



Bad Aibling Station celebrates Bavarian tradition

By Sgt. Patricia Jaques
105th MI Battalion

BADAIBLING STATION, Germany - For what may be the last time here, the military community celebrated one of the oldest of Bavarian traditions-the raising of the Maypole, or Maibaum, May 3.

Soldiers, families and local residents gathered to celebrate the end of a long winter and the beginning of a beautiful Bavarian summer.

Bad Aibling Station Commander, and official Maibaummeister for the event, Col. Susan Huggler presided over the raising of "Maxlbaum," as she dubbed the station's Maypole, a procession of dancers and a Humpa band marked the arrival of the Maypole, drawn by a team of horses.

A combined effort between the German and American Maibaum teams completed the task in about an hour and a half.

During that time, the crowd was treated to various musical numbers by the band, a demonstration of traditional German dance and riveting performances by the whip crackers, or Goalschnalzer.

Participants were also able to indulge in a variety of German and American foods as well as an ample supply of German beer.

Centuries-old tradition



photo by Sgt. Patricia Jaques
Bad Aibling Station Commander Col. Susan Huggler, clothed in traditional Bavarian dress, precedes the horse team wheeling in the station's maypole. INSCOM Commanding General Maj. Gen Keith B. Alexander (right) watches from the side.

Bavarians have marked the arrival of summer with Maypole-raising ceremonies since the 16th century. The Maypoles are essentially tall trees stripped of their branches and decorated with wreaths and ribbons, or with images depicting the main crafts and industries of the community.

In Upper Bavaria, it is usually stripped of its bark and painted blue and white. Neighboring towns compete to see who can have the tallest and most ornate Maypole. Almost as anticipated as raising the Maypole is the tradition of stealing another village's Maypole.

Planning may continue for weeks before a team of enthusiastic young men actually moves in to steal the enormous tree and take it to their own village.

Their enthusiasm stems from knowing that the ransom - a barrel of beer and a hearty meal - must be paid to the men and their wives before the Maypole will be returned. Other traditions include young men soaping up the Maypole and climbing it to reach pretzels at the top to impress the young ladies in the crowd, or secretly planting small May trees in front of the windows of their sweethearts.

Fighting and winning together

Last weekend our Nation observed Armed Forces Day, culminating in the Joint Service Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, and celebrated locally at military installations and their civilian communities around the world. The theme this year was “A Force for Freedom,” and it was an especially meaningful tribute to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines whose dedication and courage helped overthrow a dictator and bring freedom to the Iraqi people.

The Joint Service Open House at Andrews highlighted the “jointness” of the American military, as did similar events held elsewhere. Demonstrations, flybys and static displays represented the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. The public was able to see all the elements of our military and how we integrate our operations to help us win our wars. The contributions of all the individual military services are synergistic, coming together to help us achieve our military goals and objectives. As our Secretary of Defense said at the Andrews Open House, “The challenge today requires — indeed, demands — true jointness in war fighting.”

While no service independently brought victory in Iraq, and we willingly salute the outstanding achievements of our sister services, we stand justifiably proud of the enormous role played by the U.S. Army.

Our soldiers fought through dust storms and Iraqi resistance, facing the threat of weapons of mass destruction along the way. Operation Iraqi Freedom truly brought together “A Force for Freedom,” the force of all our military services, with a heavy dependence on the skills and courage of the soldiers of the U.S. Army. At Armed Forces Day and throughout the year, the American people recognize and appreciate your many contributions.



DA photo

Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander

Fast Facts

➤ Registration is now open for this year’s **Army Birthday Ball**, celebrating the Army’s 228-year history. The ball will be held, June 21, at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel in Washington, D.C. All active duty Army, civilians, family members, retirees and veterans are invited. For more information and registration, go to <http://www.army.mil/birthday/228/>

➤ The 25th annual **U.S. Army Intelligence Ball** is scheduled to be held at the Mark Center of the Alexandria Hilton at 8 p.m. Sept. 23. More information will be provided at a later date.

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ANOSC will relocate to INSCOM

The Department of the Army has approved the relocation of the U.S. Army Network Operations and Security Center from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., to Fort Belvoir, Va.

The collocation of the ANOSC with the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command will provide the ability to leverage and interact more effectively with the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations, the 1st Information Operations Command and the Army Computer Emergency Response Team, all organizations within the National Capital Region.

U.S. Army Forces Command originally established the ANOSC at Fort Huachuca in 2000 as an operational element of the former Army Signal Command. October 1, 2002, it became a subordinate command of the newly

created U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, headquartered at Fort Huachuca. As an enterprise-level Army activity, the ANOSC provides an operational network interface between DA and Department of Defense activities.

Approximately 14 military positions, 14 Department of the Army civilian positions and 32 contracted positions will relocate from Fort Huachuca to Fort Belvoir.

Movement of the ANOSC to the National Capital Region brings all Army computer network operations capabilities together, forming one team to provide every available resource and level of expertise required to protect and defend the Army's "infostructure."

The ANOSC move will be phased over several months.

INSCOM takes part in Joint Service Open House



photo by Brian Murphy

Sgt. Dave O'Leary is on hand to answer any questions visitors may have had at the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's display, which was part of the Joint Service Open House held at Andrews Air Force Base May 16-18. Despite the poor weather, more than 50,000 people visited the event this year. The INSCOM display consisted of two short movies, a cyber soldier video and the history of INSCOM, and several promotional items. Other highlights from the air show included the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds' air show, a rock-climbing wall and dozens of aircraft and military vehicles open for display.

66TH MI Group pitches in for blood drive

BY JAYME LOPPNOW

66TH Military Intelligence Group

DARMSTADT, Germany - 66th Military Intelligence Group soldiers, civilians, contractors and family members rolled up their sleeves April 25 at the Dagger Complex to donate to the Armed Services Blood Program.

"We deal with the military and only the military," said Robert Kirzner, blood donor recruiter. "All the blood we collect stays in the military. It goes to active duty, dependants, retirees, DOD civilians, anyone who is Department of Defense affiliated."

The USAREUR Blood Donor Center, out of Landstuhl, is a tri-service program serving Army, Navy and Air Force personnel and is responsible for collecting and supplying all the blood needs for Europe, including Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The blood drive's organizer, Sgt. 1st Class Brent Dick of the 2nd MI Battalion, said he geared the event to assist with current world situations.

"It was a way to contribute to all the contingency operations going on in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "A lot of the casualties from those areas come through Landstuhl, so it's a way for me to help out."



Photo by Jayme Loppnow

Pvt. 2 Lauran Hix grins and bears it at the 66th MI Group's blood drive April 25 at the unit's headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany.

Donations on the rise

"There's no question that the war has increased people wanting to do something, such as make donations," said Kirzner. "It has had a positive effect on it - very much - but the need doesn't stop when the war stops. There are ongoing things that people need blood for, whether it's routine surgeries, accidents - all kinds of things. Blood is a product that expires, so it needs to be replaced regularly, which is why we're here."

First-time donor Spc. Brian Sadowski said he donated because of the need.

"It's a good thing and a good cause," he said.

Another soldier echoed that sentiment, adding that the drive provided a change of pace from the daily routine.

"It's something different at the 66th and it's a chance to get out of the office," said Sgt. Norberto Talamatez.

Sgt. Menkara Williams said it didn't matter who her blood went to.

"I don't care who gets it, just as long as it goes to someone who needs it," she said.

For information on organizing a blood drive or about Armed Services Blood Program, contact Robert Kirzner at CIV 06371-86-6497, DSN 486-6497 or e-mail robert.kirzner@Ind.amedd.army.mil.



Two color guards and color bearers of the Japanese-American 442d Combat Team, stand at attention, while their citations are read. They are standing on ground in the Bruyeres area, France, where many of their comrades fell. (11/12/44).

May highlights Asian/Pacific American contributions

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, Congress has designated the month of May each year as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. The following are highlights of Asian/Pacific American Firsts in the military arena:

1863 Chinese American William Ah Hang - one of the first Asian Americans to enlist in the U.S. Navy during Civil War

1942 U.S. War Department authorizes the first Filipino infantry battalion from among Filipino Americans

1942 Filipino Army Sgt. Jose Calugas - earns a Medal of Honor for heroism in the Philippines during World War II, among the first Filipinos to do so for services in World War II

1943 Korean American Colonel Young Oak Kim - first Asian American to command a combat battalion; to date, the most highly decorated Asian American soldier

1943 Wilbur Carl Sze - first Chinese American officer in U.S. Marine Corps

1984 Major General John

Liu Fugh - first Chinese American to attain general officer status in the U.S. army

1993 Major General John R. D'Araujo, Jr. - the first Filipino American to hold the rank of major general and the position of director of the Army National Guard Bureau

1998 Japanese American General Eric K. Shinseki assumes duties as the 28th Vice Chief of Staff, to date the highest ranking Asian in the U.S. armed forces (Courtesy DefenseLink)

Commanding General's Memorial Day Message

On Memorial Day we honor our veterans who gave their lives for our country. Usually, we think of Memorial Day as a time to review our history and when we refer to "veterans" we think of an older generation. But this year, our thoughts are focused on sacrifices made during the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As a nation, we continue to solemnly remember the lives of the more than 3,000 individuals who died in September 2001 during the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Added now to that recollection are the members of our Armed Forces who died to ensure the freedom of both the Afghan and Iraqi people, as well as the safety of our homeland.

I believe we, as a nation, have a clearer, more alarming understanding of the daily peril of our troops stationed around the world, and of those here at home as they work to maintain our security.

The battlefield upon which we now find ourselves is unlike that of our forefathers. The war on terrorism has stripped the innocence from our daily lives. Fought on many fronts, with an enemy - for the most part - hidden in shadows, it is a struggle for our lives, our way of life, and our hope that the world can be a place of peace and freedom. It is a war fought as much to maintain the innocence of our daily lives as it is to defeat our adversaries on the ground they occupy.

Since the beginnings of our nation, over 42,000,000 Americans have fought to preserve our liberty. Each generation has shared the burden of defending our nation and safeguarded for their successors the gift of liberty. Our hearts and prayers go out this Memorial Day, and each day of the year, to our fallen heroes, their families, and loved ones.

As we move toward summer, it is a chilling fact the American military loses the equivalent of a battalion of troops each year to automobile accidents. More than 50,000 Americans die each year on our highways, a tragic statistic easily changed by the fastening of a safety belt. A new INSCOM automobile safety program that shows the importance of seatbelt usage is underway with the slogan "Click-It INSCOM."

Memorial Day also signals the start of a season of water sports. Water mishaps are the number two cause of accidental death during warm weather. Since many of us travel in summer, and as many are likely to engage in boating and swimming, please be aware of the risks and protect yourselves against them. Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend and have a great summer.

Regards,

Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander