

173rd ABCT completes annual 'Herd Run'

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Allison Erickson
173rd ABCT

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Paratroopers, Soldiers, coalition partners, and civilians met on a cold morning Nov. 8, to conduct the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's annual "Running of the Herd" at Forward Operating Base Shank, in Logar Province, Afghanistan. This marked the sixth time that the 173rd conducted this event. Nov. 8 commemorates the brigade's actions that day in 1965 during Operation Hump in Vietnam that left 48 Americans dead after an ambush by Viet Cong fighters.

In 2007, the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion's medical company, Charlie Company, received a video from 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team veterans explaining the ultimate sacrifice of 48 paratroopers killed in the Vietnam War on Nov. 8, 1965, when they were ambushed by more than 1,200 Viet Cong. Since the Vietnam War and until the present, the 173rd ABCT has lost more than 1,800 Sky Soldiers.

For the past six years, C Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, has continued to host the event and every year the Sky Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team have honored their fallen with a 24-hour relay run beginning Nov. 8.

This year, in addition to holding the run in Bamberg, Germany, the Running of the Herd was also held at two bases in Afghanistan: FOB Shank and FOB Airborne. 2nd Lt. Adam Obregon and 2nd Lt. Allison Erickson planned and conducted the events in Bamberg, Germany, and FOB Shank, Afghanistan, respectively. More than 400 runners across Logar and Wardak Provinces in Afghanistan made time to participate in the run while deployed.

In Logar Province, FOB Shank sits surrounded on all



Photo by Sgt. Michael Sword

Soldiers from Anvil Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, run in Afghanistan during the sixth annual Running of the Herd. This year's race was completed in four different countries.

sides by mountains. On the morning of the Running of the Herd, a cloud of tan dust flew into the cold, dry air as the swiftly-pounding feet of airborne paratroopers took off, running toward the rising sun for their first lap of the day-long relay.

Twenty-five teams of seven men and women took turns running five-mile laps. Some competed for time

and some simply ran to remember and honor our fallen comrades.

"Everyone had good spirits and I think it was a good event all around," said Capt. Tranessia Murphy, a nurse with 173rd BSB.

1st Lt. Drew Caplin's team, seven Soldiers from Anvil

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Top Vicenza construction firms tour Del Din

By Anna Ciccotti
USAG Vicenza PAO

Work nearing end, Del Din opened Nov. 16 to more than 50 local construction firms coming to learn more about the newest and greenest U.S. Army military construction site in Europe.

"The level of high technology used, the exact timelines and methods of execution are certainly a model for excellence to which our best companies must look in order to be more competitive in the market," said Gaetano Marangoni, spokesman of the visiting team and president of the builders section of Confindustria, the Business Leaders Association of the Vicenza Province.

In the spirit of strengthening the long-standing ties of friendship and mutual

cooperation between the Vicenza and American communities, the visit provided an opportunity to exchange professional expertise and understanding of new approaches in the construction business for delivering better value for money.

As Del Din stands as one of the largest construction sites currently open in the Veneto region with more than 800 employees directly hired by the prime contractor, Marangoni said, "it has been particularly useful for us to see, boots on the ground, the reality and the facts behind this project."

While cost and schedule overrun are common in the building industry worldwide, Del Din is a textbook example of a well-managed program "soon to be delivered on time and designed with sustainable criteria that showcase technical and building solutions

designed to complement the surrounding environment," Marangoni said.

The visit was lead by the U.S. Army Vicenza Garrison's Transformation Construction Management office and began with a comprehensive windshield tour of the new base, future home to the command headquarters of U.S. Army Africa and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

An overview briefing followed presenting the project highlights and the design-build contractual delivery system in use for Del Din by the U.S. Navy Facilities Engineering Command, the construction agent for U.S. Army MILCON projects in Italy.

Commenting on the most important lesson learned from his experience with the multi-facility complex at Del Din, Dario Tita, senior construction project

manager for the joint venture of the Italian firms CCC-CMC, which was awarded the contract, said that a clear understanding of the close relationship between the design and construction activities is key to the success of a design-build project.

Addressing the other builders, Tita said, "Make sure you work side by side with your architects and engineers and engage your most important subcontractors and suppliers from the very beginning to involve them in the entire process. This way you allow extraordinary opportunities for professional growth to your company and your people."

The construction of Del Din is nearly complete and the outfitting is scheduled to be concluded in the spring. The new base will then be inaugurated at a public ceremony in the summer.

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Skin-to-skin program at Health Center aids newborns; ACS plans Female to Female event



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Caserma Ederle runners hit marathons in three countries, many first timers



		
39/28 Friday	39/28 Saturday	39/28 Sunday

The annual holiday tree lighting ceremony will be Friday at 4 p.m. in front of Building 393.

ICE comments aren't always for complaints

Commentary by Julie M. Lucas
Outlook editor

We've all been there — you have a million things to do, the weather is terrible outside, you are running around post trying to get things done and you are waiting for an appointment. You might even have a 4-year-old throwing a tantrum. As the minutes tick by, you can feel your blood pressure rise. You might feel inclined to go home and fire off an ICE complaint, but here are a few things to consider before doing so.

There are a number of policies for each office on post to help the customers receive the best possible service. You may wonder why you can only get certain things done at certain times. For instance, fingerprints can only be done on one day by appointment. The reason for this is because it is an office of two and they have many other duties than just fingerprinting. With the recent

closures in Camp Darby, many offices on post have been assigned to pick up slack and cover down on areas where employees were lost. I know a person on post who was already doing the job of two people and is now reporting on all activities in Livorno as well.

It is much easier to point out what people are doing wrong, rather than to thank someone for going out of their way. I don't know the exact numbers for our local ICE comments but I know personally I hear about things people don't like or that I do wrong rather than the opposite. ICE shouldn't be used for personal opinions. Perhaps instead of complaining about something, offer a suggestion to make it better? You might get a satisfaction by doing an anonymous complaint, but sometimes other information is needed. Also, without contact information, you'll never know what steps were made to fix the problem.

I'd like to change the name of ICE

comment to NICE comment. I challenge everyone in the community the next time you feel like someone went out of their way or was even friendly, to send a positive ICE comment. Many people might not know that civilians who work locally haven't received a pay raise in more than two years. My mother always told me "It doesn't cost a thing to pay someone a compliment." Whether you are new in the community or on your way out and you feel like someone helped you along the way, drop a quick note at http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=321&dep=DoD or look for the link on the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza homepage at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil. The next time you have to face a problem or something is frustrating or you don't understand, take the time to ask some questions and get the facts first before you fire off an ICE comment. Add something positive into the community rather than take away from it.

173rd: Annual Herd run becomes global event

Continued from page 1

Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd ABCT, placed first in the team competition. For Caplin, this was his second year on the winning team.

"Just like last year, crossing the line with the cav guidon in hand felt great," Caplin said. "It really brings the truth to the Army and a surreal feeling that is unmatched."

"It is the same feeling that you get when you are outside the wire and everyone is doing their job," he added. "When you take contact and everybody knows what they are supposed to do and you complete the mission successfully and everybody comes back safely."

Soldiers at FOB Shank were already miles into the run when Families and nondeployed Soldiers lined the cobbled streets of Bamberg, Germany, with smiles on their faces as they prepared to start their 24-hour remembrance run. For some, the run not only helped them remember the fallen, but remember the loved ones who were far away from home, deployed to Afghanistan.

"I'm glad they are doing this downrange, because while I'm running, I feel connected to my husband, because he might be running at the same time I am," one spouse in Bamberg said.

2nd Lt. Adam Obregon organized the event in Bamberg and provided the FOB Shank team with prizes and T-shirts. Across from the BSB headquarters, moon bounces, coffee spots and a beer garden tent the size of a large aircraft covered the sports field.

The event wasn't just reserved for large bases, as Sgt. Derek Stutz put on the run at significantly smaller Combat Outpost Baraki Barak with a huge turnout.

"It went amazingly, 10 times better than we ever imagined," he wrote. "We had 25 plus on the course all day, at any given time."

Markers were placed every 25 feet of the course with the names of those Soldiers who were wounded in combat during this deployment, a symbol that kept those sacrifices fresh in the mind of every runner. Stutz wrote that 140 runners ran a total of 1,211 miles and many individuals ran more than the 26.2 miles of a marathon, all on a course that measured a quarter of a mile.

"It was truly one of the most incredible things I have seen in my military career," Stutz added.

Even more incredible, Stutz wrote, was the financial support he received from an unnamed athletic company, which made an initial deposit to the Wounded Warrior Project of \$40,000 in anticipation of laps run by Stutz and his dedicated runners.

"Well, (that) night I delivered the news to them that with the matching donation to the wives running in Bamberg, we raised \$67,500," he said. "Pretty awesome for a day's work."

Capt. Manish Rawat and Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Gibson hosted the trying event at FOB Airborne, their location high in the mountains of Afghanistan's Logar Province.

"I'll bet this was probably the highest relay race," Gibson



Photo by Sgt. Michael Sword

173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Soldiers in Afghanistan listen to a brief before beginning the annual Running of the Herd race.

said. "No one else was racing at 7,600 feet."

FOB Shank was the closest at approximately 7,000 feet above sea level, Baraki Barak at 6,293 feet and Bamberg at nearly 1,000 feet, leaving the runners at FOB Airborne to run the highest race in Running of the Herd history.

At FOB Airborne, 13 teams participated with three prize categories for the fastest lap, most laps and team with the most laps. Each lap was approximately 1.7 miles. Winners were Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Maldonado, Spc. Matthew Nees and Team "JTOC," respectively.

"Honestly, I think the only thing they didn't like was that there wasn't beer," Gibson said. In the events past, with the exception of the first race in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, beer has been a major factor in getting the festivities of the event rolling in Germany, but that didn't spoil the event.

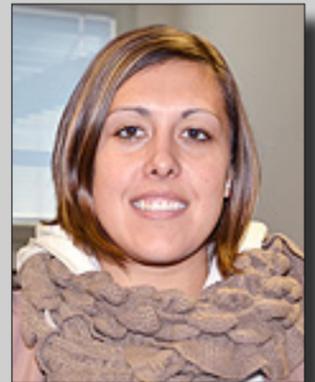
"It was a day off, it can be pretty routine here," he said. "Something to break the monotony."

Even former members of the 173rd BSB's lifeline family of Charlie Company ran in locations across the U.S. Staff Sgt. Christopher Waterbury made sure he ran his remembrance run in Oregon. Lt. Col. Hamilton, former Charlie Company commander, ran with Sgt. Greenberg in Colorado.

As with last year's Running of the Herd, this event served as an opportunity for members of the 173rd ABCT to render homage to past and present paratroopers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation. While the unit still has time remaining in its deployment to Afghanistan, it will not lose sight of its lineage and looks forward to returning to Italy and Germany in the upcoming months.

Speak Out

What is your favorite ACS program?



Ashley Anderson
Family member

"I enjoy the variety, such as AER, Employment and Volunteer Program and the Family Advocacy Program. So many of them have helped me while I have been here."



Rebecca Thorpe
Family member

"The Lending Closet is my favorite. It is a great help for incoming and outgoing families to feel settled even before household goods arrive or depart."



Leigh Ann Withrow and
Isaiah

Family members

"Benvenuti Italia 1 with Danielle (teacher) helped me learn Italian, integrate into the Italian culture, find my way around Vicenza and make new friends."

By Laura Kreider

Mothers, infants bond faster with program



Photo courtesy of USAHC Vicenza

A newborn is directly placed on her mother after being born at the U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza.

By Julie M. Lucas
Outlook editor

It might be hard for some to imagine that as recently as the 1970s, men were not always allowed to be in the delivery room with their wives. To say that there have been vast improvements in the birthing process would be an understatement. The U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza began a program about two years ago that is helpful not only for women in labor but their newborns.

The program called "Skin-to-Skin" was first introduced to the center by Capt. Shara Fisher, a registered nurse certified in obstetrics.

"When I first arrived here I recognized Skin-to-Skin was not implemented into routine care or was not routinely offered," Fisher said.

The program basics are that when babies are born, instead of immediately cleaning, weighing and placing them in a warmer, the baby is placed on the mother's bare chest. By doing this, studies have shown that it regulates

the newborn's breathing, stabilizes heart rate and has shown increased breastfeeding success. The babies are with their mother for an hour, letting them bond.

Skin-to-skin in Vicenza has been used with vaginal deliveries since March 2011 and with only two cesarean section deliveries, one of them this past month at the center.

"I didn't know this was an option for me because I was a scheduled c-section, but it was mentioned in birthing class," said new mother Michelle Ortiz. "I felt more connected and it gave me something to focus on. I would recommend this for others."

If the mother is unable to perform skin-to-skin, fathers can step in. The staff at the health center are flexible and want new parents to be happy with their chosen birth plan.

"If a mother prefers to have the baby cleaned first, we can do that," Fisher said.

For more questions about the process, contact Fisher at shara.fisher@us.army.mil.

Female to Female sponsorship event meets Dec. 6

By David Ruderman
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Sometimes the boss can shake things up. That's what happened when Installation Management Command Commander, Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, visited Vicenza in August and asked what the community was doing to support single females on overseas tours.

"He actually threw a curve ball by saying, 'OK, so what are you doing for the most vulnerable members of the community?'" said Julia Sibilla, community programs and relocation readiness manager with U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Army Community Service.

One repercussion is the community's first ever Female to Female networking social, to be held Dec. 6 from 4-6 p.m. at the Golden Lion.

"This program is preventative in nature. We're creating an environment where females feel safe and welcome," said USAG Vicenza health promotion officer Mickie McNamara.

"Single females, young females, whether officers, enlisted or civilians who come to an overseas assignment, maybe as a first tour of duty, they have special needs and concerns," said Sibilla.

"That's probably where Mickie and I took off with this," she said. "It is not necessarily a 20-year-old girl who is insecure. It can be a 30-year-old lieutenant in Afghanistan or someone with a professional background, but the

common denominator that we're trying to fight is the alienation that comes with an overseas assignment."

The Female to Female event, also known as F2F, will be a proactive, community-based initiative to create a nurturing social environment that puts single women, whether Soldiers or civilians, at ease, builds a positive sense of community and engagement, and empowers them to thrive, she said.

A certain degree of alienation and vulnerability is part and parcel of any overseas assignment, said Sibilla.

"When you add to that that you've never been out of your home state, might be a little insecure, you have a new boss or co-workers you're just getting to know, it's a set-up for all kinds of things," she said. "We want the newcomers, the single females, to feel welcome in our community. We want them to feel like they have options here."

"We're going to start off with an icebreaker," said McNamara. The keynote speaker will be Ifat Levine, a community member who was the first female to serve as an Israel Defense Forces combat battalion officer, which should be quite a draw given the intended audience, she said.

"When I speak to incoming females about the upcoming F2F kick-off event they get excited because they're new here and are keenly interested in the female experience in the military, especially women in combat roles. The response throughout the community has been very positive," she said.

The event is open to all and no reservations are necessary. Sibilla said she is hoping for a crowded house.

"We're going to err on the side of 'Let's have too many people,' because that would show the community that we need to do something like this. We're not going to be exclusive. If somebody really wants

to come, they're invited to come. We want this to energize our community," she said.

"Col. (David) Buckingham (USAG commander) really wanted us to respond to General Ferriter and do something in our community," said Sibilla.

The F2F next week will be the first installment.

Guest speaker: Ifat Levine



Courtesy photo

Lt. Ifat Levine (Alkobi) attends Israel Defense Forces jump school in September 2005.

"Every time I mention I'm from Israel, people are really curious to hear about Israel, and the IDF of course," said Ifat Levine, wife of U.S. Army Public Health Command deputy commander, Maj. Matt Levine.

Military service is compulsory in Israel and applies to both women and men. "It's mandatory," said Levine. "In fact Israel is the only state in the world that requires military service from women. Everyone grows up knowing you're going to join the military when you're 18. It's part of who you are and who you're going to be, and it's going to affect the rest of your life," she said.

"One day I was a student, getting ready for my finals, and a week later I was wearing a uniform. Just like that." Levine, who is still an infantry battalion reserve officer, served from 2000 to 2004, starting

out with a nine-month training course that earned her the rank of lieutenant. "My officer basic course was the first to combine females and males: the opportunities once reserved only for men were now open to the best candidate," she said. She started with a group of 19 women of whom five graduated, and she was the only female selected for assignment in an infantry battalion, a job previously open only to males. "There were 600 people; I was the only female," she said.

The then Lieutenant Ifat Alkobi comes from a family of three sisters and one brother, all of whom have served or will serve in the IDF. Both her parents served in the military in their day as well. "The first reaction after learning I was assigned to the infantry, I remember this very clearly, was 'We raised three girls thinking we don't have to worry about you going into combat.' They were really proud. They were worried, but they were really supportive," she recalled.

Levine's service coincided with the civil strife known as the second intifada, and her unit saw action in the Gaza Strip. Things were crazy, stressful and exhausting, but the jolt of shared purpose and working with colleagues made it exciting and rewarding as well, she said. Her performance as a combat officer was exemplary and Levine was recognized with Israel's highest honor, a presidential award, which she received from President Moshe Katzav in 2002. "It wasn't easy, but it worked and I'm grateful for that opportunity I had," said Levine. "The idea is just to recognize opportunities, to try to achieve the most you can wherever you are: that's the most important," she said.

Levine will go into detail during her presentation at the F2F event. "I guess I'm just going to tell my story. Explain a little bit how I got there, what I've done," she said.

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Community news

From Iraq to Afghanistan: The long path of 173rd ABCT

By Gaia Ferran
Special to the Outlook

Editor's note: Ferran works for U.S. Army Africa, in Vicenza, Italy. She is a political/military analyst with a bachelor's degree in International Affairs and Military History and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. She concentrated on counterterrorism and counterinsurgency and graduated with a thesis on the sociological aspect of the insurgency in Afghanistan. She also worked for the Homeland Security Program at the Center of Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. Ferran is married to a 173rd Sky Soldier. This is part one of the story.

When the 173rd Airborne Brigade was reactivated June 12, 2000 to serve as the European Command's conventional airborne unit, no politician or military analysts forecasted a decade of conflicts fought in two different theaters of war.

Between 2000 and 2001 the 173rd conducted training operations to exercise the rapid deployment capabilities of its units by combining air landing operations with air assaults. Yet, the 9/11 attacks and the following military operations shaped the fate of this brigade and significantly changed its primary mission. The 173rd was deployed in Iraq as an airborne unit, but had to redefine its fundamental nature through the following years to fight the Afghanistan insurgency and to support the country reconstruction process.

During the spring of 2003 the 173rd entered in Iraq to conduct offensive operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From Operation Northern Delay to Operation Bayonet Lighting, more than 2,000 Soldiers engaged in assaults and activities that brought great credit upon them and the unit. Within a few weeks, these young men defeated several divisions of Iraqi forces, were engaged in fights to secure airfields and oilfields, and participated in the battle to free the city of Kirkuk.

The brigade successfully accomplished its major missions as an airborne brigade while serving in Iraq between 2003

and the beginning of 2004, and its achievements clearly demonstrated the abilities of the "Sky Soldiers."

The unit's capability to conduct major military operations has always been very well known, but it is only during the first tour in Afghanistan in 2005 that the 173rd really showed its potential as a versatile unit.

In March 2005, the brigade arrived in Afghanistan and assumed control of the Regional Command South in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 173rd was stationed between the provinces of Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand and Nimruz and was deployed in the theater mainly to conduct security operations that would have ensured the overall stability of the region. Sky Soldiers were skilled in conducting combat, reconnaissance and intelligence gathering operations, and they successfully adapted the skills learned in Iraq to accomplish all the required objectives of the mission. Yet, the overall political and military environment was changing fast in Afghanistan, and in the last months of the deployment the brigade eyewitnessed the clear signs of a renewed insurgency.

Between 2002 and 2005 the attention of the international community was mainly addressed to the Iraqi theater and a series of unexpected changes occurred in Pakistan and in the Federal Administrative Tribal Areas that shaped the war in Afghanistan.

Most troops deployed to the country were trained to conduct security missions and security sustainment operations. No troops were trained to restrain the damage caused by the Pashtun's switch of allegiance within the FATA. Between 2005 and 2006 troops stationed along the southeast border with Pakistan were engaged in a series of combat actions that would later come to be identified as the preliminary counterinsurgency acts against the Neo-Taliban insurgency.

During most of 2005, 173rd Soldiers conducted countless raids and cordons to secure the areas and allow the population to conduct political and economic activities that would have ultimately supported the Afghan people in rebuilding the country.

Toward the end of the same year though,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Aird

A paratrooper from 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, watches as an aircraft flies overhead while dropping supplies in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, Nov. 9, 2007.

a wave of insurgents, mainly composed of foreign fighters crossed the Pakistani border and infiltrated Afghanistan in Zabul and Paktika Provinces. From Zabul Province the insurgents spread to the south west, toward Kandahar, Helmand, Nimruz and Farah, and from Paktika the insurgents reached the north east to Ghazni, Paktia, Wardak, Logar and Kabul.

During the last few months of this deployment, Sky Soldiers had to increase their patrols and security operations due to the new enhanced IEDs placed by the insurgents. During the first months of the new insurgency, the Taliban preferred not to directly attack troops but to attack Soldiers with improved and deadlier IEDs developed with techniques learned in Iraq.

When the brigade first arrived in Afghanistan the main objective was to make things available for the Afghan people while improving security in the assigned areas. Within a few months the brigade's mission had to adapt to a different course of action dictated by a new and stronger insurgency, and the 173rd had to assume new tactics strictly connected to a usual counterinsurgency.

In 2006-2007 the ISAF troops redefined their mission objectives from supporting a nation-building mission to fighting an authentic counterinsurgency. Then ISAF Commanding General Gen. David Petraeus declared in front of Senate that significant progress had been made on the ground and that the momentum achieved by the Taliban since 2005 had been arrested in much of the country and reversed in a number of important areas.

The newly redesigned 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team was one of the major actors of the counteroffensive launched by the ISAF troops in 2007 and 2008.

Although the brigade faced significant structural changes garrison during 2006 and 2007, it was specifically chosen to return to Afghanistan and support the counterattack to defeat a stronger and more organized insurgency. Sky Soldiers were trained to conduct air assaults, provide security and conduct raids and search operations. 173rd Soldiers were the perfect choice for a 15-month deployment in the middle of the main fighting phase of the ISAF counterinsurgency in Afghanistan.

The brigade was again deployed in some of the hottest areas of Afghanistan. The various units operated between the Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar, Paktika and Laghman Provinces along the border with Pakistan. 173rd Soldiers conducted major operations to catch and defeat the insurgents. They performed thousands of raids and patrols to enhance security and protect the population.

Since their first deployment to Afghanistan, Sky Soldiers have always been very well respected for their ability to win hearts and minds. Even though this was not their first mission, 173rd Soldiers had the ability to convey their willingness to support the Afghan population and the country's reconstruction process. Thanks to its actions, the 173rd always received respect from the Afghan people who often cooperated with its U.S. allies to neutralize the insurgents and free the villages.

A paratrooper from 2nd Platoon, Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, walks next to a creek during a patrol to Omar in Kunar Province Afghanistan, Jan. 11, 2008.



Photo by Spc. Micah E. Clare

Darby Military Community

Attention to shipping rules make for smooth holiday

By Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

After Thanksgiving, we quickly approach the Christmas celebrations, and many of us are busy finding the right gift to be given or sent to families overseas.

There are a few things that need to be underlined in order to avoid delays or law violations. In Europe, according to Robert Szostek, U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency Public Affairs press release, mailing packages stateside from Europe involves many prohibitions, restrictions, and import duty rules.

“There is a ‘Know Before You Go’ pamphlet for our military customs office,” said Camp Darby Customs Agent Leonard Baird-Boyd. “This pamphlet is available in our office and can be consulted at any time.”

The most common issue while in Italy, according to Baird-Boyd comes shipping nativity scenes known in Italy as presepi.

“The natural products used to reproduce the nativity scenes are often banned from import in the United States because of the agricultural pests that can potentially nest in it,” Baird-Boyd said. “While there are no issues on the little statues normally made in porcelain or plastic, the moss, the pine cones or the bark used to create the scene may create an issue.”

Unfortunately not only nativity scenes, but many items that are available in Europe that seems like good ideas for Christmas presents are in violation of U.S. customs rules.

“There are many other things that need extra attention, just to mention some I can think of chocolate Kinder eggs. They contain little surprises that are prohibited in the U.S. since they can pose choking and aspiration hazards to children younger than three years old,” said Baird-Boyd. “Another example, alcohol is prohibited from being sent through official mail, but we often fail to think that also those liquor-filled candies are considered alcoholic.”

So, according to Baird-Boyd, the best thing to do in order to make shipments in time for Christmas is to make sure to consult the customs Know Before you Go pamphlet.

“Our motto is, ‘No one leaves our office without satisfaction,’” said Baird-Boyd.

To ensure packages sent to the United States are delivered before Christmas a calendar has been put out by the post office.

All the SAM Parcels should have been sent by Nov. 26, Dec. 3 is the deadline for Pal parcels, while Dec. 10 is the Priority parcels and first class letters deadline.



Photo by Julie M. Lucas

Packages are ready to be delivered all over the world for the upcoming holidays. Monday was the last day for Space Available Mail shipments before Christmas. Questions about what can be shipped should be directed to the Customs Office at 633-8146.

“Mail by Appointment is available year round for customers who cannot come during our regular operating hours,” said Cindy Newton Postmaster, USAG Vicenza, Darby Military Community. “There is no minimum number of items required, all you have to do is give us a call at 633-7630 to set up a mailing appointment, sometimes possibly the same day,” said Newton.

For any doubts contact the Customs Office at 633-8146 or the Post Office at 633-8017.

Darby ates

Visit the community calendar for upcoming events and details at www.usag.livorno.army.mil

Darby Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar is from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 7 in the Darby Community Club. Italian gifts such as fine wines, ceramics, jewelry, handbags, marble and Christmas ornaments can be found for everyone on your holiday list.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Ring in the holiday season at the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Darby Community Club Dec. 7. Join Santa Claus and enjoy a performance by the Livorno Middle School Band along with refreshments offered the Darby Military Community DeCA Commissary.

Artistic Nativity Scenes in Cigoli (San Miniato Pisa) Presepe artistico di Cigoli

From Dec. 7-Jan.13 in the Pieve di San Giovanni Battista in Cigoli (PI) the 12th display of the Artistic nativity scene. This is one of the biggest nativity Scenes in Tuscany. The Church can be visited daily from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 2:30-8 p.m.

Information, Tours & Recreation | Outdoor Recreation

633-7775

- ◆ Florence Noel Dec. 1. Florence Noel is a magical event at Stazione Leopolda Firenze. It is a Christmas extravaganza with selected exhibitors included in Christmas scenes. Enjoy a continuous snowfall at the Advent Village, which reproduces Tyrolean houses. Taste the delicious chocolate at the Village of Chocolate and find the greatest selections of food, decorations and crafts.

Children can visit Santa's house and stop by Santa's mail room. Don't worry if they haven't written their letter to Santa yet, they can write it and mail it right on the spot.

Breathtaking views:

Spc. Akiel McKnight enjoys a sky trip to Matterhorn with Camp Darby Outdoor Recreation during Thanksgiving weekend. Cervinia gives the opportunity to ski Italy and Switzerland in the same day. With its 59 lifts, over 350 km of downhill runs and 13 km of cross country skiing, Cervinia is one of the major sky resorts in Italy. Below, Mount Cervino and the blue lake offer a unique, breathtaking view and is at the base of the Matterhorn. The town of Cervinia is located on the Italian side of the Matterhorn at 2,100 meters or 6,889 feet.



Photo courtesy 511th Military Police



Photo by Chiara Mattiolo

Christmas markets:

At the Nuremberg Christmas market in Verona, German breads and sausages can be purchased, as well as other holiday sweets through Dec. 21.



Courtesy photo

Local events

Fiera della Mostarda Vicentina — Vicentine Mustard Fair:

Friday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Alte Ceccato, Montecchio Maggiore, Via Europa 17, about nine miles southwest of Vicenza; local products exhibit and sale; food booths feature mustard specialties and other local food and wines.

Passioni e Collezionismo — Passions for collecting:

Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in Vicenza, Piazza San Lorenzo e Corso Fogazzaro; costume jewelry, vintage jewelry and gift items exhibit and sale.

Natura in volo — Bird exhibit:

Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., in Cassola, Via Valsugana 22, about 22 miles northeast of Vicenza. More than 4,000 birds exhibit; Sunday, at 4:30 p.m. carrier pigeons launch; all children will receive a free small fish for their aquarium; entrance fee: €; free for children under 16.

Christmas markets

Vicenza: Dolci Sapori di Natale — Sweet Christmas Flavors. Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. in Vicenza, Piazza dei Signori; European and Italian regional products exhibit and sale. *La Notte dolce* — Sweet Night: Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Corso Fogazzaro, Piazza San Lorenzo; live music and entertainment. *Natale in Piazza delle Erbe*: Fridays-Sundays through Dec. 23, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza delle Erbe; local products wines, and nature craft exhibit and sale

Arsiero: Natale sotto agli alberi — Christmas under the trees, Sunday, in Piazza Rossi, from 9 a.m.; children will have a chance to get close to Santa Claus on his sleigh and have pictures taken with him;

food stands open at noon; from 2 p.m. live Christmas caroling; 4 p.m. bagpipes show; 6 p.m. Christmas tree lighting.

Asiago: Giardini di Natale — Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. in Asiago, Piazza Carli; food booths featuring local specialties and typical Christmas sweets and crafts.

Bassano del Grappa, ongoing through Jan. 6, Piazza Garibaldi, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., closed on Monday morning; Piazza Libertà 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. closed on Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

Bolzano: Friday-Dec. 23, Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Walther, about 120 miles north of Vicenza. More than 80 stallholders in their typical little huts offer traditional seasonal gifts (handmade wooden, glass and ceramic products along with Christmas tree decorations, delicious seasonal pastries and many original gifts), plenty of food specialties available plus vin brulè (hot mulled cider); children's Christmas market where kids can take an active part baking Christmas cookies and making small Christmas decorations and presents.

Bressanone: Friday-Jan. 6, 2013, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Sunday and holiday: 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1; in Piazza Duomo, about 154 miles north of Vicenza; food booths feature local specialties; live music and carnival rides.

Bussolengo (Verona), ongoing through Jan. 6, daily 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m., closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1; Garden Flover, Via Pastrengo 16, about 42 miles west of Vicenza. Entrance fee: €1 on Saturdays and Sundays, and Dec. 7; free admission weekdays. Among the many attractions, you can visit a Magic forest, Santa Claus' post office and Christmas shows every Saturday and Sunday; food booths featuring holiday specialties.

Garda: Natale tra gli Olivi — Christmas market among olive trees, ongoing through Jan. 6,

Piazza Catullo and Lungolago Regina Adelaide; local and Tyrolean products; entertainment for children; folk music and dancing; art exhibits and local nativity set.

Verona: Nuremberg Christmas market, ongoing through Dec. 21, Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday and days before holidays 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; in Piazza dei Signori, wooden stands featuring holiday gift ideas, vin brulè, holiday sweets, typical German bread and sausages.

Villafranca: Saturday through Jan. 6, in Piazza Giovanni XXIII and Via Pace, about 46 miles west of Vicenza; live music and entertainment, wooden chalets featuring local holiday crafts, food specialties, and hot chocolate.

Nativity sets

Bassano del Grappa: Natale di luce — Bright Christmas, ongoing through Jan. 20, Chiesetta dell' Angelo, Via Roma 80

Bolzano: Via dei Presepi — Nativity sets Avenue, Friday-Dec. 31. in Corso Libertà and in Piazza Gries

Verona: Saturday-Jan. 20, at the Arena, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. It features more than 400 nativity scenes from around the world. Entrance fee: €7; reduced cost of €6 for children 6-12 and senior citizens older than 60

Vicenza: ongoing through Jan. 8, daily 9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m., Viale Trento 119; more than 500 Nativity sets from all over the world.

Antique markets

Marostica: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Castello, about 18 miles north of Vicenza. (130 vendors)

Noventa Vicentina: 8 a.m.-6 p.m., in Piazza IV Novembre, about 20 miles south of Vicenza. (120 vendors)

Free concerts, exhibits, events

Advent concert:

Sunday, 4:30 p.m., in Vicenza, Santa Maria in Araceli Church, Piazza Araceli 21.

Chorus and organ concert:

Sunday, 8:30 p.m., in Schio, Santa Maria delle Grazie Church, Loc. Giavanale, Piazza Servi di Maria 1, about 16 miles northwest of Vicenza.

Santa Cecilia Concert:

Sunday, 6:30 p.m., in Thiene, Rozzampia Church, Via Rozzampia 66, about 13 miles north of Vicenza.

Concerts

Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson: Friday in Padova

Spirit of New Orleans — Gospel Choir: Dec. 20 in Lucca

Michael Jackson — The Immortal World Tour, Cirque du Soleil: Feb. 23-24 in Assago (Milan)

Walking with Dinosaurs: March 6-10 in Assago (Milan)

Tickets available in Vicenza at Media World, Palladio Shopping Center or at www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta_lingua=ing or <http://www.ticketone.it/EN/>.

ODR trips

Nice express and perfumery shopping: Saturday

Solden ski/snowboard trip: Saturday

Stubaital ski/snowboard trip: Dec. 8

Innsbruck and Christmas market: Dec. 8

Merano and Trento Christmas market: Dec. 9

Marmolada ski/snowboard trip: Dec. 15

Bolzano Christmas market and Vipiteno: Dec. 15

Gubbio and the World's Largest Christmas Tree: Dec. 16

Rome express: Dec. 22

Val Senales ski/snowboard trip: Dec. 22

San Martino Christmas Eve ski/snowboard trip: Dec. 24

Trips can be booked on WebTrac at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Vicenzarectrac.html> or by following the WebTrac link on www.vicenzaMWR.com or at ODR.

*All events listed on this page are as reported to the Outlook office by press time. All events and times are subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Now Showing



Ederle Theater

Thursday	Lawless (R)	6 p.m.
Friday	Rise of the Guardians (PG)* Red Dawn (PG 13)*	6 p.m. 9 p.m.
Saturday	Rise of the Guardians (PG)* Life of Pi (PG)*	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
Sunday	Life of Pi (PG)* Red Dawn (PG 13)*	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
Wed.	Trouble With a Curve (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 6	Trouble With a Curve (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 7	The Possession (PG 13) Premium Rush (PG 13)	6 p.m. 9 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Dec. 7	The Possession (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG 13)*	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG 13)*	1 p.m.
Dec. 14	Premium Rush (PG 13)	6 p.m.

Admission: *First run, adult, \$5.50, under 12, \$2.75; regular release, \$5/\$2.50; repeat releases, \$4.50/\$2.25; special pay \$3.50/\$1.75.

The Ederle theater box office opens one hour prior to show.

View MOVIE TRAILERS and more online at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/ReelTimeTheatres/reeltime-landing.htm>

News briefs

Health center closure

U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza will be closed Saturday due to power system maintenance. **The birthing center will remain open.**

Buongiorno Italia!

The USO will offer new Level I Italian classes Jan. 14 to March 6 from noon to 1 p.m., and Jan. 14 to Feb. 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. Sign up now; a minimum registration of 15 students is required. Class fee is \$125; textbook is €15. A field trip and Italian cooking demonstration are included. Register at USO or email ggibbs@uso.org for details and assistance.

The Magic of a Moment

Vicenza community schools are supporting students in pre-school through high school to explore their creativity in the National PTA Reflections program by creating original works of art in choreography, film, literature, musical composition, photography and the visual arts. Information is on the web at www.pta.org/reflections. Students from pre-school to 12th grade are eligible to enter in as many categories as they wish. Pick up packets with specific guidelines at your school office or contact PTSA Vicenza at ptsavicenza@hotmail.com. Deadline for submissions will be Jan. 9.

VCC event cake support

The Vicenza Community Club's Community Enrichment budget will cover up to \$40 toward the cost of a cake ordered from the commissary for community related events. Send detailed requests via e-mail to welfare-cc@vccitaly.org. Upon receiving approval, order the cake at the commissary and notify via email again; funds will be forwarded to the commissary. Recipients remain responsible for additional costs.

Commissary holiday hours

The Vicenza Commissary will be **closed Dec. 25-26**, and again on **New Year's Day, Jan. 1**. It will however be **open Dec. 24** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and **Dec. 31** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CYSS advisory group, art exhibit

♦ CYSS will host the **Boys and Girls Clubs of America Fine Arts Exhibit** Dec. 3-31 at the Post Library. We have a lot of very talented youth so please stop by the library, view the show and vote for your favorites. Call 634-7659 for additional information.

♦ The **CYSS Parent Advisory Group** meets Dec. 13 from noon-1 p.m. in ACS, Room 29. All parents of CYSS enrolled children are encouraged to attend. On the agenda are CYSS Annual Survey results, review of the new CYSS Fee Policy, FCC fee information, update on new Youth Center construction, CDC 398 accreditation self-study, holiday operating hours, annual inspection results, actions taken

to prevent spread of contagious diseases in the CDC, and any issues or concerns of parents. Call 634-8347 for information.

Holiday mailing season

The Postal Service Center will be **open Saturdays through Dec. 15, Saturday Dec. 22 and Monday Dec. 24** for package pick-up only. Tuesday hours will be from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mail Parcel Airlift Service parcels by Dec. 3 and Priority parcels and first class letters by Dec. 10. Express service is not available in Vicenza.

Soldiers' Theatre

♦ Make reservations now for **"That Holiday Feeling."** Performances are Dec. 7-16, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Call 634-7281, stop by the theater or email gerald.s.brees.naf@mail.mil for tickets, which are \$12 for adults, \$10 for youth.

♦ **Experienced and trained adult dancers** are invited to audition Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. for "An Evening of Dance" to be staged in the spring. The show will feature ballet, jazz, tap, modern, contemporary and ballroom dance. Bring your ballet, tap, jazz or Pointe shoes and be prepared to dance. Warm ups start at 5:30 p.m.

Street closures

The following streets will be closed Thursday to Saturday in preparation for holiday events:

♦ **Thursday to Saturday:** Parking area in front of the Ederle Inn.

♦ **Thursday and Friday:** No Name Street from the Arena to the Ederle Inn and the access road from the Ederle Inn behind and around the Vicenza Health Center to the parking area along 9th Street.

♦ **Friday:** from about 4:45-5:15 p.m., 9th Street will be shut for the Sleigh Parade and Santa's arrival.

Community tree lighting

The annual community Tree Lighting ceremony will be held Friday at 4 p.m. in front of the Central Processing Facility, Building 393.

♦ **Children's crafts and games** at the Arena from 3:30-4:45 p.m.

♦ **Free horse and carriage rides** from 4-7 p.m. in front of the Ederle Inn.

♦ **Musical performances** from 4-5 p.m.

♦ **The Reindeer Games** sleigh parade makes its way to the Christmas tree to be followed by Santa, who will arrive for the tree lighting at 5:15 p.m.

♦ The **Reindeer Games** follow the ceremony and the **Buon Natale Bazaar** continues at the Golden Lion until 8 p.m.

For more information visit www.vicenzaMWR.com.

VHS FBLA collects Treats for Troops

Future Business Leaders of America at Vicenza High School are collecting individually wrapped holiday candies, granola bars, hot chocolate packs and the like to send to Soldiers downrange. Drop off contributions by Tuesday at the VHS front office. Email

lori.encke@eu.dodea.edu for details.

Dental Clinic hours and orders requirements

♦ **Sick call hours and active duty walk-in exams** will be available through Friday from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

♦ As of Dec. 6, **Family members of active-duty Soldiers must present a copy of their sponsor's orders** showing command sponsorship in order to make dental appointments. Routine dental care will not be available for those who are not command sponsored. Family members may bring sponsor's orders now to have them placed on their charts.

Emergency contacts

The Directorate of Emergency Services reminds the community that emergency personnel can be dispatched to your aid while you are still on the line with the call taker. Do not hang up until told to do so. Information gathered is used to relay to responding services (fire, police, emergency medical services) and to ambulance crew staff may depend on the circumstances of the incident. Numbers to keep at hand are:

♦ **Military Police:** 634-7626/ 7233 (on post), 0444-71-7626/7233 (off post)

♦ **Emergency:** 634-7114 (on post), 0444-71-7114 (off post)

♦ **Fire Department:** 634-8911 (on post), 0444-71-8911 (off post)

♦ **Carabinieri:** 634-7522 (on post), 0444-71-7522/ 7528 (off post)

♦ **MP Desk interpreter:** 634-7847 (on post), 0444-71-7847/ 0444-501800 (off post)

♦ **Off-post Fire Department:** 115

♦ **Off-post ambulance:** 118

♦ **Off-post Carabinieri:** 112

♦ **Off-post Polizia:** 113

Recruiting CID special agents

Are you interested in becoming a CID Special Agent? Interesting work, great career. Call Special Agent Valdez at 634-8899, email gilberto.b.valdez.mil@mail.mil or visit the CID website at www.cid.army.mil for information.

AWAG volunteer training at Aviano

Americans Working Around the Globe will hold its Northern Italy Local Area Conference Dec. 6 at Aviano Air Base to promote volunteer recruitment, motivation and empowerment among spouses, civilians and servicemember volunteers. Email avianoawag@gmail.com for a registration packet.

Angel Trees season

It's that time of year to share in the holiday spirit by giving to a child through the Angel Trees at the Post Exchange and in the lobby of the ACS building. Drop off gifts in the box at the AAFES customer service area by Dec. 14. Call 634-7500 for details.



EFMP events

♦ Exceptional family members are invited to **Tumbling with Crystal Absher** at the post gym Dec. 11 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

♦ **Art with Anything** gets busy with holiday wrapping paper Dec. 21 from 3-4 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center.

Call 634-8582/7500 for details.

Religious activities

Chaplain Crisis Line

To speak with a chaplain after hours, call **634-KARE** (634-5273)

Sunday services

9 a.m.: Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation following Mass, or during duty hours

11 a.m.: Protestant worship

1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship

5 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.: PWOC Bible study. Dinner provided. No child care

5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

Thursdays

9:30 a.m.: Military Council of Catholic Women

5:30 p.m.: Gospel service choir rehearsal

7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

Faith group contacts

Bahá'í Faith: Call Russell Menard at 389-133-4627 or 349-708-2535 or Giacomo Baravalle at 348-603-2283

Church of Christ: Call CW2 Michael Bickle at 345-469-9974 or 0444-335-135 or email vicenzaitalychurchofchrist@gmail.com

Islamic: Call 634-7519 (0444-71-7519)

Jewish: Call Paul Levine at 345-907-2108

Latter Day Saints: Sunday services, 9:30 a.m. in Vicenza. Call Chance Wilson at 327-869-8107 for details.

Call the Caserma Ederle Post Chapel at 634-7519 (0444-71-7519) for more information.



Photo by Laura Kreider

'Tis the season: Vicenza Middle School students deliver holiday cookies and treats to USO manager Glenn Gibbs Nov. 15 to send to community Soldiers downrange as part of the Giving Thanks to Our Soldiers project.

DON'T BE LATE: Email briefs to editor@eur.army.mil by noon on Monday, or by 4 p.m. Friday if Monday is a holiday.

Caserma Ederle runners dominate in numerous countries

By Julie M. Lucas
Outlook editor

The streets of Vicenza have been abused the past few months by Vicenza military community marathon runners training. In the past month, more than 10 runners have entered races and brought back medals in three different countries.

Pamela Markley, an Outdoor Recreation aide finished first among women at the Run to the Tower in Pisa Oct. 8 with a time of 45 minutes, 27 seconds, just a minute after the male winner. She then ran in her sixth marathon in Venice Oct. 27 and finished as the eighth woman out of 978 with a time of 3 hours, 1 minute and 33 seconds.

"Venice was flooded and the wind was terrible that day," Markley said. "I was about 10 minutes off my time." She finished 168th out of 5,934 runners. Markley's husband is currently deployed with 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and she says she is using him as her inspiration.

A Soldier from Caserma Ederle, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Carder, U.S. Army Africa, also ran in three marathons in the past year including Venice, Rome and Athens. During the Athens marathon, he ran along with his wife Beth while she completed her first marathon. Carder said he followed a great training plan and has marathons in Africa, Spain and Italy on the horizon.

Beth Carder had it in her mind after she completed the Athens marathon she would stick to shorter races, but after a few days of soreness after the race went away, she is now planning on running in the Venice marathon, with the Verona Romeo and Juliet half marathon and Jesolo's Moonlight half before.

Another USARAF Soldier, Maj. William Navarro completed his first marathon in Europe in Verona and also ran in the Athens marathon.

"I trained well, but in Athens the heat became a factor on performance," Navarro said. He plans on running the Rome marathon in March and doing two in April in Paris and Madrid. Navarro had planned on running the New York marathon, but it was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy that had hit the area.

Two spouses who have trained together traveled to Athens to run in the original marathon. When asked what her motivation was, fitness instructor Crystal Absher responded, "I wanted the shirt." Her running partner Shannon Sterling, Army Community Services contractor, said she was running to prove to herself she could do it.

"I want to show my kids the importance of fitness," Sterling said. Both women agree for them it's not about the time on the clock, but about crossing the finish line. Their advice for those interested in running would be to make longer runs and more hills. The two will be running in a marathon in Trieste in the spring.

A few runners made a special trip across the Atlantic Ocean to take part in the Marine Corps marathon. Army Community Service relocation readiness manager Julia Sibilla's daughter Sasha is currently in Navy ROTC at the University of Virginia and chose this race to run her twentieth. Sibilla has a milestone birthday this year and in honor of it, she will be running in the



Courtesy photo

Pam Markley, Outdoor Recreation, keeps pace during Run to the Tower, where she finished first. A few weeks later she ran in the Venice marathon, where she finished eighth among women runners.

Ultraberibus 62-kilometer run in March.

Another ACS employee, school liaison officer Norie McCall, joined the Sibillas in the Marine Corp race. McCall's first marathon was the Chicago marathon in 2009 and has finished five marathons and numerous half marathons. She hopes to qualify with her daughter to run in the Boston marathon.

A local national employee made the trip to run in the marathon in Washington, D.C. Paola Preto Martini, an employee of the Judge Advocate General's Office, has completed seven marathons in the last two years. Due to an extra hot summer, she says she missed running as many miles as needed, but she did feel very proud to have the medal placed around her neck by a Marine after finishing the marathon. Preto Martini runs with a local Italian running club called "Atletica Vicentina." She has marathons in March and April to train for.

A running legend is working at Vicenza Middle School as a nurse and cross country and track coach. Kathy Thomas didn't start running until she was 38 and recently won second place in her age category at the Verona marathon, despite having a disappointing race. She will be looking at running for the ninth time in March in Rome and trying to help a friend set a personal record during the run. Thomas not only is a runner but has also competed in numerous triathlons and Ironman competitions. She is currently training for the Medigames in Zagreb, Croatia, which is open to people in the medical field all over the world and includes running, cycling and swimming. She is also eyeing a half Ironman in Switzerland in June.

Army Community Service employees Julia Sibilla, second from left, and Norie McCall, second from right, joined Sibilla's daughter, Sasha, center, in Washington, D.C., for the Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28. Judge Advocate General employee Paola Preto Martini also ran in the race.



Photo courtesy of Julia Sibilla

Middle school sports

The Vicenza Middle School will be offering sports programs in wrestling and volleyball. Wrestling runs through Jan. 25, practicing Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 3-4:30 p.m. with meets Jan. 12 and 19. Students must have a 2.0 and no more than one "F" grade. Volleyball practices Tuesdays and Fridays from 3-4:30 p.m. Participants should be dressed appropriately, with no jewelry and knee pads are recommended. They should bring a bottle of water and healthy snack. Participants of both programs should have a physical, which can be scheduled at www.tricareonline.com or by calling 0444-61-9020.

CYSS sports

Enrollment for cheerleading (ages 6-15) and basketball (ages 3-5) is open through Dec. 7 or until spaces are filled. Practice begins Dec. 26 and the season runs Jan. 15-March 2. Enroll at Parent Central Services. Youth must have a health assessment valid through the end of the season. Call 634-6151 for more information.

Unit and rec play

Men's Soccer: Vicenza Post Soccer Team is currently looking for players. Practice is every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Soccer Field behind the Ederle Inn. For more information contact Wilmer Aguilar (team captain) at 634-8638 or 335-698-1961, or email wilmer.aguilarcorea.mil@mail.mil.

Volleyball: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays for eight or more, Fitness Center.

Frisbee golf: 6 p.m. Wednesdays, North 40 field.

Tennis: Open play Singles and Doubles on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

New players are always welcome. Call 634-7009 or individual POCs.

Rugby Team Open Play

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 join players at the N-40 Football Field to play.