

AFRICOM FRG Committee April 16, 2015 Meeting Recap



TOP STORY: Starting in April, the First Friday events that are held at the Kelley Club will now be a combination AFRICOM-wide Hail and Farewell, open to all directorates, and First Friday celebration. The formal portion of the event (H&F) will begin at 16:00 followed by the more relaxed First Friday social hour.

Commandant's Report: LTC Troy Alexander

- Due to an impending move Mary Stewart has resigned as AFRICOM FRG Leader. She has served in this volunteer capacity for the past 33 months. Nominations of those who may be interested in serving in this position are requested. Co-leaders are also acceptable. Please send nominations for this position to LTC Alexander and Ginny Rodriguez. In the interim, Mary Ann Hoppa and Stacey Meyer offered to assist with FRG Leader duties.
- UPDATE: The renovation of the old bank building on Kelley, which will be used as a multi-purpose center, is ongoing. The carpet has been removed and new floors are being installed. Expect that the renovation work will be completed this summer (2015). The Commandant's office will maintain a calendar for the services that will be provided from this location, including, but not limited to FRG events, USO events, etc.

Ginny Rodriguez, AFRICOM Commander's spouse:

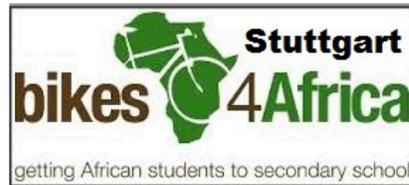
- New FRG center on Kelley – She noted it is totally gutted and suggested, *"If there's a day when everyone is willing to roll up their sleeves, I think we will get people to help. I do want to see it up and running by this summer,"* said Ginny. Further conversation on this topic entailed whether a wireless connection could be installed so family members may search helpful sites while in the FRG center. LTC Alexander noted computer stations will be installed.
- Kelley Club – Ginny stated, *"We need to help them stay afloat. We are trying to come up with one or two AFRICOM events a month to bring in business. Thus, try to encourage people in your directorate to attend the monthly Hail and Farewell events. Or maybe pick one day a week and have lunch or dinner there with your spouse."*
- She again reminded all to register in VMIS (Volunteer Management Information System) For more information: <http://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/volunteering/vmis/vmishome.aspx>. If you need assistance with registering in the Stuttgart VMIS system, contact Andy Mueller, Army Community Service volunteer coordinator: Robert.a.mueller.civ@mail.mil. Keep in mind that Andy cannot upload a volunteer's hours into VMIS unless he/she is registered in the VMIS system.

IMPORTANCE OF TRACKING VOLUNTEER HOURS: it demonstrates a garrison NEED for funds to support a program. If no funds are available and a garrison did not have volunteer support, which is never guaranteed, military families would not have access to a particular program/level of support.

- Clothing for orphanage - Thank you again to Tom Turnbull of the J2 who purchased many boxes of clothing from the Patch Thrift Shop and mailed a second box to the orphanage at his own expense. *"Let's keep that momentum alive, we can be resourceful and help them. If kids have sports team jersey's from past seasons those shirts would be appreciated,"* Ginny said. A comment was made about asking Patch High School for any of its team shirts as the school will change its name to Stuttgart High School starting in fall 2015. (NOTE: At the February meeting Ginny reported that a colonel and his wife who are stationed there regularly visit an orphanage in that area. The children at the orphanage are in need of clothing. AFRICOM family members interested in sending clothing donations must cover the cost of postage.)

Rotary Club bicycle donation program for students in Africa:

The Stuttgart International Rotary Club is asking for support for its annual bike donation program. This program supports children living in a township of Plettenberg, South Africa. The bikes will make it easier for children to get to school, which is often miles away. They are primarily seeking bikes for school-aged children, but will accept bikes for adults, too. Once in country the bikes are distributed by the NGO Born in Africa (www.BorninAfrica.org). Bikes may be dropped off at the former thrift shop on Robinson Kaserne anytime before June 27.



NEXT COLLECTION DATE: Saturday, April 25 on Patch Kaserne, bike donations will be accepted at the Chapel parking lot from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. It is requested that they be in good condition. Final collection date/time: June 27 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the International School in Degerloch. NOTE: No bike helmets or pumps will be accepted. For more information: www.facebook.com/Bicycles4AfricaStuttgart.com or contact Juanita Harvin 0152-529-516-34 or harvinj@gmail.com

Upcoming events:

- **All Hands Annual Recognition Ceremony May 8.** This event will recognize annual award winners and serve as the 4th Quarter Awards Ceremony. It will be held at the Kelley Gym from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. Directorate representatives are urged to submit names of volunteers in their organization who may be worthy of recognition at this event.
- **Army Ball June 13.** Further information will be forthcoming. AFRICOM POC for the ball is LTC Matt Blatt richard.m.blatt.mil@mail.mil / phone: 4907117293753.
- **AFRICOM Olympics August 7, 2015.** Location: Kelley Barracks (Copper Field) The J3 has the lead for this event. They will begin conducting various fundraising opportunities shortly.

Find us on the web:

FRG section of Commandant's page on AFRICOM website: <http://www.africom.mil/about-the-command/directorates-and-staff/j031-hq-commandant> or send us an email: usafricomfrg@gmail.com.

Next AFRICOM FRG meeting:

Thursday, May 7, 2015. Time: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Location: AFRICOM HQ, Commander's Mess, Kelley Kaserne. **All AFRICOM family members are invited to attend.**

-END-

Masthead photos source: AFRICOM Public Affairs Office web page