

Work begins on new golf course maintenance facility

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

"What a great day to be stationed in Baumholder. The sun's shining, no snow, no frost, no fog, it's great." Indeed, the weather was great that day, great enough for a round of golf.

This upbeat weather report actually does have some connection with golf. It was the opening comment by Col. Daniel D. Imholte, 104th Area Support Group commander, during the recent ground breaking ceremony for the new golf course maintenance facility.

Scheduled for completion by Jan. 25, 2001 to the tune of just over \$1 million, the facility will include a small gas station, storage area for lawn care products, a workshop and parking for eight vehicles.

Although a ground breaking ceremony for a facility that will serve as a place to store mowers, repair them and refuel them may seem, at best, distantly related to military operations, it is as important as training and retaining soldiers. Why? Morale.

In order to successfully retain soldiers and train them to fight and to win, soldiers need to be motivated, they need to know their families are being taken care of and they

need a comfortable living and social environment. And what better way to socialize than with friends on a well groomed, well maintained golf course. For an avid golfer, it doesn't get any better.

That's why about 20 American and German dignitaries recently gathered under a tent, shared their thoughts and then shared their shovels over a pile of dirt. According to Imholte, "We're going to continue to make investments here, and one of the things is to provide those MWR facilities that are going to improve the quality of life for our soldiers, family members, civilians and our host nation neighbors."

"I enjoy coming to Baumholder on great days like today, but more importantly on days when I can see more improvement, more investment to the U.S. forces in a community that is going to last a lot, lot longer than some of our others," said Imholte. "We have a great relationship (with the German community) in Baumholder and we together can share in that quality of life."

He concluded by thanking the people both in the forefront and behind the scenes of the project. "I appreciate the work of the Stadtsbauamt, as well as the other engineers and other important people, such as resource managers who are helping us finance this to



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

From left, Mike Farmer, chief of construction, US Army Corps of Engineers Europe District; Manfred Forster, LBD, Stadtsbauamt Idar-Oberstein; Volkmar Pees, Baumholder district mayor; Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander; Tony Blevins, 104th Area Support Group project officer; and Col. Daniel Imholte, 104th Area Support Group commander, share shovels and break ground to commemorate the start of construction on the new golf course maintenance facility.

make this project happen. Thank you for your help in not only this project but in helping to create Baumholder to be a better place."

"This is a great step for the golf course and the community," said Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander.

He echoed Imholte's message of improvement by saying, "I've said before, our goal, my goal, for the time that I'm here is to make

Baumholder a place where American military members want to come to serve.

"We've got a great facility here, we're going to continue to expand upon it and I want the Baumholder military community to be the number one choice for our military families to come and live."

For the many golfers that have heard rumors about expanding the golf course into an 18-hole course,

Wagenaar had some good news. The talk is true but the plan is still in its infancy. "We're putting together a business plan to do that, and continue to make Baumholder a better place to live," said Wagenaar.

He also had some good words for the German Golf Club. "I want to thank them for putting their work parties together and cleaning the golf course and continuing to make it a better place to play."

Send a TV holiday greeting back home

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Center comes to Baumholder Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to record holiday greetings by soldiers and families for airing over local television networks in the United States. Recording sessions will be held next to the entrance to the Post Exchange.

Each year, the Army and Air Force Hometown News Center makes such visits to record messages by soldiers and family members who will be spending their holidays overseas. If the military member is deployed, family members may record greetings alone.

The sponsor must be in his or her duty uniform. Recordings are on a walk-in basis but it's best to sign up for a time slot by calling the Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600, or civ (06783) 6-1600.

ACS at a glance

The International Spouses Club meets from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 20 and Oct. 4 in the ACS lounge.

A newcomers coffee is set for Sept. 19 and Oct. 3 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

The next Army Family Team Building Level III training is Sept. 20 and 21. Call mil 485-8542 or civ (06783) 6-8542 for location details. An AFTB Level I class is scheduled Sept. 27 from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The new Volunteer of the Quarter is Cathy Lollar from Charlie Battery 4-27 Field Artillery. She was recognized Aug. 29 at the Baumholder Town Hall Meeting by Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, who

presented her a gift basket.

ACS calendar

Sept. 19, Stress Management Class, Newcomers Coffee, Step Family Relationships

Sept. 20, Anger Management, FSG/FRG Roundtable Discussion, Consumer Scams Bad Habits and Getting Help, Starting Your Own Business, AFTB Level III (Sept. 20-21), International Spouses Club

Sept. 21, Child Safety

Sept. 22, Resumix Workshop

Sept. 25, Parenting Class

Sept. 26, Stress Management, Jobs and the Military Spouse (Sept. 26-28)

Sept. 27, Conflict Resolution, Fixing Financial Problems, Family Violence Prevention

Sept. 28, Story Hour (Library), Couples Communication

Oct. 2, Successful Parenting, Employment Orientation

Oct. 3, Stress Management Class, Newcomers Coffee

Oct. 4, Banking and Checking Accounts, Interviewing, Anger Management, International Spouses Club

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

Education update

Soldiers can now view and print unofficial copies of their Army transcripts on line at: <https://aartstranscript.levenworth.army.mil>

The University of Oklahoma and Cameron University Representative

Post Notes

from Ramstein AB will visit the Baumholder Army Education Center on a monthly basis. The next visit is Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Youth dance classes

Child Youth Services now offers ballet and jazz classes on Tuesdays from 1:30–7:30 p.m. or Thursdays from 2:30–6:30 p.m. at the Neubrücke CYS. Classes are for ages 3 to adult and participants will be placed by age and experience.

The cost is \$30 for a half-hour

session for eight weeks, or \$60 for an hour session for eight weeks. For more information, call CYS at 485-7003.

Job corner

The following nonappropriated funds positions are available in the Baumholder community:

Youth Services/Smith SAS

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

All CDCs

Get ready, get registered - vote

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It's time once again for United States service members and civilians living abroad to rock the vote.

That's right...election time is drawing near, and that means it's time for Americans to exercise their right to choose their leaders.

For Americans overseas, the Federal Voting Assistance Program has been designed to help with absentee voting. To assist citizens directly, each military installation has its own Voting Assistance Officers, who are responsible for ensuring that U.S. citizens residing abroad are given the opportunity to vote.

It's a process that sounds tougher than it actually is, as Baumholder's Voting Assistance Officer Staff Sgt. Rickey Butler, explains: "You just bring your identification card and vote from your legal residence...The application is fairly easy—everything that is shaded (on the form), you fill in."

Here are the steps you need to follow to make your voice heard in the upcoming elections:

Determine your state residency

With the constant moves associated with military life, figuring out what state is your permanent residence can be tricky. For newer ser-

vice members, your state residency is most likely your home or the place you lived before joining the military.

For long term service members, your residency may instead be the state where you own property, pay taxes, have bank accounts, have a driver's license or other identification, or the state where you last voted.

Complete and mail form

Once you have determined your state of residency, you must fill out the postage-free Federal Post Card Application Form (FPCA) that allows you to register and/or request an absentee ballot from that state. Some states will allow citizens to register and request an absentee ballot by submitting a single FPCA, while others require the use of two separate forms.

The FPCA form is available from every company's Voting Assistance Officer, and can also be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site, at www.fvap.ncr.gov. Keep in mind that some states do not accept the Internet form, and no states currently allow the form to be submitted via the Internet.

When filling out the form, remember that while it is a universal application for all states, procedures do vary from state to state. To find out what information your state

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

Baumholder Pool

Recreation aid lifeguard, flexible, \$6.19 to 7.25 per hour, open until filled, certification not required, training available.

Recreation aid, fitness center, flexible, \$6.19 per hour, open until filled.

For the latest on AF and NAF job announcement visit the Civilian Human Resource Management Agency Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe at:

www.chrma.hqusaureur.army.mil

requires on the form, consult with the Voting Assistance Guide available from your Voting Assistance Officer, or check the web site.

If registering, you want to submit your Federal Post Card Application Form at least 30 days prior to the deadline for registration in your state. When applying for the absentee ballot, it is recommended to send in your form 45 days prior to the election. Check with your Voting Assistance Officer or the web site for information on where to send your form.

Submit the absentee ballot

Once your Federal Post Card Application Form has been received by the local election official, you will receive your absentee ballot via mail. Simply select your candidate of choice and return the ballot in time to meet the voting deadline.

If you do not receive the requested regular absentee ballot, you may request a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. This ballot is only valid when a regular ballot has already been requested in a timely matter, but has not been received.

Watch who wins

Once your vote has been counted, it's time to sit back and watch who wins. But if you don't vote, your voice won't be heard.

As Butler sums it up, "Just get out and vote. Now is the time...don't wait until the last minute."

Community honors 100 years of service

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

Five noncommissioned officers whose military careers surpass 100 years of dedicated service began a new chapter in their lives titled "Civilian Life" Aug. 31 during a retirement ceremony at the Wagon Wheel Theater. A reception followed at the 2nd Brigade Regimental Room.

At the door to the theater, 2nd Brigade Commander Gene C. "Striker Six" Kamena personally welcomed the more than 200 guests that attended.

A bit more elaborate than most retirement ceremonies, the NCOs and their wives were showered with an array of awards and decorations and gifts at both locations. Speaking at the theater, Kamena said, "This ceremony pays homage to a long and distinguished service for five noncommissioned officers and their families."

The five NCOs Kamena was talking about were Master Sgts. Steven R. Dixon and Michael C. Spann, both from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-6 Infantry; Sgt. 1st Class Darryl B. Jackson, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Patton, Bravo Company, 40th Engineers; and Sgt. 1st Class John Renner, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 4-27 Field Artillery.

"It really is a family business," Kamena emphasized. "Too often us green suiters focus on the soldiers, and that's important, that's what we get paid to do. But I can tell you these noncommissioned officers could not have made and contributed everything they've done without their families," he said.

After more than 20 years of service in each case, these five NCOs now move on to face the challenges of a civilian life. "For over 20 years these noncommissioned officers gave everything to the Army," said Kamena. "It's something that civilians will never understand. Politicians will never know that no pay scale can compensate for it. For them, their service has become imbedded in every fiber of their being. These noncommissioned officers contributed so much it's hard really to explain everything they've done in a very short ceremony like this," he said.

The five NCOs have accomplished missions in all corners of the world.

"From the jungles of Vietnam, to Alaska, from the DMZ to Korea, to the blistering sands of Iraq, each noncommissioned officer has been critical to the execution of national policy," said Kamena.

Renner's career spans the sixties, seventies, eighties, nineties and the new century. He served in Vietnam and then entered the Reserves. He came back on active duty and served in Korea, CONUS and completed two stints in Germany.

ensure they're well trained. That's what they do and they do it very well. The price the Army levies on NCOs is steep though. We expect them to be experts in all things. For instance, a mortar platoon sergeant not only has to be an expert on how to shoot mortars, he has to be an expert in personnel affairs, in financial affairs, and not only does he train his soldiers, he makes sure that they're well cared for," said Kamena.

He emphasized his point by saying that the Army also expects noncommissioned officers to be staff experts but falls a little short in that area. "To be honest about it, our Army doesn't train noncommissioned officers very well to do that.

"Master Sergeant Dixon can relate to that," said Kamena. Dixon was put in as the S-3 NCOIC. On a freezing snowy night at the Combat Maneuver Training Center, with very short notice, he was told to move the Tactical Operations Center. "He accomplished that mission and all the other missions he was given," said Kamena.

The Army also throws a few surprises at its NCOs, often placing them in unfamiliar surroundings and saddling them with unfamiliar missions. "We also move noncommissioned officers without putting a lot of thought into what units we're moving them to," said Kamena. Spann, who spent most of his career in Airborne units, suddenly found himself as a mortar platoon sergeant in a Bradley, heavy mechanized battalion in Germany. "I can tell you he never missed a beat, and his platoon never missed a beat," said Kamena.

"We also expect our NCOs to know more about their soldiers often than the soldier's parents do. We expect them to be counselors, advisors, confidants, recruiters, and psychologists," said Kamena.

He pointed to Jackson as a prime example. "Sergeant First Class Jackson always had a genuine concern and a deep commitment for taking care of soldiers. He often spent more time with his soldiers than the wives of the soldiers did, something that Mrs. Jackson counseled him about often."

Their military careers nearly at an end, the five NCOs and their wives listened attentively as Kamena praised and thanked them one final time. "Yes, NCOs bear a heavy load. They do it and they do it well and they do it without complaining. Unfortunately too often we're very sparse in our praise for what they do. I know that this ceremony is small compensation for what each of you and each family has committed to our Army and our country. Never the less, please accept our deepest appreciation for all that you've done for our country and our nation."

With that, another chapter in military history covering more than 100 years of service comes to a close and a new one titled, "Civilian Live," begins.



As a young soldier, Patton had the awesome responsibility for atomic demoli- tion munitions. A combat hardened veteran, Patton has been awarded two Bronze Stars. He also spent time in Bosnia and was the platoon sergeant for the first engineer unit that went into Kosovo last year.

"It sounds like recent Army history," said Kamena "But I think it's representative of what noncommissioned officers contribute to national policy.

"Charged with the welfare of soldiers, noncommissioned officers know that the best way to take care of soldiers is to

IRT readies soldiers for deployment to Kosovo

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

With the sounds of gunfire erupting around them, the platoon of soldiers from Bravo 1-35 Armor dived for the ground, taking cover in the roadside brush until they could regroup and access their casualties.

No sooner had they set out again on their patrol, however, then the yell of "Incoming!" was accompanied by a loud explosion and a cloud of smoke in a nearby forest clearing. The soldiers again hit the ground, only to discover when it came time to set out again that their platoon leader had been wounded. As several soldiers tended to the injured lieutenant, who moaned with pain as they handled his leg, the remaining soldiers kept up their vigilant watch for hostile fire and communicated their position back to base.

But this all-too-real scenario was not taking place in some forward-deployed location; instead, it was happening at Baumholder's Concourse Park. The reaction drill being performed by these soldiers was part of Individual Readiness Training (IRT), which is being conducted on Baumholder in preparation for the upcoming Kosovo deployment.

"The training keeps (the

soldier's) awareness heightened on how to react in those types of situations," explained Master Sgt. Andra Howell from the 2nd Brigade S-3 office, imparting the importance of Individual Readiness Training. "It's also a force protection issue," she added.

The mandatory training, which will span a total of five weeks, is expected to certify a total of five-thousand troops for the KFOR deployment. Training will then be ongoing through May 2001 for soldiers called in as replacements. Soldiers undergoing the training will be exposed to everything from routine check point operations to more intense situations, including the reaction drill previously described, which familiarized the soldiers with patrols, mine probes, responding to snipers and indirect fire and providing aide to the injured.

Civil disturbance training is yet another vital aspect of IRT, providing a chance "to orient soldiers on how to react to mobs and riots," Howelle emphasized.

Overall, the training encompasses four days, including one day of briefings and video presentations and three days in the field. As Staff Sgt. Cash A. Freeman of Headquarters Headquarters Company 1-6 Infantry points out, the

time is spent putting "focus on the individual soldier...and trying to put the junior leaders in a position of responsibility."

He notes that it's also an important way for soldiers to train in areas they might not ordinarily have experience with, pointing to this platoon of armor soldiers as one example. "They're not usually dismounted," Freeman says of the B 1-35 Armor platoon. "But they may not have an armored vehicle available (in Kosovo), so they also have to practice dismounted infantry tactics."

As for the effectiveness of the training, the members of this platoon gave it a thumbs up. "I think everyone came out of it with a good feeling," explained Specialist Keith Bender. "Instead of dragging, they've all been smiling." He also compared this training to the IRT he underwent in preparation for the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, concluding that "(This training) is a lot more personal....a lot more individualized."

Bender's positive take on the experience was echoed by his platoon leader, 1st Lt. Michael Stone, who reported, "(IRT) was very valuable. It gave (the platoon) a first look at what they'll encounter down there...now that they must change gears for a peacekeeping situation."



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

1st Lt. Michael Stone, platoon leader for Bravo Company, 1-35 Armored Battalion, receives medical attention from PFC David Tolen during a simulated casualty exercise that was part of the unit's Individual Readiness Training.

BCSC set to give money away

The Baumholder Community Service Club is now accepting applications for monetary assistance from Baumholder community organizations. The club had great support from the community last year and was able to disburse more than \$23,000 to various organizations in the Baumholder community.

Applications are reviewed and funds are distributed twice yearly. Presently, applications are being accepted through Oct. 17 for disbursement in November.

Members of the BCSC Welfare committee will review applications and supporting documentation. Emphasis will be placed on learning how each organization has tried to

obtain funds, such as through group fund raising. Consideration is also given to the donation's impact on the Baumholder community.

In past years, donations have been made to organizations such as scout troops, elementary enrichment programs, sports teams, American Red Cross, Army Community Services, Child Development Services, the DARE program, and the health and dental clinics.

For more information or an application, contact Tracey Rafferty at civ 06783-186343 or write to her C/OBCSC Welfare Committee, HNB DIVARTY 1AD, Unit #23705 Box 152, APO, AE 09034.

Community prepares Hispanic events

What does a roast pig, a Jeopardy game and a live band have in common? Absolutely nothing, except that they are all part of the 222nd Base Support Battalion's upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month celebration beginning at 4 p.m., Sept. 30 at the Rheinlander.

The 222nd BSB's Special Emphasis Program Committee along

with the 1st Armored Division will host this year's activities.

The Jeopardy competition will be for children and adults and those interested in participating must contact Norm Estrada at mil 485-7540.

The food, entertainment, Jeopardy Contest and door prizes are all free of charge. There will also be a piñata contest for the children.