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SPANGDAHLEM AB

NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND FIGHTER WING

AUG. 16, 2013

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## EIFEL CHILDREN'S FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

Douglas Willard holds his mother's, Shannon Willard, hand while being led on a pony ride by Sabrina Horsch during the Eifel Children's Friendship Festival Aug. 14, 2013. There were more than 550 people in attendance, including youths from the School Age Program and Teen Center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruano/Released)

## Make it happen, Airmen

by Gen. Frank Gorenc  
USAFE-AFAFRICA commander

Airmen are no strangers to change. Our Air Force was born from change after an exhausting world war when nations were recovering and healing emotionally, physically and financially.

The decades following World War II brought us numerous changes: hot and cold wars, technological and aerospace advancements, and manpower ups and downs. Like some of you, I've experienced many of these changes in my 34 years as an Airman.

Today, US Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa continues the attack on America's enemies despite extreme fiscal uncertainty. While this is another chapter in our storied existence, I realize many Airmen today have never experienced change of this magnitude.

My experience has taught me that when we face seemingly unprecedented obstacles, Airmen always rise to the challenge. We overcome because our leadership is rock-solid and our people are innovative and extremely competent. I'm a true believer in that now more than ever, as we face uncertainty and

a troubled world, the most important thing we can do is grow and nurture our leaders.

Leaders of all rank balance the needs of the Air Force and our Airmen, offer vision, improve processes, execute the mission with a steadfast moral compass and never, ever compromise integrity. Leaders mentor future leaders. With strong leadership, Airmen make things better.

As we navigate our way through 2013 and beyond, I am confident USAFE-AFAFRICA Airmen will make it happen no matter what we face...you are the firm foundation of this command.

Continue to trust your leadership, respect your peers and mentor fellow Airmen.

I have no doubt we will face even greater obstacles in Europe, Africa and around the world. But with leaders like you, I am optimistic about what we can accomplish for our great nation, and our European and African partners.

As I said at my assumption of command, this opportunity is a dream come true and I am thrilled to be your commander. Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123359358>



## SUPER SABER PERFORMER

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. John Felhofer, 52nd Logistic Readiness Squadron individual equipment element NCO, is the Super Saber Performer for the week of Aug. 15-21. Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123360011>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruano/Released)





U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsales, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter from Savannah, Ga., sprays water to extinguish a simulated fire at the Szczecin Firefighter Combat Challenge in Szczecin, Poland Aug. 10, 2013. Gonsales carried the hose a distance of 78 feet, turning on the hose to extinguish the fire after crossing a simulated door to a building. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruano/Released)

## Spangdahlem, Ramstein Airmen compete in Szczecin firefighter combat challenge

**by Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruano  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

The Spangdahlem and Ramstein firefighter combat challenge teams participated in the annual Szczecin Firefighter Combat Challenge in Poland Aug. 9-10, 2013.

The Szczecin Firefighter Combat Challenge is an event where firefighters from the international community come to compete in a simulated firefighter scenario-based obstacle course consisting of five stages: carrying equipment up a three-story tower, pulling up a weight on the tower, break in task which uses a Keiser force machine, fire hose retrieval and last is the evacuation of an injured.

This is team Spangdahlem's second time participating in the Szczecin event.

"We compete in different obstacles simulating real firefighter scenarios that happen every day on the job," said Gerd Mueller, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter crew chief from Gransdorf, Germany. "Simulating an actual fire, we run up the stairs with a hose, we hoist tools up to the tower, we use the Keiser force machine -- which is a forcible entry simulator -- and then we run to grab another hose to fight a

fire. The final task is the victim rescue, a 175-pound mannequin that we carry more than 30 meters, which is pretty tough."

The course is run in full firefighter protective gear which can add up to an additional 50 pounds of weight for each competitor.

"Usually we do individual races, tandem races and relay races," said Mueller. "The individual race is the hardest one, you do the whole course by yourself in full gear."

The competitions are funded with the teams' own money, and they use their own leave to be able to go to these competitions. As such, and the team is always accepting donations to allow it to represent the Sabers.

Training for such events requires a considerable amount of dedication and competitiveness.

"Personally, I train six days a week, I do cross fit, run stairs at the fire station, pull hose, weight lifting, and our team runs the actual course three times a week ... these competitions are very demanding on your body," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsales, 52nd CES firefighter.

This was Gonsales' third time compet-

ing in a firefighter challenge in Europe.

"I enter these competitions to challenge myself with something new, make new friends," said the Savannah, Ga., native. "This is a great community of people to compete against and hang out with. It's an honor to be able to go out and represent the United States Air Force at these events."

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123359838>



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsales, a 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter from Savannah, Ga., weaves through fire extinguisher obstacles to pass a baton to Airman 1st Class Scott Weeks, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter from Green Bay, Wis., during the annual Szczecin Firefighter Combat Challenge in Szczecin, Poland, Aug. 9, 2013. Teams from Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Base participated in the event. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruano/Released)

# What's happening?

## events in the Saber community

### **Basic Car Care Maintenance Course**

A basic car care maintenance course takes place Aug. 24. The cost is \$20 per person and includes instruction from a trained mechanic, oil and a filter. The class requires a minimum participation of four people. For more information, call DSN 452-6842 or 06565-61-6842.

### **Back to School Community Appreciation Day**

A free event to prepare for going back to school takes place 1-3 p.m., August 17 at the commissary. Free school supplies will be given away for Kindergarten through eighth grade. For more information, email demetris.johnson@us.af.mil, Ricky.smith.5@us.af.mil, Derrick.hacker@us.af.mil, or Sidney.chatman@us.af.mil

### **Winter Bowling League**

Sign-ups for the winter bowling league have begun. The season starts at the end of August and includes No Tap Monday for 18 and older, Tuesday scratch league, Wednesday Base Intramural, and Saturday Youth Bowling. For more information, call DSN 452-2695 or 06565-61-2695.

### **NFL UPick'em**

The NFL UPick'em Pro football online challenge starts September-February. Weekly prizes will be awarded with a grand prize of a \$500 gift card. First,

second, and third place prizes will be given away at the end of the season. To register, go to 52FSS.com and click the NFL icon. For more information, call DSN 452-6466 or 06565-61-6466

### **Bingo Family Fun Night**

Free Bingo tournaments will take place 5:30- 7:30 p.m., Sept. 10. The tournament is for members only and by reservation. Reservations can be placed from Aug. 25-Sept. 6. For more information, call DSN 452-4633 or 06565-61-4633

### **Munitions Storage Area Closure**

The 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight munitions storage area will be closed from Sept. 3-13 in order to conduct semi-annual 100 percent inventory. Any issues, turn-ins and courtesy storage pickups needed during the inventory time frame must be completed the week prior. For more information call munitions operations at DSN 452-6230 or 06565-61-6230

## Was ist Los

### **Street displays in Trier**

ng the Trier-Luxembourg 2013 first Elephant Parade through Oct. 18 throughout the city of Trier. The event features a colorful outdoor public

art exhibition showcasing unique elephant sculptures.

### **Bicycling event**

Ruwer Aktiv, similar to Happy Mosel, features a festival and vehicle-free day for bicyclers, skaters and marchers Aug. 18 between Trier-Ruwer and Reversis.

### **Popular local pig burners festival in Wittlich**

People can pig out at the annual Wittlich pig festival Aug. 16-20. This is a major, traditional festival which has gained much popularity.

### **Benelux country fair with amusement park**

The Luxembourg Schobermesse, also known as the Luxembourg Octoberfest, is the largest fair of the Benelux countries and attracts visitors from the borderland countries of Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany, and takes place Aug. 23 until Sept. 11 this year in the center of Luxembourg city.

### **Popular local medieval castle festival**

The community of Manderscheid will sponsor their annual medieval castle festival Aug. 24-25. This is a very popular event in the local area, offering fun to the entire family. A nice medieval entertainment program and market are scheduled.

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