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Health Center completes another phase of transformation

The Heidelberg Medical Department Activity commemorated two historic milestones – the birth of the last baby born at the Heidelberg Hospital and the hospital’s re-designation as the Heidelberg Health Center – during a ceremony July 21 at Nachrichten Kaserne.

“There are very few people who make history the minute they’re born,” said Col. Kyle D. Campbell, Heidelberg Health Center commander. “But Kameron Burgie is one of them.”

Pfc. Brandi Burgie, a Standard Army Maintenance System - Enhanced Clerk who works for 7th Signal Brigade in Mannheim, gave birth to Kameron, who weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces, on June 28. She and her husband, Emmett, are the last couple to have a baby delivered at the Heidelberg Hospital.

“I never expected this,” said Burgie. “I knew there were three other women who were going to deliver at the hospital, but I never thought I’d be the last one.”

As part of the HMEDDAC’s transformation, expectant mothers with a due date before July 1 delivered at the Heidelberg Hospital while mothers with a due date beyond July 1 were referred to local German providers for their prenatal and delivery care.

According to Campbell, the health center staff maintains contact with the expectant mothers who have been referred to German providers and they survey them periodically to ensure all of their health care needs are being met.

“Our recent surveys have shown that our expectant mothers are overwhelmingly happy with the care they’re receiving from our German partners,” said Campbell.

The second half of the ceremony was dedicated to commemorating the re-designation of the Heidelberg Hospital to the Heidelberg Health Center. The HMEDDAC has been transforming since January as part of the transformation of U.S. Army Europe.

“As Soldiers move back to the States or to points east and west in Europe, the population in the Heidelberg footprint has drawn down significantly,” said Campbell. “As a result, our rate of births and our daily inpatient cases have dropped significantly and continuously over the past several years.”

As part of the transformation, some services will now be referred to local German hospitals.

“With this current step we now rely exclusively on our outstanding local German hospitals and facilities to provide our patients with medical and surgical inpatient services, to include the delivery of all our babies,” said Campbell.

The Heidelberg Health Center will continue to provide services such as Same-Day Orthopedics, Gynecology and General Surgery services as well as Primary Care to include Family Practice, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Optometry and Physical Therapy.

“While our name has changed, the high quality of care we provide and coordinate has not,” said Campbell. “Ensuring our patients receive the care they deserve will always be our top priority.”