

# SABER E-HERALD

SPANGDAHLEM AB

NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND FIGHTER WING

Nov. 16, 2012

Cody named  
next Chief Master Sgt.  
of the Air Force

USAFE Band  
builds partnerships  
through music

Senior leaders  
issue holiday  
safety message



Members of the 52nd Operations Group, Detachment 1, and the Spangdahlem Air Base Honor Guard stand in formation during an Aviation Detachment (AV DET) activation ceremony at Lask Air Base, Poland, Nov. 9, 2012. The AV DET will be an enduring presence with 10 Airmen, but U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon and C-130 Hercules crews and aircraft will rotate periodically for training, where the total number of personnel could surge up to 200. The AV DET supports Poland's continued defense modernization and standardization with the U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Gustavo Castillo/Released)

## Aviation Detachment activated in Poland

**Airman 1st Class  
Gustavo Castillo  
52nd Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs**

Spangdahlem Air Base  
activated a U.S. Aviation  
Detachment (AV DET) at

Lask Air Base Nov. 9, 2012.

The 52nd Operations Group, Detachment 1, will be an enduring presence with 10 Airmen, but U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons and C-130 Hercules crews and aircraft will rotate peri-

odically for training, where the total number of personnel could surge up to 200.

"We've put together an excellent team, and everybody's eager to begin the first rotations of aircraft, so that our Airmen have an excellent opportunity for training," said Maj. Matthew Spears, 52nd OG, Det. 1 commander.

Facilitating bilateral and eventually multinational joint-training exercises, the AV DET will optimize the use of Poland's ranges and airspace to enhance both countries' flight tactics tactics and maneuvers by conducting joint training.

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123326059>.



### SUPER SABER PERFORMER

Senior Airman George Puhlman, 52nd Communications Squadron base knowledge operations manager, is the Super Saber Performer for the week of Nov. 15-21. Read the entire story at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123326416>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gustavo Castillo)



The 52nd Operations Group, Detachment 1, guidon stands on the flightline during an Aviation Detachment (AV DET) activation ceremony on Lask Air Base, Poland, Nov. 9, 2012.





# Remembering Their Sacrifice

Airmen from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, present the U.S. and Air Force flags during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial Nov. 11, 2012. The ceremony included a wreath-laying, a proclamation from U.S. President Barack Obama, music from the Singing Sabers, and an honor guard firing party. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon/Released)



Honor platoons from the 786th and 886th Civil Engineer Squadrons, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, salute as the U.S. flag is presented during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial Nov. 11, 2012. The cemetery is the final resting place of 5,076 U.S. Soldiers from World War II and also includes the names of 371 Soldiers missing in action.



Airmen from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, carry wreaths during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial Nov. 11, 2012. Distinguished visitors who attended the ceremony laid wreaths in honor of service members past and present. See more photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/spangdahlemairbase/sets/72157631998585695/>.



# Air Force brings back field of Airman's dreams

**Senior Airman  
Natasha Stannard  
52nd Fighter  
Wing Public Affairs**

On July 27, 2012, Airman 1st Class John Allen became a member of the U.S. Air Force softball team.

Up until 2010, the 606th Air Control Squadron radio frequency transmission systems technician from Smyrna, Tenn., had never even touched a softball, but having played baseball for 15 years, he missed the home-run field.

Allen was a major league baseball hopeful in college and came very close to making the cut. When that didn't happen, he decided to put on a uniform that represented not just one state, but his entire country. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 2009.

Joining the Air Force's ranks, he thought he had forever traded in his cleats for combat boots, but he

was wrong.

"I get the best of both worlds," he said. "I get to serve my country and play a little bit of ball on the side."

Allen was approached by Airmen in his squadron to play softball. While he never played before, Allen figured it was as close to playing baseball as he could get so he joined the 606th ACS intramural softball team and was later picked up for the Spangdahlem Air Base team.

Playing on the base team gave Allen the opportunity to play in several different countries in Europe with local national and other U.S. military teams. Playing so many different teams around Europe gave Allen the ability to build his statistics, a requirement for making the U.S. Air Force team.

To make the Air Force team, hopefuls have to send in an application, which requires support from the



Airman 1st Class John Allen, 606th Air Control Squadron radio frequency transmission systems technician from Smyrna, Tenn., hits a triple during the Amateur Softball Association Class-A National Championship in Oklahoma City Sept. 29, 2012. During this game, Allen played for the All-Armed Forces softball team, which he was picked up for Sept. 21, 2012. The Armed Forces team lost 30-15. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo/released)

individual's leadership.

"Thankfully my leadership and coworkers are very supportive and that allows me to be able to go to games and build statistics to make a higher level team,"

Allen said. "As long as you have references you have a chance to get picked up."

Allen was one of 26 people who were picked up to try out for the U.S. Air Force softball team.

Of those 26, 15 including Allen were selected for the team.

Read the entire story at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123326213>.



## SPANGDAHLEM MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS VETERANS

Students from Spangdahlem Middle School stand for the playing of the U.S. national anthem during the school's Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 7, 2012. The ceremony included Spangdahlem Middle School band performances and a tributary speech from guests speaker Master Sgt. Samuel Kegler, 52nd Communications Squadron client services section chief from Albany, Ga. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis/Released)

# What's happening?

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### **Snow and Ice Festival**

The Snow and Ice Festival takes place Nov. 23-Jan. 6 in Bruges, Belgium. People can see snow and ice sculptures inspired by the stories of Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit and other fantasy character. The festival will include other ice attractions to include an ice slide and bar. People should wear warm clothing as temperatures in some attractions is minus six degree Celcius. For more information, visit <http://www.buzzoffbase.com/festival-events-guide-military-in-germany-europe/details/1138-the-snow-.html?ice-sculpture-festival-bruges-2012>.

### **USAFE Christmas Band concert**

Enjoy this year's Christmas concert by the United States Air Forces in Europe Band 8 p.m., Dec. 10 at the Bitburg Stadthalle. Tickets are 11 Euro for adults and 7 Euro for children or students. Tickets can be purchased now from the Bitburg Cultural Society at 06561-6001-220 or via [www.ticket-regional.de](http://www.ticket-regional.de). A limited number of tickets will be available at the door as of 7 p.m. the day of the event.

### **Kenpo classes**

Free Kenpo self defense and martial arts classes take place 6:30 p.m., every Monday and Wednesday starting Nov. 19 in the fitness center aerobics room. A free seminar for the class also takes place noon, Nov. 17 in the aerobics room. For more information, call DSN 452-6603 or 06565-61-6603.

### **Bitburg commissary hours**

The Bitburg commissary will be open Nov. 19 and 21. It will be closed Nov. 20, 22 and 23. Regular business hours resume Nov. 24.

### **Lunch and Learn**

Register for a Lunch and Learn presentation by Nov. 21. The presentation, which covers dealing with holiday stress, takes place noon-1 p.m., Nov. 30 at the School Age Program. A light lunch will be provided. For more information, call DSN 452-5320 or 06565-61-5320.

### **Karaoke**

A karaoke contest takes place 9 p.m., Nov. 29 at the Saber Sports Lounge. Signups start at 8 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top three singers. For more information, call DSN 452-4633 or 06565-61-4633.

### **CPR class**

A CPR class takes place 9 a.m.-4

p.m., Nov. 29 at the Spangdahlem Red Cross. The cost is \$55. To sign up, visit <https://classes.redcross.org/Saba/Web/Main>. For more information, call DSN 452-9440 or 06565-61-9440.

### **Additional movie matinees**

The Exchange has added additional matinees that will play G, PG and PG-13 movies during the holiday season. The schedule includes a 4 p.m. showing for Nov. 23, Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 29. For more information, visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/ReelTimeTheatres/Movies-Spangdahlem.htm>.

### **Bitburg High School play**

A three-course meal, choir concert and play takes place at 6 p.m., Dec. 6 at the Bitburg High School. The meal is called "A Madrigal Dinner," and the play is titled "Captain Who? A Pirate's Tale." Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Ticket sales end Nov. 28 and must be purchased in advance as only 100 are available. For more information, call 06561-94810 or email [rhonda.strong@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:rhonda.strong@eu.dodea.edu).

### **Hunting briefings**

Hunting briefings takes place noon and 5 p.m., Dec. 19 at the outdoor recreation center. For more information call 452-7170 or 06565-61-7170.

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