

Reintegration efforts receive recognition

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
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Reintegration will soon be nothing but a blur for the many who spent countless hours in the tents and behind the scenes ensuring that Soldiers harmoniously reintegrated with their families and into the community. Countless hours were dedicated to ensure that Soldiers and families had all the possible support they needed to make it not just through reintegration but also during the 15 months of deployment.

It was an unprecedented effort by the Baumholder community and it set the Army standard for future deployments. That was the message Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, relayed to the more than 200 members of the 222nd BSB who assembled Aug. 6 in the Wagon Wheel Theater where he recognized many of them for their contributions to the reintegration effort.

He told them that Baumholder had made history in the past few months.

"It took enormous planning to put this together (reintegration), one because of the size of this event and two, it's never been done in the history of the Army. You all have got to realize that we've never done this before, so we've had to start from scratch," he said.

U.S. Army Europe and 6th Army Europe led the way for the Army in terms of the planning for this event. "But we in the 222nd



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Command Sgt. Major Ann MacDaniels hands Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd BSB commander, a certificate for the next award recipient during the reintegration awards ceremony.

took the ball, took higher guidance, and we planned this event collectively and as a result we ended up with a model operation," he said.

This awards ceremony was the last opportunity Buchs had to recognize the members of the 222nd BSB who served with him during the past two years. He will leave the 222nd BSB for an assignment at USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg after his change

of command ceremony Aug. 20.

"I wanted to bring a select few together to be able to recognize them in front of the rest for the Herculean effort in making this possible in this community," he said.

He told the BSB that the impact of what they accomplished not be seen until months from now. Not until the Soldiers return from leave and "get done with reconstitution,"

with the efforts of the community begin to surface. Not until then will we "actually start seeing the impact, the effect, of what we've done here and I don't want you to underestimate what we've done for our Soldiers," he said.

"Everybody in this community is represented here. This is not a 222nd BSB operation. It wasn't an 8th Finance operation or whatever. It was everyone. We couldn't have done it without every partner involved in this process. That's why we became the model, because everyone was involved in this process," he said.

He emphasized that this was the first time in Army history that such an operation was undertaken and explained why the Army will continue with the reintegration process – because of lessons learned from previous deployments. "I don't want to say bad lessons learned, but lessons learned. We are an Army that learns quickly and we learn from things that we have failed to do. We overcome that in the future and that is exactly what the Army has done with reintegration. We have taken care of Soldiers. We have taken care of families," he said.

In closing he again emphasized the meaning of reintegration. "I want you all to remember why we did this. We did this for our Soldiers. This directly reflects or readiness, the future readiness of this Army. Always remember that. Always remember what we've done for our Soldiers and what we've done for our families.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Farewell gift

Bianca Bowen presents Col. George A Latham, outgoing 104th Area Support Group commander, with a bag of Baumholder goodies during a farewell barbecue July 21. Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd BSB commander, presented Latham with a gift from Baumholder. Various other 222nd BSB agencies also presented Latham with mementos of Baumholder.

Commander says goodbye

The 222nd Base Support Battalion will have a new commander in a couple of days. Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs who has commanded the battalion through the long days of deployment, redeployment and reintegration during the past two years leaves the rock for an assignment at U.S. Army Europe Headquarters in Heidelberg Aug. 20. Lt. Col. James H. Larsen will take command of the 222nd BSB on that day.

Addressing the members of the 222nd BSB for the last time at a general personnel assembly Aug. 5 he said, "I wanted to get everyone together from the 222nd BSB one last time, mostly to say thank you for all that you have done over the last two years.

"Together, all of you, continue to amaze our senior leadership in what you've accomplished in this community and how well you serve this community, our Soldiers, our families.

Before a 15-minute slide presentation that recapped the major accomplishments the 222nd BSB for the past two years he said, "I wanted to get everyone together and reminisce on what we've accomplished together as a team because none of what we've done over the last two years could have been done by one directorate, by one individual.

"When I sat back and looked at this (the slide presentation), I didn't have that feeling of exhaustion, rather I had that feeling of immense pride... Because I realized the magnitude of what we've done over the last two years, major muscle movements as I call them.

"Nothing happened by chance or by accident. It happened because we are a quality, best in the Army in my eyes, workforce. We have a mission. We've performed our mission extremely well... and we have a vision for this community.

Looking into the future he said, "I'll never see it on my watch but I guarantee you next year, sitting up in Heidelberg, I'm going to open up the Stars and Stripes and I'm going to read that 'Baumholder has been named first place in all of the Department of the Army world wide' (Community of excellence competition) because you've got it in you, you've got the people, you've got the teamwork and I know you can do it.

"I want to say one final thanks for all your commitment, all your dedication, all of your teamwork and everything you put into this organization because I am nothing but a leader who tries to guide people in the right direction but you all are the ones that have made this happen."

Household goods documentation a must

Courtesy of the Baumholder Claims Office

As you prepare for your next move, there are certain things you should know which will assist you in filing a claim if your property is lost or damaged. First and foremost, most claims are paid based on the documentary evidence claimants supply to establish that a loss occurred and the value of the loss. In establishing that a loss occurred, there is no set rule on how much proof claimants must provide. Generally, the inventory is the most important document used in establishing a loss of household goods or hold baggage. If the inventory is well prepared, listing the contents of boxes in detail, this will normally serve as sufficient proof of loss.

Please pay attention to the inventory that is prepared by the carrier. It will be completed prior to departure from your quarters by the carrier's representative. It is a listing of your personal property and you will be required to sign it before the driver leaves. The inventory

should be an accurate, legible, descriptive list of your household goods.

During the packout, be proactive in reviewing the preparation of your inventory and the packing of your property. This may ensure better packing performance and act as a deterrent to potential pilferage.

Ensure each carton and loose item (ladder, rake, etc.) has an inventory tag and appears on the inventory.

Ensure the content of cartons accurately identifies the property; e.g., if a box contains crystal make sure the inventory says "crystal" not "kitchen items."

Identify contents left in drawers. Be sure the inventory reflects the contents.

It is important that your high value items, e.g., stereo components, televisions, cameras, video recorders, jewelry, comic books, baseball cards, are listed on the inventory. Failure to do so makes it difficult to prove that you actually gave the item to the carrier to be shipped (no proof of tender).

Compact disks (CDs), videotapes and VCR tapes should be counted; have the packer enter how many were packed on the inventory and have him indicate if these are originals.

Audio / video equipment must be identified by make, model number and serial number.

Televisions must also be identified by size and whether it is a color model.

If you are shipping a multi media system it should be identified as such, and not merely as a television.

Separate your professional items and authorized consumables. Be sure they are identified on the inventory as professional books, papers and equipment or authorized consumables as the items are weighed separately.

Monitor the wrapping and packing of your items. Make sure everything is wrapped individually and adequately. Make sure heavy items aren't packed on top of light items.

Don't allow your property to be taken to the warehouse to be packed

without first consulting the transportation office.

Furniture items usually reflect the condition of the property by codes; these codes are called "exception symbols" and "location symbols." An explanation for these symbols is found at the top of each inventory page. Check the string of symbols listed for each item closely (this is how the packers show pre-existing damage). For example, "BR 2453" means "broken, bottom front left corner." A good inventory shows what condition the item was in at the time of pickup.

If your inventory is inaccurate, tell the carrier's representative and write down why you disagree at the bottom of the inventory in the space marked for exceptions. Identify the inventory line number and the item you are commenting on. Be specific as to why you disagree.

Carefully read the inventory prepared by the carrier's personnel before you sign. Look at it from time to time while the items are being packed.

Do not sign anything until you

have read, understood and agree with it. You must be provided a legible copy of everything you sign. Never sign a blank, incomplete or illegible form or a form you cannot clearly understand.

Do not argue with the carrier's representative. If you have a problem, call your transportation office at once.

By signing the inventory at the end of the pack out, without taking exceptions, you are acknowledging your agreement that the inventory is a true reflection of what you tendered for shipment and its condition.

Remember, you the shipper, are the person best suited to know what you shipped and the condition of the listed items. If these items are subsequently damaged it could affect the adjudicated amount of your claims award.

If you have any questions pertaining to claim policies, please contact claims Personnel at the Baumholder Legal Center, Building 8222 on Smith Barracks, or call mil 485-6507.

Motorcycle safety made more accessible

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
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After day-dreaming of riding a motorcycle along a curvy pass in Germany, Soldiers are returning from deployment anxious to hit the roads again. But first, Soldiers need to complete the Motorcycle Safety Course. The 222nd Base Support Battalion has added classes in Baumholder to ensure that their dreams become reality without a

hitch.

The Motorcycle Safety Course is held in Baumholder every Tuesday and Thursday. Classes are held at 8 a.m. at the 40th Engineers motor pool and are limited to 12 participants. All the participants must hold a valid motorcycle license.

Motorcycle safety training is a requirement of the Department of Defense. Two USAREUR Soldiers, however, who were recently involved in serious crashes had not

completed the course. General B.B. Bell, U.S. Army in Europe commander, stated that this requirement is critical. "We must do better in preventing tragedies." The 222nd Base Support Battalion realized Baumholder Soldiers could benefit from holding the course locally, thus steps were taken to make the program more accessible.

Baumholder riders previously had to travel to Vogelweh to take the course. The 222nd BSB created

a temporary solution to help the Soldiers returning from deployment. Four Rider coaches were brought to Baumholder to instruct the course locally through the duration of reintegration.

Capt. Jonathan Cornett, who recently took the class, said he found it beneficial because it served as a refresher for all the basic riding skills. He continued, "It's especially beneficial for the Soldiers returning from downrange who have been off their bikes for a year and a half. It's great that they are running the program in Baumholder as well because going to Ramstein or Vogelweh was difficult."

The course will be suspended once reintegration ends because the motor pool will be needed for equipment. However, Baumholder is looking forward to having a permanent course on the airfield next year.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has two training programs, the Basic Rider Course and the Experienced Rider Course. The Experienced Rider Course, more commonly referred to as the refresher class, is required for any rider who has not ridden during the last six months.

For more information call mil 485-6509/7406.

CARE Fair is one stop info shop

Information pertaining to anything and everything you ever wanted to know about services and facilities in the Baumholder community will be available during Baumholder's annual CARE Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Rheinlander.

The event is geared for new members of the community, orienting them to everything Baumholder has to offer, but everyone is encouraged to attend.

More than 51 agencies ranging from Army Community Service, Baumholder Schools, Clinic, Education Center, to the commissary and post exchange will have information available.

Some agencies like the Education Center will offer registration for courses while others will hand out job information and even conduct interviews.

"We take this time to pass out information for programs that agencies will be offering in the coming months," said John Visneski, event coordinator.

"The CARE Fair is simply one stop shopping for information for anyone new to Baumholder, but we do encourage everyone to attend," he said.

To encourage even more people to attend, event coordinators will have drawings for prizes throughout the day.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Motorcyclists refresh their skills at the Baumholder motorcycle refresher course before heading out on the open road.

Devoted rear D's always on duty

By **LeAnne MacAllister**
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

If during this latest deployment there were any unsung heroes, the Soldiers of the rear detachment would top that list, working diligently and ensuring that nothing falls through the woodwork.

The rear detachment commanders and Soldiers have served the families of the Baumholder community for 16 months. When asked what their duties entail, many state that there are 1,000 things that cannot be named. Though the rear detachment commanders shoulder the responsibility of putting out fires 24 hours a day, defining their positions is quite a challenge. They have many stories to tell, yet the "rear D," as they are commonly referred to, has remained outside of the spotlight, working tirelessly to help Soldiers and families.

"The rear detachment mission is to make sure that the units downrange can do their mission without having to look back here and worry. Whatever needs to be done, we do," said Maj. Richard Redfield, 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery rear detachment commander.

The rear detachment carries the responsibility of taking care of families. In addition to making sure families have the support they need, they work with personnel, redeployment and reintegration issues. This includes behind the scenes logistics and administrative needs.

The rear detachment commanders usually attend P.T. at 6:30 a.m. and start work at 8 a.m. There is nothing unusual about expecting a 14-16 hour day. In addition, they receive calls on many nights and have to return to the office, a family member's home, the hospital or

where ever they may be needed. Seven days a week, 24-hours a day, the rear detachment is on duty. "The needs of the families, the unit, and the job always come first," said Capt. Joel Leeflor. "I spent Christmas and New Years at Landstuhl with wounded Soldiers and their families," said Redfield. Responsibility did not stop for holidays or weekends.

The RDCs have faced many challenges throughout their tenure. Capt. Jonathan Cornett serves as the 2nd Brigade RDC overseeing the rear detachment commanders of six battalions and two companies. "Reporting injuries and deaths

back to the local community was one of the hardest parts of the job. It is a very difficult thing to go through. The intensity of the position also increased when the announcement was given that Soldiers were extended."

"When I was downrange I didn't have the full spectrum on the importance of the rear detachment or what they did. I thought it was an easy job, but that's not true. Now I see how key and essential it is to the mission. Taking care of issues back here is just as important and it cannot be overlooked. It requires patience, competency and understanding," said Cornett.

Capt. Jeffrey Scott, who has served as the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment rear detachment commander for 16 months, said that the job required all the rear detachments to work as a team. "Everyone helped each other when they needed it. We all worked together closely. That's how we survived it." Scott added that the Family Readiness Group leaders put in extraordinary levels of effort in working with the families and the units, often serving as a bridge in problem-solving.

"This is probably the most challenging job I've had in the Army, but I'm glad they sent me," Cornett said. Most of the rear D's will tell

you they do not want this job again, but they worked hard, learned a lot about another side of the Army and had a chance to develop valuable skills beyond their technical branch. "Rear detachment is a job that has to be done by the right people. You're not going to get patted on the back. It's extremely difficult, but Baumholder had the right people on the job," said Redfield.

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, summed it up. "How and what the rear detachment does relates directly on readiness, war fighting and reenlistment. This rear detachment has done an excellent job."



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister
Maj. Richard Redfield and Capt. Joel Leeflor meet after the daily reintegration update briefing at the 222nd Base Support Battalion headquarters.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister



Photo by Madeleine Dwoiakowski

At right, Capt. Phillip Burns and Capt. Joel Leeflor coordinate their rear detachment duties before the daily reintegration update briefing. Above, Capt. Jonathan Cornett and Capt. Ryan Bromenschenkel relax after conducting a recent welcome home ceremony for returning Soldiers. Welcoming the Soldiers is one of the many rear detachment duties.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A Soldier checks his paperwork during the personnel asset inventory directed by the Department of the Army.

90th PSB assists units account for all Soldiers

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The Army wants to know where all its Soldiers are so it has directed all units to take inventory—a personnel asset inventory. It's a paper pushing process with no room for error and Soldiers from the 90th Personnel Support Battalion are assisting local units get through this process error free.

To a commander, it can mean the difference between being able to account for all his Soldiers or having to explain to other commanders or family members where a Soldier is.

Heading up the local inventory effort is Sgt. Pirsilla Joseph of the 90th PSB, Alpha Detachment, who explains that discrepancies are not tolerated.

"Units have one to three days to make any corrections. If it is not corrected then the Soldier must go through the PAI again because we

have zero tolerance. We can't have one discrepancy," she said.

This personnel inventory is directed by the Army but a PAI is usually done whenever the chain of command directs it, during a deployment, or when a commander just wants to have Soldier accountability.

In addition to a face to face account of the Soldier, things like ID cards, dog tags and Serviceman's Group Life Insurance are reviewed. Soldiers also had an opportunity to complete their voting registration during the PAI.

"We have units from 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery participating," said Capt. Phillip Burns, 90th PSB rear detachment commander. The 222nd Base Support Battalion also participated. "We are assisting the units in performing an accountability of all their Soldiers and it must be 100 percent. If a Soldier is on leave or in the hospital we must see the paperwork," he said.