



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, Baumholder senior tactical commander, left, discusses Rheinlander initiatives with Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe, during Meigs' recent visit to Baumholder.

## Meigs hears community issues

The Baumholder community was host to Gen. and Mrs. Montgomery C. Meigs, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe, Jan. 17. A highlight of their visit included a meeting with rear detachment commanders, family readiness group leaders and family readiness liaisons.

The meeting included a Task Force Baumholder support brief by Lt. Col. Jeff Bannister, Task Force Baumholder commander, and a follow-on town hall-style question and answer period covering topics ranging from sponsorship, to housing, to assignment procedures.

Also on the agenda was a tour of the Baumholder Health Clinic. Meigs viewed renovated as well as un-renovated sections of the clinic.

The Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC program, received the general's attention when Maj. Jack Trowbridge,

Baumholder Health Clinic commander, outlined the program him and Mrs. Meigs. Baumholder is the USAREUR pilot site for WIC, which becomes operational Feb. 7.

Their stay also included a visit to the Wetzel School Aged Services and proposed relocation site. It was explained to Meigs that Wetzel SAS must relocate to accommodate the full-day kindergarten expansion at Wetzel Elementary School.

There was also a luncheon that included a feedback/mentoring session with Meigs and several captains. While here, Mrs. Meigs attended the Baumholder Community Service Club luncheon and basket auction.

The Meigs were assured that the Baumholder military community is actively taking care of its members, especially those family members with deployed spouses, according to a 222nd Base Support Battalion official.

### Education update

## GI Bill beefed up for VEAP, active duty

The Montgomery GI Bill has been beefed up for VEAP beneficiaries and active duty soldiers. The new year brings added changes to the Montgomery GI Bill. Changes most notable are:

A substantial increase in monthly payments for eligible veterans who elect to make an additional contribution to their MGIB account.

VEAP participants (on or before Oct. 9, 1996) are now eligible to convert to the MGIB, whether they have money in their accounts or not.

Service members are now eligible to use both tuition assistance and the MGIB to "top-up" or pay the balance of tuition to avoid having to pay these expenses out of pocket. This feature is retroactive to Oct. 30, 2000.

To learn all the facts about these changes, stop by the Baumholder Army Education Center and speak with a counselor. Even though the final procedures for implementation have not been worked out by the Department of Defense,

education center officials can help soldiers find out what changes apply personally. Look for more information as it becomes available from the DOD. Call Bill Badger at 485-6487 for more information.

- Persons wishing to use the computers located in the Army Learning Center or the University of Maryland's Computer Lab are reminded they must take and pass the USAREUR Computer Users Test. For more information please call Bill Badger at 485-6487.

- Automotive Service Exams are scheduled for May. Persons interested must order their exams at the Baumholder Army Education Center before March 15. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487 for more information.

- What a terrific home page you have. Those wishing to hear this about their home page may want to enroll in the weekend seminar on web page design being given by the University of Maryland at Baumholder in February. See your Maryland field representative today for more information.

## News briefs

### Commissary, ACS ready for WIC

The Baumholder Health Clinic sponsored a sensitivity and hospitality training course recently for clinic, Army Community Services and Defense Commissary Agency representatives in preparation for the new Women, Infant and Children program that begins at Baumholder Feb. 7. The training covered ways to improve customer interactions and respect for the customer. The training was conducted in response to the concerns surfaced at the WIC implementation focus group Dec. 6 of last year. WIC representatives will soon begin contacting persons eligible for the program. High on the priority list are expectant mothers and those with newborn babies.

### Parking violations monitored

Provost Marshal and 222nd Base Support Battalion safety officials report that numerous parking violations are occurring in Champion Village. Soldiers and family members are parking their vehicles illegally throughout Champion Village, which is German-owned leased housing. The Baumholder Burgermeister has instructed city administration officials to ticket offenders with monetary fines. The Polizei does not have control over this process, but Polizei officials have requested that the ticketing cease temporarily.

Polizei officials are receptive to overnight parking in otherwise currently improper locations provided that signs are posted and that fire department and other emergency access sites are not blocked. On a Polizei recommendation, the 222nd Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal, together with representatives from the directorate of public works and safety will conduct a site survey and meet with the mayor's office to discuss the issue.

### Dates set for Baumholder Days

Baumholder Days, the traditional German-American festival, have been set this year for Aug. 23 through 25. June has been the historical date for Baumholder Days. This year, though, the festival was delayed to allow redeploying soldiers to participate.

### Traffic jams at school get relief

The traffic congestion at Smith Elementary school is getting some relief. Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar approved a plan recently that is working and will remain in effect even after the construction project in front of the school is complete. Parents picking up their children must form a single line with their vehicles beginning at the school entrance and leading back to Lime Street and Prussman Avenue. Parents in this line must remain in the vehicle at all times. If the child is not in front of the school when parents arrive, they must continue around and get in line again.

### Third grade class remains intact

The class of third graders at Neubrücke Elementary School may be split into two classes if it becomes too big, according to a recent report from the Installation Advisory Committee meeting. Currently, the third grade has more than 30 students but there is not enough class space to form another class so it remains intact. At the start of the year, Claire Phillips, a teacher for learning impaired students at Neubrücke, announced that the third grade would be split when it reached 32 students.

One of the groups would be strictly third graders and the second would be a mix of second and third graders, she explained. Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, senior tactical commander, who chaired the committee meeting suggested letting parents know during in-processing about the class sizes and recommended parents consider moving into housing areas other than Neubrücke or Strassberg, should they have a third grade student.

## KFOR briefing set

A KFOR family briefing is scheduled at 6 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Rheinlander. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke commissaries will be closed Feb 19, observance of Presidents Day.

## Thrift Shop gives back

The Baumholder Community Service Club sponsored Thrift Shop raises money to give back to the community. This year's goal is to present \$20,000 to the Baumholder military community. Come visit the Thrift Shop and support the community by choosing from their wide selection of clothing, household items, electronics, toys, books, country crafts and home decorating items. Or, drop your items off for consignment.

The Thrift Shop is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Claudia Fraijo or Natasha La Rock at mil 485-6653.

## Valentine's Day lunch

Don't spend Valentine's Day alone. Come "Celebrate Your Sweetheart" with the Baumholder Community Service Club Feb 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Rheinlander ballroom. There will be food, flowers and decadent chocolate for all. Come brag about your baby, share your photos, or just share in some good company. Everyone in the community is invited to attend. On-site childcare will be available. Make child care reservations when you RSVP before Feb 7 to Linda Delano at civ(06783) 187607 or Martha Kelly at civ(06783) 186-214.

## Post office extends hours

The Neubrücke post office is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The post office is located in the housing area in building 9966.

## Teens get recognition

Baumholder teens who have made an outstanding contribution to the 222nd Base Support Battalion will soon be recognized for their efforts through the Youth of the Year program. The program recognizes youth for their contributions and participation in areas like community services, academic excellence and contributions to family.

Youth must be nominated by an adult and the application packet must be completed and returned to the teen's local youth center or central registration by Feb. 28.

Nomination packets are available in several community locations including the high school, community chapels and Morale, Welfare

and Recreation facilities.

For additional information contact your local youth services facility or, call mil 485-7276.

## See your VA rep

Soldiers contemplating retirement or retired veterans living in the community can attend a Veterans Administration briefing Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. A VA representative will address all questions about VA benefits, claims filing and home loan guarantees.

This briefing is open to the public and all members of the community are encouraged to attend. After the briefing, the VA representative will be available to take individual appointments to answer any specific questions. Call the ACAP Center at mil 485-6741/6330, or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330 to schedule for the Feb. 20 VA briefing.

## Spouses can ACAP

Any family member of a soldier scheduled to ETS is eligible to receive services from the Army Career and Alumni Program. Orders are not need and the spouse does not have to be present to attend ACAP classes or to receive assistance from ACAP counselors.

If a soldier is deployed, spouses can still receive ACAP assistance in Baumholder. If a soldier is thinking about leaving the Army, even if he or she is down range, spouses can visit ACAP to find out what services the Army provides for families and then let ACAP counselors help begin the career transition process.

ACAP offers job assistance workshops and professional counselors to help think through the career transition process. Counselor will help customers think through issues such as a civilian budget, searching the job market, writing a resume, and strategizing for interviews. Take advantage of this time now to begin planning for the future.

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

## Deciding your future

Soldiers scheduled to ETS who haven't decided on reenlistment or separation can get information about their options at ACAP. ACAP can review a soldier's Army and VA benefits, examine the current job market, and assess how the skills developed in the Army may or may not transfer into civilian life.

Schedule to attend a pre-separation briefing and take advantage of ACAP's new computer system which helps evaluate the current job market and personal

interests to help make an informed decision about the future.

Call the ACAP Center with any questions on the Army transition process or ACAP services at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ(06783) 6-6741/6330.

## ACAP classes

Transitioning soldiers and their family members can take advantage of the following ACAP classes scheduled for February:

### VA briefing

ACAP is sponsoring the VA briefing Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. Call mil 485-6741/6330 or civ(06783) 6-6741/6330 to schedule an appointment.

### Pre-separation briefing

ACAP pre-separation briefings are scheduled at 9 a.m. Mondays through Fridays.

### Job assistance

ACAP offers job assistance workshops every-other Wednesday. The next one-day workshops are Feb. 14 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

## ACS at a glance

Baumholder's Newcomer's Orientation and Welcome, or NOW, is a new three-day orientation program designed to welcome and inform spouses of military members and civilian employees to Baumholder by providing relevant information and developing necessary skills for living in this unique environment. Spouses will learn about Germany and the local community through sessions on customs and a survival German language and cultural adaptation class.

Spouses, new to the military or not, will also have an opportunity to attend an introductory class to the Army life-style. Field trips on the economy will provide practical skills for shopping and using German public transportation. Free transportation and child care are available for all registered participants during the orientation. To learn more about this program, or to register, stop by Army Community Service in bldg. 8746, or call mil 485-8188, or civ(06783) 6-8188.

## International spouses

The International Spouses Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of the Month. The next meeting is Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. - noon in the ACS lounge. The next Newcomers

Coffee is Feb 20 from 10 - 10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

## Story hour for children

Army Community Services and the Baumholder library offer a story hour for children Feb. 22. Story hours are offered 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. for ages 0 - 18 months and 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. for ages 19 months - school age. Persons who would like to be a guest reader may contact the ACS Outreach Program at mil 485-6252.

## Parent support offered

The New Parent Support Program and ACS Outreach Program invite everyone to join their three new programs, parent and child play morning, breast feeding class and new mother's support group pot luck luncheon. There will be interactive play time for children up to school age and their parents. Call ACS for more information at mil 485-8188, or civ(06783) 6-8188.

## AFTB update

Army Family Team Building invites everyone to the following upcoming classes.

- Level I, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Level III, Feb. 13-14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Evening classes offered

Evening AFTB classes for Level II and III are now offered. Classes are on Mondays from 6 - 7 p.m., with two modules each night. The following are the January evening classes:

- Jan. 29**  
Adapting to Change  
Intermediate Problem Solving
- Feb. 12**  
Time Management  
Meeting Management
- Feb. 19**  
Family Readiness Groups  
Networking with Community Agencies  
Building a Resource Library
- Feb. 26**  
Military Grade and Command Structure  
Benefits, Entitlements and Compensation  
Traditions, Customs, Courtesies and Protocol  
Students receive a certificate of completion from AFTB after completing each level.  
Child care for day classes is paid for by AFTB. Classes are limited to 15 students per class, so interested persons must call to make reserva-

tions at mil 485-8542/8188.

## ACS Calendar

- Feb. 7**  
International Spouses Club  
Newcomers Coffee  
Banking and Checking Account  
Developing a Positive Self-Esteem
- Feb. 8**  
Couples Communication  
Story Hour (library)
- Feb. 9**  
Raising Responsible Kids
- Feb. 12**  
Assertiveness Training  
Employment Orientation
- Feb. 13**  
Anger Management
- Feb. 14**  
Conflict Resolution Skills  
Financial Planning for Couples
- Feb. 15**  
Child Safety & Supervision
- Feb. 16**  
Step Family Relationships
- Feb. 19**  
Employment Orientation  
Resumix Workshop
- Feb. 20**  
Stress and Time Management  
Newcomers Coffee  
International Spouses Club
- Feb. 21**  
Developing A Positive Self-Esteem
- Feb. 22**  
Couples Communication  
Story Hour (library)
- Feb. 23**  
Family Violence Prevention  
For more information about classes or services, call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.



## La Leche League meets

Pregnant and nursing mothers who wish to learn more about the advantages and benefits of breast-feeding their babies can find encouragement and information at the monthly meetings of Baumholder's La Leche League. The group meets at noon the second Tuesday of every month in Neubrücke housing. For more information on what the group has to offer call civ(06782) 980109.

**For more information check out the 222nd Base Support Battalion's home page at [www.baumholder.army.mil](http://www.baumholder.army.mil).**

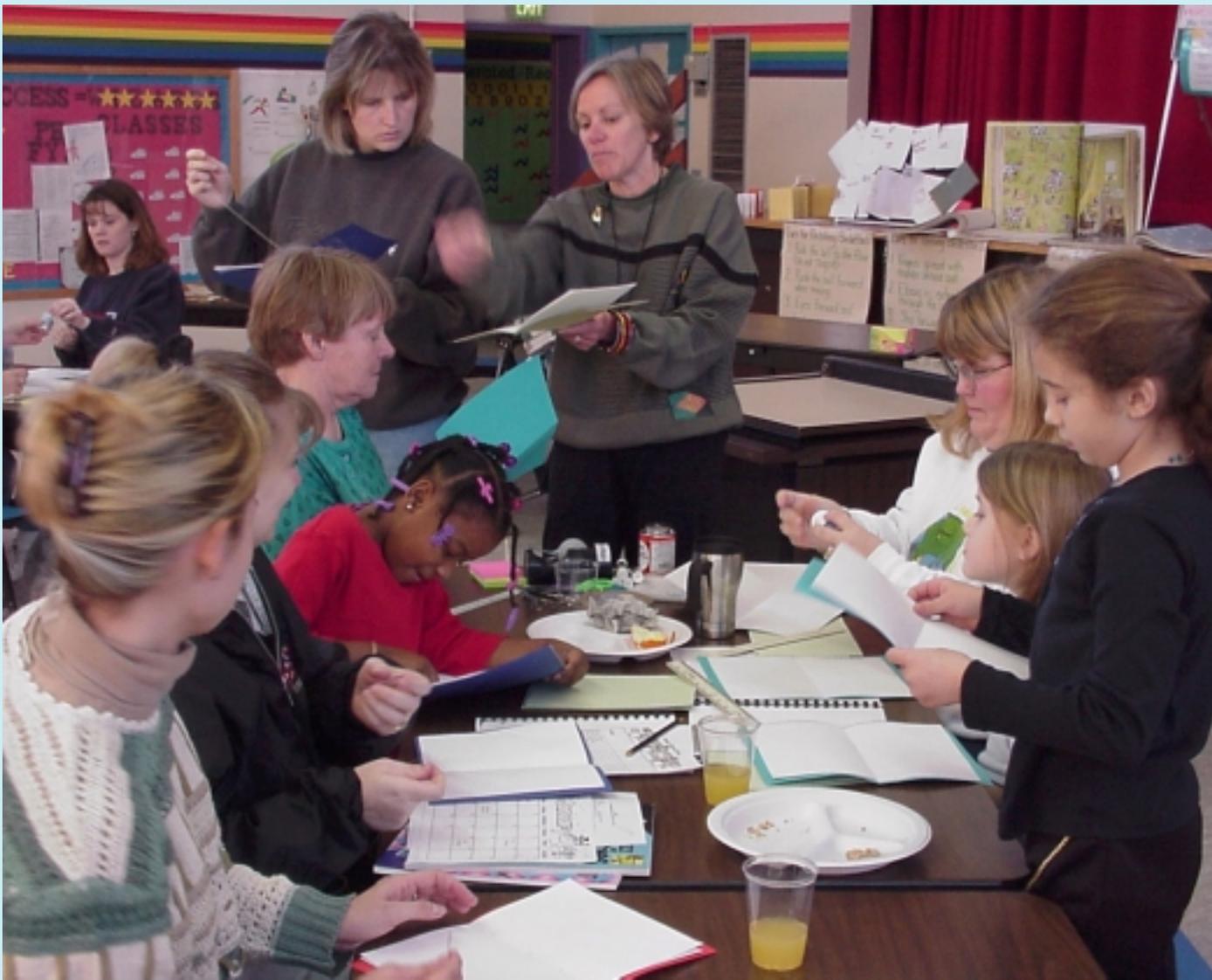


Photo by Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt

Holly Rieling, center, a Wetzel Elementary School teacher for learning impaired children, shares ideas on how to bind books as teachers, with their student and parent volunteers, follow instructions.

## Students, parents, teachers become binding experts

By Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt  
Kaiserslautern School District Public Affairs Officer

Wetzel Elementary School teachers recently capitalized on parent and student volunteers who were willing to become “resident experts” in the bookbinding techniques important for their Young

Authors program, a part of their “Focus on Literacy.”

During a recent staff development day, three simultaneous bookbinding workshops took place at Wetzel Elementary School. Not only were the teachers avid participants, but each teacher invited two students and a parent to participate as well. When it comes time to bind students’ “publishable” writing, there

will be plenty of experts in the classroom to assist children with the variety of ways of binding books. Holly Reiling shared several ways to bind books in one session, using everything from wallpaper to ziplock bags. Dorrie Meckes, Bena Leismann, and Vicky Best shared ways to make Big Books. Jean Karthcard taught a session on Japanese bookbinding.



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava

Melanie Hinze clutches a plaque wrapped in a recent issue of the Herald Union during her farewell ceremony.

## One of the family leaves

Melanie Hinze, a six-year military beat reporter for the Nahe Zeitung covering the Baumholder military community has left her job for a position with the Saarbrücker Zeitung. Hinze is being assigned to work in the Merzig area just west of Baumholder near the French/German border.

During her tenure, she covered such key events as the presidential visit, Bosnia deployments and the Kosovo deployment.

“Melanie became like family to the Baumholder community. The working relationship she cultivated was outstanding and the U.S. Army could always count on her information to be straight forward and accurate,” said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd Base Support Battalion public affairs officer.

## MWR update

### Bowling

Cosmic bowling is now offered at the Baumholder bowling center from 8 - 11 p.m. on Saturdays. Persons can bowl to disco lights while a fog machine, stereo system, and glow in the dark balls complete the cosmic affect. The cost is \$9.50. Shoe rental is extra.

### Rod and Gun Club

The Baumholder Rod and Gun Club will offer an eight-week hunting course starting Feb. 26. Learn everything you every wanted to know about hunting. The cost is \$50 per person and \$15 for the books. Classes will be on Mondays and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. The course requires a minimum of ten people to start. So, grab a friend and head out to the Baumholder Rod and Gun Club. For more information call

civ (06783) 6-6345, mil 485-6345, or email Brandt Gardner at Gardnerb@104.mwr.army.mil.

### Youth Services

Children don’t need to stay cooped up inside this winter. Youth Services offers a variety of activities to pass the winter hours. Be a part of the team and join the Baumholder bowling league Feb. 9. The fun starts at 4 p.m. and the cost is \$5. Teens 16 to 18 years old can check out the all area Valentine’s dance at the Neubrücke Youth Services Feb. 10. from 7–11 p.m. The cost is \$5.

Warm up them bones with a hot Mexican meal when Youth Services takes the children dining in Kaiserslautern Feb. 16. Everyone interested in going should meet up at the Underground at 4:30 p.m. Youth Services takes the children shopping Feb. 17 in

Saarbrücken. The cost is \$3 plus whatever spending money the youth may want to bring. Rock and Roll with Youth Services Feb. 24 when they head to Vogelweh on a skating trip. The trip leaves from the Underground at 1:30 p.m. and the cost is \$5.

### Outdoor Recreation

Join Baumholder Outdoor Recreation for a little winter adventure as they go on a series of shopping and sight-seeing trips. Join them on an express visit to Munich Feb. 3. The cost is \$35. Baumholder Outdoor Rec offers a sight-seeing trip Cologne, where old meets new, Feb. 10. The cost for this historic city tour is \$20. Don’t miss the Czech crystal shopping trip Feb. 17 for \$45. More shopping is available on a visit to the CentrO Mall in Oberhausen Feb. 24. The cost for this trip is \$22.

Don’t miss fun in the snow with people

you know when you head out with Baumholder Outdoor Rec on a ski trip to Grindelwald Switzerland Feb. 2 through 4. Other ski adventures include a trip to the Black Forest Feb. 10 and Dorfgastein, Austria Feb. 15 through 19. Ski trip prices depend on the package selected.

### Sports shorts

Units can sign up now for the unit level basketball program at the Mountaineer Fitness Center. The season runs from Feb. 20 through March 22. Interested teams must submit a letter of intent to the sports office by Feb 13.

Check out the fast paced action at the 222nd Base Support Battalion unit level basketball championships Feb. 12 through 15 at the Hall of Champions. For more information call the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671.

## Baumholder rehearses for possible CFE inspection

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

The 222nd Base Support Battalion together with 2nd Brigade, Division Artillery, 40th Engineer Battalion and the 47th Forward Support Battalion participated in a Conventional Forces Europe inspection rehearsal Jan. 23 that included an actual U.S. Army Europe CFE inspection team.

The rehearsal is part of a series of training and planning events being done prior to the CFE inspection year that begins March 15.

The after action review confirmed that Baumholder units are ready to host a successful CFE inspection. Minor points for improvement were noted but overall the inspectors gave Baumholder a passing grade.

"Our purpose here was to assist USAREUR and this site, 1st Armored Division, to prepare to receive an actual CFE inspection," said Lt. Col. Darrell Slone, team chief for the U.S. Army Europe team that conducted the rehearsal. Slone and his team are part of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and are trained and manned to complete inspections to the East.

Slone explained that, According to the CFE treaty, limitations were placed on certain types of weapons such as tanks, APCs, artillery and attack helicopters. Each year, all of the nations that belong to the treaty declare how much equipment they have in the area of application, which is Europe.

"These inspections are designed to verify that data is correct," said Slone. Referring to the rehearsal inspection, Slone said, "As an example, you may have noticed in the briefing that ... DIVARTY, has 18 guns declared. Twelve are present, six are out of the area.

"When a CFE inspection team comes in, they will want to verify that 18 guns are accounted for. They will look at the twelve that are located here and then will listen to the explanation of what happened to the six that are missing. That is the procedure. It's an effort to build trust that the members of the treaty are declaring honestly how much equipment they have each year in January," said Slone

Although units and sites may spend countless hours preparing for a CFE inspection by a team from a former Eastern Block country, they can never be sure if they will be inspected once the CEF inspection team arrives in Frankfurt.

About one hour after the team arrives, they will declare what site will be inspected. USAREUR officials then have six hours to get the team to the front gate of the facility where the inspection site is located.

According to Slone, instant access to a site is critical because an actual inspection, from arriving in country to



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, center, greets Lt. Col. Darrell Slone, in blue jacket next to Wagenaar, at Baumholder's main gate during a recent Conventional Forces Europe rehearsal. A camera man records the event for a future training film. The rehearsal was complete in every detail, including dialog in Russian by the inspectors that had to be translated into English.

completing the inspection, lasts about 48 hours.

"We do not have a lot of sympathy with the locals because we expect to go in and find everything open," said Slone. "If you look at a site the size of Baumholder, there are actually sites larger than Baumholder, where you come in and you inspect one brigade.

There are also a series of brigade size or battalion size support units that have to be inspected to ensure there is not other equipment, explained Slone. "You have three small teams of three individuals each trying to cover all of that area in roughly a day and a half and write and sign a report for that

inspection. It requires that things move like clockwork," he said.

That's why it's extremely important that the inspectors get into an area quickly and assure themselves there is not other equipment being hidden within the grounds of one of the support units, explained Slone.

"Had an actual inspection team arrived here today, I feel the site could have pulled off complying with the treaty. It would not have been as fast as I, as an inspector, would like to have the inspection accomplished but I think they could have accomplished their mission," said Slone.

## Commissary surcharge - What is it, what's it for, why do we pay it?

By Gerri Young

Public Affairs Officer, Defense Commissary Agency,  
European Region

Commissary shoppers often ask why they have to pay the 5 percent surcharge, what exactly is it and

what is it used for.

To clear up any confusion, here are the basic facts.

Surcharge history can be traced back to 1879, but the first real surcharge was 2 percent in 1952. In 1974, Congress declared that, in

order to fund construction and improvements to commissaries, a 3 percent surcharge would be placed on every transaction. In 1976, it was raised to 4 percent and in 1983, to 5 percent where it remains today. Can you think of any other cost which

has never been increased for so many years?

This is not a tax. The surcharge money goes into a special fund primarily used for renovation of old stores and construction of new stores.

The surcharge fund also pays for buying supplies such as paper and plastic bags, meat wrapping, register tapes, and all store equipment and maintenance.

The positive effect of the surcharge can best be expressed in simple terms. While it provides funds to build, alter and maintain commissaries, it also enables this construction to be carried out at no additional cost in tax dollars. The most visible effect of surcharge dollars in the European Region since 1997 has been the building of six brand new stores and the installation of a modern checkout system in every one of the 62 European commissaries.