

# Forester keeps 'tree force' in shape

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

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At first glance you might think this man does not have all his oars in the water or he's looking for a place to drop a fishing line. On his head is a floppy gray hat and his attire includes a vest with about twenty pockets, khaki shorts and tennis shoes. Around his waist is a thick leather belt that serves to holster a rubber mallet and a pouch filled with nails and silver medallions the size of a quarter. The rest of his armament includes a standard issue clipboard and a high caliber pen.

The man is Karl-Heinz Biegelmaier. He is standing beneath a tree along the main road leading out of Smith Kaserne. The tree appears to be the focus of his attention and indeed it is. He reaches out with one hand, feels the texture of the bark, glances skyward, apparently estimating its height, and then produces a tape measure from one of his many pockets and measures the tree's girth. He makes several notations on his clipboard, removes the rubber mallet from its holster, gingerly taps the bark and notes the resonating sound.

Slowly, Biegelmaier's seemly eccentric actions begin to fall into place and embarrassment begins to set in because you were quick to judge his actions. Crouching at its base, he again reaches out to touch the tree and notes an irregularity in its growth. The lack of bark has left

a portion of the tree's base exposed, thereby weakening its overall structure. He makes another notation on his clipboard and takes a numbered silver medallion from his leather pouch and a nail from one of his 20 vest pockets. With the rubber mallet and nail, he secures the medallion to the tree about an arms length above his head.

Work just does not get any better. Who would pay someone to go around thumping trees with a rubber mallet and hammering metal tags into them? Why our very own 222nd Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Works, that's who. But this job is not available to any Tom, Dick or Harry who can dress up in khaki shorts and a floppy hat.

Actually there's a method to this laid back line of work where employees don't have to live in fear of Baumholder's dreaded CHAMP customer comment card. His customers, the trees, can't read, let alone write so he'll never get any grief if he drives the nail in too deep, thumps the bark too hard, or takes liberties with the tape measure. His only concern is fending off the occasional curious gawker, like newspaper staff writers.

Biegelmaier is a German forester, a forestry expert contracted by DPW to inspect Baumholder's trees. The reason for this is simple. It's the law. Regardless of who owns property in Germany, those residing on or leasing the property are responsible for the care of all trees on that property. In this case, the responsibility falls to the U.S. military, the



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Karl-Heinz Biegelmaier takes a close look at a tree that has developed a growth irregularity at its base.

tenants on Smith Kaserne.

Care and responsibility actually extends to all trees on the property but at this time only those adjacent to streets and buildings are being carefully inspected and cataloged. DPW is concentrating on trees near streets and buildings to uncover any hazard they may pose do to a weak structure, excessive foliage or just plain old age.

The information collected by Biegelmaier will be transferred off

his clip board into a computerized data base where a key stroke or two will let DPW officials know which trees pose a hazard, need to be trimmed, or removed altogether.

"Biegelmaier's report is very valuable to us," said Bob Baumgart, chief, director of public works. "His detailed information saves us valuable time and eliminates any guesswork in determining what sort of maintenance our trees require. Our employees can review his informa-

tion, which includes detailed sketches showing the location of each tree he inspected, go directly to the site and conduct the required maintenance," said Baumgart.

"It's a win, win situation. The German forestry department is assured that we are taking care of their trees and we save valuable man hours and eliminate any guesswork," said Baumgart. Plus, working for DPW as a tree thumper is great work if you can get it.

## Retiree forum

The Baumholder community quarterly retiree forum for all military retirees and family members is scheduled for Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Stern Hotel in Baumholder. Topics to be addressed include long term health care and a Tricare update.

The guest speaker will be Gabbi Martini, Baumholder's health care advisor

For details call Bill Kalavsky at mil485-6150.

## Allot or not

Legal center officials are telling soldiers to be careful when purchasing an item if the seller requests or requires that an allotment for payment be set up. Before setting up any type of allotment, contact the nearest legal assistance office if in doubt whether this method of payment is in your best interest. Answers to just a few questions

# Post notes

can save money and avoid potential financial difficulties in the future. For more information, contact the Legal Assistance Office of the Baumholder Legal Center at civ (06783)6-6506 mil485-6506. For information on other legal topics, go to <http://www.1ad.army.mil/sja/index.html>.

## Coaches needed

Baumholder's Sports Office is looking for community level basketball coaches to coach women and men teams for the 2002/2003 season.

Persons interested may submit a resume to the Baumholder Sports Office in the Hall of Champions by Sept. 13.

For more information call mil485-6671/7176.

## Jesse Bratton Memorial Shoot

Come to the Jesse Bratton Memorial Shoot, a German-American 15-skeet and 15-trap event at Baumholder's Rod and Gun Club Aug. 25. Sign up is from 9 - 11 a.m. and costs \$20 to compete. Prizes will be given to first, second and third place winners.

## Flag football

The 222nd Base Support Battalion unit level flag football league starts on or Sept. 4 at Iron Soldiers Field. A letter of intent signed by the unit commander or first sergeant with an alpha roster attached is due by Aug. 23. A coaches meeting is scheduled for Aug. 26 at 1 p.m. at the Hall of Champions. For

more information call the Baumholder Sports Office at mil485-7176.

## Beat the pro

Come out for a chance to beat the pro at the annual Rolling Hills Golf Course Labor Day Tournament Aug 31. Sign up in the Pro Shop or call mil 485-7299 for more information.

## Fall into fun

Get 10 stamps and be entered for you chance to win two round trip airline tickets to the States. Pick up a stamp card at any Morale Welfare and Recreation facility and start collecting today.

## Monday football

Spend Monday nights at the Baumholder Bowling Center, bowl

for \$1 and enjoy great snack bar specials all night. There will be fabulous gifts and prizes to be won!

## Adventurous

Join Outdoor Recreation during the Labor Day weekend on a trip to Austria where Outdoor Recreation will take the most adventurous white water rafting, skiing and more. Seats are limited so call Outdoor Recreation today at mil 485-7182 to reserve your spot.

## Volleyball

The women's fall volleyball league season begins Sept. 9. Sign up today by calling mil485-7176 for more information.

## Youth need coaches

Coaches will be needed for the Youth Services fall sports season. Help expand the talents of Baumholder's youth and have fun at the same time. Call mil485-7003 to find out how you can help today.

## Legal notes

### Misconduct expensive

**Spec. Vertis J. Anthony**, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery Division Artillery, was tried by a Special Court-Martial and found guilty of one count of assault consummated by a battery July 30. He received a sentence of reduction to private, confinement for three months, forfeiture of \$737 pay per month for three months and a bad-conduct discharge. He is serving his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

**Pvt. 1st Class Andre S. Coles**, C Company, 1-35 Armor, was tried by a Summary Court-Martial July 31 and found guilty on one count of absent without leave and one count of drunk and disorderly conduct. He received a sentence of forfeiture of \$737 and confinement for 30 days. Coles is serving his sen-

tence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

**Pvt. 1st Class Tyrone L. Ferreira**, C Company, 2-6 Infantry, was tried by a Summary Court-Martial Aug. 1 and was found guilty on 1 count of absent without leave. He received a sentence of reduction to private and confinement for 15 days. Ferreira served his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

**Pvt. Eric R. Lozada**, C Company, 2-6 Infantry, was tried by a Summary Court-Martial at Baumholder Aug. 1 and was found guilty on one count of wrongful use of cocaine. He received a sentence of forfeiture of \$737 and confinement for seven days. Lozada served his sentence in the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

## Schools ready for students, parents

If you blinked recently you probably missed the good weather and if you blinked twice you realized that summer vacation is over and children are preparing to head back to school.

School begins Aug. 26 for Baumholder children and all four schools have scheduled open house sessions for parents and teachers to get acquainted.

### Smith

Smith Elementary School's Open house is also Aug 26. Children will be released at 11 a.m. and a Parent Teacher Organization sponsored lunch follows from 11 a.m. – noon. Three open house sessions will follow beginning at noon, 12:40 p.m. and 1:10 p.m. Parents are invited to attend any of these three sessions.

### Neubrücke

Neubrücke Elementary School has scheduled its open house for Aug. 26. Parents are invited to a Potluck lunch sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association from 11 a.m. – noon and the open house



Contributed photo

**Command Sgt Major Jose Fontanez**, 222nd Base Support Battalion, takes time from his busy schedule to read to children at Smith Elementary School.

follows from noon – 3 p.m. The school will open at 8 a.m. morning Kindergarten through 6th grade and the children will be released at 11 a.m. so that parents can meet with the teachers.

Neubrücke Elementary will again be released at 11 a.m. so that teachers may attend the annual teachers' welcome back picnic at noon.

### Wetzel

Wetzel Elementary school has scheduled its open house for Aug. 29 from noon – 2 p.m. School will be

dismissed at 11 a.m. and three open house session will follow at noon, 12:40 p.m. and 1:20 p.m. A principal's forum will follow at 2 p.m. where parents have an opportunity to meet the administration, learn about school programs, the budget and share concerns.

### High School

Baumholder American High School has scheduled its open house for Sept. 3 For details about the high school schedule call the school at mil 485-7590.

# Community readies for carnival, sports day

## Sporting events, German/American festival all in one

The Baumholder military community conducts its annual Baumholder Days Festival Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 (Labor Day weekend) at the Hall of Champions and Wagon Wheel Theater parking lot. The festival is held annually to help foster community spirit.

This four day fest will incorporate sporting events with a traditional German/American festival. Several battalions will sponsor sporting events like a golf tournament, 3-soldier basketball, five-kilometer run, skeet shooting, tug-of-war, chili cook off, weight lifting and bowling.

Other highlights include a teachers welcome from 1-3 p.m. Aug. 30 followed by a keg tapping ceremony to officially kick off the festival at 5:30 p.m. Sporting events, however, will start at 8 a.m. Aug. 30.

A family day is scheduled for Sept. 2 with reduced price rides.

The following sporting events are scheduled. Listed are also the location, time and first place prizes.

- Golf Tournament at Rolling Hills Golf Course at 9 a.m., prize is a putter

- A five-kilometer run starting at Hall of Champions at 9 a.m., mens' and womens' categories with no age breakdown, prize is a camel-back

- 3 on 3 Basketball tournament at the Hall of Champions starting at 10 a.m., Prize is a \$25 gift certificate, one per player

- Bowling tournament at the bowling center at 11 a.m., prize is a \$25 gift certificate

- Weight lifting competition in the festival tent at noon, categories include:

- Men over 180 pounds

- Men under 180 pounds

- Women over 180 pounds

- Women under 180 pounds

- Tug-of-war at Minnick Field starting at 1 p.m., Old English Tacklers

- Skeet shoot at the Rod and Gun Club beginning at 2 p.m., prize is an Ice House Mirror

- Chili cook off in the festival tent area at 8 a.m., prize is a Miller Keg Grill

- Other prizes to be given away include:

- Best overall unit, an Xbox

- Second place unit, a Smoke and Grill

- Third place unit Miller Keg Grill

- The awards ceremony is at 5 p.m. in the festival tent.

- Persons or units may sign up at the Sports office in the Hall of Champions or call mil 485-7176.

- A family day is scheduled for Sept. 2 with reduced price rides.

- A fireworks display is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Aug. 31 at approximately 10 p.m. with an



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Festival goers enjoy the legendary Baumholder sunshine and a cool drink at last year's Baumholder Days festival.

alternate date of Sept. 1.

As an added attraction, AFN Frankfurt will be conducting a remote broadcast Aug. 31 direct from the festival. DJs will play all the

current musical favorites and solicit volunteers to take part in the various give-away challenges they will be conducting.

In conjunction with Baumholder

Days, the Baumholder Commissary will hold a mega case lot sale Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1.

For more information about Baumholder Days call mil 485-8779.

# Baumholder gears up for annual festival, ADAC rally

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

The city of Baumholder holds its annual Altstadt Fest Aug. 23 through 25 in the town square and main streets. The city's 14th annual festival will feature 15 bands on two stages throughout the three days.

Some of the festival highlights include carnival rides, rope skipping competition, performances by cheerleaders, a lingerie show, fireworks and of course a variety of food and drink. There's also a youth fashion show, hot air balloons, and a karate demonstration.

The festival officially kicks off at 6 p.m. Aug. 23 with a keg tapping ceremony on the stage on Poststrasse. German and U.S. dignitaries traditionally participate in this event.

## Rally causes detours

In conjunction with the festival, one leg of the annual ADAC World Rally Championship takes place Aug. 24 through the streets of Baumholder and on the military training area. This event will cause much traffic congestion in the community so residents are warned to be extra cautious when traveling about in the city and Smith Kaserne.



Photo contributed by ADAC

A driver and his navigator take on a portion of the ADAC World Rally Championship.

The rally will also force the temporary closure of a couple of access roads to Smith

Kaserne. Persons who need to come on post from the direction of Idar-Oberstein will be

able to enter via the first Baumholder exit near Ruschberg but they will have to leave Baumholder by driving through town in the direction of Wetzel housing and turn right on the road between Freisen and Baumholder. This detour is only temporary and will be in effect from approximately the afternoon of Aug. 23 through the afternoon of Aug. 24. So, people who need travel from Smith Kaserne in the direction of Idar-Oberstein during this time should plan on a minor delay.

The population of Baumholder usually swells and a flurry of activity disrupts the otherwise "Sleepy Hollow" atmosphere of Baumholder during the Altstadt Fest and rally. Hotels are totally booked for the duration and it takes even longer to be served in restaurants.

It's all part of the festive atmosphere during this time but persons expecting visitors, official or personal in nature, should plan ahead so that their guests have appropriate accommodations.

The rally itself begins at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 24. For more details on the rally and Altstadt Fest events, call the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600 or civ 06783-6-1600.

# New shooter fine tunes soldiers' accuracy

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

There may not be a new sheriff but Baumholder now has a new shooter in town.

The Laser Marksmanship Training System is the latest high tech addition to the Training Support Division's Rifle Marksmanship Training Arcade that already includes two Multi Arcade Combat System trainers and two Weaponers. The LMTS and the MAX are practice trainers and the two Weaponers are diagnostic trainers.

"You can actually diagnose a person's firing problems with it so this combined type of training helps eliminate firing problems on the range," said Erich Backas, TSD.

The LMTS is broken down into four stations. At the first station the laser is aligned to the line of site of the weapon. The effects of proper breath control and proper trigger control are then demonstrated.

The second lane features an individual target for soldiers to practice and get a feel for this laser system.

The third one is a grouping exercise. Soldiers must fire three rounds per target and the standard is to group all three rounds within a 2.5 centimeter circle.

On the fourth station, soldiers engage pop-up targets the same way they do on the range.

"This system is meant to be a trainer for marksmanship fundamentals and also as a tool for dry fire training. This is something the units should be doing before they actu-

ally go to the range so it's going to be part of preparatory marksmanship training," said Backas.

"The system comes with two lap top computers and when you fire from two of the four lanes two of the lanes actually show where you hit on the computer. The computer is behind the person so the coach and pupil method is used for training. The person who's watching the computer can explain to the pupil what he is doing...you need to go to the right, you need to go to the left, higher, lower," said Blackwell.

"The nice thing about this system is that the soldiers actually use their personal weapon by inserting a laser adapter into the barrel of the weapon," said Backas. "The laser has left and right and up and down adjustments to calibrate the laser to the sights on the weapon, eliminating the need to adjust the sights on the weapon. The system is also adaptable for 9 millimeter pistol use..

"This is another way to identify a firing problem. If you pass these stations, you're not going to have a problem on the range. That's the idea behind this. This is a way to practice without actually firing bullets," he said

Ironically, the first unit to use TSD's new LMTS was not an active duty unit from Baumholder. A Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit from Ramstein was the first to step up and try out the new system. Backas said he could not say if the active units have used the systems that were provided by 1st AD but regardless, soldiers now have another tool at their disposal to hone their firing techniques.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava



## Bang, Bang I shot you down

Above, students from an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps unit from Ramstein are the first to try out the new marksmanship trainer. At left, Erich Backas from Baumholder's Training Support Division, monitors a shooter's hits in the fourth shooting lane which features pop up targets.

## ACS bulletin board

### Free training

The ACS Relocation Readiness Department offers free sponsorship training to soldiers the first Thursday of each month. Unit training is also available the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. They also offer relocation counseling. For details call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

### NOW is the time

Newcomer's Orientation and Welcome, or NOW, will be held Sept. 9-11. The class meets from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. daily. This is a cultural awareness and adaptation tour to Baumholder and Germany for new spouses. Child care is free but spaces are limited. For more information and to register for the orientation visit Army Community Service or call Melissa Schaffner at

mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

### AFTB

The Army Family Team Building program schedule for September is:

Sept. 11, NOW basic training from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept. 24, 25, and 26: Level three, Leadership Seminar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Persons interested in attending

classes may call mil 485-8542. Limited free child care is available.

### Spouses meet

The International Spouses Club meets the first and second Tuesdays of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Army Community Service lounge. For more information call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.