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Bamberg Health Clinic hosts German counterparts

By Douglas DeMaio,
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U.S. Army Health Clinic Bamberg personnel and German health care providers met for their annual community relations event at the Warner Conference Center June 22.

The event gives military medical staff and host nation providers, who care for service members and their dependants, an opportunity to discuss business, formalities, U.S. health care standards and the future of Bamberg.

"It cements the relationship," said Lt. Col. Larry Patterson, USAHC Bamberg commander.

U.S. service members and their dependants receive overseas medical care through a host nation provider if they are unable to be cared for at a military treatment facility, Patterson said. While both German and American medical staffs regularly communicate through e-mail and phone conversations, the social event gave the medical professionals an opportunity to pass along information that is better communicated face-to-face.

International SOS will provide chronic care



Douglas DeMaio

From left to right, Dr. Mac Petty, from the mild traumatic brain injury clinic, German Dr. Michael Heesen, an anesthesiologist, and Spc. Sonia Mukku, medic at the Bamberg Health Clinic, sign in as attendees at a community relations event June 22.

management services for the Department of Defense TRICARE Overseas Program, said John Dempsey, Bamberg's TRICARE chief. While the service won't affect beneficiaries, some of the processes for host nation providers are slightly changed, like the billing process.

"ISOS will now do the physician networking," Dempsey said.

Physician networking involves recruiting care providers who would accept TRICARE and offer medical services to U.S. DoD
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Former Soldier remembers 1950s Germany in Nuremberg

By Ashley Bateman, USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

Though he never met Elvis Presley, Raymond M. Weinstein, a professor at the University of South Carolina in Aiken, has come to recognize the significance of his and the King's overlapping months as Soldiers posted in Germany during the Cold War.

Stationed first at Nuremberg's Merrill Barracks and then at Henry Barracks in Munich, Weinstein and The King were both part of an Army defined by its peacetime status, occupation in foreign territories and the rising threat of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Weinstein enlisted in the U.S. Army after high school. After training at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and Fort Dix, N.J., he was sent to Fort Ord, Calif., as part of a signal battalion.

Weinstein expected to finish out his tour there, but the rising tensions of the Cold War era challenged his expectations.

"All of us, by the end of '58 got orders to go overseas," Weinstein said, speaking about his battalion. "Half of us went to Korea and the other half to Germany."

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Courtesy Photo

Professor Raymond M. Weinstein, will speak about his experiences on July 13 from 10 a.m. - noon at the Bamberg post theater and July 4 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Nürnberger Akademie.

Most pets importable stateside, some exceptions

By U.S. European Customs and Border Clearance Agency

Heidelberg, Germany - People moving stateside this summer may take most types of pets with them if they plan ahead. However, endangered species laws prevent people from taking some turtles, birds and reptiles to the United States.

"Dogs must be free of disease and be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before they reach the USA," said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency. "Puppies younger than three months and dogs in rabies-free areas such as the United Kingdom are exempted, however," he added. Unvaccinated dogs will be inoculated on arrival and confined for 30 days at the owner's expense. Cats must show no signs of disease and rabies vaccination is required in most U.S. states.

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His months in Germany, as a Soldier with the 176th Signal Company, left a lasting impression. Weinstein will speak about his experiences in a free talk July 13 from 10 a.m. - noon at the Bamberg post theater and July 4 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Nürnberger Akademie.

Following the Allied Victory of World War II and before the rise of the Berlin Wall, Weinstein remembers a time rife with sexual and racial tensions, a picture rather averse to the musical wartime comedy *Elvis* starred in after serving his time.

"*G.I. Blues*," in Weinstein's opinion, is anything but an honest representation of the American Soldier's experience in 1950s Germany.

"When I walked out of that movie theater, I thought to myself, I'm going to write a book about Germany," Weinstein said. "It had nothing to do with the real experience of average GIs. It said nothing about World War II, nothing about the conflicts between Germans and Americans, nothing about the conflict between white and black American Soldiers, nothing about the German women that Americans went out with."

Nearly half a century later, Weinstein is coming close to fulfilling that self-made promise as he nears the completion of a memoir describing his time in the service. An excerpt of the unpublished manuscript will be printed in "*transit nürnberg #4*," the fourth part in a book series developed by Testimon publishers in Nuremberg. City archivist and historian Gerhard Jochem has been working with Weinstein for a few years, assisting him in accurately detailing some of the city's history.

Over the years, Jochem became increasingly interested in Weinstein's own writing project and asked him to contribute to "*transit nürnberg #4*."

"Testimon publishers has a tradition to invite eyewitnesses and experts from the U.S.," Jochem said. "In 2008, we had a German refugee over here who had to leave Nuremberg due to the Nazi persecution and has written a remarkable autobiography. In 2009, Harald Leder lectured about the subject of his article in "*transit nürnberg #2*," racially mixed couples and their offspring in postwar Nuremberg. This time it is a lucky incident that Ray will be around on the Fourth of July and hence he and Harald can promote issue #4 in which both of them have their stories."

Weinstein, for his part, hopes to accurately depict a Soldier's story very unlike the one Presley played in "*G.I. Blues*."

"I want to tell what I feel is the truth about the Soldier at that time," he said. "I'm trying to tell the way it really was; specifically sex and race play a major part."

People wanting to ship pet birds should consult the U.S. Department of Agriculture website for the latest information on shipping birds as the procedures may change at short notice due to Avian flu. The address is http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/nonus_pet_bird.shtml.

Hawaii is the only place in the USA that is permanently free of rabies. Personnel PCSing to the Aloha State should check with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture web page to find out about their special quarantine requirements for pets at <http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/ags/info>.

For more information on shipping pets and endangered species legislation from the "Pets, Wildlife" pamphlet visit a military customs office or consult the CBCA website at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/pets.htm.

A topic that has become more and more prevalent as a topic of research in recent years, Weinstein focuses on the racial tensions in the Germany cities where Americans were stationed and the varying relationships between American Soldiers and German women.

"You had a separation, a segregation, if you will, of the races once you left the post and walked out the gates," he said. "You had a segregated world in Germany just like you had in the States at the time."

German laws were unlike the stateside laws outlawing racially mixed relationships and marriages and with the end of the nonfraternization law of military and foreigners of an occupied country, many German women became sexual partners, girlfriends or wives of American Soldiers. While there was a racial separation at nightlife venues, Soldiers of all colors found local mates.

In an article entitled "*Occupation G.I. Blues: Postwar Germany During and After Elvis Presley's Tour*," Weinstein discusses the topic in depth.

"Long before Elvis arrived, G.I.s were told to avoid emotional involvement with German women, to exert self-control regarding sex, and to correspond with their sweethearts back home. Gradually the restrictions on marriage and adoption were lifted," he wrote.

"The bars and clubs frequented by G.I.s were strictly segregated along racial lines. They served to steer the occupiers away from the daughters and wives of local Germans..."

After a half century of education, experience and reflection, Weinstein has relied on his degrees in sociology and research to examine the implications of the American occupation in Germany during the Cold War.

"Sociology has helped me to generalize my experiences," he said. "I'm not describing battlefields. The military is the background, the main part of the book is the Soldiers off camp."

Weinstein's discussion is free and open to the public. The Akademie is located at Gewerbemuseumsplatz 2, Nuremberg 90403 and the talk will be in room 3.11. The discussion will be in both English and German.

"The talk will touch a variety of topics such as the general development of the Army's presence in Nuremberg, German - American relations on the official and personal level," Jochem said.

For more information on the July 4 talk, contact testimon publishers at info@testimon.de. All are welcome to attend.