

Post notes

Help your friends

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. The basis of the program is to promote designated drivers and sober ride programs.

These programs are essential in preventing DWIs and saving lives. Individuals often will drink alcohol, drive their cars and not get caught for DWIs. This act is repeated over and over again until a career is ruined or there is loss of lives. Every time I or you let a friend drive impaired, we are setting us all up for failure.

This holiday season let us all adopt one person to look out for and don't let that person drink and drive and lose. Friends truly do not let friends drive drunk.

Credit union down

All Service Credit Union branch offices will have limited hours of operation on the following days:

●Dec. 24 and 31, all branch offices will close at 1 p.m.

All Service Credit Union branch offices will be closed on the following holidays:

●Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day. Branch Offices will resume normal hours Dec. 26.

●Jan. 1 in observance of New Years Day, branch offices will resume normal hours Jan. 2.

Honored cadet

Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Justin Beasley was selected as cadet of the month for November by a board of senior cadets of the 6th AJROTC Battalion at Baumholder American High School. Beasley was selected for superior demonstration of JROTC procedures and knowledge.

Beasley is thirteen years old and was born in Alexandria, La. For fun cadet Beasley enjoys video games, basketball and running. Beasley is in the eighth grade and likes spaghetti, pizza and hot cheetos. His mother is Spc. Yvette Beasley, of the 90th Postal Company.

BSB focus

Bowling center upgraded

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

It's no secret that Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division will be returning soon after their year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Baumholder is priming itself to greet them.

Beyond the numerous welcome home ceremonies, reintegration into the community and general decompression from a combat environment, the 222nd Base Support Battalion is also focusing on readying some of its facilities for the returning soldiers so that they may better enjoy their time off. One such facility is the bowling center.

"The community has been waiting for many years for either a renovation or a new bowling center," said Greg Galloway, Directorate of Community Activities chief. "Because of the reprioritization of bowling centers here

in Europe, we're not going to get a new bowling center any time soon but we have support from the 104th Area Support Group commander and the Installation Management Agency-Europe director to do a real nice renovation that will include a new lounge and a strike zone theme snack bar," said Galloway.

The renovation, though, will go beyond just a new snack bar and lounge. Everything in the bowling center will be replaced. "There will be new scoring systems, new furniture, new pin setters, a new kitchen. Basically it's going to be a totally new facility," said Les Quick, bowling center manager.

The overhang at the entrance to the bowling center will also be enclosed and turned into a new lounge.

Outside the center, the entrance will be spruced up with new foliage to help eliminate that "back door" entrance look that the center currently has.



Photo by Patricia Inbody

Girl Scouts send messages

Girl Scouts and their parents wait while an assistant parent for the Baumholder Girl Scouts adjusts her camera to record digital holiday messages of mothers and their Girl Scout daughters to send down range to deployed soldiers in Iraq. There was no shortage of messages sent down range during the holidays as the Baumholder High School video class also recorded messages and the 104th Area Support Group contracted two video crews to visit Baumholder and record messages at the dining facilities while families enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal.

EEO refresher training now on-line

Refresher Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment is now just a mouse click away. This training is now on-line and is only for people who have already taken the basic TIPOSH here in Baumholder.

TIPOSH refresher training is an annual requirement and must be successfully completed by June 30, 2004. New employees or those employees or supervisors who have not taken TIPOSH must first take the Basic TIPOSH in a classroom setting.

All U.S. supervisory and non-supervisory employees, military persons who supervise U.S. civilian employees and local nationals who supervise U.S. civilian employees must take this training every year.

The training can be accessed in



two ways. To access this program go to the 222d BSB homepage (<http://www.baumholder.army.mil/>) and click on the EEO link on the right side of the home page. Or click on the enter button on the top center of the home page and then click on the

"Equal Employment Opportunity" link. Once there, click on "Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (TIPOSH) refresher training is now available on line" link. Both of these options will take you to a page of instructions. The first option will only be available temporarily.

Once completed, the program will automatically notify the 222nd Base Support Battalion EEO office with the test taker's name and score. Employees successfully completing the test will be prompted to print a certificate for their records. This certificate is only for the employee's records and does not have to be forwarded to the EEO office.

For more information, call Norman Estrada, EEO manager, at mil485-7118/7450 or civ (06783) 6-7118/7450.

Support continues for deployed Soldiers



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Siggi Zimmer, center, owner of the the Berghof Hotel, works with soldiers and family members to prepare the last shipment of packages to Soldiers down range for this year.

Support from the city of Baumholder for deployed Soldiers has not wavered since the first care packages were sent earlier this year. Another 140 packages were sent down range Dec. 4 to single soldiers.

Working jointly, Siggi Zimmer, owner of the Berghof Hotel and Tina Olsen, a military family member, organized, and collected donations from numerous community organizations. Those contributing were the Vegas Bar, 50 packages; Hotel Berghof, 25 packages; International Car Import/Export Abbas, 25 Packages; Sunshine Grill, 25 Packages; Sun Studio Tropical Heat, five packages; Kitchen Team Berghof, five packages; and the DRM office Baumholder, five packages.

Homemade Christmas cookies were donated by the Hotel Berghof, the German Protestant Children Service Baumholder and from the newspaper reporter of the Saarbrücker Zeitung, Melanie Hinze. Since the program began,

more than 700 packages have been donated by the community.

"This is the last action before Christmas. We want to make sure that the soldiers in Iraq receive the packages before Christmas," said Zimmer. Organizers were quick to point out that this does not signal the end of the program. Zimmer and Olsen said the support effort will continue after Christmas.

Representatives from all of Baumholder's deployed units showed up to receive packages for their deployed soldiers. This ensured each deployed unit benefited from the support effort.

"I have received information from downrange that the soldiers really appreciate these donations. Some even share the packages with their fellow comrades," said Olsen.

Pro Baumholder, an organization of local merchants, is the driving force in the civilian community that is keeping this program alive.

They also donated 100 Christmas packages especially for the spouses of deployed Soldiers.

New service helps avert annual weather panic

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Oh my God it's snowing! This never happened back in Texas. How are the kids going to get to school? How am I going to get to work? No way am I driving in these conditions. I could slide off the road in the dark and somebody will find me two or three days later with my hands frozen to the steering wheel.

The first white flakes and icy roads catch many who are not used to inclement weather by surprise but there's no need for panic. The 222nd Base Support Battalion is on top of the situation and will provide inclement weather advisories to the community through radio and television.

Baumholder's primary source for inclement weather conditions this winter is the new Baumholder Information Channel. If inclement weather hits, information will appear on the ticker tape that runs across the bottom of the screen.

The channel may be found by conducting a channel search on the television and should appear on channel 3 or 4. For those who can tune their television to a specific frequency, the channel is available on frequency 67.250. Because all televisions are different it is virtually impossible to provide a step by step set of instructions on finding the channel.

Weather information will also be available on the AFN radio affiliates that broadcast from Kaiserslautern and Frankfurt.

●AFN Kaiserslautern can be heard by tuning your radio to: 100.2FM, or 1107 AM.

●To receive information from AFN Frankfurt, turn your radio to: 98.7FM, or 873 AM.

●Road conditions are also heard in English on the German radio station RPR 1 at frequencies 98.1 FM,



The first snow covers a village during the start of last year's snow season.

Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

or 103.3 FM.

●To obtain additional information during duty hours, call your unit or the 222nd Base Support Battalion operations officer at mil 485-1530. After duty hours, call the 222nd BSB staff duty personnel at mil 485-6150 or civ (06783) 6-6150.

When inclement weather hits a community, the road conditions and any delays or cancellations in work, schools or other community services as determined by the local commander are promptly reported to AFN radio.

By about 5 a.m., the AFN affiliates in Kaiserslautern and Frankfurt begin airing inclement weather conditions and other pertinent information.

The new Baumholder Information Channel will also begin announcing road conditions, delays, cancellations or advisories as soon as the information becomes available.

Weather advisories

When inclement weather is expected, AFN radio will also issue advisories so that people may plan accordingly and take the necessary precautions.

Like clockwork, once the first snow flakes hit the ground

Baumholder residents reach for their phones and inundate the 222nd BSB command group and military police with an avalanche of questions like "Are the schools closed?" "Is the post closed?" "What facilities are closed and which are open?" "Is it safe to drive to the PX or commissary?"

Up front, community residents should not call the military police as the influx of calls will tie up the phone lines and prevent their timely response to a possible emergency.

The initial panic that ensues with the first snowfall of the season was not as intense last year, mainly because the snowfall was not as severe.

Color blind

Confusion breaks out annually when residents begin to try and interpret the definition of the color coded road conditions that are reported by AFN and who they apply to.

During adverse weather conditions, people often mistakenly believe a road condition advisory such as "Amber" or "Red" applies to all motorists. This is not the case. Here are a few facts that may help.

Just the facts

The most common weather re-

lated report heard over AFN radio and television and other alert channels pertains to road conditions. A road condition report applies only to military vehicles and restricts operators to various degrees of travel. It does not apply to civilian vehicles. Motorists traveling to work in their own cars should use road condition announcements to help them take appropriate safety measures when traveling to and from work.

Some AFN affiliates will report actual road condition, like icy, slippery, snow covered, etc., instead of color code conditions for military vehicles. These notices may be used by motorists driving their personal vehicles to determine appropriate travel plans.

Late for work

Another announcement often heard during adverse weather is a delay in reporting to work. If, for example, AFN reports that all Baumholder personnel are authorized a two-hour delay in reporting to work, this means that motorists have two additional hours to report to work. It doesn't mean people should role over and go back to sleep.

The intent of a delay is to allow

persons who don't live close to their work a reasonable amount of time to report to work in a safe manner. Those who live on post or do not commute are expected to report to work on time.

The third and most extreme action a commander may take is to close an installation as a result of dangerous weather conditions. This means that all facilities are closed – including schools, commissaries, exchanges, and shoppettes. It does not mean everyone has a day off to go shopping or run errands. For one, all these places will be closed. People should not be out on the road during extreme inclement weather.

During a post closure or a delay, military and civilian mission-essential personnel should coordinate their reporting time with their chain of command as appropriate.

Accountability

Another aspect of closures and delays is the accountability for missed work hours. Military members do not need to record this downtime. However, if a military member was on leave during a closure, that day will be counted as leave.

Civilian employees are placed on administrative leave during a post closure. Those on leave during a closure will remain on leave, just as military members. This applies to American and local national civilian employees.

A post closure does not affect the leave status that a member might be on during that time. Civilian employees who don't live near their place of work may determine on their own if they can make it to work or not.

If civilian employees think it is unsafe to travel, he or she must report that time as regular leave (except during a post closure) and tell their supervisors. The bottom line is: use common sense.

ACS hosts open house with Christmas spirit

By Julie Gowel

Army Community Service
Marketing Manager

Christmas carols rang out along the halls and the "ho, ho, ho" of jolly St. Nick set the stage for a day of holiday cheer as Baumholder Army Community Service held its first holiday open house Dec. 5

The ACS staff spent weeks preparing for the event, sending personal invitations to more than 150 people and handing out over 1,400 candy canes to the community at both the Post Exchange and the

Commissary.

As community members entered the Army Community Service Center Dec. 5, they were greeted by what looked to be a winter wonderland of magic and excitement. A glittering tree, 13 tables filled with holiday refreshments including non-alcoholic glühwein, cookies, finger sandwiches and the quickly famous hot nonbuttered rum, and children's movies playing in the lounge were just a few holiday favorites eager celebrators could enjoy.

Children fancied sitting on Santa's lap who was gracious enough to take time out of his busy schedule to support the ACS mission of providing real life solutions for successful Army living. Adults had the opportunity to meet the team of employees who not only host holiday events but who help the community every single day in so many ways. Some of the ways the ACS team helps families include obtaining information about their new location when they are about to depart, offering household items

through the Lending Closet for people who are awaiting their household goods and assisting family members with special needs through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

The driving force behind hosting the Holiday Open House was to give families and soldiers a fun reason to come into ACS and learn about all the programs and services offered.

A few staff members worthy of special note are Melissa Schaffner, Doris Price, and Jenny Gerber.

Schaffner did a great deal of food preparation and was able to borrow sterling silver serving ware from the Baumholder Community Spouses Club that added an air of elegance to the décor.

Price wowed not only the staff but many guests as well with her gourmet cooking.

Gerber put an immense number of hours into delivering invitations and standing at the PX and Commissary to be sure ACS spread the word to as many members of the community as possible.

Commander sees community as family



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, his wife, Renee, son Austin and daughter Alexie, take the first coach ride around the housing area next to the Rheinlander Club after the annual community Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Santa Claus used the horse drawn coach to make his appearance following the tree lighting ceremony.

By Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs

222nd Base Support Battalion Commander

Throughout the world, the holiday season is a time for families and friends to come together again. This is everyone's wish for the holidays, to be together as a family again after a long, busy year.

Even though many families aren't complete this year at this holiday time, I see us all in the Baumholder community as one large extended family; a family that includes soldiers, spouses, the children and teens of our community, some grandparents, our civilian employees and their families, and our German hosts. Some of you will travel to your families. We wish you a safe journey and we'll see you again when you return. Some of you will find your family in your friends here. Celebrate friendship this holiday season. I ask you to continue to take care of each other and continue to look out for one another. This closeness is what makes Baumholder a great community.

Soon we shall all be enjoying the excitement of the Baumholder winter. Snow and ice will come. Be prepared.

Be patient. Be safe. That goes for you children out there too! Enjoy the snow but think about what you are doing. Take care of yourselves and your friends too.

As this year comes to a close, we can now pause briefly, reflect on all we have accomplished, make some time in our hectic schedules to enjoy the company of our families and loved ones and prepare ourselves for the challenges of the new year.

As soldiers and military families you all make a sacrifice for your country, a sacrifice to preserve freedom and peace.

My family and I offer each and every one of you our personal thanks for your selfless service to our Army and our Nation. We wish you and your families a joyous holiday season.