

**Housing Assistance Program**

The current housing situation in the United States continues to affect our Soldiers and Families who have purchased homes; those living in rentals in the local communities surrounding our posts, camps, and stations; and government directed moves for Permanent Change of Station and BRAC 2005 directed relocations. The Army, OSD, and other Federal and private sector agencies have been aggressively working programs to provide help, information and support during these challenging housing times.

To ensure Soldiers, Civilians, and Families have accurate information available, a new webpage has been created and is available at <http://myarmyone.com/Soldier and-FamilyHousing> and is the point of entry for information.

**Camp Darby celebrates 234<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday**



Story and photos by Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The young and the old, U.S. service members and Italian military and carabinieri members, retirees and family members all gathered together to celebrate the 234<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday with a special ball at Camp Darby, Italy.

U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Commander, Lt. Col. Steven Cade believes “the tradition the community upheld is a vital part that links us to our Army’s past and our Nation’s military heritage.”

“America relies on the spirit and can do attitude of the American Soldier, Sailor and Airman- a spirit that we all share in this room and continues to grow with the understanding of those that came before us and those that will come after us,” said Cade.

U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Hartless added that it’s important to take a moment to reflect on the things that the men and women serving in the Army have fought, sacrificed and died for over the past 234 years.

“The men and women serving in our Army have always, from it’s inception during the American Revolution to today’s Global War on Terrorism, have been willing to step up and put their

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# THE YEAR OF THE NCO

Next NCO and Soldier of the Quarter competition is in August.  
NCO's contact Sgt. Everett at HHD, HQ Building rear to recommend your high-speed troops for the competition.



## Army Birthday continued

lives on the line to fight for freedom and liberty," said Hartless. "I am grateful to live in a nation and be part of an Army that is willing to put so much on the line; sometimes even lives, to ensure that our families and the people of our great country can continue to live and enjoy the freedom that we so often take for granted."

The Army ball was made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Camp Darby Non-commissioned Officer corps, according to master of ceremonies, Staff Sgt. Stephen Walker.

"NCO's sold hamburgers and hotdogs every Monday for several months and held a hole-in-one golf contest to help offset the cost of the ball and provide free tickets to the junior enlisted," said Walker.

For Spc. Gagik Khoudian, 511<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, this was his first time to attend an Army ball.

"It's an honor to be at an Army birthday ball because not a lot of the junior enlisted get an opportunity to come to an event like this," said Khoudian.

Getting a chance to cut the birthday cake alongside the youngest Soldier in the room and senior leaders for Ron Walton, a 25 year veteran and retired 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., was a honor that he said touched him deeply.

"I am spellbound to be part of a community that I left 20 years ago," said Walton, currently the USAG Livorno installation transportation officer. "Except for the uniform, I feel like I am still part of the Army and doing what I love to do 'look after the soldiers'."

Walton added that he is looking forward to sharing the next Army birthday with the Camp Darby community.

\*\*\*Complete photos of this event are available on  
[www.flickr.com/photos/campdarby](http://www.flickr.com/photos/campdarby)



Left: community members sing the Army song, Right: Pfc.

Marcus Cyriaque, 511<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, plays mess call on his trumpet during the Camp Darby Army Birthday ball.



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

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# 31<sup>st</sup> Munitions Squadron changes command



(U.S. Army Photo/Marino Gioia)

By Chiara Mattiolo  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Tammy Cobb relinquished command of the 31st Munitions Squadron to Lt. Col. Nate Hancock in a ceremony June 10 at Camp Darby, headquarters parade field. Opening the ceremony was Col. David Coomer, Commander, 31st Maintenance Group, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy.

The squadron was responsible for over 1,500 operations, in three countries, on a stockpile of nearly 4 million items. As stated by Coomer in his speech, all of those operations were conducted safely and in accordance with established guidance without incident.

“Tammy orchestrated a 12-month project, inspecting the stockpile, and eliminating maintenance backlog by 98 percent,” said Coomer. “During her command, the unit won the U.S. Air Forces Europe Maintenance Effectiveness Level Award and reached the 100% pass rate on fitness, resulting in being the number one unit in the 31st Fighter Wing.”

He added that Cobb also recently obtained 290 million dollars to improve the Air Force dormitory on Camp Darby.

“This will be a significant improvement for our airmen living in the dorms,” said Coomer.

Cobb said she was really blessed to be the commander of what she defined “The Best Munitions Squadron in the Air Force.”

“When I first took over this command I was both excited as well as anxious,” said Cobb. “I knew the squadron was great and I just wanted it to become even better...we have seen that thru the many inspections and awards received.”

At the ceremony Cobb was presented a Meritorious Service Medal for her superior accomplishments during her command. Her next assignment will be as the commander Ghedi-Torre Air Force Base in Brescia, Italy.

Hancock comes to Camp Darby from his previous assignment at U. S. European Command (EUCOM) in Stuttgart, Germany. EUCOM is the Joint Combatant Command for the European theater and exercises unified command and authority over all U. S. forces in Europe. “I am very excited to ne returning to Camp Darby,” said Hancock. “I just didn’t get here on my own and I need to thank all of those who made a difference in my life and who helped me being here today.”

## Funding enables wave of facilities maintenance, repair at garrisons in Europe

HEIDELBERG, Germany - Improved barracks, libraries, street lights and roads are just part of how Installation Management Command-Europe officials are applying the significant sum of Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization funds flowing to Europe this year.

According to IMCOM-Europe officials, this is the first year that Europe garrisons have ever received 100 percent of their authorized SRM funding. The fiscal year 2009 funding enables the reduction of outstanding work and service orders, more thorough execution of routine preventive maintenance, the initiation of a number of unit-move transformation projects and initiation of projects that improve barracks and repair facilities of deployed Soldiers, along with enhancing energy efficiency, the transportation infrastructure and community facilities.

This year's funding, coupled with favorable FY08 funding, has the cumulative impact of producing lasting improvements in facilities that up until now have historically suffered from funding challenges.

The dizzying list of projects aside, what this really means to Soldiers and families is that they will have more reason than ever to call their Europe garrison not only their home, but also their hometown.

"In Soldier terms this means that we in the installation management business will be eliminating some of the backlog of nagging maintenance deficiencies in our barracks and around our communities while simultaneously making some wise capital investments to our infrastructure thus improving sustainability and quality of life," said Diane Devens, director of IMCOM-Europe. "Our ability to execute about 300 more projects than originally anticipated at the beginning of the year is simply great news for the soldiers and families stationed in Europe."

Funding strategy and project priority development was a collaborative effort between garrisons and senior mission commanders. While not all requirements could be addressed, the collaborative approach best ensured that the most pressing maintenance needs were appropriately addressed.

Gary Berkner, chief of business operations and integration for IMCOM-Europe Public Works Division, said the funding level this year is particularly welcome.

"Because we also received specially-appropriated funds in 2008," Berkner said, "these last two years have been very good for our garrisons, probably the best ever for facilities maintenance and repair work, and that's a tremendous success story for Europe."

Indeed, every military community stands to gain in receiving the bulk of their priority SRM project funding. Examples of where the money is being spent:

- \* Transportation infrastructure: \$4.6 million;
- \* Barracks improvement: \$10.3 million;
- \* Energy products: \$13.9 million;
- \* Transformation programs: \$38 million;
- \* Community facilities upgrades: \$9.3 million;
- \* General installation improvements: \$108.2 million

"FY08 and FY09 SRM funding has been significantly above historical norms" noted Al Rasper, chief of IMCOM-Europe Public Works Division. "Over the next year to year-and-a-half we will see a number of improvements at garrisons that will enhance the quality of life for our people, increase mission capability, deliver cost savings and provide energy improvements."

## New fitness classes coming to Camp Darby Fitness center

- Ditch the same old workout and try Zumba classes beginning June 15 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays noon to 1:00 p.m. Tickets \$3
- Spinning begins June 15 Tuesdays and Thursdays noon to 1:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$3
- Shaolin Kung Fu on Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

## Army Ten Miler Qualifier Race

There will be an Army Ten Miler Qualifier Race June 27 at Grafenwoehr. Each Garrison is authorized an unlimited number of individual Competitors and a maximum of four teams. For more information, call 469-9086.

## Fun Runs in Tuscany

2nd Lucca corri in piazza- June 24 at 8 p.m. in Lucca 8 Km

Organization: Atl. Virtus CR Lucca  
Telephone: 340.7209120 Sig. Martinelli  
FAX : 0583.418582  
Web site: www.virtuslucca.it  
Email: virtuslucca@virgilio.it  
Register by June 23

June 28 is 34th Pistoia Abetone Race  
Distance is: 50K, 30K, 14K  
Begins at 7:20 a.m.  
Telephone : 335.261308  
FAX : 0573.34761  
WEB : www.pistoia-abetone.com  
Email : info@pistoia-abetone.com

July 10 is 8th Mitica marcia night race in Montopoli  
Distance: 10K and 6K  
Begins at 7 p.m.  
Telephone : 0571.466420 Sig. Maioli

July 24 run Buti at night race.  
Distance: 10K and 5K  
Begins at 8 p.m.  
Organization : GS Il Porcino

## Upcoming Long Distance Races

Oct 25 1st Lucca Marathon  
www.luccamarathon.it

Nov 11 Livorno Marathon  
www.livornomaraton.it

Nov 29 Florence Marathon  
www.firenzemarathon.it

Jan 17 Puccini Half Marathon  
www.puccinimarathon.com

## Golf tournaments

June 26 GRAN PREMIO CAMPI 9 BUCHE 2009  
Where: Montelupo Golf Club - Montelupo Fiorentino (FI) Category: 18 Buche stbl 3 Cat.  
Visit www.golfmontelupo.it

July 5 Trofeo Conceria Seli 18 holes  
At Golf Club Fontevivo.  
Visit www.fontevivogolf.it

## Lucca Skydiving School

Information and reservations:  
cellular telephone: 349 5145377 or 0583 933666  
skydiving course email:  
info@paracadutismolucca.it  
tandem jump email:  
tandem@paracadutismolucca.it

*White water rafting and adventure climbing parks now being offered by Outdoor Recreation Adventure Trips. Check out the ad at the end of this publication.*

## Budgeting/Spending

By Elizabeth Speck

*Financial Readiness Program*

Everyone wants to have more money - right? However, the fact is that unless we take care of what we have, we will have problems down the road. According to Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at Johnson Illington Advisors, a wealth management firm in Albany, N.Y., in the last three months of 2008 Federal Reserve Bank data shows consumer debt was reduced by \$300 billion, "the first time since 1952 that consumer debt actually went down in a quarter."

In order to decrease your debt load, you have to be able to monitor income and outgo - only you can do that. You can choose low-tech, medium-tech or high-tech methods of keeping track of your money. Low-tech is notebook, pen, calculator, and willpower. Medium-tech is a combination of writing down expenses and using spreadsheets, and willpower. High-tech is Microsoft Money, Quicken or another program, and willpower. Notice that all methods include 'willpower' - you, and only you, control your choices.

<https://powerpay.org> is a site set up by the Utah State University Extension. Click 'other' for state and then register (it is part of a research project and no personal information is kept). Then experiment to see how long it will take to get out of debt or build wealth. Check it out!

### Blogosphere

#### *What they don't tell you about coupons*

So you've decided that your going to cut coupons to save money in order to buy those cool Prada sunglasses. You went down to ACS and spent a good 40 minutes finding all of these "buy one get one free" coupons and coupons that would save you dollars off your next purchase. You have a blast at the new commissary finding the new products that you have coupons for and then your items get rung up.

"Colorful edited & \*%# comment," you say to yourself. "How is it possible that my grocery bill is actually higher then when I do normal shopping without the coupons?"

You resolve to not bother with coupons again and then you sadly wave goodbye to all those extravagant purchases you could have bought if the coupon money saving deal had worked.

Its taken me years to learn this lesson, but once I realized most coupons are not for things I would normally buy or need I learned a secret. If I write a list of what I actually need and am going to buy at the grocery store and give it to my kids who are then paid 10 cents for every coupon they find that corresponds with what I am planning on purchasing- I actually manage to save money. A lot of money, even after paying out the kids "finders fees".

Also, I don't actually always use the buy one, get one free if a) I don't want two of that particular item or b) I can find a coupon that gives me a better discount. Example: I found a coupon for buy one get one free for hair care products and a coupon that was for \$2 off one hair care product. Since one bottle cost \$2.99, it was cheaper to use 2 coupons for \$2 off then pay \$2.99 for buy one, get one free. While that extra 99 cents would make my mama proud, it won't exactly pay for braces for the kids. However, over the course of a year, if I'm saving \$12 annually on one item alone, image how much I can cut my household costs with all the other items.

So write your list, go to ACS and sort through coupons and see how much you can save when your only buying what you need. If you don't have kids to look for you, borrow mine at only 10 cents per coupon!

## What is the household Chemical Reuse Center?

The USAG Livorno DPW has established a Household Chemical Reuse Center (HCRC) to reduce procurement and waste disposal of common household chemicals and as a benefit to the community.

The concept is for community members to contribute to the HCRC any household chemicals that are no longer needed, so that other community members can use these materials. This especially would be beneficial for persons changing duty stations.

Most household chemicals are not permitted for transport with household goods or aboard any commercial airliners. Typically, these chemicals get thrown in the trash. For the same reasons, newly arriving personnel usually have to purchase chemicals upon moving into quarters.

The HCRC will attempt to alleviate both situations and provide a community service, however this facility will only be as successful as the community makes it with their contributions.

## The HCRC will accept turn in of various types of household chemicals, for example:

Glass cleaners, furniture polish, any aerosols  
Detergents, degreasers, disinfectants  
Paints, varnishes, lacquers  
Bleach, scouring powders, ammonia  
Toilet bowl cleaners, shower cleaners, drain cleaners  
Automotive products



The HCRC does not maintain a stock, so availability of materials will vary. Materials will be issued on a first come, first serve basis to any U.S. ID card holder, 18 years or older. Issue of materials will be limited to typical use quantities, as determined by the attendant.

The HCRC has been established to provide a service to the community. Units are not able to participate in the HCRC program, however there is a USAG Livorno Hazardous Material Reuse Center (HMRC) available to the Units. The HMRC is connected to USAREUR Reuse Centers and able to search for materials through out the theater.

## Contact information

Clyde Millus

DSN: 633-8074

Email: [Clarence.millus@eur.army.mil](mailto:Clarence.millus@eur.army.mil)

## Hours of operation and location

The facility will observe limited hours of operation; however personnel will be on-call throughout the normal duty day and will make every attempt to accommodate use of the facility. It is located between the Post Office and CMR and the far side of the PX. It looks like a small shack when you pass it, but its really the HCRC.





## EURO IFMS FLEET REMARKETING ANNOUNCES:

### USED GOVERNMENT VEHICLE SALE

- ❖ Live Internet auction: June 30 – July 12
- ❖ Public Inspection Period: July 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- ❖ Beginning June 30, follow the WEB link below to vehicle photos, descriptions, and minimum bid starting prices:  
<http://www.vebeg.de/web/en/auktionen/index.htm>
- ❖ Vehicles located at: Camp Darby (Leghorn Army Depot), IFMS Consolidated Vehicle Processing Center Vehicle Sales Yard
- ❖ IFMS POC is: Michela Bortolini DSN 633-8274  
❖ Comm +39-050-54-8274 Mobile +39-335-100-3680



Registration is on-going NOW through June 26th for Bantam (10-12 years of age) and Junior (13-15 years of age) Summer Flag Football.

After June 26, \$5 late fee applies.

\* Participants are required to have a valid physical through Sept 30, 2009

\* \$36 per youth

\* 10% discount for each additional youth

\* Aug 1st is cut-off date for playing age group

• Sign up in the CLEOS office Bldg 730

Coaches are needed! All coaches must submit a completed volunteer packet. Contact 633-7521 to find out information on Coaches Clinic.

# 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

Service Member  
 and  
 Family Readiness  
 Center  
 (SFRC)  
 Bldg. 428  
 USAG Livorno

Telephone  
 DSN 633-7946  
 CIV 050.54.7946

AER/AFAS  
 Telephone  
 335-741-5973  
 MFLC Telephone  
 329-876-2168  
 SARC Telephone  
 335-771-4989

## ACS Celebrates Consumer Awareness Month in July

Written by Elizabeth Speck  
 ACS Financial Readiness Program Manager

*What would happen if every dollar you spent was spent on purpose? If that were true, you would be paying fewer fees and lower taxes. What can you do to make this happen?*

*A savvy consumer is one who is able to choose where they spend their money – not be told where to spend their money. What that means is that one needs to be out or getting out of debt to be a fully functioning consumer.*

*Steve Rhode runs a website, [www.GetOutOfDebt.org](http://www.GetOutOfDebt.org). It is quite good. He offers a free book for downloading: *Eliminate Your Debt Like a Pro*. In chapter 1, he lists seven stages of debt. They were discovered by Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross.*

1. Denial
2. Anger
3. Depression
4. Bargaining
5. Acceptance
6. Resurrection
7. Rebirth

*Where are you on this list? YOU can choose to get out of debt while you are on Camp Darby. Will you take the steps necessary to get out of debt, stop paying fees and penalties, lower your taxes and raise your consumer awareness?*



*Remember, in marketing, there are two primary motivational approaches: the appeal to a person's greed or their fear. What does it take to motivate you?*

*Classes available to help Service Members heighten their Consumer Awareness:*

- Consumer Rights and Obligations:  
 July 7, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC*
- Identity Theft Protection:  
 July 8, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC*
- Debt Liquidation  
 July 9, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC*
- Credit Reports  
 July 14, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC*

*These are only a few of the class offered by ACS this month helping to provide Service Members and their families confidence in lending practices. Please see the back of the voice for a detail listing of class description, date and time offered and location.*

Visit Us Online at [www.livornomwr.com](http://www.livornomwr.com)



## RELOCATION READINESS

### Benvenuti at Camp Darby

July 7, 8:15 a.m. at SGM 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 before the 15th of the June.

### Smooth Move/Levy Briefing

July 8, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the SFRC

Learn what it takes to have a stress-free move from Camp Darby.

### Multicultural Spouse Meeting

July 15, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the SFRC

Obtain valuable information on medical services, employment, immigration and naturalization services, driver's license, ESL and much more.

### Scrapbooking

July 1 & 15, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at ACS

July 8 & 29, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at ACS

Bring your supplies and your photos and scrapbook with others who enjoy making the most of their memories. Come to one session or all four!

## ARMY VOLUNTEER CORPS

### Volunteer Knowledge Training

July 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the SFRC

Wanting to give a bit of your time to the Camp Darby Community but do not know where to start? Take this class to learn about the volunteer positions currently open and what steps have to be taken before working with the organization.

## EMPLOYMENT READINESS

### Resume Points Workgroup

Please call 633-7084 for the July meeting date, time and location

PSCing or trying for a new job on post and don't know how to word your resume? Come to our peer resume review board and work with other members of our community to perfect your resume.

## 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*

## MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT

### Reintegration and Relationships Workshop

July 23, 10:30 a.m. at the SFRC

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

## Military One Source



Military One Source 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

## FINANCIAL READINESS

### Consumer Rights and Obligations

July 7, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

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

### Identity Theft Protection

July 8, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

Learn how to protect yourself and your family from Identity Theft Crimes.

### Debt Liquidation and Credit Management

July 9, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

Learn what it takes to get out of debt and how to report false claims on your credit report.

### Credit Reports

July 14, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Don't be surprised when you apply for a new loan. Learn how to request a free copy of your credit report and how to read it when it comes.

### Consumer Rights and Obligations

July 15, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

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

### Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Information

July 16, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

Learn the benefits of TSP in this quickie class.

### Credit and Budgeting

July 28, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

Learn what it takes to budget your paycheck as you are repaying open lines of credit.

### Checkbook and ATM Maintenance

July 29, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

In a world of debit cards, ATMs and automatic withdrawals, learn what it takes to ensure you bank accounts are always accurate .

### Consumer Rights and Obligations

July 30, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the SFRC

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

**Intervene! Act! Motivate!**  
**24-Hour Sexual Assault Response**  
**Phone number: 335-771-4989**

## AFAP Issue Submission

Any issues for the next Army Family Action Plan Conference can be submitted via the web at [http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil/AFAP\\_Form.asp](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil/AFAP_Form.asp). USAG Livorno AFAP Issue forms can also be picked up at ACS and dropped off to one of the black AFAP Boxes around Post. For questions on how or where to submit your AFAP Issues, please call DSN 633.7084.

## Sponsorship Training

Learn what it takes to ensure you provide a smooth transition to Camp Darby. Please call 633.7084 to sign up. This class will discuss military sponsorship and what it takes to introduce your new unit member not only the base but to Italy.

## Army Family Team Building (AFTB)

Level 1 is an introduction to the military for newcomers. All trainings are also available online at: [www.myarmyonesource.com](http://www.myarmyonesource.com)

By Chaplain Kelly Porter  
USAG Livorno Chaplain

*Psalm 125 V. 1-5*

*Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken, but endures forever.*

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.*

*The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. But those who turn to crooked ways the Lord will banish with the evildoers. Peace be upon Israel.*

Psalm 91 has been titled “The Soldier’s Psalm”, mostly because it refers to a combat type of physical danger. It begins with the picture of one who relies upon God but then it builds into a poetic confidence in God’s ability to protect all believers from all harm all the time.

If Psalm 91 were a Soldier’s sole Biblical reference he would develop a shallow theology and a war-time bravado. Thinking that God keeps us from all harm is easy thinking. Psalm 91 is a Biblical passage. It is God’s word to us and for us so I believe it, but if I had to hang my hat on a passage it would be Psalm 125.

This passage does two things well— it recognizes the wicked and it affirms God’s Sovereignty. Easy thinking leads to ridiculous notions like ignoring pain and suffering. Let’s be honest, the wicked do exert control and influence. People who do bad things affect us every day. That’s why we have been at war for 7 1/2 years. They are a reality, but only in the short-term.

This passage doesn’t stop with the wicked, it redirects hope in God based on a realistic trust God is Sovereign. He can act how He wants when He wants. Being a good God He chooses to act for the good of those who trust in Him and against those who rebel.

The Psalmist refers to Mt Zion, but I think back to my days on the Big Island of Hawaii. Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea dominate the landscape, both over 13,400 feet in elevation, but that’s only what you can see. Mauna Loa is the largest land mass in the world at 9,700 cubic miles. Mauna Kea is the tallest mountain, rising 32,000 feet from ocean floor to summit. That’s HUGE! (No wonder many Hawaiians consider it the most sacred place in all the islands.) Both mountains impose on the little people standing at sea level. Those mountains are solid and majestic. They dominate all that surrounds them.

God too dominates all that surrounds Him, for He is Mighty, Eternal and Sovereign. God is powerful enough to be and do whatever we need Him to be and do, making us confident to trust in Him. Many people say we are foolish for trusting in something we can’t see or hear or touch. They say religion is the imagination of the weak who need something to believe in. They say God is a mythical figure who at best inspires people. They haven’t met my Mauna Kea God who is more than inspiration.

Sometimes our confidence is misplaced in our own abilities to provide and protect ourselves. We perceive ourselves as solid mountains, but that’s not the illustration in Psalm 125.

The people are Mount Zion, God is the mountains surrounding Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives, Mount Scopus and the hills to the south and west are all taller than Zion which is strong only because of its defensive location. So too God surrounds His people not just in bad times but “now and forevermore”. In Him we are naturally defensible. It is from this God the Psalmist requests good actions. He qualifies them as being for those who are good.

God is good by nature. If God did not exist we would have to use some arbitrary measure to determine who and what are good. If we did not determine goodness then any and every action would be acceptable. Not every action is acceptable though, because God is our measure and becomes law for us. So, we can trust in both his defense and His provision.

Zion was the place where the people met with God. He isn’t a distant force but personal and cares for His people by bringing the wicked to their eternal end. The trouble we encounter may not end in our lifetime but eventually the wicked will be held accountable for their sin. If they had no hope of God’s justice the Psalmist said many of the godly would be tempted and fall away.

Psalm 125 comes with a caveat. Some would use this passage and others like John 14.14 in a manipulative way. They expect God to bless them because they are “good” people and God promises to do good to them. Translated, that means God owes them whatever they wish. Folks, realize God doesn’t owe us anything and we can’t back Him into a corner. That theology has no place in God’s kingdom and when we approach Him in worship we discover that truth. That’s what the Songs of Ascent are about, getting over ourselves and discovering God, the mighty rock. The Psalmist concludes with a national request— peace with God, but it only comes to those who trust in Him. †

## Army Reserve Chaplain and Chaplain's Assistant support local community

By Chaplain Kelley Porter  
USAG Livorno Chaplain

June 18 to July 9 Chaplain (Captain) Paul Weberg and Specialist Denisse Ocasio-Torres will be mobilized for an Overseas Deployment for Training tour in support of the USAG Livorno Garrison Chaplain's Office.

The US Army Reserve Command manages the overseas deployment for training (ODT) program; allowing Army Reserve units to perform mission related training while providing mission- essential medical, transportation, maintenance and engineering capabilities to America's Army. Through the ODT program, Army Reserve soldiers and units have deployed to Southwest Asia and Central America to provide support to active army missions in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Honduras, Guatemala and Haiti.

Chaplain Weberg is ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest. His office will be located at the chapel where he will be available for counseling and sacramental ministry. Chaplain Weberg will perform the Sunday mass June 21, 28 and July 5. Other ministrations during the week will be announced as scheduled.

## Is 10% Giving Realistic in Today's Economy?

Recently, financial commentator Dave Ramsey asked a similar question. He stated, "the average church attendee is only giving 2.5% of his income".

When I pastored I researched our giving and discovered, on average, our attendees gave .5% of their income. That's 1/2 of 1%. Church culture has shifted to reflect the culture at large. Rather than consistent giving to a denomination, church or chapel Christians today are more likely to make one-time donations to causes, individuals or Para church organizations. Some of that is a response to poor stewardship by church leaders but much of it is a move away from an orthodox theology of stewardship.

In 2009 it is easy to hide behind the notion that we need to protect our money given the rapid decline of the economy. Fear drives that position. If it describes you ask yourself, "How many times have I seen God provide for my family in miraculous ways?" The problem with tithing is our definition of it. We state 10% is God's, 90% is mine.

The Bible breaks it down as 100% God's. Is it?

- *Chaplain P*

## U.S. Bell Choir to perform at Camp Darby

The Calvin and Chapel High School Handbell Ringers, members of Tower Hill First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank, NJ will perform a concert at the chapel July 13 at 6 p.m.. They perform on a set of English handbells, comprised of 66 tuned, bronze bells, under the direction of Charles Harris, Director of Music. The group plays in concerts throughout the year, both in worship in their own church as well as a host of other locations—nursing homes, hospitals, various community service organizations and many others.

Over the last thirty years, the handbell choirs have also toured both nationally and internationally, performing at The White House, Disneyland, Tiffany's in NYC, and Epcot Center in Walt Disney World. They have performed at the United Nations in Vienna, the American Embassy in Norway, St. Paul's Cathedral in London and toured in Germany and Prague. To hear music samples of the choir or



# NON-APPROPRIATED FUND JOB ACCEPTANCE LIST

(Vacancies as of 18 June 2009)

Applications are presently being accepted by the Livorno Human Resources Office for the following positions. Applicants should apply at the NAF Human Resources Office, HQ Front 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 11, Camp Darby, 633-7032, fax 633-7049. The hours of operation are 0900-1600, Monday-Friday. For further information, please review the specific job announcements located at NAF HR Office.

<u>ANN. NO.</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE, SERIES, &amp; GRADE</u>	<u>OPEN/CLOSING DATES</u>
EUNAFLI090010	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (YS) NF-0303-02	Open: 18 June 2009 1 <sup>ST</sup> Close: 21 June 2009 Closing: 23 June 2009
EUNAFLI090009	OPERATIONS ASSISTANT, NF-1101-02 1 <sup>ST</sup> Close: 23 June 2009	Open: 18 June 2009 Closing: 29 June 2009
EUNAFLI09010C	HOTEL DESK CLERK, NF-0303-01	OPEN CONTINUOUS
EUNAFLI09020C	CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM ASSISTANT CC-1702-01/02	OPEN CONTINUOUS
EUNAFLI09030C	CUSTODIAL WORKER, NA-3566-02	OPEN CONTINUOUS
EUNAFLI09040C	BARTENDER/BAR ASSISTANT, NA-7405-01/03	OPEN CONTINUOUS
EUNAFLI09050C	ANIMAL CARETAKER, NA-0548-03	OPEN CONTINUOUS
EUNAFLI09060C	RECREATION ASSISTANT (BOWLING CENTER), NF-0189-01	OPEN CONTINUOUS
*EUNAFLI09130C	LABORER, NA-3502-02	OPEN CONTINUOUS
*EUNAFLI09070C	RECREATION AID, NF-0189-01	OPEN CONTINUOUS
*EUNAFLI09080C	RECREATION AID (LIFEGUARD), NF-0189-01	OPEN CONTINUOUS
*EUNAFLI09090C	RECREATION ASSISTANT, NF-0189-02	OPEN CONTINUOUS
*EUNAFLI09100C	LIFEGUARD (POOL OPERATOR), NF-0189-02	OPEN CONTINUOUS

\* POSITION FOR SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT ONLY (MAY-SEPTEMBER)

Come visit our website at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm>

Or visit the Camp Darby website [www.usag.livorno.army.mil](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil).

For further information contact our office at 633-7032 or [Livorno.NAF@eur.army.mil](mailto:Livorno.NAF@eur.army.mil).

## Your opinion is important

Got an issue that you believe can be solved/ Or maybe your looking for an explanation? Log onto [www.usag.livorno.army.mil](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil) and click on CAC to submit your issues. Answers will be printed in the Darby Digest.



## AD SUBMISSIONS

The Darby Digest is now offering the USAG Livorno community another outlet for their classified advertising needs. Our goal is to provide you a direct outlet for your classified needs. If you have something you want to advertise in the classified section, please e-mail your submissions to [pao.livorno@eur.army.mil](mailto:pao.livorno@eur.army.mil).

When submitting a classified ad for publication, be sure to include your name, address and telephone number. We will not advertise commercial services. Classified ads will be erased after one month of being published in the Digest.

We will ONLY accept classified ads by email. We will not accept advertisements by phone or hand-written. These classified ads are a free service to you and in order for us to provide them; they must be in a cut-and-paste text only format. We hope this service is something you will utilize. For more information, please email us at [pao.livorno@eur.army.mil](mailto:pao.livorno@eur.army.mil).

# 22 New Adventure Trips 09



July 11 Visit the Riparbella Hanging Garden Adventure Park

July 25 Hike in the Apuane Alps

Aug 1 Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Aug 8 Paintball

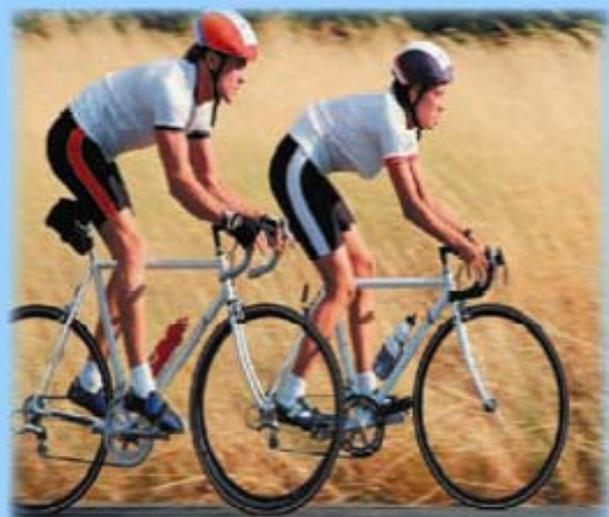
Aug 22 Visit the San Romano Adventure Park in Garfagnana

Aug 28 Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Sept 5 White Water Rafting

Sept 12 Chianti Bicycle Trip

For more information,  
call ODR at 633-7775.



**4<sup>th</sup> of July**  
at the 

# AMERICAN Beach!

- \*Beach Volley
- \*Monster Mural
- \*Sandy Candy
- \*Water drop relay
- \*Water balloon beach blanket relay
- \*Frozen t-shirt contest

**KIDS GAMES**  
**MUSIC**  
**DANCING**

- \*7 p.m. to midnight DJ/music under the pavilion
- \*10 p.m. Fantastic Fireworks Display



Produced by USAG-Livorno, FMWR Marketing 2009, 4th of July.indd

## ITR Trips

Camp Darby Information Tours and Recreation offers a variety of interesting day trips.

**July 3:** Escape to Elba Island  
Elba is one of the three major islands off the Italian coast and is considered to be the most beautiful. This is a paradise for nature lovers surrounded by an unpolluted sea. Shop, swim, scuba, snorkel, go trekking or rent a scooter. The hour long ferry ride to get there is relaxing and fun.

**July 4** Finding Florence trip  
Tourists can spend the day in Florence at their leisure. Visit the Uffizi Museum, the Accademia Gallery, shop at the all-day market, buy gold on Ponte Vecchio or just sit at an outdoor cafe and enjoy the scenery of this magnificent city.

**July 5** Timeless Torre Mozza  
Tourists can enjoy white sandy beaches and crystal clear water.

**July 5** Awesome Acqua Village  
Children and adults will love the water slides, wave pool, children's pool, soaped soccer, play room & more in Cecina Mare.

Book your trip with ITR DSN 633-7589 or civ. (+39) 050-54-7589 or through [www.livonromwr.com](http://www.livonromwr.com)

**Don't Drink and Drive**  
**Catch the shuttle bus at**  
**the Post office.**



*Oh give me a home where a family can roam,  
Where the kids and the family dog can play,  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word  
And the sky is not cloudy or grey.*

## **Old fashioned fun makes vacations memorable and economical**

**By Joyce Costello**

A Camp Darby camping vacation is a chance to step back in time and share with your kids the joys and wonders of a summer night with out video games, but instead around a camp fire telling ghost stories, making s'more's and sleeping under the stars.

Remember when you were a kid and everyone piled in the back of the station wagon and took a long drive out to the woods? If you don't remember, its another great reason to partake in what was once the "Great American Vacation" before we got caught up in the world of theme parks with resorts designed to keep us busy every second of our precious two week vacation.

Who needs those headaches and costs? The hardest thing about camping is setting up the tent and convincing the kids they will survive without the television and their game consoles. After a few minutes of whining, the kids will see other kids kicking soccer balls, playing chase, watching a turtle crawl down the dirt path and catching fireflies in their hands.

Adults will give a great sigh of relief as they sink down into their chair, put their feet up on the cooler and just exhale. Sitting under the large Tuscan sea pine trees is like being enveloped in a gust of fresh, clean air. The evenings become bearable with the cool Mediterranean breeze coming off the sea only five minutes away. When the hardest thing is counting the stars above or watching the various shades of blue reflected from the moon, it's easy to understand why camping makes such a memorable vacation.

Sure, there is bound to be the trek to the bathroom in the middle of the night or an air mattress that a child decides to jump on and it breaks, but being together as a family with no media distractions is a chance to have fun together and get back to the basics of life.

This Independence weekend, combine 4th of July traditions of fireworks and barbecues with outdoor fun and camping for a vacation that is truly memorable and won't break the bank.