

Military police hone their Soldiering skills

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Military police are deployed all over the world but those from the 793rd Military Police Battalion not on the front lines supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom came to Baumholder in December for a week to hone their war fighting skills.

"A lot of our unit is currently in Iraq, but what remains back here is going through a train up period in preparation for any possible deployment over the next six months," said Maj. Duane Miller, 793rd Military Police Battalion S-3.

"This is really one of three ranges

that we're going to be going to in the next four to five months," said Miller.

About 500 military police participated in this range density exercise that had soldiers firing an array of weapons, like Mark 19s, 249s and M-203s, for qualification. It was their first time qualifying at the home of champions and they were not disappointed.

"The facilities here are great. They meet the requirement for a battalion range density and for a battalion size exercise. The billeting is also really great. It accommodated everybody that we had out here.

The availability of the facility was also a super asset. The struc-

ture, the support element out here was really great, it helped us out a lot," said Sgt. Major Tuli Malauulu, 793rd Military Police Battalion S-3 sergeant major.

"The other thing... which makes it a great training event is the firearms training simulator that's located here in Baumholder. That thing is absolutely fantastic.

"It gives the soldiers an opportunity to get familiar with the weapon prior to getting out on the range," said Miller

In addition to eliminating large quantities of training ammunition, "This thing provides more opportunity behind a weapon so that when a soldier goes out on the battlefield or whatever mission he's

asked of, he's more comfortable with the weapon and more skilled in using his weapon," said Miller.

"This is a great training facility and a great opportunity for all of the soldiers in the battalion, or in the brigade for that matter, to come out here and qualify and use the facility to accommodate the training that we need as military police to sustain our proficiency in everything that we do," said Miller.

Convenience was a driving factor that influenced the law enforcers to train at Baumholder.

"We're trying to make it convenient for most of the unit. We usually train in Graefenwoehr or wherever the closest location is. Right now we're the rear detachment for

18th and 3rd Brigade. Since the 92nd and 127th MP Companies fall under us and are located in this vicinity, it was more convenient to conduct our range density here," said Malauulu.

"We've had an opportunity to get all the soldiers together, even while they continue to do law enforcement throughout all of central Europe, to fire weapons and just do some great training," said Miller.

Like most first-time visitors to Baumholder, Miller could not resist commenting on Baumholder's top-notch weather conditions. "The weather's been absolutely wonderful out here - no cloudiness. I hear that's a regular occurrence here on Baumholder," he said.

EFMP helps families get proper special medical aid

By Jeff Burkhard

Exceptional Family Member
Program manager

The EFMP is a vital multi-agency Department of Defense program, mandated by Army policy, to ensure the medical and educational needs of family members are cared for appropriately.

The Army Community Service EFMP, located in Building 8746, is here to help soldiers and their fam-

ily members understand the program, their rights and responsibilities, and the role EFMP plays in the Soldiers' career and families' well being.

One frequent question we hear at ACS is "Why do I have to do this EFMP paperwork again? I did all that paperwork before coming to Germany."

This is a fair question, and one that is easily explained. The Army

Regulation which covers the EFMP program is AR 608-75. One major section of the regulation outlines the process whereby a Soldier and family receive orders to another duty assignment.

If the Soldier wishes to bring their family members (overseas or from Baumholder to another overseas site), the family must be screened for EFMP enrollment. The reason for this screening is to ben-

efit the family members and the Soldier to ensure there are appropriate medical services or educational services for the family members before an overseas assignment is made.

The EFMP helps the Soldier and family during their PCS to Baumholder, while they are here serving their tour and also while they start to out process from Baumholder. Call the ACS EFMP

Manager at mil 485-8188, Monday through Friday, if you have any questions or concerns on your EFMP status, or questions about the program.

Information is also available online at www.EFMconnections.com. The site offers information that explains the EFMP program success stories and a detailed line by line description of the EFMP screening and enrollment process.

2nd BCT recruits Baghdad police force

Story and photo by Sgt.

Mark S. Rickert

372nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

The auditorium at the Iraqi Forum in central Baghdad was bustling Jan. 10 with applicants hoping to join the ranks of the Iraqi Police Service.

But before they can attend the police academy, candidates must go through a prescreening process.

This is where 1st Armored Division came in: soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, ran the Iraqi police recruit prescreening.

This is the second time the soldiers with the 2nd BCT conducted the prescreening.

This time they've tweaked the process through lessons learned and hope for an even higher number of recruits, said battalion leaders responsible for the program.

Their first go-around churned out a remarkable number of police recruits said Maj. Linda H. Sharf, 2nd BCT civil-military affairs officer. Their first attempt at sifting through recruits and finding the

most promising candidates produced 86 percent acceptability—one of the highest success rates in the division.

This time, the soldiers are shooting for an even higher success rate, she said.

The battalion credits their success with a tight pre-screening process – involving multiple stations of medical evaluations and job-related questionnaires.

The battalion also required the candidates to bring supporting documents with them to the screening. They must also bring their paperwork to the police academy for the second phase of the screening process.

To make this second recruiting session more successful than the first, the 2nd BCT decided to draw this round of recruits based upon recommendations from their neighborhood advisory councils, Sharf said.

By drawing from a narrow selection of applicants chosen by the neighborhood councils, the unit hopes to reduce potential corruption within the police force.



2nd Lt. Derek Tureson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th battalion, 27th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, gathers the next group of Iraqi applicants for the screening process at the Iraqi Forum in Central Baghdad.

"By allowing the neighborhood advisory councils to hand-pick these recruits, we think we'll have good quality recruits," 1st Lt. Derek L. Tureson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery.

Neighborhood leader involvement should also bolster the councils' status within their communities and help with the task of choosing the recruits, he said.

"This helps the neighborhood advisory councils establish cred-

ibility," said Tureson. "By their choosing honest recruits, the people will have confidence in the neighborhood advisory councils. It also builds the people's confidence with the police and the government."

F.I.S.H. for Army Family Action Plan issues



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Delegates at last year's Army Family Action Plan conference listen as a group facilitator explains how the purpose of the conference, what the procedures for issue generation are and what happens with the issues after the conference is over.

Army Family Action Plan

Feb. 19, 20

Rheinlander Convention Center

Issue Worksheet

Issue/concern: _____

Possible solution: _____

Return this worksheet to Army community Services or drop it off in any of the numerous drop boxes located throughout the community. For more information call ACS at mil 485-7196 or civ (06783) 6-7196.

Army Community Services is kicking around a new acronym that easily explains what the Army Family Action Plan is all about. FISH, Fresh Ideas Start Here, clearly tells the AFAP story.

Every year the AFAP staff organizes a conference that gives the community the opportunity to share quality of life issues with the Installation and Army Leadership. The families of Baumholder will have their chance to let their voice be heard at the annual AFAP Conference at the Rheinlander Convention Center Feb. 19 and 20. The Conference begins at 8 a.m. and will run until 2:30 p.m. on both days.

Have you submitted your issue yet? An issue can be anything concerning the quality of life here in Baumholder or within the Army

community as a whole. Delegates are being selected to reflect the various demographics of our community. The delegates will be assigned to work groups that will be discussing the issues solicited from the community with the goal of obtaining resolutions. Everyone will have a voice so be sure to submit your issue today.

There are several ways to express your concerns for discussion at the conference. One way is to email the concern/issue and how you would fix it to the AFAP coordinator at Julie.Gowel@104asg.mwr.army.mil. Also, keep an eye out for the issue work sheets and drop boxes placed all around post for your convenience. Issues must be received no later than Feb. 11.

Spouses urged to get ready for redeployment

By Julie Gowel
Army Community Services
marketing

The New Year is underway and the buzzword on post is redeployment. 2004 is the year our Soldiers return and it is time for everyone in Baumholder to gear up for their homecoming.

This doesn't just mean cleaning up the house and shedding a few pounds before your Soldier returns, it means now is the time for you to kick off the reunion/reintegration process.

Army Community Service has been conducting reunion/reintegration training for Soldiers and their spouses since June 2003. Originally the program was targeted to spouses of deployed Soldiers but in October the focus shifted to the service members as they were coming back to Baumholder to either depart to a new duty station or separate from the Army. Members of the community have been hearing a great deal about the Baumholder Hero Day program over the last few months but as of Feb. 1 the center of attention will shift back to the spouses and getting them ready for the reunion of their families.

The goal of the reunion/reintegration training is to reduce reunion stress, improve marital communications and teach family members how to recognize conflicts before they happen. All Soldiers are required to attend this training but it is voluntary for spouses. ACS believes that having both partners in the marriage attend the training makes the

adjustment back to daily life much easier on the family unit as a whole.

The reunion/reintegration training can and should be taken without the service member before he or she redeploy to Baumholder. Since trainees will learn how to recognize signals and learn about potential behaviors that may indicate a need for help, it is better to have the knowledge prior to the Soldier's return. For example, there is a discussion group that deals with resolving family conflicts. This might include how to deal with a child's resentment to introducing the Soldier back into the family dynamic as a parent. Another hot topic is couple's communication issues. A point of interest there is how to cope with handling the finances jointly again. These are all issues that if thought about before redeployment, can save families from a lot of tension and frustration.

Any spouse can attend the training held every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. by calling ACS and reserving a space. Childcare is available provided the children are pre-registered with Community Youth Services and reservations are made with ACS in advance. Family readiness groups are urged to contact ACS to schedule training as a group. ACS will even come to you. Ask your FRG leader to contact ACS and schedule your next meeting with ACS. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 now to reserve your space or learn more about conducting the reunion/reintegration training at your next FRG meeting.

Suicide hotline

If challenges in your life are getting to be more than you can handle, you are not alone. Help is available by calling the suicide hotline. You can speak to a community chaplain directly by phone. There is no middle-person and everything is kept confidential.

The suicide hotline numbers are: mil 1988 (no prefix) or civ (06783) 999-2977

Sports physicals

Sports physicals are offered Feb. 12 and 26 from 3-6 p.m. and the Baumholder Health Clinic for children who will be playing in organized athletics this year. No appointment is necessary. Those interested should report to the first floor of the health clinic.

For more information call mil 485-7543.

Shop for bargains

The 2004 Baumholder Community Spouses' Club Spring Bazaar is scheduled Feb. 27 through 29 at the Hall of Champions. The doors will open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 29. Admission is free to all U.S. identification card holders and their guests. For more information call civ (06783) 188844.

Officer candidates

The 222nd Base Support Battalion will be conducting an officer candidate selection board on March from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Training Support Division small classroom, Building 8475.

The board is open to any qualified enlisted soldier who is interested in becoming a commissioned officer. Those interested must submit their completed packets to the 222nd Base Support Battalion Adjutant Office by March 11. For more information call mil 485-6788.

TIPOSH on line

Annual Refresher training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment is now available on-line and must be completed by March 31. This training is only for persons who have already taken the basic TIPOSH here in Baumholder. This is mandatory yearly training. New personnel or those employees/supervisors who have not taken TIPOSH must take the Basic TIPOSH in a classroom setting.

The next Basic TIPOSH will be offered Feb. 10 at the Training Support Division large classroom at 9 a.m. for supervisors and at 1 p.m. for nonsupervisors.

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

Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Thanks for your support

Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, talks with family readiness group leaders at Army Community Service during a visit to Baumholder Jan. 22. Ward fielded questions from the FRG leaders and thanked them for all their support of the Soldiers and of the current deployment. The general's wife, Joyce, seated second from left, accompanied the general on the tour that also included a tour of the installation to view completed and ongoing facility renovations.

Persons can access the automated Refresher TIPOSH program in two ways. To access this program go to the 222nd BSB homepage (<http://www.baumholder.army.mil/>) and (1) click on the EEO link on the top right or (2) click on the enter button on the top center of the page and click on the "Equal Employment Opportunity" link and then click on "Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (TIPOSH) refresher training is now available on line" link. Both of these options will take you to a page of instructions. The first option will only be available temporarily but the second will continue to be available.

Once completed, the program will automatically notify the 222nd BSB EEO office with your name and score. Please do not send a copy of your certificate to the EEO office. For more information call mil 485-7118/7450.

Think it over

Girl Scout Thinking Day is scheduled from 10 a.m.-noon, Feb. 28 at the Girl Scout Hut. Girl Scout Thinking Day is when each troop learns about a new country and represents them through dance, a skit, food or the like. Everyone is invited

to come out and see "thoughts in action."

Poland Express

Polish pottery shopping. Get your friends together and join Outdoor Recreation Feb. 6 for an express trip to Poland. The Cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Seats are limited so call mil 485-7182 today to reserve your space.

Fresh Ideas

Start Here

Let your voice be heard at the Army Family Action Plan Conference Feb. 19-20 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Call mil 485-6985 for more information or to volunteer.

Ready to reunite?

Army Community Services Spouses Reunion Training can help reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach signals that may indicate a need for help. Training is every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Child care is available when reservations are made in advance with ACS.

ACS will even go to you. Talk to your family readiness group leader about group training sessions or

call mil 485-8188 for more information.

Bowling center

The Bowling center is closed for renovations through March.

A different drum

Celebrate Black History month with a performance by BI-OKOTO, an African dance and music group Feb. 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Rheinlander Convention Center. For more information call mil 485-8779.

Need a job?

Check out the job fair Feb. 27 at the Rheinlander Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. mil 485-6046. Customers can obtain information about jobs in the community and receive on the spot interviews.

Go on safari

Take an exotic trip with On the Outdoor Recreation to the Frankfurt Zoo Feb. 28. The cost for transportation and admission is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. For more information call mil 485-7182

Leap year pizza

Come get your fill of leap year pizza at Rudy's when they'll offer a two for one Pizza night special Feb.

28. Pizzas must be of equal or lesser value. For more information call mil 485-8602.

Spring sports

Youth Services spring sports registration for baseball and softball is ongoing now through Feb. 27 for children ages 5-18. Volunteer coaches are needed. A skills assessment will be conducted March 6 and practice begins March 15. Call mil 485-7276 for more information.

Hit the slopes

Hit the slopes with Outdoor Recreation ski trips throughout February. A

Skiing and Snowboarding trips to the Black Forest are scheduled Feb. 7 and 24. The cost is \$35. A skiing and snowboarding trip to Austria is scheduled for Feb. 13-16. The cost is \$265. Call mil 485-7182 for more information.

Need a break?

Have a quiet dinner or enjoy a movie with the help of Parents Night Out Feb. 21 from 6-10 p.m. at the Wetzel Infant-Kindergarten. The cost is \$10 per child and children must be registered with Child Youth Services. Space is limited so call mil 485-7003 today.

Get stuffed

Get stuffed at the Rheinlander Sunday brunch Feb. 1. Two sittings are offered to meet your schedule from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$12.50 for adults and \$9 for children ages 10-15 and \$6 for ages 6-9. There's no cost for children 5 and under. Reservations are required and may be made by calling mil 485-7507.

Nurture your creativity

The Arts and Crafts Center is offering numerous instructional classes:

Feb. 12, Quilting Class, "Valentines Wall Hangings," \$25.

Feb. 14, Valentines Day, "Children's Ceramic Party," \$5

Feb. 21, Kids Play Day, "Making Fasching Masks" \$5

Call mil 485-6687 for more information or to register.

Get greased

Get your hands dirty with instructional classes at the Auto Skills Center. Basic Auto Maintenance is offered Feb. 12 and 26 and Introduction to Brake Systems is offered Feb. 3 and 17. All classes begin at 2 p.m. and are free with bay rental. Call mil 485-6117 for details.

SNAP needs help

Baumholder's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is looking for volunteers to help keep the community safe. For more information call mil 485-8669.

Problem solving day a hit at Smith

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The faculty at Smith Elementary School has so many problems that they have given up and decided to let the students solve them all. Students dedicate an entire day at least once a quarter to solving problems that the faculty has allowed to accumulate.

There is so much to do that each student visits at least four teachers throughout the day to see what they can do to help the faculty members with their dilemma.

It may appear that chaos rules supreme and the students have their work cut out for them, but in reality what the students are doing is learning how to solve problems systematically.

They call it Problem Solving Days and it is an initiative dreamed up by the Smith faculty.

"We had the first one in March last year and then we had another one in May, one in October and then this one in January. Our goal is to have it once per quarter. It was an idea that the staff came up with last year to really bring the community in as part of our school improvement," said Helen Balilo, Smith Elementary School vice principal.

This means that parents are also a key element of Problem Solving Days. "The last Problem Solving Day we had almost 200 parents that came. Even with the deployment

affecting 89 percent of the student body, parent participation was high," said Balilo.

The parents help teachers run the students through the numerous problems they must accomplish. One station where parent participation is high is in the gym where all the kindergarteners and younger students are involved in numerous physical activities.

"The students use a four-step problem solving process across all curricular areas that includes to understand, plan, do and review," said Balilo. The process is known to students and faculty as UPDR or "Up Doctor."

"There are a number of activities for the children throughout the day and all of the teachers are involved in the process, even the nurse," said Balilo.

The students work with at least four different teachers during the day, their homeroom teacher and then three other teachers. "The teaching teams have flexibility about how they want to divide the students up. For example, our fourth and fifth grade classes have four groups going around. They took kids from each class to make a different class so that they're working with different children too. This gives them an opportunity to be with other students," said Balilo.

The day begins with a kick-off celebration. "That's when Bill Rose, Smith Elementary School principal, dresses up as the "Up Doctor." He



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Maria Segura, Sure Start assistant, helps her daughter Maciel, a sure start student, work her way through a maze set up at the gym as part of the school's problem solving day. It was a hands-on fun kind of day for the younger students while the older students concentrated on more academic related problems.

has this crazy yellow wig and his doctor's stethoscope and his lab coat and he does different things for the students," said Balilo. "We also have some girls who are the 'Up Doctor' cheerleaders. They do cheers for the UPDR. It's a lot of fun and the kids get really excited," said Balilo. "Today it was snowy so we all met in the gym and it worked out fine. Usually we have it outside. All the children gather at the blacktop

area and we make a giant square and then we have the people in the middle to get them excited. A lot of parents come out for that because they like the hype of that too. It's exciting, you know, it's fun. Another thing that we offered today is a family advocacy presentation to parents during the part of the day when the students are moving from class to class," said Balilo.

The parents learned about stress

management, anger management and reunification. "We're planning to do more things like that with the other problem solving days. For the next one we're going to focus on how to use the "Up Doctor" at home to help the kids with their homework and the rush of getting kids out of the house in the morning, to have the 'Up Doctor' help parents get their child ready for school," said Balilo.



Haley Hustead, left, and Prince Owusu are deep in thought after the teaching team proposed a problem to a combined fourth and fifth grade class.



Michele Fischer, kindergarten teacher, helps Aaron Scott determine what sort of insulation is more effective against cold objects, wool or blubber (cotton or cooking oil) as Alexis Long looks on.