

SABER E-HERALD

SPANGDAHLEM AB

NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND FIGHTER WING

FEB. 15, 2013

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budget cuts will be
devastating

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extending benefits to
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Reading List



An A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 81st Fighter Squadron takes off Feb. 8, 2013. The 81st FS is participating in REAL THAW 13, and will support the Portuguese military in realistic combat scenarios, including close air support, forward air control, combat search and rescue, air interdiction, maritime air support, and special operations forces integration and support. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon/Released)

81st departs for final European exercise

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 81st Fighter Squadron departed Feb. 8 for Air Base 5, Monte Real, Portugal, in support of Real Thaw13.

Real Thaw is an exercise that tests the Portuguese military's combat capabilities and also incorporates other nations to improve interoperability for contingency operations.

This is the first time Spangdahlem's A-10s have supported this exercise. Some of the scenarios that the 81st will support include close air support, forward air control, combat search and rescue, air interdiction, maritime air support, and special operations forces integration and support.

This will be the last 81st FS exercise before the squadron's inactivation later this year.

Spangdahlem launches long awaited MyMC² app

Tech. Sgt. Kenya Shiloh
52nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The 52nd Fighter Wing launched the long-awaited My Military Community application, or MyMC², for iOS and Android device users Feb. 12, 2013. Spangdahlem joins two other bases in U.S. Air Forces Europe to employ the app for the Saber community.

To download the MyMC² mobile app, visit the Android or

the Apple mobile app stores, type MyMC² in the search box and follow the directions.

The free mobile app was developed by the 375th Communications Support Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., for the sole purpose of keeping Air Force members connected to events happening at their home stations via social media sites. The app streamlines events gathered from various 52nd FW Facebook pages into one location so users have the information



they want right at their fingertips.

"People become more and more dependent on smart...

Read more at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123336027>.



SUPER SABER PERFORMER

Senior Airman Gracie Lynn Williams, 52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron maintenance management analyst, is the Super Saber Performer for the week of Feb. 14-20. Read more at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123336329>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillon Davis/Released)

Base celebrates with local community



Members of Spangdahlem Air Base celebrate Fasching with local community members in Bitburg Feb. 7, 2013. Fasching is an annual week-long celebration that includes parades, celebrations and city-specific traditions. (U.S. Air Force photos by 2nd Lt. Katrina Cheesman/Released)



Above: Members of Spangdahlem Air Base celebrate Fasching with local community members in Bitburg Feb. 7, 2013. The base members partnered with the local community to recognize the traditional German holiday.

Right: Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Grengs, 52nd Fighter Wing command chief from Longmont, Colo., celebrates Fasching with local community members in Bitburg Feb. 7, 2013. Bitburg's mayor invited Spangdahlem Air Base members to be a part of the traditional festivities.



How to master the EPR

Master Sgt. Holly Williams
52nd Fighter Wing
inspector general office

Being a supervisor is hard work. It requires courage, competence, and a lot of time when, let's face it, spare time isn't a luxury most of us have.

A major piece of being a supervisor is documenting a subordinate's performance. The enlisted performance report is a permanent record that can affect a person's career and life for years to come. EPR writing is one of the most common acts supervisors do, but it's also easy to do it wrong, sometimes without knowing it, and that generates a lot of inspector general complaints.

In 2012, 19 percent of complaints to the 52nd Fighter Wing inspector general involved performance report disputes. Before you dismiss them as people who just didn't like their ratings, consider this: Nearly all of them brought forth some valid discrepancy, violation, shortfall, or error by their rating chain. If we apply the statistic across the wing, it means nearly one-in-five reports are not getting the attention they deserve.

We all hear that not everyone's a five performer, which is probably true. One might also argue that, because we recruit, train and retain

so many awesome people, a lot really are "truly among the best." Wherever you fall in this debate, an undeniable fact is that we do not always get performance reports right, but we can do better.

To help supervisors, here are a few commonalities the 52nd FW/IG sees that lead to complaints:

1. Lack of Feedback to include written and verbal. If you're the rater, it's critical to tell subordinates if they don't hit the mark. There are basic standards, and there are standards unique to each rater. You need to communicate these expectations. If you're the ratee and your supervisor tells you something you can improve, take a minute to look beyond criticism's sting and consider if what was said has a kernel of truth.

2. Coercion by supervision. If you really believe someone is a five, but an additional rater doesn't, let them non-concur. That's why the option exists. However, if you accept their input and decide to change the rating, own that decision. It damages trust to tell the ratee, "I wanted to give you 'X,' but 'they' wouldn't let me."

3. Playing with supervision dates. We don't use letters of evaluation enough.

Read more at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123335991>.

Chief recalls near-death experience



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Lien, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire chief from Twig, Minn., returned to duty shortly after doctors found and repaired a blockage in his right artery. Despite his healthy lifestyle, the chief was still at risk for heart disease. Heart disease is responsible for 25-percent of deaths in the United States, according to a recent study by the American Heart Association. Read his story at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123336162>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon/Released)



480TH FS RETURNS FROM RED/GREEN FLAG

An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 480th Fighter Squadron taxis to a hardened aircraft shelter after returning from Red Flag Feb. 6, 2013. Pilots from the 480th FS participated in Red Flag to train and prepare for real-world combat scenarios and maintain a decisive combat power. View more photos at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123335641>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillon Davis/Released)

What's happening?

events in the Saber community

Was ist los?

Crafts fair

A crafts fair takes place 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Feb. 23 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 24 at the indoor Trier Messepark. The cost is 6 Euro for adults and 3 Euro for children.

Theater performances

See the Evita musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice 4 p.m., Feb. 24 at Trier's Stadttheater, or city theater, located at Am Augustinerhof, 54290 Trier. The two-hour musical will be performed by the Trier Philharmonischen Orchester as well as the music theater and dance theater ensemble of the Trier city theater. Ticket prices range between 13 and 40 Euro. Tickets can still be reserved now by calling 0651-7181818, there are only a limited number of tickets available at the theater.

The 12 Tenors

Reserve your tickets now to a concert by "The 12 Tenors" at 8 p.m., March 8 at the Bitburg Stadthalle, or City hall, located on Roemermauer 4, 54634 Bitburg. Tickets are 35.95 Euro and can be obtained now at 0651-9790777 or via <http://www.ticket-regional.de>.

Third Friday

The Third Friday officers' professional development seminar takes place at 3:52 p.m., Feb. 15 at the Club Eifel ballroom. Col. Scott Calisti, 52nd Mission Support Group commander, is the guest speaker. After his presentation, there will be a crud tournament. To submit a crud team, call DSN 452-7900 or 06565-61-7900.

Vagina Monologues

A free theatrical rendition of Eve Ensler's Off-Broadway episodic play, 'Vagina Monologues,' takes place 7:30 p.m., Feb. 16 at the Brick House. The play is a part of the global movement called One Billion Rising, a campaign to end violence. Donations for sexual assault awareness will be accepted at the event. For more information on One Billion Rising, visit <http://onebillionrising.org/>. For more information on the event, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

France ski trips

Ski trips to France take place 4 a.m.-9 p.m., Feb. 18 and 26 in Vogesen. The cost is \$119 per person, and includes transportation and lift pass. Passports are required. For more information, call DSN 452-7170 or 06565-61-7170.

German for beginners

Sign up now for a German for be-

ginners course that takes place Tuesday and Thursday Feb. 19-March 14 at the community center. The cost is \$60 per person. For more information, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

Call of Duty tournament

A free Call of Duty Black Ops II tournament takes place February 21 at the Brick House. The youth competition starts at 5 p.m. and the 18 and older competition starts at 6 p.m. Gift cards will be awarded to 1st through 3rd place. For more information, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

Annual awards banquet

The 2013 Annual Awards Banquet takes place at 6 p.m., on March 1 at the Bitburg Stadthall. Dress requirements are semi-formal or mess dress for military members and semi-formal for civilians. For more information, call DSN 452-9818/9455 or 06565-61-9818/9455.

Financial classes

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is hosting several financial classes March 1. The truths and myths about credit reports and scores class is 10-11 a.m., the strategies for home-buying class is 12-2 p.m., and the successful car-buying class is 3-4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 452-6244 or 06565-616422.

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