

# WWE wrestling stars visit wounded at Landstuhl

*By Steve Mraz, Stars and Stripes*

*Mideast edition, Thursday, December 8, 2005*

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Triple H and a pair of World Wrestling Entertainment “divas” approached the hospital bed of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Michael Larson on Tuesday night at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

The muscle-bound wrestler asked Larson where he was injured. Larson said he was wounded in Fallujah, prompting one of the divas to ask, “Where’s that?”

“Iraq,” said Triple H, which stands for Hunter Hearst-Helmsley.

WWE Chairman Vince McMahon, Big Show, Triple H, Ashley and Candice Michelle were just a few of the wrestling stars who visited wounded troops Tuesday at Landstuhl.

The 6-foot-4-inch, 265-pound Triple H said visiting the injured troops is the least the wrestlers could do.

“They’re fighting for our freedom, our way of life and for the betterment of the world,” said Triple H, whose real name is Paul Michael Levesque.

Walking through the halls at Landstuhl, the 7-foot-1-inch, 480- pound Big Show had to duck to get through doorways and caused more than one passerby to do a double take upon seeing the behemoth. Big Show, whose real name is Paul Wight, said he told the wounded troops that there are many people back home who love the servicemembers.

“People like me definitely appreciate all the stuff they do,” he said.

After touring the wards, the wrestlers were hit up for pictures and autographs by hospital staff. Some even had their hospital scrubs signed by the wrestlers.

Of all the big-wigs who have visited Landstuhl, the wrestlers were the tops for Spc. J.B. Cui, who works in patient administration at the hospital.

“For me, since I’m their biggest fan, they’re No. 1,” he said.

The wrestlers are scheduled to visit troops in Afghanistan later this week before taping a wrestling event there that will be aired Dec. 19 on the USA Network.



*Steve Mraz / S&S*  
WWE wrestler Triple H signs the cast of an injured servicemember Tuesday night at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Triple H and several other WWE wrestlers stopped at Landstuhl before flying to Afghanistan to entertain the troops there.



*Steve Mraz / S&S*  
Triple H signs the scrubs of a Landstuhl Regional Medical Center employee Tuesday night.



*Steve Mraz / S&S*  
WWE wrestler "Big Show" talks with Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Michael Larson on Tuesday night at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.



*Steve Mraz / S&S*  
WWE performers "Coach" and "Ashley" visits Army Spc. Noah Bailey Tuesday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.