

Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Tiny dancer

A young ballet dancer shows off her talent on stage during Buccaneer Night, the annual college scholarship fundraiser for Baumholder American High School's graduating seniors. This year's annual fund raiser netted the seniors \$20,000 plus. All proceeds from the pirate-theme evening go into a scholarship fund to be distributed among this year's seniors who will be continuing their education after graduation. Buccaneer Night featured live entertainment, children's games, the Whopper Hopper, cake walk, theme basket auction, silent auction, food sales and raffle giveaways. Throughout the evening, dozens of items contributed by local merchants, organizations and professional sports teams were raffled or sold in the silent auction.

Crisis assistance

The Crisis and Assistance Center at Army Community Service, Building 8742 is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Assistance is available by calling mil 485-8188/6604 during duty hours. After duty hours call the 222nd Base Support Battalion EOC at mil 485-7533/6150 or civ (06783) 6-7533/6150. Call or stop by if you need someone to listen or to resolve an issue.

AFTB training

Army Family Team Building offers instructor training, May 18, 19, 20 and 21, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Army Community Services. Free childcare is provided with advance registration. Call mil 485-8542 for more information or to sign up.

May Sports

The following sports and leisure activities are offered in May:

- Walk to Iraq and back is now under way. Call your family readiness group leader for details.
- Beginners racquetball lessons start May 11 at all gyms.
- Weight training orientation is offered May 12 at Gym II; May 13 at Neubrücke; and May 14 at Strassburg. All sessions begin at 10 a.m. persons who cannot meet these times may call for an appointment at mil 485-6671/7176.

Players needed

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for men and women community level softball players, coaches, officials and scorekeepers. Call mil 485-6671/7176 for details.

Unit level softball

Units interested in intramural softball competition may register at the Sports Office or call mil 485-6671/7176.

Spare time? Bowl

There are good times to spare at Baumholder's newly renovated Strikers bowling center. During Iron Family Bowling on Thursdays, all military spouses and children can bowl for free from 3 and 6 p.m. while lanes are available and shoe rental is included.

Strikers has an all new kitchen and snack bar and state of the art bowling equipment. There's a new lobby in front of the facility and the exterior has also been given a face lift.

Down town fun

The town of Baumholder invites everyone to a weekend of live music and entertainment May 15 and

16.

Activities begin May 15 in the town market place with an antique flea market, booths, a children's carousel, food and drink booths, and open air music.

The evening's activities begin May 15 at 9 p.m. when live music and entertainment will be offered at Bistro Pierrot, Aktuell, Vis-à-vis and Treffpunkt. Customers pay one cover charge that allows them admission to all four locations.

May 16 activities begin at 11 a.m. with a performance by a gospel choir in the market place. The same activities will be offered throughout the day as the day before plus a special obstacle course for children and free face painting will also be available.

All shops will also be open until 8 p.m. May 15 and from noon-6 p.m. May 16.

Case lot sale

Mark your calendars for May 28-30. Those are the dates for the annual worldwide commissary case lot sale.

Call the commissary for the two days of those three that they will hold this popular event. Some items will be reduced as much as 60 percent off the regular price.

The sale will include selected grocery, household, health and beauty items, chilled and frozen food and more.

Scramble night

Grip it and rip it Thursday nights at Rolling Hills Golf Course starting May 16 through Sept. 20. Sign up from 3-5:30 p.m. in the Pro-Shop and tee off at 6 p.m., with a shotgun start and a \$10 entry fee.

A minimum of 16 people are needed to play. Call the Rolling Hills Golf Course at mil 485-7299 for more information.

Website assists family members

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion public affairs office

Baumholder's web site features two new links of interest to family members affected by the extension of 1st Armored Division Soldiers in Iraq. Operation Home Front is a link where family members can find answers to questions pertaining to deployment extensions, airline ticket refund guidance, new travel orders policy and more.

The site will continue to be updated with the latest information as it becomes available.

"We want families to know that this information is available to assist them through these demanding times," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd Base Support Battalion public affairs officer.

The guidance and information for family members affected by the extension is so fluid at this point that it is difficult to determine what the latest guidance is. "Family members can be sure, however, that

whatever information appears on the web is the latest information we have available," said Dwoiakowski.

Also new to the web site is a link called Baumholder happenings. Army Community Services compiles this information every two weeks and publishes a flyer which is then placed in mailboxes at the Community Mail Room. This same information will also be placed on the Baumholder web site so that everyone in the community can have complete access to the latest happenings in Baumholder.

The site features activities for youth, ACS classes and programs, club events, trips, sports, recreation activities, chapel activities and more. The information will be updated every two weeks.

The Baumholder web site is located at www.baumholder.army.mil.

Baumholder's web site is just one of three avenues the 222nd BSB is using to keep family members informed with the many activities offered at Baumholder and up

to date with the latest extension information.

The second leg of Baumholder's information triad is the Baumholder Information Channel, or BIC. This service is available to all residents who have cable access, regardless if it is the basic free service or any of the paid packages. Residents in Smith kaserne and housing, Wetzel housing, Champion Village, Neubrücke and Strassburg have access to this service.

The third avenue available to family members is of course the Herald Union. Key information that appears on the web or BIC will also be highlighted in the Herald Union.

"There are so much information coming in that the 222nd BSB decided to maximize the flow of information by highlighting key events and critical information in all three media formats. This way, we can be assured that community residents will be informed one way or another. If they don't read the paper, they'll watch TV or go to the web for the latest news and information.

Family members get travel orders

Cut through the red tape and bureaucracy and do all you can to help the families is the message Gen. B.B. Bell, commander, U.S. Army in Europe, had for members of the 222nd Base Support Battalion and its associated units on Baumholder. "Do what is right to take care of these families," said Bell.

In addition to other things, "this empowerment from Bell allows Alpha Detachment, 90th Personnel Service Battalion to issue orders to family members, right now and immediately," said Capt. Terry D. Brannan, Detachment A, 90th PSB commander.

Therefore, all family members of Soldiers who had original report or

permanent change of station dates between May 1, 2004 and Sept. 30, 2004 may go to Alpha Detachment and get their orders published. When the family member walks in, "We will ask, 'How may we take care of you?'" said Brannan.

The supplemental Stop Loss/Stop Move message, MILPER 04-149 has been published. This message adjusts the Soldier's DEROS to Nov. 15, 2004 with a report date of Dec. 20 2004. This is based on the 90 day stabilization which the Soldier may waive, upon approval from the first 0-5 in the Soldier's chain of command.

Orders in hand, the family member may then proceed on assignment this summer on the original

report date and settle the family at the next duty assignment. The Soldier will proceed later to the same duty assignment.

"We will base these orders on the current assignment instructions as found on our DA assignment systems. These orders allow the family to travel, ship POV, ship household goods, clear/retain housing and also allow for the travel of the Soldier upon their return—in any combination of dates or shipments," said Brannan.

Upon return, Soldiers are still required to complete the reintegration process at their home station.

"If we do not hear from the family member, we will publish the orders based on the adjusted DEROS,

leave requested by Soldier and the 90 day stabilization. Please call us and ask any question you may have," said Brannan.

Family members who have questions may contact the reassignment section at mil 485-6978/6634/7216 or WO1 Michael McKoy at mil 485-7215. Customers may also call 1st Sgt.-Staff Sgt. Joseph Hall or Brannan at mil 485-6068. Brannan is also available on email at terry.brannan@us.army.mil.

The bottom line is, all family members of Task Force 1AD Soldiers with original report dates of May 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2004 may still proceed, without their Soldier, on that assignment and original date, if they desire.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava Gen. B.B. Bell fields a question from a Baumholder resident.

Eight Soldiers killed while making roads safe in Iraq

Eight Baumholder Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom died April 29, in Baghdad, Iraq, while part of a dismounted improvised explosive device sweep patrol when a vehicle approached their unit, and the driver detonated a bomb. All Soldiers were assigned to the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division. Killed were:

Staff Sgt. Esau G. Patterson, Jr., 25, of Ridgeland, S.C.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey F. Dayton, 27, of Caledonia, Miss.

Sgt. Ryan M. Campbell, 25, of Kirksville, Mo.

Spc. James L. Beckstrand, 27, of Escondido, Calif.

Spc. Justin B. Schmidt, 23, of Bradenton, Fla.

Pfc. Ryan E. Reed, 20, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pfc. Norman Darling, 29, of Middleboro, Mass.

Pfc. Jeremy Ricardo Ewing, 22, of Miami, Fla.

The incident is under investigation.

The eight Soldiers killed and four Soldiers wounded were part

of a task force that was working to make the roads south of Baghdad safe for the citizens and those traveling to the Holy Sites in the area.

These Soldiers were working to remove roadside bombs that have resulted in the death of many Iraqi citizens as well as Soldiers over the last year.

The task force has worked hard over the past several weeks improving security for the area. While they were working on one of the roads, a driver in a station wagon approached the task force.

Once he was close enough to inflict injury he detonated the explosive device.

"These young men exemplify the values of our great country. They have given their lives in order for others to enjoy freedom and a chance for a better life.

The thoughts and prayers of the entire 1st Armored Division Family are with them and their families. Their sacrifices will not be in vain," said a 1st AD spokesman.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava A vehicle is carefully inspected by Ponds security persons under new massive inspection point at Prussman Gate.

Prussman Gate reopens, traffic flows

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It did not take long for traffic to start flowing through Baumholder's Prussman Gate once it reopened April 30 after a year-long construction project that replaced the old guard shack that had only one lane in and one lane out with a modern three lane entry point and six checkpoints. Where the old guard shack once stood, now stands a massive vehicle search facility.

No other construction project has affected the entire community more than this, for sooner or later, everyone must pass through the main gate.

The gate is open to pedestrians and vehicle traffic only. Truck and bus traffic continues to enter the post from Chicago Gate. Daily visitor passes continue to be issued at

the AAFES warehouse parking lot location and the Shooters Gate, formerly known as the Rod and Gun Gate, has closed to vehicle traffic but remains open for pedestrians 24-hours a day.

Construction on the main gate began March 17, 2003 but the project started affecting people even before then. Shortly before construction started, motorists and pedestrians who wanted to enter on post via the main gate discovered that the gate was boarded up and Baumholder was "closed."

Motorists and pedestrians, however, quickly adjusted to the minor inconvenience of entering Smith barracks through one of its other entry points.

Nothing remains of the old gate. The entire facility is new and provides efficient entry control as well as convenience for motorists whose vehicles are randomly inspected.

Drivers and security persons are now sheltered from the weather during a vehicle search by a large bay area that can accommodate 18 vehicles at one time.

The old vehicle check point area allowed for only three or four vehicles to be checked at one time, which often backed up traffic during peak hours. The Ponds security force also has a new spacious operations facility at the main gate.

Beyond the check points and vehicle inspection area is a traffic circle that streamlines the flow of incoming and outgoing traffic. In the center of the circle is a large marquee pronouncing the latest happenings on post.

The Army Corps of Engineers was the overseer for the details and specifications of the construction and SKE Maintenance GmbH & Co KG from Mannheim performed the work.

Bowling center reopens, everything new

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder's bowling center holds its grand reopening ceremony May 11 at 3 p.m., marking the end of an intense renovation project that gave the center a complete face lift as well as a new name, Strikers. It has a complete new look and features a couple of new attractions for customers.

New to the facility is a lounge area with slot machines, a bar and smoking area. Large glass doors in front of the lounge open out into a newly built patio that will offer a street café atmosphere. By adding this new lounge area, "We've separated the adult entertainment from the family entertainment," said Les Quick, bowling center manager. The lounge is actually in front of the bowling center and can be entered without going into the bowling area. Inside Strikers, it's a brand new facility. "Everything has been replaced, from the tables to the pin setters. We've also added an additional family lounge area where children and adults can enjoy their favorite video games. It's a brand new facility in an old building," he said.

The center's scoring system is also state of the art, with overhead scoring monitors at every lane that also have the capability of television reception. "If an adjoining lane is not in use, it is possible to have AFN showing on one monitor while scoring is displayed in the adjoining monitor," said Quick. There are also Plasma television monitors throughout the center that offer AFN satellite reception. "These monitors also have a marketing potential since we can display Power Point based presentations with community information," said Quick.

The Strike Zone snack bar is also new to the center. "This is a theme food concept operation that will open in a couple of weeks," said Quick.

"The Strike Zone is the food service application for bowling centers," said Brad Puterbaugh, an employee of community and family support center, Branded Theme Concepts of Alexandria, VA. "These (food service packages) have been in development for ten years. We have different applications for different locations and we've got 54 units world wide now," said Puterbaugh. "Twelve are Strike Zones, this is number 12. We've got them in Korea, all over the United States, in England and in Germany.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Bright colors and family friendly surrounding make Strikers the place to be for those with time to "spare."

This is the fourth one in Germany. It is an upgraded food service standardized package in terms of quick-serve food service for a bowling center, tried and tested in many locations over the past ten years and perfected over the past few years, so that's what we're installing here. This is a product of MWR and we're here to do the training, myself and Berry Pensky," said Puterbaugh

The Strike Zone snack bar will offer consistency in quality food service to the bowling center. It brings to bear the true nature of food service which needs to be a consistent product from unit to unit," said Puterbaugh.

"So when you go to a unit at in Theilerbach or you go to a unit at Fort Brag, you're going to get the same product," he said.

As part of an initiative to support the community and family members during the extension period, Strikers will be providing free bowling for everyone in the community. "We're going to provide free bowling during sergeants time every Thursday from 3-6 p.m.," said Quick.

"The intent is to support the spouses and dependents left behind but the community has civilians that are doing a lot of other support. Everybody is involved, whether it's family members, German employees, civilian employees and their family members, they're all doing their 10, 11 or 12 hours and they all deserve a pat on the back and this is just a piece of that," said Quick.

Other programs offered at Strikers include Monday Night Madness; Nifty Fifties on Tuesdays, Wild Wednesdays, Early Bird and Color Pin Bowling on Thursdays, Kids Night out on Fridays, Cosmic Bowling on Saturdays, Family Bowling on Sundays and Open Bowling on Holidays. Open bowling is also

offered Mondays through Fridays. Striker hours are 1-11 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 1-midnight on Fridays and Saturdays; and 1-10 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

Lounge hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 4 p.m.-midnight; Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.; and Sundays and holidays from 4-11 p.m.

The Strike Zone snack bar is open Mondays through Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.-mid-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Berry Pensky and Brad Puterbaugh examine the new equipment at the Strike Zone Snackbar.

night; and Sundays and holidays from 1-8 p.m.

Eleven employees currently work at Strikers but Quick says he's looking at expanding it. "I want to hire at least four or five additional employees," he said.

Strikers is also open to the German community. "As long as they

can access the post they can use our facility. The only restriction is that they cannot buy items such as bowling balls for personal use. But as far as coming in and consuming products, whether it's food, beverages or bowling, they're welcome to use our facility," said Quick. "We're open to the community."

High school, Neubrücke continue accreditation

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

A team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools completed an in depth evaluation of Baumholder American High School April 16 that led to the school being recommended for continuation of the accreditation process by the NCA.

The team then moved on to evaluate Neubrücke Elementary School and also found it to school to be an exceptional place of learning and recommended that they be accredited for an additional five years.

"The schools are involved in an improvement process over a five-year period and we're here to provide assistance and guidance to help them move forward," said Phil Lebeau, chairperson for North Cen-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Dom Calabria, high school principal, listens to Phil Lebeau's comments after the North Central Association accreditation visit.

tral Association of Colleges and Schools. The NSA is the largest school accreditation organization in the United States.

The team interviewed and observed student and teacher interaction, evaluated the school's curriculum for adherence to NSA stan-

dards and also interviewed staff members and parents.

Of the students and faculty at Baumholder American High School Lebeau said "We saw kids in this school that were engaged, energetic...respectful, part of your goal of character development, and friendly...I think, this along with you as an enthusiastic, motivated staff made this a very pleasant experience for us...There really is a sincere repor that exists between the staff and the students at this school.

"My team reports that the open and honest communication helped us with the endeavors of our report," said Lebeau.

"The process that we used was to interview and visit classrooms. We met formally and informally with students. That was always a treat. That's always a breath of fresh air, while, as you know, that's why you're in this business, because of the students and we feel the same way. It certainly is a joy to talk and converse and get information from the student population," he said.

After the evaluation, Lebeau read the general appraisal and provided three major findings on school improvement and three major next steps.

The final report will come back in two parts, one on school improvement, which has four different components to it. These components include the involvement of the school in the school improvement process, the leadership for school improvement, the high expectations for school improvement and the culture and climate for school improvement. Each one of those sections has a subheading of findings or strengths and another subheading called next steps as they were called before, recommendations.

Lebeau summed up the team's findings by telling the staff and teachers, "You followed the process diligently through the North Central process of school improvement...you're in your third year, you've done a darn good job."

He added that "The tone of the school reflects a respectful, caring and safe environment. The students, staff, including support staff, the parents, administration, district office, and the military community take pride in this Baumholder middle high school.

"The school must now connect the work of the first part of the cycle to the documentation of student success at the end of the cycle."

"The team obviously recommends continued accreditation for Baumholder middle school high school, and it really has been our

good fortune to be here with you the past three days. We thank you. We wish you success as you travel on your journey to school improvement and I congratulate you and again thanks for your time and your efforts," said Lebeau.

At Neubrücke Elementary School, the results were equally impressive. School Principal Wayne Dozark said, "The out brief went extremely well. As a matter of fact the words were more flattering than we expected. They deemed the school to be one of the very best that they've ever visited. They found no citations. They were anxious to give us our additional five years of accreditation," he said.

"They even commented that they had had a very interesting and productive parent meeting in which they asked the parents to rate the school from 1 to 10 and the parents said give them a 12. It really impressed them that the parents were so supportive of the school and felt it truly was the hidden secret of DoDDS," said Dozark.

In a letter to parents, Dozark encapsulated the team's comments by writing:

"I'm very proud to announce that the North Central Accreditation team unanimously and without reservation recommended that Neubrücke Elementary be accredited for an additional five years.

"They cited the school as an A plus place of learning, with an outstanding and caring staff, well behaved and respectful students, very supportive parents, a varied and effective curriculum, a full and wide ranging program for children, and an extremely strong and talented support staff.

"The two stateside evaluators representing NCA, headquartered in Chicago, indicated in their out briefing to the staff, to the district office personnel, military representatives and parents, that this is the best school that they have had the pleasure of visiting this year. Quite a compliment considering they are on the road for about six months out of each school year evaluating schools in the states as well as throughout the world of DoDEA.

"I'm genuinely pleased and humbly flattered that we received such incredibly high marks and compliments. As parents I hope you are as pleased as we are.

"The team of seven professionals from the USA, from schools in Belgium, from DoDDS schools in the Netherlands, validated that what we are doing with children's learning is right on track with the goals of DoDEA. Thank you for your continued support."