

School boards impact USAFE policy

by Jennifer Doran
USAFE School Liaison Office

Little victories led to giant accomplishments for USAFE School Advisory Boards during School Year 2003-04. USAFE SAB members and meeting attendees achieved unprecedented success at the local level. Two issues commanded enough attention to result in high level policy changes.

In the Kaiserslautern Military Community, a parent questioned the fairness of the Department of Defense Education Activity policy for accepting weighted grades on student transcripts from high schools in other school systems. The policy in question had a negative consequence on transfer students' GPA and class ranking. The issue was elevated through the school and military advisory council chains

and resulted in a DoDEA policy change for the transfer of weighted grades.

In the past, Lakenheath schools' attendance policy only required notification of parents after 2 days of continuous absence. Effectively, a child could be absent and the parent might not know until the end of the day. Last Spring, the Lakenheath SAB championed the issue and local commanders implemented a new policy. Now parents notify their child's school of planned absences, and, in turn, the school notifies parents the morning of an unreported absence. The policy is in the process of being implemented USAFE-wide, and is under consideration at the EUCOM level.

Other SAB progress:

The Aviano SAB partnered with AAFES to provide a healthier school lunch menu after parents raised con-

cerns. The Incirlik SAB secured funds to refurbish the school's track to integrate USAFE Combat and Special Interest Programs into the school culture. The Aviano SAB secured a safe site for parents to drop off their children away from the bus path, allowing children to move directly to the sidewalk without hindering bus flow.

As evidenced in the first issue discussed above, one person can engage a community to change dependent education policies. SABs are a vital part of the educational process to ensure today's youth realize their potential as tomorrow's leaders.

The Lajes SAB was recently formed and consists of three parents and one teacher. The board will be trained by Sue Mills, USAFE School Liaison officer, next week. For more information, call Monica Chandler-Potts at 2-1314.

Back-to-school party



Emily Alves, daughter of Graca and Master Sgt. Roger Alves, skates during the 'back to school' skating party Saturday at the skating rink. (Photo by Airman Josie Kemp)

Overseas fuel price changes

by Maj. David Accetta
AAFES Europe Public Affairs

MAINZ-KASTEL - While fuel prices in the Azores and Turkey remain unchanged based on a fixed price one-year contract, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service has price changes that went into effect Sept. 1.

AAFES is committed to providing the fairest pump prices possible for its customers. Due to fluctuations in the price of oil worldwide and its effect on fuel prices in the United States, customers will see a decrease in gas prices in Germany and the United Kingdom for September.

Customers in the Netherlands will have to pay 10-cents more per gallon of gasoline this month due to AAFES' DoD-approved pricing policy that prohibits selling fuel below cost.

Diesel customers in the UK and Germany will see a 9-cent increase while the increase in the Netherlands is 24-cents.

AAFES' current pricing policy is based on the previous month's four-week Department of Energy average across the United States and customers will find prices at the pumps in Germany and the United Kingdom that correspond to prices

in the U.S.

According to *OPISnet.com*, the Oil Pricing Information Service, gas prices in the U.S. are fluctuating slightly but there is an increased demand for diesel and a stilted supply. *OPISnet.com* reports that diesel prices will likely continue to go up at most pumps. That is because their wholesale diesel costs jumped much more than retail prices.

Diesel prices have reached new record levels in many parts of the country.

According to AAA's Media Site for Retail Gas Prices, the US nation-wide average diesel price was \$1.907 per gallon Aug. 27 and the highest recently recorded price.

The Department of Energy reports that diesel is up more than \$0.37 since this time last year and the US average was \$1.87 per gallon last week and is going up slightly.

The nation's high price for diesel fuel was in California at \$2.15 per gallon. Comparatively, diesel fuel on the local economy last week in Germany was \$4.51 per gallon, \$4.41 per gallon in Holland and \$5.58 per gallon in the United Kingdom according to the International Road Transport Union's web site.