



USAG Schinnen ACS Newsletter

Dec 2010/Jan 2011



The angels are up. Help service members and their Families to have a better holiday. Pick up the angels at the PX, PXtra or Brunssum Chapel. For more information call DSN 360-7451 or commercial +31(0) 46-443-7451.



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Third Annual Holiday Shopping Event

Don't forget about the upcoming shopping event for little ones: the USAG Schinnen Family Advocacy Program's Third Annual Children's Holiday Shopping Event. It is being held this year on Saturday, 11 December, at 9:00 a.m., at the USAG Schinnen PX. If you have questions or would like more information, please call DSN 360-7367 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7367.



Changes in ACS Main Entrance Doors



The front doors to ACS now open automatically with the push of a button. The purpose of this change is to make the building more easily accessible to the handicapped and people with strollers. To open the first door automatically, you can push the red button located on the external front wall of the building. To open the second door, use the button located between the two doors, you will need to wait until the first door has closed completely. However, you can also open the door with a gentle pull/push and it will close automatically behind you.

For flyers & additional information about upcoming ACS events ...

- ACS Bulletin Boards
- AAFES/FMWR Bulletin Boards
- AFRC GK Bulletin Boards
- NATEX GK Bulletin Boards
- JFC Mail Room Bulletin Board
- JFC Library Bulletin Board
- Schinnen Electronic Reader Boards
- CFN and AFN Radio
- USAG Schinnen Website
www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil
- Benelux MWR Website
www.mwrbenelux.com
- Schinnen Facebook
www.facebook.com

Money Management Class



Money management is the process of knowing where you are spending your money today, and having a well thought-out plan in place for where you want it to go in the future. Good money-management skills are important for everyone. They help you provide for and protect yourself and your family, plan for the future and reach your financial goals. Getting started is the hardest part. Maybe you have not known where to start or maybe you have been avoiding it. Either way, learning how to manage your money is mostly about deciding what you want to do with your money, make a plan and stick to it.

The money management class provided by the Financial Readiness Program gives you the tools to get started. Even if you think you are doing OK, you can learn how to make your money go farther. Setting goals, improving recordkeeping, budgeting, cutting expenses, getting a loan, and investments are some of the topics covered during the class. The next Money Management Class will be held on December 9 at 11:30am in the ACS conference room. For more information or to register, contact the Financial Readiness Program at DSN 360-7450 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7450. Register today and start taking control of your money and your future.

AER Dependent Children Scholarship Program

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) MG James Ursano Scholarship Program is for dependent children of Soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while in active or retired status. The program offers scholarships based on financial need, academics, and leadership/achievement for each academic year. Applications for 2011-2012 will be available on the AER website in December 2010. For more information, visit the AER website http://www.aerhq.org/education_dependentchildren.asp.



Spouse Tuition Assistance Through AER

Army Emergency Relief (AER) Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program (OSEAP) is for spouses of active duty Soldiers assigned and living in overseas commands (Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico are not accepted for OSEAP). The spouse must reside with the Soldier at the assigned command. This scholarship is for first undergraduate degrees only. Active duty military personnel are not eligible. Scholarship awards up to half the cost of tuition and are based on financial need and special circumstances.

For the next term, TERM 3, applications must be postmarked by December 13, 2010.



For more information, visit the AER website: <http://www.aerhq.org> or contact the Financial Readiness Program at DSN 360-7450 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7450.

Attention students: New students must submit a complete application form prior to the term application deadline. Returning students need only to complete a renewal form prior to the term deadline.

Make a Hearts Apart Photo Calendar



The start of a new year, especially when one is separated from loved ones, can be a hard time. Throw in the rain, fog and grey skies of the Tri-Border area and one can feel quite blue. The Mobilization and Deployment and Relocation programs are offering a free Photo Calendar Class on Monday, January 17th, to anyone who is apart from loved ones (grandparents, spouses, children, etc.). All the supplies you'll need are provided - you just need to bring some photos.

Stop by to sign up or to see some samples of finished products. The Hearts Apart program also has personalized products available free to all who ask. We offer pillowcases, mouse pads, puzzles, magnets and much more! For more information or to reserve a place in this FREE class, please call DSN 360-7218 or commercial +31(0)46-443-7218. You can also email ACS-Schinnen@eur.army.mil.

The IDEA 35th Anniversary

These last 35 years have witnessed significant changes as the nation has moved from paying little attention to the special needs of individuals with disabilities to merely accommodating these individuals' basic needs and then eventually to providing programs and services for all children with disabilities and their Families. The U.S. Congress enacted the *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*, Public Law (P.L.) 94 142, in 1975. During the 2007-08 school year, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*) mandated programs and services be provided to more than 6 million children and youths with disabilities and more than 320,000 infants and toddlers with disabilities and their Families. Many of the educational approaches, techniques, and practices employed by our nation's best teachers are the direct result of *IDEA* investments in rigorous education research, training, and technical assistance. Today, children with disabilities are achieving at levels that would not have been imagined in previous decades. Consider the following examples of our county's accomplishments over the past 35 years:

- ◆ More young children with disabilities receive high-quality early interventions that prevent or reduce the future need for services.
- ◆ More children with disabilities are not only attending neighborhood schools but also are receiving access to the general education curriculum and learning a wide variety of academic skills.
- ◆ More youths with disabilities graduate from high school.
- ◆ More youths with disabilities are enrolled in postsecondary programs.
- ◆ More young adults with disabilities are employed.



To read more about IDEA, click on the following Department of Education link: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/index.html>.



Enjoy wrapping Gifts? Gift wrappers are needed to help wrap Angel Tree gifts at Santa's Workshop on December 15 at ACS from 9:30am - 3:30 pm. The workshop will move to the Community Activity Center on December 16 and will be open from 9:30am - 3:30pm and on the morning of December 17 from 9:30am to noon. Gift wrap, bags, tissue paper and bow donations will be greatly appreciated. To volunteer call DSN 360-7451 or commercial +31 (0) 46-443-7451. Refreshments provided.

The Troops Need Us



First Lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, spouse of Vice President Joe Biden, recently wrote an editorial for USA Today entitled "The Troops Need Us". An excerpt of this editorial is printed here and the article can be found in its entirety at http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-09-03-column03_ST3_N.htm

In addition to articles and awareness campaigns, the current administration has focused on helping out military members and their Families, as well as veterans, and has passed significant legislation and funded multiple programs that benefit veterans, military servicemembers and their Families.

This has been a summer of homecomings. In marking the end of the American combat mission in Iraq, we have now welcomed home nearly 100,000 of our troops from that war. Across the country, Family and friends have honored these returning heroes. Spouses have been reunited and military moms and dads have held their children once again.

But while America's combat mission in Iraq has ended, America's commitment to our troops and their Families goes on. As a country, we have come a long way in how we support our veterans and military Families. In our travels to base communities from Fort Bragg to Camp Pendleton, we have seen employers creating innovative programs to support military Families, classrooms adopting deployed units, faith communities providing prayers and support, and countless other acts of kindness.

Yet there is still more work to be done. Our military Families are strong, resilient and proud to serve their country. There are so many ways to help, and you can get started by visiting www.serve.gov to see how other Americans are helping in their communities.

One percent of our population is doing 100% of the fighting, but we need 100% of Americans working to support our troops and their Families. We can do this. In every community, every day, we can find concrete ways to show our military Families the respect and gratitude that each of us holds for them in our hearts. They deserve our support long after the welcome home ceremonies are over.

That's the spirit that defines us as Americans, and it's who we need to continue to be in the months and years ahead.

For more information about programs or legislation that might benefit you, please contact Army Community Service at ACS.Schinnen@eur.army.mil or via phone DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31(0)46-443-7500.

Michelle Obama, Jill Biden: The troops need us

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THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

By Michelle Obama and Jill Biden

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NO. 1 IN THE USA... 6.3 MILLION READERS EVERY DAY

range from education to religion to sports to the economy. Their charge is to chronicle American culture for today's world.

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If a PCS move is in your future, make sure you are prepared. Call ACS at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7500 to schedule a Smooth Move briefing or for any other information.

New Hiring System to be used for Army Civilians



There will soon be several changes made to the way the Army announces jobs and produces referral lists when it hires its civilian workforce. The Department of Defense has chosen to replace the Resumix system currently used to announce and rate jobs with a system developed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) called USA Staffing. Beginning 1 December no new recruit actions will be announced on CPOL for the Benelux. New recruit actions will be announced under the new USA Staffing process beginning in January.



Why is such a change being made? The use of Resumix presents challenges in meeting current Federal government standards for external recruitment, as set by the Office of Personnel Management. Its infrastructure is deteriorating and vendor support is a problem. Resumix is not compatible with future versions of Oracle and Microsoft support software.

USA Staffing is an integrated software solution used to staff Federal civilian jobs. It is integrated with USAJOBS to support competitive examining and merit promotion recruitment. It integrates all aspects of recruitment from identification of vacant position to Entrance-on-Duty of new employee. USA Staffing will standardizes and streamlines common HR processes, forms, templates, metrics, and reports across DoD, and ensures the recruitment process is competitive with private industry.

USA Staffing uses Occupational Questionnaires to determine the best qualified candidates instead of Resumix skills. Applicants must apply through <http://www.usajobs.gov>, not the Army Resume Builder, and must answer assessment questions for each vacancy. Supporting documents can be uploaded (i.e. DD-214, SF-50, etc). Selecting officials will receive a referral list by logging in to an automated system, Selection Manager, instead of receiving a PDF referral list via email.

The advantages of USA Staffing include: System supports OPM's end-to-end hiring model and Presidential Hiring Reform initiatives; Eventual DoD-wide hiring program consistency; Applicants are able to better demonstrate job specific qualifications by assessing themselves through the occupational questionnaire; Ability to reduce fill time by requiring all eligibility documents with application; Access Selection Manager from any location (i.e., while TDY); and Manager participates in developing the occupational questionnaire to determine quality criteria through the Strategic Recruitment discussion.



The Army has been piloting USA Staffing since March 2010 in select locations, and it should be fully implemented over the next two years beginning January 1, 2011. If you want more information on the federal government hiring process, register for the 'Ten Steps to a Federal Job' class, on December 8, from 9:30 to 1200, in the ACS Conference Room. Contact the ACS Employment Readiness Program Manager to register or for assistance with employment at +31(0) 46-443-7500.

Can Volunteering really help me get a job???



As a volunteer, you not only help out your community, but can gain valuable work experience that can be included in your resume. Volunteers often overlook unpaid work while compiling or updating resumes, but the Federal government and most civilian companies view the skills developed and experience gained while in unpaid positions the same as in paid positions. It also shows employers that you are an involved member of society, committed to making your community a better place to live.

Volunteer work can demonstrate many desirable skills, such as leadership, commitment, teamwork, organization, and flexibility. Many volunteer positions can provide you with skills that are transferable to the workplace. When including volunteer experience into your resume, try to emphasize skills relevant to the job you are applying for. For example; for a management position, point out the coordination and supervisory aspects; for a position where teamwork is emphasized, focus on mentoring, motivating, and working with different groups on a variety of tasks.

Take the time to analyze what you learned as a volunteer. Did you have the chance to practice public speaking, write reports, publish newsletters, plan projects, manage a budget, coordinate sub-committees, or train others? Such skills are applicable to just about any setting. Describe your volunteer activities and achievements fully. Give yourself credit for any accomplishments achieved. For example, did you raise \$100,000 in a fund raising event? Did you increase sales by 20% as the Thrift Store Manager? Did you motivate and mentor as a Girl Scout leader? Did you receive an award or other recognition?

Don't forget to include the length of time you worked in the volunteer position, especially if it was full-time or ongoing, and include any training obtained. This may be important in qualifying for some positions. Whether you are looking for a better job, returning to the work force after some time away, or wanting to change your present career, adding volunteer work to your resume is important. You've done the work, you've developed the skills, so let potential employers know what you can do!

For more tips on resume writing for volunteers, sign up to attend 'Marketing Your Volunteer Experience' on Tuesday, January 25, from 1000-1100 am at ACS. For more information contact the Employment Readiness Program Manager at ACS at + 31 (0) 46-443-7269/7500 or DSN 360-7269/7500.

Military Family Appreciation Month Event a Success



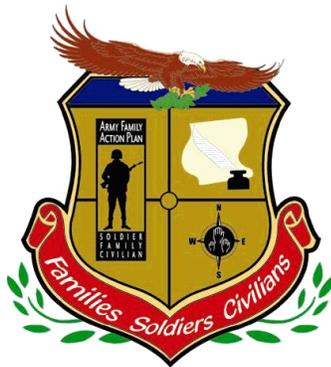
The USAG Schinnen Family Advocacy Program sponsored a Rock Band Challenge on Friday, November 19, in honor of Military Family Appreciation Month. Local students had a day off from school, and were able to participate in this spirited competition. There were six bands competing for the title of 2010 Rock Band Champions, including "The Burger Kings," "Well Obviously," "The Peoples," and "The Noisy Noodle Squad." "The Awesomes" walked away victorious in a surprising upset over "The Rock Band" in the final round. The event was fun for all involved, and band members now go back to practicing so they can rise again in the rematch after the New Year...

AFTB Training Provides Promotion Points to Active Duty

Active duty Soldiers can earn promotion points for participating in Army Family Team Building (AFTB) training. AFTB provides the knowledge and self-confidence to take responsibility for yourself and your Family. AFTB helps you to not just cope with, but enjoy the military lifestyle. Many of the courses can be applied toward resume and career building, self-development and leadership skills. The training is available to Soldiers, Family members, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers. A total of four promotion points can be awarded to active duty Soldiers for 40 accumulative hours of course instruction and/or training. Training is offered in the classroom setting at ACS quarterly or online at Army OneSource at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/>. Contact the AFTB Program Manager at DSN: 360-7482 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7482 for information.



Army Family Action Plan



Find out what the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is doing to resolve AFAP issues affecting the Army community. When you are on the go and don't have access to a computer, view the status and resolution of AFAP issues from your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. Find issues by entering a few simple keywords in the main search field. If you see too many results, narrow your results by choosing additional search criteria. Tap an AFAP issue to view it in greater detail. Track the progress and learn what is needed to resolve the issues affecting your community. If you have a question, send an email and get a response within 72 hours.

Features include ability to: locate AFAP issues using search criteria; access ALL AFAP issues from home page; tap to view a selected issue in greater detail; view status, recommendations and resolutions; e-mail AFAP issue questions to AFAP contact; email issue details to a friend(s); and quick search (enter keywords or an issue ID)

Learn more by visiting Army OneSource at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/>, click on Family Programs and Services, click on Family Programs and then click on Army Family Action Plan, click on Active Issue Search to access this new search application.

The AFAP process begins at the installation level in the fall culminating in an annual conference to examine and resolve issues. AFAP delegates develop issues through workgroup discussion. Issues that require higher headquarters resolution are forwarded to Mid-level conferences. Mid-level issues with Army-wide applicability are forwarded by Mission commanders to the Army Chief of Staff for Installation Management for review by delegates at the January HQDA AFAP Conference. Delegates at the HQDA AFAP Conference determine which issues are selected for inclusion.

Locally, quality of life issues can be submitted for consideration at our February, 23-24, 2011 Annual Conference online through the USAG Schinnen website at: http://www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil/sites/services/afap_issue_sub_email.asp or simply Google USAG Schinnen AFAP which connects you directly to the issue form. To learn more contact the AFTB Program Manager at DSN: 360-7482 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7482.

ACS Events



December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>USAG Schinnen Army Community Service Unit 21602 APO AE, 09703 Building 39 DSN 360-7500 or +31(0) 46-443-7500 Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm</i></p>			<p>1 <i>AFTB Level 1 9:30am - 3:00pm ACS</i></p> 	<p>2 <i>AFTB Level 1 9:30am - 3:00pm ACS</i></p> <p><i>Play Morning 9:30am - 11:30am ACS</i></p>	3	4
5	6	<p>7 <i>Stroller Fitness 11:00am - 12:00pm Fitness Center</i></p> <p><i>Teen Hearts Apart 2:00pm - 3:00pm AFNORTH</i></p>	<p>8 <i>Bundles for Babies Contact GK Airman & Family Readiness Center</i></p> <p><i>Ten Steps to a Federal Job 9:30am - 12:00pm ACS</i></p>	<p>9 <i>Play Morning 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center</i></p> <p><i>Money Management 11:30am - 12:30 pm ACS</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Hearts Apart Jr. 9:30am - 10:30pm AFNORTH</i></p>	<p>11 <i>3rd Annual Children's Holiday Shopping Event 9:00am PX</i></p>
12	13	<p>14 <i>Stroller Fitness 11:00am - 12:00pm Fitness Center</i></p>	<p>15 <i>Santa's Workshop 9:00am - 3:30pm ACS</i></p> 	<p>16 <i>Santa's Workshop 9:00am - 3:30pm Activity Center</i></p> <p><i>Play Morning 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center</i></p> <p><i>AFTB Birthday Celebration 12:00pm - 1:00pm Activity Center</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Newcomer's Orientation & Tour 8:00am - 4:00pm Begins and Ends at ACS</i></p> <p><i>Santa's Workshop 9:00am - 12:00pm Activity Center</i></p>	18
19	 <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>21 <i>Stroller Fitness CANCELLED</i></p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>23 <i>Play Morning CANCELLED</i></p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>24 <i>ACS Closed</i></p> 	25
26	<p>27</p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>28 <i>Stroller Fitness CANCELLED</i></p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>30 <i>Play Morning CANCELLED</i></p> <p><i>ACS Holiday Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm</i></p>	<p>31 <i>ACS Closed</i></p> 	

ACS Events



January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> CANCELLED	5	6 <i>Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center <i>Classic Movie Night</i> "Roman Holiday" 6:00pm ACS	7 <i>Hearts Apart Jr.</i> 9:30am - 10:30pm AFNORTH	1/8
9	10	11 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 11:00am - 12:00pm Fitness Center	12	13 <i>Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center	14 	15
16	17 <i>ACS Closed</i>  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 11:00am - 12:00pm Fitness Center <i>Scream Free Parenting</i> 5:30pm ACS	19	20 <i>Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center <i>Labor & Delivery Part I</i> 5:30pm - 8:00pm ACS	21	22
23	24	25 <i>Marketing your Volunteer Experience</i> 10:00am - 11:00am ACS <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 11:00am - 12:00pm Fitness Center	26 <i>Sibling Class</i> 3:00pm - 4:00 pm ACS 	27 <i>Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center <i>Photo Calendar</i> 12:00pm - 1:00pm ACS <i>Teen Hearts Apart</i> 2:00pm - 3:00pm AFNORTH <i>Labor & Delivery Part II</i> 5:30pm - 8:00pm ACS	28 <i>Newcomer's Orientation & Tour</i> 8:00am - 4:00pm Begins and Ends at ACS	26
30	31	 <p><i>USAG Schinnen Army Community Service Unit 21602 APO AE, 09703 Building 39 DSN 360-7500 or +31(0) 46-443-7500 Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm</i></p> 				