



Commander's Corner

May was a great month for this Headquarters. The positive engagement by the command across the wide spectrum of events continues to demonstrate your commitment to land advocacy in both the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and NATO Force Structure (NFS), supporting the NCS and NFS transformation and transferring the deployable warfighting expertise to Land Command Izmir.

Notably, Allied Force Command Heidelberg co-hosted the Allied Chiefs of Army Staff Talks and Land Component Commander Conference (ACAST/ LCC) with Allied Force Command Madrid and the Albanian armed forces in Tirana, Albania. With the participants from 25 NATO countries, 10 Partnership for Peace, two Mediterranean Dialogue, and two Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries and representatives from Allied Command Operations and Allied Command Transformation, ACAST enabled an important discussion on the training, readiness, evaluations and force structure vital to the future of the Alliance and its Partners.

Force Command Heidelberg will continue to participate in these efforts through next year. These forums remain crucial as we hand the mantle of responsibility for land component competency to the new Land Command in Izmir in 2013.

We will also host a visit in Heidelberg with the initial Stand-up Team that has responsibility for establishing Land Command Izmir. As you can imagine following the NATO Summit in Chicago, there are important ongoing discussions now concerning the transformation of this great Alliance. Everything we are doing has long term importance.

This summer we will prepare for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) in Great Britain. CREVAL is another opportunity to strengthen the Alliance through the execution of our framework tasks. Our observations and CREVAL experience will even assist the new command in Izmir.

Finally, we concluded the month with a wonderful social event for the Headquarters. Everyone's support of the Spring Ball at the Heidelberg Castle was truly appreciated. It was a magnificent event and fitting for recognizing all the great work you have accomplished.

Thank you again for your efforts in May. This Headquarters has proven itself as a valuable asset to NATO.

Keep up the great work!

ACAST / LCC 2012



Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III, (left) addresses attendees of the Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks. The COM and Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Richard Shirreff, (right) both discussed issues of NATO's future land command during the conference held in Albania, May 8 to 10.

Spring Ball



Couples from Allied Force Command Heidelberg flood the dance floor during the unit's Spring Ball held May 24th at the Heidelberg Castle.

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NATO commanders from 25 NATO countries, 10 Partnership for Peace countries, two Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) and two Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) countries and representatives from Allied Command Operations (ACO) and Allied Command Transformation (ACT) gather for the Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks held in Albania, 8 to 10 May.

General officers and their representatives from across 25 NATO countries, 10 Partnership for Peace countries, two Mediterranean Dia-

Disclosure

Serving the military, civilians and family members of Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg

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Suggestions for articles, comments and contributions are welcome and should be directed to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

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logue (MD) and two Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) countries and representatives from Allied Command Operations (ACO) and Allied Command Transformation (ACT) gathered together to discuss NATO's future at the Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks (ACAST)/Land Commanders Conference (LCC), 8 to 10 May in Tirana, Albania.

"The people in this room represent the body of land expertise within NATO. My fellow Force Command commander, Lt. Gen. Alfredo Cardona Torres, and I are your land advocates within the NATO Command Structure, but we are preparing to hand that mantle of responsibility to the new land command in Izmir, Turkey," said the COM. He continued describing the conference as an opportunity for increasing the linkages between the NATO Command Structure and the NATO Force Structure headquarters and the national headquarters of allied armed forces.

Albania's armed forces served as host for the ACAST, providing coordination, logistical support and working in close coordination with Allied Force Command Heidelberg.

Commander of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces, Maj. Gen. Xhemal Gjunkshi, welcomed the Army representatives and stated, "This conference is important

proof of how NATO is working together in building structures. NATO structures need training capabilities and new means to support these capabilities. Transformation is a process of putting this into order."

This theme was elaborated further during the visit by the Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha. During his address to the participants, he acknowledged Albania's armed forces transformation and their admiration while operating under NATO command. "When you look, in this world, NATO is by far the best of the best that nations have; this transatlantic alliance is the grandeur, I do believe, the best international organization the western world has ever had. Furthermore, while acknowledging the budgetary challenges currently facing Europe and the upcoming NATO Summit in Chicago, Prime Minister Berisha referenced NATO Secretary General's initiatives of Smart Defence and the Connected Forces, which ACAST embodies, as key concepts for truly addressing present shortfalls.

(Cont. pg. 3)



Attendees of 25 NATO, 10 PfP, 2 MD and 2 ICI countries participate in the hosted dinner during the 7th Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks in Tirana, Albania on May 9th.

Other topics addressed on the first briefing day included Allied Command Operations transformation, the results of the Bi-Force Command Corps Commander's Conference and NATO's post 2014 joint training policy and support as well as a solid programme for the attending partners revolving around aspects of training with NATO.

erations. The DSACEUR reinforced for the audience the need for pragmatism to solve future challenges and the necessity of building links between the command and force structure. Remarking also on how we guarantee deployability within the force structure, Gen. Shirreff observed, "Land Command Izmir will be the only structure that can be called upon with ultimate deployability not being reliant upon a specific country."

After a morning of briefings and discussions, the participants had the chance to gain insight and experience Albanian culture at the Skanderbeg castle in the town of Kruje. Later that evening, they participated in a formal dinner.

The main topic of the final day was training with NATO and the ACT and how training plays a crucial role in maintaining the land command's and the NATO Response Force's highly deployable status.

In his concluding comments, the COM confirmed, "ACAST was an important meeting for the NATO

Command Structure, the NATO Force Structure and its nations because they looked in holistic ways at training, readiness, evaluations and structure including the partner countries." He continued his assessment stating, "To discuss the importance of training and working together and understanding one another in order to provide security that endures throughout Europe. It was indeed a success."



Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Richard Shirreff, addresses Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks attendees with his welcome words, May 9th.

The highlight of the conference was the presentation by Gen. Sir Richard Shirreff, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), who discussed ACO transformation and challenges of command and control in NATO op-

Written by Capt. Tamara Gonzales
Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney

Headquarters' Closure Update



Transition and closure is at the top of priorities for the commander. Both will require much effort in the coming months and will likely touch every person assigned to the headquarters and, for those with families, their loved ones as well.

In our continuing effort to keep you informed about the progress toward the closure of our headquarters, we met with the Chairman of the Headquarters Closure Working Group, Col. Ralf Vogel.

"The headquarters has about 376 people now and our human resources office says that number will get smaller but there should be no significant reduction in the capability of the HQ," Vogel said. "We are already in the deactivation process. The gradual departure of personnel will occur through the normal rotation and those departures won't have replacements. As this occurs, personnel should turn in property that will no longer be required, Vogel said.

In NATO's Detailed Implementation Plan, SHAPE encourages all member nations to support existing headquarters through deactivation dates.

Personnel present after the deactivation date will either be a part of the SHAPE Closure Party (CP) or remain in a Legacy Peacetime Establishment post until departure.

Legacy status means that an individual, regardless of nationality,

requires their nation to request the establishment of a legacy post. Nations will also be responsible for their remaining legacy personnel.

The exact size and composition of the Closure Party is up for decision by the Commander. With the Commander's approval the list of CP members will be worked by Senior National Representatives with support from HRM following a specific process and specific criteria.

Each CP position has a specific responsibility and it is likely that there is already someone doing the job, Vogel said. Only a few new jobs would be created as a result of the closure party responsibilities and as tasks terminate, the team will get smaller.

A milestone is approaching. On Jun. 20th a truck will visit the headquarters to collect bulk material for shredding.

The Herald Post, published Thursdays, the garrison website: <http://www.bw.eur.army.mil>, and Town Halls remain the best sources of information about services affected by the inactivation of Patton Barracks and PHV.

Check back for more information and we'll keep it coming. Remember to visit our Facebook page and the command's homepage for more information.

FCHD PAO Staff



Headquarters CREVAL members meet with Allied Rapid Reaction Corps



Chairman of CREVAL WG Col Cesar Michael Sacristan and Col Pat Cairns discuss future CREVAL operations.



Representatives from several Allied Force Command Heidelberg functional teams attended a CREVAL meeting with the CREVAL OPR from the headquarters of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, May 15th.

Allied Force Command Heidelberg members balance many priorities and strive for the highest success in everything. One of these is the Combat Readiness Evaluation also known as CREVAL.

The headquarters CREVAL working group chairman, Col. Cesar Michael Sacristan, and functional team representatives met with Col. Pat Cairns, the Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Officer of Primary Responsibility (OPR), May 15.

Col. Pat Cairns' visit was an initial

discussion between those responsible from both headquarters as related to the evaluation itself.

The meeting addressed the evaluation team's real life support during the evaluation events in Great Britain, which are scheduled for September and October.

The FC HD CREVAL Team will conduct its first evaluation during a so-called "In-barracks" phase in September and a second one during the NATO Response Force preparation exercise Noble Ledger in October.

Several issues and challenges for the CREVAL were discussed and both sides achieved a common understanding on the way ahead to a successful CREVAL for HQ ARRC.

Written by Lt. Col. Thomas Fischer
Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney

New Security Location, need to know

The Security Section for Allied Force Command Heidelberg is now located at the International Support Kaserne.

In early May the section completed the move to the ISK which is approximately a seven to ten minute drive from its previous location at Campbell Barracks, Building 7.

"As Force Command Heidelberg closes and its personnel draws down, the security section consolidated to ensure it met constant 24-hour security operations," said Master Sgt. Ramon Ramirez, the headquarters security platoon chief.

While the Security Section maintains continuous operations, various elements such as the Automated Access Control System, Pass and Identification, Visual Detection Systems and Emergency Systems will now be monitored from ISK instead of Campbell Barracks. That means that if issues arise with badge entry, pushing the intercom button located at the front of the box will continue to connect to the security forces which can then reset the badge.

NATO service members requesting unescorted badges for visitors will now have their needs met at the second floor of the main building at ISK. It is recommended that NATO service members coordinate in advance with the Pass and ID section for in-processing of their visitors.

"There are no issues with the move. This is simply a change in location," said Sergeant Chef Jerome Mani, the Pass and Identification staff assistant. "We will continue to provide the same quality of service as we did before."

"Security will remain vigilant. As the ISK is the last to go, it made sense for the security section to move to the ISK to continue its strong presence," said Ramirez.

The security section is available to answer any questions with the following phone numbers:
Pass and identification office: 06221-398-5603
24-hour security desk: 06221-398-5357

Article and photos by Capt. Tamara Gonzales



A security guard with Allied Force Command Heidelberg, carries arms full of binders in preparation for the security sections move to the International Support Kaserne, May 3rd.



Security guards with Allied Force Command Heidelberg, lift one of many heavy boxes in support of the headquarters' security section move to the International Support Kaserne, May 3rd.

Military Human Resources : Who We Are ?

You are working in an international environment but do you know how many we are and where we all come from?

Out of the 28 NATO nations, 20 are represented in Heidelberg. We also have three members from three PfP (Partnership for Peace) nations.

While some nations have over 50 representatives, five nations have only one member in Heidelberg. All told, we currently have over 350 staff members.

FCHD has been involved in ISAF for two years, deployed in four rotations from November 2009 to January 2012, for periods of three months, six months, one year or more. The longest deployment in ISAF lasted 551 days. Today, two of our officers are still deployed in Afghanistan until end of July 2012. All in all, FCHD will have sent 295 personnel to ISAF, reinforced by nine members from the NCSA, the NSEs and two German reserve officers.

Currently, three officers and one

staff assistant are deployed to Kosovo since February.

For Operation Unified Protector (OUP-Libya), 41 of our members were involved and sent to Naples to man the OUP crisis establishment list from April to November 2011.

Written by Adc. Fabien Le Camus and
CWO 2 Ricardo Estrada.

MAPS is Key to Future Assignments in NATO



Currently, you are not officially a member of Force Command Heidelberg until you are entered into the automated personnel system known as MAPS. It is a commercial Human Resources Management System used by military and civilian organizations around the world. The staff assistants in Military Human Resources are responsible for inputs and updates in the Manpower Analysis and Planning System (MAPS). Each one of you is identified in MAPS by your Headquarters ID and your security badge number. This unique number is necessary because sometimes people have the same name. You officially become a member of NATO and our HQ as soon as you are added to MAPS and posted to your PE (peacetime establishment) position.

MAPS keeps all records on who was here, in which position, at what time. It is possible to insert home and sick leaves, skills and qualifications, TDYs and deployments, and also keep track of appraisals and offenses.

Monitored by SHAPE, accurate inputs are necessary for the monthly reports they extract from our HQ. This is why we need to be aware of all changes of postings, end of tour dates and promotions.

MAPS should enhance HR's ability to manage personnel in NATO commands and make information immediately available to the higher headquarters as soon as it is entered into the new system. The new system is known as the Automated Personnel Management System (APMS) and will replace MAPS this year.

The Force Command Heidelberg HR section assisted in the User Acceptance Test for APMS held at SHAPE's Human Resources division. Along with a team from other NATO Commands, the team identified over 40 deficiencies in the development of APMS.

The new personnel system will be a Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) system that will incorporate the COTS used by corporations into the NATO military personnel system. There are variations of APMS used today by numerous militaries and corporations. One of the key features will be that APMS will offer NATO members the opportunity to apply for leave request and send it automatically through email to their supervisor for approval. Along with this unique feature, it will also allow human resource managers to keep track of vital information such as;

training, deployments, medals, and allows them to connect key Crisis Establishments to Peacetime Establishments.

The APMS will increase security by consolidating the different variations of passes and permits to make a standard NATO identification card. The training version in the APMS will also keep track of the member's area of concentration and key schools attendance.

The Initial Operating Capability is slated for early June 2012 and a Full Operating Capability by mid 2013.

Written by Adc. Fabien Le Camus and
CWO 2 Ricardo Estrada.

Civilian Pre-deployment Training : SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL



Civilian trainees get ready to enter a bunker that is under fire as part of reacting to a mortar attack. Other training conducted on day two included hostage recovery, conducting secured movement and observation.

We just had another civilian staff member returning from civilian pre-deployment training in the Czech Republic given by the Czech Military to all NATO civilians. Five times a year, in Vyskov in the Czech Republic, NATO civilians with the "deployment" clause in their job description, receive pre-deployment training.

Our Human Resources office thought we should share some of that experience with the staff.

Remember, this is mandatory training for all NATO International Civilians.

Whereas, military members get certified by their nations for deployment, NATO has a different process for civilians to be certified.

This includes CBRN training with gas masks and actual smoke diving, first aid, mine and IED awareness, topography and map reading, cultural awareness, and 2 days in the field with body armour and helmets facing various scenarios including hostage taking, captivity, village negotiations, medical situations, mortar attacks, hiking through the field with simulated attacks and gun fire.

It is all topped off with a ride in



Czech military members prepare a tracked troop carrying vehicle for civilian trainees to ride in as part of civilian pre-deployment training hosted by the country. The training was conducted as part of the NATO Civilians Pre-Deployment Course held March 21-28.

the field in a tracked troop carrying vehicle – the **shake, rattle and roll**. If you have never been in one, this is a real treat. It is a lot like an amusement park ride without any visual cues or references. Needless to say, helmets are mandatory equipment for the ride since your head will get a good shake or two along the way.

For more information see the NATO Civilians Pre-Deployment Course website : www.predeploymentcourse.com

Story by Mr. Josef Nawrat

Civilian Reorganization: How HR can help

With Heidelberg closing, your friendly Civilian HR Staff in Building 8 are here to help. Every civilian staff member who wishes to be retained in NATO needs to find a job elsewhere.

We can help by getting you entered into the Clearing House for priority consideration for posts at your same level. When you find a post of interest, you fill out the required applications and forms and, if you desire, we are available to look through it to make recommendations for improvement if any are

needed.

Regardless, if you don't wish to avail yourself of our input on the application, the full package should be submitted by our HR office to the gaining unit. In this way, we can keep track of the status of the applications. When it comes time for interviewing, we can also help prepare you with rehearsal questions, should you so desire.

Other than the paperwork going through the HR office, the other options is just to help you strengthen your chances for getting selected.

Your HR Staff is available to you free of charge. And – most importantly: the assistance to apply for a civilian position is also offered to military members of the HQ – should anyone of you consider to change from "uniform" to "civilian" clothes – stop by.

Story by Mr. Josef Nawrat

Spring Ball honors time together in Allied Force Command Heidelberg



Colleagues Sgt. Chef Monique Dethal and Adj. Peter Mondelears dance to one of the songs played by Happyness Voice and Brassband during Allied Force Command Heidelberg's annual Spring Ball held May 24th.

Allied Force Command Heidelberg maxed out attendance for its Spring Ball May 24th.

Candles lighted the path in Heidelberg Castle through a receiving line and created an elegant ambience worthy of the finely dressed attendees. After a warm greeting by the hosts, spouses and selected guests received a freshly cut rose that hinted of the exciting events to come.

"It is a privilege and honor to work and serve with each of you and your nations," said Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III, Allied Force Command Heidelberg's commanding general. "Tonight is a night to celebrate the success of our nations, to sit back and to enjoy each other's company."

Lt. Gen. Morgan and Chief Warrant Officer Mark Saulnier, the command sergeant major each paid tribute to all the people that had made the night so special noting, in particular the great turn-out of noncommissioned officers and the organizers from the Forward Support Element.

In the grand dining room, guests

took their places at tables filled with flowers, more candles, glasses and bottles of wine and sparkling water. The courteous staff served from a menu that included prosciutto, tortellini, beef and a delicious desert of fresh strawberries with white mousse.



Maj. Jose Chaves-Bermejo and his wife (on left) and Lt. Col Luis Quintas-Gil and his wife (on right) with Allied Force Command Heidelberg get ready to enjoy the headquarters' annual Spring Ball held at Heidelberg Castle, May 24th.

The Commander and his wife opened the dance floor with the Happyness Voice and Brassband providing musical entertainment.

"It was fantastic altogether. I absolutely loved it," said Tanja Niks secretary of the NATO Spouse's Club. "The band was tremendous and professional. Every musical



The "Happyness Voice and Brassband" provided music for the Allied Force Command Heidelberg Spring Ball 2012 held at the Heidelberg Castle, May 24th.



Capt. Bernard West talks with Heidelberg City Councilman Ernest Gund during Allied Force Command Heidelberg's annual Spring Ball held May 24th at Heidelberg Castle.

number was like the original. The mood was good and the reception on the terrace was like a beautiful summer island night."

Dancing, dining, and socializing continued well into the evening ending on a caution to travel home safe and enjoy the long weekend.

One spouse, Becky Riding, the mother of five children, described her evening. "It was so nice, the rose, the food, the music and not having to worry about anything. It was a lot of fun."

Written by FCHD Public Affairs
Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney

Belgian Charity Concert



The Belgian military community of Heidelberg and the NATO Headquarters want to say thank you to the city of Heidelberg and the German community for all the beautiful years they have spent here. Therefore Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos will organize a charity concert on Jun. 14th at 8:00 pm at the Kongresshaus Stadthalle Heidelberg.

The Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides will perform together with Soprano Mrs. Eva Lebherz-Valentin classical works from Brahms, Hindemith, Tschaikovski, Ravel, Linette , and many others.

Costs for civilians are dependent upon the seat location with prices at 25 Euros, 18 Euros or 12 Euros. Civilians are to pay at the ticket booth prior to entry or by Zigarren Grimm in Heidelberg – Sofienstraße 11.

Costs for Allied Force Command service members and their guests are also based on seat location with prices at 15 Euros, 10 Euros and 5 Euros as these tickets are partially sponsored by the Morale Welfare Association.

You can buy your tickets from Staff Sgt. Monique Dethal at ISK, just give a call for an appointment : phone 5943

The concert hall's address is Neckarstaden 24, 69114 Heidelberg

Parking lots are located at the following addresses:

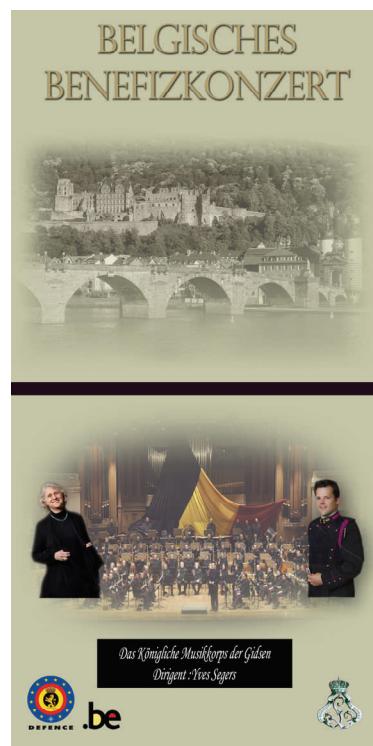
Parking Number 8, Engelblock,
Untere Neckarstrasse 44, 69117
Heidelberg

Parking Number 6, Kraus,
Untere Neckarstrasse 2, 69117
Heidelberg

Please join us for a very special evening and enjoy a highly famous Symphonic band together with all your family and friends.



*Soprano
Eva Lebherz-Valentin*



*Director
Yves Segers*

Training Events

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>
12-14 JUN	SHAPE FC HD Closure Workshop
14 JUN	Belgian Charity Concert
20-22 JUN	Noble Ledger Land Component Command Training

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
27 JUN 09:30 – 11:30 hrs	FSC Brunch	Campbell Barracks 31 Middle

*Our next monthly newsletter is scheduled
for publication in September.
Please stay tuned for our special summer edition.*

For Your Entertainment

Horticultural Show:

Kaiserslautern, 1 Apr-31 Oct; weekdays 9am-7pm; weekends/holidays 10am-7pm

<http://www.gartenschau-kl.de/service-1/opening-hours>

<http://www.gartenschau-kl.de/dinosaurs>

2012 Wine Fests:

<http://www.pfalz-weinfeste.de/>

<http://www.pfalz.de/en>

<http://www.pfalz.de/app/>

Heidelberg Zoo:

Summer opening hours: daily 9am-7pm

<http://www.zoo-heidelberg.de/information-in-english>

Sinsheim Auto & Technik Museum:

M-F 9am-6pm; Sat & Sun 9am-7pm;

www.sinsheim.technik-museum.de

Speyer Technik Museum:

M-F 9am-6pm; Sat & Sun 9am-7pm;

www.speyer.technik-museum.de

Heidelberg outdoor/indoor pools:

<http://www.heidelberger-stadtwerke.de/baeder/Home/Baeder.html>

http://www.heidelberger-stadtwerke.de/baeder/Home/Baeder/7242_FL_Freibad_Neuauflage_Ansicht.pdf (flyer with locations and opening hours)

Dates to Remember:

Heidelberg:

22-24 Jun – Smart Beach Cup:

beach volleyball tournament on the Neckarwiese (Neckar River banks)

www.smart-beach-tour.de

Heidelberg on Skates:

Mon, 11 Jun (inclement weather date 18 Jun) and Mon, 9 Jul (inclement weather date 16 Jul)

www.rhein-neckar-skater.de

Start: Parking lot, Tiergarten Schwimmbad, Im Neuenheimer Feld, 7:30 pm

Two laps of 30 km; complete protection required (helmet, elbow, knee and hand protection); police escorts; sweep busses available for those who cannot finish.

G-A Friendship Concert with the USAREUR Band & Chorus :

7 Jul, 8:30pm

Heidelberg Castle:

free admission, Cog wheel train (€4) uphill leaves from Kornmarkt station every ten minutes – last downhill trip, however, is 8:23pm.

Rallye Heidelberg Historic

www.heidelberg-historic.de

12-14 Jul

Dates for Heidelberg Castle Illumination:

14 Jul, 1 Sep - 10:15pm



Sports:

Handball, German Federal League (Bundesliga)

Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs Bergischer HC, 2 Jun, 4:30pm

SAP Arena

Tickets: <https://tickets.saparena.de>

will alternate broadcasting live

http://www.uefa.com/MultimediaFiles/Download/competitions/EURO/01/76/11/53/1761153_DOWNLOAD.pdf

<http://www.london2012.com/schedule-and-results/>



Soccer Bundesliga

Summer break – league games resume late August

Rhein-Neckar-Stadium, Sinsheim, off A6

www.achtzehn99.de/tickets-online-kaufen

Formula 1

Hockenheim Race Track, 20-22 Jul

<https://www.hockenheimring.net/ticketshop>

<http://www.hockenheimring.net/formel-1>



European Soccer Cup 2012

8 Jun – 1 Jul 12

Venues: Poland & Ukraine

German TV stations ARD & ZDF

Summer Olympics 2012

27 Jul – 12 Aug 12

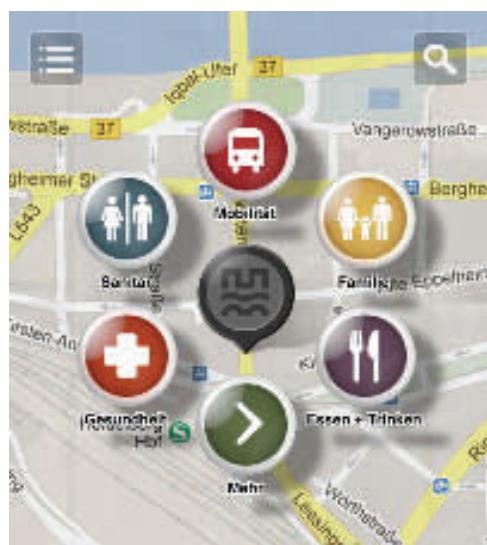
Venue: London

German TV stations ARD & ZDF will alternate broadcasting live

Logos from official website

"My Heidelberg": The App

The screenshot shows the official website for the "meinHeidelberg" app. At the top left is a logo featuring a stylized building and water. To its right, the text "mein Heidelberg" is written in red and black. Below the logo is a map snippet showing a street view with bus stops and route numbers (22, 35) and times (1 min). To the right of the map is a text box: "Der offizielle Begleiter auf Ihrem Smartphone." Below this is a note: "Kostenfreier Download für Android und iPhone". Underneath are icons for "Android (Google Play)" and "iPhone (Apple iTunes)".



The town of Heidelberg is presenting a new service for citizens: the mobile app "My Heidelberg." The official Heidelberg app offers users a comprehensive service of smart phones, and indicates, for example, the location of the nearest playground or glass container, or when the bins are emptied. A special feature of the app: All information is automatically matched to the user's location - in the form of the nearest bus stops with their next departure times.

Additionally, messages can be easily sent to the city government while you are in and around the city.

"We want to offer citizens the best service, and now also mobile. The Heidelberg-app combines important information and can answer questions quickly and easily. Users can directly contact the city council, send photos and give suggestions," said Heidelberg's mayor Dr. Eckart Würzner at the launch of the app.

"The smart phone users - and these are now nearly a quarter of all Germans - expect mobile apps that are easy to use and provide a tangible benefit. You will not navigate via lists, but intuitively on a card and related to their own location. The user does so at a glance with what facilities are in its vicinity - including theaters, restaurants and bus stops. Thus, the Heidelberg-app raises a

welcome change from many other apps," said Sovanta AG Executive Board Professors Dr. Claus E. Heinrich.

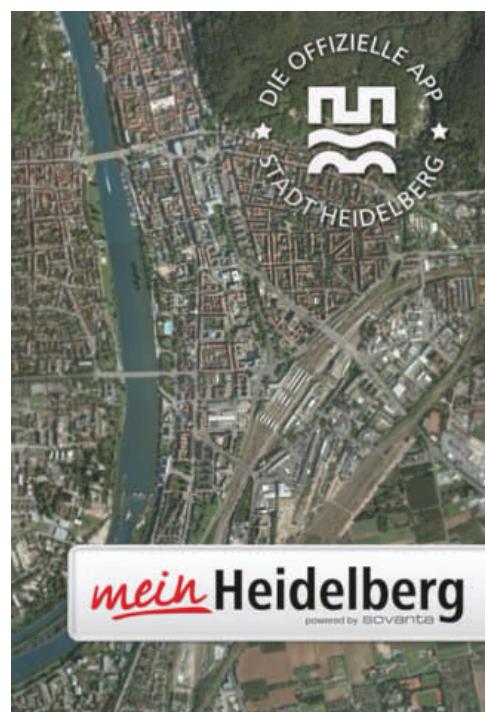
If you click on the envelope, a dialog window will open with a direct connection to the city council. If you are angry for example, over a pile of rubble on the bike path, you can photograph it and send the message immediately. The locations are - if the phone is activated with GPS tracking - automatically included. A special feature is the balloon marker that lets you "fly" to any place in Heidelberg, and there you can look for a restaurant or the nearest pharmacy.

The app already offers a wide range of services to be expanded in the future.

"We have many great ideas that can be integrated into the app, for example, a barrier-free city guides and current events," stated Würzner.

We would like suggestions from the users.

The app "My Heidelberg" is available for free in the App Store or Google to download and works on all iPhones and Android phones - and two-thirds of all smart phones. For more information, visit www.meinheidelberg.de.



NATO Spouses Club members visit City of Three Cultures



NATO Spouses Club visit the St Peter's Cathedral, in Worms, the inner city's highest elevation April 24th, 2012.

In late April, Tanja Niks, the national representative of the Netherlands, invited the ladies of the NATO Spouses Club for a guided tour in Worms. Thirty-two ladies responded to the invitation and in two groups they visited this medieval city. Worms is famous for being the main scene of the Nibelungenlied, a Luther city, and for its cathedral.

The spouses visited the St Peter's Cathedral, the inner city's high-

est elevation, that was predominantly built in the Romanesque style but has since been remodeled and extended in several architectural periods.

Attendees also saw the oldest surviving gravestone in the 'Holy Sands', the oldest existing Jewish cemetery of Europe, and the world's largest Reformation memorial, the Luther Memorial.

The ladies also discovered where *Liebfrauenmilch* wine literally has its roots.

After saying goodbye to their guide they went to a restaurant for lunch. They all agreed that they will come back to Worms to see, hear and learn more about this city.

Article by Hedwig Huybrechts

NATO Spouses Club Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENTS
12 JUN	Boat trip Neckar + Lunch

You can participate in each activity as a member or guest.

Costs for each of our activities: €10 for members and €16 for guests.

If you want to participate in one of our activities you can send me an E-mail,
so I can send you an invitation with more details.

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