



Oct. 25, 2005 – Celebrating SETAF's 50th Anniversary



## SETAF Turns 50

The U.S. flag is raised for the first time by Italian Carabinieri and U.S. Soldiers during the activation ceremony for SETAF, October 25, 1955. See page 4-5 for more on SETAF's history. (Photo provided by Dr. Phil Maselli)

## Young Soldier remembered as hero

By Spc. Justin Nieto  
SETAF Public Affairs



Pfc. Joseph Cruz

Members of the Vicenza Military Community gathered at the post chapel Wednesday to honor the memory of Pfc. Joseph Cruz, a mortar man with A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne).

Friends and fellow Soldiers praised Cruz for his resilience, sense of humor and dedication to the Army, especially when called upon to perform duties above and beyond the routine.

"Since our mortar section was so young, I had to sit Cruz down and tell him I needed his help to train the new Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Brooks, who served with Cruz in A Co., in Afghanistan. "He was fired up about being able to teach five new Soldiers the skills he brought to the table."

Brooks said Cruz worked hard with the Soldiers he was assigned to train, setting them up for future promotions and making the team more efficient.

"When Cruz was seen with the Soldiers he trained, now sergeants and specialists, he looked like the young one," said Brooks. "But all in all, he was the veteran."

"Cruz loved his job, loved each and every Soldier he worked with and there was nothing he would not have done for us," continued Brooks. "He was the type of Soldier every leader wanted to have, but I was the lucky one to have him."

Cruz, a 22-year-old North Carolina native, earned many awards during his short time with the Army, including two Army Commendation Medals and an additional Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

"If there is anything I learned over the past year from Cruz," said Brooks, "it's that no matter what is thrown your way, smile and work through, and you'll be past it."

## U.S. Army to provide Rosetta Stone foreign language training

U.S. Army Public Affairs  
News Release

The U.S. Army will make foreign-language training available at no cost to all active Army, National Guard, Reservists and Department of Army civilian personnel worldwide through its Distributed Learning System's Army e-Learning, under the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems.

In the past, the high tempo of operations, limited resident school capacity and the scarcity of contracted language training opportunities have worked against the Army's goal of fielding a force capable of engaging in basic communications with the local population in deployed areas. Now, with the help of Fairfield Language Technologies, creator of the computer-based language immersion program Rosetta

Stone®, the Army anticipates it will be able to significantly increase basic foreign language skill-level across the force.

"Critical foreign language capability and skills are increasingly important to our Army. Rosetta Stone provides the Army with an immediate, interactive language training tool to train our Soldiers, leaders and civilians for operational deployments and professional development," Brig. Gen. James M. Milano, director of training, Army G-3/5/7.

Army e-Learning, the U.S. Army CIO/G6's answer to fulfill Information Technology training requirements, provides access to commercial, information technology, business and self-development education and training courses. It will now also serve as the Web-based language training platform the Army has determined it urgently needs to strengthen its language

capabilities.

Courses offered through Army e-Learning are available via the Web 24 hours a day from any place in the world – at no cost to Army organizations. To date more than 213,000 users have accessed Army e-Learning, with 300-500 new users being added each week.

"To provide U.S. Army personnel around the world with the language instruction they need, the Army sought a proven Web-based foreign language training tool that could teach speaking, listening, reading and writing for a variety of target languages utilizing an immersion methodology," says Tom Adams, chief executive officer of Fairfield Language Technologies. "We're pleased that Rosetta Stone's philosophy, design and effectiveness are providing the solution they were seeking."

Rosetta Stone provides 26 state-of-the-art language courses through Army e-Learning, including Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Danish, Dutch, French, Farsi (Persian), German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Russian, Spanish (Latin America), Spanish (Spain), Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese and Welsh. These Web-based foreign language training courses teach reading, writing, speaking, and listening with immersion, completely without translation.

Access to Rosetta Stone® will be available within 30 days. Army Knowledge Online provides single sign-on access for Army e-Learning. For more information on this e-Learning program or other courses available, visit AKO at [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil) and select "my education".

## Commentary

## SETAF Yard of the Month

## Ain't it a shame

By Sgt. Maj. Richard W. Weik  
Command Sergeant Major  
SETAF Rear

Since I have been the command sergeant major of the SETAF Rear Detachment, I have tried to accomplish several things:

1- Bring the level of pride in our community to a higher level by enforcing cleanliness and discipline standards.

2- Pushing through the higher echelons, those issues I felt would greatly support the needs of our Soldiers and the families of our community.

3- Place a "common sense" set of eyes on policies and procedures that went against, or were negatively affecting, our Soldiers and their families.

4- Enforce military discipline and standards and advise the commanding general, Rear, on matters of enlisted issues.

One of the things I re-started was the SETAF Yard of the Month and the SETAF Unit Area of the Month.

Each month, on or around the 10th, I have three different units on post send me an NCO (senior sergeant through sergeant first class) to serve as judges.

When at all possible, I try not to have an NCO serve as judge twice. I send these NCO's to Villaggio and around post with the following guidance:

"In your opinion, find the best kept yard/housing unit in Villaggio (from curb to back yard), the best Unit area on Caserma Ederle and place the signs in each yard and take a digital picture."

I give them no further guidance than that.

The SETAF Yard of the Month wins a coupon book from AAFES, a \$25 gift certificate from the commissary, and a \$50 Savings Bond from AUSA. Not bad for mowing your lawn, planting some flowers and making an attempt to have a home you can be proud of.

A yard can be awarded the title two, three, four times in a row if the judges feel the home deserves it.

*I call it rewarding consistency and excellence.*

However, since I began this program, I have received at least five anonymous telephone calls from people complaining about the criteria I use, stating "I thought other yards were better" or, "It should be like school and everyone should get a turn winning."

Well, the judges made their decision and this isn't school.

Unfortunately, this sour-grapes attitude has made its way to this month's winner, and the spouse gracefully bowed out and wanted me to award Yard of the Month to someone else.

The spouse was concerned about what would be said and how other neighbors might treat her. *Ain't it a shame?*

If she had bowed out before I received these anonymous calls, I probably would have chosen someone else.

But I am not going to award Yard of the Month to another home.

I am not changing the policy, and right now, I cannot believe I am addressing the subject of "who's yard is better."

The whole purpose of giving an award is to show appreciation for the hard work and effort people put into a project...not just hand out awards to make everyone feel good.

When you think about our Soldiers (your husband or wife?) living in tents, sleeping on the ground, and paying the ultimate price for our freedom, think about this and see where it fits on the list of important items.

Does it really mean that much to you? Is this what you should spend your time complaining about while out with your friends?

Maybe it's just me, but I don't think it is.

Honestly, it's just a yard.



**This month's SETAF Yard of the Month – Soldiers sleeping in the rough. Keep it in perspective and remember what our Soldiers are going through on our behalf. (Photo provided by the CJTF-76 Public Affairs, Afghanistan)**

## Growing through temptation

*The USAG Vicenza Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173rd Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life," by Rick Warren.*

*The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation, which you can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.*

**Chaplain (Capt.) Buddy Hammil**  
14th Transportation Battalion

*"Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love him."*

James 1:12 (Living Bible)

Every time we are tempted, it is an opportunity to do wrong. Conversely, every temptation is also an opportunity to do good.

While giving in to temptation is a stumbling block to our spiritual growth, not giving in to temptation is a stepping-stone in our maturing faith. Temptation is simply the opportunity to choose right or wrong.

The Devil uses temptation to try to trip us up and make us ineffective in service to God. God uses temptation to develop our character.

When we don't give in to temptation, we grow in the character of Christ; we become more like Jesus. The trouble is we are so often blindsided with temptation that we give in to it before we even realize that we have the opportunity of a choice.

How can we recognize the opportunity of temptation?

What are the steps of temptation?

Step one is *desire*. Temptation always starts with a desire, either an evil desire or a legitimate desire being fulfilled in the wrong way or at the wrong time.

"Beware of shortcuts," Rick Warren cautions, "they are often temptations!" (page 234)

Satan whispers, "You deserve it! You should have it now! It will be exciting..."

comforting...or make you feel better."

Step two is *doubt*. The Devil always tries to get us to doubt what God says about sin. "Is it really wrong? Did God really say not to do that? Didn't God intend this prohibition for someone else or just for a certain time?"

Step three is *deception*. The Devil lies to us in an attempt to trick us. He tells us, "You can get away with it. No one will ever know. It will solve all your problems. Everyone else is doing it. It is only a little sin."

Step four is *disobedience*. This is where you actually perform the deed, not just feel the desire, or listen to the doubt and deception.

Before the final act of disobedience, we will have several warnings and opportunities to not give in to temptation.

Be aware of these steps as you experience them. Don't allow yourself to be so distracted by the Devil that you miss all the warnings.

In addition to recognizing the steps of temptation, we can also take specific steps to overcome it.

◆ **Refuse to be intimidated.** Don't feel ashamed for being tempted. You will never outgrow temptation. Consider temptation a compliment; Satan does not have to tempt those who are already doing evil.

◆ **Recognize where you are vulnerable.** We each have certain situations that make us more vulnerable to temptation. Identify these and then AVOID them!

◆ **Request God's help.** Pray. Ask God for assistance in overcoming evil.

The Bible says, "Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it." Hebrews 4:16 (Today's English Version)

Temptation keeps us dependent on God. Just as roots grow stronger with every strong wind blowing against the tree, so every time you stand up to a temptation you become more like Jesus.

And when you stumble – and you will – don't give up; you can recover. Turn to God, ask forgiveness and then, expecting help, press on.

## Community

## Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you wish to submit, visit the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Web site at [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly. The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the

Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next Community Action Council meeting is Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

**Issue:** *There are no adequate pre-school programs; there are not enough incentives offered; and the staff doesn't seem to have proper credentials.*

*Also, spouses and family members can't work because of the limited day care spaces.*

**Response from Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation:** We will address the four concerns expressed by the customer:

1. Adequate pre-school programs: Dept. of the Army has chosen a child development program titled "Creative Curriculum" to be used in all Child Development centers.

This curriculum must be used in order to pass national and DoD accreditation and certification. The curriculum is based on the theory that children learn best through play. To encourage play, we focus on classroom environments that offer separate activity areas.

By using this format we are able to offer children clear choices such as computers, books, art activities, etc.

Our preschool format is based on DA guidelines, and we are happy to provide more detail on DA guidelines at a customer's request.

2. Incentives for employment: The Vicenza CDC provides many incentives to attract the best-qualified candidates. These incentives include flexible work schedules, paid training, salary increases based upon completion of training, and paid college classes.

In addition, employees receive a 20 percent reduction in childcare fees. The Non-Appropriated Funds division of the Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center can provide details on each incentive to interested parties.

3. Staff Credentials: For accreditation purposes, CDC maintains a Lead or Lead-in-Training in each room.

A Lead/Lead-in-Training must have completed the entire Army Child and Youth Training Program and have a minimum of 18 months experience working with young children and/or youth.

In addition, they must possess, or acquire within four months of assignment, one of the following: a Child Development Associate, an Army School Age Credential, or an Army Practicum.

Our preschool program is staffed with credentialed staff according to CYS guidelines. We are also assisting the staff in obtaining additional credentials, which will in turn improve the preschool program.

4. Working spouses and family members:

The availability of space is limited at the CDC, with a waiting list for many programs.

However, spaces are available in the afternoon sessions of part-day pre-school. With the opening of the new CDC the availability of care will increase and help reduce the number of children on the waiting list.

**Issue:** *There was a CAC issue about having lawnmowers with bags on them available through Self-Help in Villaggio and I was wondering what had happened to the idea.*

**Response from Directorate of Public Works:** Housing Division recently purchased 100 new lawnmowers in June. Sixty of these new lawnmowers are equipped with detachable grass catchers.

This purchase now permits the permanent loan of one lawnmower per "each" government controlled housing "building."

As availability permits, residents may also checkout additional lawnmowers on a 24-hour basis, even if there is already a mower on permanent loan to your building.

The 24-hour checkout policy applies to both government-controlled and eligible private rental patrons.

There are no plans to purchase additional lawn mowers or grass catchers in the near future.

## A valuable relationship

# Medicare Part B, TRICARE

By Amber Heston

Medical Service Coordinator  
SAIC/TRICARE

After 20 or more years of military service, it's indisputable that U. S. military retirees' continued TRICARE health care benefits are hard-earned and well-deserved.

For military retirees age 65 and older, however, there is one important key to remaining TRICARE-eligible. That key is Medicare Part B. Although it is not the most compelling topic to examine, it is vital military retirees and their dependants understand in order to remain eligible for the benefits they have worked so hard to earn.

### Medicare Part A and Part B: The difference

Upon turning 65 years old, most U.S. citizens become eligible for Medicare Part A, a form of hospital insurance. (For more information on premium-free eligibility for Medicare Part A and what it covers, visit the Web site [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).)

Those 65 years and older can also elect to purchase Medicare Part B medical insurance. For this, beneficiaries pay a monthly fee, which is currently \$78.20.

For TRICARE beneficiaries, enrollment in Medicare Part B is required in order to continue receiving TRICARE health care benefits after the age of 65 under the program TRICARE For Life.

### Enrolling in Medicare Part B

To get started enrolling in Medicare Part B from Vicenza, contact the Federal Benefits Unit in Rome at 06-4674-2363. They can provide beneficiaries with additional information on Medicare programs and enrollment materials. These materials can also be found on the Web site [www.medicare.gov/Basics/EnrollmentPackage.asp](http://www.medicare.gov/Basics/EnrollmentPackage.asp).

Once enrolled in Medicare Part B, there is one additional step a beneficiary must take to ensure continued TRICARE eligibility. Proof of Medicare Part B enrollment must be brought to the nearest DEERS (Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System) office. Here in Vicenza, the DEERS office is located in the Central Inprocessing Facility, Golden Lion, next to the Ederle Inn. Once this is completed, the beneficiary is now covered by TRICARE For Life.

### Why pay for Medicare Part B if it doesn't cover overseas care?

If TRICARE beneficiaries fail to enroll in Medicare Part B upon attaining the age of 65, they lose their

TRICARE eligibility. Beneficiaries in this situation would still be able to obtain space-available care in military treatment facilities at no cost; however, they would have no TRICARE coverage when receiving health care at any civilian facility. Unless a beneficiary had other health insurance, by failing to enroll in Medicare Part B, and therefore losing TRICARE eligibility, the beneficiary would become responsible for 100 percent of any civilian care received, including emergency care.

### Stateside versus overseas care

TRICARE beneficiaries 65 years and older who are enrolled in Medicare Part B are covered by both forms of insurance when in the states. However, Medicare does not pay for care received overseas. For military retirees age 65 and older, here's how it works:

**In the States.** – When civilian medical care is given by a provider who accepts Medicare, the provider will submit the claim to Medicare. Once Medicare has paid its portion, the claim is forwarded to TRICARE for payment of the remaining allowable portion. Therefore, when in the states, Medicare is the first payer of medical expenses, and TRICARE is the second payer.

**Overseas** – Because Medicare does not pay for care received overseas, TRICARE becomes the primary form of insurance. However, enrollment in Medicare Part B is still necessary for military retirees age 65 and older who are overseas, in order to remain TRICARE-eligible. Under TRICARE, any care received in a Military Treatment Facility is free. The patient is responsible for a portion of any civilian care received; the annual deductible is \$150 per person, or \$300 total per family, each fiscal year. Once the annual deductible is met, TRICARE covers 75 percent of outpatient costs. Some civilian facilities may require the patient pay in full up front; the patient would then submit a claim to TRICARE for reimbursement of the appropriate portion of the cost. TRICARE claims forms can be found online at [www.europe.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.europe.tricare.osd.mil), or at your nearest TRICARE Service Center.

The relationship between TRICARE and Medicare Part B easily becomes a common source of confusion among many military retirees. Nonetheless, it is important retirees understand their responsibility for enrolling in Medicare Part B upon reaching age 65 in order to remain eligible for their TRICARE benefits, both in the states and overseas. For more information on Medicare Part B's relevance to TRICARE, call Vicenza's TRICARE Service Center at 634-6656.

## SETAF celebrates 50 years

Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki  
Commander  
SETAF Rear



Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki

Fifty years ago at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 1955, an event of historic importance took place at Caserma Ederle. Carabinieri and American Policemen, bearing three flags, approached the newly erected flagpoles at the head of the parade field. They attached the flags and raised them, as the 49th Army Band played the U.S. and the Italian national anthems. The flags of the republic of Italy, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were unfurled by the breeze and waved proudly over Vicenza's Caserma Ederle. The Southern European Task Force was officially activated.

The world was a very different place 50 years ago when a group of Soldiers left Austria and crossed the border into Italy to come to Vicenza. Europe was still recovering from the devastating effects of WWII, the Soviet Union was becoming a major threat and the world was unsure of what the future held.

Today, the world resembles what few would have predicted in 1955. We face new threats and new challenges as demonstrated by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and the ensuing global war on terrorism.

However, as much as things have changed since the first American Soldiers arrived in Vicenza to live and work, one thing has remained constant – the close and strong relationship that has endured between the Italian and American communities.

We have developed relationships that have nurtured new families, friendships and professional careers. We have

joined forces during crises and difficult times and we've shared many more pleasant experiences during happy times. Today members of the Vicenza American military community feel like an integral part of the greater Vicenza Italian community.

These communities are merged in their own close alliance based upon mutual trust, respect and admiration. We are indeed proud to be recipients of this wonderful community spirit.

The last 50 years have been filled with challenges and change. We now face new times and new challenges.

SETAF recognizes the incredible strength of the people that make up its workforce. We know that whatever we have accomplished or will accomplish in the future is a result of the forces of many working together to remain a rapid reaction and crisis response force able to respond to any mission anywhere.

It is my duty and also my special honor to say thank you on behalf of the United States Army to the Soldiers, civilians, their families and the many people – Italian and American alike – who come to work everyday to support the Southern European Task Force.

## NATO delegates meet at Camp Darby

Chiara Mattiolo

Camp Darby Public Affair

The fourth meeting of the NATO Information Exchange Requirements panel took place Oct. 11-13 at Camp Darby. The IER panel is one of five panels within the Combat Service Support Working Group. The other four panels are Movement and Transport, Battlefield Maintenance, Materials Handling, and Supply.

"The mission of the IER panel is to review and update the many NATO logistics messages that the CSS Working Group is responsible for; the Movement Notification, the Surface Transport Request and the Surface

Transport Reply," explained retired Maj. Tom Little, panel chairman and representative from the United States.

Delegates, 14 in all, from each of the NATO nations sent representatives to present their national opinions and responses to the NATO messages. The CSS Working Group has tasked the IER panel to take on the additional responsibility of Logistics Terminology for the first time.

"It is of vital importance to establish standardized terminology that have the same meaning throughout the NATO countries," said Little, head of the U.S. delegation and former commander of the 22nd

Area Support Team-Livorno from 1998-2000.

"Just as I expected, we had the total cooperation and support from the Camp Darby community," said Little. "For me, it is always a great pleasure to come back to Darby, a place where I have confidence and trust. I know I receive the best quality support when I come here."

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**At Caserma Ederle:** Anyone wanting to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign can contact Sgt. Daniel Bregaglio, community area project officer, at 634-7145 or via email at [Daniel.Bregaglio@setaf.army.mil](mailto:Daniel.Bregaglio@setaf.army.mil).

**At Camp Darby:** Contact Staff. Sgt. Ruth Garcia, Headquarters Detachment, USAG-Livorno, at 633-7441 or via email at [Ruth.Garcia@darby.setaf.army.mil](mailto:Ruth.Garcia@darby.setaf.army.mil) for information on making a contribution.

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## Lion Shake 06 Exercise

The USAG Vicenza annual force protection exercise to test the effectiveness of Caserma Ederle's incident response plans and procedures will take place on Nov. 8.

During this exercise, a simulated event will occur that will cause U.S. fire and military police, other supporting agencies and most importantly, our Host Nation, to respond to the emergency situation.

This exercise will replicate a real emergency and may disrupt normal day-to-day operations.

### Impacts to you could include:

- ◆ Temporary gate closures
- ◆ Restricted movement around installation and surrounding areas: **Caserma Ederle, Longare, Lorino, Torri and Villaggio**
- ◆ Temporary closures of offices and customer service activities

If you are on the installation on Nov. 8, you will be asked to participate in the exercise.

Exercise Lion Shake 06 is a valuable tool to help the community be better prepared to handle emergencies.

The USAG Vicenza command thanks all units, agencies and the Vicenza military community in advance for supporting this exercise.



# SETAF: Through the

SETAF Public Affairs

Photos from SETAF and Outlook archives

## Our Proud Past

On Oct. 25, 1955, the Southern European Task Force came in to the world in earnest with busloads of troops and a home in Camp Darby, Italy.

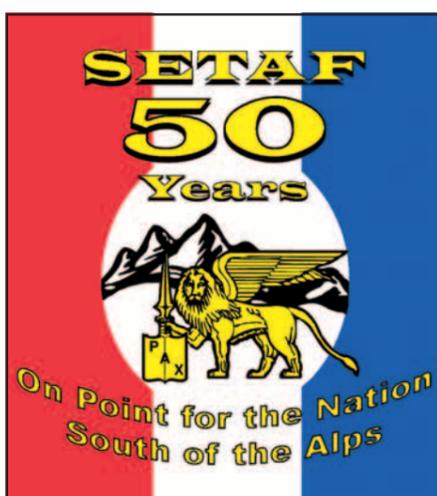
In 1951, the U.S. and Italy signed an agreement that the U.S. would operate lines of communication across Italy, and that the U.S. would occupy land near Livorno. This land became Camp Darby, named for Brig. Gen. William O. Darby, who was killed in action in northern Italy, April 30, 1945.

All U.S. occupation forces in Austria were withdrawn after the Austrian State Treaty was signed in 1955. Under provisions of the agreement with Italy, Camp Darby was the base for the exit of Soldiers, equipment and supplies from Austria.

With Austria neutral, northern Italy's eastern flank became vulnerable to attack. To reduce the danger in that area, the U.S. agreed to establish a force there and on Oct. 2, 1955, the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force was activated.

SETAF's first headquarters was on Camp Darby, but the largest number of Soldiers has always been in Vicenza. Shortly after activation, SETAF moved the headquarters to Verona, to Caserma Passalacqua. Troop strength reached 10,000 and SETAF was formally established with a U.S.-Italian agreement.

In 1959, following President Eisenhower's



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visit to Rome, a third agreement brought significant changes to SETAF. Italy's military forces had been re-established. U.S. troop strength was cut in half; equipment from disbanded U.S. units was turned over to Italy; and Italian Army personnel were assigned to the SETAF general staff to assist with unique bi-national responsibilities.

The headquarters moved again in 1965 to Caserma Carlo Ederle in Vicenza. Soldier strength dropped to 2,500 in 1970 and civilian employment went down 70 percent in a unilateral cost reduction effort. The port opened by 8th Area Support Group in Livorno was returned to Italian control.

SETAF's mission and geographical area of responsibility increased in 1972 when the command enlarged its signal support unit and took control of the 558th U.S. Army Artillery

Group in Greece and the 528th USAAG in Turkey. These units had been in support of NATO since the early 1960s, along with the 559th USAAG, which had been a SETAF unit in Italy since 1964.

With the assignment of the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Airborne Battalion Combat Team in 1973, SETAF accepted the missions of maintaining and deploying the battalion on its own or as part of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land). The ABCT, with its own artillery battery, has been redesignated three times, with 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment (ABCT), serving in Vicenza since April 1996.

Until 1992, SETAF was considered a logistical command. In addition to the ABCT and the three USAAGs, SETAF operated a major depot at Camp Darby with the 8th ASG. With its designation as a support command and later a theater army area command, SETAF was to be responsible for the reception, preparation for combat, and onward movement of forces entering the southern region for general war.

Political reorientation of Europe in 1989 and 1990 caused major revision of U.S. and NATO military priorities. With the drastic reduction of threat of general war, SETAF received new missions for regional tactical operations as command and control headquarters for Army and Joint units. Its three artillery groups were inactivated and the two support groups became support groups with unique missions. The 8th Area Support Group's depot operation developed into the maintenance and issue of theater reserve stocks organized in unit sets sufficient to fully equip a heavy brigade.

In March 1991, SETAF's 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed

to northern Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort, the U.S.-led humanitarian mission to feed and provide other life support for thousands of displaced Kurds. Led by then Lt. Col. John Abizaid, now general and CENTCOM commander, the 3-325th worked with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit to bring the crisis to a successful conclusion.

In January 1994, an infantry brigade was established at SETAF to provide command and control of SETAF's deployable units. On June 12, 2000, the SETAF Infantry Brigade was redesignated as the 173d Airborne Brigade, continuing the proud legacy of this historic unit. The brigade mission is to operate as a separate, independent brigade; to fall in on a division as an organic brigade; and to operate as the Army forces component in a joint task force.

In July 1994, SETAF deployed to Entebbe, Uganda, as the core staff of Joint Task Force Support Hope. A total of 2,100 U. S. military personnel, including SETAF's 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed to the region to help prevent a humanitarian crisis resulting from large-scale refugee movements caused by the civil war in Rwanda. SETAF personnel were also located at Kigali, Rwanda, and Goma, Zaire. The JTF began drawing down operations at Kigali and Goma operations in late August 1994 and terminated operations on Sept. 30. The JTF transferred responsibility for the mission to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

By December 1995, Operation Joint Endeavor was in its initial stages. SETAF demonstrated its role as the theater's reaction force by deploying as the lead element of the Dayton Peace Accord implementation forces into Bosnia-Herzegovina. After being relieved in-place by the 1st Armored Division in March 1996, SETAF units redeployed to Vicenza. After returning, the 3-325 ABCT was redesignated as the 1-508th ABCT, "Red Devils."

April 1996 proved to be exceptionally busy. Elements of the SETAF Infantry Brigade deployed to Dubrovnik, Croatia, to secure the crash site of U. S. Treasury Secretary Ron Brown's plane. Another company-plus deployed to Monrovia, Liberia, with special operations forces to facilitate noncombatant evacuation operations.

In November 1996, portions of the SETAF-led Joint Task Force Guardian Assistance deployed to Uganda and Rwanda to assess the needs of Rwandan refugees in Zaire. When refugees began returning to Rwanda, the mission changed to verifying refugee numbers and informing Rwanda and assistance agencies. The JTF handed over operations to the Government of Rwanda in December 1996.



Above: In March 1991, SETAF's 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed to northern Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort. Pictured are the Soldiers from 3d Platoon, B Co, while in the desert. Left: A military policeman and an Italian Carabinieri assist a tourist with directions in 1973.

Continue on Page 5



Left: Hand-to-hand combat training in 1984.

Below: Pope Paul VI visits SETAF in the late 1960s. As a part of a combined humanitarian and training mission in August 1966, a SETAF CH-34 helicopter was used in a massive airlift of nearly 500 tons of construction materials, which were being used for the rebuilding of a shrine-refuge atop Mount Guglielmo (6,000 ft) in the province of Brescia, Italy.



# years, today

In March 1997, a SETAF-led JTF headquarters deployed to Brazzaville, Congo, to establish an enabling force in preparation for the potential evacuation of non-combatants from Zaire. The JTF redeployed in April 1997 upon a peaceful government transition in Zaire.

SETAF provided reception, staging and movement support to Task Force Hawk during Operation Allied Force in the spring of 1999 and to deploying KFOR units later in the year. From March to July of 1999, SETAF assumed the strategic reserve mission for the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Strategic Reserve, a combined force comprised of U.S., Italian, Turkish, Polish, Romanian and Dutch units, stood ready to respond if events warranted the reinforcement of that critical mission.

On Oct. 1, 1999, SETAF demonstrated its rapid response capability when the SETAF Infantry Brigade and the 1-508 ABCT executed Operation Rapid Guardian, parachuting into southern Kosovo to show U.S. resolve and commitment to the KFOR peacekeeping mission. Two weeks later the SETAF Infantry Brigade and the 1-508 ABCT deployed to Bosnia for Operation Rapid Resolve, further demonstrating SETAF's rapid deployment capability.

Later in October 1999, SETAF demonstrated its ability to form a JTF when it was given the mission to be the JTF core of a major contingency planning operation, Skilled Anvil. From October 1999 to February 2000, this JTF developed a comprehensive and executable war plan for use in potential crisis areas of the U.S. European Command area of responsibility.

On Jan. 25, 2001, the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), "The Rock," was reactivated during a ceremony at Caserma Ederle. The addition of a second airborne infantry battalion under the 173d Airborne Brigade provides SETAF with significantly more combat power for crisis response and rapid reaction.

## Recent History

On March 26, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, SETAF's 173d Abn Bde conducted a parachute assault into Northern Iraq. About 1,000 paratroopers jumped into Bashur Airfield in a historical and critical mission called Operation NORTHERN DELAY. This mission established the northernmost Coalition offensive boundary and created a stable logistical node to allow the introduction of equipment and personnel into the theater. The operation forced the Iraqi Army to maintain approximately six divisions in the area to protect its northern flank, providing strategic relief for Coalition Forces advancing on Baghdad. During the brigade's year-long deployment to Iraq, the Sky Soldiers seized the city of Kirkuk, the northern oil fields and several military airfields in the area during

## Operation OPTION NORTH.

The brigade established a new police force and an independent civic government, the first free institutions to be established in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. The brigade has conducted multiple operations, including; Operation PENINSULA STRIKE, to seize Ba'ath Party Officials and clear enemy forces from the Tigris River; Operation IVY NEEDLE, to destroy former regime loyalist and terrorist; and Operation BAYONET LIGHTING I, II and III, to capture terrorist elements and weapons caches.

The brigade also seized thousands of enemy weapons and explosives, millions of Iraqi Dinars worth of terrorist funds, and arrested hundreds of terrorists and former Ba'ath Party loyalists. In early March 2004, the 173d Abn Bde redeployed to Vicenza following almost a year of continuous operations in northern Iraq. The brigade lost nine Soldiers during the deployment, as well as suffering 95 wounded in action.

On July 25, 2003, SETAF was designated to lead the U.S. military mission in Liberia to help prevent an impending humanitarian disaster. After 23 years of civil war, Liberia teetered on the brink of collapse and thousands of civilians were at risk of starvation. At its height, the JTF

consisted of over 5,000 service members from the SETAF headquarters, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the three-ship Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, the 3rd Air Force, U. S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Support Command, and Army Special Forces. During SETAF's two-month plus deployment to Liberia, a peace agreement was implemented, forces of the warring factions were separated, air and seaports were reopened, and the United Nations and private humanitarian organizations resumed delivery of badly needed relief. An unqualified success, this mission served as a highly successful model for future support and stability operations.

## Afghanistan Deployment

In February of this year, SETAF Soldiers once again called upon to do their part in the global war on terror. This time, deploying to the rugged mountains of Bagram, Afghanistan, as part of the Combined Joint Task Force-76, where they remain today. As part of the CJTF-76 SETAF Soldiers are helping to reconstruct and rebuild the country within their area of operations. Earlier this month, the CTJF helped to ensure a safe and secure election for the people of Afghanistan as they voted in the National Assembly Elections.

SETAF is currently leading the CJTF-76

covering an area of responsibility from Northeast to Southwest Afghanistan. CJTF-76 is composed of various subordinate units, including the 173d Abn Bde, and a number of units from throughout Europe and the continental United States. Providing a stable environment in Afghanistan is of utmost concern for the Task Force. The leaders, Soldiers, and coalition forces providing security for the citizens of Afghanistan do so knowing they are securing a peaceful future for the population.

## SETAF Today

SETAF provides the combatant commander with the core of a rapid reaction Army-lead joint task force headquarters; trained and ready combat forces capable of deploying anywhere directed within 24 hours of alert. SETAF maintains tailorable, rapid reaction and crisis response forces for missions throughout the spectrum of operations.

SETAF is also an instrumental part of the European Command's security cooperation program. Recent operations and exercises include deployments to Liberia, Iraq, Russia, Poland, the Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Hungary, Botswana, Kosovo and Bosnia. SETAF is a major subordinate command of U.S. Army, Europe.

# Lion of Saint Mark

## SETAF's Patch:



The SETAF shoulder patch, like other insignia of the U.S. Army, is derived from medieval coats of arms and the standards carried by the legions of Rome. The array of American military insignia is a colorful index to the origins and history of our nation. Few are as rich in historic tradition as the shoulder patch of SETAF.

The background of the insignia is a shield bearing the red, white, and the blue of the national colors. Previously there was a red tab with the word SETAF superimposed above the shield. Since the emblem had become so well known throughout Italy, it was decided that the tab was an unnecessary embellishment and was removed in May 1962.

Superimposed in gold on the red, white and blue escutcheons is the winged Lion of St. Mark above a gold bar. The history of the Lion of St. Mark, which appears on the various insignia of all NATO units in Italy, spans more than 2,000 years of recorded time and touches upon some of the most significant developments in western civilization.

In ancient times, it was believed that lions were born dead and they came alive after three days when life breathed into them by the sires. The lion became a symbol of St. Mark because the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a dominant theme in his gospel. St. Mark also preached the royal descent of Jesus from the Hebrew kings, whose emblem was the Lion of Judah. This symbol, with wings to denote the evangelist's divine mission, has represented St. Mark in painting and sculpture since the earliest days of Christianity.

The Lion of St. Mark holds an open book under his raised paw with the Latin words "Pax Tibi Marco Evangelista Meus" – "Peace to thee Mark, My Evangelista." Often, the lion is depicted with a pen and inkpot. These denote the fact that St. Mark was a St. Peter's secretary and is said to have written his gospel according to the accounts given by Peter.

# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Extra ZZZZZZZs

Day Light Savings time is here. Remember to put your clocks one hour back on Saturday night before retiring.

## Chocolando

Friday and the weekend the main squares downtown **Vicenza**, Signori, Biade, Garibaldi, Duomo, Castello and S. Lorenzo will be invaded by 36 chocolate artisans. The artisans, spread over the six squares, will demonstrate how chocolate gets its flavor and form to include the making of peperoncino, tobacco, canella and other spice chocolate. There will also be chocolate beer on sale which is made from an antique recipe from Prague. The stands open on Friday at 1 p.m. until 9 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-midnight and Sunday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. It is also in the works to have music groups playing throughout the festival.

## Films in the English language

Films in the original language will be shown at the Odean cinema, which is located on Corso Palladio downtown **Vicenza** every Monday until March 2006. The films are shown four times a day, usually with the first show starting at 4 p.m. The program is being finalized. Tickets cost 6 euro and are available at the cinema box office. See next week's Outlook for more program information.

## Exhibitions

**Padova:** The *Tuttinfiera* exhibition is dedicated to hobby, sport and vacation ideas from beach areas to mountain resorts. At the same time, find on Saturday and Sunday the 10th Fitness & Dance Convention, which will have 18 presenters from throughout the world giving lessons of different dance steps to include funk, hip hop and hilo. The exhibit is open Saturday - Monday 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 8 euro. The exhibition grounds are located a short distance from the Padova est, autostrada exit.

**Trieste** is hosting an important antique fair Thursday - Tuesday, which attracts both local dealers and others from Lombardy, Tuscany,

Veneto and Emilia Romagna. Every year collectors flock to the town from all over Italy and nearby Austria for the fair, which offers Biedermeier and Liberty pieces of Austrian origin along with carpets, jewelry paintings, glassware, furniture and more. Being held in the *Palazzo dei Congressi* Maritime Terminal, 3 Molo Bersaglieri, it is open everyday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. except opening day, Thursday, when it will open from 6-10 p.m. Entrance fee 8 euro. Directions: Autostrada A4 exit at Trieste.

**Milan:** *La Mia Casa*, My Home, Italy's finest home exhibition takes place Saturday - Nov. 6 in the city's exhibition grounds. Over 400 exhibitors show off their latest designs and gadgets in an event which attracts around 85,000 visitors a year. The exhibition space is divided into nine rooms, each specializing in a different aspect of home life. From fitness and cosmetics in the Wellbeing Room to garden accessories in the Green Room, architects, craftsmen and experts are on hand to advise on all matters of the home. Visitors can attend any of the free daily courses specializing in furnishing, energy saving techniques and safety. Open Monday-Friday 3-7 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Nov. 3-10 p.m. Entrance fee 7 euro weekdays and weekends 8 euro.

## Other events

An art exhibition being held in the Basilica Palladiana, located in the main square downtown **Vicenza** has just recently opened. With the name *Sensibilmente*, Sensibly, four female artists, T. Maselli, C. Accardi, G. Fioroni and L. Stocco, show, through their work, the female presence in Italian art during the second part of the 19th century. Open Tuesday - Sunday 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. through Nov. 27. Entrance is free.

Another exhibition in the main square is an exhibit on contemporary architecture to be shown in another area in the Basilica Palladiana and starting on Sunday will host two Japanese architects, which will tell the story of their careers through a collection of original drawings, sketches, models, photographs and

videos. The installation by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa in the hall of the Basilica will mark a new way of relating to the historical structures of the Palladian monument. The visitor is offered an original, unusual opportunity to understand and interact with the architectural poetics of the subject of the exhibition, who is always asked to design his or her own exhibition installation. Open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. until Jan. 29. Closed on Mondays. Entrance fee is 8 euro.

The 2nd Pumpkin Festival in the town of **Isola della Scala**, province of Verona, 66 kilometers from Vicenza, will take place this weekend in a heated food tent that holds over 2,500 persons. Most dishes served will contain pumpkin to include rice, tortelli, pasta, a mixed grill with polenta and baked pumpkin and dessert. Opening hours are noon-2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-midnight each day. On Sunday from noon - 9 p.m. there will be an area open where children can enjoy games and an area dedicated to Halloween with the town's mascot Risello.

The town of **Monte di Malo**, 20 kilometers from Vicenza, will celebrate its Festa delle Castagne, Chestnut Festival, this weekend and Tuesday in a heated food tent. On Saturday food is served at 7 p.m. and the menu includes pasta bigoli with meat, boar, duck or nut sauce; polenta with *scopeton*, a type of fish, or salami. On Sunday at 2:30 p.m. food stands open and at 3:30 p.m. in the theater nearby there will be a puppet show for the children. Tuesday food is served at 4 p.m. There will also be different exhibitions during the fest. Chestnuts of course will be served. The area where festivities take place is near the church of the town.

## Upcoming concerts

Nov. 2 - Backstreet Boys; Nov. 10 - Bob Dylan; Nov. 14 - Eastpak Antidote Tour; Nov. 15 - Coldplay; all in Bologna.

Nov. 27 - Robert Plant in Florence and Nov. 30 in Milan

Dec. 5 - Black Eyed Peas; Dec. 17 - Franz Ferdinand; in Milan. Ferdinand is also in Florence on Dec. 18 and in Bologna on Dec. 19.

# Now Showing

## Caserma Ederle Theater

Oct. 25	Closed	
Oct. 26	Supercross (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	The Great Raid (R)	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	The Transporter 2 (PG-13)	7 p.m.
	Four Brothers (R)	10 p.m.
Oct. 29	Valiant (G)	2 p.m.
	Four Brothers	7 p.m.
	The Transporter 2	10 p.m.
Oct. 30	The Transporter 2 (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Valiant (G)	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	Closed	

## Camp Darby Theater

Oct. 27	The Island (PG13)	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	The Cave (PG13)	7 p.m.
Oct. 29	The Devil's Reject (R)	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	Because of Winn-Dixie	3 p.m.

## Movie Synopsis

**THE GREAT RAID** - Benjamin Bratt, James Franco - Set in the Philippines in 1945, "The Great Raid" tells the true story of the 6th Ranger Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Mucci who undertake a daring rescue mission against all odds. Traveling thirty miles behind enemy lines, the 6th Ranger Battalion aims to liberate over 500 American prisoners-of-war from the notorious Cabanatuan Japanese POW camp in the most audacious rescue ever.

**THE TRANSPORTER 2** - Jason Statham, Alessandro Gassmann - Retired in Miami, ex-Special Forces operative, Frank, makes a living driving for the wealthy Billings family. He's a huge favorite with their two small boys, but when the kids are kidnapped and injected with a potentially fatal virus, Frank defies the FBI and works relentlessly to get the boys to safety and discover the kidnapper's master plan.

**SUPERCROSS** - Steve Howey, Mike Vogel - Two brothers overcome emotional and physical obstacles to achieve success in the competitive world of Supercross racing. The brothers' conflicts are magnified by their different life choices and their decision to become competitors and rivals. KC is a more cautious rider than his younger brother Trip, who has more natural talent but takes too many risks. When KC gets an all-expenses paid "factory" — corporate sponsored — ride, a rift forms between the two brothers. Trip is forced to go at it alone, becoming a "privateer"—a rider without a sponsor. But when a career threatening crash ends Trip's Supercross career, he and KC realize that they must put aside their conflicts, and work together to help KC defeat the world's greatest Supercross champions.

**VALIANT** - *Animated*. A lowly wood pigeon named Valiant, overcomes his small size to become a hero in Great Britain's Royal Air Force Homing Pigeon Service during World War II. The RHPS advanced the Allied cause by flying vital messages about enemy movements across the English Channel, whilst evading brutal attacks by the enemy's Falcon Brigade.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.  
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.  
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

## VHS cadets participate in stateside symposium, learn leadership skills

### Story and photo

By JROTC Public Affairs  
Vicenza High School

Four cadets from the 10th Cadet Battalion, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Vicenza High School, recently participated in the Marshall Foundation Leadership Symposium sponsored by the George C. Marshall Foundation and co-hosted by Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute. The symposium was held Oct. 13-16 in Lexington, Va.

The four cadets, Cadet Capt. Noel Fernando, Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Zack Williams, Cadet Sgt. Maj. Chris Bell and Cadet Master Sgt. Melvin Williams and the senior Army instructor were invited to participate in early September and represent the 10th Cadet Battalion. The 10th Bn is rated as an Honor Unit with Distinction and among the top 10 percent of the Army's nearly 1450 JROTC programs.

The four cadets, among the highest ranking

cadets in the Vicenza JROTC program, were allowed the very rare opportunity for a high school student of participating in a stateside temporary duty travel program.

The theme of the symposium was Citizenship, Scholarship, Service and the Uniform. In addition to first class instruction on a wide variety of leadership skills, the cadets were offered excellent presentations by retired Gen. J.H. Peay, commandant of cadets, VMI, retired Maj. Gen. Robert Wagner, co-chair of the Marshall Foundation, Maj. Gen. M. Winfield, commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command, and retired Maj. Gen. J. Knapp, mayor of Lexington. Presentations covered such subjects as the life and contributions of Gen. George C. Marshall, his leadership principles and personal standards.

Cadets were awarded college-level credits for participation in the symposium at no cost. Each of the cadets also received a Certificate of Training and a Two-Star Note from Maj. Gen. Winfield.

Cadets from the 10th Cadet Battalion, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Vicenza High School, pose for a photo with Col. Carlos Glover (center), chief of staff, U.S. Army Cadet Command, during their recent visit to Lexington, Va., for the Marshall Foundation Leadership Symposium. From left to right are: Cadet Capt. Noel Fernando, Cadet Sgt. Maj. Chris Bell, Glover, Command Sgt. Maj. Zack Williams, and Cadet Master Sgt. Melvin Williams.

# Halloween Fun

## Haunted House

Ghosts, ghouls and goblins are preparing to spook members of the Vicenza military community in a haunted house from 7-10 p.m. Oct. 28-29 in vacated barracks Building 105, located by Gate 3.

The haunted house is open to the entire community, but it is recommended that children age 10 and younger are accompanied by an adult.

Admission is \$2. The haunted house is sponsored by the 173d Airborne Brigade.

## BOSS Halloween Party

Dig out your best costume and come out to Club V on Saturday at 8 p.m. for the annual BOSS Halloween Party. Dance to live music, enter the costume contests or try your hand at the Mummy Wrap Challenge. There will be treats and prizes all night long. For more information call BOSS at 634-8294.

## Goblin Gathering At Villaggio

There will be a Halloween Carnival for children up to grade 12 at the Youth Services Center in Villaggio on Oct. 31 from 3:30-5:45 p.m. There will be a costume contest, pumpkin carving contest, tattoo station, fortune teller, cake walk, pumpkin bowling, and lots of other games and giveaways. Post organizations such as SNAP, DARE and Project Trust will have information tables set up and their will be food booths as well.

## Trick-o-Treat at Villaggio

Villaggio will open its doors to our Italian neighbors for Trick or Treating from 6-8 p.m.

To help make this a fun and safe Halloween celebration for our families and visitors, here are some rules and information:

- Italians are welcome to join the festivities. They must be 12 years old or younger and accompanied by an adult.
- Skateboards, bikes and roller-blades are not allowed.



The family readiness support assistant with the 173d Airborne Brigade dresses one of the ghouls that will be roaming the Haunted House over the Halloween weekend. (Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

- Pets are not allowed during the celebration, and must be secured in the backyard or house.

- An Aid and Information station will be located by the main entrance.

- Empty units and contractor sites are off limits. These areas will be heavily patrolled.

- For security measures, all visitors will pass through metal detectors before entering the compound. There will be patrols with radios throughout the area.

- Please advise your children to refrain from eating any candy until it has been inspected by an adult.

### Costumes

- Buccaneer swords and scalping knives must be of soft, flexible material.

- Costumes must meet standard safety guidelines: masks should not obstruct the view, costumes should fit the individual to avoid tripping, reflective items should be worn to make the child more visible.

### Remember

The Villaggio pedestrian gate will close at 5:45 p.m. and will re-open the following morning.

For the safety of all participants, no private cars will be permitted to enter or leave Villaggio from 5:45-8:30 p.m.

**For more information on Caserma Ederle Halloween events call MWR Marketing at 634-7343.**

## Camp Darby Halloween Fest

The Halloween Fest is on Saturday in the

Darby Community Club. The carnival will be from 5-7 p.m.

The Pumpkin Carving Contest will be from 5-6 p.m. and the Pumpkin Patch will be from 5-7 p.m.

The Haunted House will open from 6:30-10 p.m.

The Gross Factor competition will start at 10 p.m.

## Trick-o-Treat at Darby

The Halloween Trick-or-Treat will be Oct. 31 beginning at 3:30 p.m. The route starts at the library.

**For more information on Camp Darby Halloween events contact School Age Services at 633-7613.**



Story and photo by Chiara Mattiolo  
Camp Darby Public Affairs

The Fire and Emergency Services Division sponsored several activities to increase the awareness of fire protection during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15. An exciting opportunity was given to the elementary school children to sit in the fire truck as well as ask the fire fighters questions.

"My favorite part was to get on the fire truck and to be able to blow the horn. It was really loud," said 7-year-old Kevin Johnson. "The firefighters showed us their equipment and how they dress up when they go to a fire. It is amazing to see them all dressed up."

Fire Prevention Week is meant to increase awareness of fire protection and to learn how to safely react in case of a fire.

"I learned that when there is smoke you need to immediately get on your knees and crawl out of the room as soon as possible," said 8-year-old Mark Van der Heiden. "If there is a closed door, you need to touch it with the back of your hand. If it is too hot you do not open it – it means there is fire behind the door."

*Editor's Note: The National Fire Protection Association has a wonderful Web site with a section just for children. Visit the site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and click on Sparky the Fire Dog.*