

Postal volunteers

Baumholders Army Post Office and unit mail rooms have volunteer opportunities available. Due to recent events, military postal personnel have been used to support force protection requirements. For more information about volunteering to help out with the upcoming Christmas mail season Nov. 1 through Jan. 15, call Baumholder's volunteer coordinator at mil 485-6565. Local background investigations are required for volunteer in postal facilities and each volunteer will undergo a background investigation with the Provost Marshal's office.

Football action

The 222nd Base Support Battalion unit level flag football championship is scheduled for Oct. 22 through 25 at Iron Soldier Fields. Come out and support your favorite team. The 104th Area Support Group championship follows Oct. 27-28, also at Iron Soldier Fields.

The top two teams from Hanau, Giessen, Wiesbaden and Baumholder will compete to determine the top two who will advance to the USAREUR championship Nov. 2 through 4 Schweinfurt. For more information please call the Sports Office at mil 485-7176.

Taking on Army

The Baumholder Bears men's community basketball team takes on the All-Army team in an exhibition game at 6 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Hall of Champions. Admission is only \$2 to see the best players in Baumholder take on the best team in USAREUR

Hispanic celebration

Hispanic celebration Baumholder holds a Hispanic heritage celebration Nov. 3 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Rheinlander. Free food and entertainment is offered and everyone is invited to contribute cultural side dishes to make the celebration more complete. A live band will be featured as well as a pig roast. DJ Mendez will be featured on the turntables. There will also be dancing and a traditional dress contest for children and adults with prizes. For more information or to register for the dance and tradi-

Post notes

tional dress contests call mil 485-6510.

Unit basketball

Sign ups are now being accepted for the unit level basketball season. Call the Baumholder Sports Office for details on this and other sports information at mil 485-7176.

New office hours

The Baumholder Army and Air Force Exchange Service human resources office is now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For more information call mil 485-7334.

La Leche League

Baumholder's La Leche League meets Oct 16 at 10 a.m. at the New Parent Support conference room in Building 8746, directly below Army Community Service and at the end of the hall from the WIC entrance. All meetings are free and open to the public. For more meeting information or assistance with breast-feeding contact Brenda Moss at civ (06381)996645.

Comedy night

A comedy show featuring comedians Danny Williams, Koolaid and Snowcone is scheduled for 8 p.m. Oct. 21 at Baumholder's Rheinlander. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. This is an adult oriented show so parents are advised to leave the children at home. For ticket information call mil 485-8779 or civ (06783)6-8779.

Yard sale

The makeup date for Baumholder's semi annual yard sale is Nov. 17. For details on times or other requirements contact Bill Kalavsky, 222nd Base Support Battalion adjutant, at mil 485-6150 or civ (06783)6-6150.

Trick or Treat hours

Halloween Trick or Treating in the Baumholder military community will take place Oct. 31 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Parents should keep safety in mind and ensure their children's costumes include reflective material. Care should also be taken that

long flowing costumes do not hinder the child's movements while dashing from house to house collecting all those Halloween sugar treasures.

Halloween party

An adult Halloween party is scheduled for 9 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Rheinlander. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers party features music, dancing and a costume contest with a prize awarded to the winner. For details call mil 485-8779

Easy shopping

Start your holiday shopping and get some fantastic gifts this year at the Holiday Bazaar in Baumholder. Vendors from all over Europe will be

selling Birkenstocks, Irish sweaters, wine, antiques, gift items, children's toys, and much more. The three-day bazaar begins Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Hall of Champions on Smith Barracks. Bring your Christmas list and put in a few requests of your own.

Sale at golf course

The Rolling Hills Golf Course Pro Shop in Baumholder is having a Christmas starting in November. They'll offer reduced prices on end of season clearance items. Do your shopping early for gift certificates and golfing equipment. Come in or call mil 485-6172 to find out more.

Bowling for bucks

For every purchase made at the Baumholder Bowling Center, customers receive dollar certificates

that are redeemable for Pro Shop services, shoe rental and the bowling lanes. Stop by the Bowling Center and start earning bowling bucks. For more details call mil 485-6569.

High energy workout

Try Spin Classes are now offered at Baumholder's Rec Emporium. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Stop by the Rec Emporium or call mil 485-6156 and discover the benefits of this aerobic cycling exercise.

Haunted house set

A haunted house, sponsored by the 47th Forward Support Battalion, opens Oct. 26 through 31 in the basement of the Rheinlander on Smith Barracks. The cost is \$2 for children and \$3 for adults. There will be a separate area for children with activities and prizes. There will also be a concession area.

Hours for the haunted house are 7 to 11 p.m. Oct. 26, 27; 2-9 p.m. Oct. 28; and 7-11 p.m. Oct. 29, 30, 31.

News briefs

Casualty exercise

A mass casualty exercise involving more than 200 German and American emergency services providers is planned for Nov. 1. Local emergency response personnel including German polizei, fire departments and ambulance services, together with 222nd Base Support Battalion and support unit personnel recently held a "rock drill" to prepare for the exercise.

Because of the exercise's imminence, planners expect it might cause some alarm in the community regardless of how well it is publicized and coordinated. Plenty of

notice will be given to the community once the details are finalized and a location is firmly established.

Consolidated mail room

The Baumholder community can look forward to a modern consolidated mail room by February or March of 2002. Funding for the 7,100 mail boxes that will make up the new mail room has been approved. Construction of the facility, located next to the old Iron Soldier Club, is currently underway.

Town hall meeting

The monthly town hall meeting Sept. 25 focused on understanding

the implementation of on going force protection measures. As part of the meeting, Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, addressed measures that can be taken by persons to protect themselves, their families and their neighbors. Baumholder's Senior Tactical Commander, Col. (P) Leo Brooks, also shared his perspectives of the current threat situation and answered many force protection related questions posed by the audience. Town hall meetings are open to everyone in the community and the next one is scheduled for 4 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Rheinlander.

Soldiers tried, sentenced

Four Baumholder soldiers were recently tried by General Court-Martial for a variety of charges ranging from desertion and absent without leave to larceny and disrespect to a commissioned officer.

Spec. Frank Farias, III, Charlie Battery, 1-94 Field Artillery, was tried at Baumholder by General Court-Martial on July 11. He was found guilty on two counts of larceny of over \$100. He received a sentence of reduction to E1, 12 months confinement, and a bad-conduct discharge. Farias is currently serving his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

Pvt. 2 Zaron C. Holbrook, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-6 Infantry, was tried by General Court-Martial Aug. 2 and was found

guilty on two counts of failure to go to appointed place of duty, one count of absent without leave, one count of disrespect to a commissioned officer, one count of assault on a noncommissioned officer, one count of disrespect to a noncommissioned officer, one count of assault on a noncommissioned officer and one count of disorderly conduct. He received a sentence of reduction to E1, eight months confinement, and a bad-conduct discharge. Holbrook is currently serving his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

Pvt. 1 Sharod L. Green, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-35 Armor, was tried by General Court-Martial Sept. 19 and was found guilty on three counts of

larceny, one count of attempted larceny, four counts of forgery, and 1 count of breaking restriction. He received a sentence of 13 months confinement and a bad-conduct discharge. Green is currently serving his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

Pfc. Joseph M. Prisco, Charlie Company, 1-6 Infantry, was tried by General Court-Martial on Sept. 19 and was found guilty on one count of desertion, one count of AWOL and six counts of drug-related offenses.

He received a sentence of reduction to E1, 12 months confinement, and a bad-conduct discharge. Prisco is currently serving his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

CFC aids terrorist victims

The annual Combined Federal Campaign is now underway through Dec. 14. Contributing to the CFC can make a world of difference, as its logo suggests.

This year's CFC can make more than a world of difference to all Americans because several of the agencies involved with the CFC are directly contributing to the relief efforts associated with supporting the many people who are currently at a loss as a result of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in



New York.

As an added benefit, people who donate may designate that their donation go to a specific agency. A contributor's handbook outlining the various CFC agencies is available from Baumholder's CFC com-

munity coordinator, Staff Sgt. Runnell Townsend.

Donations to the CFC are simple explained Townsend. Persons may either make a cash donation, donate by check, or authorize a payroll deduction.

"Giving back is something special that helps bring our community together," said Townsend.

For details on this year's CFC activities call Townsend at mil 485-7213/7238 or civ (06783) 6-7213/7238.

Education notes

Class registration

Registration is now in progress for the University of Maryland's Term II which begins Oct. 29. A varied selection of courses is available. Call the Baumholder Education Center at mil 485-6487 for more information.

Follow the leaders

Ready to work on your college degree but not sure which way to go? Follow the leaders in distance education, City Colleges of Chicago-Europe. They offer 230 courses in a wide variety of concentrations, including all basic general requirements. Courses are offered in a variety of delivery modes: video/audio cassette, email, the internet, CD-ROM or computer-based instruction, depending on the course you choose. Field representatives, located at your education center, can help with enrollment, and guide and mentor applicants throughout course work. Courses are portable and can be taken with you when you deploy or PCS. City Colleges of Chicago-Europe offers 30 years of experience in education for the military in Europe. Visit their home page at: www.ccc-e.org.

A full refund

Soldiers enrolled in classes with the University of Maryland during Term I who must withdraw from class due to additional duties associated with the recent terrorist attacks on the United States can receive a full refund of their tuition from the University of Maryland. Visit the Baumholder Army Education Center for a copy of the paperwork needed.

Adult education

Registration for Baumholder's Adult Education Program is now in progress. Courses being offered include Conversational German I

and II, Basic Computer Skills, and English as a Second Language. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487 for more information.

GI Bill changes

Public Law 107-14 recently approved by the Congress addresses the use of the Top-Up provision for those who use the Montgomery GI Bill. Changes presented by this law will affect the Montgomery GI Bill entitlement so soldiers should talk to an education counselor if they have used the Top-Up provision already. Call the education center at mil 485-6487 for more information.

Convert and benefit

Active duty members with VEAP education benefits may be eligible to convert to the more lucrative Montgomery GI Bill Program. Visit the Baumholder Army Education Center today to see if you qualify. It is not necessary to have money in your VEAP account to convert. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487 for more information.

Learning center hours

The Army Learning Center, Building 8108 is now open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Friday hours remain 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is closed daily from 1-2 p.m. for lunch. Visit the Learning Center for CLEP, GED, SAT, ACT, AFCT, and MOS

study material. You will also find an on-line bookshelf with the latest Army regulations and pamphlets. Call Lonnie Allen at mil 485-6484 for more information.

Users must test

People who use the computers located in the Army Learning Center, or the University of Maryland's Computer Lab, are required to complete the on-line USAREUR Computer Users Test. This test can be taken at any location that has computers connected to the Army's local area network.

A copy of the users license must be shown before using the computers. Taking the test on the same day you wish to order a military correspondence course may be difficult due to the limited number of computers on-hand, so plan ahead. For more information, call Lonnie Allen at mil 485-6484.

Field rep visits

The University of Oklahoma Field Representative from Ramstein Air Base will visit the Baumholder Army Education Center on Nov. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. People wishing to discuss the University of Oklahoma's graduate degree programs are invited to meet with the university's representative.

The representative may be reached daily at Ramstein mil 480-6807.

Wills, insurance should top your new 'to do' list

By Pamela Cater
Baumholder Legal Center

The world events of the last few weeks have made many of us think about getting our personal affairs in order. The top of that new "to do" list should include a note about wills and life insurance.

Not everyone needs a will. You may need a will if:

- You have minor children;
- You own a house or land;
- You own a large amount of personal property;

You have a large amount of savings or investments; or

You have divorced, married, or had a child since your old will was signed.

Having a will can ensure that your property goes where you want it to when you die. If you are not sure whether you need a will, stop by the legal assistance office and make an appointment with a legal assistance attorney. You will be given a simple two-page work sheet to complete and bring with you to your appointment. If you own a house or any land, be sure to bring a copy of the deed to the appointment.

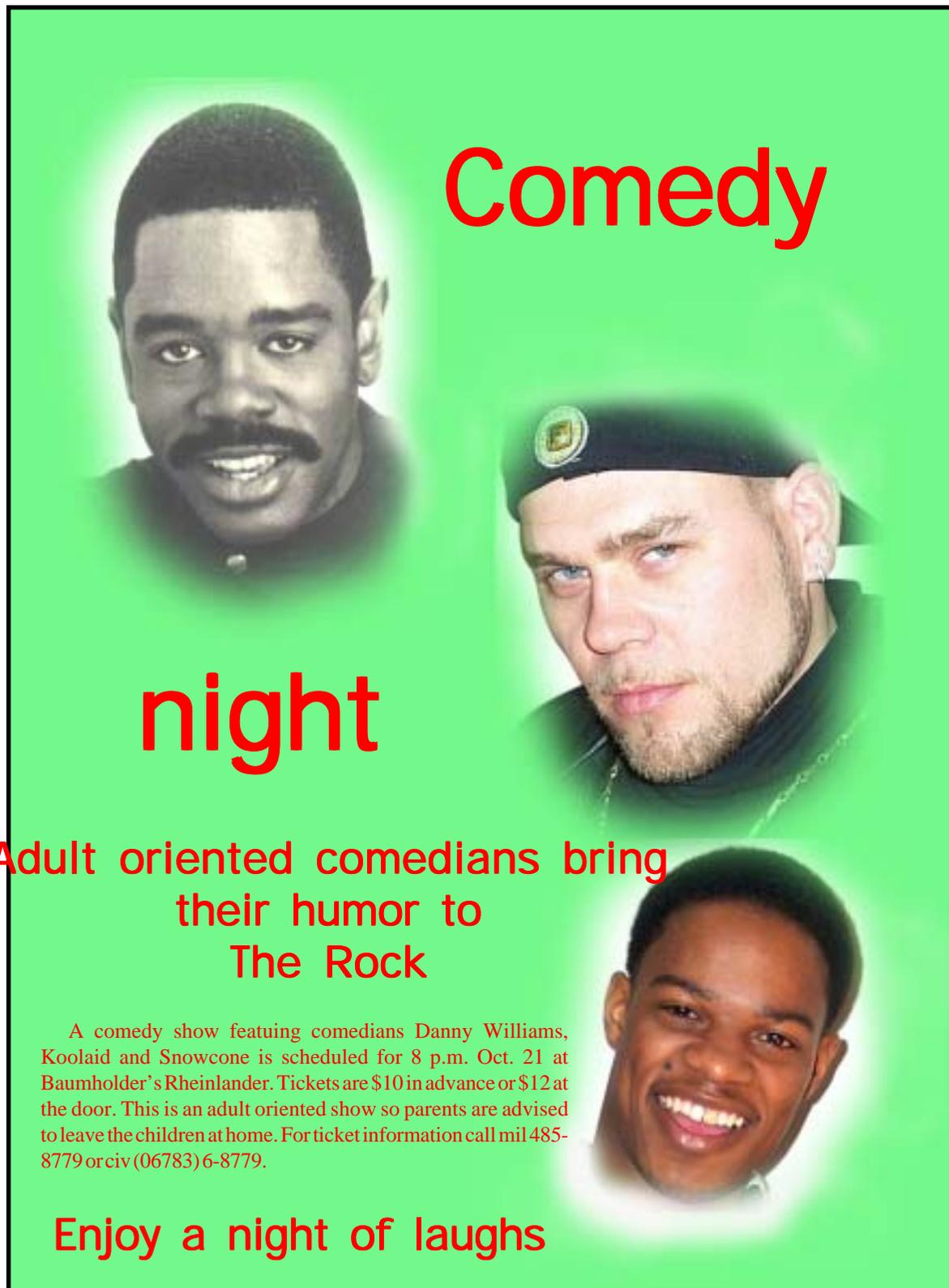
All though a will spells out how you want your property distributed, be aware that not all of your assets will be distributed through your will. Bank accounts, vehicles, life insurance proceeds, and even real estate can be distributed to the person you choose, even without a will.

Bank accounts or investments will go directly to the person designated on your account. If you are married you may have a joint account. This allows each spouse to use the account. Upon the death of one spouse, they money

will pass to the surviving spouse. As an alternative to a joint account, some financial institutions will allow you to designate a "pay on death" beneficiary. This means that the person you choose will not be able to make transactions on your account, but will receive the money upon your death. That person will need a certified death certificate to claim the funds. Transfer of vehicles works much the same way. If your automobile is titled in your name and the name of another person, that vehicle will pass to the other person upon proof of your death.

Although you may choose a beneficiary for your SGLI, getting the benefits to the right person can be a little tricky. You may designate a person to receive your life insurance benefit upon your death. As long as that person is at least eighteen years old at the time of your death, the money will pass directly to that person. You can name a minor child as a beneficiary, but certain language must be used. The necessary language will depend on whether you have a will, how that will is written, and your home state of record. Never name an adult relative as your SGLI beneficiary and assume that they will use the life insurance money to care for your child. Without a carefully crafted statement on your SGLI form and perhaps a will, as well, you cannot know that your child will be taken care of.

For more information concerning wills or SGLI, contact the Baumholder Legal Center at civ 485-6505 or civ (06783) 6-6506.



Comedy

night

Adult oriented comedians bring their humor to The Rock

A comedy show featuring comedians Danny Williams, Koolaid and Snowcone is scheduled for 8 p.m. Oct. 21 at Baumholder's Rheinlander. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. This is an adult oriented show so parents are advised to leave the children at home. For ticket information call mil 485-8779 or civ (06783) 6-8779.

Enjoy a night of laughs

Army urges women boxers to compete

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 1, 2001) — Soldiers interested in being considered for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation all-Army boxing and wrestling trial camps must submit applications to their installation sports offices by Nov. 5. Women are also encouraged to apply for both sports.

For women boxers, the weight classes range from 95-pound featherweights to the 201-pound super heavyweights. Weight classes for women wrestlers range from 101.25 pounds to 165 pounds.

Although there has never been an Armed Forces Wrestling championship for women, women from the Marine Corps have wrestled in the national championships.

Female soldiers will participate

in both boxing and wrestling as long as they have an opponent in their weight class from one of the other services. Since the number of slots available for women is yet to be determined, all interested women should submit an application.

The All-Army Boxing Trial Camp is scheduled for Jan. 4 - Feb. 10, 2002, at Fort Huachuca, AZ. The Army box-off will be held Jan. 22-25. The All-Army Wrestling Trial Camp will be held Feb. 4 - Mar. 27, 2002, with the Army championships set for Mar. 1-2.

Interested soldiers must submit a Department of the Army form 4762-R, Athlete's Application, through their installation sports offices. Details are available from local MWR sports directors.

TRICARE Plus on line, targeted for retirees

SEMBACH AB, GERMANY — TRICARE Plus, a new program affecting many TRICARE beneficiaries, came on line Oct. 1, according to Navy Captain Barbara Vernoski, the executive director of TRICARE-Europe.

This program targets the retiree population because it affords these beneficiaries the opportunity to enroll with a primary care manager.

"The TRICARE Plus program gives our beneficiaries yet another option for accessing TRICARE providers through enrollment in primary care clinics at medical treatment facilities (MTFs)," Vernoski said.

Under TRICARE Plus, all TRICARE eligible beneficiaries not enrolled in TRICARE Prime will be given the opportunity to enroll for MTF primary care, to the extent capacity exists at the facility. Additionally, there are no enrollment fees.

"The number of people each MTF can enroll depends on available capacity in order for commanders to ensure primary care needs and TRICARE access standards can be met," said Vernoski.

Retirees looking for more information on TRICARE Plus may call Bill Kalavsky, 222nd Base Support Battalion adjutant at mil 485-6150 or civ (06783) 6-6150.

The making of a fast buck

Pilot program processes checks in 48 hours

The 8th Finance Battalion now using a pilot Military Paper Check Conversion System to process checks electronically. The electronic transaction created by a check is processed at the customer's bank within 48 hours. This means that customers must not attempt to cash a check with 8th Finance unless sufficient funds are available in their bank or other financial institution to process the check.

The MPCC System converts information from a customer's check automatically into an Electronic Funds Transfer. By presenting a paper check to the cashier customers authorize the conversion of that check into an electronic

transaction. A check with insufficient funds will be 'voided' and returned to the customer along with the funds.

Additionally, persons not on active duty must complete a DD Form 2761 and it must be on file with 8th Finance before cashing a check.

Detailed information is available at the MPCC Internet site www.cira.gov or persons may call mil 485-6057.

What is check conversion?

The MPCC system is a process for converting checks into electronic fund transfers. When a completed and signed check is presented to the cashier, the information from the check is scanned into

the MPCC computer and used to generate an electronic transfer of funds from your account. The check is then voided and returned to the customer.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The electronic transfer of funds occurs within 48 hours. Therefore, customers should be sure they have sufficient funds in their account to process the transaction. If there are not sufficient funds in the account, 8th Finance may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The electronic transfer of funds

will be reflected on the customer's account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on the statement than where checks normally appear, such as under other withdrawals or other transactions. The transaction should be identified on the statement as "8th Finance."

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

Customers have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from their account. Customers should contact their financial institution immediately if they believe that a transaction reported on their account statement was not properly

authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

What if the electronic transaction cannot be processed?

In rare instances, an electronic funds transfer cannot be processed for technical reasons.

In these cases, 8th Finance will use the stored check information to create a paper version of the original check which we will present to the financial institution for payment.

Detailed information about this process is available on the MPCC Internet site at <https://www.cira.gov> or by calling the 8th Finance Battalion disbursing officer at mil 485-6057.

Operators maintain family bonds during deployments

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Given current world conditions, the 2nd Brigade's last deployment to Bosnia is nothing but a fading memory. And it's no secret that when soldiers deploy their families remain behind, managing the home front. Family members are saddled with an array of responsibilities like car repairs, house repairs, washing clothes, shopping, cleaning the home, managing the family finances, paying bills, handling medi-

cal emergencies, the list is endless and different for every family member remaining behind.

Sometimes these tedious day-to-day responsibilities can become overwhelming and just the voice and encouragement of a loved one can be enough to maintain morale and survive the long separations.

But how do the many family members in Baumholder communicate with their spouse hundreds of kilometers away, on-duty in the Balkans? Cell phones are taboo for deployed soldiers so the convenience of one of the most well know

communication devices of our time is put on the back burner during deployment. How ya' gonna' call? Enter the Baumholder telephone operator work force.

Yes, the institution of modern day communication, at least since the 1900's, the telephone operator, was the answer to a modern day mass communication challenge.

Granted, the regular operator workforce was not enough to handle a seven-day-a-week, 24 hour operation throughout the duration of 2nd Brigade's deployment to Kosovo. Additional help was

needed.

"When 2nd Brigade deployed down to Kosovo we knew that we were going to have a requirement here in Baumholder to provide additional operator assistance to allow soldiers and family members to make morale phone calls so we brought in an additional four operators and ran a seven-day-a-week operation including weekends and holidays, when family members and soldiers could make morale calls to each other to make sure that they maintained those links to the home," said Lt. Col. Branden Denecke,

102nd Signal Battalion commander.

"We ran them on shifts, two operators at a time," said Denecke. During the deployments peek period the operators were processing 1,500 calls a day for a total of about 10,000 calls a week. That was just a tremendous undertaking. That's about one call every minute during the peek hours that we were providing that service," said Denecke.

"They just did a super job. We had folks in on Christmas and other holidays to make sure that we provided that important capability to the community," said Denecke.

ACS at a glance

Army Community Services Outreach Program is once again offering story hour/tot time. Contact ACS for more information and story times.

The International Spouses Club meets in the ACS lounge from 10 a.m. - noon the first and third Tuesday of each month.

A free meal

ACS is accepting applications for the Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program. People who need assistance completing the application may call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188. Information regarding eligibility for this program is available by calling Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer, at mil 485-1770 or civ (06783) 6-1770. Applications are available at ACS, Community Youth Services central registration and the Baumholder Health Clinic.

The family team

The next Army Family Team Building Level I training is Oct. 17. All training will be in the AFTB classroom. For reservations or for information to set up training for your unit or FRG call the AFTB office at mil 485-8542/8188. To receive free child care during the classes students must sign up for classes two weeks in advance.

Army Community Foster Care Program is looking for Foster Care Families.

A Foster Care Program is designed to provide a needy child with a temporary home in which she or he can find love, happiness and protection. Foster parents are people who know that parenting is not easy. They are familiar with the stresses of raising a family and are ready to help out in a crisis. They are willing to extend the love they share with others. Foster parents are very special people. All inter-

ested families should contact the foster care coordinator at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Baumholder's Newcomer's Orientation and Welcome, or NOW, is a program for spouses in the Baumholder military community. This is a three-day orientation designed to welcome and inform spouses of military members and civilian employees to Baumholder by providing relevant information and developing skills for living in this unique environment. Spouses will learn about Germany and the

local community through briefings on customs and a survival German language and cultural adaptation class. Spouses, new to the military or not, will also have an opportunity to attend an introductory class to the Army life-style. Field trips on the economy will provide them with practical skills in using German public transportation and local shopping. Free transportation and child care is available for all registered participants during the orientation. All participants must register with ACS, to learn more about

this program stop by ACS in Building 8746 or call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Army Community Service has a new service targeted at single working parents. The Sole Parent Support Service is designed to introduce single parents to one another and increasing the understanding and appreciation of oneself as well as one's children, by exploring and discussing the advantages and disadvantages of being a single parent. Call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for more information

on these services.

ACS calendar

● Oct. 16 - Stress and Time Management Skills; Baumholder NOW

● Oct. 17 - Conflict Resolution Skills; Baumholder NOW; AFTB Level I Training; Teens Talk About Relationships; The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children (workshop)

● Oct. 18 - Love and Logic Parenting

For information about classes listed or services provided call ACS at mil 485-8188/civ (06783) 6-8188.