

Helping the Iraqi people: a two-way road

By Patricia Simoes
221st Base Support Battalion PAO

When Baumholder's 47th Forward Support Battalion settled in the Baghdad International Airport area in May, the village on the other side of the wall posed a security concern.

It was clear that to successfully support the 2nd Brigade Combat Team – the unit's core mission – they had to do something about the neighbors. Hiring the village people to work for the unit was the first step.

"In the beginning there was a lot of shooting," said Lt. Col. Paul Hurley, the battalion commander. "Not now."

Besides employing the people, the unit also helps by supporting an orphanage, clearing unexploded ordnance with the help of Explosive Ordnance Disposal, providing medical assistance, and providing water, food and clothes. In late September, Spc. Tomi Jacobs reenlisted in the village.

"When we got there, the village council was talking about how to keep the bad people from influencing the village," said Chaplain (Capt.) Terry Kesling. "Like in most places in Iraq, the bad guys intimidate people into helping them attack us."

Jacobs chose to reenlist in the village because she wanted it to be a helping event.

"We usually help out anyway,

but being there showing we are there for them made my day special," she said. "The people are very hospitable and giving."

The Orphanage

Al-Wiya, an all-girl orphanage accommodating about 40 children whose parents cannot support them, requested help from female soldiers who could serve as positive role models while teaching about American culture.

A group of about six women from the 47th FSB volunteered to do the job.

They visit the orphanage about 3 times a month and hope to go more often as the security situation improves.

When they visit, they play games, learn Arabic, teach English, teach dances, and they also take items such as personal hygiene products, clothing and school materials that the unit's FRG is sending to support the effort.

Kisses and hugs

"Going there is good for us and for them," said Spc. Johanna Landry. "It makes you feel good because they are so open with kisses and hugs – being in a military environment all the time, you don't show affection much."

Even though a translator goes to the orphanage with the group, the girls are very eager to talk and show the English they know, she said.

Capt. Sonya Rowe, who in the



Photo contributed by 47th Forward Support Battalion

2nd Lt. Jenny Stewart gathers some of the girls from the orphanage around her.

States worked as a mentor in a boys and girls center in Virginia, said that the girls will get together and as a group to form sentences and get their thoughts across.

"They are very interested in learning," 2nd Lt. Jenny Stewart said. "The best part is to observe their reaction to you – there is lots of interaction with male soldiers in

the village, but not much with females – so they love to play with your hair as they realize you are one of them – we are also girls."

Sgt. Roger Kennedy volunteered to be security for the orphanage mission. He secures the door and the women's weapons and gear.

"I love kids – I have five," he said.

"The other day a 3-year-old from the village walked over when I was securing the door and shook my hand – I melted all over," he said. "It makes you feel good about being here – this place is not what you see on TV."

"When my father was in Vietnam, he didn't get to do this type of thing," he said. "He is glad I can."

Soldier credited with saving two-year-old's life

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Like most people who voluntarily come to the aid of others, Spc. William Sanders does not consider himself a hero but the events that unfolded on Sept. 9 and his instinctive reactions credit him with saving a two-year-old girl from choking to death.

Williams, a member of the 92nd MP Company, was walking down the street near Burger King when he noticed that two women had hurriedly stepped out of a car that had just pulled over to the curb.

They quickly moved to the back of the car and took a child out of the back seat. He heard one of the women crying for help so he ran toward them to see what he could do.

"I saw that they were in trouble and I just ran up there. I didn't really know exactly what was going on at first. I was kind of scared too, I guess, because I didn't know what



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Spc. William Sanders receives an Army Commendation Medal from Command Sgt. Major Ann McDaniels during the September LINKS meeting as Berenice Sandoval and her daughter Genesis look on.

I would be able to do. I just wanted to see if I could do something," said Sanders

Moments before, Berenice Sandoval had stopped at the ATM machine near Burger King. While

she was using the machine, her friend and neighbor had given Sandoval's two-year-old daughter, Genesis, a piece of candy which apparently became lodged in the child's throat.

"I could tell she was choking so I pulled over to the side of the road," said Sandoval. By the time I got out of the car my neighbor had already taken Genesis' seatbelt off so I pulled her out and I put my finger down her throat to see if I could feel anything. I didn't feel anything so then I panicked and I started screaming "she's choking," said Sandoval. While Sandoval was crying for help a private walked by but "He just said he didn't know what to do," said Sandoval.

"Then I looked back and saw Specialist Sanders, who I didn't know at the time, running toward us. He took Genesis from me, bent down on one knee and put her over his knee and did the Heimlich maneuver for infants and toddlers on her. She threw up a little and then she threw up the piece of candy," said Sandoval.

"I just patted her over her back a couple of times and she started breathing a little bit so I did it again and she spit the candy out that she

had in her mouth," said Sanders.

Sanders credits his Army training for his actions. "I guess stuff that I've learned while being in the Army kind of came into play. The training pays off," said Sanders.

For his heroic actions, Sanders was presented the Army Commendation Medal by Command Sgt. Major Ann McDaniels at the recent LINKS meeting before members of the community and numerous soldiers from his unit.

"Quite often, around here, we have soldiers that do outstanding things," said McDaniels. "He just happened to be walking down the street but being the soldier and MP that he is, he came in and took charge," said McDaniels.

The grateful mother admits she was very scared. "I'm just very thankful to him 'cause I don't know what would have happened.

"I don't know how to thank him. He acts like it's okay, like he's not a hero, but he's my personal hero," said Sandoval.

Military thanks community for support

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

It was a perfect Indian summer day in September as guests from the city of Baumholder gathered at the Rod and Gun Club for a German/American fun day. Numerous city dignitaries and members of Pro Baumholder, an organization of business owners and merchants, were hosted by the 222nd Base Support Battalion to recognize and thank them for the numerous contributions and support they have provided to Baumholder's deployed soldiers.

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd BSB commander, told the guests that the military community appreciates and is grateful for all they do on a day to day basis for the deployed soldiers. He added that their support was not only in words but also in deeds, referring to such things as the ongoing care package program which provides single soldiers down range numerous "bare necessity" type items that are not readily available to them in Iraq. Pro Baumholder is coordinating this program with Army Community Service and the numerous family readiness groups.

Buchs recognized Major Lars



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Jürgen Muhr, Military Training Area commander, is thanked for his support of deployment operations by Lt. Col. Todd A Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander. Jürgen Schaadt, Idar-Oberstein chief of police, Oberstleutnant, left, was also among those who Buchs thanked for their support.

Keine, representing the German Artillery School in Idar-Oberstein, Ingrid Schwerdtner, assistant city mayor and Udo Schweihs, assistant district mayor, for their efforts in organizing numerous trips for family members of deployed sol-

diers.

Maintaining security of the Baumholder military community while the soldiers are deployed has been a surmountable task so Baumholder military officials called on the German military and Polizei

for assistance. Recognized for their assistance were Erich Roob, acting Baumholder chief of Police, Hans-Jürgen Schaadt, Idar-Oberstein chief of police, Oberstleutnant Jürgen Muhr, Military Training Area commander, and Hauptmann

Zollner from the Verteidigungs Bezirks Kommando in Trier.

Sigrid Zimmer, owner of the Hotel Burghof in Baumholder and a member of Pro Baumholder was recognized for her care package initiative together with Natalie Carrillo and Tina Olsen, FRG members.

Buchs also took the opportunity to introduce Cindy Scaparrotti, wife of Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Assistant Division Commander-Maneuver.

It was also a time to recognize heroes in the community who came to the aid of Americans. This summer, four Americans were rescued from drowning in Baumholder Lake. Most recently, a child was saved from drowning by quick response and actions of Mareike Heinz and Patrick Geibel. Günter Heinz was also recognized for coming to the aid of Americans this summer and Michael Röhrig, president of the local Deutsche Lebensrettungs Geschäft (German lifesaver's organization), accepted certificates of recognition for the other's who were not able to attend.

After the formalities, German and American guests were treated to an American style Barbecue and were offered the opportunity to participate in games of horseshoes and basketball.

Baumholder Information Channel on the air

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

A new channel featuring local Baumholder information is now on the air. The program is available on cable to residents in Smith Barracks and Housing as well as Wetzlar, Neubrück and Strassburg Housing and Champion Village.

The channel has been fittingly baptized as the Baumholder Information Channel, or BIC for short.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion has contracted with TKS, the cable company servicing the military community, to provide this service to Baumholder residents. The service is free to all residents who have cable service in their residence, which includes practically all Baumholder residents.

"As long as you have cable, you will be able to receive the new Command Information Channel," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer. Public affairs operates the channel directly from the 222nd BSB headquarters.

"Every building that has cable service, regardless if the residents have paid service or are just receiving the free cable package, they will be able to receive the new information channel," she said.

Some customers will automatically receive the channel on their television while others will need to conduct a "search" on their televisions in order to receive the channel. Those who can tune their television to a specific frequency can find the channel at 67.250. The program is also viewable on channel A04.

The new channel also features a "ticker tape" along the bottom of the screen where emergency information can be displayed. "With winter weather approaching, this is an excellent means of getting the word out to community residents whenever we have inclement weather conditions and the commander decides to delay school or work hours," said Dwoiakowski. Updates to the channel are almost instantaneous so the community will receive critical information as

quickly as it can be typed into the channel.

The new channel is much more sophisticated than the old Commander's Access Channel that was available to residents in Baumholder and featured a very simple text format and AFN music in the background.

"That was a very problematic and labor intense process," said Dwoiakowski. The new channel is Power Point based and almost anything that can be created in Power Point can be included in the channel.

"The channel also features background music as well as all the 'bells and whistles' that can be created with Power Point," said Dwoiakowski.

Practically any information that is currently disseminated via flyers or leaflets can be placed in the channel and will be instantly available to the entire community. "This will be an excellent means for organizations like family readiness groups and service agencies to put out their information to the community

in a timely manner," said Dwoiakowski.

Public Affairs has established procedures and policies for the new Command Information Channel. The only limitation to the channel is that if customers do not have access to a computer with PowerPoint capability, they will have to find a means of putting their information in the proper format for submission to Public Affairs.

Like any new endeavor, growing pains are expected. "We are urging all our customers to be patient until we get into the routine of producing this broadcast and have ironed out all the kinks in the system," said Dwoiakowski.

Agencies who wish to utilize this new and free service may call public affairs for input details and information at mil 485-6191 or civ (06783)6-6191.

Rheinlander Club

mil 485-7507

Saturday market

The Baumholder Saturday market is like an indoor garage sale. Persons can buy or sell household items, children's items, clothes and much more. Reserve a space for \$5. Tables rent for \$7 and \$10. The next Saturday market is Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Rheinlander Ballroom.

Outdoor Rec

mil 485-7182

Furniture shopping

Are you still looking for just the right accents to make your govern-

MWR update

ment quarters feel like home? Let Outdoor Rec take you shopping at IKEA, the Swedish home furnishing store. The cost for transportation is \$24 for Adults and \$15 for children. Trips are scheduled for Oct. 2, 16; Nov. 6, 20; and Dec. 4, 18.

Polish pottery

Get on the express shopping trip to Poland and pick up some Polish pottery. The cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Persons must make reservations one week in ad-

vance. Trips are scheduled for: Oct. 4-5, Nov. 14-15 and Dec. 12-13.

Frankfurt Zoo

There is still time for a day trip to the Frankfurt Zoo. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. The next trips are Nov. 1, Nov. 22 and Jan. 17.

Flea markets

You can find antiques, furniture and souvenirs galore by joining Outdoor Rec on Flea market excursions. The cost is \$35 for adults and

\$15 for children. Trips scheduled to: Metz Flea Market Oct. 25; Saarbrücken Flea Market Nov. 8; and Luxemburg Flea Market Nov. 22.

Mall experience

You can have an American mall experience at CentrOMall. The cost is only \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Reserve your seat for any of these dates: Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 13

Express shopping

Reserve a seat today for an express shopping trip to Karlovy Vary and the Dragon Flea Market. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$45 for children. Trips are scheduled for: Oct. 24-25, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 19-20.

Hit the slopes

Take a break from the everyday routine with a one-day ski trip to the Black Forest. The cost for transportation is \$65 for adults and \$45 for children. Reserve your seat early because space is limited. Trips are scheduled for: Dec. 27, Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and March 6.

Exercise tests community response to mass casualty/terrorist incident

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 22nd Base Support Battalion and numerous German and American emergency response agencies will be exercising their ability to respond to an emergency involving mass casualties Oct. 25 beginning at 2 p.m. in the Champion Village area near the Aral gas

station.

Emergency response agencies like the German Red Cross, Polizei, Provost Marshal, Health Clinic and more will be utilizing their equipment and vehicles so motorists are asked to be extra cautious when driving in the area at that time.

The exercise will test the emergency response plans and procedures of the numerous agencies in the event of a terrorist attack resulting in mass casualties.

Champion Village residents who will be affected by the exercise will be notified in advance. "Since numerous vehicles and personnel will be involved, persons not participating in the exercise are asked to avoid traveling through the area during this time," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer. Motorists should also watch for detours.

European 'Super Bowl' comes to Minnick Field

It's the Super Bowl of European high school football and it's coming to Baumholder Nov. 1. Billed as the Super Six Playoffs, the division I, II, and III championships begin at 10:30 a.m. on Minnick Field.

"We're going to have quite an influx of people in the community the day before as at least 400 players will be arriving," said Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer.

Altogether, 3,000 to 4,000 people are expected to find their way to Baumholder Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 for the championship playoffs.

The Division III game is at 10:30 a.m. Division II plays at 2:30 p.m. and Division I will be under the lights at approximately 5:30 p.m., depending on when the other two finish.

Teams fall under divisions I, II,

or III according to the size of the school. Being a school with a small number of students, Baumholder falls under division III.

"We'll probably be in the playoffs, it's hard to tell," said Dom Calabria, Baumholder American High School principal. "Ansbach probably is the team to beat in Division III since they were the champs last year and they have a pretty good team this year," he said.

"Baumholder was chosen primarily because of the outstanding facility and force protection," said Calabria. To help feed the influx of people, AAFES will be is going keep its food court facilities open longer during the championships.

Planners are also hoping to include NFL participation and performances by the Frankfurt Galaxy Cheerleaders.

CARE Fair centralizes community information

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

About 350 community members turned out for this Baumholder's 10 annual CARE Fair Sept. 27 at the Hall of Champions.

This program provides a central location where members of the community can receive information on programs and services offered at Baumholder. Family members can receive up-to-date communications and sign up for services and activities offered throughout the year.

This event is valuable for people new to the community or those who would simply like to know more information about clubs, organizations, or other activities offered in Baumholder.

The event also gives agencies throughout Baumholder the oppor-

tunity to market their programs to the community.

Some 35 organizations were on hand to provide information to the community. Customers obtained information from organizations such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation, fire and emergency services, Provost Marshal, Protestant Women of the Chapel, American Women's Activities Germany, Baumholder Community Spouses Club, Red Cross, The Boy Scouts and more.

The Red Cross gave away Cotton Candy and the Boy Scouts set up a camp fire demonstration and cooked up some chili outside the Hall of Champions.

"The MPs had a line constantly for their ident-a-child program," said John Visneski, CARE Fair coordinator. "We're hoping to do another CARE Fair when all the soldiers get back," he said.

It's Domestic Violence Awareness Month

"Make the changes that strengthen families and relationships"

By Julie Gowel
ACS marketing manager

The term "wife beater" is often used to describe a flimsy white tank top many men wear to the gym. However, a real wife beater is not nearly as soft as his cotton counterpart.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the Army Community Service Office is promoting consciousness from within the Baumholder neighborhood.

"We need the commands and the community to step up the effort to identify and report family violence. With accountability and responsibility for the offenders, we can make a difference in the human dimension of family wellness," said ACS Family Advocacy Program Manager Floyd Davison. According to the Bureau for At-Risk Youth, domestic violence is non-discriminate with regards to race, religion, ethnicity, geography, and social class and exists in one out of every four marriages.

Statistics show that only one in every ten incidents of abuse is reported to police. There are many reasons why victims do not come forward. Many women, and I say women because the latest findings from the Bureau of Justice Statistics report that 90 – 95 percent of domestic violence victims are women, do not file complaints with the police out of fear that it will provoke another attack. Others are ashamed of the relationship and suffer from low self esteem. Still others are afraid officials will not believe their allegations of abuse.

Children face an almost insurmountable struggle as they are often times unable to escape the violence and do not know enough to tell someone about the abuse. Some factors contributing to child abuse are stress, economic hardship and parent immaturity. Parents begin to feel overwhelmed in situations such as a deployment of a family member or insufficient funds to pay bills and other living expenses and turn

to violence in reaction to their frustration. Drugs and alcohol are also triggers for abuse against children.

Whatever the reason, it is time for the community as a whole to recognize domestic abuse as a threat to the morale and welfare of our families.

"Make the changes that strengthen families and relationships. Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives," is the motto for this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Community awareness is the goal for October. Everyone can participate simply by learning more about domestic abuse. For example, learn how you might be able to spot abuse and possibly help save the life of a woman or child of our community. Some signs of domestic abuse include:

- Unexplained bruises or recurrent bruises with unreliable explanations
- Signs of neglect like poor hygiene or dirty clothing
- An erratic attendance record

at school or day care with no explanation

● Withdrawal or passivity from normal everyday activities

● Open marital or relationship conflict in front of others

ACS and the Family Advocacy Program are participating in a community outreach program for domestic violence awareness.

There will be an informational booth set up at the entrance to the PX on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Friday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by to get your booklets about domestic violence and recognition along with other 'goodies' to help promote awareness.

Also, look for members of the Family Advocacy Program team at Family Readiness Group meetings this month. "Strong Families and Relationships, Right Attitude, Right Action." For more information, contact ACS at civ (06783) 6-8188 or stop by. ACS is located in Building 8746 on the second floor.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon 2003 runs Oct. 23 through 31. The campaign's theme is "Unite For a Drug Free World." The campaign runs throughout the 104th Area Support Group. The 104th ASG joins individuals, businesses, schools and community organizations throughout America to say no to drugs.

Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for people and communities to take a visible stand against drugs and to show their personal commitment to a drug-free life-style through the symbol of the red ribbon.

The Red Ribbon Campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a DEA agent, in 1985. This began the continuing tradition of wearing and displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs.

The purpose of the campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America.