



USAG Bavaria Religious Support Office

Annual Chaplain Historical Summary

January to December 2017

POC: CH (COL) Kevin M. Pies, Garrison Chaplain

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USAG Bavaria, GE 09114

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SECTION A: MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

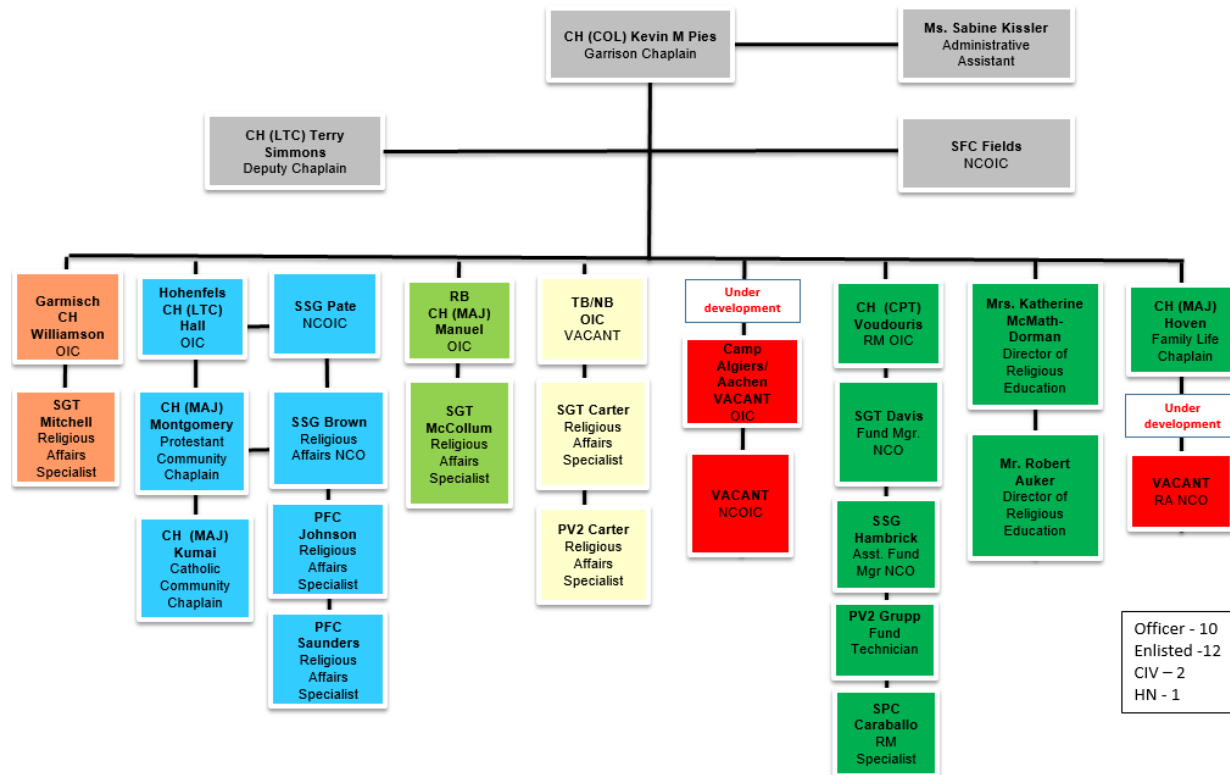
Mission:

The USAG Bavaria Religious Support Office (RSO) plans, provides and coordinates religious services to Soldiers, Family Members, DA Civilians, Contractors and Local Nationals to enable spiritual readiness, ensure community religious needs are met and maintain a quality of life within our garrison. The RSO advises the Commander and Staff on Religious Support Operations.

Key Tasks for the RSO include:

1. Strengthen and grow the chapel communities resulting in increased Faith Formation.
2. Partner with the mission stakeholders for increased all around effective garrison Religious Support.
3. Integrate into the garrison Hub and Spoke plan of operations. This involves the providing of support to other site location communities as requested to ensure mission accomplishment.
4. Develop realistic and effective STRATCOM for promotional advertising of events and reporting procedures.
5. Serve as the RSO's designated representative for worship services, religious education, activities and events. Each worship service pastor and Director of Religious Educations (DRE) will serve as a member of the USAG Bavaria Program Budget Advisory Committee.

Organization:



USAG Bavaria Unit Ministry Team Roster:

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SECTION B: HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Introduction.

Europe has become a very busy training environment for the U.S. Army. The USAREUR Common Operating Picture reflects this activity. Located at the southeast corner of Germany is USAG Bavaria in the midst of all of this busy-ness.

USAG Bavaria has consisted of four independent and distinct community garrisons under the motto “four communities, one garrison”. USAG Bavaria has now transformed into a Hub and Spoke interconnectivity in a “we is us” ethos with five communities. The Command Group has made a deliberate, conscientious effort to make a presence in all of the garrison’s communities. Each community has transformed from a Garrison Commander to Site Manager leadership with a delegated authority from the Garrison Commander. This has provided an increased interoperability working relationship between all of the garrison’s communities. Each community supports the whole garrison mission, with resources, planning and participate in collective meetings to accomplish this mission.

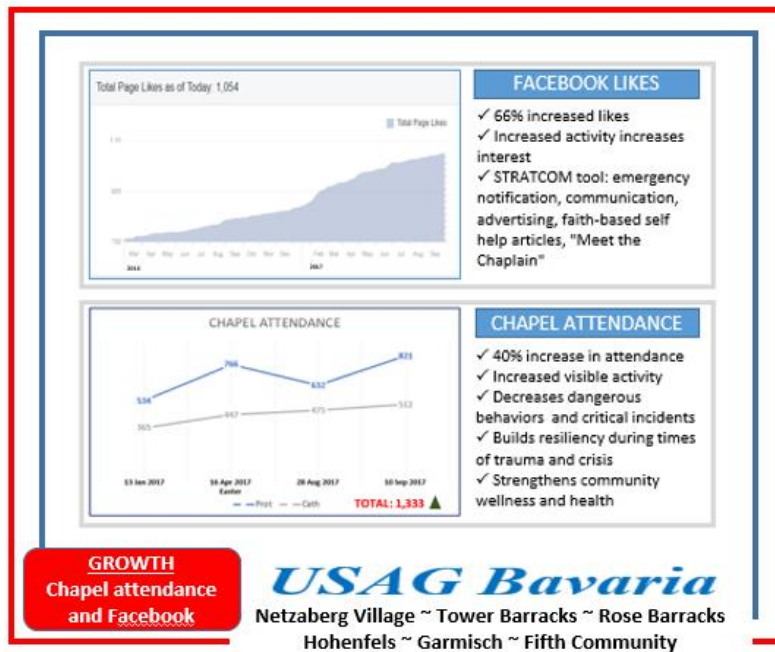


As a result, historically, the USAG Bavaria experienced a profound name change from Grafenwoehr and Vilseck to Tower Barracks (TB) and Rose Barracks (RB) respectively. This

garrison is no longer an “East Camp Grafenwoehr” community and has experienced a significant population growth over the recent years.


In recent months, the garrison added a fifth community (Camp Aachen & Camp Algiers) with its own unique transitional Religious Support (RS) needs, greater inoperability, resourcing and assistance.

In 2017, USGA Bavaria experienced significant growth in several areas. Chapel attendance had a growth spurt of 40%. This was not only due to the fact that the garrison opened a new \$15M chapel facility in Netzaberg Village. This growth is the result of several factors. Firstly, the garrison reorganized some key functions and displaced them down to junior chaplains on the Staff so that the sharing of the load created strong efficient system processes. Secondly, the new chaplains found ministry opportunities and applied their own skill set and pastoral expertise to dormant ministries and ignited them with a dynamic connection.



Another area of growth resulted to increased Social Media activity with a garrison Facebook page. By enlisting key volunteers, the media growth amounted to over 200% with current news stories, faith based self-help articles, "Meet the UMT" features, activity and programming advertising and the sharing of all internal chapel Facebook pages. This increased activity meant that not only were chapel services becoming more interesting and met many needs. It also meant that word leaked out and the community members became interested in what the chapel leaders were actually providing.

In 2017, the RSO Staff also grew with the creation and onboarding of two new Director of Religious Education (DRE) positions which had been vacant for at least 5 years. These DREs quickly integrated and engaged in the life of the chapel community with Mrs. Katherine McMath-Dorman earning the Civilian Employee of the Quarter award. With innovative approaches they tackled complex programs in the areas of the organization of Watchcare services, volunteer management and Background Check procedures. At the rate of their responsiveness and process improvements, the DREs are quickly grasping the challenges and streamlining the processes.




USAG Bavaria RSO

Civilian of the Quarter



GROUP DETAILS





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AWARD OF MERIT
AWARDED TO


Katherine McMATH-Dorman
Civilian Employee of the Quarter
1 March 2017 - 30 June 2017

PHOTOS

On 29 September 2017, Mrs. Katherine "Kate" McMATH-Dorman was recognized as the USAG Bavaria's Civilian Employee of the Quarter for superior performance.

Kate serves as the Director of Religious Education for the garrison's Religious Support Office (RSO). Her tremendous ideas, innovative planning and thorough implementation of Religious Support programs have culminated into this quarter's tremendous achievements.


In less than a year assignment with the RSO she has provided the leadership and programming successes that USAG Bavaria has needed. Her positive "can-do", conscientious demeanor, "outside-the-box" ideas and tireless work ethic made a huge difference and ensured that the chapel Religious Education programs were successful.



Pushup
Challenge



Background
Checks



Vacation Bible School



Kate, Josh and son George McMATH-Dorman
CH (COL) Kevin and Lisi Pies
Garrison Chaplain USAG Bavaria

Sponsoring Chaplain: CH (COL) Kevin M. Pies, kevin.m.pies@mail.mil, 314-569-7050

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USAG Bavaria

Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks
Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community

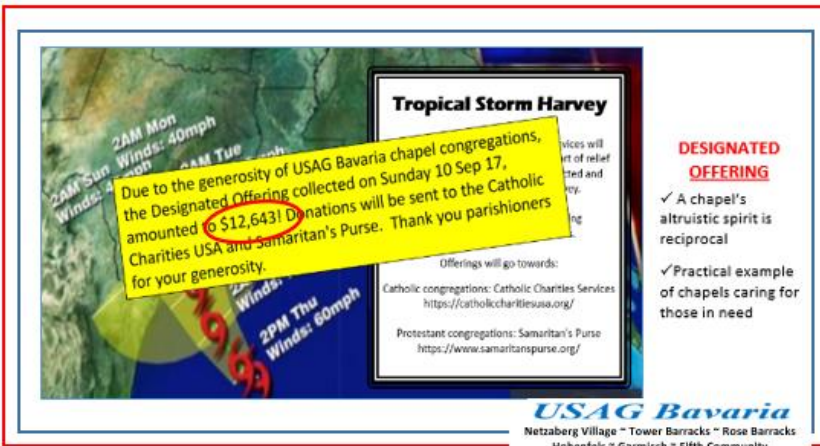
The RSO also received a Religious Affairs NCOIC, SFC Charlie Fields, Jr. in September, 2017. He also integrated quickly and began to restructure our RAS team to create greater efficiencies and manpower adaptation and application. This brought much needed structure to a position that remained vacant for over a year. Likewise, this included monumental efforts to quickly onboard several new Religious Affairs Specialist (RAS) in order to get them quickly involved in the abundant RSO tasks, programs and chapel facility operations.

Among these new additions, the RSO had an opportunity to fill our Local National Administrative Assistant Position. Helpful from the very start, Ms. Sabine Kissler quickly integrated into the life of the RSO and significantly assisted with a chapel grand opening, well attended banquet, essential translation work and the conducting of COMREL tours of the new chapel. In addition to her vital skills, she has provided outstanding translation work that has resulted in increased RSO communication with local nationals for order supplies, fulfilling Work Orders and troubleshooting problems that are challenged by a need for this translation assistance. She has provided valuable assistance with TDY arrangements and the collective of measureable metric data for reports and briefings. The RSO functions now in an increased efficient manner because of her meticulous attention to detail and garrison situational awareness.

Budgeting and Offerings.

1. Financial and Numerical Wrap up.

2017 was a productive and successful year of ministry in USAG Bavaria. The overall RSO income operating budget for 2017 was \$165,000 (APF BOS) and \$536,350.35 (CTOF NAF). The RSO currently holds 13 APF Contracts and 26 CTOF NAF Contracts. Childcare expenses totaled \$49,920 but is expected to grow to \$286,666 for 2018.



Designated Offerings are an important essential part of the chapel ministry that helps countless agencies and ministries. All the chapels are very active in promoting Designated Offerings. Due to the generosity of USAG Bavaria chapel congregations, a Designated Offering was collected in support of relief operations for Hurricane Harvey on

Sunday, 10 September 2017 and amounted to \$12,643! Donations were sent to the Catholic Charities USA and Samaritan's Purse. Both organizations were on the ground and assisting those communities. We thanked our parishioners for their abundant generosity. The total collected for Designated Offerings for the year was \$154,594.17.

In December, 2017, the RSO published and executed OPERATIONS ORDER 18-010: USAG Bavaria Religious Support Office 2017 December Holiday Sharing Program. Over 940 commissary gift cards were distributed to 235 USAG Bavaria Soldiers and Families in the amount of \$23,750. This initiative was part of the RSO's Holiday Sharing program in partnership with the Service Credit Union with a sizeable donation of \$18,500. The remaining funds collected from chapel Designated Offerings will roll over in to the Operation Helping Hand fund to support Soldiers and Families in need throughout the year.

In 2017, the RSO benefitted tremendously from requesting and receiving an abundant amount of Other People's Money (OPM).

2. European Defense Initiative Funding.

On 27 October, 2017, the RSO was notified that they were awarded \$140K in EDI (formerly ERI) funding to support the Fifth Community Religious Support for the Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF). That is twice the amount of our IMCOM budget support. Funding was applied to begin an actual Sunday Chapel Shuttle Bus program, requesting and integrating TDY USAR and ARNG Chaplains into the RSO program stationed at Camp Aachen, executing some RAF big events and Spiritual Fitness trips, ordering curriculum to assist the RAF ministry and upgrading the Camp Aachen Chapel with possible phone and internet capability for increased ministry at Camp Aachen. This funding allows the RSO to bring in a Rabbi TDY for high holy days with invitations always extended to the RAF.

The new Netzaberg Chapel Sunday Shuttle Bus is a tremendous milestone for our garrison. The bus began running on 14 January, 2018 from Camp Aachen to the

STRONG EUROPE!

UNCLASSIFIED

Spiritual Strength Trip

WHO: 27 Soldiers from 3ABCT
WHAT: Spiritual Strength Trip
WHEN: 23-24 SEP 2017
WHERE: Cologne and Trier, Germany

SUMMARY: On 23-24 SEP 2017, the 1-68 AR and 588 BEB Unit Ministry Teams led 27 Soldiers on a "Spiritual Strength Trip" to the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany, and the ancient Roman sites in Trier, Germany. At these UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) sites, participants learned about bringing glory to God through church architecture, the church in the third and fourth centuries AD, and the cost of convictions. Participants also received a devotional message and had ample time with the 1-68 AR and 588 BEB Chaplain to engage in dialogue that was faith affirming, encouraging, and informative.

BLUF: The Spiritual Strength Trip enhanced the spiritual life of Soldiers in attendance. Participants enjoyed an immersive learning experience focused on the building of the church, in both architectural and historical senses. 3ABCT's ability to conduct a Spiritual Strength Trip of this caliber, with its religious, cultural, and historical benefits, demonstrates the importance placed on the Spiritual Strength of Iron Brigade Soldiers.

UMT led Spiritual Strength Trip group photo at the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany. At this site, participants learned how architecture can bring glory to God.

Participants gather for a group photo in front of the Porta Nigra in Trier, Germany, after a day of immersive learning about the ancient church.

ARMY STRONG, STRONG EUROPE!
UNCLASSIFIED
Chaplain (CPT) Andrew Dressler, 1-68 AR, 3ABCT, 4ID
As of 24 SEP 17

EDI RAF Support

USAG Bavaria

Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks
Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community

CHAPEL

NETZBERG CHAPEL SHUTTLE

- DOD ID CARDHOLDERS AND DEPENDENTS
- SHUTTLE STOPS
 - Camp Aachen Chapel
 - Tower Barracks PX
 - Ever Vigilant DFAC
 - Netzaberg Chapel
- No Charge

TIMETABLE SUNDAYS

Camp Aachen Chapel	0745
Tower Barracks PX	0800
Ever Vigilant DFAC	0815
Netzaberg Chapel	0825
Catholic Mass	0830
Netzaberg Chapel	0945
Ever Vigilant DFAC	0955
Tower Barracks PX	1000
Camp Aachen Chapel	1010
Tower Barracks PX	1020
Ever Vigilant DFAC	1030
Netzaberg Chapel	1045
Protestant Service	1100
Netzaberg Chapel	1100
Ever Vigilant DFAC	1115
Tower Barracks PX	1125
Camp Aachen Chapel	1155
Tower Barracks PX	1205
Ever Vigilant DFAC	1215
Netzaberg Chapel	1230
Ever Vigilant DFAC	1245
Tower Barracks PX	1255
Gospel Service	1300
Camp Aachen Chapel	1305
Tower Barracks PX	1315
Ever Vigilant DFAC	1325
Netzaberg Chapel	1500
Ever Vigilant DFAC	1515
Tower Barracks PX	1525
Camp Aachen Chapel	1535

0830 Catholic Mass
1100 Protestant Svc.
1300 Gospel Service

NETZBERG CHAPEL SERVICES TIMES

Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/USAGBRCH>

USAG Bavaria

Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks
Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community

Tower Barracks PX and then DFAC and on up to the Netzaberg Chapel. At long last, after a phenomenal amount of coordination the RSO cracked the code. With an initial APF credit card purchase for an initial 9 weeks service, a contract was finally awarded on 7 March, 2017 for a yearlong Shuttle Bus service. Now Soldiers and PCSing Family members are able to attend chapel worship services at the Netzaberg Chapel while the Tower Barracks Chapel is under renovation for future services. This transportation will also incorporate any visiting training unit Soldiers at the Camp Normandy NCO Academy, the Camp Aachen support services and Barracks single Soldiers and in-processing Family members staying in the lodge who do not have available transportation on a Sunday. Everybody wins.

3. DACH Ecclesiastical Equipment Grants (EEG).







\$238,000 was requested and awarded for DACH EEGs to enhance our garrison Chapel facilities. These funds were used for replenishing depleted liturgical items as well as providing enhancements to the newly opened Netzaberg Chapel. Another \$70,000 was awarded to renovate the Tower Barracks Chapel. These funds will be used to "match" garrison DPW funds to modernize the chapel with DPW for the addition of another toilet, the creation of a kitchenette for a coffee or tea bar, the upgrading of the AV and lighting system, painting and installation of new flooring. Note: the DACH EEG funding of \$70,000 will match DPW funding but be used for the expressed purpose of funding and procuring "holy things".





Netzberg Chapel

USAG Bavaria
Netzberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks
Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community

NETZBERG CHAPEL		CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS	
			
Main Entrance	Platform Heating	Platform	
			
Classrooms	Main Entry Hall	Lighting Support	

Netzberg Chapel

USAG Bavaria
Netzberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks
Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community

INTERIOR DÉCOR CONCEPTS		ARTHEA DESIGN PHOTOS	
			
Pre-platform	Design Team in Action	Interior Lighting	
			
Concept Design	Concept Stations of the Cross	Exterior Lighting	
Netzaberg Chapel		USAG Bavaria Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community	

		DACH Ecclesiastical Equipment Grants	
			
			
Netzaberg Chapel		USAG Bavaria Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community	

4. Strong Bonds Funding.

The RSO's Family Life Chaplain (FLCH) requested and received over \$250,000 in Strong Bonds' funding for relationship training events at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (ELR), Garmisch. All of these events were fully attended with the need to create standby lists for those who were not able to register early. By advertising through the RSO's garrison's Facebook page and in chapel communities, this communication ensured that all spaces were filled.

Key target groups also ensured that the Strong Bonds were full events. In June, 2017, the FLCH took 20 couples of our caregivers to ELR. These caregivers came from our garrison's B-MEDDAC and DENTAC and provided Care for the Care Giver in the medical and dental fields. This was one of the most interactive group of participants ever in a Strong Bonds seminar. Several ICE cards were submitted by couples who benefited from the training.

In September 2017, the Hohenfels RSO hosted a Strong Bonds Family Retreat at the ELR. 37 rooms were filled as the FLCH conducted training on Seven Habits of Effective Military Families. The Hohenfels JMRC Chaplains and their Families also attended and co-conducted the training.

Strong Bonds for Families

Strong Bonds Building Ready Families

EDELWEISS LODGE AND RESORT

Your military chapel and Religious Support Office presents
a Strong Bonds for Families Event
9-10 December 2017 Edelweiss Lodge and Resort

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FAMILIES

- ✓ A practical and philosophical guide to solving problems—large and small, mundane and extraordinary—that confront all families.
- ✓ Revealing anecdotes about ordinary families.
- ✓ Helpful suggestions about changing everyday behavior.
- ✓ How and why to have family meetings.
- ✓ The importance of keeping promises.
- ✓ How to balance individual and family needs.
- ✓ How to move from dependence to independence.
- ✓ Building a healthy, growing, thriving family culture.

Registration: Open to all Soldiers and DEERS registered dependents. Non-Soldiers with dependents inquire about a few scholarship opportunities. Request a registration form and itinerary details at the email addresses below, from your sponsoring or Chapel pastor, clear the event with your supervisor or register before 8 November 2017 **directly** with PV2 Alex Saunders below

◆ For all registration forms and general inquiries:
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Kevin.m.hovan.mil@mail.mil

◆ To register:
Alex.R.Saunders.mil@mail.mil

USAG Bavaria
Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks
Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community

The current RAF UMTs with innovation and creativity applied for Strong Bonds funding prior to their arrival to USAG Bavaria. The 2/1ID UMTs were awarded funds to conduct a Charlie event (Single Soldiers) in Berlin in September, 2017 and at ELR in December, 2017.

SECTION C: CHAPEL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS.

Netzaberg Chapel Grand Opening.



The new chapel located in the Netzaberg village housing area opened its doors for worship services after a Grand Opening ceremony conducted on 3 February, 2017. The construction project broke ground in November 2013 and replaced the aged Tower Barracks chapel which will undergo much needed renovation. While the old chapel fit about 180 people, the sanctuary of the Netzaberg chapel can accommodate up to 600 people and can be divided in two rooms. Additional classrooms and child care rooms are also available.

The concept for this new \$15 million project began in 2003. The facility houses a 115 feet tower with state of the art video projectors, a sound system and stage lights. The contemporary design lends itself towards flexibility and usability with a mobile Christian altar and dynamic baptism pool. Its environmentally-minded construction with waste heat recovery and central building control systems blends its chapel's design into the Bavarian countryside while matching the latest U.S. and German standards. Local construction companies, using local building materials, implemented waveforms and curved design elements to reflect the hilly Upper Palatinate surroundings. The facility accommodates multiple denominations with a sanctuary with an overflow area, a second stage and allows for two simultaneous events at the same time.

In addition to the start-up construction costs, the RSO applied for and were awarded over \$200K in Department of the Army Chief of Chaplains' Ecclesiastical Equipment Grants. These funds provided for religious décor enhancements that resulted in adapting a shell of a building into a living worship center.

Netzaberg Chapel Sweetheart Banquet.

On 10 February, 2017, only one week after the well-attended opening, the RSO hosted a formal, Valentine’s Day-inspired military ball type of outreach event for the Netzaberg Chapel and community. The RSO in partnership with Women of the Chapel groups executed the event with over 240 community members and 52 children attending the Sweetheart Banquet ball. Attendees showed up in formal attire with Army Mess Dress uniforms, civilian dark coat and tie. The group of attendees were comprised of the garrison chapel congregations, Mission Unit Soldiers and their spouses, DA civilians and distinguished guests of the Tower Barracks, Rose Barracks and Hohenfels areas.

 Mike Singletary visit in support of USAG Bavaria Sweetheart Ball USAG Bavaria Site Visit 9-12 Feb 2017 USAG BAVARIA Home of Strong Europe Readiness							
Background Information The USAG Bavaria Religious Support Office (RSO) conducts a Sweetheart Banquet 101700FE817 in order to celebrate Valentine’s Day with this fitting military and interfaith community dedication event. An Army Ball style event with Bavarian meal, Jazz singer/ band, formal photographer, child care and guest speaker. Toasts, music and dinner. A full meal deal. And free parking. This visit will also incorporate a 2CR Senior Leaders Forum (LPD), a FA 2CR Prayer Luncheon and 15th Engineer Ball.		Itinerary 9 Feb 2017, Thursday 0915 Arrive to Nuremberg, Germany United Airlines 9567 Locator: LBWQTQ 1800 Dinner with a few serious Bear fans 10 Feb 2017, Friday 0915 Depart Lodging for RB Calvary Chapel 1000 2CR Senior Leaders Forum 1200 FA 2CR Prayer Luncheon 1400-1700 Personal Time 1700 Depart Lodging for Netzaberg Chapel 1730 Sweetheart Super Bowl Banquet 11 Feb 2017, Saturday 1000 Depart for Flossenberg Concert. Camp 1500 Depart for Nuernberg 1800 15 Engineer Ball 12 Feb 2017, Sunday 0500 Depart Nuremberg Hotel 0635 Depart Nuremberg United Airlines 8751		BIOS Mike Singletary  American football coach And former professional football player. Drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1981 and known as “The Heart of the Defense” for the Chicago Bears “Monsters of the Midway”. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1998. Later pursuing a career as a coach, he is now the Defensive Assistant coach of the LA Rams.			
Points of Contact CH (COL) Kevin Pies Gar. CH Cell: 0152-258-91260 DSN 569-7050 kevin.m.pies.mil@mail.mil CH (LTC) Terry Simmons Dep. Gar. CH Cell: 01712063487 DSN 569-7053 terry.lsimmons22.mil@mail.mil CH (CPT) Patrice Mbo FA 2CR CH Cell: 01709382813 DSN: 476-5853 patrice.e.mbo2.mil@mail.mil CH (CPT) Joseph Effiong 15 EN BN CH 01735740312/016091630910 DSN: 475-9943 joseph.a.effiong.mil@mail.mil usarmy.bavaria.id.europe.it.l1.rso-chaplain@mail.mil https://www.facebook.com/USAGBCH		Lodging LODGING: Army Lodging (Conf: 40067164174) Com: 09641-93640 in Ger. DSN 475-1700 Lexington Avenue 619; Graf woehr, Ger, 92655		Willetta Carson  Born on the south side of Chicago, Willetta and her jazz band from Nuremberg perform in churches and events throughout Germany. Educated at the Art Institute of Chicago, member of the University Gospel choir, a University of Erlangen performer, she has a stage and vocal persona for our key event.			
Coordinating Instructions 1. The RSO will pick up the DV at the airport and will accompany him throughout the visit. 2. Transfer of the DV to 15th EN at the EN Ball and they will be responsible for his departure.							
Sweetheart Banquet				USAG Bavaria Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community			

NFL Legend, Super Bowl XX MLB winner and 1988 inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Mike Singletary was the featured speaker. Singletary was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the second round of the 1981 NFL Draft. He was also known as “Heart of the Defense” for the Chicago Bears’ Monsters in the mid-1980s. With similar effectiveness, Singletary also spoke to leaders of 2nd Cavalry Regiment in a “locker room” forum, families at a prayer luncheon in the Rose Barracks Chapel and other military families at the 15th Engineer Ball in Nuremberg.

Chaplain (COL) Kevin Pies, the primary event organizer, welcomed the diverse crowd and pointed out the “new chapel feel.” He repeated what he emphasized a week earlier at the Netzaberg chapel dedication ceremony. “This chapel is a wonderful gift and has so many energy saving and ministry enhancing features,” Pies said. “It is like the BMW of all chapels.”

Garrison Commander COL Lance Varney commended and thanked the Religious Support Office, or RSO, the many volunteer decorating teams and the event's entertainers and speakers for their hard work. He also acknowledged the crowd diversity, which included local members of USAG Bavaria, members of the Hohenfels community and families of partnering mission units. Varney added that the RSO is fulfilling its motto "Community Events Build Community."

Netzaberg Chapel Worship Service Opening Day.

After the commissioning and dedication ceremony, on 5 March, 2017, the Netzaberg Chapel opened for ongoing full services. Holy day worship services made record breaking attendance numbers and resulted in a strong community climate. With a successful record high attendance, parishioners flooded the new chapel with delight, gratitude and songs filled the air. Attendance numbered as follows: Catholic - 176; Protestant - 234; Gospel Worship - 176 and AWANAS (children's program) - 100 with 35 leaders. Week day activities and programs filled the schedule throughout the week and made room for community ceremonial events with memorials, weddings and a baccalaureate. More great blessings to follow.

Netzaberg Chapel Easter Services.

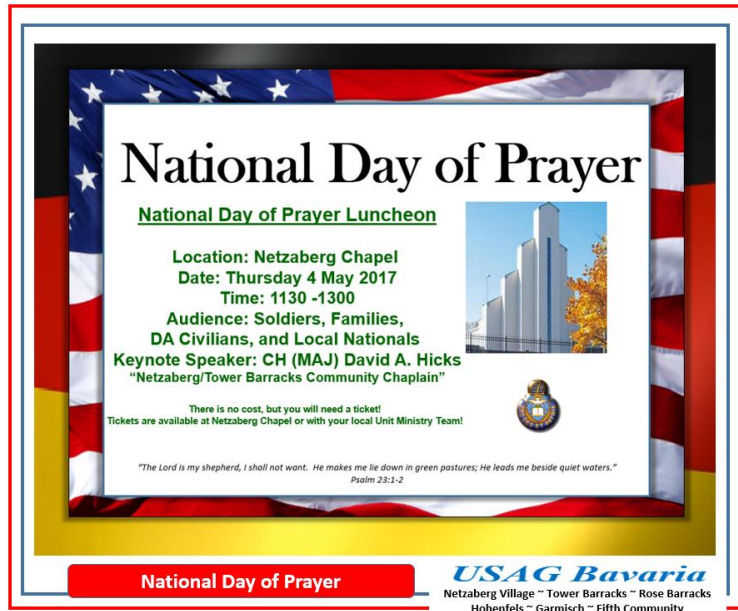


On 16 April, 2017, the Netzaberg Chapel experienced record high attendance at their Easter day worship services. The day began early with an Easter Sunrise Service (110 attending) with a guest speaker, Dr. Robert Crick. He is President of Outside The Gates Ministries,

Inc. and works with multiple faith groups in the promotion of chaplaincy and care programs around the world. During his military career, he achieved the Master Parachutist Badge rating with hundreds of jumps including jumps with the 173d Airborne Division in Vietnam. Other services continued through the day for Catholic (230 attending), Protestant (380 attending!) and the Gospel service with (210 attending). The day totaled 930 attendees, 4 fellowship meals, 2 Baptisms and a complimentary cappuccino truck with Caffe' Milo.

National Day of Prayer (NDP).

A luncheon to commemorate the NDP on 4 May, 2017, from 1130 to 1300 at the Netzaberg Chapel, Netzaberg Village. The guest speaker was CH (MAJ) David Hicks, the Community Chaplain for Netzaberg and Tower Barracks communities. Even though 200 tickets were available at no cost, 61 attended the event to include Watch-care. Attendees were comprised of the garrison chapel congregations, Mission Unit Soldiers and their spouses, DA civilians and distinguished guests. BG Antonio Aguto and CSM Robert Todd from U.S. Army 7th ATC were in attendance. The overall group represented the communities of Netzaberg, Tower Barracks, and Rose Barracks.



Chaplaincy Academy for Religious Education.

On 18 May, 2017, the RSO hosted an advanced training event on current religious research made possible through a Chief of Chaplains' Program Grant. Dr. Heinz Streib, professor of Religious Education at Bielefeld University, presented relevant training on "Deconversion" with a public lecture on "Spirituality." 40 attended while recordings of the presentations were released in a CEU Training Support Package for continued use.

Vacation Bible School.

2017 was a fruitful year for our four location Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. Our first DRE, Ms. Kate McMath- Dorman piloted these programs while enlisting a large crew of staff and volunteers. The program kicked off first at Netzaberg Chapel on 19-23 June, 2017 with 80 children (ages 3-12), 25 volunteers and 11 RSO staff members participating. This event became a joint faith effort between the Catholic, Protestant, and Gospel congregations in celebrating this year's theme, "Created by God, Built for a Purpose." The faith formation program was full of energy with rotating activity stations for learning and fun. Multiple Facebook inquiries arose from the event asking about future children's Bible program activities.

The next VBS event was conducted at the Rose Barracks Cavalry Chapel during 26-30 June 2017 with 60 children (ages 3-12), 40 volunteers and 7 RSO staff members participating. The Catholic and Protestant congregations worked together to provide music, skits, games, sciency-gizmos, and Bible stories. This event was demonstration of a true multi-faith team work, ownership and partnership with the Catholic and Protestant worship services.

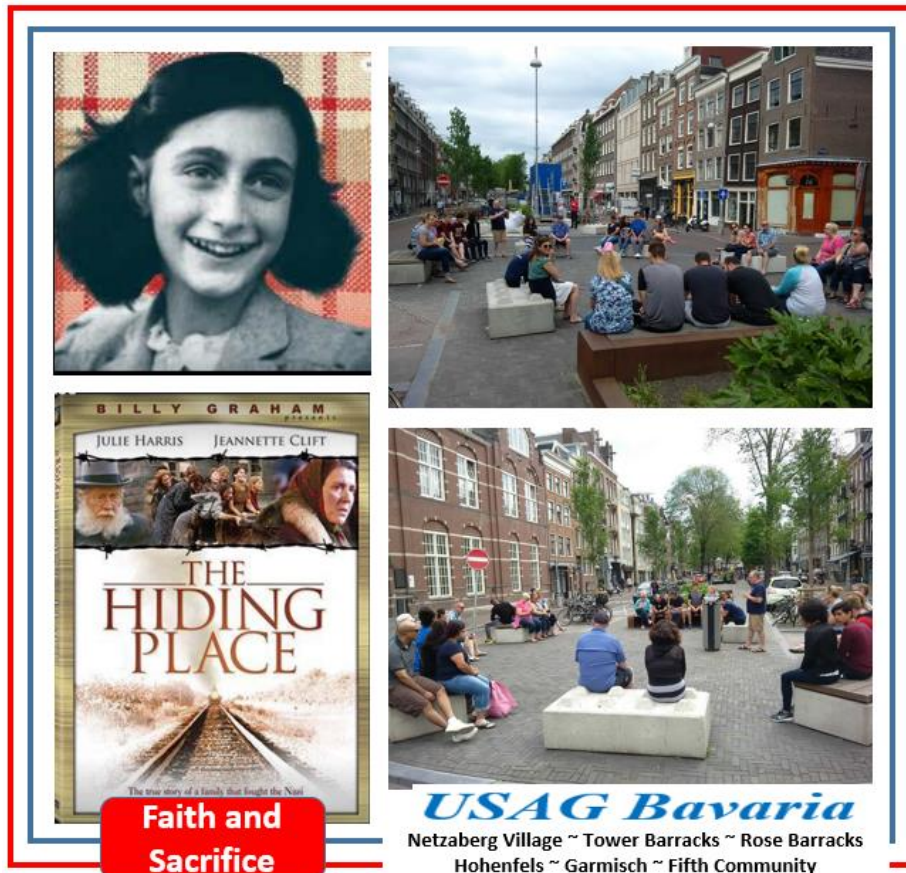


Then from 14-18 August, 2017. #. The Hohenfels RSO Staff conducted their "Maker's Fun Factory" Vacation Bible School (VBS), a joint effort within both the Catholic and Protestant congregations with 5 RSO staff members and various outside agencies assisting with the setup, safety and execution of the event. Over 150 children and 63 volunteers participated in this event, making it the largest VBS in USAG Bavaria. Mrs. Chevon Workman, a member of the Protestant congregation and SGT Eddie Pate spearheaded Hohenfels VBS with direction and leadership from CH (LTC) Hall and was supported by the RSO Staff of CH (MAJ) Montgomery, SGT Brown, and PVT Johnson. Everyone to include volunteers, worked long hours during the week prior leading up to VBS to ensure that it was a huge success. The Hohenfels Vacation Bible School ended with a community BBQ where the community was invited to see what each participant learned from this year's Vacation Bible School theme.

The Garmisch scaled down their VBS to a one day community Fest event conducted on 27 August 2017 afternoon "Maker Fun Factory Fest" at their Garmisch Community Chapel. The Fest was a big hit!! 31 kids attended with their parents and volunteers for over 100 folks total. For a community with 77 students in the entire elementary school, 31 kids is great. It definitely kicked off the year with a high energy and very positive event. In Hohenfels and Garmisch the children participation exceeded 50% of their respective school age children population.

Faith and Sacrifice (Walking In Others Steps).

On 1-4 June, 2017, the RSO conducted a Faith Formation trip to Amsterdam to visit and discuss the ethical, spiritual and historical significance of ordinary individuals like Anne Frank and Corrie Ten Boom who became voices and leaders due to their stand for faith and against Nazi culture. The group consisted of 37 Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members. Substantial feedback noted the impact of personal conviction, offering care for others, and testimonies to the dangers of selfless service.



High School Baccalaureate.

On 8 June, 2017, 323 attended this significant high school event that combined academic achievement with a spiritual emphasis. CH (CPT) Jason Hill provided the keynote remarks.



Hohenfels also hosted a High School Baccalaureate with 74 in attendance. This was a great time to show all that the seniors had accomplished through their years at Hohenfels High School. CH (LTC) Lahmon provided the keynote speech.

Netzaberg Elementary Field Day.

Demonstrating a neighborly spirit, on 9 June, 2017, 850 attended this community activity day set up on Chapel property and parishioner involvement. These events establish a tremendous working partnership between the school and the chapel staff.

Community Breakfasts. 1st Tuesday of the Month.

Faith and Fellowship events were conducted on every month at the Tower Barracks Chapel Annex. Various community groups to include the Gospel service, PWOC Ladies and local pastoral teams cooking the meal. Various worship leaders led the music with an assortment of chaplains and Soldiers providing talks that strengthen the spiritual resiliency of the attendees.

Gospel Service Backpacks.

The Gospel Service prepared 300 back to school backpacks for distribution on 26 August, 2017, to school age children. Each back pack was filled with paper, a ruler, a folder, and scissors and distributed in cooperation with the Grafenwoehr USO at their Wild B.O.A.R. "Sun and Fun Day". The Gospel Service made another major impact on the community.

Hohenfels Elementary School Ice Cream Social.

On 25 August 2017, the Hohenfels Elementary School held the annual Ice Cream Social. The Hohenfels Protestant Chapel community hosted a booth that highlighted the upcoming Children Church Program that would begin in September. The booth provided family members with information about worship opportunities and Children's ministry. Children also received little give away trinkets.

Monthly Ministry of Presence.

Beginning 27 August, 2017, CH (MAJ) Dave Hicks and SGT Calvin instituted a ministry of presence that began with provided refreshments for various Directorates and units in USAG Bavaria community. The inaugural event began with a pizza lunch at HHC in a demonstration of caring support. Follow on engagements included the USAF Airmen of ASOF on Rose Barracks, on Friday 3 November, 2017. This initiative provided two results. Firstly, it provided a change for the Airmen to see a Chaplain. Secondly, the event extended the Community Chaplain's influence beyond Netzaberg and Tower Barracks to a little visited unit. These ministries of presence provide our chaplains an opportunity to visit, pray and distribute RSO information about upcoming events and resources like the Family Life Center. CH (LTC) Terry Simmons continued this activity by involving Religious Affairs Specialists and volunteers. This ministry came to be known as "A cup of Christmas Joe". Activities like this allowed the RSO to conduct

a morale check and demonstrate care to selected Directorates like DHR, DPW and DRM during duty hours with hot Starbucks Coffee, Hot Chocolate and muffins. This also created opportunities to build relationships and cohesion within the garrison staff. Office areas were visited with workers coming out of each area to interact with the RSO team. Many commented that they "rarely see a Chaplain".

Five Love Languages.

On 17 August, 2017, the 1-91 CAV (A) 173rd IBCT (A) hosted an RSO sponsored Five Love Languages relationship seminar at the Netzaberg Chapel with 18 singles and couples attending. The event was a wonderful opportunity for the Chaplain and MFLC to prepare members of the Squadron for an upcoming deployment and build resilient and caring relationships.

Hohenfels RSO Open House And BBQ.

The Hohenfels Chapel Community which consisted of both the Protestant and Catholic congregations hosted a Saturday community BBQ event for their chapels and chapel center. Information booths featured our upcoming "Approved Workers" (AWANAs material) program, PWOC, CWOC, LDS community and Club Beyond. An estimated 300 plus were in attendance. This provided the Protestant Service congregation an opportunity to announce a new start to their Children's Church program on 13 September 2017 in the Hilltop Chapel Center. The Children's ministry started off well with 13 volunteers and 37 children in attendance.

At the same time, the Catholic congregation was able to announce their programs for Faith Formation. The HTA priest, CH (MAJ) Felix Kumai reinstated the Catholic Pastoral Council with an increased 30% growth. The result is additional ministry coordinators and a Revised Pastoral Council Guidelines. A Tuesday through Friday daily Mass will begin along with the CCD/RCIA/Confirmation classes, Catechist Training and adult Religious Education at the Hilltop Chapel Center.

Gospel Service.

The Netzaberg Chapel saw 2017 to be an energetic and active year of ministry. CH (CPT) Joseph Effiong led the congregation into many new initiatives. On 19 September, 2017, the congregation began the "Community Bible Experience". It is a weekly Bible Study that focused on reading through the New Testament. Each participant read a portion of the New Testament daily and came together as a group on Tuesday nights to discuss the readings. A snack supper and watch-care was provided each week with 20 attending on the kick-off night. On the next Saturday, 30 September, 2017, the congregation conducted a chapel service Marriage Enrichment training. The event was led by Kyran and LaToya Adams from the Gospel Service with 12 couples attended the event.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

On 12 September, 2017, the HTA Catholic Community hosted CCD and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for the first time before the Sunday Mass. 36 children enrolled

through K-12 excluding parents and catechists. About 5 are enrolled in the RCIA. This was excellent attendance, which had a snowball effect in Mass attendance that totaled 105 from an average of 70 since July. The Pastoral Council met after Mass from 1130 -1230, achieving the time-limit set for it for the first time. There was maximum attendance by all members. Parishioners are stepping up and taking ownership of the program. CWOC meet every Tuesday with 4-5 members in attendance. Daily Mass attracts 3-7 persons.







RSO And BOSS Partnership Life Skills Training Events.

Members of the BOSS (Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers) approached and asked the RSO to assist them with the planning of significant Life Skills training opportunities for their dormant program. Two events were organized and conducted that resulted in "jump starting" the BOSS program while at the same time engaged chaplains with their Single Soldiers. The Garrison Chaplain provided mentoring and training for both the BOSS representatives and junior chaplains. Both events were successful in filling all of the seats on the bus as well as providing high quality chaplain led training events.

1. Normandy, 17 September 2017.

Absolutely the best group I have taken on a trip to the Normandy Operation Overlord D-Day battlefield. 48 in the group with 20 Soldiers from BOSS, 20 from the AFAR, with 3 parents with teens, 3 married couples, and mix from the military community. The group exploited learning

USAG Bavaria RSO Story Board

<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">CH / BOSS Normandy Trip</div> <div style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Concept of Operations</div> <p>Absolutely the best group I have taken on a trip to the Normandy Operation Overlord D-Day battlefield. 48 in the group with 20 Soldiers from BOSS, 20 from the AFAR, with 3 parents with teens, 3 married couples, and mix from the military community. The group exploited learning opportunities at Utah Beach, St Marie Eglise, the Band Of Brothers Easy Company attack on Brécourt Manor artillery, Omaha Beach, Longues Sur Mer battery and Pointe Du Hoc. The Trip culminated with a wreath laying ceremony, taps tribute at the American Cemetery with 400 gathering around our 48 in formation at the Spirit of American Youth monument. Another fantastic trip for both BOSS and 4-319 AFAR Chaplain who assisted with planning and trip execution.</p>	<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Photo Highlights</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Normandy American Cemetery</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: x-small;"> Higgins Boat Longues Sur Mer Battery </p> 
<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Way Ahead</div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to partner with BOSS and assist with Life Skills training. These trips are inspiring junior BOSS organizers to think big. 2. Continue to plan these trips with junior Chaplains so they too can have successful events in their units where they need them. <p style="font-size: x-small;">"Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity" — Franklin D. Roosevelt</p>	<div style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 2px; font-size: x-small;"> CH [COL] Kevin Pies / RSO / 314-569-7050 / kevin.m.pies.mil@mail.mil Monday, September 20, 2017 </div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Normandy</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> USAG Bavaria Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community </div>

Page 22

opportunities at Utah Beach, St Marie Eglise, the Band Of Brothers Easy Company attack on Brécourt Manor artillery, Omaha Beach, Longues Sur Mer battery and Pointe Du Hoc. The Trip culminated with a wreath laying ceremony, taps tribute at the American Cemetery with 400 gathering around our 48 in formation at the Spirit of American Youth monument. Another fantastic trip for both BOSS and 4-319 AFAR Chaplain who assisted with planning and trip execution.

2. Bastogne, 14-17 December 2017.

48 U.S. Soldiers, DA Civilians and Family Members followed in the footsteps of the famous Band of Brothers Easy Company E when they visited World War II battlefields to mark the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge this weekend. USAG Bavaria, 1/91 CAV and 4-2 CR Chaplains coordinated with the BOSS leadership for this Spiritual Fitness trip that included a wreath laying ceremony and tour of the Luxembourg American Cemetery and complete the historic Bastogne NUTS walk. The Battle of the Bulge began Dec. 16, 1944 and lasted about a month and a half. It was Germany's last major offensive on the Western Front in World War II. During the bitter, winter fighting in the densely forested Ardennes region American soldiers were sometimes outnumbered 6-to-1.

USAG Bavaria RSO Story Board

Chaplain Bastogne Trip	Photo Highlights
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<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SERVICE MEMBERS</p> </div> <div style="margin: 0 10px;">  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> <p style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; margin: 0; padding: 2px;">PARTNERSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BOSS program invigorated ✓ MAX MAX MAX participation ✓ Shared funding: partnership </div> </div>	
<p style="font-size: small;">CH (COL) Kevin Pies / RSO / 314-569-7050 / kevin.m.pies.mil@mail.mil</p>	
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Bastogne</div>	
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: #4a7ebb;">USAG Bavaria</p> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Netzaberg Village ~ Tower Barracks ~ Rose Barracks Hohenfels ~ Garmisch ~ Fifth Community</p>	
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Monday, December 12, 2016</p>	

Hohenfels Children's Church.

In the midst of planning Vacation Bible School, a dedicated member of the Protestant congregation, Melissa Adriano, volunteered as she felt called to oversee and direct Children's Church for the new upcoming School year. That set in motion a desire to re-vamp the Children's Church program and the Protestant Congregation Pastors began to meet in July 2017 to plan for a new Children's Church program. It was then decided that the Curriculum Dig In from Group Publishers would be the curriculum of choice and after several weeks of planning and preparation from the RSO Staff and Volunteers, the Hohenfels weekly Children's Church began for the Protestant congregation on 10 September 2017, The first Sunday included 13 volunteers and 37 Children as they all came together for worship and teaching at the Hilltop Chapel Center for the very first time since the last school year. The weeks following saw multiple volunteers lead and teach an average attendance of 30 plus children.

Hohenfels High School Homecoming Bonfire.

On 28 September 2017, the Annual Homecoming event was held. The RSO had the opportunity to mingle with and provide ministry of presence to the community. CH Montgomery provided the invocation which kicked off the evening festivities.

Gospel Service Revival.

The Netzaberg Gospel Service conducted their first Revival Services at Netzaberg Chapel from Sunday, 22 October to Wednesday, 25 October with an average of 92 in attendance nightly. CH (MAJ) David Hicks, the Community Chaplain of Netzaberg/Tower Barracks was the preacher and brought forth truth and resiliency to modern day issues and problems. Dana Busieney led the choir which was a combined community effort of the Gospel Service and the New Life Church in Vilseck. The combined effort sought to build relationships with the military community with significant results.

Hohenfels Harvest Fest 2017.

On 28 October 2017 the Hohenfels Religious Support Office hosted the Community Harvest Fest at the Hohenfels Community Activities Center. Harvest Fest came on the heels of a very successful Open House, and saw over 500 Soldiers, Civilians, and family members in attendance with over 25 Volunteers from the Chapel Community and the Hohenfels High School JROTC. It was also supported by Mission Partners and directorates and other agencies to include Hohenfels MWR, Service Federal Credit Union, and the Hohenfels Commissary. This was once again a combined effort by not only the Chapel Community but the Hohenfels Community as a whole. The Religious Affairs NCOs/Specialists, Chapel community, PWOC/CWOC were instrumental in the success of this community wide event for the setup and tear down as well as providing food, snacks, entertainment, and games to the children with over 600 pounds of candy given away during this 4 hour event.

Gospel Service "Hallelujah Night".

The Netzaberg Gospel Service hosted their first "Hallelujah Night" at Netzaberg Chapel on Saturday, 28 October 2017. This was an alternative to the traditional "Halloween" with games, food, and fellowship. There were approximately 450 in attendance. The evening event had over 30 volunteers from the Gospel Service that gave a tremendous effort to produce a great event for a great community.

Gospel Service "Choir Workshop and Night of Praise".

The Netzaberg Gospel Service hosted their first "Choir Workshop and Night of Praise" at Netzaberg Chapel on Saturday 28 OCT and Sunday 29 OCT. The choir workshop started at 0900 on Saturday morning and lasted until 1700. The choir learned several new songs and got trained on leading worship. 60 people attended the workshop. On Sunday evening at 1800 the choir put forth their training and conducted a night of praise. This was a great event with 84 in attendance.

Catholic Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

The Netzaberg and Rose Barracks Catholic Community gathered for their annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on 1 October, 2017 at Zur Heimat restaurant in Weiden, Germany. 58 Volunteers and their families for a total of 80 adults and 40 children attended. The congregation presented all the volunteers with a token of appreciation for their generous support of the chapel. The event helped to make the volunteers appreciated and needed for continued ministry.

Gospel Service Bible Study.

On Tuesday, 7 November, 2017, CH (MAJ) Hicks began a Gospel Service Bible Study. This particular study is an eight week study focusing on reading the New Testament of the Bible. Many are reading through the New Testament for the first time and the experience has allowed massive growth in Biblical knowledge. Each week about 25 members of the Gospel Service go through a program called "The Community Bible Experience". This is a unique way of reading through the Bible. The experience minimizes chapters and verses and reads more like a novel. Each week, each participant reads about 12 pages a day on his or her own. Then on Tuesday night from 1800-1930, they all come together as a community to eat and discuss what they read. The discussion each week has five questions and leads to a lot of sharing, and growth in the faith.

USAG Bavaria Career Fair.

On Tuesday, 7 November, 2017, Chaplains Hicks, Hovan, Manuel and SGT McCollum participated in the Career Fair at the Tower View Conference Center. The purpose for attendance was to inform the community about volunteer needs, paid positions, and pertinent information about each chapel. They also popped pop-corn and gave it out as free gift to attendees. They also passed out several Bibles and other religious material. This was a great opportunity to be a part of the community and to provide a ministry of presence to all in attendance.

Operation Christmas Child.

On Sunday, 12 November, the Garmisch Community Chapel collected 98 shoeboxes in support of Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child which uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Families throughout the Garmisch Community filled shoeboxes with a “wow” item – like a doll or soccer ball – and other fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and notes of encouragement. When the contract cleaning crew (all of whom come from Romania and Hungary) heard that the boxes from Germany are donated to Eastern Europe, they donated 36 boxes themselves to ensure children from those countries enjoyed a wonderful Christmas in celebration of Immanuel, God with Us.



USAG Bavaria Newcomer's Brief.

Every Tuesday, a Chaplain briefs every incoming Soldier personnel for USAG Bavaria Tower Barracks and Rose Barracks. This brief includes pertinent information for each chapel service, the role of a chaplain, the expectation of confidentiality from a chaplain, and suicide prevention training. This briefing allows substantial face time with each in-coming Soldier and connects

them with Community Chaplains. This brief has led to many counseling sessions, chapel attendance and assisted Soldiers by preventing high risk behaviors.

Hohenfels RSO Newcomer's Brief.

Bi-Weekly on Thursdays, CH Montgomery and SSG Pate provided an RSO brief to the newly assigned military personnel. This brief included an introduction to the RSO, information on Chapel activities and programs, and a Suicide Awareness Brief. The suicide awareness brief outlined the potential warning signs of a suicide victim, and ways that could be used to not only mitigate the risk, but to ensure the life threatening event was not carried out. During the spring and summer, SGT Pate used a walk in the woods as a way to use things in nature to signify the risks and dangers of Suicide. This was a great alternative to being closed indoors inside a classroom and received great feedback from many of the participants and the Hohenfels Military Personnel Division Staff.

"Halo Hohenfels".

Once a month, the Hohenfels Religious Support Office hosted a luncheon for the Army Community Service "Halo Hohenfels" program at the Hilltop Chapel Center. A lunch catered by Greller's German Kantine in Hohenfels, provided the backdrop for an information brief to newly arrived family members, detailing the worship opportunities and various chapel programs. During this event, the participants were introduced to the Hohenfels RSO chaplains, staff, PWOC/CWOC leadership and the various Chapel Programs that are offered here in the Hohenfels Community.

Catechist Certification Training Hohenfels.



The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA and the Office of Evangelization welcomed a new Director for the Office of Faith Formation. José Amaya joined the AMS staff with experience in both parish and diocesan catechetical ministry. Of special note is his work with catechist formation, Hispanic catechesis, parish catechetical visitations, leadership development and curriculum implementation training. He is an Animator for the Forum on Catechesis with Hispanics (FCH) of the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL). On 7 November 2017, Mr. Amaya traveled to Hohenfels to assist their religious education coordinators to train their catechists who teach CCD/RCIA to their children and adults. This training allowed the catechists to meet the requirements of certification by AMS to teach and uphold 'sound doctrine' and to be an example of 'righteous and godly living' to all parishioners.

Netzaberg Chapel Christmas Eve Service.

On 24 December, Christmas Eve, record attendances convened for chapel services for this holiday event. 402 attended the first Christmas Eve service at the new Netzaberg Chapel. The RSO conducted this event complete with family photo booth, carols, candlelight, cider and hot chocolate. The Garmisch chapel ran out of candles (160) with over 200 attending their Protestant Candlelight Service. High expectations for 2018 with more great blessings to follow.



Hohenfels Catholic Religious Education Day.

On 2 December, 2017, the Hohenfels Catholic hosted a Catholic Religious Education Day in Upper Bavaria. 24 attended (12 kids and 12 parents) for a tour of Pope Benedict XVI's birthplace and baptism/museum at Marktl am Inn, a small town in Upper Bavaria. The visit to the Basilica Cathedral in Altoetting included a celebration of an English Mass. A volunteer, Cindy Foley, led the pilgrimage with a walk in the grounds to teach about biographical details and background information on the life and works of the Pope. This offered the group an opportunity to experience and contemplate life as a gift which is rooted in faith as well as denominational roots.

Hohenfels Catholic Community Outreach Program.

On 9 December, 2017 the Hohenfels Catholic community traveled to Hohenburg to celebrate a German/American Mass. This annual event between the two communities resulted in over 10 from St Michael Hohenfels and over 60 from Hohenburg attending. Three priests celebrated the Mass with CH Kumai as the main celebrant. This outreach initiative built solidarity and cemented the fellowship that exist between the two communities. It is also a line of effort that contributed to supporting the local economy and American/German community relations thereby promoting resilience, self-reliance and stability for service members and their Families.

**Garmisch Chapel
Marie Mattfield Haus
Project.**

On 7 January 2018, the Garmisch Protestant congregation concluded a project that distributed 26 new bed linens, pillows and duvets for the foster children of the Marie Mattfield Haus in Oberammergau. The

Marie Mattfield Haus houses up to 27 children, ages 7-17, in three different family homes with house parents on the property. These children are not able to live with their own families for a variety of reasons. The Haus has not been able to provide new bed linens or pillows to the children for more than 15 years. Through the generous donation of time, talent and treasures by members of the Garmisch Community Chapel, each child received a new set of bed sheets, a new pillow, duvet, and a personalized accent pillow designed and sewn by chapel members for their beds. This project emphasized the reality of God's love and truth of His Word that, "Real religion, the kind that brings a smile to God the Father, is this: Reach out and care for the widows and orphans in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world" ~James 1:27 (MSG)



Volunteer Background Check Rodeos.

On 21 January, 2018, after 3 months of planning, the DREs created the first Volunteer Background Check Rodeo at Netzaberg Chapel. This new successful initiative brought the Background Check (BC) personnel and systems to where the volunteers are serving. After working with BC Contractors, they are able to adjust their schedules to include Sundays and go to where the services are actually happening. At this rodeo, 26 volunteers received on-site fingerprinting, reception of new paperwork, and status updates on background checks. Other locations are targeted with a Rose Barracks rodeo scheduled for Sunday, 4 Feb 2018.

Hohenfels Chapel Community Mid-Week Program.

After many months of planning, on 24 January, 2018, the Hohenfels Chapel community began a mid-week community Religious Education program on 24 January, 2018. The program began with an evening kicking off with a catered meal that provided an opportunity for great fellowship among the chapel community. The second half of the evening program consisted of 4 studies to include Financial Peace University, Living the Lord's Prayer, Shepherding a Child's Heart and Catholic Religious Education. During the study time, "The King's Kids" (a bible based children's program) met for a time of fun, fellowship and learning. Soldiers, spouses and children in attendance totaled 118.

Outstanding Volunteer in Garmisch: Preston Lee.

In August, 2017, the Garmisch chapel community recognized a long serving volunteer, Mr. Preston Lee for his ongoing volunteer efforts and commitment by serving over 4,000 hours as Head Usher and Groundskeeper at the USAG Garmisch Community Chapel from 1 July 2007 to 1 July 2017. He provided ministry support as a shining example of what it means to have a volunteer give of his time and talents for the sake of the larger community.

Financial Peace University, September 2017.

The 9 week stewardship program was facilitated by MAJ Matthew and Leslie Wernert through videos by Dave Ramsey to 15 families. Lessons include budgeting basics, dumping debt, planning for the future and giving like no one else. Families were a mix of those who attended chapel and those who did not. FPU was sponsored by CH (COL) Kevin Pies.

Club Beyond.

Weekly meetings at the Rose Barracks Chapel facilitates High School Student spiritual growth through engaging activities, guided discussion groups and constructive fellowship. Middle School gatherings take place at the Netzaberg Middle School during early release days to provide a healthy place for faith formation. These efforts are achieved through the work of the NFE known as MCYM.

Bible Kids.

Utilizing the AWANA curriculum, this children's program fosters scripture memory with fun activities for school age children. It remains the premier systematic ecumenical religious education program among military Chapels. Each week 80 kids and 30 Volunteers participate in this faith formation program on Sunday evenings at Netzaberg Chapel.

"2017 was a richly rewarding year of ministry with exponential growth in attendance and Faith Formation."

CH (COL) Kevin M. Pies
Garrison Chaplain



Addendum

NETZABERG CHAPEL excerpts from "Das Neue Tag"

At the dedication of the Netzaberg Chapel, in his opening remarks, CH (COL) Kevin Pies described the new chapel facility as "The BMW of all chapels. It truly is the chaplain's ultimate driving machine."



The new chapel is equipped with the latest technology if

even without decorative elements. The chapel does not, at first glance, give the impression of a typical Bavarian church with good reason. The chapel can be seen from afar and lies on the edge of the Grafenwöhr military training area in the Netzaberg Village suburb of Eschenbach. Although it is open to the public, the path to the church and school is blocked by a fence in order to adhere to military force protection and security requirements.

As a religious facility, the tower rises high into the sky and blends into the Upper Palatinate landscape. The church tower of the Netzaberg Chapel rises 33 meters (108 ft.) into the sky. This is unlike American churches that typically have a tower.

Among the visitors at the chapel's Grand Opening, was the distinguished Regensburg Bishop Rudolf Voderholzer. With an area of 2,400 square meters (25,824 sq. ft.), according to Bishop Voderholzer, the building is the largest church building built on the grounds of the Diocese of Regensburg, since a long time. The project manager from the U.S. Planning Department has been involved in the construction since the very beginning. In June 2002, the planning began, the construction started in March 2014 with the Netzaberg Chapel construction finishing in February 2017. The architecture office Brückner & Brückner Architekten Tirschenreuth / Würzburg is responsible for the plans.

Held simple

The fact that the construction took a relatively long time is, according to Hösl, the release of funds from the American side. "Changes in the budget have also brought about changes in design," says the architect. Originally, the church complex should have been larger. The

technique and construction itself were also difficult to achieve.

Chaplain Kevin Pies already knows the building, where he will celebrate the first service on 6 March, inside and out. Proudly he shows off the rooms of the church, which is "open to all," he emphasizes. All religious communities that are represented in the U.S. Army are allowed to use the church complex. Amongst others, Catholics, Protestants, or Baptists find their place here. But also Muslims or Jews may use the premises. "We're open," emphasizes Pies. A timetable specifies who is allowed to use the premises. Simplicity and moving parts make it possible: If you do not need the cross for your celebrations, it can be hidden behind the altar, between the walls. Baptists find their baptismal font behind the altar. On the left and right, doors go to the side doors where there are classrooms, offices and toilets.



From the church interior, for example, there is a "Cry Room:" parents can go there with their offspring, if they are restless during the worship service. There are four white armchairs, and a screen on the wall on which the worship service is played. In the sacristy, the Christian faith communities can accommodate their worship utensils. Underfloor heating ensures heat everywhere.

"Like a house"

What does Chaplain Kevin Pies like the most about the church complex? "That it will be finished soon," he says. And: "This is like a house: first it is only a house when you move in and equip it with plants and curtains, then it becomes a home." For the military pastor the Netzaberg-Chapel is "the BMW among the houses of God."

Facts about the Netzaberg Chapel

All the high-quality technical equipment with sprinkler system, building management technology as well as stage technology with lighting and sound systems, the furnishings and two stages add up to one and a half million dollars. The total cost is 18 million dollars. The church complex offers space for 600 people, in the middle the room can be divided.

The two double-leaf doors of the main entrance open automatically. A bright entrance awaits the visitors. The doors are made of oak, the floor is paved with Solnhofen plates. Wood and tiles move through the entire complex. There are benches in the church, which are also made of

German oak. Ten arches - "all made by hand," said Hösl - form the interior. The arch construction rises towards the tower. It rises 33.38 meters (109.5 ft.) in height. Including tower, the building is 62.30 meters (204.4 ft.) long and 42.57 meters (140 ft.) wide.



Holy Netzaberg

After three years of construction, the Netzaberg-Chapel today will be given over to its destination. The church complex in Grafenwoehr (Neustadt / WN County) is to provide space for all confessions. (Page 3) Picture: Gerald Morgenstern

According to Christian Brückner, Managing Director of Brückner & Brückner Architects Tirschenreuth / Würzburg, "religious symbols were completely dispensed with as the church is to be used by supporters of all religions and multifunctional for events." The cross is one of the few

symbols that point to Christianity.

The font for the Baptists is located behind the altar. Cameras transmit the events to the church area, so that other guests can follow the baptism live.

Architect Andrea Hösl explains their new home to the chaplains of the U.S. military community, Major Michael Frailey, Lieutenant Colonel Terry Simmons and Colonel Kevin Pies (from left). Project manager and architect Andrea Hösl shows how the cross disappears behind the altar space between two wooden walls.

The church interior can accommodate 600 believers. Behind the altar is the baptismal font for the Baptists. The wooden benches are made of German oak. There is room for the prayer books in the backrests. The kneelers are like drawers in the back of the front seats.

The corridors along the main ship are bright. Again, the doors are made of oak, the floor is tiled with Solnhofen tiles. The desire for spirituality, according to the specialty of the interior, unites all faiths. The challenge for the U.S. military in Netzaberg near Grafenwöhr was to create a place with a sacred presence, a place for the soul, for faith, for reflection and for insight through space and light.

It was necessary to locate the special form and meaning of worship services in America in a House of God in the Upper Palatinate. A wonderful task in which architectural faith is reduced to space and space-feeling. Architect Christian Brückner.

Facts about the construction

The church complex can accommodate 600 people. In the middle, the church interior is dividable and equipped for all confessions. There is also a multifunctional area with baptism space, sacristy, seminar rooms, library, offices and kitchen. Added to this is the outdoor area with parking spaces. The total cost is 18 million U.S.

dollars, the furniture and technical equipment alone cost 1.5 million dollars. The start of the planning was in June 2002, with construction started in March 2014. The building is expected to be completed in February 2017. The building area covers 2,400 square meters (25,824 sq. ft.).



Brückner & Brückner Architects Tirschenreuth / Würzburg took over the planning with the construction company Mickan from Amberg was responsible for the construction. Project management was carried out by the Amberg-Sulzbach State Construction Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe Division, the Grafenwöhr Resident Office and United States Army Garrison Bavaria, Directorate of Public Works, EB-G Project Manager. 2700 cubic meters of concrete, 300 tons of steel in concrete construction, about 8000 meters of floor heating throughout the building, 20,500 anchors for underfloor heating, circa 1,000 meters of sewage pipes, about 500 meters of fresh water pipes, 350 lamps and 680 meters of LED light strips, circa 6,000 meters of outdoor cabling and 100,000 meters of indoor cabling as well as approximately 8,000 meters of cabling for multimedia and technical stage equipment. 470 sprinklers and 200 smoke detectors ensure safety, as does the fire smoke ventilation system with a volume of 20,000 cubic meters per hour. A gas-fired power plant with 170 kilowatts provides heat. (esc).

In the sacristy, Catholics and Protestants can accommodate their utensils.

