

Maryland National Guard gives community a face lift

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Armed with paintbrushes and tools, 50 members of the Maryland National Guard 121st Engineer Battalion recently spent several weeks in Germany doing their part to make Baumholder a better place to train.

The group came to Baumholder with two objectives: to complete the maintenance tasks assigned to them as part of their annual training event, and to take some time to enjoy Germany. With some determination and a little elbow grease, they were able to accomplish both, a fact which provided a lot of satisfaction to everyone involved.

“You feel like you accomplish something on the base, and you get to see a foreign country,” explained Sgt. 1st Class David Albertini.

Among the projects assigned to the group were the tasks of fitting the floor and walls of the Indoor Shooting Range with new rubber blocks, staining the Outdoor Shooting Range structure, doing plaster work on the Nuclear Biological Chemical site, adding gravel for drainage to the MOUT (urban terrain) site, and doing a patch and paint job on the old Class Six Store, slated to become a command conference room. The group was also scheduled to complete maintenance work on the Obstacle Conditioning Course, but the work was halted

when a number of the wooden beams on the course were discovered to be rotten.

When the work was done, it was time to play. Members of unit took advantage of their time off to make weekend excursions within Germany, as well as to enjoy some local Baumholder flavor at the Hunsrück Rallye and Altstadtfest. For the men and women who had traveled such a long way to do their jobs, this was the real pay off.

“Coming here has been a reward for a lot of these guys for the time they’ve invested (in the Guard),” stated Capt. Richard Boggs. As for his own opinion of the event, Boggs emphatically declared, “This has been one of the best annual training events I’ve been on.”

Boggs was also quick to praise the Baumholder military community for all the support they provided to the Maryland National Guard during their stay, noting that the help

provided by the local facilities made the success of the mission possible. He added that he looks forward to the chance to come back. And as for the strange looks he sometimes received from people when they saw the National Guard patch on his arm? Boggs explained that he just took that in stride, saying “For most of us, being in the Guard is a hobby. We have the same standards, go to the same schools, but we do it part time.”

Safety issues force course closure

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Safety concerns have shut down Baumholder’s Obstacle Conditioning Course.

The course, located next to the Outdoor Shooting Range, was closed after a visiting National Guard unit doing maintenance work on the course discovered that a number of the wooden beams had rotted and were infested with ants.

“I made the decision to close the range, in conjunction with Training Support Officer Joe Kraft, to be on the safe side based on those discoveries,” responded Randy Blackwell, the local Training Area Supervisor. “I had safety concerns for the soldiers,” he further explained.

After further investigation, it was found that seven of the 16 events on the course had been damaged by the elements and insects. As a result, the 17-year-old obstacle course will undergo a complete overhaul.

The Baumholder Training Support Division is seeking the \$40,000 needed to construct a new course in its’ place, complete with above-ground timbers to help keep the obstacles pest-free.

With this improved construction, which features timbers that fit into cement-encased metal plates, Blackwell expects they will be able to stretch the

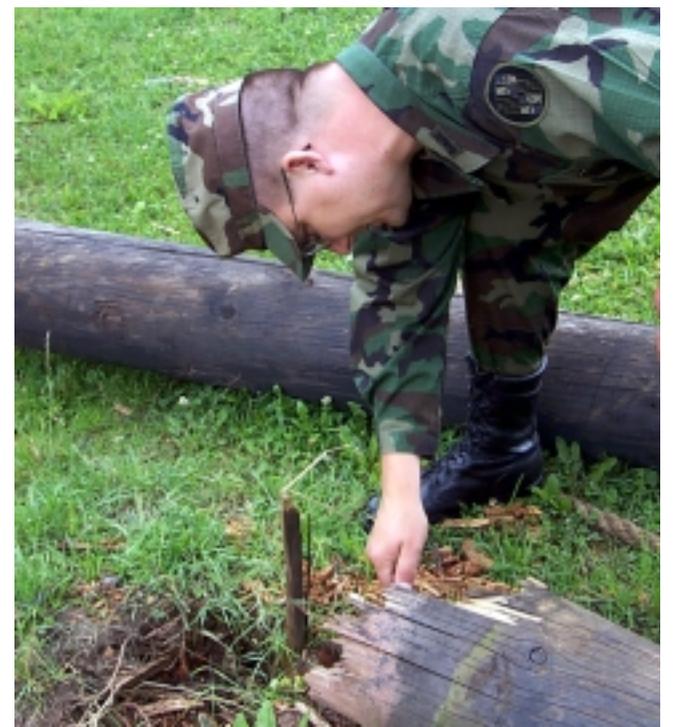


Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Maryland Guardsman Capt. Richard Boggs examines one of the rotten timbers on the obstacle course.

life of the course by at least five to 10 years. The key to extending the life of the course, Blackwell explained, is to ensure that moisture and insects cannot penetrate into the wooden timbers.

Additionally, all of the timbers will be treated with the wood preservative creosote, and the entire range will be sprayed by pest control in order to rid it of the existing pest population. Nonskid paint will also be applied to the timbers to help ensure the safety of soldiers using the course.

Blackwell reports that he hopes to have the range up and running again by the end of the year.



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Pvt. 2 Anne Marie Joseph and Staff Sgt. Timothy Telsee of the Maryland National Guard apply stain to structures at the outdoor shooting range.

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Primary care clinic renovation complete, medics move in

The renovation project for the Baumholder Health Clinic primary care wing is finally complete. The refurbished wing provides the Baumholder community with a beautiful health care facility, according to Maj. Jack Trowbridge, clinic commander.

The clinic now has two patient treatment floors and a brand new look and feel. "The elevator will be

a welcomed relief for parents and patients alike and the clinic staff invites everyone to come see the new clinic and use their top quality services," said Trowbridge.

The new facility opened for business Aug. 7 and along with the move, the clinic has reorganized its primary care and the pediatric clinics. The clinics are now combined to provide the full range of family

care on both floors of the new facility. The clinics are now called Family Health Clinics, Team One and Team Two.

"On the second floor you will find the Optometry section and Team Two. Team One, the laboratory and the radiology departments are located on the first floor," said Trowbridge. The elevator is located in the center of the wing, across

from the main entrance. Patients may refer to the list below to find the location of their provider.

Team 1

Col. Rodolfo Bautista
Capt. Pacita Atkinson
Capt. Jeffery Craig
Capt. Marshall Mendenhall
Dr. Lydia Mercado

Team 2

Capt. Martha Lystad

Capt. Stephen Rittenhouse
Capt. Jacob Rowan
Dr. Chocho Kyi
Dr. David Olson

The old telephone numbers for the pediatric and primary care reception desk will still be used to make and adjust appointments. The clinic looks forward to serving soldiers and their families in the new location.

Make your medicine cabinet earth friendly

Does your medicine cabinet have more medication than your local pharmacy? If you are like most people you probably have at least a couple of bottles of Motrin from the last time you sprained something, had some teeth pulled, hurt your back, or jammed a finger on the court.

The Baumholder Pharmacy staff cautions everyone not to maintain old medication in the medicine cabinet and not to throw it in the trash

or flush it down the toilet. Check your home pharmacy for expired medications at least every six months.

Never self medicate with old medication. When sick or injured, go to the clinic and receive the correct medication for the illness or injury. Medications lose their effectiveness over time and inappropriate medications can actually prolong an illness.

Let the clinic help you clean out

that cabinet while keeping the environment clean. Bring your expired medications and any medications no longer needed to the Baumholder pharmacy for disposal. The pharmacy will accept prescriptions and over-the-counter medications for disposal. Pharmacy hours of operation are: Monday through Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 1-4:30 p.m.; and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For details call mil485-6270.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Ready, set, go!

Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, Volkmar Pees (left), district mayor and Klaus Rickes, Baumholder mayor, prepare to officially start one of the competitors during the annual Hunsrück Rallye in Baumholder. The rallye is always held in conjunction with the annual city fest.



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Happy birthday ACS

Two-and-a-half year old Austin Tyler enjoys a little basketball during the recent Army Community Service birthday celebration. ACS recently celebrated 35 years of service to soldiers and their families by holding a birthday party to which the entire community was invited. There was a large turnout for the festivities that included food, games for the children, music and cake. ACS thanks the more than 300 community members that came out to help commemorate their birthday.

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ACAP shuts down

The Baumholder ACAP Center will be closed for a computer system upgrade and staff training Sept. 1 through 15. Limited services such as post clearing and emergency mandatory pre-separation briefings will be available. ACAP reopens Sept. 18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACAP is hiring

The Army Career and Alumni Program is now accepting resumes for the position of ACAP Counselor at the Baumholder office. This contractor position requires a Master's Degree, two years teaching or counseling experience and computer literacy with Microsoft Word and the Internet. For details call Bobbi Curris at 485-6741.

Last chance with the VA

The Army Career and Alumni Program will host its last Veterans' Administration briefing of the year on Aug. 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the ACAP office. Call ACAP for details about their services at mil 485-6330/6741 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACAP classes

The following ACAP classes are scheduled for August:

Preseparation briefing

Aug. 15, 8:30 a.m. - noon (VA briefing at 10:30 a.m.)

Aug. 29 at 8:30 a.m. - noon

Job Assistance Workshop

Aug. 15, 1-4 p.m.; Aug. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aug. 29, 1-4 p.m.; Aug. 30, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACS at a glance

ACS is accepting applications for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program. For assistance in completing the form call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188. For questions regarding eligibility, call Gene Winfrey at mil 485-1770 or civ (06783)6-1770.

Story hours for children are from 10-11 a.m. Aug. 10 and 24 at the Baumholder Library. Story hour changes in September to accommodate the number of children

The International Spouses Club meets from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 16 in the ACS lounge.

Army Family Team Building Level I training is Aug. 16. Level II is Aug. 23-24. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188 for location details.

A newcomers coffee is set for Aug. 15 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

Army Community Services hosts a volunteer potluck luncheon Aug. 16. For details call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

An employment orientation class is offered at 9 a.m. every Monday at ACS. For details call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

ACS calendar

Aug. 8, Stress Management Class

Aug. 9, Financial Readiness Training, Interviewing Training, Conflict Resolution Class

Aug. 10, Story Hour (Library), Couples Communication Class

Aug. 11, Resumix Workshop

Aug. 14, Parenting Class
Aug. 15, Stress Management
Aug. 16, International Spouses Club ACS, Anger Management Class, AFTB Level I Training, ACS Volunteer Luncheon
Aug. 17, Child Safety Class
Aug. 18, Using Credit Wisely
Aug. 21, Parenting Class, Employment Orientation

For information about classes or other services provided, call mil 485-8188 or civ 06783-6-8188.

Neubrücke starts early

Neubrücke Elementary School has changed its hours of operation for the coming school year. School hours at Neubrücke this year will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wetzel school calendar

Aug. 17, new student and parent orientation in the media center, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Aug. 25, kindergarten orientation, 1-3 p.m.

Aug. 31, Open house, 3-5 p.m.

DoDDS calendar

Aug. 15, last day to register for upcoming school year

Aug. 15 SAC meeting at Smith Elementary School, 12:30 p.m. (Smith only)

Aug. 24, Teachers Welcome back lunch at 2nd Brigade dining facility, 1 p.m.

Aug. 25, Baumholder American High School seventh grade student orientation and cookout, all other schools will have teachers in-service training

Aug. 28, First day of school

Youth sports

Fall Sports Registration for youth runs July 10 through Aug. 4. Parents can register their children ages 4-18 for fall soccer, flag football (7-15) and cheer leading (6-15). Children must be enrolled with Child and Youth Services to participate. Call Central Registration for more information at mil 485-7003.

There will be a coaches clinic Aug. 10 for persons interested in coaching youth sports this fall. For details, call mil 485-6968/7276.

Beam me into class

Attention all Trekies, an astronomy class with laboratory is being offered at Baumholder during the coming semester. Enroll now before all the local earthlings fill the class.

Learn the local lingo

Baumholder's Adult Education Program offers Conversational German I and Conversational French I starting Aug. 21. The cost is \$40.

College registration

College registration is now in progress at the Baumholder Army

Education Center for Term I, that begins Aug. 21. Call mil 485-6487 for information.

Tuition assistance

Now is the time to apply for Spouse Tuition Assistance for the fall semester. Stop by the Education Center to pick up an application for the Army's Spouse Tuition Assistance Application and the free application for Federal Student Aid.

Distance learning

Attention unit commanders, first sergeants and training NCOs. Are you having difficulty filling your training needs? The Distance Learning Center is now available for your use. This electronic classroom center has all training programs available to include common task training and computer based training. Smart force training is also available through CD-ROM. For more information, call Faith Aguiard at mil 485-8290.

Work at the Ed Center

Central Texas College has the following openings at the Baumholder Education Center:

Academic Instructor (tutor), evening hours, a bachelor of arts or science degree is required.

FAST Instructor, daytime classes, a bachelor of arts or science degree is required.

Army Learning Center Operator (substitute), day/evening hours.

Call mil 485-6487 for more information.

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Therapeutic day care gives children head start

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“Baby!” the little boy exclaims as he motions toward the toy before him with an excited grin. “Yes, baby bear,” adds the woman seated next to him, helping the youngster fill in a gap in his vocabulary.

The two sit surrounded by toys and other children in the infant/toddler room of Baumholder’s dispensary Child Development Center. But this isn’t your average daycare supervision. Instead, the two are part of a unique program that allows the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services and the Child Development Center to team up to provide therapeutic day care to children experiencing developmental delays.

As Patsy Boughan, the Early Childhood Special Educator with the EDIS and the woman working with this youngster explains, “The purpose of therapeutic day care is to provide early intervention services in a natural environment ... instead of bringing kids with special needs to clinics.”

The benefits of the program for children who are not hitting their developmental milestones are numerous. “It’s an ideal opportunity for kids to socialize...to use and practice the skills they’ve got...and it’s what other kids do. It’s natural,” Boughan emphasizes, listing the benefits of therapeutic day care as opposed to traditional therapy



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Patsy Boughan, early childhood special educator, interacts with a child during one of her therapeutic play sessions.

conducted in a clinic setting. Indeed, as this three-year-old plays and interacts with the children around him, he seems obli-

ous to the fact that he is receiving therapy from Boughan. To him, the day is just about having fun. As he plays, Boughan continues to pro-

vide guidance in such areas as his communication skills, helping the youngster to express himself at a level appropriate for his age.

As part of the Early Intervention services provided to military families through the EDIS, the therapeutic day care program’s mission is to provide early intervention to eligible children and families in a natural setting so that there is ample opportunity for optimal growth. With the goal of ensuring that all children are ready to learn when they reach school age, the program aids children ages birth to three-years in all areas of development, including motor skills, communication, cognitive abilities, adaptive skills (or levels of independence), and personal/social skills.

While the services are provided free to military families, the children must qualify for the program through an individualized assessment.

To be considered eligible for the program, the child must have a suspected or diagnosed developmental delay or have a medical condition that places them at risk for a developmental delay. In diagnosing a developmental delay, EDIS looks for either a 20 percent developmental delay in two areas, or a 25

percent delay in one area.

Once diagnosed with a developmental delay by the EDIS, a child may qualify for a slot in the recently expanded therapeutic day care program, which has space for eight to ten children. The children are provided an average of four to six hours of day care per week, time that is paid for by EDIS. During that time, the child spends about two hours per week with an EDIS therapist in the CDC facility, allowing the child to apply their skills in a social situation instead of the isolation of a clinic.

“It provides them with the opportunity to use the skills that we are developing...in play, in social situations,” Boughan stresses.

“These kids tend to separate easier from their parents, follow routines better, and can combine their skills in a more holistic way.”

While Boughan alternates between playing with the children and simply observing their behavior, she reports noticing a difference in children who are given the opportunity to participate in the therapeutic day care program. “These kids tend to separate easier from their parents, follow routines better, and can combine their skills in a more holistic way,” she states.

Boughan credits much of the program’s success on the level of cooperation shown between the CDC and the EDIC, adding that the CDC’s director has been very enthusiastic about the program. To Boughan, this is simply another sign of something that’s gone right within the Baumholder military community. “It’s phenomenal how the groups in this community come together, and try to make their services coordinate,” she explains.

Although therapeutic daycare is only one of a full spectrum of services provided by the EDIC and other child care professionals, Boughan is very optimistic about the difference it is making in the lives of the kids who are involved. “For a lot of kids showing general developmental delays, (therapeutic day care) is the best place for them to be.”

For more information, contact the EDIS at mil 485-6710, or civ 06783-6-6710.

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