

EIB - an infantryman's calling card

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
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When it comes to pride in a chosen profession, most people would like to claim they are experts in their field. And when it comes to soldiering, nothing says you're an expert better than having the honor of sewing on the coveted Expert Infantry Badge, the infantryman's calling card.

Taking the EIB challenge involves much preparation before actually setting foot on the EIB test site. According to the assistant NCOIC of 2nd Brigade's EIB site Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Taylor, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, preparation begins back at the company. There, squad leaders and platoon sergeants "knock the rust off" of EIB candidates by running them through a rigorous PT regimen and a basic soldering skills refresher.

Although coveted by many, not every soldier may test for the EIB. Prerequisites include firing expert with the M-16 and being infantry designated as an, 11 Bravo, 11 Charlie, or 11 Mike.

Three strikes you're out

Candidates than spend a week at the EIB site orienting themselves



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A soldier prepares to run through the 50 caliber machine gun station at the EIB site as an instructor looks on. The soldier received a "go" at this station.

with the 24 basic skills and procedures they'll be tested on. After that, another seven days is spent on the actual testing. Soldiers must be thoroughly proficient in all 24 tasks. Three no-goes at any time

during the testing can send a soldier packing.

Roderick explained, "You can only get three no-goes overall. If you receive more than three you do not deserve the EIB. A double no-go at any one station also disqualifies you, so if you happen to miss a station twice, your out of here, even if its only your second no-go."

Of the 567 soldiers that recently went through the course, only 59 earned the privilege of wearing the EIB.

Some of the stations they had to challenge include, estimating range to a target, plotting your location with a plugger, hand announcing, challenging a password, M-16, camouflage, communications, map reading, use of night vision goggles, firing the AT4, hand grenade proficiency and preparing the dragon for fire. There was also first aid, mine station set up, to include the claymore mine and M21 anti tank mine, donning the M40 mask and decontaminating yourself and your equipment at the NBC site and giv-

ing a salute and report. A somewhat lost art for 11 Mikes, Charlies and Bravos, but an infantry must nevertheless, soldiers also had to call for indirect fire and call and adjust for fire.

Completing a 12-mile road march within three hours, a PT test and day and night land navigation are also tacked on for good measure.

"These are just some of the tasks soldiers must complete and to earn the EIB, they must be an expert in all these fields-what we call basic soldiering," said Roderick.

He emphasized that earning the EIB is a hard thing to do. "We are not trying to hinder them, but we're not going to give it to them."

EIB, CIB-what's best?

A close cousin of the EIB is the CIB, the Combat Infantry Badge. The EIB is a horizontal blue shield with a silver long rifle in the middle. The CIB is identical but has a silver wreath extending above and below the blue background. The CIB is earned and worn by soldiers who

served in combat and came under direct enemy fire.

"For me, it's a matter of pride to wear the CIB. It tells people you've been in combat and you've had live bullets flying over your head."

"There's much to be said for both badges," said Sgt. 1st Class Bertrane Jennings, 222nd Base Support Battalion S-1. Jennings wears the CIB for having participated in actual combat during the Gulf War.

"For me, it's a matter of pride to wear the CIB. It tells people you've been in combat and you've had live bullets flying over your head. But on the other hand, there is not much room for error when a soldier earns his EIB. So as I said, there's much value in both. But regardless if you wear a CIB or an EIB, if you're an infantry soldier, it's like your incomplete if you don't have either one," said Jennings.

"The EIB is absolutely great," said Staff Sgt. Paul Flaven, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-6th Infantry Battalion. "The EIB is also a symbol of pride, as is the CIB."

He said that the CIB, when correctly handed out, has great value to the individuals who earned it.

"When I used to see a soldier wearing a CIB I used to think, hey, that guy went somewhere. When I see the CIB now I think, that guy went to Saudi."

Jennings explained that because the Gulf War was so short and there was no easy way of determined who actually came under fire, a blanket CIB was issued to all soldiers who served in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

Regardless of what you wear, EIB or CIB, if you can look in the mirror and honestly say, "I earned it and I deserve it," the value of that little silver long rifle on a light blue background is immeasurable.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

At the low crawl site, an instructor tells a soldier he is a "go" for that station.

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Cyber Zone brings cyber space to Ironworks

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Volunteer

Imagine relaxing in a cheery little café with a drink as you chat with friends and surf the Internet. For members of the Baumholder community, this imagined scenario is now a reality. Cyber Zone, a new joint business venture between Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Cyber Zone company, has opened its doors and powered up its computers at Ironworks, making it one of just a few such facilities available in military communities worldwide.

Amid a bright red and white décor, Baumholder's cyber café will soon boast ten computer terminals, from which customers can do such things as access the Internet, send e-mail, play games, and use business software such as word processing. The café's Pentium 3 computers come complete with 600 megahertz of power and a 56-k modem, making them a fast alternative to other computer sites currently available to the public. Mike Nash, facility manager of Ironworks, identifies the speed of the computers as one of the biggest advantages of their site, and adds that "the system is user-friendly, you can just follow the on-screen prompts."

But before logging on, customers first need to pay up. Cash paying customers are charged \$6 per hour, and receive a nine-digit pin

number that is good for 24 hours in order to use a computer. Or, for a two-dollar one-time fee, customers can opt to open a membership account, for which they receive their computer time at the reduced fee of \$5.40 per hour. Members then get a card with a password in order to log on, and can add money to their accounts as needed at the recharge station. Bonus free time is available to members if they have over \$20 in their account. Additionally, a color printer is available for use for the price of 10 cents per page. Profits from the business will be divided between MWR, which must only provide the furniture and facility, and the Cyber Zone company, which supplies all of the computer equipment.

Nash says the Internet café concept is "definitely a trend that's going to be catching on." He reports that they've already had a lot of interest in the hi-tech café in the few weeks that they've been open, and foresees business picking up even further as they make improvements in preparation for their June 19 grand opening.

In addition to making food and drinks available for customers to enjoy at their terminals, plans in the works for Cyber Zone include adding to the ambiance of the café with mood lighting, a couch, and other such décor. Nash also hopes to make computer magazines available to customers, and says the overall goal is to "give it that warm, com-



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Mike Nash, Ironworks facility manager, demonstrates the Cyber Zone system.

fortable feeling."

Beyond faster Internet access and a great atmosphere, the café offers a variety of perks. Game-loving customers have a choice of 30 top computer games that can be played alone or set up for multiple players within the Cyber Zone network. For the net-crazy crowd, both Microsoft Explorer and Netscape web browsers are available, and members have the ability to personalize their account with on-line bookmarks, favorites and personal

notes. Those with less computer savvy will be happy to know there is always someone on staff available for help. Furthermore, periodic upgrades to the system will ensure that the equipment and software at Cyber Zone will continue to remain up-to-date. Possible future perks include web cams and a scanner.

So how does all this rate with customers? While surfing the net, SPC Anthony Mangiaruga of HHB 4-27 Field Artillery gives the café a review of "pretty good," adding

that he especially likes the speed of the system and the number of games available. And while the prices do concern him a little, he says he'll be back.

Cyber Zone is located inside Ironworks, and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and noon to 8 p.m. on weekends.

Everyone is welcome, although children under 13 should be accompanied by a parent due to the violent content of some games.

AFTB gets fresh start with new director, facility

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Volunteer

It's out with the old and in with the new for Baumholder's Army Family Team Building program.

With a new director leading the way and a new facility due to open this summer, the program is getting a fresh start.

Newly appointed director Shantell Badger, having already progressed from student to instructor, has now taken her involvement with the program one step further by taking on the position of AFTB program director. Badger took over the program in March, and explains her growing contributions to AFTB by saying "The more I do, the more excited I become."

And it seems that Badger has a lot to be excited about with AFTB. For starters, the program will move into a new home this July in a freshly remodeled wing of Baumholder's



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Shantell Badger

medical health clinic. The new facility includes an office, a small conference room and a larger classroom, providing the program volunteers with ample space to instruct students in a more centrally located building.

Another source of excitement for Badger is the growth she is seeing within the program. With an eye toward the future, AFTB is already beginning to supplement the courses it offers with classes to prepare family members for the upcoming Kosovo deployment. One such course, "Understanding an LES," is already being offered to help people fully understand their pay and benefits while their spouses are deployed.

In fact, Badger sees the task of helping families prepare for a deployment as one of the major roles of AFTB, explaining that it helps the deployed spouse to stay focused on their mission. Beyond deployment readiness, Badger identifies "empowerment" as a large goal for the program, and says that the classes provide "self-growth for individual needs, everyday life and career opportunities."

When asked about her personal goals as director of AFTB, Badger

grows introspective. After some thought, she replies, "When I say AFTB to someone, they know what it is.

"I want to reach more spouses, community-wide. I want to ensure that people get something out of (AFTB), and tell other people about (the program)."

Badger acknowledges that most people who fail to take advantage of the courses offered by AFTB don't know about the program, and don't realize what it has to offer. Among these offerings are three levels of courses about the military, leadership skills and other growth and development topics that can be taught to a variety of groups, including spouses, units, family support groups, and others. The courses can be individualized as needed, and all are sculpted to meet the needs of the Baumholder community. As Badger explains, the benefits of the courses are numerous, and that by building "togeth-

erness between the spouses," the program benefits the military community as a whole.

Already Badger sees support for the program growing, a fact that just adds to her excitement about AFTB. But she stresses that in addition to trying to get the word out to prospective students, they are always looking for more volunteer instructors to teach classes. The qualifications are simple; just be a willing volunteer who believes in the program as she does.

As she speaks, Badger does indeed convey the sense that she truly believes in the program. It seems that AFTB's fresh start is already underway.

For more information about Army Family Team Building, contact the AFTB office at mil 485-8542 or ACS at mil 485-8188, or join the AFTB staff at Baumholder Days for their Jeopardy Challenge game, being held in the main tent June 17 at 10:30 a.m..

ACAP update

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

Preseparation Briefing

June 27, 8:30-noon

July 18, 8:30-noon (VA Briefing)

Job Assistance Workshop

June 27, 1-4 p.m.; June 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 18, 1-4 p.m.; July 19, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For details call mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACAP needs counselor

The Army Career and Alumni Program needs an ACAP counselor at the Baumholder and Kaiserslautern offices. The position requires a master's degree, two years teaching or presentation experience, and computer literacy with Microsoft Word and the Internet. For detailed information call Bobbi Curris at mil 485-6741.

ACS at a glance

A newcomers coffee is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. July 4 in the Army Community Service lounge.

The next Level One Army Family Team Building class is June 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call mil 485-8542 for location details.

Level two training is scheduled for June 21 and 22.

Education update

You asked for it and the Army Education Center finally delivered. For the upcoming semester, the University of Maryland is offering an education course at Baumholder. EDHD 320, Human Development through the Life Span is scheduled as a weekend course. Sign up early, as class space is limited.

Post Notes

Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke Commissaries will be closed on June 21 for an organizational day and July 4 in observance of Memorial Day.

Job corner

Social Worker/Psychologist (Family Advocacy Program Coordinator), GS-11, open until July 1

Recreation Aid (welder), flexible, \$6.43 per hour, open until filled

Recreation Aid (welder), flexible, \$6.23 per hour, open until filled

Child and Youth Program Assistant, flexible, \$7.47 per hour, open until filled

Recreational aid lifeguard, flexible, NF-1 \$6.19 to 7.50 per hour, open continuous, certification not required, training available.

Recreational aid, fitness center, flexible, NF-1, \$6.19 per hour, open continuous

German positions for the above jobs are also available.

Waitress, flexible (two positions), \$6.19 per hour, open until filled

Bar Assistant, flexible, \$6.19 per hour, open until filled

Club Aid, flexible, \$5.95 per hour, open until filled

Recreation Aid, flexible (three positions), \$6.50 per hour, open until filled

Bowling Equipment Repair Person, regular full time, \$8.59, open until filled

Food Service Worker, flexible, Gardener, flexible, \$7.75 per hour, open until filled

For more information, call the

Nonappropriated Funds Civilian Personnel Office at mil 485-6566.

Baumholder Days sports

Two new events will highlight the ever-popular Baumholder Days sports program. A swim meet and the Minnick Marathon have been added to this year's list of sports events. The swim meet will be on June 15 starting at 8 a.m. and will feature several short and long dis-

stances swimming events. Call mil 485-6156 for more information.

The Minnick Marathon will consist of five-man unit teams who must complete 105 laps around the new Minnick Field starting at 10 a.m. June 18.

Only one runner per team will be on the track and he can run as many laps as he wants before passing off to his teammate. Whichever unit

completes the 105 laps first is the winner.

Track stars needed

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for runners, jumpers, throwers and coaches to form a track and field team. Sign up in the Sports Office or call mil 485-7176 for information. The annual Baumholder Track and Field Invitational is scheduled for July 29.

Get ready to rumble

The Baumholder Days International Boxing Night is June 17 at the Hall of Champions.

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