

Kontakt Club declares war on weeds, cleans cemetery

Story and photos by
Mark Iacampo

USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

HOHENFELS, Germany — Armed with rakes, pitchforks and weed-eaters, members of the Hohenfels German American Kontakt Club set out on a clean-up mission to the Polish Prisoner of War Cemetery located on post, Oct. 22.

"The Polish POW Cemetery is part of the Hohenfels history and should be preserved," said Andreas Kirschenbauer, German president of the Hohenfels Kontakt Club. "If the grass gets too high it will push over the tombstones and will destroy the cemetery."

Conceived as part of "Make a Difference Day," this is the second year the Kontakt Club has waged war on the weeds. Held annually on the fourth Saturday of October, Make a Difference Day is the largest community service effort in the nation with over three million people participating worldwide.

"It's really great to be part of an organization that is doing something like this," said Capt. Andrea Pratt. "It's really nice to do this project in particular because the Polish cemetery is a little bit hard to get to, not everybody knows where it's at. But every now and then, family members do come back to visit the cemetery and it's nice for them to see that people are maintaining it and taking care of it."

The cemetery is part of the garrison's "box tours," which buses visitors through the historic areas of the training area.

"It's very important that the cemetery gets maintained as a memory," said club member Edith Vogl. "People shouldn't forget what happened here, it should be honored."

Vogl plans to send photographs of the



group's efforts to former Hohenfels Chaplain Donald Smith, currently serving in Afghanistan.

"He said he works with a lot of Polish soldiers and ... he wanted to show them that Germans are taking care of a Polish cemetery," she said.

Pratt said the Kontakt Club is an excellent way to meet and get involved with the German community.

"This service project is just one other great thing that we get to do with our German friends," she said. "It's a nice demonstration of partnership, Americans and Germans coming together to tidy up the Polish cemetery."



Above: Jeffrey Worden whacks weeds among the headstones of the Polish Prisoner of War Cemetery as part of the Kontakt Club's clean-up project for "Make a Difference Day," Oct. 22.

Left: Matthew Palumbo hefts a handful of weeds.

Garmisch teens hold Youth AFAP Conference

Story and photo by
Meghan McAndrew

USAG Garmisch Army Community Service

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — In preparation for the upcoming 2012 Army Family Action Plan Conference in Grafenwoehr, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, teen representatives met Oct. 22 for the Garmisch Community Youth AFAP Conference.

The teens spent the day learning the AFAP process and how they can also have an impact on decisions made throughout the community. They discussed community issues directly affecting their quality of life and in many cases developed their own solutions.

Of the six issues discussed, the teens were able to resolve half of them by developing actions that would allow for youth to take a more active part in the community. Solutions involved creating a youth sports council to advocate more extracurricular activities and working with the housing office to make signs that will remind housing tenants to pick up their garbage and replace lids on the garbage cans.

At the conclusion of the one-day conference,



Charlyn Moss, left, prepares to present an issue and resolution to Capt. Jena Roark, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Garmisch, while Tess Chaffin adds the finishing touches to another issue. The teens spent a day participating in the Youth AFAP conference committee.

participants shared their concerns and solutions with Capt. Jena Roark, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Garmisch. Roark listened to their issues and provided feedback.

"These future leaders carefully considered the issues and brought wonderful ideas for many ways to improve our community," said Roark. "Their enthusiasm for the ideas and solutions to the problems are exciting and will only overall

community involvement."

Roark added that she's looking forward to working with the community-minded teens.

As a result of the conference, the teens requested initiating quarterly Youth AFAP meetings to discuss the status of issues and any new issues affecting the garrison's youth.

Issues can be submitted throughout the year, however, they must be submitted by Nov. 15 to make the 2012 AFAP Conference.

Global change starts locally

By **Cristina M. Piosa**

USAG Grafenwoehr Army Community Service

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — ACS' Michelle McLaughlin recently surveyed approximately 50 community members on their level of knowledge about the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP).

"Some of the responses were that they did not know what the program was, or that AFAP was for domestic violence or for family matters," said McLaughlin.

In reality, the AFAP is the community's gateway to policy, regulations and legislature change. Through this program, the Army provides community members with a voice to make improvements to current policies and procedures, and to let leadership know what is working and what is not.

Your submission of issues is critical in shaping the Army and improving the overall quality of life, which you, as a community member, have the responsibility to take action and speak up.

What is an issue? An issue is something that is not working. You provide us with the issue, who it affects (Soldiers, spouses, families, teens, single Soldiers, civilians or retirees), and provide us a possible resolution to the problem.

AFAP is not the ICE comment program, but it goes above and beyond local issues because AFAP is global.

The fiscal year 2012 AFAP Conference will be Nov. 29-Dec. 1. ACS AFAP is seeking more volunteers to work together in reading, prioritizing and pushing through leadership issues that community members have submitted within the past year.

Want to submit your issue? Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/afap, or e-mail Michelle McLaughlin at michelle.r.mclaughlin2.civ@mail.mil.

'Howlenfels' haunted house boasts frightful fun

By **Mark Iacampo**

USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

HOHENFELS, Germany — Screams and howls echoed down the dark hallways. A man, his face as pale as death, greeted trembling guests at the door, warning them of the horrors waiting within.

"Stay within the light," he cautioned, holding aloft a flickering lantern, and a handful of courageous adventurers followed him into a blackened corridor filled with the tormented screams of the denizens of "The Asylum."

Halloween has come to Hohenfels!

Conceived and executed by the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, the Haunted Asylum thrilled visitors for three nights last month in the week leading up to Halloween.

"We really wanted to show the community something they'd never seen before," said Lt. Bruce Rosenbloom, one of the driving forces behind the attraction. "We hope to start an annual tradition that we'd like to see carried on for many years to come."

Recruiting families, friends and fellow Soldiers, HHC gathered

about 10 actors and 10 additional behind-the-scenes players and set about turning the vacant Building 373 into a "little shop of horrors."

"We've been hard at work since early September," Rosenbloom said. "I'm impressed with how it all came together."

Each room within the Asylum was individually designed by a separate team, with each group providing its own props.

"We all came together and donated what we could to make this a great show," said Rosenbloom.

"Lt. Rosenbloom has a real passion for Halloween, so he wanted to be sure we could share that passion with the community," said Spc. Carnesia Jones, who plays a trapped victim in the witch's room. "These rooms were naked. Everything you see in these rooms, we built. It came from the heart."

The reward for their hard work came in the reactions from the community.

"You take a condemned building that looks like nothing, you put everything together, and when you start to see the reactions, you know your work is appreciated," said Spc. Julian Turner, who crawls after visitors in a room inspired by "The Ring" film.



Photo by Sgt. Randy Florendo

A ghostly ghoull greets guests at the Asylum Haunted House on Hohenfels, Oct. 31.

Judging from visitors' reactions, the Asylum was a frightful success.

"I almost had a stroke," said 11-year-old Emily Bryant.

"I loved it," said her father, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Todd Bryant. "It was exactly what I was looking for. There was a story, and it was really cool that they escorted us through the whole thing."

Spc. Ginger Rogers, who plays a witch tormenting a helpless captive, said visitors could enjoy the Asylum multiple times, as the actors vary their performances as the night progresses.

"We improv it," she said. "We

do it off the top of our heads. It's never the same thing twice."

Rosenbloom said the first two rooms were specifically designed to be appropriate for younger children.

"They're about as kid-friendly as a haunted house can get," he said. "The kids can come in, get some candy and be happy. But later on, we pull out all the stops and we don't pull any punches."

Hohenfels Middle/High school freshman Taylor Roberts plays a zombie in one of these later rooms.

"We've gotten a lot of people here, and lot of them run out screaming," he laughed.

The deadlines for mailing items in time for Christmas are as follows:

SAM parcels:
Nov. 25

PAL parcels:
Dec. 2

Priority parcels:
Dec. 9

First class letters and card:
Dec. 9

Express mail:
Dec. 16