

USAG
SCHWEINFURT

PAO

GARRISON
CLOSURE
AFTER ACTION
REPORT (AAR)

CONTENTS

Background.....	3
Why blog?.....	10
Director Questionnaire Form.....	12
Blog Round-up, PAO n Notes & AAR.....	14
Closure Ceremony Checklist.....	25
Closure Ceremony Sequence of Events.....	27
Closure Ceremony Draft OORDER.....	28
Closure Ceremony Layout.....	33
Closure Ceremony Draft Speech.....	34

BACKGROUND

The [U.S. Army in Europe announced in November 2011](#) that it would reorganize with reductions in military, Department of the Army civilian and local national positions, in accordance with Department of Defense direction. The majority of those reductions were in local national positions. Then, the [DOD announced in February 2012](#) that U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt would be turned over to host nation officials by 2014.

The garrison command team and the PAO found themselves between competing missions. On one hand they had to continue managing a garrison to support the deployment and re-deployment of troops, as well as provide quality services to those Soldiers and families living here. But on the other hand they still had to drawdown the very services and personnel that enabled them to manage the installation.

To confront the conflicting mission of closing a base down that must at the same time maintain its operational readiness and quality of life levels, the garrison commander laid out a list of five priorities which would serve as a beacon between then and the eventual closure. Those priorities guided decision-making over the course of the transformation. The PAO made a long-range strategic communication plan based on those five priorities (see PUBLIC_USAG_Schweinfurt_STRATCOM_PLAN_V1):

1. Support and Sustain the Generation of Army Combat Capability (ARFORGEN)
2. Ensure Life, Health, and Safety on the installation and its members
3. Support, Sustain, and Strengthen the Army Community
4. Effectively and efficiently manage our financial resources
5. Restructure, Transform, and Strengthen our Workforce

The commander and the PAO must ask: “What do we cut? We can’t do everything that we want to do.” This circles back to command’s priorities. Those priorities in order of significance determined which services would be affected. Services that didn’t meet command priorities were taken offline, reduced or substituted. Services that did not match command priority resourcing were the first to be reduced or eliminated, though the commander and the PAO made commitments that the public did not see any changes for at least 90 days prior to an official announcement. Garrison services were either reduced or modified, but not without prior coordination with the community. The commander and the PAO must ensure Soldiers, civilians and families have time to adjust.

The PAO had two years to assist the public with transitioning out of Schweinfurt. The audience included Soldiers, families, local national employees, American employees, retirees and the local Schweinfurt community. The PAO, in coordination with the command team, determined that the best way to assist was to engage the public directly with a blog (see page 11).

The blog was embedded in a designated closure page. The closure page includes five distinct parts:

1. News related to closure.
2. German news and resources related to closure for local national employees (who represent the bulk of the workforce).
3. A complete list of all services either closed or modified.
4. Soldier, employee and family resources to assist with the transition.
5. Closure blog (created for free using Wordpress.com)

Closure Page

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CLOSURE 2014



YOUR RESOURCE FOR ALL
INFORMATION REGARDING
THE 2014 CLOSURE OF
USAG SCHWEINFURT



In the News



Deutsche Nachrichten



Service Closure & Modification



**Soldier, Employee & Family
Resources**



Closure Blog

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Last Updated: 9/5/2013

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CLOSURE 2014

Closure 2014 in the News

CLOSURE 2014

- ▲ Closure Home
- ▲ News
- ▲ Deutsche Nachrichten
- ▲ Resources
- ▲ Service Modifications
- ▲ Closure Blog

CLOSURE FAQ
Click here for a list of frequently asked questions

- ◆ Schweinfurt's last 2 units inactivate signaling garrison closure (May 19, 2014)
- ◆ 'Soldier for Life' website to be new online home for retirees (May 5, 2014)
- ◆ Prep for PCS: ACS and 72nd ESB ramp up efforts (Feb. 14, 2014)
- ◆ Schweinfurt job center extends services to Americans (Feb. 12, 2014)
- ◆ Film crew seeks cast for documentary about Army in Schweinfurt (Feb. 6, 2014)
- ◆ Schweinfurt Expats: Where we've been, what we've been doing (Feb. 3, 2014)
- ◆ New closures, big news items announced at town hall (Jan. 24, 2014)
- ◆ Schweinfurt retiree services move to Ansbach after closure (Jan. 16, 2014)
- ◆ Your guide to a successful move from private rental housing (Jan. 15, 2014)
- ◆ Avoid these PCS showstoppers when prepping to leave Schweinfurt (Jan. 9, 2014)
- ◆ 2013: A year in review at USAG Schweinfurt (Jan. 7, 2014)
- ◆ Garrison to end Sunday shuttle runs (Dec. 12, 2013)
- ◆ Garrison seeks photos for historical exhibit - you can help (Nov. 15, 2013)
- ◆ Drop in ridership prompts reduction in garrison shuttle runs (Sep 20, 2013)
- ◆ Town Hall notes: Closure looms, 'community still vibrant' (Sep 18, 2013)
- ◆ Exchange offers resources for PCSing service members (Sep 16, 2013)
- ◆ USAREUR announces unit actions in support of Bamberg, Schweinfurt closures (Aug 28, 2013)
- ◆ FMC prepared for Bamberg, Schweinfurt closures (Aug 6, 2013)
- ◆ Kessler gym closing end of era for its forefathers (Aug 2, 2013)
- ◆ Schweinfurt NAF employees have option as closure looms (Jul 1, 2013)
- ◆ Sato leisure office to close July 1; options remain (July 13, 2013)
- ◆ Schweinfurt commissary continues service despite closure (June 10, 2013)
- ◆ COL Runey addresses community at Town Hall (May 17, 2013)
- ◆ Franconia Military Community garrisons ramp up closure operations (April 24, 2013)
- ◆ Ledward postal services moving to Conn (April 23, 2013)
- ◆ Places you have to see before leaving Schweinfurt (April 19, 2013)
- ◆ Preventing pet abandonment, how you can help (Mar.15, 2013)
- ◆ U.S. Army Europe announces newest transformation actions (Mar.1 2013)
- ◆ The next 180 days in Schweinfurt explained (Feb. 27, 2013)
- ◆ All Hands Forum (Feb 2013)
- ◆ LTC Runey addresses closure concerns in Town Hall (Feb 19, 2013) youtube
- ◆ No AAPES theater upgrade due to closure (Feb. 14, 2013) stripes.com

German News and Resources

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CLOSURE 2014

Deutsche Nachrichten

Schließungsmitteilungen

- ◆ Informationsveranstaltung für LN Beschäftigte (May 5, 2014) [ENG](#) | [DE](#)
- ◆ Restrukturierungsmaßnahmen im Bereich des US-Heereshauptquartiers in Europa. (Mar. 1, 2013) [eur.army.mil](#)
- ◆ Der Schweinfurter Garnisonskommandeur spricht über die Schließung bei einer "All Hands" Versammlung (10. Aug. 2012)
- ◆ Augenmerk gilt der Gemeinschaft während die Garnison sich auf die Schließung vorbereitet (18. Mai, 2012)
- ◆ Der Kommandeur erörtert Schließung, stellt Prioritäten vor (30. März, 2012)
- ◆ US Verteidigungsministerium kündigt Pläne zur Anpassung der Stationierung von Heeresstruppen in Europa an (16. Feb, 2012) [eur.army.mil](#)
- ◆ U.S. Army Europa setzt Umstrukturierung fort (8. Nov, 2011) [eur.army.mil](#)
- ◆ Umbenennung und Neugliederung von Standorten der U.S. Army Europa (8. Nov, 2011) [eur.army.mil](#)
- ◆ Hauptquartier U.S. Army Europa kürzt zivile Stellen (8. Nov, 2011) [eur.army.mil](#)

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Information für ortsansässige Beschäftigte

- ◆ Transfargesellschaft Schweinfurt-REFUGIO Flyer (May 5, 2014)
- ◆ Tätigkeitsbericht der Betriebsvertretung (Dec. 4, 2013)
- ◆ Stichwort Konversion (Dec. 4, 2013)
- ◆ Tätigkeitsbericht 1. Halbjahr (June 17, 2013)
- ◆ Auflösung der Dienststelle | Kündigungen (June 17, 2013)
- ◆ Schutz TV / TASS (June 17, 2013)
- ◆ Infoveranstaltung | AFA (May 14, 2013)
- ◆ Infoveranstaltung | HWK (May 14, 2013)
- ◆ Infoveranstaltung | IHK (May 14, 2013)
- ◆ Infoveranstaltung | CPAC (May 14, 2013)
- ◆ All Hands Meeting (Feb. 21, 2013)
- ◆ CPAC Brief - Standortschließung der USAG Schweinfurt (Feb. 21, 2013)
- ◆ LN Assembly - Bundesagentur für Arbeit (10 Okt, 2012.)
- ◆ LN Assembly - Transfargesellschaft (10 Okt, 2012.)
- ◆ Auflösung USAG Schweinfurt (10 Okt, 2012. Local National Assembly)
- ◆ Tätigkeitsbericht (10 Okt, 2012. Local National Assembly)
- ◆ Personalabbau (10 Okt, 2012. Local National Assembly)

Soldier, Civilian, Employee & Family Resources

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GERMAN
EVENTS

MOVIES

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CLOSURE 2014

- ▲ Closure Home
- ▲ News
- ▲ Deutsche Nachrichten
- ▲ Resources
- ▲ Service Modifications
- ▲ Closure Blog

Soldier, Civilian, Employee & Family Resources

- ◆ DoD Civilian Retiree Card Frequently Asked Questions (May 6, 2014)
- ◆ Health Clinic Preps for Closure: A Cheat Sheet (May 1, 2014)
- ◆ Spouse Career Fair (May 9, 2014)
- ◆ NAF panel explains options for US employees affected (March 6, 2014)
- ◆ Town Hall Meeting NAF Workforce (March 6, 2014)
- ◆ 72nd ESB PCS Stand Down Brief (Jan. 23, 2014)
- ◆ My Individual Career Plan
- ◆ 2014 Federal Pay & Benefits (Jan. 2014)
- ◆ USAG Schweinfurt U.S. Appropriated Funds Employees Brief (Oct. 11, 2013)
- ◆ IMCOM-E Enterprise Placement Program
- ◆ Handbook for relocating Federal Employees
- ◆ Guide to Terminating Host Nation Contracts
- ◆ AAFES PCS Headquarters (September 16, 2013)
- ◆ Nonappropriated Fund Reassignment Assistance Program, NAF-RAP (CAC log-in required)
- ◆ Schweinfurt NAF employees have option as closure looms (July 1, 2013)
- ◆ NAF Employee Initial BBA Letter (June 2013)
- ◆ NAF Business Rules Letter (June 2013)
- ◆ NAF Severance Pay (June 2013)
- ◆ 1-91 Cav Relocation Town Hall Slides (May 2013)
- ◆ Just Landed in Germany, Now What? [stripes.com](#)
- ◆ New CHRA-E US Overseas Tour Extension (OTEX) SOP (April 2013)
- ◆ Plan My Move [militaryresource.mil](#)
- ◆ Relocation/PCS/Moving information [military.com](#)
- ◆ Local Pets Available for Adoption
- ◆ 2013-2014 Schweinfurt Schools Configuration (Mar 2013)
- ◆ All Hands Forum (Feb 2013)
- ◆ Guidelines for Hazardous Waste Disposal
- ◆ Resource for PCSing with School Age Children [schoolquest.org](#)
- ◆ Schweinfurt Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)
- ◆ Use Self-Help shop to avoid charges during PCS move (Dec 2012)
- ◆ Schweinfurt Schools to operate to the end of 2013-2014 school year (Dec 2012)
- ◆ U.S. Army Job Fair Map [imcom.army.mil](#)

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Service Closure & Modifications


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- CLOSURE 2014**
- ▲ Closure Home
 - ▲ News
 - ▲ Deutsche Nachrichten
 - ▲ Resources
 - ▲ Service Modifications
 - ▲ Closure Blog

Service Closure & Modifications

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt will close September of 2014 and will be turned over to host nation officials. But until then, how will services, shops and programs be modified and eventually shut down? First, just because something can be closed down does not automatically mean it will immediately be closed. Troop levels, the numbers of families present, and the amount of available staff play a critical role in what services will be affected. Second, command priorities will guide decision-making over the course of the transformation. Services that don't meet command priorities will be taken offline, reduced or substituted. Those priorities are:

1. We will support the Army's combat capability.
2. We will ensure life, health and safety on the installation.
3. We will support and strengthen the Schweinfurt community.

CLOSURE FAQ
Click here for a list of frequently asked questions

Garrison Services	Recreation	Food & Dining
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GARRISON SERVICES	
Legal Office – Conn Barracks	CLOSED July 31, 2014
Askren Manor & Conn SORT Yard	CLOSED June 30, 2014
Ledward Recycling Center	CLOSED
Free Cycle Center	CLOSED June 10, 2014
Inspector General - Conn Barracks	CLOSED June 4, 2014
Commissary – Askren Manor	CLOSED Aug. 1, 2014
Laundromat – Ledward Barracks	CLOSED July 1, 2014
Vehicle Processing Center (POV Shipping Center)	CLOSED Aug. 15, 2014
Family Advocacy Program – ACS	Modified
Conn Postal Services	Modified June 2, 2014
Ledward Postal Service	CLOSED
Blue Mail Boxes (U.S. Post Office)	CLOSED July 1, 2014

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CLOSURE BLOG

HONEST DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLOSURE OF USAG SCHWEINFURT

HOME ABOUT TEAM SCHWEINFURT SUBMIT A QUESTION FAQs



MP services continue thru closure, but limited hours at front desk

Beginning June 2, calls to the MP front desk will be redirected to the Ansbach MP station. Just tell them you're from Schweinfurt and a Schweinfurt MP will be dispatched to assist you. [Continue reading](#)



Vet clinic braces for closure: What you need to know through spring/summer 2014

Pet owners are encouraged to pick up their pet's veterinary records prior to May 30. After that date, records will be transferred to the Wlasek Veterinary Clinic. [Continue reading](#)

[Leave a comment](#)



Tax Center: What happens to your tax records

The USAG Schweinfurt Tax Center and the USAG Bamberg Tax Center maintain tax records for the past three years. We maintain the records for the benefit of our clients to make filing in future years easier. [Continue reading](#)

[Leave a comment](#)



Have an account at Community Bank? What you need to know

Hello Schweinfurt, this is Conny Swimm, your Community Bank Manager here on Ledward Barracks. As we move closer toward closure of the garrison, your Community Bank Team would like to help clarify your banking concerns. [Continue reading](#)

[Leave a comment](#)



A message to our American civilian employees and an update on RIF

Employees, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to securing future employment. What's important to know is that you should start applying for jobs now. I have asked that our ACS leadership host an Employment Readiness class March 28 focused on the federal resume and the federal job search system. Additionally, I am granting Schweinfurt employees the opportunity to attend the training during the work day. If the class fills up and we need to host another one, we will. [Continue reading](#)

[Leave a comment](#)

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[Closure Home](#)
[News](#)
[Deutsche Nachrichten](#)
[Resources](#)
[Service Modifications](#)
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[bulk](#) [trash](#) [oil](#) [prone](#)
[closure 2014](#) [ca](#)
[command](#) [sponsorship](#)
[community](#) [community](#)
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[DEERS](#) [dependants](#)
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[education](#) [EPMP](#) [events](#)
[finance](#) [funding](#) [Germany](#)
[Grafenwoehr](#) [hasarsok](#) [waste](#)
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[Ledward](#) [legal](#) [legal](#) [office](#) [mail](#)
[marriage](#) [medical](#) [records](#)
[memorials](#) [&](#) [monuments](#)
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[services](#) [welcome](#) [Youth](#)



CLOSUREBLOG

HONEST DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLOSURE OF USAG SCHWEINFURT

HOME ABOUT SUBMIT A QUESTION

Background:

USAG Schweinfurt is scheduled to close October 2014. The USAG Schweinfurt PAO team, known as the Fusion Cell, created a “Closure 2014” page on its website, www.teamschweinfurt.com, to provide Soldiers, families and employees the resources they need to transition to the next stage of their lives. Embedded within the closure page is a closure blog.

Why blog?

The blog functions on two very powerful levels. On one hand, the blog gives leaders a voice to direct stakeholders. As a garrison commander or director, *what do I need my specific audience to do in order to successfully close the garrison down by 2014?* The lessons learned of past garrison closures, for example, indicate that some Soldiers or family members may abandon their vehicles. To prevent this, the blogger offers solutions in “Get rid of your hoopy for free... paperwork included!”:

<http://teamschweinfurt.wordpress.com/2013/04/29/get-rid-of-your-hoopy-for-free/>.

On the other hand, the blog empowers the community with a hand in holding garrison leaders accountable and forging policy as circumstances warrant. For example, a family member asks, “Do we still need to paint our government quarters (which is part of the check-out process)?” The Director for the Directorate of Public Works, who hadn’t considered that before, says no in his piece “Painting quarters no longer part of clearance from government-owned housing”: <http://teamschweinfurt.wordpress.com/2013/10/30/painting-quarters-no-longer-part-of-clearance-from-government-owned-housing/>

The blog allows the command team and garrison leaders to speak personally to the community. Community members pose issues or questions, which, through PAO coordination, are taken on by subject matter experts. The blog also allows leaders to interact with the community through the comments section. What’s more, the blog provides leaders with honest, unscripted feedback and allows them to identify information gaps.

www.schweinfurt.army.mil/closure2014/index.htm



www.schweinfurt.army.mil/closure2014/closure_blog.htm



USAG SCHWEINFURT STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION PLAN

version 1.0 | october 2012



What is the intent of having a blog?

A closure blog serves as a tool to assist key closure team members, who include the Garrison Commander, Deputy Garrison Commander, Directors and “Michele the Military Spouse.” The blog achieves at least one of two desired effects:

1. *Generates buy-in:* The Schweinfurt military community knows that USAG Schweinfurt provides the resources to live happily and takes care of Soldiers, family members and employees.
2. *Empowers a call-to-action:* Targeted audiences do what leaders need them to do in order to close successfully.

How does the closure blog fit into the USAG Schweinfurt STRATCOM Plan?

The blog turns strategic communication into strategic conversation. It provides leaders with a direct line to their respective audiences to empower these audiences to do what is needed in order to close successfully. In short, the blog gives teeth to the STRATCOM Plan.

What’s an example of a successful blog post?

Blog administrators receive a question that reflects a trend. Multiple spouses, for example, express concern regarding the upcoming school year. “What will happen to my kids if the school closes?” parents ask. The Deputy Garrison Commander, or a designated subject matter expert, who has close ties to DoDDS school officials, fields the question. The blog post generates buy-in from the audience or encourages them to prepare for change. The blog post is archived for future use, and can be linked in press releases or via Facebook. As closure looms nearer, all questions will be answered, theoretically, and all community members—whether Soldier, family member or employee—will have the answers and resources necessary to transition.

Who is the audience?

The audience includes all those affected by the closure. Specifically, bloggers have in mind Soldiers, family members, civilian employees and local national employees.

Samples:

Preparing to Leave Germany Part 2: Terminating Contracts (February 2013)

By Michele Bradfield, Army Spouse

<http://teamschweinfurt.wordpress.com/2013/02/13/preparing-to-leave-germany-part-2/>

Ship, Sell or Scrap: What to do with your POV when you PCS. (February 2013)

Capt. Sara Smith, USAG Schweinfurt Provost Marshal

<http://teamschweinfurt.wordpress.com/2013/02/27/ship-sell-or-scrap-what-to-do-with-your-pov-when-you-pcs/>

Why are families moving from leased housing onto post? (March 2013)

By Lt. Col. Michael Runey, Garrison Commander

<http://teamschweinfurt.wordpress.com/2013/03/05/why-are-families-moving-from-leased-housing-onto-post-2/>

DIRECTOR QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

The DIRECTOR questionnaire form was one the most important pieces to develop content for the closure page in general and the blog more specifically.

The PAO visited each director and manager and posed this question: Name the top 3-5 issues that you need the public to do to successfully close down the garrison.

The PAO then took those issues and went straight to the subject matter experts (sometimes the directors themselves). The PAO either helped draft talking points using commander priorities or else ghost wrote a blog. The final blog post—either written by the director or subject matter expert, or prepped by the PAO—was submitted for review by the director in question. Once reviewed, the blog was posted under the authorship of the director or manager at <http://teamschweinfurt.wordpress.com>.

Below is the questionnaire used to develop content.

MISSION ANALYSIS

In order for me to accomplish my mission, to ensure my directorate's success or to successfully close the garrison, my audience must do the following (in order of significance):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

LEADERS, YOU AND THE FUSION CELL SHARE THE SAME THOUGHTS AND GOALS ON OUR FUTURE; WE WANT TO CLOSE USAG SCHWEINFURT SUCCESSFULLY. TO ASSURE THAT IT'S THE FUTURE WE ALL WANT IT TO BE, WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR MISSION...THAT WAY WE CAN BOTH WORK TO GET THERE.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY: YOU'RE THE CATTLE RANCHER, AND YOU WANT YOUR CATTLE TO GO FROM TEXAS TO MONTANA. WE'RE THE COWBOYS, AND WE'LL HELP YOU GET THEM THERE!



Closure Blog Round-up

USAG Schweinfurt's official Closure Blog brings to you unique stories and commentary from our garrison leaders and community members on issues regarding the garrison's 2014 closure.

The blog is the window into command decision-making. It allows garrison leadership the opportunity to provide transparent, unscripted advice and feedback to you. The blog allows you to search old posts, make comments and ask questions, which are promptly answered by garrison leaders and subject matter experts.



	PAO COMMENTS
MAY 2014	

	<p>MP services continue thru closure, but limited hours at front desk (May 27, 2014) No changes to the MP station phone number, but beginning June 2, calls to the MP front desk will be redirected to the Ansbach MP station. More...</p>
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	<p>Vet clinic braces for closure: What you need to know through spring/summer 2014 (May 1, 2014) Hello, my name is Capt. Erica Barkei and I am overseeing the final drawdown and closure of the Bamberg and Schweinfurt Veterinary Treatment Facilities. More...</p>
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APRIL 2014	
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	<p>Tax Center: What happens to your tax records (April 15, 2014) The USAG Schweinfurt Tax Center and the USAG Bamberg Tax Center maintain tax records for the past three years. We maintain the records for the benefit of our clients to make filing in future years easier. More...</p>
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MARCH 2014	
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	<p>A message to our American civilian employees and an update on RIF (March 24, 2014) Employees, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to securing future employment. What's important to know is that you should start applying for jobs now.</p>	<p><i>Employees were getting antsy. Command needed to go out with a message on RIF about 6 months prior to closure</i></p>
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More...

FEBRUARY 2014



Understanding EFMP so you can PCS to your next duty station stress free

(Feb. 19, 2014)

Confused about whether you or your family members qualify for EFMP screening? Schweinfurt's EFMP Case Coordinator explains the steps needed to make sure your screening is up to date before PCSing. **More...**

JANUARY 2014



Schweinfurt retiree services to move to Ansbach after closure

(Jan. 29, 2014)

Schweinfurt's retirement services officer offers tips to assist retirees with the transition of everything from ID Cards to medical records. **More...**

A sometimes neglected audience.



Your guide to a successful move from private rental housing

(Jan. 22, 2014)

Learn the tips and tricks from Schweinfurt housing experts so you can smoothly PCS from an off-post rental. **More...**

This was written with teachers in mind—many of whom were stationed here for 30 years. They hadn't looked at their contracts for years!



Schweinfurt clinic health care providers to remain until last beneficiary departs

(Jan. 15, 2014)

Schweinfurt's Health Clinic Commander, COL Bowers, explains what the community can expect in Health Clinic services between now and closure. **More...**

NOVEMBER 2013



Changes coming to pet care April 1

(Nov. 27, 2013)

A change at the Schweinfurt Veterinary Treatment Facility could require advanced planning from pet owners in the community. **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that pet abandonment would be a problem. We partnered up with the vet so that people wanting to get rid of a pet could post their photos + descriptions of their pets online.

A blue sign with the words "DENTAL CLINIC" in white, mounted on a light-colored wall above a window.

Schweinfurt's dental clinic approaches closure: what you need to know

(November 20, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Dental Clinic Officer in Charge, Maj. Azure Utley, provides guidance on how you can successfully transition to your next dental care giver after the Dental Clinic closes. [More...](#)



Building 40: Serving you until closure

(November 13, 2013)

Deborah Lawson, Schweinfurt's director of human resources, puts to rest rumors about the level of services at Building 40 from now through closure.

[More...](#)

OCTOBER 2013



Painting quarters no longer part of clearance from government-owned housing

(October 30, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Director of Public Works, Robin Fisher, explains a new change in policy affecting families preparing to PCS out of government housing.

[More...](#)

In response to a blog question.



PCSing with kids before the end of the school year: Understanding accelerated withdrawal

(October 17, 2013)

Schweinfurt's School Liaison Officer answers questions about the early acceleration process and families can prepare now for an upcoming PCS.

[More...](#)



Knowing where to host parties on- and off-post

(October 9, 2013)

With the closure of many on-post party venues many community members now wonder where to host special events. Here are some affordable options both on- and off-post. [More...](#)



Your guide to private rental bulk trash disposal

(October 2, 2013)

DPW's Officer in Charge, 1LT Magginetti, clears up the confusion about how to dispose of your bulk trash if you live in an off-post, private rental.

[More...](#)

This was written in an effort to prevent improper waste disposal.

SEPTEMBER 2013



Schweinfurt's ACS: providing essential services through closure

Rumor control.

(September 25, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Army Community Services Director, Patricia Lamson, explains how the ACS team is committed to providing classes and services until the gates close. **More...**



Changes to CYSS but services not affected

(September 18, 2013)

Michael Payne, Schweinfurt's Director of Child, Youth and School Services explains changes to our community childcare services. **More...**



Schweinfurt spouses talk PCS lessons learned

(September 1, 2013)

The PCS process doesn't have to be stressful. Schweinfurt spouses who have PCS'd reflect on the tips that helped them make their move a success. **More...**



8 tips every Army spouse should know

(September 4, 2013)

Guest blogger Jessica highlights 8 tips and tricks she's learned that can help Army spouses be their family's best advocate during the PCS process. **More...**

AUGUST 2013



Is the garrison moving Askren residents to other housing units?

Rumor control.

(August 30, 2013)

Garrison Manager Brian Adkins puts to rest rumors regarding if and why Askren residents are being asked to move from their buildings. **More...**



Changes to Schweinfurt's Religious Services

(August 28, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Garrison Chaplain, CPT Oliver, explains how RSO is planning for closure and what it means for the community. **More...**



Understanding AAFES vendors, stores as closure approaches

(August 21 2013)

Many different vendors work with AAFES in order to provide a selection of services to the community. When it comes to closure, which ones will stay and who is likely to leave first? **More...**



Feeling the pain: Why services are changing when closure is a year away

Rumor control.

(August 14, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Garrison Manager explains why garrison services are being modified now in order to accomplish the mission of closing the garrison by fall 2014. **More...**



Schweinfurt's last school year: What you need to know

(August 8, 2013)

Schweinfurt's School Liaison Officer outlines the new school configurations, dress codes and more for the 2013-2014 school year. **More...**

JULY 2013



How will closure affect your healthcare?

(July 25, 2013)

As closure nears, Schweinfurt's health clinic will continue to provide services necessary to meet the community's essential healthcare needs. **More...**

The three (3) most important things to the community: Medical, housing and the commissary.



If my children and I are moving, how do I find out more about the schools at my next duty station?

(July 17, 2013)

Knowing your sources on-post and on-line that can help your research on the schools at your new duty station. **More...**

This was our school liaison's major concern.



How to host your own yard sale

(July 11, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Garrison Command Sergeant Major, SGM Kamakahi-Watson, explains the proper way to host your own yard sale. **More...**

This was written in an effort to prevent improper waste disposal.



Your 'How-to' guide to bulk trash disposal

(July 8, 2013)

What are your options when you have large items you need to dispose of? **More...**

This was written in an effort to prevent improper waste disposal.



Celebrate Independence Day with your Community

(July 3, 2013)

While U.S. military bases around the world are foregoing their Independence Day celebrations in an effort to cut costs, Schweinfurt is pulling together available resources to put on one last garrison-sponsored Fourth of July. **More...**

JUNE 2013



EDIS : We're still here and ready to help

(June 26, 2013)

While EDIS may have relocated, they're still offering the same high level of services to the community.

More...



Schweinfurt Youth Center moves location

(June 19, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Director of Child, Youth and School Services explains when and why the Youth Center is moving. **More...**



Students, families en route to Grafenwoehr: What you need to know

(June 12, 2013)

Schweinfurt's School Liason Officer addresses questions regarding the transfer from Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr schools. **More...**

The bulk of our Soldiers and families moved to Grafenwoehr. This was an effort to help.



Planning for out-of-pocket PCS costs

(June 5, 2013)

Learn how you can lessen the shock of the hidden costs of PCSing. **More...**

MAY 2013



Abandoned Pets: Know the Consequences

(May 29, 2013)

Be aware of the legal and monetary consequences of abandoning your pet when PCSing. **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that pet abandonment would be a problem. We partnered up with the vet so that people wanting to get rid of a pet could post their photos + descriptions of their pets online.



Civilian employees living off-post can move onto post

(May 24, 2013)

If you are a USAG Schweinfurt civilian employee, you may be eligible to move on-post if you are currently receiving a living quarters allowance.

More...

A real crowd-pleaser. Also, rumor control.



Leaving Schweinfurt: All you need to know about what to do with your vehicle

(May 17, 2013)

A comprehensive source on the options and resources offered for disposing of your car prior to PCSing. **More...**

We knew that vehicle abandonment would be a problem. This was just one attempt to stop it.



I'm a civilian...What if I need to move myself back to the States?

(May 14, 2013)

Are you a civilian planning a self move and feeling overwhelmed? Don't worry, there are support services available to help you with your move.

More...

A question posed on our blog.



Why community events are important in Schweinfurt

(May 6, 2013)

Defining community is essential to ensure Schweinfurt thrives in every way. **More...**

APRIL 2013



Get rid of your hoopty for free... paperwork included!

(April 29, 2013)

Starting May 1 the Auto Skills Center is offering a special POV turn-in opportunity to Soldiers leaving the community within 30 days. **More...**

We knew that vehicle abandonment would be a problem. This was just one attempt to stop it.



Ledward postal services are closing...what do I do now?

(April 26, 2013)

Starting June 1st, all garrison mail operations will be consolidated to Conn Barracks. Find out what you need to do to prepare for the change. **More...**

Rumor control.



Getting on the housing list at USAG Grafenwoehr

(April 22, 2013)

If you are moving to Graf, and you have orders in hand, here's when you can get on the housing waiting list. **More...**

The bulk of our Soldiers and families moved to Grafenwoehr. This was an effort to help.



Library books are government property that must be returned

(April 17, 2013)

What's going to happen to Schweinfurt's library books, movies and music collections? **More...**

Rumor control.



European Travel Bucket List

(April 10, 2013)

Guest blogger Meg highlights the top sixteen European destinations worth visiting before you leave Europe. **More...**



How do we plan to keep our community strong?

(April 3, 2013)

The spirit of personal, face-to-face interaction will ensure our community events are a success.

More...

MARCH 2013



The Base is Closing. How do I find a job now?

(Mar 27, 2013)

Find out how resources offered at ACS can help you get through the PCS process as painlessly as possible, whether arriving or leaving. **More...**

An effort to instill confidence in the community.



We have orders! Now what? ACS can help you prepare to PCS.

(Mar 20, 2013)

Find out how resources offered at ACS can help you get through the PCS process as painlessly as possible, whether arriving or leaving. **More...**



No pet left behind: how we're preventing pet abandonment

(Mar 15, 2013)

What resources are available to assist PCSing soldiers and families in order to ensure pets aren't left behind? **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that pet abandonment would be a problem. We partnered up with the vet so that people wanting to get rid of a pet could post their photos + descriptions of their pets online.



I'm PCSing to Schweinfurt...Why?

(Mar 13, 2013)

Many families are still receiving orders to PCS to Schweinfurt, even with the base closing. How does the garrison plan to accommodate these families? **More...**

This was a question posted on our Facebook page.



PCSing Pets: Register your pet, it's the law

(Mar 8, 2013)

As we all prepare to PCS out of Schweinfurt, ensure that you safely and legally travel with your pet. **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that pet abandonment would be a problem. We partnered up with the vet so that people wanting to get rid of a pet could post their photos + descriptions of their pets online.



Why are families moving from leased housing onto post?

(Mar 5, 2013)

In order to maintain a sense of community, leased housing will be consolidated between now and the middle of March. **More...**

Rumor control.



PCSing Pets: Schedule an appointment at the vet now

(Mar 1, 2013)

Prepare now to ensure that your pet will have a happy and healthy upcoming PCS. **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that pet abandonment would be a problem. We partnered up with the vet so that people wanting to get rid of a pet could post their photos + descriptions of their pets online.

FEBRUARY 2013



Ship, Sell or Scrap: What to do with your POV when you PCS.

(Feb 27, 2013)

Schweinfurt's Provost Marshall explains what to do with your vehicle before you PCS . **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that vehicle abandonment would be a problem. This was just one attempt to stop it.



Schweinfurt employees: Relieve stress, boost productivity

(Feb 22, 2013)

Alleviate closure-related stress by participating in the the Army Civilian Wellness and Fitness Program. **More...**

An effort to reach out to over-worked employees.



WARNING – flammable, explosive, toxic

(Feb 20, 2013)

Learn how to properly dispose of your hazardous household products before your PCS. **More...**

This was written in an effort to assist our environmental crews and prevent negative press well after the closure of the garrison.



Preparing to Leave Germany Part 2

(Feb 13, 2013)

How do I terminate my local contracts? **More...**

One of most important blogs: How to terminate a contract (i.e. cell phone, Internet, etc.).



Reduce wait time at Bldg. 40 by 40%?

(Feb 6, 2013)

Reduce your wait time at Building 40 by up to 40% with these 3 insider tips. **More...**

This was an effort to help our outprocessing crew who was getting slammed.

JANUARY 2013



Is the Ledward DFAC closing? If so, why?

(Jan 30, 2013)

As closure looms and the post takes on a new identity, sustaining both Conn and Ledward dining facilities is forcing tough decisions. **More...**

The first major closure. We had to go out with something from the commander.



Bringing Baby to the States

(Jan 23, 2013)

Planning early can mean the difference between a frustrating or a smooth PCS with your newborn. **More...**

DHR was concerned that new parents wouldn't get their paperwork (i.e. passports) completed by closure.



Quality of Life: How we determine it, and how we measure whether we're hitting the mark

(Jan 16, 2013)

Top brass is supposedly committed to ensuring "quality of life" for Soldiers and families. But how do they know what it is, and whether or not they're off the mark? **More...**

AN explanation of why garrisons behave the way we do.



Just Married: What you need to know about command sponsorship

(Jan 10, 2013)

Have you recently gotten married? Are you scheduled to PCS soon? If you answered "yes" then you should become familiar with command sponsorship **More...**

DHR was concerned that new German spouses wouldn't get their paperwork completed by closure.



Show Me the Money!

(Jan 2, 2013)

How does USAG Schweinfurt get its money, and what determines how it is spent? **More...**

Despite closure, the garrison still had money to spend, plus DPW continued with contracts approved for the fiscal year. Rumors spread so we released this gem.

DECEMBER 2012



Preserving Schweinfurt's Monuments

(Dec 19, 2012)

What will happen to all of USAG Schweinfurt's monuments and historical military vehicles? **More...**

One of our most popular posts based on pageviews.



Helping the Pre-Move Purge

(Dec 12, 2012)

With the Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop closing, what are you to do with all your unwanted stuff before an upcoming move? **More...**

This was written in an effort to prevent improper waste disposal.



A Monument to Success

(Dec 5, 2012)

How will the residents of Schweinfurt remember the U.S. Army after 2014? **More...**

NOVEMBER 2012

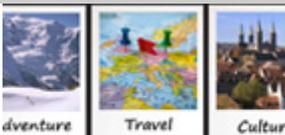


German Holiday Bucket List

(Nov. 28, 2012)

Whether this is your first or your last German winter, this list of must-do activities helps guarantee that your holiday season will be one to remember. **More...**

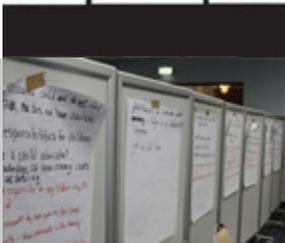
One of our most popular blogs based on unique pageviews.



Preparing to Leave Germany

(Nov. 15, 2012)

Part one of a multi-part series about PCSing from a spouse's point of view. **More...**



If only the Army would...

(Nov. 9, 2012)

Don't miss your chance to voice your thoughts on what the Army could do to improve. **More...**

PAO Philosophy: Generate buy-in and inspire a call to action. This story provides evidence that community voice affects change.



PCSing with Pets

(Nov. 6, 2012)

Start preparing now to get your pet home safe and secure. **More...**

One of our most important posts. We knew that pet abandonment would be a problem. We partnered up with the vet so that people wanting to get rid of a pet could post their photos + descriptions of their pets online.



Looking over the Horizon Towards 2014

(Nov. 1, 2012)

A Message from Kevin Griess, the Deputy Garrison Commander. **More...**



Team Set for Closure, Mission Focused

(Nov. 1, 2012)

A Message from LTC Mike Runey, the Garrison Commander. **More...**

CLOSURE CEREMONY CHECKLIST

		DATE COMPLETED	POC
SPRING 2014			
1	Set date/time/location (coordinate with XO & GM (POC: Ericka Moore), Tactical commanders (COL Mangelsdorf, POC: MAJ Melvin Juan , COL Petersen, POC: LTC Mark Parker), Lord Mayor and County Commissioner)		
2	Add date to calendars (XOs, GMs, G-CSMs)		
3	Design Publicity Flyer		
4	Distribute Flyer Online		
5	Design "Welcome to Schweinfurt" info packet		
6	Stage "Welcome to Schweinfurt" info packet online		
7	Distribute "Welcome to Schweinfurt" info packet		
8	Submit USAREUR Band Request		
9	Request funds with memo through GM and GC Ansbach to IMCOM-E		
10	Request legal review from OSJA		
11	Provide POC to attend IPR meeting		
12			
MAY 2014			
13	Build American Invitation List		
14	Build German Invitation List		
15	Invitation list approved by XO and GM		
16	Design American/German Invitation		
17	Invitation approved by XO and GM		
18	Invite AFN to cover event		
19	Invite Stars and Stripes to cover event		
20	Confirm USAREUR Band		
21	Provide POC to attend IPR meeting		
22	Contact city about historical presentation		
23	Request A/V equipment from IMCOM Visual Information Services Europe (Robert Kramer)		
24	Request BASOPS funding for VISE media (G-3)		
25			
26			
27			
28			
JUNE 2014			
29	Send out via email "Save the Date"		
30	German VIP Guest List confirmed		
31	American VIP guest list confirmed		
32	Invitations sent		
33	Confirm flags		
34	Request flag casings from Ansbach		
35	Confirm flag casings		
36	Draft GM Speech		
37	Draft talking points for COL Benson speech		
38	Invite local media		

39	Provide POC to attend IPR meeting		
40			
41			
42			
43			
44			
45			
46			
JULY 2014			
47	Submit AFN publicity request (radio spot)		
48	Translate GM's speech		
49	Receive R.S.V.P.s from host nation guests (PAO)		
50	Receive R.S.V.P.s from American guests (DHR)		
51	Provide POC to attend IPR meeting		
52			
53			
54			
55			
56			
AUGUST 2014			
57	Create Bios for German VIPs		
58	Submit German VIP bios to COL Benson		
59	Verify AFN coverage		
60	Verify Stars and Stripes coverage		
61	Submit press release to German media		
62	Design programs		
63	Provide POC to attend IPR meeting		
64	General Officer List confirmed (DHR)		
65			
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SEPTEMBER 2014			
71	Create press kits		
72	Determine who press wants to interview		
73	Arrange interviews with the press		
74	Confirm local media attending		
75	Provide POC to attend IPR meeting		
76	Print programs		
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Schweinfurt Closure Ceremony

Sequence of Events

Welcome

Arrival of Official Party

Invocation

History of USAG Schweinfurt

Presentation of Colors

National Anthems

Casing of Garrison Colors

Speeches (Garrison Manager, FMC Commander, Lord Mayor of Schweinfurt, County Commissioner of Schweinfurt)

Retreat

Presentation of Colors (Lord Mayor of Schweinfurt, County Commissioner of Schweinfurt)

Playing Army Song & Auf Wiedersehen

Reception

DRAFT

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Schweinfurt, Germany
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U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt OPORD 14-11 The USAG Schweinfurt Closure Ceremony 19 September 2014

References:

AR 220-90 Army Bands, July 2010
AR 600-25 Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy, September 2004
AR 840-10 Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates, November 1998
DA PAM 600-60 A Guide to Protocol and Etiquette for Official Entertainment, December 2001
ATTP 1-19 U.S. Army Bands, July 2010
TC 3-21.5w C1 Drill and Ceremonies, 20 January 2012.

Time zone used through this OPORD: Alpha

Task Organization: N/A

1. SITUATION: The Department of the Army has directed the closure of USAG Schweinfurt in support of global rebasing and restationing initiatives. The official closure date of USAG Schweinfurt is 30 September 2014.

2. MISSION: USAG Schweinfurt Garrison hosts a retreat ceremony to officially retire its colors on 19 September 2014.

3. EXECUTION:

Intent: The purpose of this ceremony will be to recognize the nearly 70 years of US Forces being stationed in Schweinfurt and the friendship between the town of Schweinfurt and the Soldiers that are and have been stationed here

a. Concept of the Operation: In order to provide insight into the history of US Forces in Schweinfurt pre ceremony activities will begin at 1000 hours with static displays of historical vehicles, photographic displays and walking tours of Ledward Barracks. The tours should not exceed 30 minutes in length and should point out buildings and other items of historical interest. At 1630 the Official ceremony will begin culminating in a final retreat and the retiring of the US Flag over Schweinfurt.

b. Tasks to Directorates.

(1) Schweinfurt Command Group:

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt OPORD 14-11 The USAG Schweinfurt Closure Ceremony 19 September 2014

(a) Ensure Garrison Manager and Executive Officer's Calendars reflects the time for all IPRs, ROC Drills, Rehearsals and the event. (see Annex A)

(b) The USAG Ansbach Commander will be the host for the event. The uniform will be Army Combat Uniform (ACU) with beret.

(2) Directorate of Human Resources (DHR)

(a) Prepare an invitation list, send out invitations NLT Tuesday, 1 July 2014, with a RSVP of Friday, 29 August 2014.

(b) Accept RSVPs and prepare a guest list in conjunction with the Fusion cell, to create a seating chart NLT Friday, 5 September 2014.

(c) Prepare approved programs NLT Monday 8 September 2014. Print a minimum of 100 programs for the event, NLT Monday, 15 September 2014.

(d) Print seat markers and give them to Ceremony POC NLT Wednesday, 17 September 2014.

(e) Provide a point of contact (POC) to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)

(3) Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS).

(a) Develop this order and subsequent fragmentary orders as required.

(b) Schedule Andrus Garden.

(c) Request and pick up Audio Visual equipment through USAG Ansbach DPTMS.

(d) Coordinate with the Flag detail to synchronize reporting times, uniform and any other special requirements.

(e) Coordinate with DPW to ensure Retreat music is turned off on Friday, 19 September 2014.

(f) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)

(4) Directorate of Logistics.

(a) Deliver 100 folding chairs to Andrus Garden NLT 1000, Thursday, 18 September 2014.

(b) Recover 100 folding chairs from building 206 on Monday, 22 September 2014.

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt OPORD 14-11 The USAG Schweinfurt Closure Ceremony 19 September 2014

- (c) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)
- (5) Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR).
 - (a) Provide and erect two medium size canopy tents for the seating area and one small canopy tent for the cake NLT 1000, Thursday 18 September 2014.
 - (b) Coordinate refreshments for approximately 100 people NLT 1530, Thursday, 18 September 2014.
 - (c) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)
- (6) Directorate of Emergency Services (DES).
 - (a) Provide appropriate support for traffic control and security.
 - (b) Redirect outbound traffic from Ledward South gate to Ledward East gate from 1600, Thursday 13 June 2013, until the ceremony is complete. Set up directional signs directing traffic to the main gate during the event.
 - (c) Block off the appropriate number of parking spots at building 206 based on the VIP RSVP list received by the Fusion Cell and DHR.
 - (d) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)
- (7) Directorate of Public Works (DPW).
 - (a) Provide personnel to disable the retreat music on Friday, 19 September 2014.
 - (b) Ensure that Andrus Garden is maintained (grass cut, leaves and debris removed) NLT 1200, Wednesday, 17 September 2014.
 - (c) Provide an adequate power source for the public address system NLT 1200, Thursday 18 September 2014.
 - (d) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)
- (8) Fusion Cell:
 - (a) Provide advertising for the event beginning not later than Friday, 31 May 2013.
 - (b) Ensure command information publicity through internal news media to inform media of the event. Ensure the widest dissemination of information to include: The Bavarian News, Team Schweinfurt website, Team Schweinfurt Facebook page, and flyer.

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt OPORD 14-11 The USAG Schweinfurt Closure Ceremony 19 September 2014

(c) Request media representation from local and military outlets. Provide a list of local media that will be attending the event to DES NLT Friday, 31 May 2013.

(d) Prepare an invitation list for local host nation invitees, and send out invitations NLT Monday, 6 May 2013, with a RSVP of Tuesday, 28 May 2013.

(e) Accept RSVPs and prepare a guest list in conjunction with DHR, to create a seating chart NLT Friday, 31 May 2013.

(f) Provide photographic support for the ceremony.

(g) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)

(9) Religious Services Office (RSO):

(a) Provide one Chaplain to provide an invocation and benediction at the event. Provide name of personnel participating to HHD POC NLT Monday, 3 June 2013.

(b) Provide a POC to attend all IPRs, ROC, and Full Rehearsals for this event. (see Annex A)

(10) Safety Office:

(a) Conduct safety inspection of Andrus Garden NLT 1400, Thursday, 13 June 2013.

(b) Provide a point of contact (POC) to attend all IPRs for this event. (see Annex A)

c. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Rehearsal will be conducted at Andrus Garden on Ledward Barracks. (see Annex A)

(2) Set up for the Closure Ceremony will be completed NLT 1200, Thursday, 18 September 2014. Upon completion of the ceremony, disassembly of ceremonial equipment will commence. Tear down will be under the direction of Mr. Robert Eck DPTMS POC. (see Annex A)

(3) The uniform for all military participants will be the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) and beret civilians will be business casual.

4. Sustainment. N/A

5. Command and Control.

a. Points of Contact:

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt OPORD 14-11 The USAG Schweinfurt Closure
Ceremony 19 September 2014

(1) [REDACTED]

(2) [REDACTED]

Garrison Manager

ANNEX:

A. Timeline

B. Andrus Garden Layout

DISTRIBUTION:

Directorate, Human Resources

Directorate, Family, Moral, Welfare, and Recreation

Directorate, Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security

Directorate, Emergency Services

Directorate, Logistics

Directorate, Public Works

Directorate, Information Management

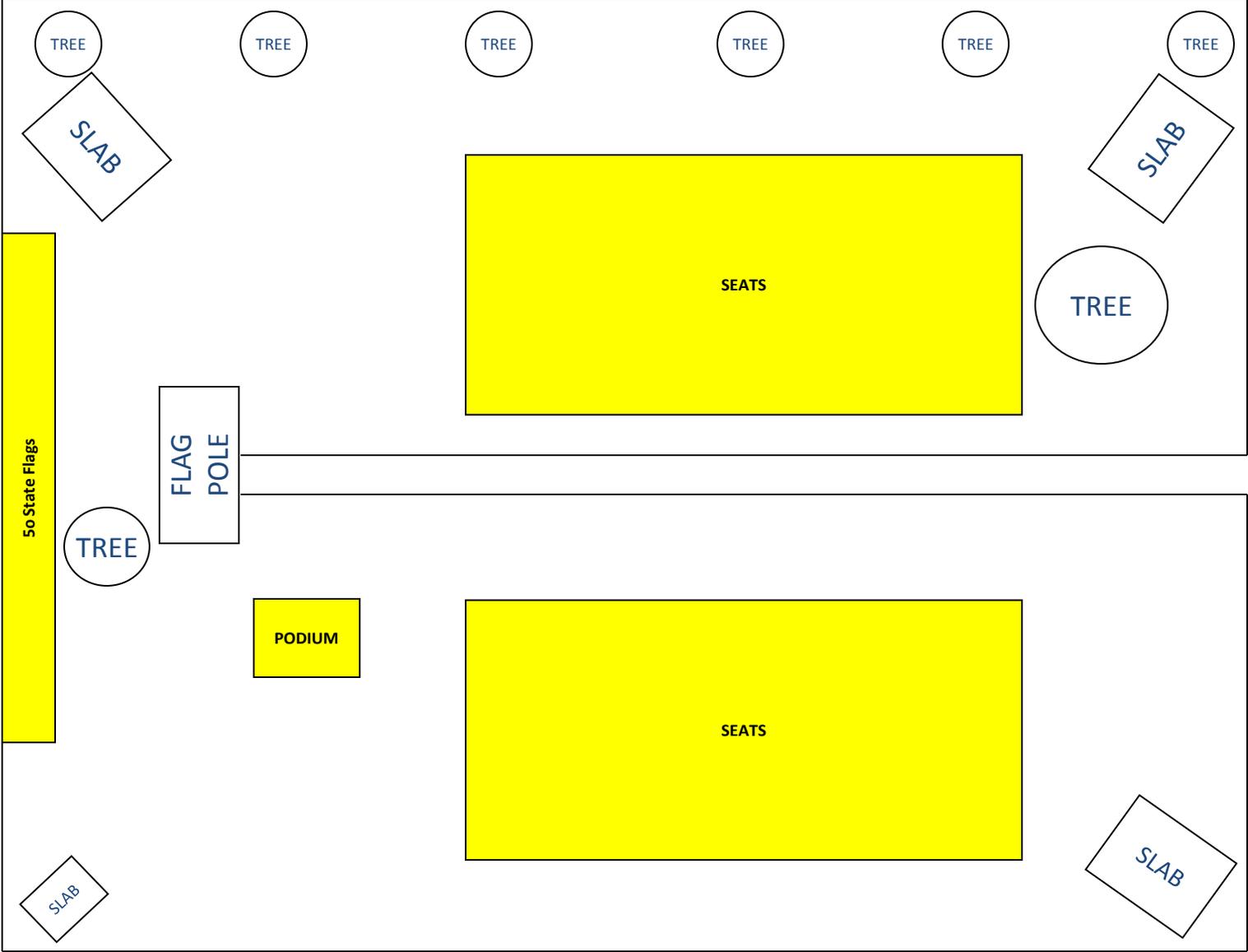
Garrison Resource Management Office

Garrison Fusion Cell

Garrison Safety Office

LAYOUT OF ANDRUS GARDEN

EXIT GATE



BLDG
206

CLOSED GATE

**Garrison Manager Remarks - DRAFT
USAG Schweinfurt Closure Ceremony
19 September 2014, 1630h**

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for taking the time to share this special event with us today. I'd like to offer a special welcome to our distinguished guests, and host nation friends and allies,

- Dr. Andreas Metschke (Representative, Government of Lower Franconia)
- Mr. Sebastian Remele (Lord mayor of Schweinfurt)
- Mr. Florian Töpfer (County Commissioner of Schweinfurt)
- General Campbell
- Ms. Marin

Thank you all for attending. I would also like to give a special thanks to the USAREUR Band. Your participation and dedication to these events is greatly appreciated and you sound fantastic as always. And finally, thank you to USAG Ansbach.

This is somewhat of an emotional day as we conduct the final retreat ceremony here at Ledward Barracks Barracks. Today marks the end of a long journey spanning the last seven decades between the United States Army and the Schweinfurt community.

In the early morning hours of April 11, 1945 the 42nd US Infantry Division, the so-called "Rainbow Division" by the 12th U.S. Armor Division, marched into Schweinfurt. That meant the war was finally over for Schweinfurt. That same day the division occupied the airfield on what is currently on Conn Barracks. From that point on the U.S. Army has called Schweinfurt its home.

In 1947 the air field was named in honor of Lt. Orville B. Conn, who as the first Soldier of the 6th Cavalry Group was killed during the landing in Normandy.

Originally known as the Panzerkaserne, Ledward Barracks was much larger than it is today. It once included the industrial area in the east. Even though the caserne was badly damaged during the war, it still served as a refugee camp for refugees from the Baltic States and Eastern Europe immediately after the war and also housed the American Consulate.

The U.S. Army took over the caserne in 1948. In 1951 it was named in honor of Lt. Col. William J. Ledward, Commander of the 27th Artillery Battalion, killed in action in Italy in 1944.

Though our Army installation here—it's command, name and designation—has changed throughout the years our relationship with this community has remained constant. Together we have seen the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the defeat of the communist narrative on the European/Eurasian continent, and the re-emergence of a unified Germany side by side through our years here in Schweinfurt.

The changing political-military environment in the United States, Europe, and around the world has produced a transformed, but more capable U.S. Army here in Germany and around Europe. This transformation effort, that's been ongoing since the end of the cold war, has resulted in numerous facilities, resources and installations returning back to our host nation. And it's the reason we gathered for this ceremony here today. But without the relationships and support from our host nation partners, our transformation here in Germany and around Europe wouldn't

have possible. Thank you for allowing us to do that with your continuous support through this process.

Though our time together here in Schweinfurt has come to an end the memories of the years we've spent as part of this community remain forever. In our hearts and minds this assignment has always been highly sought after by generations of Soldiers and civilian employees. The reputation of this fine city is known throughout the entire U.S. Army and will not soon be forgotten. For nearly seven decades, Americans and the people of Schweinfurt have lived side by side. The tens of thousands of American soldiers and civilians have shared many memories with you.

This ceremony marks the end of the U.S. Army at U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, but it does not mean the end of relationship with the community or an end of the Army's story. The garrison and all its installations we return to you will open up new development options for the community, and I hope its proud history will continue to be displayed in some way for future generations to enjoy. We remain committed to ensuring that we are good neighbors and friends. So do not forget us at your next German-American partnership or cultural event.

I want to a moment to personally thank the lord mayor of Schweinfurt, Sebastian remele for his heartfelt friendship and support during our time here. Lord Mayor Remele has ensured the city of Schweinfurt was always open and welcoming for Soldiers, families, and civilians - continuing the strong relationship we have with this city. He did this by providing the city hall for the annual holiday concerts, including our young American athletes in Schweinfurt city's annual sports award ceremony, and providing both the city hall and Schweinfurt palace for many graduation ceremonies throughout the years. He made our Soldiers, families, and civilians feel welcome and took many opportunities to reinforce the many friendships created and fostered here over the years. Lord Mayor thank you, your legacy of open friendship and tremendous support will always be remembered.

Finally, to all the local leaders and to all our friends here in Schweinfurt, thank you for treating all of the Soldiers and families who have lived here over the years like your family. Thank you for understanding the tough missions they had to accomplish, and thank you for providing your support. As your neighbors, we ask much of you, but we can't do this without you. You have made us part of your community for 69 years, and influenced generations of Soldiers and leaders with your kindness and generosity. The Schweinfurt community will be greatly missed. Thank you and never forget your lasting contributions to the U.S. Army in Schweinfurt – we certainly never will.

In closing, though the U.S. Army still has a home in Ansbach. We will always remember the tremendous support of the Schweinfurt community and strong lasting friendships that have been built here throughout the years. I know that these friendships and relationships will continue to remain strong. It has been an honor and privilege to have been stationed here in Schweinfurt, and we remain eternally grateful and appreciative for all the support the army family was provided throughout all the years we were able to spend with you.