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Angel Island
Journalist recounts grim chapter of Asian Pacific American history. See page 14.



Galactic tribute
Over 5,000 American fans were on hand to take part in the Frankfurt Galaxy's tribute to the armed forces in Europe. See page 12 for a photographic look at the celebration.



Sign of the times
A worker dismantles the 1st Armored Division sign in Bad Kreuznach. See page 23 for more on farewell preparations.

Herald Union



Vol. VIII, No. 17 Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group May 29, 2001

News flash

Housing allowance survey under way

An ongoing utility survey distributed to 20,000 people overseas this month could affect future housing allowances. Surveys returned with inaccurate data or not returned at all could mean a decrease or no change to the utilities and recurring maintenance portion of the overseas housing allowance because DoD's Per Diem Committee will not have a true representation of expenses. The deadline to return the survey is July 15. Call Sgt. 1st Class Cooley at mil 379-5164 or 5166 for more information. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

AAFES upgrades

All retail concessions at the Wolfgang Shopping Center, including the beauty and barber shops, have extended their hours to 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. All service marts at Wolfgang Shopping Center, Pioneer and Fliegerhorst kasernes, including the new laundry, dry cleaners and alteration shop, have extended their hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Weekday hours remain 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Painting continues on the concession malls at the Wolfgang PX. Other upcoming renovations include the closing of Sids Gifts June 11-13 for carpeting and painting and Dold Exquisite June 25-27 for extensive renovations. Both will hold drawings and more upon reopening. Pioneer's Beauty Shop holds a grand opening June 15 with refreshments. A new TKS facility is projected to open in July next to the Burger Bar on Büdingen's Armstrong Kaserne. A Spring Fest/Antique Auction will be held June 30 and July 1 in tents at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The public can view items to be auctioned the evening of June 29. (Hanau Exchange Release)

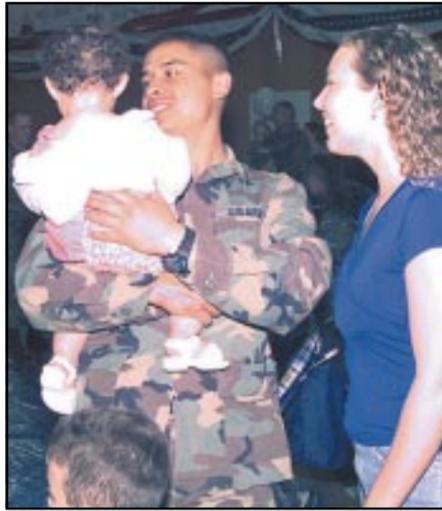


Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai
Spc. Lance Liu, 1-6th Infantry, greets his children, Allison and Braden, and wife, Stacey, upon arrival home from Kosovo at the Mountaineer Fitness Center in Baumholder.



Photo by Karl Weisel
Family members cheer as helicopters arrive at Fliegerhorst airfield at 7:15 p.m. May 23.

Welcome home at last

Soldiers back from Kosovo

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Some were weary and some were ecstatic, but all came home with a sense of relief. Peacekeepers from a host of 104th Area Support Group units began flowing home after leading the American peacekeeping deployment to Kosovo.

New program sets spouse worker preference

The Military Spouse Preference program undergoes a change June 1, removing some restrictions and providing greater flexibility in Department of Defense employment options. A new trial program, dubbed MSP Choice, allows military spouses in the European theater to accept more positions without loss of their military spouse preference.

Under the current program spouses lose their eligibility whenever they accept any permanent position, regardless of work schedule or whenever they accept a time-limited position lasting one year or longer.

"As a result, many family members are reluctant to accept temporary or permanent intermittent jobs," said Vicki Sensiba, U.S. European Command Civilian Personnel Advisor's office.

MSP Choice removes this constraint and

ment to Kosovo.

The redeployment was the beginning of the end of the 1st Armored Division's two-phase, yearlong leadership of American peacekeeping missions in the multinational brigade east sector of the Yugoslav republic. The leadership role passes in June to the 101st Airborne Division of Fort Campbell, Ky., which will hold the position through November.

Welcome home ceremonies are in full swing around the 104th ASG as troops return to family and friends after six months down-

range. In Baumholder Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, senior tactical commander, welcomed home about 160 soldiers of the 1-6th Infantry in a ceremony May 22 (see page 7 for more Baumholder homecoming photos).

Thunder reverberated through the sun-shocked, summer blue skies over Hanau's Fliegerhorst Kaserne May 23 as the first wave of Task Force Dragon aviators arrived. The 38 crew members flew eight of the task force's helicopters home in the redeploying

See Welcome home on page 3

is the first significant change in Department of Defense policy on military spouse preference since 1989. Under the new provisions military spouses retain their MSP unless they accept (or reject the offer of) a continuing position. A continuing position is now defined as a permanent full- or part-time position.

Military spouses may, therefore, accept an unlimited number of temporary positions, term positions, intermittent positions or non-appropriated fund flexible category positions without loss of the MSP. All European theater appropriated fund and NAF positions within DoD are covered by this guidance.

"This option adds flexibility to the current preference program," said Sensiba. "Finding a job isn't easy when you're a military spouse on the move every two or three years. MSP Choice provides spouses with substantially

broader employment opportunities than they've ever had before and offers more alternatives for working within the available job pool."

Program guidelines will also make it possible for spouses who lost preference by accepting a time-limited, flexible or intermittent position to have their MSP reinstated.

"In sum the new program recognizes the need for military families to have dual incomes and the desire of military spouses to maximize their career enhancement opportunities," said Sensiba.

For more information on MSP Choice contact your local human resources office or visit the Family Member Employment website, accessible through the EUCOM home page at www.eucom.mil. (Courtesy of the U.S. European Command Public Affairs Office)

Did you know?

Cooking fires continue to plague U.S. Army Europe. Officials remind everyone when cooking to never approach an open flame while wearing loose clothing, nor to leave cooking unattended. If you do have a grease fire in the kitchen, never use water to put the fire out. Water on a grease fire is like throwing gasoline on a fire.

Commentary

Feedback: What tips do you have for creative use of time off?



Brenda Padilla
Butzbach Elementary School secretary

“Planting flowers, going swimming and I wish there were more activities for the teen-agers. And travel: Münzenberg (castle) is very close to this area, and I think it’s about DM 2.50 to get in.”



Spc. Matthew Hunt
320th Engineer Company

“See Germany, see other countries. It’s a rare occurrence that people get a chance to see Europe.”



Rachell Tomlinson
Butzbach Elementary School registrar

“I would recommend spending time with your family as much as possible. And traveling. Most people don’t get to come over here the way we do, so take advantage of it.”



Hannah Kuhn
104th Area Support Group
deputy government relations adviser

“I always go to the 414th BSB website to look at their cultural information listings. People should get out in their communities whether it’s bike riding or visiting a seasonal festival.”



Robert Hernandez
Wiesbaden Ponds security guard

“Go to amusement parks such as Warner Brothers and Heide Park.”

U.S. community loses two German friends

By **Karl Weisel**
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The U.S. military community bid a sad farewell to two long-time German friends earlier this month. Evelyn Ecke, former public affairs officer for the Frankfurt Military Community, died of natural causes May 10, and Manfred Taube, former Main-Kinzig County police commissioner, died following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Ecke, who first encountered American troops as a young refugee from Berlin during World War II, spent most of her adult life working with the U.S. military in Germany. After fleeing hardship and hunger in 1945 she and her mother eventually made their way to Heidenheim, a town near Stuttgart. Ecke landed a job with the local U.S. military headquarters. “I deNazified Germans. I had to classify them into categories as white, gray or black,” said Ecke during an interview shortly before her retirement in 1986. “Every German had to fill out a questionnaire.”

Ecke moved to Frankfurt in 1948, worked as a waitress at the Frankfurt Terrace Club (then called the Casino) and eventually landed a job in the Kronberg Castle where American VIPs such as Rita Hayworth, Bing Crosby and Dean Martin stayed while visiting service members in Germany. Later jobs included work with the European Command guest house and Special Services. While at the EUCOM Guest House in Bad Soden she met Errol Flynn. “He flirted with everyone — every chambermaid, baby, etc.,” she said.

The work eventually led to a career with

public affairs where she helped the military command weather any number of challenging situations from terrorist bombings in 1968 to strong opposition to the U.S. military in later years. “Up to a couple years ago, I always called it a well-paid hobby,” she said in 1986. “I still think it’s fascinating, but it’s gotten much more difficult because of the political changes in Germany.”

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers stationed in the Hanau and Frankfurt areas over the past several decades will remember Manfred Taube as the German police officer who helped them acquire the prestigious German Sports Badge. The police director dedicated numerous hours of his free time helping train, encourage and guide American soldiers.

A trained instructor in the German Sports Association, Taube was awarded honorary life membership in the 709th Military Police Battalion in 1987. Other recognition included being named an honorary member of the MP Corps, the commander’s award for civilian service, being named an honorary CID agent of the Frankfurt District, the Hanau Order of Merit Medal, being named an honorary colonel of the MPs and an Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

“Herr Taube was extremely supportive of U.S. forces in the area — and that goes from the commander on down to every enlisted soldier,” said Anne Adams, former 104th Area Support Group public affairs officer. “We knew we could always turn to him if we had a question or an issue and he was always quick to help us.”

They will be missed.

Letters to the editor

Thanks for a memorable experience

As the closure of the Bad Kreuznach military community is drawing near, the Community Counseling Center staff would like to thank the BK chains of command, supporting agencies and our clients for having made our working together a positive, memorable experience that we will remember fondly. We wish you the very best on all of your journeys.

Bad Kreuznach Community Counseling Center staff

Planting trees — harvesting friendships

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who cared enough to be involved in the Spring Environmental Wald Work Camp. Both to those who came out to work for our Earth and those whose contributions of time, talent and resources made the camp possible, you are appreciated.

When individuals come together to share a worthwhile dream, the results are awesome.

Jonathan Dain Martensen
Heidelberg Middle School

Do you have a suggestion for the ASG commander? Send email to the Community Listening Post . . . CLP@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil

Herald Union

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News and features

Operation Force Protection False claims not worth the risk

By Richard Stefanko

104th Area Support Group Provost Marshal Office

How much is your career worth—\$50, \$100, \$1,000? Believe it or not, service members and government employees have sacrificed their careers for these amounts.

Making false expense claims against the government is tantamount to stealing tax dollars. Claiming reimbursement from the government for expenses that were not incurred in an official capacity is a crime which usually involves making false statements or using false documentation. It is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and U.S. Code.

The Joint Travel Regulation provides for the compensation of service members and government employees for expenses incurred in the performance of official duties. It does not have provisions for members to make a profit at government expense.

One potential area for making false claims is during temporary duty or permanent change of station travel. The key words to keep in mind when filing a TDY claim are: official and factual. Expenses must be both necessary for the official mission and have actually been incurred.

A common violation is padding the weight of shipments during self-PCS moves. Transportation inspectors are very skilled at uncovering these violations. A master sergeant on his retirement move attempted to conceal his personally owned vehicle in the moving truck. The scam was uncovered. Instead of getting a few hundred dollars the master sergeant incurred government charges.

The government does not reimburse the cost of additional lodging costs for unofficial guests accompanying official travelers. If two official travelers share a room, each can only claim half the total lodging cost. If an official traveler stays with friends or relatives, he or she will not be paid for lodging. A sergeant on TDY stayed with a friend and acquired a false hotel receipt to claim lodging payment. She is now a specialist again.

Rental vehicles or taxis may be authorized on official orders, but don't claim them if you don't use them. A warrant officer claimed taxi fare for daily travel during an extended TDY trip when he actually borrowed a car from a friend. The temptation to make a couple of thousand extra dollars ended his career.

Official telephone calls, if required, are also authorized on travel orders, but they must be for official business. So must excess baggage authorizations for official travel. One Department of Defense employee on TDY to Italy was authorized 150 pounds of excess baggage and returned with 300 pounds because she purchased a piece of marble-topped furniture and brought it home. She had to pay the \$200 transportation fee and received a letter of reprimand.

In certain instances service members and government employees may file claims for lost or damaged personal property through the local Staff Judge Advocate's Office. A private first class filed a claim against the government for "stolen" field gear which he himself had sold to a pawnshop. He is now a civilian.

The punitive consequences of making false claims are obvious, but there are less tangible effects as well. Often an offender is the principal breadwinner in a family. These people are letting their families down by putting them through both economic and emotional hardship when they are caught. Supervisors, peers and subordinates will never view them the same way again. The stigma of shame and distrust lingers.

A moment of poor judgment can cause a lifetime of regret. Before you risk the consequences, think again: What is your career worth?

Saluting those who serve

Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Epps, 284th BSB chaplain's assistant

As the noncommissioned officer in charge at the 284th Base Support Battalion's Chaplains Office, Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Epps plays an important role in the spiritual well-being of local community members.

"My job is to assist the chaplain to make sure the ministry happens. I also help ensure soldiers and family members have the right to worship."

Epps, who is moving on to another assignment in Fort Jackson, Miss., next month has nothing but good things to say about his three years in the Giessen military community. "It's been a very enjoyable time. The community as a whole has been a very warm community. I'm going with a sad heart."

Besides playing an active role in the religious lives of local community members, Epps has made many friends as a cubmaster, coach and sports referee. "These children are our future and it's important to give them something to look forward to," he said. "I try to teach them about teamwork, self-discipline ... the things that you need to succeed in life."

"When I coach sports I try to show them that it's not about winning or losing. You can lose and still have a sense of accomplishment. I tell them to do their very best," Epps said.

The chapel NCOIC said he plans to continue playing an active role in the lives of young people at his next duty station in Fort Jackson. "The families here have been very wonderful to me. They trust me with their children. I'm really going to miss that."

As he continued clearing in preparation for his permanent change of station move, Epps said he hopes other soldiers and family members continue to play a role in young people's lives by volunteering to coach and mentor. "I wish more commanders would allow soldiers the time to get involved in coaching because these are our kids. Their efforts help promote harmony in the community."

Thanks from the 104th ASG family



Welcome home

Continued from page 1

spearhead of over 300 peacekeepers.

Alba McGowan held two hand-made signs that together spelled out "The McGowan Team is Here" as she waited with family and friends for her husband, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dennis McGowan, of Company B, 2-501st Aviation, to arrive. "We've missed him a lot, but we've had a lot of support from the FRGs [family readiness groups], from friends and neighbors. They've been wonderful," she said.

Alba was accompanied by her neighbors, Rüdiger and Ana Kraft, whose 3-year-old son Janik played in the hangar with the McGowans' children, Rebecca, 6, and Patrick, 4, while waiting for Dennis to arrive.

"I think they actually did better than I thought they would," said Alba of her children. Both were sick and Rebecca was hospitalized with pneumonia during the deployment, but Dennis got to come home to lend a hand during the crisis. "We were so grateful that his commander supported us throughout this ordeal."

Lt. Col. John Dowd, 4th Brigade executive officer, was on hand to do the honors at this and subsequent welcome home ceremonies. TF Dragon soldiers were to return in a total of six groups spread over about a week, he said. "Each day is different, depending on the weather and Air Force availability," said Dowd. "It's good to see them close the loop on this." After brief remarks and an invocation Dowd released the 38 soldiers to the arms of their waiting families.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ron Howes of Company B, 2-501st, returned to his wife Susan and 10-month-old daughter



Photo by Karl Weisel
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bryan Allen, 2-501st Aviation, hugs his daughter Kaitlin and wife Tanja at the homecoming reception.

Taylor. Also on hand were her parents, Lucia and Odes L. Adams of Daleville, Ala., — "two blocks away from Fort Rucker," said Odes.

"We came visiting and to wait for him to come home from Kosovo, him and all the rest of them," said Lucia. The Adamses came over in January and stayed on to help out with Taylor while Ron was downrange. "I've been able to work because they can watch her during the day," said Susan. "It's good for her to be around other people beside me," she said. "We missed Christmas, anniversaries, New Year's. It's been hard for me because it's been hard for her. When I say 'Where's Daddy?' she turns to a picture of him."

"We are just happy to be back," said Ron. "Words can't really say." The separation had its tough side for him too. "Just the time away—missing the holidays and anniversaries ... and seeing her," he said.

"It's always hard going away from family, but we're so active down there doing our missions that it helps the time go by quickly," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven P. Flemister, also of Co. B, 2-501st. His wife, Jolinda, was on hand with sons Adam, 7, and Brady, 5, to greet their man. What was the hardest part for her while he was away? "A lot of stuff. We've had deaths in the family and injuries," said Jolinda. Adam was hospitalized while Steven was downrange "but they let him come home," said Jolinda.

Adam and Brady were all smiles as the Flemisters prepared to head home. Adam said he had his own task to accomplish while his father was away. "Be good," he said.

Mission accomplished, welcome home.

Deadline near for base leadership class

June 5 is the deadline to enroll in the next Sustaining Base Leadership and Management course to start Sept. 17 at the Army Management Staff College in Fort Belvoir, Va.

Civilians in grades GS-12-14 may apply on line. GS-11s and 15s may apply by exception.

Majors and lieutenant colonels can request attendance through their branch managers. Online applications must be approved by supervisors.

Visit the AMSC website at www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil for details. (Army News Service)

Lots of fun in store for summer

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Summer is just around the corner. It's a time of year when children celebrate the end of school and parents begin the hair-raising task of finding what to do to keep them out of trouble. Fortunately 221st

Base Support Battalion Youth Services and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities have lots in store to keep children occupied for an enjoyable summer.

Camp Adventure returns to Wiesbaden and Dexheim from June 18 to Aug. 25. This summer day camp program is built around 10

weekly themes including activities and field trips: Amazing Atlantis Undersea Mystery June 18-22; Secret Agents, Spies and Private Eyes June 25-29; Uncle Sam's Stately Salute July 2-6 (camp will not be in session on July 4); Bugapalooza Bash July 9-13; Fantastic Hall of Fame Heroes July 16-20; Broomsticks and Magic Tricks July 23-27; Slam Jammin' Sports Celebration July 30 to Aug. 3; Magical Millennium Musicfest Aug. 6-10; Wonderland Dreams, Hearts and Queens Aug. 13-17; and Race Through Outer Space Aug. 20-24.

Children must be registered through Youth Services and have a current CYS registration card. Registration is \$15 for one child or \$35 for a family with two or more children. Children can participate for the entire summer or by the week depending on space availability. Fees vary based on parental income.

For older children YS sponsors activities from noon to 6 p.m. daily. Trips to the Frankfurt wave pool, amusement parks throughout Germany and white-water rafting are planned. Schedules and sign-up sheets will be posted at YS. YS will also feature basketball and wrestling clinics. Both are free, but all participants must be registered



Photo by Karl Weisel

Visitors cool off during a visit to Frankfurt's Rebstock wave pool.

through CYS.

A **Youth Basketball Skills Clinic** will be held June 23 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the YS gym. Taught by Victor Harrison, a member of the 1988-1992 Puerto Rican Olympic basketball team, it is designed for boys and girls, ages 10-18, to enhance offensive and defensive fundamentals: shooting, rebounding, passing and ball handling.

A **Wrestling Clinic** will be held July 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Taught by Floyd Winter, U.S. national wrestling coach and 1984 and 1988 Olympic coach, it is open to boys and girls ages 8-18. Winter will introduce Olympic wrestling, freestyle and Greco-Roman, to enhance wrestling skills in takedowns, counters, pinning combinations and defensive moves.

The **Roemer Arts Center** will hold a fine arts camp for children

ages 9-13. Classes will be held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at Building 7878 in the YS complex. The schedule includes drawing June 18-22; hand-quilting and sewing June 25-29; painting July 9-13; papermaking and book arts July 16-20; clay hand-building July 23-27; printmaking July 30 to Aug. 3; design Aug. 6-10; and pen and ink calligraphy Aug. 13-17.

Classes are limited to 10 students. The cost is \$60 per week and includes all materials. Parents can register their children at the Roemer Arts and Crafts Center, Building 1214 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

The Wiesbaden and Dexheim libraries will sponsor a summer reading program for children of all ages from June 25 to Aug. 4. This year's theme is Catch a Dragon by the

See Summer on page 5



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Playgrounds are coming

A construction worker attaches a tunnel to new playground equipment being installed in Hainerberg Housing.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Weeding through spring

Charla Lucibello pulls weeds in front of her building during the 221st Base Support Battalion's Spring Clean-up May 18 in the housing areas.

Summer

Continued from page 4
Tale. Registration is free and will begin June 19.

"The program is designed to encourage children to read for fun. Incentive awards such as stickers, bookmarks or book bags will be given out to each child as his or her reading goal is accomplished," said librarian Sherrie Floyd.

Registered children will be given reading logs to enter the author and title of books they have read. Children who cannot yet read may have a parent read to them. Reading logs will be returned to the library as the child's reading goals are met. All participants will receive a certificate at an awards party Aug. 6.

Area libraries will offer Serendipity, Teddy Bear Storytime and book discussion groups activities in conjunction with Catch a Dragon by the Tale. Storytime for preschool children will be held at 10:15 a.m. every Monday at the Wiesbaden Library. Serendipity will be held June 4 and 25 at 4 p.m. for first- through third-graders, and will continue on Mondays in July. Teddy Bear Storytime will be held June 6 and July 11 at 6 p.m. for children of all

ages.

A book discussion group for young adults will be held July 18 at 3 p.m. with the theme: "I've read Harry Potter, now what do I read?" For information about any library program call mil 337-1740 in Wiesbaden or mil 334-5723 in Dexheim.

Vacation Bible School will take place June 18-22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hainerberg Chapel for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. The theme is God's Great Get-Together — a celebration of God's family. The program includes classes, Bible stories, music, crafts, games and food. Call Jennifer Brierly or Theresa Kelly at mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705 1570 to register.

For those who love to shine on stage the **Amelia Earhart Playhouse** will offer a musical summer camp for children ages 8-14 from June 19 to July 21 at the Gen. H.H. Arnold High School. Children will discover the world of theater through staging a production of *Annie Jr.*, a young people's version of the original Broadway classic. Call the Playhouse at mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816 2473 to register.

Know what to do with your boxes

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

For some, summer is a time of fun and relaxation, but for others, especially in the military, it is time again to make another move.

Are you tired of those moving boxes cluttering up your apartment or piling up outside the building and in the dumpsters?

If so contact the shipping agent who delivered your household goods.

"When moving into housing it's the mover's responsibility to take all your empty boxes," said Martin Hannigan, director of logistics.

"The packers will unpack everything, put it where you want it and take the packing materials out," said Hannigan. However, if



the customer wishes to unpack the cartons and boxes he or she may do so but should contact the moving company afterward to have the boxes removed.

"The best thing to do is to put all the boxes in a pile where they are away from children and cannot get wet. The movers will come back to pick them up," Hannigan said.

If the movers don't come back to pick up the boxes the customer should call the inbound counselor

for assistance, said Hannigan. If the agent fails to pick up the boxes by the scheduled date, the inbound counselors or quality control inspector will contact the U.S. Army Europe CPPSO Quality Control Division for assistance. USAREUR CPPSO will then direct the agent to pick up the empty boxes.

"Whatever you do, don't pile them up in the dumpsters," said Hannigan.

With the influx of people beginning to arrive, it is important to get the word out as to how to dispose of the boxes. If you see a neighbor dumping boxes, tell him or her to call the company, said Hannigan.

For information concerning disposal of boxes contact an inbound counselor at mil 337-6898 or civ (0611) 705-6898.

221st BSB – Dexheim, Mainz, Wiesbaden

Wiesbaden ACS welcome tour

Wiesbaden Army Community Service provides a monthly welcome tour the last Wednesday of each month at no charge for all military and civilian personnel and their family members. Starting at 9 a.m. in the ACS cafeteria, this tour highlights key agencies and services in the Wiesbaden area and includes lunch at the Wiesbaden Dining Facility which costs \$3.20.

For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Craft bazaar

The Church of Saint Augustine of Canterbury will host its third annual antiques and arts and crafts

News notes

bazaar June 8-9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors will display English antique furniture, Dutch handicrafts, Turkish linen, rugs and jewelry, flower fairies and more.

The church is located at Frankfurter Strasse 3, just past the American Arms Hotel. For more information call civ (0611) 306 674.

Info exchange

The Community Support Council Information Exchange is held the last Tuesday of the month at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility.

Breakfast is available until 9 a.m. and the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Information Exchange is a good way for family readiness group leaders and family support liaisons to find out about upcoming events from community and private organization representatives. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Car maintenance classes, towing service available

The Mainz Auto Skills Shop



offers a basic tune-up and maintenance class every Sunday from 2-3 p.m. Towing is also available 24 hours a day. For more information call mil 334-2460.

Sports tournaments

The Tony Bass Fitness Center will host an invitational over 30 basketball tournament June 2 with a half-time, three-point shootout and slam dunk contest. The tournament is open to all ID card holders and the local community. Sign up for the double elimination tournament by May 30 at the fitness center.

Resumix help

The Employment Readiness Program will schedule Resumix appointments at the Dexheim Army Community Service office Thursday afternoons. To schedule an appointment call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

AFAP update

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Editor's note: During this year's Army Family Action Plan meeting several issues were identified. This is the third in a series of articles that highlight the issues and track their progress.

Issue 01-3: Shipping of a second personally owned vehicle.

Scope: The current regulation allows shipping of a second vehicle at a soldier's cost, but many soldiers cannot afford this.

Recommendations: The Joint Travel Regulation Vol. II be changed to allow married soldiers to ship a second personally owned vehicle at no extra cost. A supplemental cost should be allowed for certain income levels.

This issue was briefed at the 104th Area Support Group Army Family Action Plan and forwarded to the U.S. Army Europe Army Family Action Plan.

Lockwasher logic worth a grand

Soldiers' maintenance idea saves the Army time and money

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Good ideas can pay off in the Army. Sgts. 1st Class Brian A. Ross of Company A and Kevin P. Lyons of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-6th Infantry, will split a \$1,000 award for a proposal they submitted to the Army Ideas for Excellence Program.

It all started with a safety of use message released in May 2000. A high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle had lost a wheel, and a safety alert went out Army-wide warning of the potentially hazardous consequences of using a lockwasher that did not meet specifications in the geared hub assembly. Maintenance crews were instructed to remove, inspect and when necessary replace the lockwasher.

"The tool they wanted us to use, we don't have at this level," said Ross. The caliper in question is only available at the direct support level, he said. "There's no feasible way to do it that they prescribed to do it at this level."

Faced with the situation Lyons and Ross discovered that the lockwasher could be inspected in place by using two different size Allen wrenches. If the test determined the lockwasher fit was incorrect, the replacement could go forward. If the lockwasher proved to be the right size, the procedure, which required up to six hours of work per HMMWV, could be skipped.

"It was accepted immediately for use," said Ross. The

"It's one of those things where if you run into a problem you try to come up with a solution. I think it's a great program. It's the second time I've received a cash award."



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Sgt. 1st Class Brian A. Ross inspects a geared hub assembly on a HMMWV in Baumholder's 1-6th Infantry motor pool.

procedure is applicable to all HMMWVs, he said.

"It's the guys on the shop floor who get their hands dirty saying to themselves: 'Why do I have to do it that way when I could do it this way,'" said Colin Garrett of the 104th Area Support Group Directorate of Resource Management. Garrett submitted the paperwork May 14 which authorizes the 222nd Base Support Battalion to make the award to Ross and Lyons. Both soldiers recently returned from deployments to the

Balkans.

"It's one of those things where if you run into a problem you try to come up with a solution," said Ross. "I think it's a great program. It's the second time I've received a cash award," he said. The first was for figuring out how to fix a fuel pump leak on Bradley fighting vehicles.

What will he do with his share of the cash? "That'll be up to my wife," said Ross.

Home at last

Soldiers of 1-6th Infantry receive a rousing homecoming to Baumholder May 22 after serving in Kosovo since December. Photo below: Spc. Matthew Raymond is reunited with his wife Michelle and son Joseph during the homecoming event.

Photos by Bernd "Bernie" Mai



Maintenance facility upgrades golf course

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

"Let's get on with this so some of us can go play golf." Although not exactly verbatim, that was the message Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, relayed to dignitaries who were on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open Baumholder's

new golf course maintenance facility.

In September 2000 several of these same military and civilian dignitaries shared shovels and broke ground to officially begin construction of the golf course's new maintenance facility. Some of them gathered once again recently to officially dedicate the completed facility.

"This maintenance facility com-

pletely and totally postures us for a new nine holes that we're hoping to get in the near future," said Rick Glenn, golf course manager. "It provides all of our personnel with a state of the art maintenance facility that is first in the Army, worldwide. It marks yet another first for the Baumholder military community and the Baumholder community as a whole."

This facility, offering everything

a "high tech" golf course maintainer requires to get the job done, was completed to the tune of about \$1 million. It features a small gas station, storage area for lawn care products, a workshop and parking for eight vehicles.

"The golf course is a major MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation) facility in our community. It provides a low cost recreational facility for our soldiers. It's a place to come and learn how to play golf, and it has a good atmosphere," said Wagenaar at the dedication ceremony.

Soldiers are not the only ones who benefit from the golf course. German golfers also have access to the facility. "It's a great facilitator of our German-American relations," said Wagenaar. "We have a great German club that utilizes our facilities. It also probably provides one of the best and most scenic rounds of golf in Germany. It's a great place to play," he said.

As any good golfer knows, practice, practice and more practice makes a good golf game. To help golfers better their game, plans are being drawn up to improve the golf course's current "under par" driv-

ing range. "We're looking at getting another project to improve the driving range next year," said Wagenaar.

Although the driving range currently provides adequate space to practice, the overall quality of the range is due for an upgrade. The shanty-like shed that houses the ball dispensers and provides about four driving stations will eventually be replaced with a more aesthetically pleasing facility.

During the ground-breaking ceremony in September 2000, Col. Daniel Imholte, 104th Area Support Group commander, alluded to continued improvements in the golf course, such as renovation of the driving range. "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," said Imholte.

Completion of the maintenance facility was originally projected for January 2001 but construction delays pushed the completion date back about four months.

Soldiers honored for sports, marksmanship

"We want to make sure that the Americans who are stationed here feel comfortable," said retired German Master Sgt. Rolf Haag. He was describing the goals of members of the reservist association, "Westrich," which established an official partnership with the 90th Personnel Service Battalion more than 25 years ago.

In the past quarter century soldiers and family members have enjoyed social get-togethers, tours, sports and shooting events with their German partners. American soldiers of the partnership unit most recently competed in the German sports and performance badge competition and the German shooting badge competition.

At a ceremony at Haus Aulendorf in Baumholder soldiers received several awards.

The marksman badge in bronze was presented to Capt. William Bonilla, 1st Sgt. David Seghorn, Sgt. Laura Behham, Staff Sgt. Wanda Redd, Sgt. Berry L. McClain, Sgt. John Wilds Smith, Sgt. Shawn Stafford, Pfc. Joseph Bannister and Spc. Sean Hennessey.

The bronze performance badge was presented to Maj. Steven Fisher and Bonilla. The award was presented in silver to Wilds Smith and in gold to Sgt. Bernice Lopez.

The German sports badge in bronze was given to Fisher, Bonilla, Seghorn, Wilds Smith and Lopez.

Haag said he was pleased to honor so many Americans. "We have good people who promote the partnership," said Haag, mentioning specifically Wilds Smith and Fisher.

222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Camp dates set

School Age Services will run a summer camp for first-through sixth-grade students June 18 to Aug. 17. Activities run Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For details call mil 485-6641 or civ (06783)6-6641. The **middle school summer camp** will take place June 18 through Aug. 24. Sports, writing, arts and crafts workshops and trips are planned. Call central registration at mil 485-7003 or civ (06783)6-7003 for details.

Golf on Thursday

Rolling Hills Golf Course holds a golf scramble every Thursday night through the summer. Sign up in person from 4-5:30 p.m. Play begins at 6 p.m. with a shotgun start. Entry fee is \$10. Winners of each weekly scramble will compete in the Sept. 20 finale. For details call mil 485-7299 or civ (06783)6-7299.

Telekom closes

The Deutsche Telecom office in the German post office at Kennedyallee and Aulenbacherstrasse has closed. Applications for phone service and bill payments may still be made at the post office, but customers must drive to Idar-Oberstein to terminate service. The office in Idar-Oberstein is at the end of the pedestrian zone across from the Karstadt department store. For details call mil 485-1600 or civ (06783)6-1600.

Tae kwon do to-do

A tae kwon do international tournament will take place June 23 in Eschwege. Events include individual and couples forms, light to

semi-contact sparring and special techniques. Free lodging is available and English is spoken at the event. For information call Robert Borja at civ (05651) 70920.

Kudos to cadet

The 6th Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Battalion at Baumholder has selected eleventh-grader John Bennett as the Cadet of the Month for May.

Thrift Shop hours

The Baumholder Thrift Shop is open Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (consignment hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) The shop is closed on Wednesday. It is open Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (consignment hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.) and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (consignment hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) The shop is also open the first Saturday of the month.

File your taxes

The Baumholder Tax Center offers help with both federal and state income taxes, and electronic filing. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in Building 8670, next to the Community Bank. Call mil 485-8644 or civ (06783) 6-8644 to schedule an appointment.

ACS at a glance

Army Community Service's **Sole Parent Support Service** introduces single, working parents to one another to discuss single-parenting issues. **ACS Foster Care** seeks caring families to provide temporary homes for children in need. Baumholder NOW — **Newcomers**

Post notes

Orientation and Welcome — welcomes spouses to Baumholder with a three-day orientation. Spouses learn about Germany, the local community and take a German language survival and cultural adaptation class. Free transportation and child care are provided. The **International Spouses Club** meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. All military and civilian spouses are welcome.

Coming up next:

- May 29** — Stress and Time Management, International Spouses Club
 - May 30** — Developing Positive Self-Esteem, Savings Fitness
 - May 31** — Child Safety and Supervision
 - June 4** — Successful Parenting, Baumholder NOW
 - June 5** — Stress and Time Management, Baumholder NOW, International Spouses Club
 - June 6** — Developing Positive Self-Esteem, Baumholder NOW, Banking and Checking Accounts
 - June 7** — Love and Logic Parenting, Raising Responsible Kids
 - June 11** — Assertiveness Training
 - June 12** — Anger Management and Coping Skills
 - June 13** — Conflict Resolution, What You Should Know About Buying Insurance
 - June 14** — Challenges of Blended Families, Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Prevention
- Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188 for information about any class or activity.

ACAP services

The Army Career and Alumni Program helps soldiers leaving the Army learn about their options. Preseparation briefings, job assistance workshops and counseling are available to ease the transition to civilian life.

Soldiers must complete a preseparation briefing at least 90 days before separation. Briefings take place everyday at 9 a.m. Job assistance workshops are held every other Wednesday.

ACAP's new computer resources allow clients to explore resume writing, job searching, networking and more at their own pace. Stop by any afternoon to see what's available. Family members of ETSing soldiers may take advantage of ACAP services and resources. Orders are not necessary.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. including lunch time. For information or to make an appointment call mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

VA briefing

Soldiers contemplating retirement and retirees can attend a Veterans Affairs briefing June 26 at 9 a.m. A VA representative will address benefits, claims and more. Call mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330 to reserve a space at the briefing or for an appointment.

Now hiring

The 222nd Base Support Battalion Child and Youth Services Division seeks contractors to work with School Age Services as **homework teachers** and **computer lab instructor-technicians**. Call Gwyn Bown at mil 485-6641 civ (06783)6-6641 or stop by SAS in Smith Housing, Building 8046, for details.

Central Texas College seeks substitute and part-time **learning center operators**, a substitute **test examiner** and a **German teacher**. Call mil 485-6484 for details.

Science Applications International Corporation has a full-time opening for a **Tricare medical service coordinator**. SAIC offers a

highly competitive compensation and benefits package. For consideration fax a cover letter and resume to civ (0631) 357 3199 or email them to stephany.a.schulz@saic.com.

AAFES food facilities are hiring for **day- and night-shift positions**.

Starting salary is \$7.24 an hour. Stop by the AAFES Human Resources Office in Building 8402 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to fill out an application. For information call mil 485-7334.

ACAP seeks an ID card holder with a master's degree, two years teaching or presentation experience and computer skills to work as a **counselor**. For details call Harold Ericksen at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.



Photo by Bernd Mai

Appreciating those who teach

Diana J. Ohman, deputy director for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe, Gene Winfree, 222nd BSB schools officer, and Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, Baumholder senior tactical commander, share a light moment during a recent teacher appreciation dinner.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Education update

University of Maryland Term V courses begin June 4. The criminal justice program will offer CJ 110, the prerequisite for all criminal justice courses. Counselors are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Call mil 485-6487 for details.

Adult Education is presently registering for Conversational German I and II, Conversational Spanish and Basic Computer Skills. Call mil 485-6487 for information.

The **General Education Degree** Testing Service will introduce a completely revised GED test in January 2002. Anyone who has not completed the old test should do so by December 2001 — scores from the two tests cannot be combined.

Talk to an education counselor about **Army tuition assistance, Montgomery GI Bill benefits** and **VEAP** benefits to get the most out of the programs.

A **Functional Academic Skills Training** course will be taught June 11-22, Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Education Center. The course is free. It focuses on math and verbal skills development to help soldiers raise their GT scores. Family members are welcome too.

Anyone wishing to use the computers in the Army Learning Center or the University of Maryland's **computer lab** must pass the USAREUR Computer Users Test.

The **1st Armored Division Association** offers college scholarships to family members and active duty soldiers on an ongoing basis. Applications are available at the Education Center.

Soldiers preparing for military testing to attend PLDC or BNOC may use the **tutoring services** at the Education Center. Soldiers studying to raise GT scores, attend Warrant Officer or flight school, or applying for Special Forces should visit the Military Testing Office in Building 8255. Call Julie Jason at mil 485-6487 for information.

The **University of Oklahoma and Cameron University** representative will visit the Education Center June 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Soldiers can turn life experience and independent study into college credits by passing **CLEP examinations**. Every college credit is worth 1.5 promotion points.



The **Army Learning Center**, Building 8108, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed daily from 1-2 p.m. CLEP, GED, SAT, ACT, AFCT and MOS study material are available. Call mil 485-6484 for information.



Photos Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Fun at the Family Fest

Provost Marshal Office staff provide free children IDs at Baumholder's Family Fest last month. Left: face painting was one highlight of the fest which also featured games, food and other activities. Top photo: Loreen Wagenaar experiences the view from a German police motorcycle.

Smith SAS earns accreditation

Smith School Age Services of Baumholder was recently accredited by the National School-Age Care Alliance.

The facility met or exceeded NSACA requirements for accreditation based on 144 quality standards for quality school-age care. NSACA accreditation symbolizes a commitment to quality school-age care, officials said.

As part of the accreditation process Smith School Age Services underwent a self-study process that involved center staff, children, families and community members. A self-study team was formed to determine how Smith School Age Services was meeting the national standards for quality.

After working to meet the 144 NSACA standards for quality, Smith School Age Ser-

vices applied for an endorsement visit. Two trained school-age professionals observed Smith School Age Services for 24 hours and met with families, program staff and community leaders. They sent a detailed report to NSACA upon which it was determined that Smith School Age met the criteria for NSACA accreditation.

The standards reflect the best practices in after school programs. They are focused on six keys to quality: human relationships, indoor environment, outdoor environment, activities, safety health and nutrition, and administration. As one of the first school-age programs in the nation to be accredited by NSACA, Smith School Age Services is recognized nationally as a leader in quality care for children before and after school, officials

said.

Organized in 1987 NSACA is a professional membership organization with state affiliates and over 8,000 members nationwide. NSACA members are leaders in the school-age field that serves more than 3.2 million school-age children and youth. NSACA developed the national accreditation system to recognize programs offering stimulating, safe and supportive programs for children and youth age 5-14. The need for after-school care is great. An estimated 17 million parents need care for their 24 million school-age children.

NSACA accreditation is a sign to parents and families that programs offer quality care. For more information on NSACA visit their website at www.nsaca.org.

Restationing update

Protecting treasures when you PCS

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

Relocation is part of life in the military and for some Department of Defense civilians. Every permanent-change-of-station order means moving yourself, your family and all your belongings to a new duty location.

PCS moves mean stress, anxiety and problems even when you don't own high-value treasures. But when you do, paying attention to some commonsense dos and don'ts may save you grief.

Carriers and the government assume no liability for such high-value items as watches, jewelry, cash, stocks, bonds, coin and stamp collections, antiques, bills, deeds, precious metals or irreplaceable sentimental items such as photo albums. Carry these valuables with you, Military Traffic Management Command officials advise. Don't ship them as household goods and don't leave them in dresser drawers or lying around while movers pack.

Get professional appraisals for expensive valuables such as artwork, collectibles and heirlooms. Obtain supplemental insurance for these valuables during the move. Standard insurance carried by most movers pays claims by the pound, not market value. The government will not pay for appraisals or extra insurance, but consider the cost a wise hedge against loss or damage.

Videotape or take close-up photos of all your belongings, paying extra attention to the condition of your furniture and your expensive and valuable items. Such inventory records can help you document any losses and damage you may incur in the move.

Record serial numbers of electronic equipment.

Movers are supposed to document furniture condition on their inventory record sheets. Make sure you confirm their entries and challenge them until you agree on accuracy. When you sign the mover's inventory record after the packing is done, you're certifying its accuracy.

Don't wax or oil wooden antiques and fine wood furniture before shipping, because some products might soften the wood and make it vulnerable to imprinting from furniture pads.

Third-party servicing will likely be needed before moving such luxury items as hot tubs, large-screen TVs and some exercise equipment. Talk to the moving company about pre- and post-move servicing of washer, dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, grandfather clock, satellite dish and other such items. Think twice before dismantling your outside TV antenna — a new one may cost less than shipping the present one.

Following these suggestions will safeguard valued items and help you have an efficient and painless move.



Photo Karl Weisel

Spc. Jamie Tillman unpacks in Hainerberg Housing. Follow the rules to make your move as smooth as possible.

Using checklist makes moving smoother

Moving is a big event with a lot of physical and emotional challenges that need to be handled with care. Like everything else in life, there's a right way to move. And doing it the right way can make a big difference in stress, peace of mind — and your pocketbook.

☐ Contact the household goods office for an appointment with a counselor.

☐ Notify your landlord, rental agent or housing office of your PCS orders and anticipated date of departure.

☐ Check school schedules and enrollment requirements at your new station.

☐ Check the expiration date on your military ID card and update it if necessary.

☐ Contact the department of motor vehicles for information on changing your driver's license and vehicle registration.

☐ Make shipping arrangements for vehicles early. Ensure that the vehicle is in good running condition and that all required maintenance has been completed.

☐ Contact your insurance company concerning vehicles, home and household

goods. Find out about coverage on your possessions in transit and storage and about high-value items.

☐ Fill out postal and IRS change of address forms.

☐ Hand carry medical and dental records with you when you move.

☐ Keep prescription medicines in their original bottles and obtain prescription slips in case you need refills on the road. Pack medicine in leakproof, spillproof containers.

☐ Hand-carry financial records.

☐ Ensure that your entire family is properly listed on the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

☐ Start using up perishable and frozen foods about a month before moving.

☐ Dispose of flammables such as fireworks, cleaning fluids, matches, acids, chemistry sets, aerosol cans, ammunition, oil, paint and thinners. Drain fuel from mowers and other machinery.

☐ Discard partly used cans and containers of substances that might leak. Carefully tape and place in individual waterproof bags any jars of liquid you plan to carry with you.

☐ Refillable tanks must be purged and

sealed by a local propane gas dealer. Discard nonrefillable tanks. Some carriers and the military do not permit shipment of any propane tanks.

☐ Switch utility services to new address. Inform electric, disposal, water, newspaper and magazine subscription, telephone and cable companies of your move.

☐ Have appliances serviced for moving.

☐ Clean rugs and clothing and have them wrapped for moving.

☐ Plan ahead for special needs of infants.

☐ Close bank accounts and have your funds wired to your new bank. Be sure there are no outstanding checks or automatic payments that haven't been processed.

☐ Collect valuables from safe-deposit boxes. Make copies of any important documents before mailing or hand carrying them to your new address. Record serial numbers of electronic equipment.

☐ Defrost freezer and refrigerator. Place deodorizer inside to control odors.

☐ Give a close friend or relative your travel route and schedule so you may be reached if needed.

☐ Discuss the moving process with your children to overcome their fear of relocation.

☐ Return library books and other borrowed items.



Moving your pets

☐ Make arrangements for transporting pets. Ask about required vaccinations. Carry their health and rabies certificates with you.

☐ Attach an ID tag to your pet's collar.

☐ Check the type and size of kennel needed for overseas shipment of pets.

☐ If you're traveling cross-country, you can check out pet-friendly hotels on the web at www.petswelcome.com.

On moving day

☐ Double-check closets, drawers, shelves, attic and garage spaces to be sure they are empty.

☐ Carry traveler's checks for quick, available funds.

☐ Watch loading and unloading and examine all items carefully before signing a receipt.

There's a wealth of information on the Internet about moving. Use the keywords "military relocation" on any web search engine for links.

To access an online directory of U.S. military installations worldwide which lists units, missions, facilities, services and other information, register at www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites.

New financial service arrangements in 221st BSB

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Beginning June 6 all soldiers and civilians serviced by Detachment B, 39th Finance Battalion, will become customers of the 8th Finance Battalion. Located in Baumholder, the 8th Finance Battalion will become the new servicing finance battalion for the Wiesbaden, Mainz-Kastel, Dexheim and Wackernheim communities.

"The quality finance support that the Wiesbaden commu-

nities has received from the 39th Finance Battalion will continue under the 8th Finance Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Raymond Yocum," said Capt. Alan T. Lindley, commander of Detachment B.

The change is a direct result of the 1st Armored Division's Headquarters relocating to Wiesbaden Army Air Field and the 266th Finance Command's realignment of their battalions to better support their customers in U.S. Army Europe, Lindley said.

A reflagging ceremony to mark the changeover will take place at Tompkins Barracks in Heidelberg. Col. Belinda Pinckney, commander of the 266th Finance Command, will officiate. "The only effect on the community is the change in location where all temporary duty payments will be processed and paid," said Lindley. Soldiers and civilians will still be required to submit their TDY settlements to their local finance office located in Building 1023E on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Sports and leisure

Sports shorts

Baseball legends

Former Oakland As pitching ace and Cy Young Award winner Vida Blue joins two-time Pittsburgh Pirates world champion Manny Sanguillen on a goodwill tour of military bases in June. They will sign autographs and talk to fans from noon to 1:30 p.m. June 12 at the **Baumholder Commissary** and from 3-4:30 p.m. June 19 at the **Hanau Commissary**. The first 200 commissary patrons will receive free baseballs courtesy of the Minute Maid Company. Special collector's baseball trading cards will also be given out.

Triathlon June 23

Giebelstadt's 12th Aviation Brigade invites all athletes to its triathlon June 23. The event, which starts at 8 a.m., will include a 200-meter pool swim, 25-kilometer bike ride and a five-kilometer run. Entry is \$10 per person (or \$15 after June 1) or \$20 per team (\$30 after June 1). The fee includes a T-shirt. For more information or to register visit the 12th Aviation Brigade's website at www.12avnbn.de.army.mil.

German-American Track Meet June 3

Hanau Sports and the LAZ Bruchköbel hold their third annual German-American Track and Field Meet June 3 at the Rudolf-Harbig Stadion in Bruckköbel (just north of Hanau). Events include most track and field disciplines from the 100-meter dash to shot put and pole vault. Entry fee is \$5 per event (relays are \$5 per team). Register the morning of the event before 9 a.m. Call Pete Paczesny at mil 322-7672 or the Hanau Sports Office at mil 322-9045/9617.

Intramural softball

The 2001 Women's Intramural Softball Season in Baumholder begins June 18. There is no cost to play. Register by June 8 at the Baumholder Sports Office (call mil 485-7176). League play runs from June 18 to Aug. 3. Teams are limited to 16 players and two coaches.

3-on-3 basketball

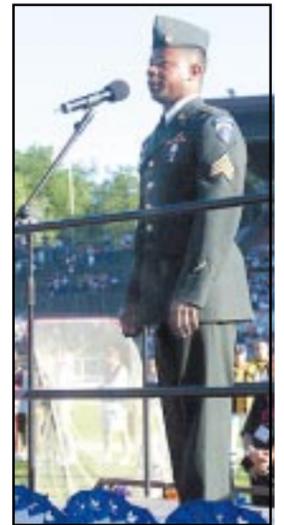
Giessen hosts a three-on-three Streetball Challenge June 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25 per team including T-shirts for the team members. Teams can have four players and a non-playing coach. Register by June 1 at Giessen's Miller Hall or by calling mil 343-7201.

Thunder Thump ball

Wiesbaden Sports holds the second annual Thunder Thump Invitational Softball Tournament June 16-17. Call mil 337-5943 by June 8 to register.

Schiffenberg runs

Giessen's Schiffenberg Castle will be the site of a 10-kilometer run June 16, a 12.5-K run July 21 and a 15-K run Aug. 18. Call Giessen Sports at mil 343-6384.



A U.S. Army cannon team fires a salute in Frankfurt's Waldstadion May 12 to celebrate Armed Forces Day during the NFL-Europe showdown between the Frankfurt Galaxy and the Scottish Claymores. Photo left: a British army paratrooper displays the American flag as he drops into the stadium during opening ceremonies. Photo above right: Sgt. Joel Tinsley, a member of the U.S. Army Europe Chorus, sings the American national anthem at the start of the game.

Galaxy salutes armed forces

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Over 33,000 fans, among them some 5,000 Americans, were on hand at Frankfurt's Waldstadion May 12 to celebrate Armed Forces Day during the NFL-Europe showdown between the Frankfurt Galaxy and Scottish Claymores.

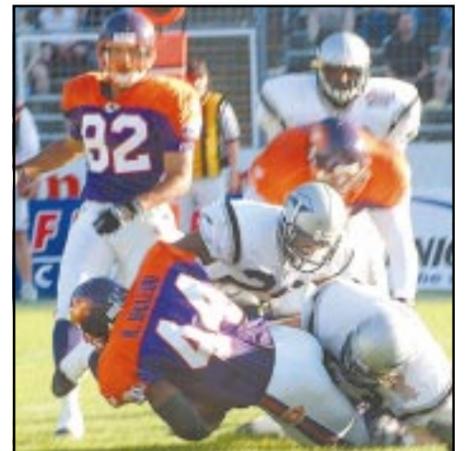
Not only were fans treated to Frankfurt's first win of the season by a score of 27-17 after three losses, but a host of special events both before and during the game celebrating Americana.

Sgt. Joel Tinsley, a member of the U.S. Army Europe Chorus, sang a solo version of the Star Spangled Banner to open the proceedings. He was joined by a German

Bundeswehr trumpeter who performed the German national anthem.

Other U.S. forces involvement included a pre-game performance by USAREUR's "Night Fire" party band and a coin toss by U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander Gen. Gregory S. Martin, observed by USAREUR's own Lt. Gen. Larry Jordan, deputy commander. A British army parachute team started the festivities with a dramatic flight into the stadium showcasing the German, British and U.S. flags.

The Frankfurt NFL-Europe League team has two more home games left this season at Frankfurt Waldstadion. Local USOs have tickets to their games June 9 against the Amsterdam Admirals and June 23 versus the Barcelona Dragons. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.



Galaxy running back Kevin McLeod gains a few yards during a third quarter play against the Scottish Claymores.



Galaxy cheerleaders serve as the honor guard as quarterback Michael Bishop leads his team into the Frankfurt Waldstadion.

Smith delivers freedom to teach, learn

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Principal Bill Rose keeps the size of Smith Elementary School in perspective. "I spent 11 years at Ramstein. We had 2,200 kids there. That was a big school," he said. The largest of three primary schools in the Baumholder area Smith is still small enough for teachers and staff to know the students personally, said Rose.

Smith enrolls just over 500 students in developmental preschool, Sure Start, full-time kindergarten and first- through sixth-grades. Second- through fourth-graders account for the bulk of the student body, said Rose. There are about 20 full-time classroom teachers plus specialists and support staff.

"I think we've got neat families and neat kids overall," said Rose. He was particularly proud of the school's all-Pentium hard drive computer lab. The building was wired for a local area network last summer, and every classroom is connected to the system as is the computer center. Rose said the school presently has no dedicated computer teacher, but that doesn't pose a problem. "A lot of the teachers are learning along with the kids, and a lot of the kids are good teachers. They've grown up with them," he said.

"It's been fantastic here," said sixth-grade teacher Janet Kennedy. "I have a very low student to teacher ratio, 19:1. We have a very good staff and a very friendly atmosphere." She said the support and latitude she receives from the community and administration let her focus on her students. "The freedom to just teach is a joy," said Kennedy.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
Fifth-grader Abel Tarera finds his way around the xylophone under the watchful eyes of Susan Turregano and Bill Rose.

Among extracurricular activities popular at Smith are the computer and science clubs, a magazine club and a keyboarding club which grew out of the recorder club, said Rose. The keyboarding club introduces children to electronic music.

"The music program is wonderful. I can't say enough about that," said parent Susan Turregano. She said the recorder club is very popular and music teacher Alice Fozard makes it a great experience for the children. "The kids

adore her," she said.

Turregano has served as treasurer of the Parent Teacher Organization for the past year. Her sons John Morgan and Nathan attend the third- and first-grade respectively. "We've had nothing but a positive experience between the two," said Turregano. "Smith has been a very good learning environment for the boys. I think they're right on track. It's also a plus that they've learned to make friends easily," she said.

She praised the teachers and staff for pulling together to make the school a nurturing environment for both students and their parents.

Turregano said the counselors who run monthly parent support groups are especially helpful in Baumholder where soldier-parents are so frequently deployed for peacekeeping and training duty. "I've never seen that before," she said.

The PTO has pitched in too, said Turregano. "We've had a really big influx of teachers who've been willing to participate," she said. The PTO has organized fund-raisers, brought in a band for the school dance, arranged for a professional silk-screener to visit the school and produced the Winter Carnival among other activities this past year.

"We have probably about a 20 percent participation rate in the PTO, especially for the big, special events," said

Turregano, who will PCS with her family this summer. "We're turning it over to a great group of people. It'll continue. Somebody manages to step up every year," she said.

School focus

School bits

Seniors to graduate

Graduation dates are set for 104th Area Support Group high schools: **Bad Kreuznach** June 1; **Hanau** June 7; **Giessen** June 8; **Wiesbaden** June 9; and

Baumholder June 9.

Kudos to winners

Five local students have been awarded college scholarships by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. **Starla Armstrong** and **Nicole Garrett** of Gen. H.H. Arnold High School, **Tenika Smith** and **Siobhan Walker** of Giessen American High School, and **Heather**

Koch of Hanau High School are among 10 students sharing a total of \$3,000 in grants.

Teacher sought

Hanau American High School seeks a qualified business teacher for the upcoming school year. For additional information about this half-time position call Jennifer Rowland at mil 322-8714.

Get your dibs in now

Groups presently using Hanau school facilities for meetings, sports and special events or wishing to do so during the upcoming school year must submit requests to that effect by June 30. Contact the principal of the school in question to indicate your group's interest for next year.



Photo by Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt

Getting excited by books

Children's author and illustrator Pat Cummings explains the layout and printing process to students during Young Authors day activities May 4. Events across the 104th Area Support Group emphasized the world of the word.

Partners in Education

Lisa Pinnell, Butzbach Elementary School PTA president

Lisa Pinnell got involved with Butzbach Elementary School when her son Gabriel, now a first-grader, entered kindergarten.

She has served as the Parent Teacher Association president since last October.

"I like a good challenge," said Pinnell, "coming up with the ideas for projects and finding the people to run them." She and her board organize a monthly birthday club and take lots of photos and portraits. "That's our big fund-raiser," she said. The PTA also organizes T-shirt sales, school spirit days and brought in a storyteller to present the Grimm Brothers fairytales to students. But the highlight of the year came at Christmas.

"The key event was the Christmas program. It wasn't Broadway quality, but it brought the commu-



nity together. The kids really have more pride now," said Pinnell.

"It was a real catalyst," said principal Dr. Marion Parker. "We painted our gym because we wanted it to look good. It got people feeling 'What else can we do?' This lady has been an outstanding advocate for our school and our children,"

she said. "This is the first time Butzbach has had a yearbook," said Parker, crediting the accomplishment to Pinnell and her colleagues.

"I get a lot of satisfaction knowing I was part of that," said Pinnell. "It's amazing what I have learned. And it's because I have a great, great team," she said.