



(Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)



(Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, DMC Public Affairs Office)

Poster/essay contest winners

Winners of the U.S. Army Garrison Italy Antiterrorism Awareness Month poster and essay contest were congratulated and honored Oct. 5 at the Info-X on Caserma Ederle. Above left, from left: USAG Italy Commander Col. Steve Marks, U.S. Army Africa Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Kenneth Moore and Cindy Brown, AAFES store manager, pose for a photo with the winners: Lillian Russell, Annika Vredenburg, Grace Hudson-Pineda and Sofia Pasion. Above right: The Camp Darby winners could not be present at the Info-X but were celebrated nonetheless. From left, David Leinberger, deputy garrison manager; seventh-graders Ely Alvis and Tyge Larry; Kenneth Kirk, Livorno school principal; and Antonio Phodora, AAFES Manager, pose for a picture after a ceremony to recognize the two students who took part in the contest. AAFES donated \$100 gift certificates to the winners.

What everyone should know about flood claim procedures

By **Julie Evans**
Claims Office

VICENZA -- Severe thunderstorms in spring and fall can bring heavy rains to Vicenza, and intense rainfall over a short time can lead to flooding.

While people cannot control weather conditions, we can take precautions to protect personal property from severe flood damage.

During periods of heavy rainfall, basements and other low-lying areas may become flooded. Avoid damage in the future by storing property off basement floors (e.g., on shelves or wooden pallets) and out of low-lying areas. When driving, remember that two feet of water can carry away most vehicles, so be aware and never drive through a flooded roadway.

If a flood does cause property damage at on- or off-post quarters, Department of Defense military and civilian person-

nel may be compensated for damaged personal property through the local Military Claims Office.

Soldiers and civilians have two years from the incident date to file a claim. However, those who wait the full two years may have difficulty substantiating losses and significantly reduce the likelihood of compensation.

The following information will help ensure the claim is properly adjudicated.

Photos: Be sure to take photos of the damage. Take photos or video of the flooded area, if safe to do so. After water recedes, take photos of the high water mark. Take photos of every damaged item and any container used for its storage.

Mitigate loss: Claimants have a duty to take all necessary steps in order to minimize damage. Simply stated, be sure to clean, disinfect and dry everything that got wet. The Military Claims Office may not be able to provide com-

ensation for items that could have been salvaged through mitigation. Use of large fans may speed the drying process and stop mold development.

Notify: Anyone with private insurance coverage, notify the insurance company immediately. Some private renters', homeowners' or personal property insurance will cover flood damage. Before the Military Claims Office can adjudicate a claim, regulations require that claimants first file with private insurers.

Substantiation: Document damaged property. Gather all information about your personal property including purchase receipts or credit card transactions, each individual item's replacement value, steps you took to salvage the property (e.g., cleaning bills), and an explanation for why you did not keep certain property (e.g., it was covered with mold and presented a health hazard).

Include all available photographs of the property before damage, after damage,

and after mitigation attempts. The more specific and detailed the information, the better. Finally, contact the Vicenza Claims Office to schedule a claims loss and damage inspection.

Retention: Do not immediately throw away items that appear to be damaged. Remember, mitigation and substantiation. In particular, the more expensive the item, the better it is to keep it until the claim is settled. In some cases, claimants may be able to place the item on a balcony or in a garage/carport.

However, if the item appears to be a health hazard, photograph and document the state of the item and contact the Vicenza Claims Office before throwing it away.

For more information on flood damage claims procedures, contact the Claims Office in Building 241 on Caserma Ederle, or call DSN 637-8831/32, comm. 0444-61-8831/32 and ask to speak with a member of the claims team.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month brings activities, lessons to community

By **Capt. H. Hannon**
509th Signal Battalion

VICENZA -- Autumn is the time of year that brings to mind pumpkin spice lattes, candy and trick-or-treating. This month, there is one trick nobody hopes to experience: a breach in cybersecurity.

Observed across the Department of Defense, October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and is designed to raise awareness of cyber risks and educate the community about safe cyber practice.

Daniel Jackson, chief of cybersecurity, 509th Signal Battalion, is leading this year's cyber awareness program across the United States Army Garrison Italy community. The 509th uses this month as an opportunity to educate the community on the threat of cyber-attacks and steps community members can take to secure their networks.

Though the "Small but Mighty" 509th secures the Army's cyber assets throughout the region, cybersecurity is the responsibility of every Department of the Army civilian, Soldier, contractor and family member.

The battalion's awareness plan includes a four-phase strategy: leadership awareness, individual awareness, collective training, and home and family cybersecurity.

The focus for the first half of October was phases I and II; teaching safe and secure practices to our community



Signal Soldiers from 509th Signal Battalion conduct vulnerability scans on the community's local network.

(Courtesy photo)

leaders. In association with U.S. Army Europe, trainers from 509th offered two classes to leaders across the garrison about the importance of cybersecurity and appropriate procedures for mitigating vulnerabilities. Individual awareness included various community events and activities, one of which was hosted at Vicenza High School. At the school, students created and filmed vid-

eos related to social media and cell phone security. Videos were judged by 509th Commander Lt. Col. Brent Skinner, and the winning team's video will air on AFN Vicenza and YouTube.

At Vicenza Middle School, students had the opportunity to participate in a poster contest. Students designed and created posters to illustrate the importance of social media and cell phone security. The contest winner will receive an AAFES gift card, and the runner-up will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

Posters will also be displayed throughout the Vicenza Middle School to share the message with students, teachers and families.

Finally, the 509th Cyber Security Team taught community members the importance of securing their smartphones, iPads and laptops by conducting a "simulated wireless scan" of unprotected cellular devices.

Scanning devices were set up in front of the Caserma Ederle Post Exchange Oct. 18 to teach community members the importance of securing personal electronic devices. Along with the demonstration, the 509th's Cyber Security Team taught community members how to secure devices and protect against identity theft.

It is critical that everyone know cybersecurity is a team responsibility. Through awareness and education, the entire community can increase readiness by preventing cyber attacks.