

Community 'cares' about single soldiers

Bare necessities head down range

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Yes, the soldiers are gone, Baumholder is empty and if it weren't for all the road graders, back hoes, dump trucks, steam rollers and other assorted construction equipment belonging to contract firms renovating Baumholder from top to bottom, the installation would echo like a ghost town in an empty canyon.

The absence of soldiers also means an absence of cash flowing into the local community and merchants are feeling the pinch resulting from a lack of American clientele.

Business men and women are reporting a decrease in sales of approximately 70 percent since the U.S. soldiers were deployed to Iraq, according to information appearing in a local German newspaper.

But these same merchants are displaying some of the strongest support for the deployed soldiers. Sigrid Zimmer, for example, owner of the Berghof Hotel, together with Nathalie Carrillo and Tina Olsen, military family members, have started an initiative which Zimmer hopes will be emulated by other merchants in the city of Baumholder and surrounding communities.

The three are sending "care" packages to single soldiers stationed in Iraq which include the bare necessities. Snacks, cosmetics, socks, postcards, books, batteries, and even toilet paper are included in the packages. "All of

this is missed by them," explains Zimmer. She explains that packages are earmarked specifically for single soldiers because "Many of them haven't received a letter or package within the last two months." Olsen's husband, Sergeant Major Brian J., a member of Headquarters, Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment who is currently stationed in Iraq, informed his wife of this unfortunate dilemma. Olsen passed this on to Zimmer and it inspired her to begin her initiative.

Naturally, The first packages went to the single soldiers of HHC 2-6 Infantry.

Zimmer hopes that this initiative does not die out. "I hope that other businesses will take care of other units," said the business woman. She has already confirmed the Sunshine-Grill as the next business which would like to help. Pro Baumholder, an organization of local merchants, was also approached with this proposal.

Indeed, the program has picked up momentum. Donations have started coming in and Carrillo has volunteered to be the "donations coordinator" for the Baumholder military community. The initial shipment of donations was collected, sorted and packaged at the Berghof Hotel. The packages were carefully inspected to ensure that unauthorized items were not included. Now that Baumholder has a volunteer to coordinate all donations, a collection point has been established at the Wetzel Family Readiness Group building.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Sigrid Zimmer, Tina Olsen, and Nathalie Carrillo sort donated items and prepare packages to send to single soldiers stationed in Iraq.

Donations are coming in from merchants and private citizens alike. Wolfraw Lief-Hotz, for example, manager of the E-Nahe Center in Birkenfeld has stepped forward and donated an entire pallet of toilet paper. Winfried Hassdenteufel, owner of Hassdenteufel Photo in Baumholder initially wanted to make this donation. Since Hassdenteufel has a satellite outlet at the E-Nahe Center, he approached Lief-Hotz and requested to purchase an entire pallet of toilet paper. Curious about the peculiar request, Lief-Holz asked Hassdenteufel why he

needed so much toilet paper. When Hassdenteufel explained the reason, Lief-Holz told Hassdenteufel to keep his money because he would make the donation. You could say the toilet paper changed hands before it reached its final destination.

On a smaller scale, 80-year-old Irmgard Wahl from Heimbach was so moved by what was printed in the German media about this program that she decided to prepare a couple of packages herself. Carrillo personally drove out to the generous woman's home to collect the

packages.

Other merchants and individuals who have already contributed packages and items to be included in the packages are: Tropical Heat, M. Werle Taxi No. 86/53, Getraenkequelle Fritsch, N. Abbas, Westrich Apotheke, Quelle Shop, Pro Baumholder and Hassdenteufel Photo store. In all, about 188 packages have been sent and more are on their way.

Businesses and people who are interested in participating may contact Zimmer at civ (06783) 1011.

Civilians recognized for their dedication

"Your faithfulness, loyalty, and professional work performance deserves my full respect and appreciation," said Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, during a recent personnel assembly which doubled as a length of service ceremony.

Before Buchs honored the employees who were present to celebrated their length of service anniversaries he brought the gathered work force up to date about construction projects completed within the past months and pointed out current and planned projects for Baumholder.

A presentation on the screen of the Wagon Wheel Theater, where the assembly was held, titled "Baumholder 2010," depicted completed construction such as the

barracks renovation, for which about \$163 million were invested in the past years, and the modernization of the driving range at the golf course. The renovation of a school age service building and the renewal of the streets in the Wetzel housing area were also addressed.

Ongoing construction measures such as the renovation and modernization of the railhead, which is estimated at \$2.5 million, the new main gate and motor pool for the 1st Armored Division Artillery as well as the renewal of the kindergarten were also pointed out by Buchs.

Buchs also pointed out that the military community has received the green light for the construction of a new bowling center - a project which will also cost several million dollars.

Buchs then commented about

the future of Baumholder. "The decisions about the future of the U.S. military installations in Germany will be made at higher levels. The pending and already approved construction measures are indicators which give me hope that the U.S. installation in Baumholder will remain," he said.

Buchs then turned to honoring the employees for their length of service by saying "Your dedicated service and individual accomplishments have contributed immeasurably to mission success within the Baumholder community." The award recipients were individually called on stage and received their certificates from Buchs.

Willi Boehmer and Heinz Kirsch were honored for the greatest longevity of service, having recently

completed 40 years of employment with the U.S. military.

Other employees honored for their service to the U.S. military are: 35 years: Dieter Bohrer, Werner Braun, Otto Christmann, Hans-Jürgen Dreher, Melitta Kariégus, Walter Zang, Roy Pizarro.

30 years: Dorothea Brandstetter, Hans-Peter Cullmann, Hans-Dieter Hiebel, Peter Kronenberger, Alois Peitz, Norbert Poes, Wolfgang Scherer, Günther Schramm, Karin Wild.

25 years: Thomas Becker, Hans Peter Colesie, Heinz Daniels, Manfred Eisenhut, Klaus Frankfurter, Emil Ginkel, Karl Hübner, Gerhard Huwer, Hans Otto Kunz, Jürgen Landgraf, Bernhard Mensch, Hand Dieter Moosmann, Manfred Nickel, Ursel Purkhiser,

Charles Quick, Hans Walter Steffen, Thomas Stephani, Norbert Stuber, Karl-Heinz Trein, Susanne Umlauf, Peter Wagner, Benno Wahl, Roland Weingart.

20 years of employment: Robert Baumgardt, Petra Becker, Dieter Bock, Michael Braun, Nikolaus Braun, Udo Bussmann, Eugene Cluch, Benjamin Estela, Kurt Heinrich, Klaus Heyd, William Johnson, Klaus Küntzer, Michael Kurz, Judith Lang, Marshall Milner, Andrea Parker, Peter Pohlmann, Lothar Pontius, Harry Quint, Gabriele Reedy, Ernst Ruth, Arnold Scheit, Eckhard Schneider, Thomas Schneider, Gerd Schwarz, Karla Schwenk, Nathaniel Watson, Michael Zimmermann, Claudia Weber, Erwin Schug, Wolfgang Veek.

'Charlie' 1-94 FA clears munitions

By Capt. Josh N. Stephenson and 2nd Lt. Louis Rodriguez
C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery

The soldiers of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, know their way around the city of Baghdad.

Since starting its part of Operation Iron Bullet in July, the battery has transported thousands of rockets, warheads, mortars, and artillery shells to secure holding areas outside the city.

Daily, C Battery soldiers roll to sites within the city to police up dangerous ordnance from urban areas.

Once loaded, the ammunition is taken to the holding areas where it is sorted, packaged, and sometimes, destroyed.

Soldiers have to be ready to adapt to changing situations. Sometimes initial assessments of an area often underestimate the total quantity of munitions in the neighborhood. Sometimes soldiers find new stockpiles of previously undiscovered ordnance.

Neighborhood residents, once

they discover Americans are removing "bombs" from their children's backyards, often point out additional sites of unexploded ordnance.

Occasionally they can be too helpful. Interpreters working with the battery ask the residents to refrain from bringing the UXO's directly to the soldiers.

Gathering the unexploded munitions is not just a matter of going to a site and throwing the ordnance onto a truck. In some cases, the enemy has taken the opportunity to "booby-trap" sites in the hopes of killing U.S. soldiers as they clear the city of these dangerous tools of warfare.

Before removing any shell, rocket, or mortar, the ammunition is inspected and cleared. If anything looks different, funny, or out of place, Explosive Ordnance Disposal soldiers further clear the site to ensure that Charlie Battery soldiers work in a relatively safe environment.

On one occasion, while removing 280 mm rockets from a site, a grenade was found lodged between containers, pin pulled, waiting for



Contributed photo

Soldiers for C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, load a missile onto a truck for shipment. The battery has been gathering unexploded munitions throughout Baghdad during Operation Iron Bullet.

disaster.

The plot was foiled, however, by Spc. Mark Fisher's attention to detail. He discovered the booby-

trap, raised the red flag to his leaders, and the saved lives of fellow soldiers and members of the community.

Everyday is a test for the Charlie Battery soldiers, but such is life throughout the 1st Armored Division. Rock Steady.

These boots were (also) made for women

By Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The debate has gone on for years: should women serve with combat units in the military?

If the question asks whether female soldiers are up to the challenge and rigor of infantry duties, one woman serving in Iraq would answer with a definite "Yes."

Spc. Melissa Kranning, a petroleum supply specialist attached to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, is serving in what is regularly an all-male combat unit. Although not assigned to the infantry unit, she and two other women soldiers are attached to the unit for duty in Baghdad.

Due to religious and cultural beliefs in Iraq, women soldiers serving with infantry units have become a necessity. Soldiers serving as gate guards must search female civilians coming through the gate to ensure that someone does not smuggle a weapon or explosive device onto the compound. While on patrol, women soldiers search suspected female criminals.

Often, the people who Kranning most frequently searches are Muslim women who do not wish to be touched by men they do not know.

Kranning, 20, a Minerva, Ohio, native, deployed to Iraq with her unit, the 47th Forward Support Battalion, a 1st Armored Division unit out of Baumholder, Germany. When

offered the opportunity, she volunteered to be attached to 2-6 Infantry.

Kranning's home unit is assigned to the Baghdad International Airport. Many 47th FSB soldiers' missions do not require them to leave the installation.

"I get to go out and see the city," she said. "That's something a lot of people in my unit don't get to do."

Kranning also found that life with an infantry unit is much different from what she is used to.

"It's a totally different world. They (infantrymen) have a different way of thinking," she said. "They have a 'go out and get them' kind of attitude."

As far as duties are concerned, Kranning does not see a distinction between herself and the other soldiers in A Company.

Her job is to search women for weapons coming through the gate while she's on duty there, and to prevent or stop any crime while on patrol. If women are suspected of a crime, Kranning searches them.

"She's a hard worker," said Staff Sgt. Julio Fortis, her squad leader from A Company, 2-6 Infantry. "She sticks with us in the extreme heat and on long road marches while we're on patrol. She doesn't fall out."

"The way she works, there should be females in the infantry," Fortis said.



Spc. Melissa Kranning

Baghdad 'townhall' meetings help resolve community issues

By Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Community representatives and 1st Armored Division soldiers met together for dinner and discussed important community issues in Baghdad recently.

Members of a neighborhood advisory council from the Salhiya neighborhood in Baghdad met with soldiers from A Company, 2nd Bat-

talion, 6th Infantry Regiment to discuss a variety of issues, including security and repairs to municipal services such as electricity, said Capt. Scott C. Nauman, A Company commander.

The meeting was the second between the neighborhood advisory council and the company. During the first, Nauman said, the community representatives identified problems within the Salhiya

neighborhood, the area for which the unit is responsible.

Lack of electricity, water, sewage and trash removal are the top problems, he said.

The intent of the meetings, however, is not only to identify the problems, but also to look for solutions.

Nauman's goal is for the community leaders to be able to take responsibility for solving their own

problems within the neighborhood.

It's not always an easy process. One of the suggestions made by a member of the council was to have the Office of Coalition Provisional Authority purchase a separate generator for everyone in Baghdad, a city of five million people.

The meetings produce results, Nauman said. Security in the neighborhood has gotten considerably better and illegal gasoline sales and

traffic problems in the neighborhood have both been reduced in Salhiya.

The A Company soldiers are continually working with Salhiya's residents to improve the community.

Though there are many problems to be solved, Nauman views each improvement as a success.

"You eat an elephant one bite at a time," he said.

Youth get 'major league' training

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

Baumholder youth whose sights are set on someday making it to the big league recently had a taste of being coached by an envoy from Major League Baseball. Some 60 children in ages from 6 to 18 years old received coaching in baseball basics from Eric Barron, a four-year college baseball veteran from California State University at Hayward. He's also an assistant coach there who is currently assigned to the baseball club in Saarlouie, Germany.

The Envoy Program is one of a number of development programs operated by Major League Baseball that focuses on promoting the game of baseball around the world. Introduced in 1991 the Envoy Program has sent professional baseball coaches to more than 50 countries. The program's main goal is to develop the playing of baseball in countries throughout the world.

The Envoy Program is fairly new to military youth. "This is the first year that I know that something like this has been conducted," said Seven A. Ferguson, Youth Services director. "It was offered to locations throughout USAREUR and we snapped it up for our youth right away," he said.

To bring this program to military youth, James Pierce, Director of International Market Development for Major League Baseball, worked with Installation Management Agency officials who passed the offer down to the individual installations. In addition to Baumholder, military youth programs at Landstuhl, Schweinfurt, Stuttgart and Vilseck also took advantage of providing a little coaching by a Major League Baseball envoy.

The Envoy Program at Baumholder was held July 14 and 15 at Iron Soldier Field. Barron and the Youth Services staff taught youth basic and some advance techniques of the game. Barron focused on teaching the youth the basics of pitching, fielding, throw-

ing, position responsibilities, bating, bunting, base running, proper fit of equipment, breaking-in a new glove/mitt and offensive and defensive strategies. There was also time for questions and answers. So that youth would reap as much benefit from Barron's coaching

as possible, youth were split up in groups ages 6 to 12 and 13 to 18 years old.

Prior to departing Baumholder the youth, hot, tired and dusty after the clinic, insisted that Barron autograph baseballs, gloves, and whatever else they could get their hands on.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Eric Barron, a Major League Baseball Envoy, explains the next drill to a group of teen during one of the training sessions he conducted for Baumholder youth.

EFMP myths squashed

By Robert C. Sheely
Exceptional Family Member Program

The child was the best student in his class, the man looked like a pro athlete and the woman was active in many community activities. To the casual observer, these individuals lived the lives that many of us admired and envied.

These individuals all had one thing in common; they had special needs that required enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program. The child had asthma, the man a chronic orthopedic disorder and the woman was recovering from cancer treatment. These are but examples of certain conditions that fall under the criteria for an exceptional family member. These individuals lived their lives despite their special needs, not because of them.

Many people feel that enrollment in the EFMP is detrimental to a military career, social status or have feelings of guilt or self worth because of a special need. To the contrary, enrollment insures that the next duty assignment can support the medical and educational needs of family members. The military takes great care in the assign-

ment process to match service members with the necessary facilities to care for their family. This is not a guarantee that the service member will never have an assignment that would not be able to support the family; the needs of the Army must be a priority.

As for physical disabilities, some of our greatest leaders suffered from them, Franklin Roosevelt, Polio, John F. Kennedy, chronic back pain resulting from military injuries.

These individuals lived their lives despite their disabilities not being limited by them.

There is no stigma associated with EFMP enrollment. In the Baumholder Community we have more than 700 diagnoses that meet the criteria for EFMP; that is more than 8 percent of the family member population.

This does not include the number of individuals that have not enrolled for whatever reason. As a military community we should set the example as to being tolerant towards others not only in race, culture or religious affiliation, but also in regards to physical, developmental and emotional needs.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact the Baumholder EFMP office at mil485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Briefly

Astronaut visit

Persons interested in meeting Dr. Guion Bluford, Jr., the first African American man in space, may visit at the Sembach Air Base Youth Program Center on Aug. 8 at 9:30 am.

Rugby players needed

The U.S. Forces Europe Rugby Football Union is seeking players for a select rugby team to be the European Representative for the 2003 USA Rugby National Military Club Championship and further Tournaments.

For more information call mil 379-5121, 370-7944 or civ (06221) 57-7944 by Aug. 22.

Get a 'headstart'

Headstart classes are offered again weekly from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays at the education center. The classes are open to family members and soldiers and offer students an opportunity to learn some of the German language and participate in a field trip to Trier.

Persons interested in attending must register by noon on Friday the week before they wish to attend class by calling Donna Stone at mil485-7574.

Child care is the responsibility of the par-

ents as it is not provided by course coordinators. Students must complete all classroom work to participate in the field trip to Trier and receive a certificate.

Transportation to the education center and lunch are also the responsibility of the student.

Trip with Outdoor Rec

The following trips are offered in August:
Aug. 10, Lego Land, \$45 adults, \$25 children

Aug. 12, Sea kayaking, \$20
Aug. 15-17, Hiking in the Swiss Alps, \$225-\$285

Aug. 23, Six Flags Belgium, \$65-\$225
Aug. 24, White-water kayaking, \$79 adults
Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, Austrian Adventure Weekend, \$365.

Learn to fly

A weekend paragliding course is offered by Baumholder Outdoor Recreation. This two-day introduction course costs \$155 and includes three hours of classroom instruction, paragliding, transportation and gear. The next course dates are scheduled for Aug. 2-3 and Aug. 30-31.

Job corner

Work with kids

The 222nd Base Support Battalion Child and Youth Services is hiring program assistants to work in their Baumholder, Strassbourg and Neubrücke facilities. Entry-level pay is \$8.20 per hour and is based on training and experience. CYS provides free training and advancement opportunities. For more information contact the Baumholder nonappropriated fund civilian personnel office at mil 485-6566 or civ (06783) 6-6566).

MWR Job Fair

Job seekers, opportunity awaits you at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation job fair on the second Wednesday of every month at the Rheinlander. Doors open from 9 – 10 a.m. You'll learn of MWR positions, have an opportunity to fill out applications and receive interviews on site. Call mil 485-1550 for details.

CDC assistants

The 104th Area Support Group has immediate program assistant vacancies at all Child Development Centers. Hours are flexible (0–40 hours or 20–40 hours per week) or regular part-time (20 – 39 hours per week). Employees receive a 20 percent discount on child care fees, free training and opportunities for advancement, including raises for completion of required training. Submit an application to your local civilian personnel office or via email to hanauaf@chmahqsaur.army.mil. For details call civ (06181) 88-1630 or mil 322-1630.

Work at home

If you'd like an income while staying at home, consider becoming a Family Child Care provider. You'll receive free training and a government subsidy to help pay for food and other child care costs. Contact your community FCC office.

Ed Center

Learn German

Baumholder's Adult Education Program offers Conversational German I on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 – 11 a.m.; and from 6 – 8 p.m. Sign up for the course that meets your schedule. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for more information.

Free class

A free English as a Second Language course is being offered at the Baumholder Army Education Center on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. Call mil 485-7557 for more information.

New courses

Central Texas College returns to Baumholder with the following courses being offered: CRIJ 1307, Crime in America, CDEC 1313 Curriculum Resources for Early Childhood Programs, and AUTO 1405 Intro to Automotive Technology. Call mil 485-7557 for more information.

Semester begins

Registration for the University of Maryland's fall semester is under way at the Baumholder Army Education Center. A full range of college courses is being offered to include Biology with a laboratory and Psychology of Adulthood and Aging. See the Maryland field representatives in Building 8332 today to register.

Adult ed 101

Baumholder's Adult Education Program is looking for teachers for the English as a Second Language, Conversational German and Sign Language Programs. Interested persons may call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for information.

Get advise

The Academic Advisor from the University of Maryland will visit the Baumholder Army Education Center on Aug. 20. To make an appointment, call Stacie Welsh or Lashonda Smith at mil 485-6178.

Learn to write

The Army's Advanced Skills Education Program offers the "Preparing the NCO-ER Course" at Baumholder Aug. 11-15, from 08:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course offers supervisors and potential supervisors practice in essential writing skills; to include 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 available

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.