

Charlie 2-6 deploys

By Ignacio "Iggy"
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222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The soldiers of C Company, 2-6 Infantry Battalion deployed March 18 from Baumholder in support of the then potential war in Iraq. The company deployed for duty in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility for an undetermined period.

"We have been called to do our duty in the defense of freedom and the global war on terrorism. Each and everyone of us will be called upon sacrifice and experience hardships that cannot be foreseen," said Maj. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander in an address to the soldiers and families during the farewell ceremony.

"Our deployment is for an indefinite period of time and we will be deploying into an unforgiving environment that will demand iron discipline from every leader and every soldier. I have no doubt that every soldier in Charlie 2-6 Infantry will answer this call to arms with distinction.

"You will carry the burden of the defense of American ideals in your shoulders. You will not fail. The fundamental values that are so important to our army will be a source of strength for you. Do not abandon them," he said.

Addressing the families of the soldiers Sanchez they too have been called upon to serve but he reassured them they would have all the support they would need to help them through the period that the soldiers were deployed.

"All of these soldiers that are standing before us in formation are about to deploy, but a significant part of the heart and soul of this

proud unit will remain in Baumholder, their families. To the families of Charlie 2-6 infantry, your task here will be formidable and you too have been called to sacrifice, you too have been called to do your duty and you too have been called to support your soldier. Just like your soldier, I know that you are strong and ready.

"You will fulfill your service to your country with a support team from your rear detachment, your family readiness groups, our base support battalions, and your own internal support organizations. And all of the great Army organizations that we have such as the Army Community Services, our Red Cross and other assets from our Army and our division," said Sanchez.

Emphasizing the importance of the support families would receive Sanchez added, "As your soldier relies on his friends at his side...you and your family can rely on a support structure that we have worked so hard to provide to you here in this community."

Addressing the soldiers once again he explained that their strength derived not just from their training but their families as well. "We do not know what the future holds for each one of us personally as we embark on this great journey. What we do know is that we will always rely on the strength that we derive from our families, our fellow soldiers, our training, and most importantly, our faith," he said.

As the ceremony came to a close the soldiers immediately began filing out of the Hall of Champions. Standing at the doorway, Sanchez and Col. J.D. Johnson, 2nd Brigade commander, personally shook each soldier's hand and wished them well as they departed Baumholder.



A family shares a group hug at the Hall of Champions before the departure ceremony of C, 2-6 Infantry Battalion.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava



Above, family members comfort their children and listen to Maj. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander, as he addresses the departing force. At right, Sanchez bids farewell to a departing soldier.

AFAP moves on

Fourteen issues emerged during Baumholder's Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 4 and 5. Of the fourteen issues six were deemed unattainable at the local level and were forwarded to the 104th Area Support Group for inclusion in their conference. Issues forwarded to the 104th ASG are:

- Authorization of second privately owned vehicle shipment;
 - AFN radio reception;
 - Overseas travel of noncustodial children;
 - Deduction of BAS;
 - Guidance Counselors in all DoDDs schools; and
 - Incentives for career soldiers.
- Issues that were deemed resolvable at the local level include:
- Pay as you go BAS;
 - Access to chaplains of all denominations;
 - Use of local/German Maneuver Training Areas;
 - Government sponsored civilian travel;
 - Improve internet access for barracks dwellers;
 - Youth access to information;

Support services

- Youth exchange program; and
 - School lunch variety.
- At the 104th ASG conference in Wiesbaden March 12, three of the five issues from Baumholder were submitted to IMA Europe for additional resolution. They are:
- Deduction of BAS;
 - Overseas travel of noncustodial children; and
 - Guidance counselors in all DoDDs schools.

Representing the Baumholder community was Beth Curran, AFAP coordinator and Sgt 1st Class Molly Coufal, 47th Forward Support Battalion family readiness liaison.

Emergency relief

The Army Emergency Relief Campaign is now under way and runs through May 15. Army Emergency Relief works to assist soldiers, retirees and family members in time of financial need. In addition, AER offers scholarship op-

portunities to spouses and dependents of active duty service members attending post-secondary, undergraduate education. AER receives no money from the military and relies on contributions from the community to continue the mission.

Contact your unit AER representative to contribute or contact AER at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Sun block

Several Baumholder volunteers assisted with wrapping more than 2,500 bottles of sunscreen to be shipped out to Camp Dahoe. Dubbed Operation Sun Block, the effort provided relief for the increased demand for sun block in the region. The request was sent out through the volunteer community and the Red Cross to step up and support this mission.

Relocation info

The relocation facility will be offering the following classes and meeting in the month of April.

- Newcomer's Orientation and Welcome class, April 7 – 9, 8:30 – 2:30 p.m. at the Army Community Service lounge
- Sponsorship Training, April

10 – 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the ACS conference room

● International Spouses' Club meeting, April 2 and 16, 10:30 a.m. – noon at the ACS lounge. Children are welcome.

Call Relocation at mil 485-8188 to sign up for any of these classes or meetings.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in the U.S. Army, highlighted by the annual national Blue Ribbon Campaign.

During April, the 222nd Base Support Battalion Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will continue the tradition of the Blue Ribbon Campaign. The Army's theme for this year is "Our Country, Our Children: Protecting Them Both."

While we focus our attention on protecting our country and our way of life we must also remember that our children are our greatest resource and we must always protect them. All members of the 222nd BSB community must take responsibility for keeping our children safe.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion

Family Advocacy Program has the following activities and events scheduled for the month of April:

● The Blue Ribbon Campaign will kickoff April 4th at 11 a.m. with a blue ribbon cutting ceremony at Army Community Service.

● Blue ribbons will be distributed in the schools, child development centers, and various locations throughout the community during the first week of April.

● The Family Advocacy Program will operate an information table at the Post Exchange April 1, 2, 15 and 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

● The Family Advocacy Program will sponsor a Blue Ribbon Campaign coloring contest for elementary school age children. The theme for the contest will be "Our Country, Our Children: Protecting Them Both." Dates for contest entry and judging will be announced.

● The Family Advocacy Program will participate in the annual Fun Fest, Child and Youth Service's grand event in honor of the Month of the Military Child and Week of the Young Child. This event will be held, April 26 at the Rheinlander Club.

● The Family Advocacy and New Parent Education and Support Programs, as always, are available to provide classes upon request for units, family readiness groups, professional organizations, and more on any prevention-related topic.



Andrew Opplinger, Casey Wojck, Robert Watson and Quindel Perkins assemble a cabinet at the new School Age Services facility.

Scouts assist new SAS

Andrew Oppliger of Boy Scout Troop 96 recently organized an Eagle Scout project that consisted of organizing \$300,000 worth of materials with the assistance of 20 other scouts and scout leaders.

The project included assembling shelves and cabinets and stocking those shelves and cabinets with toys and materials for the new Wetzel School Age Services building.

The project took three days to complete. During the first two days, soldiers from the 40th Engineers Battalion helped out by organizing the boxes of materials to be assembled and clearing out a work space in the basement of the Wetzel SAS. Then, the Scouts of Troop 96 descended upon the Wetzel SAS to assemble and stocked.

When they were finished they left behind a mountain of cardboard and a fully stocked and organized

Wetzel SAS store room.

The troop appreciates the assistance of several individuals who took time out to make a difference. They are:

- Sgt 1st Class Don Sparks
 - Mr. Cornell
 - Mr. Allen
 - Mr. Black
 - Sgt John and Molly Hlebik
 - Tim and Susan Oppliger
 - Natalie Oppliger
- The following scouts assisted with the project:
- Devin Cowans
 - Nick Dougan
 - Marc Groene
 - Quindel Perkins
 - Ignacio Suarez
 - Michael Walter
 - Robert Watson
 - Casey Wojcik
 - Nathan Wojcik
 - Chris Woods

Free training

The U.S. Army Europe Automation Training Program at Baumholder offers numerous Microsoft application and system security courses on a regular basis. Some of the training includes Microsoft Office Suite 2000; Information Assurance Computer Network Defense levels One, two and three; Windows 2000; and Information Management Officer Fundamentals.

Courses are open to soldiers, civilians working for USAREUR and family members. The classes are USAREUR funded and free to all eligible participants. The UATP is located in Building 8681. For more information call the center at mil 485-7402.

Bag sale

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop is offering a bag sale April 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fill a bag with merchandise and pay only \$2 while supplies last. The thrift shop is located on Smith Barracks next to the service mart in Building 8544, across from the post exchange. Its hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Consignment hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. For more information call mil 485-6653 or civ (06783) 6-6653.

Softball action

The 2003 unit level softball competition is just around the corner. The registration deadline for the preseason tournament is April 11. An alpha roster must be attached to the letter of intent and brought to the Sports Office. Only letters of intent obtained from the Sports Office will be accepted.

This year's softball calendar is as follows:

- April 26-27, preseason tournament, entry fee is \$50, \$75 after April 11;
- April 28, registration deadline for the regular season;
- May 14, regular season begins;
- July 21-24, 222nd Base Support Battalion championship;
- Aug. 2-3, 104th Area Support Group Championship at Baumholder; and
- Aug. 8-10, U.S. Army Europe Championship in Grafenwoehr.

For further information contact the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176

Yard sale

The semiannual Baumholder yard sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 10. The yard sale will be held in all Baumholder military hous-

Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Royal visit

Lt. Col. Todd Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander and Oberstleutnant (Lt. Col.) Jürgen Muhr, German Military Training Area commander, listen as Fasching Prince Dirk I and Princess Esther I (Dirk and Esther Kaps) explain to the commanders that they are being symbolically relieved of command during the Fasching season. Also present during the Fasching take over was Fasching Committee President Frank Meschenmoser.

ing areas and is open to U.S. identification card holders only. All property must be removed by 6 p.m. For more information contact the 222nd Base Support Battalion adjutant's office at mil 485-7533/6080.

Alcohol screening

National Alcohol Screening Day is April 10. Several members from the Baumholder CCC ASAP staff will be at the Shoppette from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. providing free alcohol screenings and assessments. Stop by and learn about some of the signs and symptoms that can trigger unhealthy use of alcohol.

VA briefing

A veterans administration benefits briefing is scheduled from 9-11 a.m. March 21 at Baumholder's Army Career and Alumni Program office. Learn about education benefits, VA home loan guarantees, disability compensation and more. For more information call mil 485-6330.

Job opening

The Baumholder Army Career and Alumni Program is seeking a full-time career counselor/workshop facilitator. A master's degree and minimum of two years in teaching/counseling/training is required. This is a tax deferred contract posi-

tion with RCI-Resource Consultants Inc. A U.S. identification card holder is preferred. Persons interested may send resumes to ericksenh@cmtyemail.26asg.army.mil. For more information call mil 483-7089 or civ (06301)411-7089.

Coaches, players

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for coaches and players for men and women Softball Teams. Coach resumes should be submitted to the Sports Office by April 1. For more information contact the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176.

Easter Brunch

The Rheinlander Club is holding Easter activities on April 20. Brunch begins at 10:30 a.m. Free activities are planned for young children in addition to the free Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt begins at 1 p.m. at the Rheinlander. In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be moved to the Hall of Champions. For more information call mil 485-7507.

Child Fun Fest

Baumholder's Child Fun Fest is April 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Rheinlander Club. Planned activities are suitable for children ages 2 to 11 years old and include a fire truck display, the Whopper Hop-

per, arts and crafts, face painting, and information booths for Education Developmental Intervention Services and Women, Infants and Children. Have your child bring a teddy to the Teddy Bear Clinic and the Baumholder Health Clinic will administer an exam, immunizations and castings for Teddy. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Learn to fly

A weekend introductory paragliding course is offered by Baumholder Outdoor Recreation. The course costs \$155 and includes three hours of classroom instruction, paragliding, transportation and gear. Course dates are scheduled for April 5-6 and 12-13. To participate, contact Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-7182.

Goju Lessons

Chinese Goju youth classes are held Mondays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at Neubrück Gym. The cost is \$30 each month and includes an official patch, testing, advancements, belts and certificates. Chinese Goju is a combination of hard and soft elements in karate and kung fu.

Swim classes

Baumholder Child and Youth Services offers swimming classes for children six months and older.

Classes offered include: Parent/Child Water Orientation for ages six months to three years; Preschool Swim Lessons for ages 3 to 5; and Level I, II, III, IV for ages 6 and up. Children can participate in synchronized swimming, water polo, stroke improvement and water safety. The cost is \$45 for eight classes. Classes are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Baumholder indoor swimming pool.

Pool tournaments

Rudy's on Strassburg Kaserne holds pool tournaments at 8 p.m. on the first and last Wednesdays of every month. Prizes will be awarded.

American pizza

Get real American pizza with thick crust at Rudy's in Baumholder. They make their dough fresh daily and deliver to the surrounding area. Get a made-to-order, piping hot 13-inch pizza for \$8 plus \$1 per topping. You can also dine-in at Rudy's. Dining hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6-10 p.m.

MWR Job Fair

Job seekers, opportunity awaits you at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Job Fair. The Rheinlander hosts this event on the second Wednesday of every month. The next fair is scheduled for April 9. Doors open from 9-10 a.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to fill out applications and receive interviews on site.

Youth clubs

Journalism Club

The Journalism Club is available to youth wishing to further develop their writing or journalism skills. Youth work with an advisor to produce and publicize their own internet newspaper, magazine and support the Automation Club with articles.

Automation Club

The main goal of the Automation Club is to enhance youth knowledge of computer and internet automation applications. Members learn to produce web pages, format HTML documents and how to trouble shoot hardware problems.

Audio/Video Club

Members of the Audio/Video Club support the Journalism Club with digital pictures or video of recreational, sporting or community events. They learn to produce digital video and audio tracks.

These three clubs will be responsible for submitting information for the planned Youth Services web page.

For more information call the Teen Café at mil 485-7062; the Underground at mil 485-6937; Strassburg Youth Services at mil 485-8625; Neubrück Youth Services at mil 485-7731; or Youth Services administration at mil 485-7276.

ACAP services

The Baumholder Army Community Alumni Program office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ACAP is also open during lunch to assist clients. Soldiers scheduled to separate can get information about their options at ACAP. ACAP offers preseparation briefings, job assistance workshops and job assistance counseling that can help soldiers review their options and assess how the skills developed in the Army can be transferred into civilian life. Soldiers can make appointments for ACAP services at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

Preseparation

Soldiers must complete a mandatory preseparation briefing at ACAP no later than 90 days before their estimated date of separation. Appointments are available every day at 9 a.m. and require approximately an hour and a half.

Job assistance

ACAP offers job assistance workshops and counseling to help with the transition from the military to the civilian job market. Two day workshops are offered by formal

Classes & training

instruction every other Tuesday. The next workshops are April 15 – 16 and 29 – 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Job assistance can also be accessed through ACAP's computer system and covers such topics as how to create a resume, find jobs, network, and interview. Clients can cover topics by computer at their own pace.

Call to schedule an appointment, or drop by any afternoon to work with ACAP's computer-based job assistance tools. For more information, call ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

The center is open during training holidays but customers are reminded that the center is closed one Thursday a month for training, from noon till close of business.

Spouses ACAP

Any family member of a soldier scheduled to separate is eligible to receive services from the Army Career and Alumni Program. Orders are not needed and the sponsor

does not have to be present for the spouse to attend ACAP classes or to receive assistance from ACAP counselors. Even if a soldier is deployed, spouses can still receive ACAP assistance in Baumholder.

ACAP offers job assistance workshops and professional counselors to help advise soldiers during the career transition process. Counselors will help clients think through issues such as a civilian budget, searching the job market, writing a resume, and preparing for job interviews. Take advantage of ACAP services now to begin planning for the future.

Call to schedule an appointment at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

See your VA rep

A Veterans Affairs representative visits Baumholder April 18 at 10 a.m. for a briefing. Soldiers contemplating retirement or retired veterans living in the community can contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at Landstuhl Regional

Medical Center for more information. That office is specifically geared to help soldiers on an MEB. The office is located at LRMC in Building 3700, Room 214. For more information call mil 486-7781.

Learn German

Register now for the Adult Education courses Conversational German I and II, Conversational Italian I, and Cooking and Cake Decorating at the Baumholder Army

Education Center. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for more information.

Register now

Registration is now in-progress for the next college semester at Baumholder's Army Education Center, in Building 8323. A full schedule of classes is available. Stop in for a schedule today.

Teachers needed

Baumholder's Adult Education Program is looking for teachers for the Conversational German and Sign Language programs. Those

interested should call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for more information.

Loan repayment

Soldiers who participated in the Army's Loan Repayment Program and enlisted after Jan. 5, 2001, may be eligible to enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill Education Program. See an education counselor today to see if you qualify.

Earn your degree

Now is the time to plan your college schedule. Visit an educational counselor at Baumholder's Army Education Center, located in Building 8332. Complete all your general education requirements at Baumholder.

Tuition assistance

Army tuition assistance now pays 100 percent of tuition expenses for soldiers, with an annual fiscal year cap of \$4,500 and a per semester hour cap of \$250. Call the education center at mil 485-8891 for more information.

GI Bill benefits

Soldiers are now allowed to contribute an additional \$600 to the GI Bill, which results in an additional \$5,400 of education benefits.