski Krumlov \$199.00 Deadline: 5 January
17 January	Guided Verona & Oil Tasting \$49.00 Deadline: 12 January
24-25 January	SPA and Crystal Shopping in Rogaska \$149.00 Deadline: 12 January
24 January	Pisa & Bologna \$79.00 Deadline: 19 January
24 January	Turin & Egyptian \$89.00 Deadline: 19 January
30 January -1 Feb.	Rome Express \$79.00 Deadline: 26 January
31 January	Ski Trip to Nassfeld, Austria \$49.00 Deadline: 26 January
31 January	Zagreb Capital of Croatia \$59.00 Deadline: 26 January
07 February	Moonlight Snow Adventure Capped with Mountain Top Feast \$64.00 Deadline: 02 February
07 February	Guided Florence \$88.00 Deadline: 02 February
07 February	Trieste & Mirimare/Duino Castles \$69.00 Deadline: 02 February
14-16 February	Almafi Coast (Sorrento & Naples) \$359.00 Deadline: 02 February
14 February	Romantic Valentine Lunch at Juliets' Castle & Wine Tasting \$99.00 Deadline: 09 February
14 February	Spectacular Venice Carnivale \$69.00 Deadline: 09 February

Contact us at
 email: ITT@aviano.af.mil Tel: **0434-30-3107** DSN: **632-3107**

Italy off the beaten path...

DREAM TOYS IN A GLASS PALACE

This is the name of the exhibition held in Porcari (LU), until Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibition takes place in the well known "Palazzo di Vetro" in the central Piazza Felice Orsi. The show offers an historical flashback of all toys, those simple ancient toys that moved thanks to a spring, tin cars from the beginning of the century. Airplanes, dirigibles, buses, fire trucks and American cars from the 50s, but also dolls and little lead soldiers representing warriors from the roman time until the World War II can be found. For the first time in Italy a 21 square meters diorama with more than 500 soldiers representing the 1836 Fort Alamo attack will be exposed. A unique occasion for grandparents, fathers and children to revisit or discover they way our ancestors used to play and have fun. The entrance to the exhibition is free. For additional information call mail info@fondazioneIazzareschi.it

IL MERCATALE DI SAN MINIATO (PI)

Under the gallery in Piazza Dante Alighieri, Jan 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. the recurring agricultural products market of San Miniato territory will take place. More than 20 stands will display local products, from locally cultivated vegetables and fruits to fresh products from local artisans. The market will take place every third Saturday of the month becoming a regular appointment between the local producers of genuine food and the consumers. The exhibition is organized by the Comune di San Miniato and the Tuscan Slow Food Association. For detailed information contact Comune di San Miniato tel.: 0571 4061, Ufficio Cultura tel.: 0571 406700 Ufficio Turismo tel.: 0571/42745, e-mail: ufficio.turismo@cittadisanimiatiato.it

RURAL MARKET IN PISA

Jan. 24 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Pisa do not lose your occasion to taste and buy locally produced biological food at a convenient price. This monthly appointment with the rural market collects products from family managed farms of the Pisa countryside. Bread, oil, honey, wine, pecorino cheese, vegetables, as well as locally produced soaps, and textile products will be displayed and sold. The market will be in Piazza Cairoli, for additional information you can contact Gruppo Acquisto Solidale Pisa web: <http://gasp.versacrum.com/>

ANTIQUÉ MARKETS

Antique markets became a tradition in Tuscany, and every town has its own recurrent market where about 500 exhibitors coming from all over Italy meet. Antique furniture, ceramics, pieces of China, jewels, glassware, fabrics, watches, sculptures, paintings, iron and copper items, as well as trinkets of all sorts care sold. Following are the dates and locations of the next antique markets:

Jan 17 Lucca 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Jan 17 Pontedera (PI) 9.30 a.m. 8 p.m.

Jan 24 Bientina (PI) 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Jan 25 Cecina (LI) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PALIO DI SANT'ANTONIO IN BUTI (PI)

If you are looking for a different way to spend your week end, on Jan. 18 in Buti (PI) from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. there will be the annual traditional horse race, the Palio. At around 10 a.m., the event will start with a procession downtown to the Dome, where the jockeys will receive their jackets and hats, and the horses participating in the race will be blessed. The race will start at 2.45 p.m., and the 7 "contrade" will fight for the historical "Cencio" which will be offered to the winner and will be held by his "contrada" until next edition of the Palio. For further information contact Comune di Buti (Municipality) Ph: 0587 722511

Web: www.paliodibuti.org

Day trip adventure takes explorers back 500 years

By Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno

Our original plan was to spend a lazy weekend wandering around Monaco and watching movie stars going into the casino; but after the fifth lambergini zoomed past us, it got really boring quick.

My fellow explorer, Anthony Valenti, pulled out his ever trusty tourist guide book and looked for something remotely exciting to do in Northern Italy's western area. We settled on visiting one of the few medieval bridges left standing in a remote village called "Dolceacqua" or sweet water.

After much arguing with the GPS voice, we pulled into a typical, quaint Italian village. A ruined castle on top of the hill greeted us with empty window eyes and a cold stare.

The old part of the village looked like it was surrounded by an ancient moat, which Anthony was quick to point out was an excellent strategic use of the terrain.

The ancient bridge arched like an angry cat trying to avoid water. Climbing up its steep incline to the middle, we took the obligatory tourist photos before deciding to wander down into the ancient town.

An alley off to the main sidewalk quietly beckoned, promising to be more adventurous than the path leading to the main square.

Peeking inside, an old man looking like the troll under the bridge bared his toothless grin. We scurried further up the alley into a strange darkness in the middle of the day.

Wooden characters leaned out of windows three stories up making it feel like the dark, narrow homes were empty, but laundry hanging from balconies assured us that this area was inhabited by more than fairies and trolls.

"Climbing up the narrow roads- you literally could have stepped back 500 years in time," exclaimed Anthony. "When I got up to the top and explored the ancient castle, I was surprised at

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Above: narrow pathways lead up to the castle at Dolceacqua. Below: A rare medieval bridge connects tourist to a time standing still village representative of 500 years ago. Dolceacqua is an easy day trip from Camp Darby.



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Dolceacqua day trip

how remarkably well preserved it was especially given its history of renovations and numerous conflicts.”

Descending down the pathway, we came across an art gallery with fantastic sculptures utilizing drift wood and stained glass. Anthony emphatically shook his head no when I asked if he'd carry it back to the car.

In the main square, vendors were selling local meats, cheeses and funny woolen caps that looked like those that belonged to a gnome.

By the time we made it back to our car, heavily laden with the local products, the sun had started setting behind the surrounding mountains casting a nice glow around the town.

“You know this totally beats Monaco,” I said laughing.

“True, but a ferrari would never fit up those narrow roads,” observed Anthony.



Getting there: Dolceacqua is off A10 on SP64. It is between San Remo and Monaco. Visit www.dolceacqua for more info.





JAN 17 – 1800 Bedtime Stories (PG) (1st Run) Adam Sandler, Keri Russell

Hotel handyman Skeeter's life is changed forever when the bedtime stories he tells his niece and nephew start to mysteriously come true. He attempts to take advantage of the phenomenon, incorporating his own aspirations into one outlandish tale after another, but it's the kids' unexpected contributions that turn Skeeter's life upside down. Rated PG (mild rude humor, mild language) 99 min

JAN 18 - 1400 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG) Ben Stiller, Bernie Mac

Alex, Marty, Melman, Gloria, King Julien, Maurice, and the penguins and he chimps find themselves marooned on the distinct shores of Madagascar. In the face of this obstacle, the New Yorkers have hatched a plan so crazy it just might work. With military precision, the penguins have repaired an old crashed plane - sort of. Once aloft, this unlikely crew stays airborne just long enough to make it to the wildest place of all - the vast plains of Africa, where the members of our zoo-raised crew encounter species of their own kind for the very first time. Africa seems like a great place... but is it better than their Central Park home? Rated PG (mild crude humor) 110 min

THU JAN 22 – 1800 Quantum of Solace (PG-13)

Daniel Craig, Judi Dench

On a mission that leads him to Austria, Italy and South America, Bond discovers that Greene, conspiring to take total control of one of the worlds most important natural resources, is forging a deal with the exiled General Medrano. Using his associates in the organization, and manipulating his powerful contacts within the CIA and the British government, Greene promises to overthrow the existing regime in a Latin American country, giving the General control of the country in exchange for a seemingly barren piece of land. In a minefield of treachery, murder and deceit, Bond allies with old friends in a battle to uncover the truth. Rated PG-13 (sequences of violence/ action, sexual content) 110 min

FRI JAN 23 – 1800 Twilight (PG-13)

Kristin Stewart, Robert Pattinson

When Bella's mother re-marries she is sent to live with her father in the rainy little town of Forks, Washington. There she meets the mysterious and dazzlingly beautiful Edward Cullen, a boy unlike any she's ever met. Edward is a vampire, but he doesn't have fangs and his family is unique in that they choose not to drink human blood. Intelligent and witty, Edward sees straight into Bella's soul. Soon, they are swept up in a passionate, thrilling and unorthodox romance. Rated PG-13 (violence, a scene of sensuality) 122 min

SAT JAN 24 – 1800 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (1st Run)

"I was born under unusual circumstances." And so begins "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," adapted from the 1920s story by F. Scott Fitzgerald about a man who is born in his eighties and ages backwards: a man, like any of us, who is unable to stop time. We follow his story, set in New Orleans from the end of World War I in 1918, into the 21st century, following his journey that is as unusual as any man's life can be. Rated PG-13 (war violence, sexual content, language, smoking) 167 min

SUN JAN 25 – 1400 Bolt (PG)

Miley Cyrus, John Travolta

For super-dog Bolt, every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue, at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet, a cross-country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny. Armed only with the delusions that all his amazing feats and powers are real, Bolt discovers he doesn't need superpowers to be a hero. Rated PG (mild action and peril) 96 min

THU JAN 29 – 1800 Sex Drive (R)

Josh Zuckerman, Amanda Crew

Ian Lafferty sets out on a cross country drive with best friends Lance and Felicia in order to lose his virginity to a red-hot babe he met on the Internet. But the journey, filled with hilarious misadventures and raunchy escapades, teaches all three more than they expected about life and love. Rated R (strong crude/sexual content, nudity, language, teen drug use, teen alcohol use) 109 min

FRI JAN 30 – 1800 Notorious (R) (1ST Run)

Antonique Smith, Naturi Naughton

The story of Christopher Wallace who, through raw talent and sheer determination, transforms himself from a Brooklyn street hustler to become the greatest rapper of all time, THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G. This story charts his meteoric rise to fame and his refusal to succumb to expectation. Rated R (pervasive language, strong sexuality including dialogue, nudity, drug content) 103 min

SAT JAN 31 – 1800 Soul Men (R)

Samuel L. Jackson, Bernie Mac

Louis and Floyd, a popular singing duo back in the day, went their separate ways and never spoke again. When the death of their former group leader reunites them and sends them driving across country for a tribute concert at the legendary Apollo Theatre, they will have only five days to bury the hatchet on a twenty-year-old grudge. Rated R (pervasive language, sexual content, nudity) 103 min