

Katterbach Protestant Strengthens Community Ties



Chaplain (Major) Curtis Sutherland (2nd from left) and Specialist Jocelyn Johnson (right) stand with Dr. Roland Oeser, Lord Mayor of Schwabach (center).



Katterbach Protestant congregants enjoy a display highlighting that 2 ounces of gold can be flattened to an equivalent of 4 square meters.

Summary: On 27 August 2015 members of USAG Ansbach Religious Support Office and Katterbach Protestant Congregation (KPC) ventured out to the Upper Bavarian city of Schwabach. Schwabach has a fascinating history with gold leaf as well as the U. S. Army. The first known craftsmen in the region were monks and the first recorded gold beater on record in Nuremberg was in 1373 (www.blattgold.eu). KPC visited the Schwabach City Museum, which houses several exhibits: 1) the *Goldschläger* (goldbeater) museum; 2) a vast decorative egg collection that includes a stunning *Fabergé* egg; and 3) a WWII era U. S. Army barracks. The U. S. Army occupied O'Brien Barracks from 1945 until 1992. Stars and Stripes published an article in 2013 highlighting Schwabach's relationship with the U. S. Army, which can be found at URL: <http://www.stripes.com/schwabach-germany-wwii-history-unfolds-through-artifacts-and-displays-1.250318>. Our German guides, Renate and Christine, long-time residents pictured above, arranged the tours, lunch at Gasthof Goldener Stern, established in medieval times, and an exclusive visit with Dr. Oeser, Lord Mayor of Schwabach (above). The Katterbach Protestant Congregation is one way the Religious Support Office supports the USAG Ansbach Garrison Commander's Lines of Effort 1 *Mission Command*, 3 *Community Support*, and 4 *Ready and Resilient*.

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