

Kontakt Club gives Polish Cemetery some TLC



Photos by Norbert Wittl

Members of the Kontakt Club, Edith Vogel, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Worden work on the Polish Cemetery as part of the service project to make the cemetery more presentable for visitors. Seventeen members participated.

Members of German-American club team up for service project

by U.S. Army Garrison
Hohenfels Public Affairs

News Release

Members of the Hohenfels German-American Kontakt club met at the Polish Cemetery to clean up the area as part of a service project, Sept. 18.

The 17 club members who participated in the project spent the morning and afternoon cutting and raking grass and cleaning up around the grave stones.

At noon, the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Commander Col.

John Spiszer and his wife Melissa took sandwiches and drinks donated by the Casino Cantina to the workers.

By 2 p.m. the project was complete and the "sweat-covered volunteers left the cemetery looking good for visitors and Box Tour participants," said Norbert Wittl, USAG Hohenfels public affairs specialist.

The Polish Cemetery was established during World War II for Polish prisoners of war that died during their incarceration at the POW camp.

The Kontakt Club is an Army-sponsored organization that gives Soldiers, civilians and their families an opportunity to share their culture and interests with their German hosts and citizens of other countries. The club plans a variety of activities each month and everyone is invited to participate.



Above: Members of the Hohenfels Kontakt Club rake weeds in the Polish Cemetery as part of the service project to make the cemetery more presentable for visitors.



Right: A view of the Polish Cemetery at Hohenfels Training Area after members of the Kontakt Club finished the service project, which involved cutting and raking grass and weeds.

Construction team exercise prepares for deployment

Story and photo by
Pfc. David W. Huddleston
18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 243rd Construction Management Team prepared for their upcoming deployment by conducting their Mission Readiness Exercise at the Hohenfels Training Area, recently.

The 243rd CMT, 18th Engineer Brigade, was assigned to directly support the 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment and provided technical engineering and tactical expertise during exercise Task Force Warrior.

When asked about his experience during the MRE, Spc. Jason Villa, a 243rd CMT technical engineer specialist, said a couple of their missions were delayed "because enemy contact came upon us."

Villa said he now has a better understanding about how to react to contact because of the training he received during the MRE. During one such scenario, his convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device,

and he had to employ Combat Lifesaver techniques and perform a casualty evacuation.

Throughout the exercise, 243rd CMT provided facility management by conducting a baseline survey of the installation to prepare for future construction.

Outside of their FOB, Soldiers provided multiple assessments of roads and of a well that was built for a local village. To do this kind of work the 243rd CMT used the Trimble Automated Integrated Survey Instrument to calculate differences in elevation and the Trimble Global Positioning System.

Pvt. Kenneth Joyner, a 243rd CMT technical engineer specialist, said that during the development of a road survey, their team encountered a potential IED, which then caused a setback in the progression of their mission.

This and other scenarios provided the 243rd CMT with realistic training and gave the Soldiers the knowledge and confidence to adapt to and overcome any obstacle.

"One of the great things we were able to do was practice key leader engagement," said Maj. Aaron Wolf, 243rd CMT commander.

Wolf said during these engagements, the noncommissioned officers went out with the company commanders and experienced how to communicate with the scenario role players in the village outside the base.

After these meetings with the locals, unit leaders were then able to return to their Soldiers and create a more comprehensive picture of their battle space, assist the locals in the development of their village and resolve any problems that may have existed.

"I now have a better understanding of what to expect, and I'm more confident," said Joyner.

Statements such as these prove the MRE was a success for the Soldiers of the 243rd CMT, who said the MRE provided invaluable training and knowledge to all and better prepared them for their upcoming deployment.



Spc. Jason Villa, a technical engineer specialist for 243rd Construction Management Team, 18th Engineer Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command of Scottsdale, Ariz., conducts a baseline survey during the units Mission Readiness Exercise, Aug. 8, in Hohenfels, Germany. The 243rd CMT provided technical engineering and tactical support for the 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment while conducting baseline surveys and multiple road assessments.

Making the most of your energy dollars

The on-post electrical rate is \$0.16 per kWh from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., and \$0.065 per kWh from 8 p.m.-8 a.m. Use major appliances such as washers and dryers during the low electricity rate hours (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.).

Use energy saving light bulbs. They are free at your Self Help Store.

Turn off lights in all unoccupied rooms and ensure exterior lights are turned off during day time.

Report leaky or damaged windows to your Single Soldiers Housing Office. Check out with your DPW Self Help on small repairs.

The most comfortable way of staying warm is to heat your room uniformly throughout the winter time. Setting the thermostat valve of your heating at 3 to 4 will not only provide the most comfortable warmth, it saves heating cost and eliminates the need for changing the heat settings.

For air exchange open the windows only for a short time. The rule of thumb is open a window 3 to 5 minutes. Never leave the windows open or tilted for more than 15 minutes! Leaving the windows open or tilted for long not only lets the heat escape but at the same time cold air hit on the walls causing increased humidity and vapor formation; an ideal condition for mildew buildup.

Army gets prepared

by U.S. Army Garrison
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September is National Preparedness Month, a nationwide effort sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps.

"The U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels is pleased to be taking part in this nationwide effort to help the Hohenfels military community prepare for emergencies," said Tom Janis. "This year, NPM focuses on encouraging you and other Americans to take active steps toward getting involved and becoming prepared."

"Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. We have to work together, as a team, to ensure that

individuals, families, and communities are ready," said Janis.

According to Janis the keys to preparedness are to make a plan, get an emergency supply kit, stay informed, and work together as a team to keep everyone safe.

"We're taking steps as a community to become educated, trained and better prepared, and we urge you to take time this month to do the same at home, for your community. Take simple steps to better prepare yourself and your family."

For more information about Ready Army visit www.ready.gov or www.ready.army.mil and www.citizen corps.gov to explore ways that you can get involved in your community. For more information call Tom Janis, garrison emergency manager, at DSN 466-2503.