

Soldiers help BSB civilian survive motorcycle accident

"I just didn't want the guy to die."

By Jennifer R. Babich
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Some might call them heroes. But to Sgt. Kenneth Braxton and Spc. Eric Cade of 1-6 Infantry, they only did what needed to be done.

"I just did it," Braxton explained. "It wasn't like I was looking for a thank you or anything. You know, I just didn't want the guy to die."

Thanks to the life-saving efforts of these two soldiers, what could have turned into a tragedy on the morning of Sept. 26 instead became a story of courage and survival.

"I was looking down because my wife was driving," recalled Braxton. "And all I heard was a crash and I looked up just in time to see the motorcycle flipping...and then I looked and I saw the guy rolling. He hit the guardrail and his whole body just wrapped around it, and everybody just sat there. Nobody would go over to the guy...and before I knew it, I was out of the car and over there."

"My husband was the first one over there," confirmed Braxton's wife, Denise. "He held his head...and I looked over, and his hands were full of blood." For the next few minutes, the infantry soldier put his limited medical knowledge to use in an effort to save the life of Thomas Schneider, a German civilian employee of Baumholder's 222nd Base Support Battalion Training Support Division for nearly 20 years.

"First he was having problems breathing on his back...I got his helmet off and made eye contact



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Sgt. Kenneth Braxton

with him. He wasn't quite able to speak then, all he could do was just blink his eyes...so we established a yes and no thing with the eyes," Braxton said. "I asked if he was having problems breathing...he said yeah."

"By then Specialist Cade showed up," Braxton added, "And we began going through the Combat Lifesaver stuff...that's the only way I knew what I was doing. We cut his jacket off and as we found things wrong, we kind of took notes on it so that way when the ambulance showed up, we could tell them what we found so far. We got him rolled on his side, so he could breathe better and he kept going in and out (of consciousness)...so we just kept talking to him."

Cade, a medic with 1-6 Infantry, was also driving in to work when he came upon the accident scene. "I was going to work. It was early, and it was foggy too. I saw a lot of traffic stopped, and when I pulled up I saw Sgt. Braxton...and then I realized...I saw somebody on the ground. That's when I got out and I ran

over," Cade remembered. Together, the two soldiers worked to aid the injured motorcyclist until the ambulance arrived.

"He couldn't talk, you know," Cade stated. "I told him to squeeze my hand if he understood what I was saying. He was pretty much responsive...but he couldn't talk. And that's when I started checking him to see what was wrong."

As Braxton elaborated, "(We) started from the head...worked our way down to the feet. First thing you want to do is restore breathing, then stop bleeding, search for any fractures...stuff like that." By this time, onlookers had begun to gather at the accident scene, including several people who joined in the fight to save the accident victim. "I told someone to stabilize him...make sure he doesn't try to move," Cade explained.

"From what I observed...his arm was broken, and I tried to splint it. There was a female there...she helped me...we did a splint (for) his arm."

"We started splinting with anything because we couldn't find anything...and we just started splinting with house shoes."

"He had a compound fracture on his arm. He also had broken his hip," Braxton said, listing Schneider's injuries. "We just kinda...as we found things we just immobilized it with what we had."

"Then when the paramedics showed up we gave them what we had...helped them get him up on the stretcher and load him in the ambulance." With that, the two soldiers had done their duty, and helped to save a life.

"I just didn't want the guy to die," Braxton emphasized. "I wanted

to do as much as I could. It was more like, do what I can and just hope the ambulance gets here pretty fast."

While Cade's knowledge of how to react in an accident scenario came from his six years of medic experience with the Army, Braxton admitted that his only medical know-how came from the mandatory Combat Lifesaving training in which he had been recertified just four months prior.

"When I went through the class it was...okay, let me get my two promotion points and go on, and I never thought that I would actually end up using it. Surprisingly I remembered it," Braxton said with a laugh.



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Spc. Eric Cade

"So I guess a lot of credit can go to the medics that taught me, because that's the only way that I knew what to do and how to go about it."

Accident victim on road to recovery

By Jennifer R. Babich
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Thomas Schneider, the injured German motorcyclist who received emergency assistance from Sgt. Kenneth Braxton and Specialist Eric Cade, is currently undergoing rehabilitation for his injuries at a clinic in the Saarland.

Thanks in part to the efforts of his roadside rescuers, Schneider is now on a new road...the road to recovery.

A civilian training technician

Although Braxton isn't looking for recognition, he does realize that the rescue has forged a bond between the victim and the soldiers. "What my mother made me understand is that I saved somebody's life...that I gave that person a second chance at life. She made me understand that now, I'm kind of an intricate part of his life," Braxton explained.

"I say everything happens for a reason. So maybe it wasn't just his time to go, and I was meant to be there at that time to help him. But I guess part of me doesn't want the guy feeling he owes me anything. Because he doesn't, I mean I did it because I was there and I was able to do what I could," Braxton added.

"It was an early morning wake-up."

And while he's happy that Schneider is doing okay, Braxton did ruefully admit to one regret. "(This) ruined my chance of getting a motorcycle," he said laughingly. "I was telling (my wife) I want a motorcycle, and she said okay. But at the scene of the accident...after everything had calmed down, I got back in the car and looked at her and she said, 'Don't even ask. If it doesn't have four wheels you will not get it.'"

As for Cade, he summed up the experience in a single line, saying simply, "It was an early morning wake-up."

with Baumholder's 222nd Base Support Battalion's Training Support Division, where he has worked for nearly 20 years, Schneider's condition has improved to the point where he is once again able to walk and speak.

Following his hospital stay in Idar-Oberstein, Schneider's ongoing physical therapy is allowing him to work on his muscles and improve his mobility.

A homecoming celebration for Schneider is being planned by his family, who have extended invitations to both Braxton and Cade.

Operation Good Cheer in gear

German families open homes to soldiers

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

The Army can't send every soldier home to his family for the holidays but Operation Good Cheer can provide some soldiers with a "holiday" family.

Operation Good Cheer is an annual program that brings German families together with American soldiers during the holidays. German families participating in the program open their homes to American soldiers and invite them to share Christmas, Christmas dinner, and often, New Years with them.

"The fact that German families are willing to open their homes and

share the holidays with our soldiers demonstrates that this program not only provides memorable experiences for our soldiers, it also serves to enhance German-American friendships at the grass-roots level," said Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander.

Units wishing to participate are asked to appoint a project officer and provide a by-name roster of those soldiers selected to Public Affairs as soon as possible.

A get-together is scheduled for Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at the restaurant Haus Aulenbach. This meeting will allow soldiers and families to get acquainted and make arrangements for the holidays. Visitation with German families can last from one to

three days.

Transportation to and from the host family's home during the holidays will be the responsibility of the soldier and the unit. However, experience has shown that most families provide transportation for the soldiers.

Soldiers selected will be representing their commander, their unit, the Baumholder community and the U.S. Army.

The Public Affairs Office staff is available to help brief selected soldiers on proper standards of conduct and appearance.

For more information on Operation Good Cheer call the Public Affairs Office at 485-1600/7517, or Fax 485-7415.

First snowfall should not be reason to panic

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

If history teaches us anything, Baumholder is on the brink of getting its first snowfall of the season. Last year, the first snowfall hit Baumholder during the early hours of Nov. 17. The 222nd Base Support Battalion commander elevated the local road conditions from green to amber and issued a two-hour delay for all schools in the Baumholder military community.

By 5 a.m., the AFN affiliates in Kaiserslautern and Frankfurt were reporting Baumholder's road conditions and a two-hour delay for schools.

Two days later, after the school buses were already in route, the Baumholder area was hit with its first healthy snowfall and the road conditions went red at about 9 a.m.

Two years ago, Baumholder roads went "Red" on Dec. 9 after an entire morning of snowfall covered Baumholder with four inches of the white powder.

Like clockwork, once the first snow flakes hit the ground Baumholder residents reach for their phones and inundate the 222nd BSB command group and military police with an avalanche of questions like "Are the schools closed?" "Is the post closed?" "What facilities are closed and which are open?" "Is it safe to drive to the PX or commissary?"

Up front, community residents should not call the military police as the influx of calls will tie up the phone lines and prevent their timely

response to a possible emergency

The initial panic that ensues with the first snowfall of the season was not as intense last year, mainly because the snowfall was not as severe. The confusion often lies in the definition of road conditions and who they apply to.

During adverse weather conditions, people often mistakenly believe a road condition advisory such as "Amber" or "Red" applies to all motorists. This is not the case. Here are a few facts that may help.

Just the facts

The most common weather related report heard over AFN radio and television and other alert channels pertains to road conditions. A road condition report applies only to military vehicles and restricts operators to various degrees of travel. It does not apply to civilian vehicles. Motorists traveling to work in their own cars should use road condition announcements to help them take appropriate safety measures when traveling to and from work.

Some AFN affiliates will report actual road condition, like icy, slippery, snow covered, etc., instead of color code conditions for military vehicles. These notices may be used by motorists driving their personal vehicles to determine appropriate travel plans.

To obtain road conditions during duty hours, call your unit or the 222nd Base Support Battalion operations officer at 485-1530. After duty hours, call the 222nd BSB staff duty personnel at 485-6150 or 06783-6-6150.

AFN Kaiserslautern can be heard by tuning your radio to: **100.2 FM, or 1107 AM.**

To receive information from AFN Frankfurt, turn your radio to: **98.7 FM, or 873 AM.**

Road conditions are also heard in English on the German radio station RPR 1 at frequencies **98.1 FM, or 103.3 FM.**

Another announcement often heard during adverse weather is a delay in reporting to work. If, for example, AFN reports that all Baumholder personnel are authorized a two-hour delay in reporting to work, this means that motorists have two additional hours to report to work. It doesn't mean people should role over and go back to sleep.

The intent of a delay is to allow persons who don't live close to their work a reasonable amount of time to report to work in a safe manner. Those who live on post or do not commute are expected to report to work on time.

The third and most extreme action a commander may take is to close an installation as a result of dangerous weather conditions. This means that all facilities are closed – including schools, commissaries, exchanges, and shoppettes. It does not mean everyone has a day off to go shopping or run errands. For one, all these places will be closed. People should not be out on the road during extreme inclement weather.

During a post closure or a delay, military and civilian mission-essential personnel should coordinate their reporting time with their chain



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

One of the first snowfalls last year leaves the 222nd Base Support Battalion headquarters under a blanket of snow.

of command as appropriate.

Another aspect of closures and delays is the accountability for missed work hours. Military members do not need to record this downtime. However, if a military member was on leave during a closure, that day will be counted as leave.

Civilian employees are placed on administrative leave during a post closure. Those on leave during a closure will remain on leave, just as military members. This applies to American and local national

civilian employees.

A post closure does not affect the leave status that a member might be on during that time. Civilian employees who don't live near their place of work may determine on their own if they can make it to work or not.

If a civilian employee determines that it is unsafe to travel, he or she must report that time as regular leave (except during a post closure) and advise their supervisor accordingly. The bottom line is: use common sense.

Don't wait too long to winterize

Winter tires, common sense a good combination for survival

By Helmut Kaufmann
222nd Base Support Battalion Safety Office

Fog, wet leaves, and heavy rain tell us that winter is just around the corner.

Since Baumholder's winter conditions are historically more severe than in other military communities, residents should not hesitate any longer to winterize their cars. Those who wait for the first snow of the season we will have waited too long and an appointment with the automobile garages or tire shops will be hard to find.

There is no doubt that mud and snow tires provide better traction for motorists, making winter driving much easier and safer. Modern winter tires have almost the same suspension and noise comfort as



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Baumholder's streets can get slippery during winter months.

summer tires.

Tests by German Automobile Clubs have proven that because of the rubber mixture, summer tires lose up to 60 percent of their traction when temperatures drop to 5 or 10 degrees centigrade. Additionally, All weather tires can give mo-

torists a false feeling of safety. The rubber mixture could become too soft for a hot summer day tire tread will be lost more rapidly. During winter, with temperatures around the freezing point, the rubber on all weather tires will become hard, results in less traction on the road.

Tests conducted by the Michelin tire factory resulted in an extended stopping distance of four to six meters at a speed of 80 kilometers on a dry surface and a temperature of 5 degrees centigrade. On a wet surface and a temperature of 10 degrees centigrade, the stopping distance was four meters less with mud and snow tires than with regular summer tires. This distance would be two to three times more on a snow packed road. The important thing to remember is that any reduced stopping distance and increased traction can save lives or prevent severe injuries.

Vehicles equipped with ABS are at a disadvantage with summer or all weather tires on snow or ice covered roads. To equalize this disadvantage, it is an absolute must to use mud and snow tires.

Before purchasing mud and snow tires, motorists must ensure the top speed of the their vehicle is not higher than the rating on the tires. A sticker showing the speed rating of the tires must be affixed to the speedometer or dashboard if the vehicle speed exceeds that of the tire rating.

Additionally, normal tire pressure should be raised a couple of pounds to ensure optimum traction between the tire tread and road surface.

Defensive driving techniques such as adjusting speed to the road and weather conditions, avoiding excessive accelerations or braking in curves and always expecting black ice or frozen moisture, in conjunction with a mechanically safe vehicle, will help motorists make it safely through this winter season.

WIC brings nutrition to local families

By Maj. Kathleen Wiltsie
Baumholder Army Community Health Nurse

A federally funded nutrition program is finally coming to Europe. Women, Infants and Children is a federal grant program in the United States that started as a pilot program in 1972 and was authorized as a permanent program in 1975. Average monthly participation for fiscal year 1999 was 7.31 million women, infants and children.

The cost-effective program is designed to help mothers and their children improve their health through better nutrition. The effectiveness of the program is demonstrated in healthier babies and improved school readiness of young children. By age 4 to 5 years, children enrolled in WIC had better vocabulary scores and a significantly better memory for numbers.

The overseas WIC program is a brand new Department of Defense-funded quality of life program modeled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture WIC program in the U.S. It is being implemented overseas to provide equity of benefits

for US military and their dependent family members, US citizens employed by military departments and their dependents, and U.S. citizens employed by DoD contractors and their families. The program will start initially with two communities in Europe: Baumholder and Lakenheath, United Kingdom.

The scheduled start date for these communities is early 2001. Other areas in Europe will start WIC programs in late 2001. Committees from the DoD down to the local community are working diligently to assure a smooth functioning, customer friendly program is implemented from the very beginning. Contracts have been established for the program and final negotiations are being completed.

The pilot program at Baumholder will service only those who live in 09034 and 09262 APO zip code areas. Eligible applicants for the program include women who are pregnant, breast-feeding, or less than 6 months post-partum, infants and children up to 5 years old. Applicants to the program must be within a certain income level and have an identified medical/nutritional risk

factor to be eligible for the program.

The WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines will be used and must be verified with a leave and earning statement. Any additional income must also be reported. The medical/nutritional screening includes height, weight, blood work, medical history, and a dietary recall (writing down what you ate for the last 24 hours).

Once a participant is found eligible, a food package is chosen and nutritional education provided. The participant receives food vouchers, much like a check, which specifies the food items allowed and the time frame in which the voucher must be used. WIC appointments will take between 30 and 45 minutes and each participant will be seen four times a year. Food vouchers will be distributed for three months at a time for most participants.

WIC is a program that helps improve the health of the community and better prepares children for school years and learning and is provided at no cost for the participant. Watch for more information on official start dates during upcoming community briefings.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Pass the salad

Guests help themselves at the salad bar of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's new, fully renovated, state of the art dining facility. The new facility on Smith Barracks, conveniently opened just one day before Thanksgiving. A ribbon cutting ceremony with officials from 2nd Brigade, 104th Area Support Group, Army Corps of Engineers and 222nd Base Support Battalion official commemorated the opening day. The project was completed to the tune of approximately DM 10 million, money that went directly into the local economy.

Post notes

Digital Training Facility now on line

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

Baumholder's new Digital Training Facility was brought on line Nov. 17 with Brig. Gen. Guy C. Swan, 7th Army Training Command commander, demonstrating the communication capabilities of the Center. Speaking from the Digital Training Facility in Vilseck, Swan addressed audiences at other facilities in Wurzburg, Hanau, Mannheim and Baumholder. Commanders at each of the locations were able to see and interact with the general as he greeted them and other guests at each of the facilities.

With this capability, an instructor at Vilseck, for example, would be able to simultaneously teach students not only at Vilseck but also at any of the other Digital Training Facilities in Europe, or anywhere else in the world for that matter.

"These new digital training facilities are going to give us an expanded capability to train soldiers over the next ... years as the Army begins to transform itself. We've already experienced some successes here in USAREUR with our deployed facilities that I was able to see recently in Kosovo," said Swan

Located in a building that used to be home to a classified mission,

Baumholder's Digital Training Facility includes three complete classrooms with 16 student work stations per classroom. There's also a brand new roomy kitchen and a spacious break area.

This new facility is part of USAREUR's implementation of the Army's distance learning program, according to Faith Aguillard, Baumholder's facility manager. Distance learning is designed to eliminate the time and distance that separates USAREUR soldiers from training, "This facility supports soldiers in Miesau, Kaiserslautern, Bad Kreuznach, Pirmasens, Landstuhl and Ramstein," she said.

The Battle Staff NCO Course, First Sergeants Course, Mortar Ballistic Training and Hazardous Material Certification Course are just a few of the many courses that can be made available. "The equipment can be configured and adapted to almost any training a unit may require," said Aguillard.

Common Task Testing, something near and dear to every soldier regardless of rank, can also be conducted at this facility explained Aguillard. "That's (Common Task Testing) mandated by the military so it can certainly assist them in that," she said. Pointing to yet another practical application for the center Aguillard said, "The Smart

Force Course Ware is certainly usable for any soldier in today's world because of the... computers. They have to be able to know how to use word processors. They have to be able to know how to use Power Point."

Swan was quick to point out that Baumholder's Digital Training Facility and those at other locations will supplement but not replace institutional and classroom training. "I don't think the intent of distance learning or digital training was ever intended to replace the classroom experience," he said.

"All of us have been in a classroom environment. We know we get as much from our peers and fellow classmates as we do from the instructors.

"This will not replace that, but it will enhance our ability to train on things that have become cost prohibitive for the last few years and allow soldiers to access training and education that they would otherwise be precluded from participating in because of cost. I think that's a big win for the Army, it's a big win for the command and especially a big win for our soldiers," said Swan.

For more information on how to get in on the ground floor of digital training and distance learning, call Aguillard at mil 485-8290.

PM sets holiday hours

The Baumholder vehicle registration field station will be open from 8-11 a.m. Dec. 14 and 22. The Baumholder Provost Marshal holds its annual Christmas party Dec. 14. A U.S. Army Europe and host nation employee half-day off is scheduled Dec. 22 so customers are encouraged to show up early to register any vehicles whose registration is about to expire.

Fight fraud, waste

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command investigates all allegations of fraud waste and abuse. Persons who have information on this type of crime going on in an Army activity are urged to contact Baumholder's CID office at 485-7549. All calls are treated anonymously. The investigative efforts of the CID office focus on temporary duty fraud, permanent change of station fraud, housing fraud and IMPAC credit card misuse.

BCSC has Bunko night

The Baumholder Community Service Club is hosting "Bring a Friend to Bunko" night starting at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Rheinlander ballroom.

The evening event will feature hors d'oeuvres provided by the BCSC board, Polish pottery prizes and a chance to meet new people. If you've never played Bunko, this is the occasion to learn. Since the board is preparing all the food, there's no cost to attend.

Members of the BCSC who bring

a friend will receive a free raffle ticket. If that friend signs up to become a member, you'll receive ten free raffle tickets. To encourage new memberships, the BCSC has reduced dues to \$8 for the year.

With the post in full deployment, the BCSC provides an opportunity to get out into the community, meet people and gain support. For more information, call Diane Crage at civ (06783) 9304.

La Leche league meets

Expectant mothers who wish to learn more about the advantages and benefits of breast-feeding their newborn babies will find encouragement and information at the monthly meetings of Baumholder's La Leche League. The group meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of every month in Baumholder's Chapel One. For more information on what the group has to offer call civilian 06782-980109. Join the league at their monthly meetings and receive the latest information about nurturing your newborn the natural way.

Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke Commissaries will close Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. For more information, call mil 485-6666, or civ (06783) 6-6666.

VA visits in December

A Veterans Administration representative will be in Baumholder Dec. 19 to answer questions about claims, guaranteed home loans, and other VA benefits.

22nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Community kicks off 2000 holiday season

It was a record turn out for Baumholder's annual community Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 1. Unseasonably mild weather drew a crowd of more than 250 German and American guests to the gala event.

Highlighting the evening were performances by the Wetzel Elementary Chorus, the 1st Armored Division Trombone Quartet and the Ruschberg Music Association.

Solo performers from the Wetzel Chorus included Chad Yarborough and Jonathen Kwarcianny.

Five students from the chorus including Megan Hale, Marlowe Maloney, Catrina Palacios, Stephanie Walker and Lauren Wagenaar entertained the audience with a choreographed version of "Back to the 50's Christmas."

As the audience joined the chorus in the final song of the evening, "Here Comes Santa Claus," The Jolly old elf himself appeared perched atop a fire truck with blue lights glowing and sirens blaring. A military police escort was provided to ensure the safe arrival of the little round visitor from the North Pole.



Children jockey for position as Santa Claus arrives and begins handing out goodies during the tree lighting ceremony.



Above, a group from the Wetzel Elementary Chorus performs for the audience. At right, Santa Claus takes time out from his busy schedule to pose with a small Baumholder resident at the Rheinlander. Far right, the Ruschberg Musical Association entertains the audience after the community Christmas tree is illuminated.

Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

