



THE 52ND FIGHTER WING SABER E-HERALD

2011 CINC INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

Spangdahlem
Air Base

May 27, 2011

Candy bomber visits Saber family, imparts wisdom



Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen signs a book for a Bitburg Middle School student during his visit here May 18. Colonel Halvorsen dropped candy to Berlin children from 1947-1948 and earned the nickname "Candy Bomber." (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Nathanael Callon)

Senior Airman Nathanael Callon
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen visited here and spoke May 18 to a diverse audience of Airmen, civilians and family members about his involvement with the Berlin Airlift.

Colonel Halvorsen spoke about the history of Berlin Airlift and how he became involved in one of the most important morale missions staged in Air Force history.

"Right after I got there to Rhein-Main [Air Base], I thought the airlift would be over right away; that's how dumb I was," Colonel Halvorsen said. "I thought it'd be over; I'd be sent back to the States before we even got to look around the city."

When the pilots landed in Berlin, they had to stand right beside their aircraft and as soon as supplies had been loaded, then they were on their way back to Rhein-Main AB.

"I wanted to take a look around, so on July 17, 1948, I finished three trips, which took about 14 hours, and was supposed to go straight to bed and start flying that night, but I had my ...

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123256750>.

All information in the Saber E-Herald can be found at www.spangdahlem.af.mil.

To submit content to the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs News Section, e-mail 52fw.panews@spangdahlem.af.mil or call DSN 452-6012. Articles and photos will be considered for publication and edited by news section staff.

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Spangdahlem hosts decathlon



Airmen 1st Class Kyle Kottas and Tamara Zutz, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, carry a 185-pound litter during the 200-meter litter carry event at the 52nd SFS Decathlon here May 17. The 52nd SFS Decathlon consisted of five teams competing in 10 separate events. The decathlon was part of National Police Week events to honor fallen law enforcement people. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis)

Security forces Airmen honor fallen with retreat ceremony

Capt. Lidia Iyassu, 52nd Security Forces Squadron operations officer, commands her flight to order arms during a retreat ceremony here May 20. The retreat ceremony coincided with National Police Week, which honors law enforcement members who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Nathanael Callon)





Airman convicted of using Spice

52nd Fighter Wing Legal Office

Senior Airman Sara A. Minthorn, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, pleaded guilty at a Summary Court-Martial May 19 to multiple uses of the designer drug commonly known as Spice, in violation of Article 92, Failure to Obey Order or Regulation Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Airman Minthorn was sentenced to 30 days in jail, maximum forfeitures, and reduction to E-2.

Airman Minthorn admitted to smoking Spice approximately 30 times from September 2010 to February 2011, including twice while armed and on post. In sentencing, the government presented evidence of the mission impact caused by her inability to perform her duties or even carry a weapon at a time when her unit was supporting both Operation Odyssey Dawn and Air and Space Expeditionary Force taskings.

The government's sentencing witness stated Airman Minthorn's crimes gave the entire unit a black eye. The government argued 30 uses of Spice merited 30 days in jail and getting high while armed on post demanded it. The Area Defense Counsel argued in mitigation that Airman Minthorn was going through a very stressful time in her life, and she had learned from her mistakes.

Airman Minthorn faced a maximum sentence of one month confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds pay, reduction to E-1, and a reprimand. Airmen who have used drugs, including Spice, are subject to administrative discharge under Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen.

Summer is critical time for safety awareness

Senior Master Sgt. Joe Winfield and
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Hauck
52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office

We are about to enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign that begins on Memorial Day and lasts until Labor Day. This time frame is referred to as the "Critical Days" because of the substantial increase in off-duty mishaps experienced during this period.

Traditionally, Air Force mishap numbers are higher during these 101 days because of the additional travel associated with vacationing and the increased participation in recreational events.

It should surprise no one the leading cause -- historically, between 60 – 65 percent -- of deaths can be attributed to private motor vehicle crashes. Our fiscal year 2011 numbers have been consistent with this trend, which has been the average during the last four years. In 2010, 31 of the 51 fatalities -- or 61 percent -- involved personal motor vehicles. During the FY 2010 "Critical Days," the Air Force lost 17 Airmen.

It seems once people get behind the wheel of a vehicle, they leave supervision, checklists, operational instructions, etc. behind. It is when they are on their own like this disaster usually strikes. Unfortunately, we had four fatalities in U.S. Air Forces in Europe during FY 2010. That is nearly one quarter of all the Air Force's total fatalities in one year.

It is rare for a car crash to be so simple it has only one cause. Most crashes are the result of a complex sequence of events that come together at a particular point in time. The circumstances and causes may have been different in all of our fatalities, but there was definitely one thing they all had in common -- they were preventable.

In practically every instance, operator error was a factor. It may have manifested itself as inattention, driving too ...

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123257579>.

Promotees, graduates available on site

The Spangdahlem Air Base Master sergeant promotion list and most recent Community College of the Air Force graduates are now listed on the base website.

View the lists at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123257577> and <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123256741> respectively.

Ride-Share Program

The ride-share program is designed to make Spangdahlem Air Base a more environmentally-friendly installation. To view participating towns around the base, visit [this base intranet site](#) using a CAC from a smart-card-enabled computer.



Photographer's insight: Personal experiences at Eifel Thunder

Senior Airman Nick Wilson
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"I love you, Trey," I said.

"Gaahh," my 2-month-old son said with a big smile on his face while squeezing the blood circulation out of my index finger and rapidly kicking his fat little legs as if he was running a marathon.

I could feel a couple of tears slowly trickling down my cheeks like rain drops on a windshield before I kissed my wife goodbye and departed for a one week exercise called "Eifel Thunder" in Gerolstein, Germany. The purpose of the exercise was for Airmen to live and work in an isolated location as if they were on a real deployment.

I met up with members from the 606th Air Control Squadron at their main building before joining the 20-vehicle convoy of trucks that would soon depart for Gerolstein. Upon arrival, I was issued a folder containing convoy information and a \$600 radio that I would be liable for if it was lost or broken.

The convoy out to the site was pretty fun. I got to radio in, "Charlie 19 passed checkpoint," every time we passed a checkpoint en route to our final destination. I was also able to spot a major hot brake malfunction because I was driving behind an Airman whose rear brakes were so hot I could smell the burning inside my government-owned vehicle with my windows closed.

Why is the brake issue so important? The entire convoy had to stop because I told the Airmen in the truck ahead of me about the brake issue. Eventually it was fixed, but it could have been worse if I didn't notice or say anything about it. About a half an hour later, another truck had to break away from the convoy due to maintenance issues. The Airmen in the truck in front ...

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123256717>.



GEROLSTEIN, Germany –Airmen from the 606th Air Control Squadron line up for breakfast as part of exercise Eifel Thunder 2011 here May 10. The 606th ACS participated in a field exercise that tested their ability to deploy and set up a deployed radar and satellite communications site as well as everything else required to accomplish their mission. The squadron returned to Spangdahlem Air Base May 16. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Nick Wilson)



Clinic teaches Saber youth to tee-off



Children from the Spangdahlem and Bitburg elementary and middle schools participate in a youth golf clinic at the Eifel Mountain Golf Course May 20. The clinic was given by Tee it Up Inc. and sponsored by the 52nd Force Support Squadron to teach the children how to play the sport. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Matthew Fredericks)

Rheinland-Pfalz Tag experience local culture, entertainment

Iris Reiff,

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For three days in a row, the Eifel will become the site for a mega cultural event this year. This event is the annual Rheinland-Pfalz day held in the city of Pruem May 27-29.

Every year, the state of Rheinland-Pfalz selects a different city to host the event. It's probably not a coincidence that the city of Pruem was chosen to host this year's Rheinland-Pfalz Tag - the largest state fair of its kind for the federal state of Rheinland-Pfalz where people may experience local state culture, beautiful scenery and entertainment all at once.

The Eifel is an attractive tourist spot and the Eifel city of Pruem, located right at the doorsteps of the base, is a city with a lot of charm, beauty and a rich history. The city is famous for its Saint Salvator Basilica and the adjacent Abbey of Pruem, which serves as a school today. Pruem has a large variety in hotels and restaurants, leisure facilities and is known for its beautiful walking and bicycling trails all around the city.

According to event organizers, the three-day event may draw up to as many as 100,000 visitors from around Germany ...

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123256749>.

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING: Please be responsible when drinking.
Make the right choice and call – 0656561-AADD (2233)



Name: Staff Sgt. James M. Becvar II

Unit: 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron

Duty title: Avionics production supervisor

Hometown: Lewiston, Maine

Years in Service: Eight years and nine months

Why joined: I joined to pay off college debts, see the world and serve my country

Family: Wife, Amy; and three sons, Zachary, Mason and Evan

Hobbies: Anything to do with sports and traveling with the family

Favorite aspect of job: Definitely the people, ability to take people from all walks of life and mesh them together in a career field to perform a specific job and to have that team perform their duties with the highest proficiency has always amazed me

Most memorable AF experience: Preparing, loading and shipping our Electronic Countermeasure Pods to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn. Once the prep work was done, sitting back and watching our equipment perform flawlessly allowing pilots to complete their mission and return safely.

Super Saber Performer

The Spangdahlem Air Base Super Saber Performer program highlights one outstanding enlisted Airman each week.



Staff Sgt. James M. Becvar II, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron avionics production supervisor, is the Super Saber Performer for the week of May 20-26. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Matthew Fredericks)

Our Saber Goals

- Build future leaders at every level
- Fulfill all mission taskings with trained and proficient Airmen
 - Build healthy Airmen and families
 - Communicate to all levels of the Saber family
 - Strengthen and sustain our culture of responsibility
 - Bolster bonds of allied friendship and cooperation
- Become USAFE's most environmentally-friendly wing
 - Kill the crap that wastes time and resources
- Make Club Eifel a highly desired destination for our Airmen



What's goin'

Total Force Fitness on Facebook

A Total Force Fitness Facebook page is now activated. Please use the link for access. Active participation is encouraged with the site so Airmen, civilian employees and family members can share their thoughts, socialize, post best practices, etc.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Total-Force-Fitness/198757523496266?ref=ts#!/pages/Total-Force-Fitness/198757523496266?sk=wall>

Sure Start program

Applications are now being accepted for the Spangdahlem and Bitburg Elementary Schools Sure Start programs. Sure Start is a pre-school program that focuses on the social, health, physical and educational developmental areas of individual children. Class sizes are limited to 18, and priority is given to children of sponsors E-1 – E-4 and GS – 1 – GS – 4. Children must be four-years old by Sept. 1. Sure Start students are selected by a committee and are chosen based on Department of Defense Education Activity criteria. Parents interested in filling out an application for the program need to visit their local elementary school office.

UMUC registration open

University of Maryland University College Europe announces registration for the summer session. Registration for ON-SITE (face-to-face) courses is available now through 5 June, with classes beginning on 6 June. Registration for Europe ONLINE or distance education courses continues through June 12, with classes starting on June 13.

This summer, UMUC Europe is offering a \$500 Military Family Member Scholarship. Details can be found at http://www.ed.umuc.edu/financial_aid. For more information on registration, scholarships, and services, contact a local UMUC Europe field representative, visit www.ed.umuc.edu, or contact UMUC at DSN 314-370-6762 or CIV +49-(0)6221-3780.

May 27 - Fatigue course

The safety office will offer a fatigue and sleep information course 11 a.m. - noon in the Health and Wellness Center. The course briefly covers sleep physiology, circadian rhythm, sleep hygiene and drowsiness. To register, call DSN 452-7385.

May 27—Free dance demonstration

A free dance demonstration will be held 11 a.m.—noon May 27 in the Club Eifel Ballroom. Traditional Filipino and Polynesian dances will be performed by Eifel and Kaiserslautern Military Community organizations.

Upcoming environmental assessment

The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Asset Management Flight Environmental Element will be hosting the Tier II /Internal Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program Assessment June 6-10. An ESOHCAMP assessment is just that, an assessment and not an inspection to ensure compliance with all applicable ESOH regulations. For more information, call DSN 452-5125 or e-mail doris.sims@spangdahlem.af.mil.

June 1—Family fun night

The 52nd Force Support Squadron will offer a family fun movie night 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Club Eifel ballroom for \$7.95 for adults and \$3.95 for children. For more information, call DSN 452-4369.

June 1—History day with children

Experience history with the children of the community 1-2 p.m. at the Spangdahlem Elementary School. Observe websites, exhibits and documentaries, and have an opportunity to discuss history with the children who are learning all about it. For more information or to register, e-mail elise.rosch@eu.dodea.edu.

June 3, 4 – Relay for Life

The Spangdahlem Air Base Relay for Life event will be held June 3 and 4 at 6 p.m. Entry fees are \$10 each person. For more information or to register, visit www.relayforlife.org/miniGermany or call Senior Airman Nicole DeBois at DSN 452-6152.

June 3, 4, 5 – Beauty and the Beast performances

Students from Spangdahlem Elementary and Middle Schools will be performing Disney's Beauty and the Beast. The musical production will be performed on at the Spangdahlem ES Multi Purpose Room. The cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children 13 and younger and free for children under 4 and \$10 for a family of up to 6 members. For more information, call DSN 452-6881 or e-mail judi.harvin@eu.dodea.edu.

June 4—Craft fair

Join the arts and crafts center for a fair where more than 20 crafters will be displaying their works. For more information, call DSN 452-6841.

June 8 - Communication Feedback

The Wing's Communications Success Team is hosting a feedback forum in the Eifel Conference Center at noon and 5:30 p.m. The forum will give people the opportunity to discuss the communication needs of base members and ways to improve communication from wing leadership.



What's goin' on? continued...

June 10—Firefighters golf tournament

A Firefighter's Association golf tournament will be held at the Lietzenhof Golf Course in Burbach Germany. A shotgun start is scheduled for 8 a.m., and the cost is 40 Euros per person. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., and carts are available for an extra 15 euros. For more information, call DSN 452-4407 or 452-4199.

June 10, 24 – Bingo Night

Club Eifel will sponsor Bingo Night. The costs for members are \$30 for three cards and \$55 for nine. Check-in is at 6 p.m. and the event starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Club Eifel at DSN 452-4639.

June 18 – Volleyball competition

The Baden-Wuerttemberg Open will be open to all branches of the U.S. military and their family members in Europe. The tournament will be open to female and male participants ages 18 and older. The categories are two- and four-player teams. The costs are \$15 per person; for more information, call the Tompkins Fitness Center at 06202-80-7700.

June 21, 22 - Town hall meetings

The 52nd Fighter Wing will host two town hall meetings. One will be held at theater on Bitburg Annex and one at the theater on Spangdahlem Air Base. Wing leadership is interested in what you want to discuss, so e-mail your suggestions to 52msg.cce@spangdahlem.af.mil.

July 6-8 Commissary closure

The Spangdahlem Commissary will need to close and reopen July 9. The closure will allow the Defense

Commissary Agency to make important improvements to include an expansion of the sales floor, increase stock assortment to include perishable, non perishable goods and an increased produce department. The Bitburg Commissary will be open during this period to accommodate until the reopening.

Ongoing Notifications:

On Request – Car Maintenance

Participate in "My Car Is Ready," a free one-hour basic car maintenance class, in Bldg. 189. Class dates and times are based on requests. Sign up at the auto hobby center in Bldg. 189.

Mondays and Wednesdays – Yoga

The Skelton Memorial Fitness Center offers Yoga classes every week at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays free of charge. For more information, call the fitness center at DSN 452-6634.

Tuesdays, Thursdays – Jiu Jitsu

The Skelton Memorial Fitness Center offers Jiu Jitsu classes Tuesdays and Thursdays in the aerobics' room. Class for children 6-11 years old begins at 5:15 p.m., children 12-17 years old at 6:15 p.m. and women at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$110 for eight classes. Two to three additional family members can participate for \$60 person. A fourth family member can participate free.

Third Wednesdays of the month – 5K Family Fun Run

Join the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center the third Wednesday of every month for a 5K family fun run. You can run or walk the classic 5K route along Perimeter Road. The event is

open to all ages, and dogs are welcome. For more information, call the fitness center at DSN 452-6634.

Thursdays – Toddler story time

The Spangdahlem Library has toddler story time at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday. Volunteer readers are always welcome. For more information, e-mail kelly.desmond@spangdahlem.af.mil

Volunteer Opportunities:

Youth Employment Skills Program

The youth employment skills program is an on-base volunteer program for high school students. This program, underwritten by the Air Force Aid Society, is a joint effort between AFAS, Air Force Airmen and the family services program flight to offer high school students an opportunity to learn valuable work skills, "bank" dollar credits toward their post-secondary education or training, and have a positive impact on their base community. As an employer, you will supervise a high school student, ages 14-18, receive a student who can work up to eight hours per day, or 40 hours per week, or mentor a student about the Air Force and possible career choices. For more information, call DSN 6244 or e-mail sarah.williams@spangdahlem.af.mil.

SPES Field Day Volunteers,

Volunteers are needed June 10 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Spangdahlem Elementary Bldg. 439 for a field day. For more information or to register, call DSN 452-6881 or e-mail lydia.Johnson@eu.dodea.edu.

Eagle Eyes

If you see something out of the ordinary or witness suspicious behavior, call **DSN 452-6666** or **0656561-6666**.