

Tree lighting

The annual holiday tree lighting is at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Rheinlander. Everyone is invited for an evening of carols, lights, photos with Santa and more.

Computer literacy

The following information processing classes are available in November:

Introduction to Word 2000, Nov. 12, six openings

Excel 2000: Worksheets, Nov. 13, seven openings

Excel 2000: Charting and Organizing Data, Nov. 14, six openings

Introduction to PowerPoint 2000, Nov. 15, seven openings

Introduction to Access 2000, Nov. 25 – 27, six openings

For the latest information about available classes call Petra Franz at mil 485-1640 or (06783) 6-1640. Interested persons may register at <https://www.uatp.hq.usareur.army.mil>

Christmas party

The training support center holds its Christmas party Dec. 20 from 12:30–4:30 p.m. Services will be limited.

Post notes

Traffic flow changes

Directorate of public works officials have announced that on Dec. 2, Mass Avenue, which runs parallel to Prussman Avenue, will be permanently changed to a one way street in the direction of the traffic circle in the middle of Smith Kaserne. The street will be one way beginning at Building 8112 all the way to Chicago Avenue.

Santa, Harley Night

Dress either like Santa or in your favorite Harley-Davidson outfit (or both) Dec. 6 and head down to the Rod and Gun Club to be eligible to win prizes in a Santa Claus look alike contest. The fun begins at 9 p.m. For more information call the Rod and Gun Club at mil 485-6345.

Winter Garden grand opening

The Rod and Gun Club Winter Garden grand opening is Dec. 7. The Winter Garden is a new addition to the club that is being retrofitted with a special exhaust system

for smokers, since the club will be smoke free as of Dec. 7.

The featured attraction for the evening will be the annual Army/Navy football game beginning at 7 p.m. For more information call the Rod and Gun Club at mil 485-6345.

New Year's party

Make plans to welcome in 2003 at the Rheinlander. The party begins Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. and ends at 1 a.m. after celebrating the new year. They'll have a full bar, party favours and a champagne toast at midnight. Dinner will be served until 11 p.m. There's no cover charge and reservations are welcome.

Santa breakfast

Join Child and Youth Services for breakfast with Santa Dec. 7 at Neubrücke Youth Center. The cost is \$5 per family and that will include one Polaroid picture with Santa. For more information call mil 485-7276.

Outdoor Recreation

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation

is offering the following trips in December:

●Dec. 1, Black Forest shopping, \$35 for adults, \$25 for children

●Dec. 7, LegoLand, \$45 adults, \$25 children

●Dec. 7-8, Austria Shopping Express \$95

●Dec. 8, 21, Paris Express trip, \$65

●Dec. 14, Amsterdam Express, \$65

●Dec. 15, Frankfurt Zoo, \$25 adults, \$15 children

●Dec. 15, Black Forest ski trip, \$55 adults, \$35 children

●Dec. 21, Garmisch ski trip, \$95

●Dec. 28, Switzerland ski trip, \$95

For more information on any trip call mil 485-7182

Auto center classes

Baumholder Auto Skills Center offers the following classes in December

●Dec. 3, Auto Tune Up Class, 6–7 p.m.

●Dec. 11, Auto Detailing for

winter 6–7 p.m.

●Dec. 17, How to Buy a Used Auto noon – 1 p.m.

For more information on any classes or services call mil 485-6344.

Arts and Crafts

Call now to set up an appointment for holiday family portraits. Also, the center offers all Christmas molds at 50 percent off during the month of December. Call mil 485-6687 for more information.

Summer greens

Rolling Hills Golf Course is playing summer greens all winter long. As long as there is no snow or frost on the greens, golfers can play all day long on summer greens for one low price. Are you planning a holiday party? The Windmill Pub at Rolling Hills is the perfect place for that holiday party. Call today for more information at mil 485-7299

Monday footbowl

Join the Baumholder Bowling Center every Monday night for "four quarters" of bowling. Every Monday you have a chance to win prizes, including trips from Enjoy Tours. Call mil 485-6569 for more information.

Post notes

Family Week

Baumholder celebrates Military Family Week Nov. 24–29. Military Family Week is celebrated during the week of Thanksgiving each year.

This week is a special time to express appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices that are made by the various military services.

Army Community Service's Outreach office has scheduled several events for military and family members in the Baumholder community. If you have any questions or concerns contact Army Community Service at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188. Scheduled events include:

Family Bowling Night Nov. 26, receive a free shoe rental and one game from 6–9 p.m..

Family Movie Night Nov. 27, \$1 movie tickets for children and \$1.50 for adults, movie begins at 7 p.m.

ACS open house Nov. 27, come by and visit the staff at ACS from 1–5 p.m.

Job opening

Army Community Services is accepting applications for a newcomers/international spouse pro-

gram coordinator. This position may be part or full time based on community needs.

Applicants must have an associates degree or above from an accredited college. Additionally, various personal traits are required to accomplish this job.

For additional information contact Teresa Gaines at mil 485-8188 Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special training

A sponsorship training class is offered for units and individual soldiers who volunteer for or are assigned to sponsorship duties. Being a sponsor to an incoming soldier or an arriving soldier and his family is a rewarding way to help others.

Newcomers

The next Newcomers Orientation and Welcome Class classes are Dec. 2–4 and 16–18 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the ACS Lounge, Building 8746.

Sponsorship

The next Sponsorship Training Class is Dec. 12 from 9–11 a.m. in the ACS lounge, Building 8746.

With an eye friendly

What can relief act do?

By 1st Lt. Catherine Lev
Baumholder Legal Assistance Office

The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act is a federal law that gives active duty soldiers special protections in some civil (non-criminal) matters. The idea behind the act is to turn "an eye friendly" to active duty soldiers and allow them to focus on their service rather than worry about being sued back home and not being able to defend their interests.

Who is eligible?

Active duty soldiers, activated reservists and national guardsmen in federal service and, in limited circumstances, dependents of the above are eligible for protection under this act.

SSCRA covers active duty soldiers from their date of entry into the military to the date of discharge. Some protections extend past the date of discharge but not for long.

SSCRA covers reservists and national guardsmen either from date of orders or date of reporting, depending on what kind of protection

the soldier wants. This coverage also ends on the date of discharge.

Serious UCMJ-punishable misconduct and going AWOL will usually terminate coverage before the discharge date.

What the act does

If you took out a commercial loan before you entered active service, the interest on that loan can be reduced to 6 percent. In order to do that you need to provide your creditor with a letter and a copy of your orders. Educational loans guaranteed by the federal government are not covered.

If you sue or are being sued in an American civil court, you can ask the court to wait for you until your military obligations come to a lull and allow you to appear in court. Usually the judges expect you to appear at the first opportunity you can take leave. You must show the court that your military service "materially affects" your ability to appear. Some cases, like child support determinations, are not covered.

If you failed to appear in court

because of your military duties and for that reason the judge issued a default judgment against you, you can ask the court to reopen the default judgment. More than likely the opposing party conveniently forgot to mention to the judge that you are in the military.

SSCRA suspends statute of limitations during your time on active duty. That means you can sue (or be sued by another soldier) long after the event giving rise to the lawsuit occurred.

SSCRA allows you to get out of a lease that you signed prior to coming on active duty.

SSCRA prevents an American landlord from evicting your dependents without a court order. SSCRA also protects you from mortgage foreclosure on property purchased by you before entering the service.

This is a very general description of the act and the remedies it provides. Do yourself a favor and see a legal assistance attorney before you start corresponding with the court, your creditors or your opponents in a law-suit.

Got an issue, idea, complaint, comment?

Committee looking for inputs from Baumholder community

The Army Family Action Plan Conference committee wants to hear from members of the Baumholder community.

The conference, scheduled for Feb. 4–5 from 8 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Rheinlander, is designed to let the soldiers and families of the community air what they feel is working, what isn't working and what can be done to fix it.

Each year, issues brought up through the local conferences are forwarded to the ASG level where the issues are prioritized and discussed to then, if necessary, be sent to the USAREUR level. While all suggestions or concerns may not mature into AFAP issues, all are addressed and discussed at the local level.

Once a suggestion or concern is brought to the AFAP Issues Committee, the committee researches the problem to determine if the issue is viable. A viable issue is one which has not been brought to an AFAP conference in the past three

years, and one which has broad impact. Individual complaints are not viable issues and should be dealt with either through the appropriate agency or through the ICE/CHAMP card system at the BSB level.

Issues may be submitted to the committee in several ways. They may be emailed to *Elizabeth.Curran@104asg.mwr.army.mil*, dropped off at Army Community Services, or dropped off at AFAP drop boxes that will soon be placed at the Health Clinic, Rheinlander, post exchange or commissary.

Persons may use the form included on this page or obtain an issue sheet from their Family Readiness Group or Family Readiness Liaison. Issues may also be turned in to FRG or FRL personnel.

Persons who have an issue they would like heard, or are interested in volunteering with AFAP and the conference may call Beth Curran, AFAP coordinator, at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

**Army Family Action Plan
Issue Worksheet**

Got an Issue?
We want to hear about it

(An issue is anything related to the community or military life)

Issue: What is your issue? _____

Scope: Describe the issue _____

Recommendation: How would you like the issue resolved?

Bring this completed worksheet to ACS or drop it off at any of the drop boxes located at the Health Clinic, Rheinlander, Post Exchange or Commissary.
Issues may also be emailed to *Elizabeth.Curran@104asg.mwr.army.mil*

First snowfall not a reason for panic

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The temperatures are dropping and Baumholder is poised to receive its first snowfall of the season. In spite of the many precautions, briefings and the gradually cooling temperatures, the first white flakes and icy roads catch many who are not used to inclement weather by surprise.

Persons new to Germany and to inclement weather conditions will find that the radio will be their best friend and source of up to date weather information. 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.

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

The weather has been rather mild this year but Baumholder traditionally receives its first offering of snow some time in November.

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.

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 related 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.

To obtain road conditions during duty hours, call your unit or the 222nd Base Support Battalion operations officer at 485-1530. After duty hours, call the 222nd BSB staff duty personnel at 485-6150 or 06783-6-6150.

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

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

Road conditions are also heard in English on the German radio station RPR 1 at frequencies 98.1 FM, or 103.3 FM.

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



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Snow blankets the front of the 222nd Base Support Battalion after a previous storm that hit Baumholder.

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.

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.

German families open doors to soldiers

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The holiday season is a time for family reunions and sitting down at the dinner table for a traditional meal with all the trimmings. For single soldiers away from home for the first time, a flight back to the states can be a little costly so the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office is going to help those soldiers.

No, they will not buy soldiers a plane ticket home for the holidays but they will provide a family reunion that often includes a tasty meal. Operation Good Cheer is an initiative that helps place single soldiers in the homes of German families during the holiday season. Each year, numerous German families register their desire to host an American soldier for Christmas dinner, New Years, or both, by calling the 222nd BSB Public Affairs Office. Soldiers who wish to participate in the program may call Public Affairs or contact their unit commander of first sergeant.

"Public Affairs has offered this program for several years now and the outpouring of generosity by our host nation families is truly heartwarming," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public

affairs officer. "These families unconditionally open their doors to soldiers each year and offer to take them in for a day or two and often longer,"

Over the years, several families and soldiers have developed lasting relationships as a result of having participated in Operation Good Cheer.

When soldiers elect to participate, they are matched up with a German family by using common interests like hobbies or pastimes. A few days before Christmas, the participating soldiers and families gather at German restaurant to get to know each other over a Public Affairs hosted dinner. The families and soldiers then set up a time and place where the family can meet the soldier and take him or her to their home.

"Most of the participating families have at least one or two members who speak English so communication is not a problem," said Dwoiakowski.

"Of course, if a soldier speaks some German it improves things tremendously," she said. "You don't need to speak German like a native. The effort to communicate in their language is more than enough and serves as an excellent way of striking up a conversation," she said.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A German family and soldiers get to know each other during last year's Operation Good Cheer ice breaker at a local restaurant. The program brings single soldiers and German families together for the holidays.

"We also realize many people are a little apprehensive about starting up a conversation with someone they don't know so Public Affairs serves as an ice breaker for soldiers and the families," she said.

During the dinner, soldiers are matched up, escorted and intro-

duced to their German host family. They are left to get to know each other for a while and then a Public Affairs representative will return and help coordinate the family and soldier's holiday plans.

To ensure that commanders are able to contact their soldiers if an

emergency should arise while they are away, Public Affairs maintains a record of the family that each soldier is assigned to. Single soldiers who would like to participate may call the 222nd BSB Public Affairs office at mil 485-1600 or civ (06783)6-1600

Get out, taste the holidays

During the Christmas pre-season the smell of Lebkuchen (gingerbread) and Glühwein (a spiced mulled wine) fills the downtown of many German cities. Every year, Germany's traditional markets, such as the centuries-old Christkindlesmarkt in medieval Nürnberg, draw millions of visitors, both local and foreign. They open before the first Sunday of Advent, around the time of Thanksgiving in the U.S., and usually continue until December 24th at 12 noon.

Christmas markets can be found in big cities, Munich, Stuttgart, Berlin and Hamburg, and in midsize and small towns ranging from Affing and Aichach to Zweibrücken and Zwingenberg. These markets offer baked goods, sweets and toys and feature local and regional specialties.

Nürnberg's Christkindlesmarkt is the most famous and one of the oldest. The first official record of this pre-Christmas market dates to 1628. A list of notices for stallholders from 1737 shows that nearly all of Nürnberg's craftsmen were represented.

Local markets

The following is a list of the markets within driving distance from Baumholder. For more information on these events or other activities in the German community call the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600 or civ (06783)6-1600.

- Nov. 29 – 30, Christmas Market in Oberstein
- Nov. 30, Andreas Market in Kirn
- Nov. 21 – Dec. 22, Christmas Market in Trier
- Nov. 25 – Dec. 23, Christmas Market in Kaiserslautern
- Nov. 28 – Dec. 23, Christmas Market in Mainz
- Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, Christmas Market in Bad Muenster (near Bad Kreuznach)
- Nov. 30, Christmas Market in Reichenbach
- Nov. 30 – Dec. 22, Christmas Market in Bernkastel Kues
- Nov. 30 Christmas Market in Berglangenbach
- Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, St. Andreas Market in Landstuhl
- Dec. 1, Christmas Market in Heimbach, Besenbinderhalle

- Dec. 3, Christmas Market in Kusel
- Dec. 5, Santa Claus Market in St. Wendel
- Dec. 7 – 15, Christmas Market in St. Wendel
- Dec. 7, Christmas Market in Hahnweiler
- Dec. 6 – 7, Christmas Market in Baumholder
- Dec. 6 – 7, Christmas Market in Idar
- Dec. 6 – 8, Christmas Market in Kastellaun
- Dec. 7, Santa Claus Ball in Baumholder, Bruehlhalle
- Dec. 7 – 8, Christmas Market in Bad Muenster (near Bad Kreuznach)
- Dec. 7 – 10, Christmas Market in Birkenfeld
- Dec. 13 – 15, Advents Bazaar in Kusel
- Dec. 13 – 15, Christmas Market in Bingen
- Dec. 14 – 15, Christmas Market in Bad Muenster (near Bad Kreuznach)
- Dec. 14, Flea Market in Metz, France
- Dec. 31, Open Air New Years Party in Kirn



Contributed photo

Nürnberg's Christkindlesmarkt is the most famous and one of the oldest.