

Full-day kindergarten gets new facility

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The grand opening of Wetzel Elementary School's new kindergarten building was celebrated Sept. 12. With building contractors, members of the Corps of Engineers and representatives from the Kaiserslautern District Superintendent's Office present, Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, presided over the dedication ceremony, thanking everybody for all their hard work. Debbie Brooks, Wetzel Elementary School principal, and the kindergarten children then snipped the ceremonial ribbon and opened the building for business.

The Department of Defense Dependent Schools funded the new building together with a full-day kindergarten program. Debbie Brooks, Wetzel Elementary School principal explained that Wetzel actually instituted full-day kindergarten about three years ago but it was just recently that the building was completed. "They were supposed to have this kindergarten program at Bad Kreuznach but they were

closing so they went ahead and gave Wetzel the full day kindergarten," she said.

Construction of new buildings to house the new full-day kindergarten program in the various schools was slated by DoDDS. On certain years certain schools would start instituting the full-day kindergarten program and receive a new building as a package deal. Wetzel however, was able to institute full-day kindergarten before the new building was constructed. "So we've actually had it a couple of years," said Brooks.

Along with full-day kindergarten Wetzel also instituted the one to 18 teacher ratio in the lower grades. The program provides for less children in the classroom. This enables the teachers to spend more time focusing on the individual needs of each student. All of Baumholder's schools are now instituting this program in the lower grades.

During the dedication ceremony, Walter Bau, the building contractor, gave teddy bears to the children.

The kindergartners sang some songs and Pam Lehmann, a kinder-



Photo by Peggy-Hoffman Schmidt

Debbie Brooks, Wetzel Elementary School principal, helps kindergarten students cut the to official open the new full-day kindergarten facility.

garten teacher, recited a poem titled "All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten."

"We also put a plaque up in the

hallway and on the plaque it says 'On this 12th day of September, 2003, we dedicate our new kindergarten building. May our children's

first year in school be the building blocks for future learning and lead them to become successful citizens in today's world,'" said Brooks.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A customer checks out the merchandise at the Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop.

Thrift Shop expands service

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop is expanding. They now accept large items such as furniture for their downstairs room.

The Thrift Shop holds a big bag sale Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Customers can stuff a brown paper bag with merchandise for only \$2 while supplies last.

There will also offer specials throughout the day.

The Thrift Shop is in Building 8544 across the street from the Baumholder Post Exchange.

Opening hours are, Mondays,

Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Consignment hours are, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

The Thrift Shop also purchases used transformers that are in good condition. Please call first. While at the Thrift Shop, check out their antique corner and handmade crafts corner.

For more information call Tammy Davis, Thrift Shop manager at civ(06783)6-6653 or mil485-6653.

ACS classes

Get Involved, Get Motivated

Sept. 30, 9 - 11 a.m.

At one time or another every one of us loses our desire to commit to projects, fund-raisers, or meetings. This training will help you discover how you are motivated and what it takes to keep you motivated. Also, find out what it takes to motivate others.

Checkbook Management

Oct. 1, 9 a.m. – noon

Class participants will learn how to select a financial institution to meet personal needs, use ATM and debit cards, the consequences of bouncing checks, how to maintain and balance a checking account, the appropriate uses of separate and joint accounts, and understand the advantages and disadvantages of checking accounts.

Basics of Investing

Oct. 22, 9 – 11 a.m.

The objective of the class is to provide participants with a fundamental understanding of investments and show them how to develop a suitable investment pro-

gram to achieve their financial goals. Class participants will learn the importance of financial goals, the importance of the time value of money, how to determine personal risk tolerance, how to identify investment risks, the objectives of various investment vehicles, how to match investments with personal goals, investment strategies to reduce risk.

Thrift Savings Plan

Oct. 14

The objective of this class is to provide participants with a fundamental understanding of the Thrift Savings Plan. Class participants will learn how to enroll in the TSP, the tax advantages of the TSP, the importance of starting to save for retirement early, what types of pay contributions can be taken from the different types of funds available to TSP participants, how to take a loan from their TSP account.

Successful Money Management

Oct. 15, 9 a.m. – noon

Class participants will learn how to evaluate their present financial situation, establish personal goals, understand a balance sheet and income statement, develop a per-

sonal spending plan, and understand the importance of involving the entire family in the record keeping and budgeting process.

Army Family Team Building Classes

Army Family Team Building will be offering the following classes during the month of October:

● AFTB Level I, Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

● AFTB Level, Oct. 21 – 24, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Call civ(06783)6-8188 or mil485-8188 to register for these classes.

Eliminate Your Debt

Oct. 8, 9 a.m. – noon

This class will provide participants with the toll and the ability to liquidate their current debt and prevent creating extreme debt in the future. Participants will learn how to control the impulse to utilize credit, what a credit record consists of, know how to read and obtain a personal credit record, calculate a personal debt ratio, how to eliminate current debt by use of money saving ideas and power payments, about the different types of bankruptcy and their affect on credit.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon 2003 runs Oct. 23 through 31. The campaign's theme is "Unite For a Drug Free World." The campaign runs throughout the 104th Area Support Group. The 104th ASG joins individuals, businesses, schools and community organizations throughout America to say no to drugs.

Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for people and communities to take a visible stand against drugs and to show their personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the red ribbon.

The Red Ribbon Campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a DEA agent, in 1985. This began the continuing tradition of wearing and displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs.

The purpose of the Red Ribbon campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America. Each individual in the community, especially parents are encouraged to wear the a red ribbon and participate in Red Ribbon activities sponsored by the 222nd Base Support Battalion.

Cooking classes

Army Community Services focuses on chicken preparation during their September and October cooking classes. A German specialty is also planned. The class schedule is:

Sept. 30, chicken parmesan, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Neubrücke Youth Services;

Oct. 7, Tortellini ala Panna, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Oct. 14, curry chicken with white rice, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Baumholder's ACS;

Oct. 21, rouladen (stuffed and rolled beef strips), 6 to 8 p.m. at Baumholder's ACS.

Oct. 28, Chinese Fried Noodles, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

For safety reasons, children are not allowed. Call mil 485-8188 to sign up.

Get a head start

Headstart classes are offered again weekly from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays at the education center. The classes are open to family members and soldiers and offer students an opportunity to learn some of the German language and participate in a field trip to Trier on Thursdays

Baumholder launches annual CFC-O campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas, part of the largest workplace giving campaign in the world, has announced the CFC-O will run from Oct. 1 through Dec. 10. During the campaign season, donors can designate contributions to a variety of deserving American and international U.S.-based charities through the CFC-O.

"The CFC raised \$58,849 at Baumholder last year with 18 percent of the population participating," said Bill Badger, this year's CFC project officer for Baumholder.

The official kickoff at Baumholder will be in front of the post exchange Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. There will be cake available, donated by the exchange to commemorate the occasion and CFC information. Unit coordinators will begin contacting their members shortly and pro-

Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Dupré retires

Ingrid Schwerdtner, Baumholder deputy mayor, makes a presentation to Baumholder's retiring police chief, Paul Dupré during a reception at the Rheinlander Club Aug. 29. Dupré elected to hold his retirement ceremony at the club on Smith Barracks, where he was honored by numerous individuals and organizations. Among those honoring the retiring chief were the 222nd Base Support Battalion and Provost Marshal's office. The interim chief of police for the city of Baumholder is Polizei Hauptkommissar Irich Roob.

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Persons interested in attending must register by noon on Friday the week before they wish to attend class by calling Danna Stone at mil 485-7574/7298.

Child care is the responsibility of the parents as it is not provided by course coordinators. Students must complete all classroom work to participate in the field trip to Trier and receive a certificate. Transportation to the education center and lunch are also the responsibility of the student.

SAEDA training

The 222nd Base Support Battalion and 66th Military Intelligence Group will conduct

a briefing on anti-terrorism, force protection awareness, subversion and espionage directed against the Army Oct. 21 at the Wagon Wheel Theater. The English version is from 1 to 2 p.m. followed by the German version from 2:15 to 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 people planning to attend is asked to call to ensure space is available. Direct any questions to the Baumholder MI office at mil 485-7386 or civ (06736)-7386.

Nutritionist job open

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has a full time position in the Baumholder office of the WIC Overseas Program for a dietitian, nutritionist or registered nurse with a BSN. Experience in maternal, child or infant nutrition is required. A registered dietitian is preferred and WIC experience is desirable. Applicants must have a current USAREUR driver's license and be willing to travel.

E-mail résumés, cover letter and a copy of applicable licenses to either:

cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil, or

april.parsells@cmtymail.104asg.army.mil,

or fax application to: civ (06783) 6-8049 or civ (06731) 47-9383. applications may also be delivered to the Baumholder WIC office or the Ramstein WIC office, Building 2118.

Be a life guard

There is an urgent need for persons to work as lifeguards at Baumholder's indoor pool. For more information call the Rec Emporium at mil 485-6156.

Children need families

Baumholder's Emergency Placement Care, formerly known as Foster Care, is in need of families to provide short-term 24-hour care for eligible children who cannot be cared for by their natural family or legal guardian.

The Exceptional Family Member Program currently needs potential Emergency Placement Care providers. Volunteer hours are earned for time spent in training. Once certified as an Emergency Placement Care provider, volunteer hours are awarded for on-call status and for total time spent caring for children.

The Emergency Placement Care Program relies on special people in the community who are willing to invest their time and energy to ensure that our children are well cared for when they are most vulnerable. Participation by volunteers will make a difference in the community. Persons interested in becoming a provider, or who have questions about the program may call Floyd Davison at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

October luncheon

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club holds a luncheon Oct. 15 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Rheinlander. RSVPs are required and may be made via email to cher.lim@us.army.mil For more information call civ (06783) 999-2928

Rheinlander Club mil 485-7507

Saturday market

The Baumholder Saturday market is like an indoor garage sale. Persons can buy or sell household items, children's items, clothes and much more. Reserve a space for \$5. Tables rent for \$7 and \$10. The next Saturday market is Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Rheinlander Ballroom.

Sunday Brunch

The Rheinlander Club in Baumholder hosts Sunday Brunch Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. This event is by reservation only. The menu includes made-to-order omelets, waffles, eggs, bacon, sausage, pasta, potatoes, salad buffet, dessert buffet and more.

The cost is \$12.50 for adults; \$9 for children ages 10 to 15; \$6 for children 6 to 9 years old and free for children 5 and under. Contact the Rheinlander to make a reservation or for more information.

Outdoor Rec mil 485-7182

Furniture trip

Are you still looking for just the right accents to make your government quarters feel like home? Let Outdoor Rec take you shopping at IKEA, the Swedish home furnishing store. The cost for transportation is \$24 for Adults and \$15 for children. Trips are scheduled for Oct. 2, 16; Nov. 6, 20; and Dec. 4, 18.

Polish pottery

Get on the express shopping trip to Poland and pick up some Polish pottery. The cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Persons must make reservations one week in advance. Trips are scheduled for: Oct. 4-5, Nov. 14-15 and Dec. 12-13.

Frankfurt Zoo

There is still time for a day trip to the Frankfurt Zoo. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. The next trip is Oct. 1 so reserve your seat today. Additional Frankfurt Zoo dates are: Nov. 1, Nov. 22 and Jan. 17.

Flea markets

You can find antiques, furniture and souvenirs galore by joining Outdoor Rec on Flea market excursions. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. Trips scheduled to: Metz Flea Market Oct. 4, 25; Saarbrücken Flea Market Nov. 8; and Luxemburg Flea Market Nov. 22.

Mall experience

You can have an American mall experience at CentrO Mall. The cost is only \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Reserve your seat for any

of these dates: Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 13

Express shopping

Reserve a seat today for an express shopping trip to Karlovy Vary and the Dragon Flea Market. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$45 for children. Trips are scheduled for: Oct. 24-25, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 19-20.

Mini vacation

Enjoy a mini vacation on the slopes. Reserve your seat for a trip to the Swiss Alps and don't forget your skis. The cost for round trip transportation is \$95 for adults and \$75 for children. Trips are planned for: Dec. 19-21, Jan. 2-4, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Feb. 20-22 and March 12-14.

Ski Columbus Day

Get away for the Columbus Day weekend Oct. 10-13 by going skiing in Austria for \$295. Price includes hotel accommodations with breakfast and dinner. Also included is your ski pass and equipment rental, lift pass and round trip transportation.

Ski your holidays

Spend your holiday weekends on the slopes of Austria. Get an all-inclusive weekend get-a-way for \$295. The price includes hotel accommodations with breakfast and dinner, ski pass and rental, lift pass and round trip transportation. Reserve your seat for one of these trips: Nov. 7-10, Veteran's Day; Nov. 26-30, Thanksgiving; Jan. 16-19, Martin Luther King Day; Feb. 13-16, President's Day; March 11-14, Early Spring; and April 8-11, Easter.

Christmas markets

It's almost time for the German Christmas so start planning a trip now with Outdoor Rec. Reserve your seat in advance for the following markets:

- **Trier Christmas Market**
Nov. 28
\$35 adults, \$15 children
Depart at 8 a.m.
- **Rothenburg Ob der Tauber Christmas Market**
Dec. 6
\$55 adults, \$35 children
Depart at 7 a.m.
- **Nuernberg Christmas Market**
Dec. 13
\$65 adults, \$45 children
depart at 6 a.m.

Auto Skills Center
mil 485-6344

MWR update

PCS cleaning

If you're getting ready to PCS, let the Auto Skills Center help you clean your car before you ship it. For \$45 get your car detailed inside and out.

Oil change

Get your oil changed at Baumholder Auto Skills Center. The cost is \$19.95 (oil and filter included). For \$39.95 get synthetic oil (filter included). Service is by appointment only Tuesdays through Fridays after 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ballet classes

Ballet classes begin Oct. 30 at Baumholder Youth Services for children 3 to 18 years old. The cost is \$30 per month for one classes and \$22 per month for 45 minute classes. Classes are held on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays and Thursdays in Building 8879, Wetzel School Age Services.

● Tuesday classes are 5 – 5:45 p.m. for 3- to 4-year-olds and 6 – 7 p.m. for those 7 to 9 years old.

● Wednesday classes are 10 – 10:45 a.m. for 3-to-4-year-olds; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. for children 7 to 9 years old and 5 p.m. for children 5 to 6 years old.

● Thursday classes are from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. for children 5 – 6 years old and up and 5 to 6 p.m. for children 10 years old and up.

The instructor is Viviane Elliot. She was a professional ballet dancer who has 11 years of intensive classical ballet training. She has three years of teaching experience.

Elliot performed in principal roles like The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty and more. For more information contact Youth Services central

registration at mil 485-7003 or their administration office at mil 485-7276.

Pretty scary

Get Ready to be scared stiff as the Rod and Gun Club hosts a haunted house Oct. 20-31 from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$1 per person. The site for a night of fright will be In Building 8167 on Smith Barracks. Call mil 485-6345. for details.

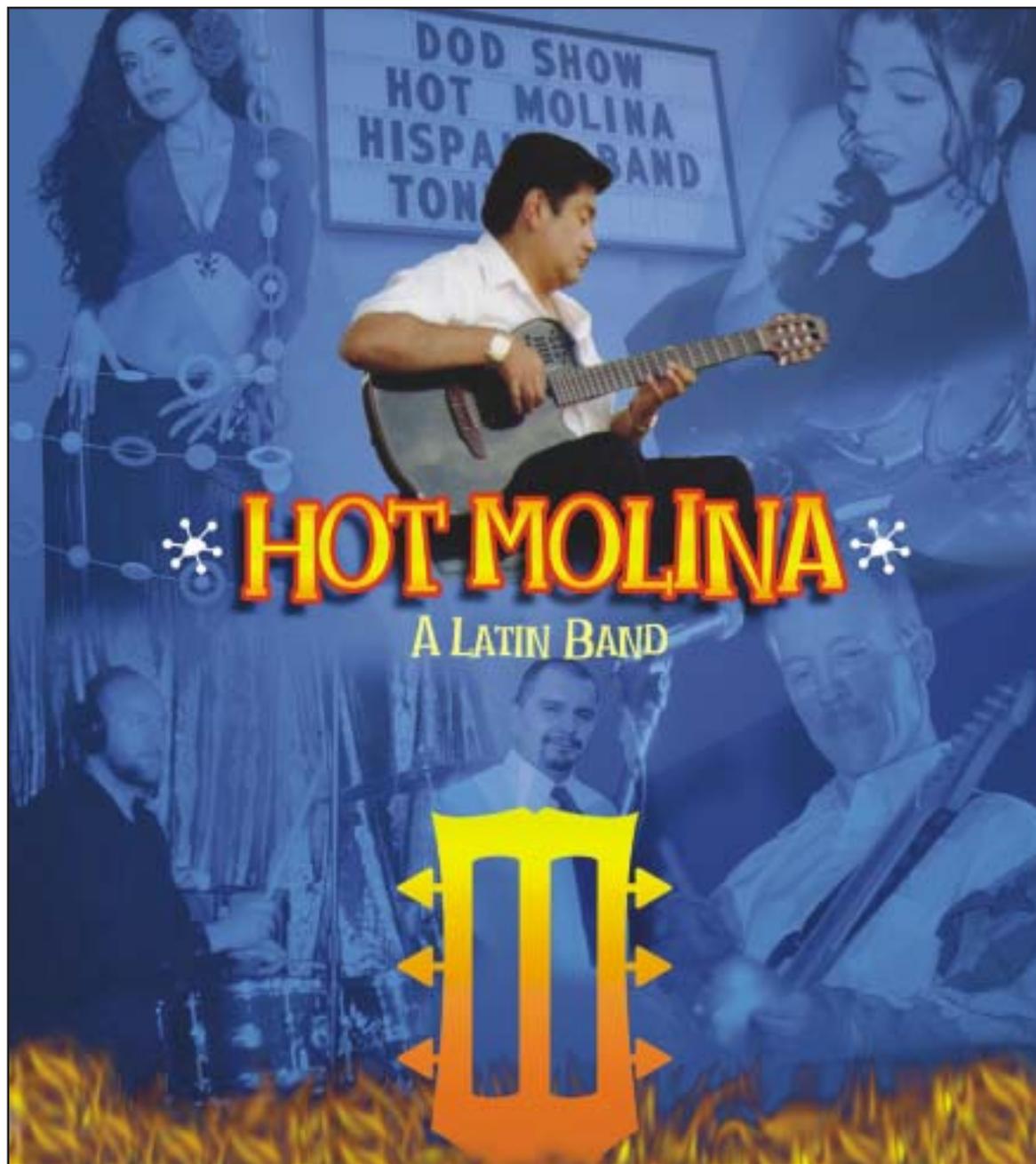
Halloween party

The Rod and Gun Club is the place to be Oct. 3. That's when the club holds its adult Halloween party starting at 9 a.m. Admission is free, so come out and enjoy food, drinks and a good time. Call mil 485-6345. for details.

Teachers needed

Central Texas College in Europe is seeking qualified Instructors to teach Early Childhood Education, Criminal Justice, and Automotive Technologies at the Baumholder Education Center.

Call Debbie Faerber at mil 485-6664 or Jihun Kim at mil 485-6484 for more information.



Contributed graphic

Hot Molina

The Latin sensation band Hot Molina is coming to Baumholder. The band has spent over 11 years entertaining Americans overseas. Enjoy a free electrifying salsa performance when the band performs in concert Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Rheinlander.

A soldier's story - There's no typical day



Contributed photo

Soldiers from 1st Armored Division Artillery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery keep a close watch at an entry point in Baghdad.

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

In Baghdad, there is no such thing as a typical work day. That's what 1st Lt. Kevin Fromm who has been in Iraq since May of this year reports.

Fromm, a 1st Armored Division Artillery soldier assigned as a platoon leader for the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, reports "I have been in Iraq for four months, of which the first three weeks were spent in Kuwait staging for movement north to Baghdad and a 'typical eight-hour day' doesn't exist here," said Fromm.

"My battery is responsible for the Sheik Junaid neighborhood of Baghdad which is close to the center of Baghdad. The battery is made up of two platoons that rotate every two weeks between the new Iraqi

army recruiting station, which is responsible for in-processing and shipping out of new recruits for the new army; and the former Iraqi army pay site, which pays retired and former soldiers a stipend every three months," said Fromm.

The soldiers of Fromm's platoon work in three groups. Each group guards the pay site gate for six hours. At the Iraqi recruiting station they change every two to three hours. "The platoon actually lives down there for two weeks at a time. At both sites we are supported by a special protection and security force and by hired translators who take care of the many little problems such as conducting vehicle and personnel searches.

"Both operations are run by the Civil Provisional Authority but the soldiers are tasked to provide security so that the employees, contractors, and those visiting on busi-

ness are safe and secure from any crime or attacks," he said.

It comes as no surprise when Fromm says that the days in Baghdad are very hot, dry, dusty and windy at times. "Our base has no trees, with the exception of a palm tree grove just over the wall, so shade and cooler temperatures aren't like they are in other areas of Baghdad," he said.

In Iraq, Friday is observed as a holy day and activity slows down so the soldiers get a break and try to take care of their personal needs. "If things aren't too busy we try to get soldiers to the Post Exchange shopping site at the International Airport where they can also take care of any financial needs," said Fromm.

"Gunfire is quite common at night and we occasionally see tracer rounds from rifles fired into the air. On most nights it's one or two people randomly shooting their

weapons in the air but on some nights, for example when Saddam's sons were killed or when Iraq beat Morocco in football (soccer), there was a great deal of gun fire into the night sky. Thankfully no soldiers have been killed or injured by this senseless shooting but many Iraqis have become victims of bullets falling from the sky. It's quite sad to think that one man's celebration could turn into another man's injury or death," he said.

Living conditions in Baghdad for soldiers are slowly improving. "We have air conditioners, refrigerators, and a few televisions with satellite receivers. Many soldiers have purchased televisions that can be used with video disk players or video games. There are a few vendors who we are allowed to purchase food or drinks from on the economy," said Fromm. A case of 24 sodas costs \$ 6. "The dollar is accepted everywhere as the current stable currency," he said.

Water is the main drink for soldiers in Iraq. They obtain it either in bottles or from a drinking water tank at the airport. "Soldiers usually make good use of powder drink mixes to add a little variety to their drinks. "Non-alcoholic beer, chips, cookies, toiletry items and a small selection of music and movie DVDs can also be purchased at the main post exchange at the International Airport or in our smaller battalion shop which is supplied by the airport shop," said Fromm.

Duty in Iraq is not necessarily a full-pension affair. "We get a hot meal at breakfast and dinner. Soldiers are provided with Meals Ready to Eat for lunch but many resort to food from care packages or snacks if possible. I have not eaten an MRE in a month and will continue to do so if I can avoid it," said Fromm.

Email access is now available to soldiers and each soldier in Fromm's battery gets two free 15 minute calls a week to call back home to family or friends. "Regular mail from the states and Germany has improved and seems to be pretty steady now and usually takes between one and two weeks to arrive," he said.

Soldiers are constantly in contact with the Iraqi population. "Usually we use local interpreters to help us communicate but sometimes we have to work through the language barrier using a few words and sign language because there are only so many interpreters available. Many of the interpreters are very helpful and go out of their way to help us. While they get paid well by Iraqi standards they do take a lot of risks

when working for us," said Fromm.

Dealing with children is always a challenge, regardless of who they are. In Iraq they often approach soldiers asking for candy or money. "While being friendly and open to the 'future of Iraq' is important, soldiers must always be alert and vigilant to danger. Often children will ask for food or sometimes money. Depending on age, as like any child, they can be very nice or annoying," said Fromm. Soldiers will sometimes give children items from their MREs such as candy or cookies or extra food they have from packages from home.

"If a child comes up to me and is friendly and not bothering me I will usually give them something if I can. However if they come up asking me for candy or money I will usually say no and tell them to go away," said Fromm.

"The biggest problem with Iraqi contact, apart from the language barrier, is their persistence. This is especially difficult for us at times as we are charged with security at two important sites in Baghdad. People come to our gates asking a variety of questions. The Iraqi way of doing things here is sometimes difficult and frustrating. They believe that if they keep asking us that our response will change or we will give into a request. This does not happen. Even our security guards and interpreters get frustrated with these individuals sometimes.

"Overall though we try to be as friendly and helpful as possible but at the same time we need to maintain a safe stand off distance and firm security.

"While many Iraqis are happy we are here there is no way to be sure who is friendly and who is hostile so we can not take any chances.

"Iraq and Baghdad are still very dangerous places. The threat of grenade, rocket, and mortar attacks are always present. Homemade bombs are also a threat, especially to vehicles moving around the city. Thankfully no one from my battery has been killed or injured from terrorist or guerilla attacks.

When soldiers return to Baumholder they will have a lot of readjusting ahead of them. The dangerous and high intensity environment they have been exposed to will be replaced with a more relaxed garrison environment, family life and a traditionally organized German way of life.

"Many of us may have trouble readjusting to normal driving when we get back so please be understanding," said Fromm.