

New cable channel features community news

By Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A new channel featuring local Baumholder information will soon be available to residents in Smith Barracks and Housing as well as Wetzel, Neubrück and Strassburg Housing and Champion Village.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion has contracted with TKS, the cable company servicing the military community, to provide this service to Baumholder residents. The service is expected to begin broadcasting via cable by mid September or early October and will be free to all residents who have cable service in their residence, which includes practically all Baumholder residents.

"As long as you have cable, you will be able to receive the new Command Information Channel," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer. Public affairs will operate the channel directly from the 222nd BSB headquarters. "Every building that has cable service, regardless if the residents have paid service or are just receiving the free cable package, they will be able to receive the new information channel," she said.

The new channel will also feature a "ticker tape" along the bottom of the screen where emergency information can be displayed. "This will be an excellent means of getting the word out to community residents whenever we have inclement weather conditions and the commander decides to delay school or work hours," said Dwoiakowski. Updates to the channel are almost instantaneous so the community will receive critical information as quickly as it can be typed into the channel.

The new channel is much more sophisticated than the old Commander's Access Channel that was available to residents in Baumholder and featured a very simple text format and AFN music in the background.

"That was a very problematic and labor intense process," said Dwoiakowski. The new channel will be Power Point based and almost anything that can be created in Power Point can be included in the channel. "The new channel will also feature background music as well as all the 'bells and whistles' that can be created with Power Point," said Dwoiakowski.

Practically any information that is currently disseminated via flyers or leaflets can be placed in the channel and will be instantly available to the entire community. "This will be an excellent means for organizations like family readiness groups and service agencies to put out their information to the community in a timely manner," said Dwoiakowski.

Public Affairs is currently establishing procedures and policies for the new Command Information Channel. To expedite service to Baumholder residents and avoid any redundancy in information received at Public Affairs, key agencies such as the Directorate of Community Activities, Family Services, Health Clinic, etc. have been asked to consolidate their inputs.

The only limitation to the channel is that if customers do not have access to a computer with Power Point capability, they will have to find a means of putting their information in the proper format for submission to Public Affairs. "We do not expect everyone to submit perfect, ready-to-air information," said Dwoiakowski. "Therefore, in addition to

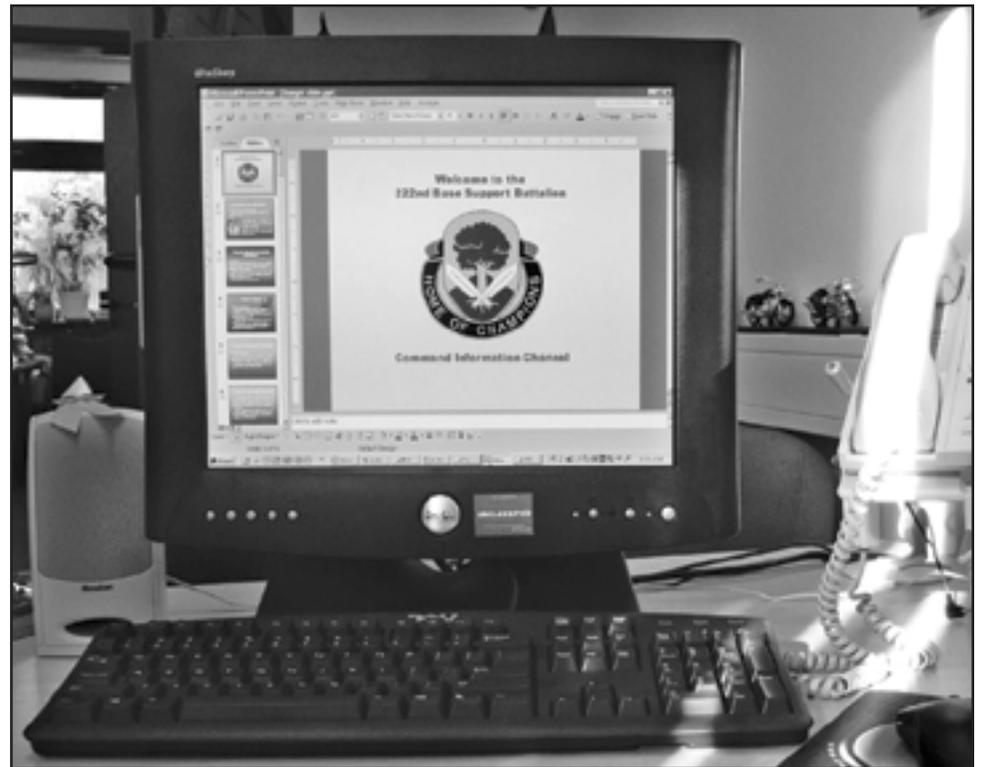


Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Under construction

A prototype introductory slide to the Command Information Channel is displayed on the editor's monitor. The channel will feature all the capabilities of a PowerPoint publication.

the inputs we expect to receive from the large organizations like MWR, we will establish input procedures for people who do not have access to a computer, want to make a one-time input, or have very brief information or news they would like to place on the channel," she said.

Like any new endeavor, growing pains are expected. "We are urging all our customers to be patient until we get into the routine of

producing this broadcast and have ironed out all the kinks in the system," said Dwoiakowski.

Guidance on how to make inputs to the Command Information Channel will soon be distributed to numerous key agencies in the Baumholder community. Persons who wish to utilize this new and free service may call public affairs for input details and information at mil 485-6191 or civ (06783) 6-6191.

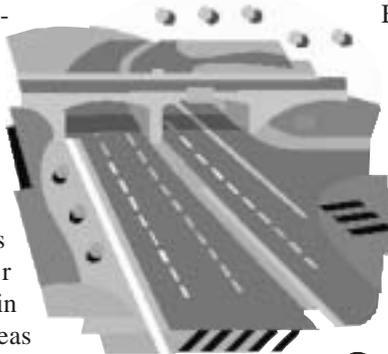
Autobahn A6 closes

Bridge construction and repairs will completely close Autobahn A6 between Kaiserslautern Ost (east) and West Sept. 7 from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sept. 21 from 6 a.m.

to 4 p.m. Although both closures on a Sunday when traffic is light, complete closure of an autobahn can create much traffic congestion and inconvenience. Persons traveling to or through the Ramstein and Vogelweh areas during these days are asked to avoid traveling on A6 and use alternate routes.

Ramstein has scheduled a bazaar for the weekend of Sept. 21 so persons traveling to the Ramstein bazaar from Baumholder on A62 should utilize the Ramstein-Miesenbach exit and travel to Ramstein Air Base through Ramstein village.

When returning to Baumholder on the A6 from the direction of Mannheim, it is best to exit at Kaiserslautern Ost and drive through Kaiserslautern on B40 and either reenter the A6 at Kaiserslautern West or continue on B40 and enter the A6 at the Einsiedlerhof junction.



Post notes

For more information call Brigitte Bénézet at 484-8228 or civ (0631) 413-8228.

Coaches needed

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for community level basketball players and coaches, men and women. Persons interested may register at the Baumholder Sports Office or call mil 485-6671/7176 for more information.

Open house

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month will be observed during September. In observance of this month, all four 104th Area Support Group Community Counseling Centers are having an open house Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The entire community is invited to attend and meet their treatment staff. Visitors can learn more about the substance abuse treatment available in the community. The contributions of treatment providers and the benefits of substance abuse treatment will be highlighted and promoted. This month also lets people know that substance abuse and addictions are public

health problems that can be effectively managed when supported by the entire community. The Baumholder counseling center is located in Wing 8744 of the Baumholder Health clinic. For more information call mil 485-1710.

Yard sale

The semiannual post-wide yard sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 13 Sept. 2003 in all of Baumholder's government housing areas. All sales are for U.S. ID card holders only and all property must be removed by 6 p.m.

Retiree open house

Retirees can take advantage of many services offered Sept. 20 during USAREUR's 23rd Annual Retiree Open House at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion here, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The Retiree Appreciation Day is a great opportunity for retirees to present their concerns personally to a representative. The representatives are here to address issues and ensure they are resolved. This event has a lot to offer and it is our way of saying thank you," explained 1st Personnel Command Retirement Service Officer Jerry Owens.

"USAREUR continues to improve the Retirement Service Program. Please come and show your support," he added.

Automotive exams

Automotive Service Exams will be given at Baumholder during November. Persons interested in testing must order the exams by Sept. 4. Call the Baumholder Army Education Center at mil 485-7557 for more information.

Advanced skills

The Army's Advanced Skills Education Program offers the "Effective Military Writing I Course" Sept. 22-26 from 08:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course teaches essential writing skills, includes a review of grammar and focuses on common types of military writing emphasizing clear organization, concise writing and simple language. There is no cost to the soldier or unit for the course. Each attendee will receive one semester hour of college credit from Central Texas College. Call the Education Center at mil 485-7757 for more information.

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 today at mil 485-8891 for more information.

Camp Flexible built at lightning speed

By 1st Lt. Luis A.

Rodriguez,

C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery

Everybody in the Army is aware of acronyms — those three or four-letter words that are part of our every day language. One of them is LSA or Life Support Area.

The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, the Flexible Battalion, have added another meaning to LSA: Lightning Speed, Achtung.

The battalion received the mission of building a Life Support Area at Baghdad International Airport (BIAP, new acronym) as a temporary home for our brothers in arms, who are either arriving or leaving the theater of operation.

That is how a new facility known as Camp Flexible was born.

Construction efforts were led by the soldiers of C Battery. The camp consists of 30 tents, 10 showers, 25 port-a-johns, and everything else that may be needed in a field living area — air-conditioning units, fans and mess areas.

“It is nice to have this,” said Cpl. Joseph Steven, of the advance party element of the 82nd Airborne Division, the first unit to use the camp.

Within one day, the tents were erected, port-a-johns situated, showers activated, just in time for

the first unit to arrive.

Now, that is what is called lightning speed.

The achtung part came with the follow-up tasks of setting cots, providing MREs and water and a liaison team for further coordination.

That is how the moniker Lightning Speed, Achtung, or LSA was born.

Camp Flexible is not the work of a contracting company. It is the work of the soldiers of the Flexible Battalion. Soldiers exchanged their

“our warriors” gear for shovels, picks, ropes, tents, generators, forklifts and construction parts.

“Making it happen,” is how Staff Sgt. William Jones, C Battery’s 2nd Fire Platoon Sergeant described the operation.

Higher headquarters — Division Artillery and 1st Armored Division Headquarters — contributed greatly to the mission’s success.

Building the LSA had its challenges such as finding shovels, to getting a lowboy, to acquiring a

70kw generator.

There were some challenges like finding mystery points of contact, which was like completing a land navigation course without a compass or a map.

In one case, soldiers went to the airport’s terminal to link up with the a helicopter’s pilot that was supposed to be bringing in a much needed piece of equipment, only to find out that the equipment was arriving in a road convoy.

All in all, the operation has been

a success.

However, the battalion’s mission at Camp Flexible continues with position improvements such as placing concertina wire and filling and arranging sandbags.

The battalion’s first visitors, the mighty 82nd Airborne, are now ready to follow on to their final destination.

The soldiers of the Flexible Battalion demonstrated once again that they are second to none. Rocking BIAP, rock steady.



Contributed photo

Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery erect tents at the site of what is now Camp Flexible. The camp features all the amenities a unit needs when arriving in theater or departing.

Outings

Sept. 5, dining out Korean at Kaiserslautern, order off the menu, leave the Underground at 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 12, middle school dance at the Underground, \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, 7 – 11 p.m.

Sept. 20, high school dance at the Teen Café, \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, 7 – midnight.

Sept. 26, college night at the Underground, no cost, 6 – 8 p.m.

All Events are open for Youth Service members only and trips are tentative based on threat conditions.

Need volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers, youth and adults, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting/recreational events. For more information contact your local youth center or visit Baumholder’s youth web site at www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm.

Staff needed

Youth Services is looking for new staff members who are enthusiastic, motivated and proactive with teens.

Youth Services

New activities

Homework and computer lab instructors are now offering programs throughout the year.

Swimming classes

Swimming classes are offered for infants to 18-year-olds. The cost is \$45 for eight sessions. For more information call mil 485-7003.

Martial arts

Chinese Goju classes are offered in Neubrücke every Monday and Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. the cost is \$30 per month. For more information call mil 485-7003.

Starting soon

Gymnastics and dance classes will soon be offered by Baumholder Youth Services. Watch for future advertising.

Clubs

Torch Club

Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 11-13. A

Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which club staff can help meet the special needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development.

Torch Club members learn to elect officers and work together to plan and implement activities in four areas: service to club and community, education, health and fitness and social recreation.

Keystone Club

Keystoning is the boys and girls movement’s most dynamic teen program. Keystone Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 14-18.

Keystoners elect officers and plan and implement their own activities in six areas: service to club and community, leadership development, education and career exploration, unity, free enterprise and social recreation. Keystone Club members and their advisors are eligible for nomination to steering committees which organize regional

and national Teen Supreme Keystone Conferences attended by thousands of Keystoners each year.

Teen Sports Club

The Teen Sports Club is a teen leadership group that promotes health, fitness and sports related careers in boys and girls clubs. Members meet on a regular basis to

learn about issues inside and outside their club related to sports and fitness.

Club members ages 13-18 volunteer at least 25 hours as referees, coaches, or in other athletic department support roles. Club leaders can attend Sports Leadership Camps in each of Boys and Girls Clubs of America’s five regions after the completion of their 25 volunteer hours.

For more information about club activities contact your local youth center.

Bell tells families be patient on mid tour leave

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The Army's main man in Europe, Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, paid a visit to the Baumholder community Aug. 19 to tour key family support facilities and talk with family members of deployed soldiers.

Bell addressed a group of Baumholder family readiness group leaders and focused on two key issues, mid tour leave and the possible redeployment of the 1st Armored Division to the continental United States.

He told the FRG leaders that the bottom line on mid-tour leave is that it has not been approved for soldiers currently deployed to Iraq.

"Here's the real deal on mid tour leave today. The United States Government has not approved a mid tour leave for this operation. The Army has approved it, it endorses it and they're banging on the leaderships' doors in the office of the secretary of defense to get final approval for the program," said Bell.

"The last time that the United States of America endorsed a mid tour leave program was when 1st Armored Division, your outfit right out of Baumholder, right here, when then Col. John Batist took his brigade to the Balkins. He took is brigade out of here and we established a mid tour leave program because they were there for a year. We did that because we have a tradition in our Army since the Vietnam era, of one year tours and mid tour leaves, so you can break this thing up in six month blocks," said Bell.

He explained how the mid tour leave program works and added that is a dilemma for commanders and an expensive proposition for America because of all the logistical arrangements that must happen such as chartering planes to fly soldiers to a central location.

The dilemma that commanders face with mid tour leave while in combat, he explained, is that "No

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Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lisa Box, family readiness group leader from A Company 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, presents Gen. B.B. Bell, commander, U. S. Army Europe, with an Operation Iraqi Freedom T-Shirt during his visit to Baumholder Aug. 19. During his visit, Bell met with rear detachment commanders and toured numerous support facilities like School Age Services, the Underground teen center, a child development center, the 222nd Base Support Battalion central processing facility and Army Community Service. He also met with FRG leaders and brought them up to date on the latest information about mid tour leave and other key deployment issues. He also fielded questions from the FRG leaders. Alpha 2-6 FRG leader.

commander wants to let anybody go. But why would a commander not want to let anybody go? He's

got a mission that's at risk and you know that. He's got a mission that is going well. I've been with your husbands, I spent four days down in Iraq. They are doing terrific and they are making change, I mean the Iraqis are fired up. They are on the team and they are playing ball. There are some bad

guys around. We didn't see any. It is a dangerous environment and we are taking casualties and you know that and you live with that every day, I'm not trying to sugar coat it.

"On the flip side, your spouses, men and woman, are down there making a difference. But in that

context, the commanders will have a dilemma if this program is approved and that is who can go and when can they go? Just walk with them on that. That's all I can tell you. They are in the jaws of a vice. They want everybody to go on mid tour leave. But they gotta keep the mission going and it will be a dilemma, but they will find a way to get most of the people back who need to come back They'll ask first for volunteers. That's the way we did it in Bosnia. Who wants to stay on mission? Of course everybody will raise their hand and we say stop, let's be serious about this," said Bell.

If and when mid term leave is approved, commanders will first consider granting leave to those soldiers who need to go home right away. They will consider issues such as child birth or soldiers who haven't seen their new child. They will also consider medical issues within the family. "There's all kinds of criteria. They'll work with that. They're goal is to get everybody who wants to come home, home. That's what they'll try to do in the one-year window," said Bell.

He explained that every day that

goes by without an approval for this program makes it harder for the program to work because the window to work everybody in becomes smaller.

"So it's vital that this approval, if we're going to have it from Washington, gets done right away. I believe that within the next week we'll get an answer out of Washington on where we are on this program, straight up or straight down. Hang in there for about a week," he said.

Restationing

Restationing of the 1st Armored Division has been the topic of choice on Baumholder for the last few weeks and there is no lack of rumors and bad information floating around in the military and host nation communities. Bell told the FRG leaders that there are currently no orders to redeploy the division but that America's leaders are working the issue.

"I believe some day, this division will be restationed in the United States of America. I believe that our national leaders want that. I believe that they will continue to move in that direction," said Bell. "But the political divisions of all this, the

discussions in the international community, our congress and our host country have not all been brought into this process. So we have to let whoever wants to work this, work this," he said.

"Right now, there's no secret redeployment order. But I am prepared to send this division anywhere in the world that our nation wants it to go to position it for future operations. I will do it the most effective way I can, principally considering the family issues because I think that's the biggest drill that we'll have to be concerned about, unless we're moving them out to a combat zone, which I don't see any more combat for this division right now, as soon as we can get them out of Iraq," said Bell.

He also thanked the family members for all they do for the nation. "What you're doing for America and the war on terrorism is as important as what any person is doing, whether it's your spouse engaged in combat, or whether it is somebody working in the Pentagon," he said.

"My view is that America is at risk. We are probably more at risk as a nation today than we have been since the civil war, in my view. When you look at the goals and objectives of international terrorism and what their intentions are for the United States of America, it's shocking and frightening.

"For some reason they believe that your constitution and your way of living is wrong. That gender equality is wrong. They believe that ethnic, cultural and religious equality is wrong. And they believe that your form of representative government where the people decide who leads them and elect their officials to take them forward is also wrong," said Bell.

"And for reasons that I can't explain, but certainly in the last 10 to 20 years, that group of people has decided to challenge you in a very direct and clear way. It manifested itself in 9-11 but it's more fundamental than that. So, our way of living is at some risk.

"Our government has tasked us to go forth and do battle across a wide range of endeavors, some of it's combat, and that's what you're all into but there's other pieces of this battle. One is just hearts and minds and ideas and what's right for the human dimension and what's not right and speaking our peace about that. The other piece is going and ferreting out people who do bring weapons to bear against

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1st AD brothers reunite in Baghdad

Story and photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson, 372nd MPAD

Two brothers, both serving with the 1st Armored Division, were reunited Aug. 15 in Baghdad after leaving home for Operation Iraqi Freedom seven months ago.

Pfc. Eric Lind, 22, an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, and Spc. Jason Lind, 20, a heavy construction equipment operator with the 671st Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Portland, Ore., have not seen each other since January.

Even though both knew that the other was in Iraq with their respective units, neither knew where the other was, nor how to get in contact.

"I came here with 3rd Infantry Division, and I will probably leave with 1st Armored Division," said Jason, the reservist. "I have been looking for my brother for a while and I couldn't find him — but he found me."

The likelihood of running into a specific individual among the thousands of U.S. soldiers spread across Iraq is small.

But, as fate would have it, Eric's eyes were observant enough to recognize his brother's unit's designation on some engineer equipment during a routine trip to Baghdad International Airport, he said.

"One time, we went to BIAP and I noticed some pontoon bridges all folded up," said Eric, the 1st Armored Division soldier. "I looked over and saw '671st' and thought 'that looks awfully familiar.' So we



PFC. Eric, left, and Spc. Jason Lind, joke about the funny circumstances that reunited them. Eric coordinated with his company 1st Sergeant to make the reunion with his younger brother a memorable one.

went back two weeks later to stop by, and we surprised him pretty good."

Eric coordinated with A Company's 1st Sgt. Alec Lazore in order to make the brothers' reunion a memorable one.

"I was scared when we first saw each other because his first sergeant was about ready to smoke me

— asking me all these questions," Jason said. "I was stuttering, and then Eric popped out. It was really nice because I have been looking for him for a while; so it was pretty exciting."

Although the brothers have been thousands of miles apart at times, the environment of the military has helped fill the relationship

gap left by the absence of their sibling.

"It feels awkward talking and hanging out. We have never even seen each other in desert camouflage uniform or battle dress uniform before," said Jason. "It seems like we have not been apart, even through all we have been through here in Baghdad."

"One thing I do like about my job (as a soldier) is the camaraderie and brotherhood that develops. And when you go out and do missions, the guys with you become almost like brothers to you," Eric said.

"That is why it feels like we have not been apart, because I have always had friends to fall back on as brothers."

Bell says families are investing in America

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us and either capture or kill them and going forth in places like Iraq to give, in the end, representative government in pluralism an opportunity to grow and prosper in an area of the world that has gone down another path," he said.

An investment

He also told the family members that he looks at what they do as clear investment strategy and although they may not think they're investing in America, they are.

"I honest to God believe that in the big bank in the sky, 20 years from now, we can go . . . and look at your personal contributions," said Bell. He explained that the sacri-

fices families make by raising their children in an environment where the soldiers are gone and by keeping their chins up and staying on course contributes to the future of America. "I think you're making a deposit for the furtherism and future of our democracy. I'm not kidding you," he said.

"You and your spouses and your soldiers have been asked by your government to contribute to the future of the United States of America. And you're making the investment in your future. When you retire from this business, or walk away from it or settle down, I think you can always feel very proud and have enormous comfort that

part of the reason that the constitution is going to be around for another 200 or 400 or 500 years, or whatever, is because of the investment that you personally made and that you own part of that constitution and it's yours. I honestly believe it. So I'm here to thank you for your energy and your efforts and your sacrifice," said Bell.

He also pointed out to family members that their soldiers were doing great things in Iraq. "They are turning the world around. I have great, great hope for the future of Iraq and you don't read about that in the paper every day. I have great hope for the future down their and for our nation for that matter. We're

a strong country. We have good ideals, good values, we're multi ethnic and multi cultural. That's the only thing that will work in the modern world," he said.

The issue of reintegration always crops up after redeployment and Bell did not fail to point out that proper reintegration was critical and important.

"We're going to reintegrate by the book so that families understand how to live together. Everybody who goes through deployment has complexities in their lives, big time. You're living a dream right now. You've got kids who are sick, you've got parents who are ill. You've got everything going on.

And now you've got this husband who comes back and that's another problem. It will be wonderful initially but it becomes another problem you've got to deal with," he said.

"Reintegration and doing it to standard, the Army way, is important because we know fairly clearly what the physiological barriers are so we want to do that to standard so that you can find a path through this effectively and understand each other, and then go on block leave.

"And then we'll come out of block leave and we'll figure out what we're going to do with the 1st Armored Division," said Bell.