

Baumholder named best in excellence

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 222nd Base Support Battalion has earned first place in the IMA-E Army Communities of Excellence competition and is now eligible for entry into the HQ IMA FY05 Army-wide Communities of Excellence competition.

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, who directed the 222nd BSB through the long period of deployment, redeployment and reintegration of soldiers from the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division stationed at Baumholder, is confident that the men and women of the 222nd BSB are destined to achieve the highest levels of excellence.

"I won't expect anything less when the community, the BSB, goes to DA. I guarantee you they'll take first place. This organization has proven itself year after year after year and now they are at the PHD level," said Buchs.

That this organization continues to prove itself year after year is not just a "complimentary" remark by the former commander. Sean Lambur, special projects officer for the 222nd BSB, is of the same belief and attributes the organization's success to the maturity of its people and its practices. "To be first in USAREUR required a level of maturity that took three to four years to reach through continual implementation of improvement to the way we operate," he said.

ACOE awards recognize installations for continuous business process improvement, individual innovation, groundbreaking initia-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Soldiers from 1-35 Armor are welcomed home July 14 in a ceremony arranged by the 222nd Base Support Battalion. How soldiers were reintegrated into the community after their long deployment in Iraq was just one of the missions that made Baumholder the best community in IMA-E.

tives, and dedication to efficiency and customer care. They are presented annually to installations for exemplary efforts to provide support to Soldiers, civilian employees, retirees, and families.

"This organization has imbedded in it processes that will carry on and what I mean by that is, they do things for a reason, they measure how they do things and they get better as an organization because of the processes that are in place," said Buchs.

"And as long as you're an organization that continues to improve, you will always be a successful organization. The by-product of that is you will always treat your customers well. There's no better organization than the 222nd BSB, there isn't," said Buchs.

Lambur explained that there is nothing comparable in the civilian sector to what the 222nd BSB offers

its customers. "In terms of the kinds of services and in the variety and the scope of services we provide, we're more complicated than a small town or city administration," he said.

Putting the many services the 222nd BSB offers into perspective, Lambur said, "You would be very hard pressed to find any organization on this scale, that does the variety and the details that we do.

"We do more than cities do. We are a shipping company, a building company and a utilities company. We are a chain of bar and restaurants and child development centers. So we're doing things here that in a normal city you would find being executed by anywhere from seven to 15 different private companies."

So what did the 222nd BSB to get where it is today? Lambur says one of the reasons for the success of the 222nd was the caliber of se-

nior leadership.

"There's no question about it, it was outstanding leadership by the garrison commander, the deputy garrison commander and the command sergeant major. We've had two years of a very solid senior leadership team that always did the right thing. They gave us our priorities and they followed up and they led the way."

"We've now changed BSB commanders but the same leadership role is being conducted by the new BSB commander," said Lambur.

There's no question that the deployment of Soldiers challenged the skills and dedication of the members of the 222nd BSB. They were charged with deploying Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat team in a safe and timely manner and properly receiving them upon their return while at the same time, seeing to the needs of all their family members.

"During this period, we were able to attain benchmarks for doing some processes the best," said Lambur.

"For instance, when troops first deployed from Europe to Operation Iraqi Freedom, our method of deploying them was adopted Europe wide," said Lambur.

The deployment of Soldiers and all the actions that followed was actually a plus for the BSB and allowed it to focus on how the organization can better serve its customers. "It sounds strange but, buy having all of our Soldier customers gone, we were able to take more of a strategic view of things. We were able to look down range and say, these are the things that we're go-

ing to have to do in nine months to successfully reintegrate Soldiers and their equipment and how to help them reconstitute their unit. So by not having all of our Soldier customers here it helped us engage in a bit of strategic planning.

"It has given us the time and ability to work unimpeded but not isolated. We brought in all the rear detachment commanders into our decision process. Nothing was planned in a vacuum. We were always able to account for our customer's needs and that's probably the most single significant factor in our success," said Lambur.

To service the entire scope of its customers The 222nd BSB reached out beyond its physical boundaries.

"When we worked out reintegration details with our rear detachment commanders we then communicated with our customers down range by VTC, by email, by courier, long before they began their trip back home. So we were constantly getting intimate details on customer participation from our rear detachment commanders while at the same time obtaining concept approval or final procedure approval from our senior customers down in Baghdad,"

The 222nd BSB is now poised for the next level of achievement which could make it the Army's premier community world wide. The 222nd BSB placed second world wide last year and people like Buchs and Lambur have their sites set on a bigger and better performance this year by the 222nd BSB during the final round of ACOE competition, where there awaits a \$2 million cash prize for first place.

Memorial honors Soldiers who paid ultimate sacrifice

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

When the preparation process for the Welcome Home Ceremony began months ago, the Baumholder community realized simultaneously that they wanted to honor the memory of the Soldiers who would not be returning.

The Fallen Soldier Memorial was unveiled across from the 222nd Base Support Battalion headquarters on Sept. 10, prior to the welcome home ceremony also scheduled that day. The solemn ceremony was well attended by the community in remembrance of the Soldiers who lost their lives during the deployment.

Fueled by fund-raising efforts from the Baumholder Community Spouses Club, the 222nd Base Support Battalion led the conception

and planning of the Fallen Soldier Memorial. Regardless, Helen Williams, BCSC community liaison officer and Lt. Col. James Larsen, 222nd BSB commander, both stressed that it was the generosity and dedication of the community that made the memorial possible.

The memorial, held by a solid granite pedestal, shaped in the likeness of the 1st Armored Division crest, displays an open book. On the left is a quote by Dwight Eisenhower, "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." The right page states "Every generation has its heroes, ours is no different... In remembrance of the Soldiers from the Baumholder community who gave their lives so that others may live in a peaceful, secure, and free world." Two benches and four



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The unveiling of the Fallen Soldier Memorial Sept. 10 took priority before the welcome home ceremony for Baumholder's Soldiers.

flower vases have been added for the visitors' use.

On behalf of the BCSC, Williams

presented the memorial to Larsen and thanked the Baumholder community for their overwhelming gen-

erosity. Col. Jonathan Brockman, Division Artillery commander, and Col. Ralph Baker, 2nd Brigade commander, then touched the crowd with their remarks in honor of the fallen Soldiers.

Baker articulately described the emotion of the occasion as he referenced the farewell ceremony from March 2003, saying "We knew not everyone was coming home."

Larsen echoed the feeling of the community who worked tirelessly to make this memorial a reality. "My expectation is that the fallen Soldier memorial will stand as a monument to their achievements – to become a place for members of the community to offer thanks to the Soldiers and families of the Baumholder military community and to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by the heroes we honor here today."

Happenings

Holiday greetings

The Hometown News Center team visits Baumholder Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to record holiday greetings for soldiers and family members.

The recordings will be sent to their hometown television affiliate to be aired during the holiday season.

Family members may participate along with the Soldier. Soldiers must wear their duty uniform during the recordings.

For more information call the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil. 485-1600 or civ (06783) 6-6191.

Force protection

A briefing on Antiterrorism, Force Protection Awareness, Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army is scheduled Oct. 26 at the Wagon Wheel Theater. Conducting the briefing will be the 222nd Base Support Battalion and 66th Military Intelligence Group. The English version is from 1-2 p.m.

followed by the German version from 2:15-3:15 p.m.

This briefing is an annual requirement for all Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, and local national employees. Family members and dependents age 16 or older are highly encouraged to attend. Any unit or element with 10 or more planning to attend, please call to ensure space is available. Direct any questions to the Baumholder MI office, mil 485-7386 or civ (06736) 6-7386.

Yard sale

The Baumholder military community holds its semi annual yard sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 2 in all of Baumholder's housing areas to include Smith, Wetzel Neubrücke and Strassburg housing as well as Champion Village.

All participants must clear their merchandise from outside their buildings by 6 p.m. The sale is open to all U.S. personnel. For more information call Bill Kalavsky at mil 485-6080.

High end plasma TVs not fully refundable when damaged

By Captain Leticia Soto
Legal Assistance Attorney

We have all seen the big screen plasma televisions in the Power Zone, and marveled at how clear the picture is, how great the sound is, how awesome it would be to have one in our homes. With so many service members returning from extended deployment, larger purchases like plasma televisions are becoming more common. While many service members and their families want to purchase these high-end items, they should be aware that plasma televisions are very fragile, and that there is a limit of how much may be paid for claims for damages to such televisions.

Although the televisions sell for thousands of dollars, the service members and their families should think about the potential cost of repairing the television if it is damaged during a government move. With constant PCSing, most of us have encountered a broken

item or two or twenty. However, these types of televisions have a greater risk of damage due to their sensitive nature. They are extremely sensitive to temperature, humidity and altitude, and can be damaged if not kept upright throughout the move. The televisions also can be damaged simply from shock or impact however slight. While the claims office will work with the soldier for determining lost value based on the actual damage received for most items, when it comes to plasma televisions, the U.S. Army Claims Service (USARCS) has set a limit of \$1,500 per item recovery on these televisions. So no matter how long the service member owns the television or how severe the damage is, the Soldier is limited to only a maximum compensation of \$1,500.

Although the service members and their families are capped at the amount of recovery, there are still some ways they can protect their television during a move if they

simply cannot live without one. The purchaser should be sure to keep the original manufacturer's container, and make sure the movers use that container to package the television when moving time arrives.

The service members should also inform the carrier as soon as possible of their plan to ship a plasma television. Certain carriers may not ship these types of televisions because of their fragile nature so the service members should know early on if they need to find alternative shipment methods. Another option is for the service members to purchase private insurance to protect their financial investment. By taking a few simple precautions, service members can be assured the television will survive a Permanent Change of Station to entertain their families for many years to come. For more information, contact the Baumholder Claims Office at mil 485-6507.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Col. Michael S. Tucker, 1st Armored Division assistant division commander, leads the colors during the official welcome home ceremony for Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Community celebrates return of Soldiers

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

Sept. 10, 2004 is a day for the history books of Baumholder. With sunny skies, every seat at Minick field was filled and crowds gathered around the periphery to watch as the long-awaited welcome home ceremony commenced.

Approximately 5,000 Soldiers from the Baumholder community were officially welcomed back home from their 15 month deployment to Iraq — incidentally the longest deployment since World War II.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez oversaw the formation of troops as representative Soldiers from each battalion of Division Artillery and 2nd Brigade stood at attention on Minick Field. Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey enthusiastically welcomed the Soldiers home.

"I can't think of any greater honor than the honor of welcoming you back home after 15 months of truly remarkable and historic accomplishments in Iraq. Thank you for this honor."

Dempsey then led the awards ceremony presentation to dedicated family members. "We are really lucky to be surrounded by heroes. How else would you describe a group of people, far from home, in a foreign land, accomplishing multiple, complex tasks simultaneously, with great perseverance, bravery, and patriotism? I'm speaking, of course, about our family members!"

The enthusiastic crowd cheered as numerous family members received Family Readiness Group medallions and Heart of Victory Awards for their service to the community while the Soldiers were de-

ployed.

The Baumholder community then rose for The Army Song. The lyrics, so perfectly suited for the 1AD welcome home, were sung loudly by Soldiers and family members alike.

The crowd eagerly applauded the Soldiers and family members once more as the ceremony concluded. Minutes later, the festivities began. Carnival rides for young and old, games, concerts, free food and fireworks kept the community celebrating 'till midnight.

Thousands gathered in the festival tent to watch the show while enjoying the complimentary selection of roasted chicken, burgers, wurst and more.

Headlining acts included funk-rap group Custom Made, comedian Christopher Titus of the FOX sitcom Titus, and alternative rock band Puddle of Mudd.

The crowd came alive to Titus' stand-up. It was obvious he did his military homework for the routine, and the Soldiers loved the difference. "I tell my kid 'don't be afraid that the world's going to end. It can't. The 1AD's here.'"

Puddle of Mudd kept up the energy. Soldiers were packed shoulder to shoulder surrounding the stage as the band played their familiar radio hits, including "Blurry."

Lieutenant Owen Banks, who was one of the thousands of Baumholder Soldiers returning from Iraq, echoed the sentiments of the crowds. "The Army really came through for us with this Welcome Home—Titus, Puddle of Mudd were better than we expected. You can tell they had the Soldiers specifically in mind and that means a lot."



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A Baumholder unit uncases its colors during the welcome home ceremony.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Families and soldier mingle on the carnival grounds for the long awaited celebration.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

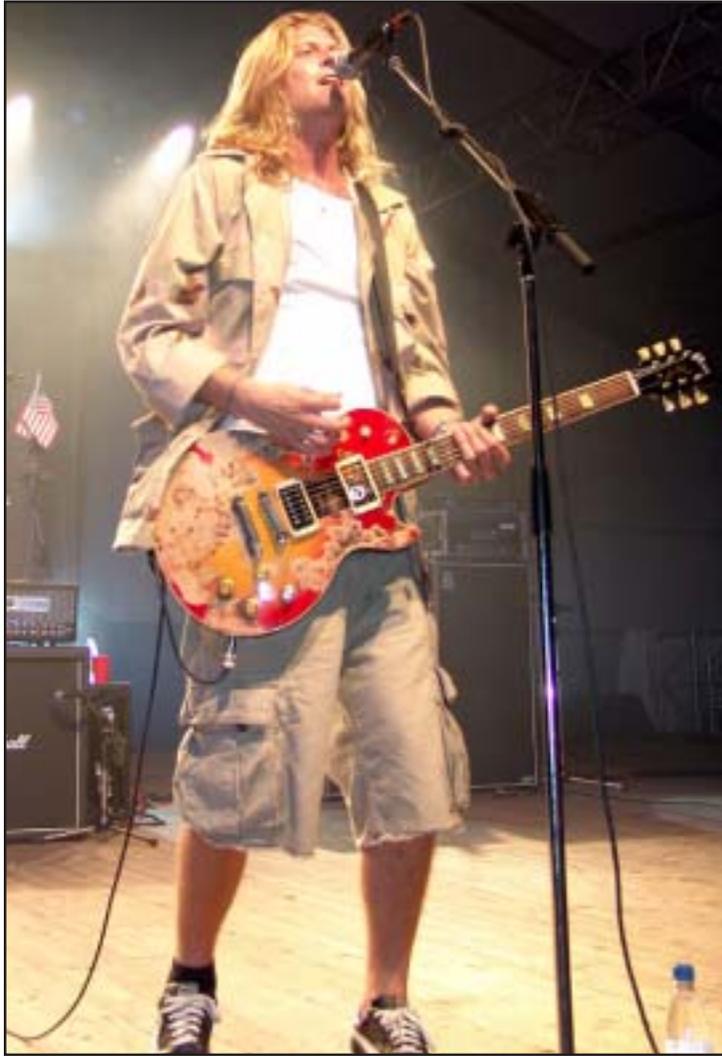


Photo by LeAnne MacAllister



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

At left, Puddle of Mudd front man cranks out one of many tunes that electrified the audience and kept the party going well into the evening. Above, Minick field is filled to capacity Sept. 10 as the Soldiers of 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division are welcomed home after their 15 month deployment in Iraq. After the ceremony, Soldiers and family members enjoyed the many carnival attractions in the parking lot of the Hall of Champions. Later in the evening Puddle of Mudd energized the crowd in the massive festival tent and the evening was capped by an elaborate 20-minute fire works display that was synchronized to music.