

SABER E-HERALD

SPANGDAHLEM AB

NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND FIGHTER WING

JUNE 29, 2012

What's in your
drinking water?

Community
to celebrate
Independence Day

Bitburg invites all
to folk fest

Brig. Gen. Chris Weggeman relinquishes
command of the 52nd Fighter Wing to
Col. David Julazadeh during a change of
command ceremony at 9:52 a.m. July 3
in Hangar 1.



SUPER SABER PERFORMER

Airman 1st Class Aaron Aylsworth, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron hydraulic systems journeyman, is the Super Saber Performer for the week of June 28 – July 5. Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123307801>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew B. Fredericks/Released)

'Initial success or total failure'

Ultimate sacrifice not forgotten



Spangdahlem community members run during the "Jog 4 Joe" 5K fun run here June 22. The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight organized the race to honor Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Hamski, an EOD technician who was killed in action May 26, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Matthew B. Fredericks/Released)

Staff Sgt. Daryl Knee
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"Initial success or total failure" is the unofficial slogan of the U.S. Air Force's explosive ordnance disposal technicians.

The technicians work tirelessly in conflicts and engagements to disarm roadside bombs, clear routes and help achieve mission success. Their workspace while deployed is a complex and lethal battlefield, and the members of this tight-knit community take pride in their capabilities to protect and defend comrades, even at the cost of their own lives.

Joe Hamski was one such technician.

Joe was a staff sergeant assigned to the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron's EOD Flight when he deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. Joe died May 26, 2011, while performing his job in the Kandahar province.

A year later, members of Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, honored the memory of Joe during three events here June 22: a fun run, an auditorium dedication and a college diploma ceremony. Joe's wife, mother and sister attended the three events to see how the Air Force would recognize his life.



A day of remembrance video

"I just want to thank the Air Force for the honor that they've given for my son," said Mary-Ellen Winston, Joe's mother. "All of the training that he received, all the experiences he received, and all of the people who crossed his path, whether as leadership or as comrades, were what helped him become the fine man that he was and the brother that many of you knew."

Read the entire article and view more photos at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123307378>.



52nd FW commander lands his final flight at Spangdahlem AB

Brig. Gen. Chris Weggeman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, taxis an F-16 Fighting Falcon past saluting members of the 52nd FW after landing his final F-16 here June 21. Weggeman commanded the 52nd FW for two years. View more photos at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123307234>. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis/Released)



Above: Family, friends and coworkers of Brig. Gen. Chris Weggeman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, spray water on Weggeman after landing his final flight here June 21.

Left: Brig. Gen. Chris Weggeman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, embraces his wife, Ann, after landing his final F-16 Fighting Falcon flight here June 21.

Airman realizes boxing dreams

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon
52nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Senior Airman Ronreco Smith focused as he put one glove in front of the other, punching with speed and accuracy, again and again.

“Just keep moving,” he thought to himself as time dragged on. Smith knew that practice makes perfect, and he relied on that state of mind.

This wasn’t just another day in the gym for Smith, where he can be found training on a punching bag and doing speed work every day of the week. This was an actual boxing match, and he was determined to win.

Smith was one of thirty U.S. service members who tested their strength and endurance at the U.S. Army’s Installation Management Command-Europe Boxing Invitational at Miesau, Germany June 23.

“I was really antsy to see where I’m at in my training,” said Smith, who is a client systems



Senior Airmen Ronreco Smith, 52nd Communications Squadron, and Kevin Shields, 786th Civil Engineer Squadron, face off during a match at the U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe Boxing Invitational at Miesau, Germany June 23. Thirty service members competed at the invitational, which was open to all amateur boxers. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon/Released)

journeyman for the 52nd Communications Squadron. “I was just ready to start. I knew that the sooner I got into the ring, I’d be less nervous.”

Smith entered the ring against

Senior Airman Kevin Shields from the 786th Civil Engineer Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, and took a decisive 5-0 victory.

“The biggest thing that went through my head when I was in

the ring was don’t get hit,” said Smith with a grin.

The fight seemed equally matched until Smith dealt a blow that knocked his opponent to the ground late in the first round. The crowd cheered as the two exchanged punches through three rounds of grueling competition.

“It was great to see him get some solid hits on his first fight,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Chesnek, who attended the event to support Smith.

Smith took the “comm nerd” stereotype and pummeled it when he stepped into the ring, Chesnek said.

Smith developed an interest in boxing after he joined the Air Force, and has been consistently training for the last two and a half years.

“I started training when I was stationed in Korea,” he said. “I want to be part of the Air Force boxing team; that has been my motivation.”

Read the entire article and view more photos at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123307373>.



GK BEATS LMS 19-12 IN AMMO TOURNAMENT

Team members from the Geilenkirchen B Team and LMS Team congratulate one another to show sportsmanship after the first Top IV sponsored Ammo Softball Tournament championship game on Field 2 here June 24. The tournament consisted of 9 teams and spanned three days. View more photos at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123307386>. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis/Released)



Aaron Ainsworth, LMS Team batter, swings at a softball during the first Top IV sponsored Ammo Softball Tournament championship game on Field 2 here June 24.

What's happening?

Was ist los?

German-American Friendship Run

The 9th annual German-American Friendship Run takes place 9 a.m. July 1 in Binsfeld. Six running events are offered for children and adults. Registration costs 2 – 6 Euro per person and people who pre-register receive reduced prices. Winners will be awarded monetary prizes, and a limited number of free t-shirts will be given out at the beginning of the event. For more information or to pre-register, call 06575-610 or visit <http://www.sv-binsfeld.de>.

Trier Zurlauben

The Trier Zurlauben wine festival takes place July 6 - 9 along the Mosel. It includes wine tastings, music, a fireworks display and amusement rides.

Mosel music festival

Trier will host a Mosel music festival July 6 - 9 featuring various concerts near the Mosel shore. For more information, visit <http://www.mosel-musikfestival.de>.

Rhine Aflame

Rhine Aflame takes place Aug. 10 - 12. Visitors can view fireworks displays from one of the many boats that float on the Mosel for the

event. For more information, visit <http://www.koblenz-touristik.de/en/events/highlights/rhine-in-flames.html>.

Wittlich Pig Festival

The annual Wittlich Pig Festival takes place Aug. 17 - 20. More than 200 pigs will be roasted, and there will be music, wine tastings, entertainment and an amusement park.

Middle Mosel wine festival

The Middle Mosel wine festival takes place Aug. 30 - Sept. 3 in Bernkastel-Kues. Among the highlights are a fireworks display and a parade.

Happy Pruemtal valley bicycle tour

Happy Pruemtal valley, a 28 kilometer bicycle tour, takes place Sept. 2 through the Pruem valley. For more information, visit <http://www.pruem.de>.

'The Phantom of the Opera'

Reserve your tickets now for "The Phantom of the Opera" musical, performed by the Central Musical Company, Dec. 11, 2012 at the Trier Europa Hall, located on Viehmarkplatz 14. For tickets, call 0651-7199996/9941188.

Blitz Comedy show

A free Blitz Comedy show takes place 6 p.m. June 29 at the Brick House. Attendees must be 18 years or older. For more information, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

Dead-lift and bench-press competition

A dead-lift and bench-press competition takes place 9 a.m. June 30 at the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center here. Early registration is available until June 29 and the cost is \$15. Registration June 30 costs \$20. Prizes and trophies will be awarded. For more information, call DSN 452-6634 or 06565-61-6634.

Mountain bicycling trips

A mountain bicycling trips takes place 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. July 7 and 28 in Houffalize, Belgium. The cost is \$25 for people who bring a bicycle and \$35 for people who need to rent a bicycle. This event is for people age 18 and older. Participants meet 8 a.m. at the outdoor recreation center. For more information, call DSN 452-7170 or 06565-61-7170.

'The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes' performance

A free mystery theater performance of "The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes" takes place 5 p.m. July 7 and 3 p.m. July 8 at the Brick House. For more information, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

To subscribe to an email notification for the Saber E-Herald, email 52fw.ds@spangdahlem.af.mil. To submit content to the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs News Section, email 52fw.panews@spangdahlem.af.mil or call DSN 452-6012.

**Click here
for more news**

**Click here
for movies**

**Click here
for briefs**