

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Lt. Col. Thomas Palmatier conducts the U.S. Army Europe Band at Wiesbaden's Hainerberg Chapel Dec. 9. Photo right: Dexheim Mayor Hans-Jochen Gerlach and Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion commander, give their holiday wishes to the attendees at the Dexheim Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 11.



Photo by Jolly Sienda



Photo by Jolly Sienda

Santa listens to youngsters' wish lists in Dexheim.

Celebrating the season Communities go all out to enjoy holidays

By Jolly Sienda

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A host of special activities welcomed in the holiday season in Wiesbaden and Dexheim.

Santa Claus, a red fire engine and lots of smiles turned out for the Dexheim community tree lighting Dec. 11. The evening got under way with a prayer from Chaplain (Col.) Douglas McCready and holiday wishes from the mayor of Dexheim and Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, commander of the 221st Base Support Battalion.

As the tree switch ignited a blaze of color to the oohs and ahs of the crowd, children grouped together in front of the podium and sang Christmas carols under the stars.

Santa Claus arrived on a flaming red wagon, straight from the North Pole, escorted by the Dexheim fire department to cheers from the audience. The wide-eyed children gathered around Santa and the fire engine taking in its splendor.

While Santa's elf and a brown bear entertained a portion of the crowd, Santa and the children made their way to the portrait, sleigh and craft tent to enjoy cookies and hot cocoa.

"This is such a great turnout," said Cricket LeMasters, spouse of Lt. Col. Clark LeMasters, 123rd Maintenance Battalion, who is currently serving in Iraq. "So many of our Soldiers are deployed, and for the families left behind, having Santa Claus here with all of the trimmings is special."

Every child had an opportunity to have an instant photo with Santa Claus on top of his sleigh. Crafts and wish list letter writing to Santa were also popular with the children.

Christmas also is a time for sharing in the joy of music. The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus performed at Wiesbaden's Hainerberg Chapel to the enjoyment of both American and German guests. Christmas favorites such as "Silent Night" and the "Christmas Song" were sung to an appreciative audience. The show had a little something for everybody, including a quartet performed by Soldiers in desert uniforms to a Persian holiday song, an Israeli dance and singing number, and the Hispanic community was represented with the song "Feliz Navidad."

From the Dexheim and Wiesbaden communities we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Soldiers sing Christmas carols at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3. The event included refreshments and the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree.

Photo by Cassandra Kardeke



Photo by Jolly Sienda

Community members enjoy making a variety of holiday crafts at the Dexheim tree lighting.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by Spc. Susan Newsome

Santa Claus welcomes youngsters to the Dexheim military community tree lighting ceremony Dec. 11.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Kemper belts out a Christmas song at the USAREUR Band and Chorus concert in Wiesbaden Dec. 9.



Photo by Spc. Susan Newsome

Laura Waid, Morale Welfare and Recreation events coordinator for the 221st Base Support Battalion's Community Recreation Division (right), and her furry sidekick welcome Bundeswehr soldiers to the Dexheim tree lighting.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Staff Sgt. Dominique Rollins, an air traffic controller with the 3-58th Aviation Regiment, describes her job at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Photo right: Chief Warrant Officer 3 James G. Berberich tells Hainerberg sixth-graders about the various aircraft used in military aviation to transport people and equipment.



Flight history comes alive for youths

Army aviators share experiences with Wiesbaden sixth-graders

Story and photos by Jolly Sienda

221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

A visit to Wiesbaden Army Airfield gave Hainerberg sixth-graders a firsthand look at 100 years of aviation history. One hundred and

thirty-five sixth-grade students from Hainerberg Elementary School visited Hanger 1034 as part of a school project to learn about flight history from the Wright Brothers to modern aviation.

"The children have been involved in a series of aviation his-

tory projects for over a month," said Pat Schiener, sixth-grade social studies teacher. "All of the educational disciplines we teach have been incorporated in this project."

Student research

"The students have written newspaper articles and have performed historical skits," said David Brown, sixth-grade language arts teacher. "The students are given a timeline; they have to research and present 10 events using the who, what, when, where and why of investigative writing."

The science and math departments also were involved in the study program. "All the kids either paired up or made airplane models

themselves," said Peggy Lee, sixth-grade mathematics teacher. "They will all compete with their airplanes on flying distance, time in the air and their model design display. It's been a great learning tool for them because they have had to read and follow model directions, learn about measurements and geometric angles, which is all reading, science and math comprehension."

Touring aircraft

With a team of pilots and aviation experts from the 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 214th Aviation Regiment, and 3-58th Aviation Regiment, the children spent several hours touring two fixed-wing planes. They had the chance to climb aboard a Cessna

Citation and a C-12, both of which are used to ferry high-ranking military passengers, and a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

"It took us a couple of weeks to put this together for the children," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Stoddard of the 159th Medical Company. "We are really excited to have them here today, because they are so enthusiastic, ask great questions and want to learn," said Stoddard.

Carly Evans, a sixth-grader, proudly showed her project, a list of 20 aviation definitions she and her classmates were assigned to ask the pilots during their tour. "This is just awesome," said Evans. "We are learning all about which planes are the biggest, fastest and even the smallest."

Duplicate bridge players invited to compete

American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned duplicate games are held each Wednesday in Wiesbaden.

Here is your chance to socialize, earn master points and compete against some of the best American bridge players in Germany.

Games are held at the Johannes Gemeinde on Hauberisse Strasse 17 in Wiesbaden Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Call Joseph Silva at civ (0611) 307 834 for more information

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes ... Community news notes

Chapel activities

Chapels throughout the Wiesbaden and Dexheim communities host several events during the holidays. **Hainerberg Chapel** hosts a Protestant Candlelight service from 7-8 p.m. Dec. 24; Midnight Catholic Mass from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Dec. 24; Children's Mass from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 25; New Year's Day Mass from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 1. **Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel** hosts a Gospel Watch Night service from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31. **Dexheim Chapel** celebrates a Children's Mass from 5-6 p.m. Dec. 24; and a carols and readings service from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

Commissary hours

The Wiesbaden Commissary will be open Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 29 (the Monday before New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be closed Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

New Year's Eve party

Not sure where to go to ring in the new year? Join the party at Victory Point Bar at the Community Activities Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dec. 31. The party starts at 8 p.m. and will feature food, music and party favors. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750 for tickets.

German Post Office

The German Post Office at Wiesbaden Army Airfield is open

Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Spouses welcome at inprocessing

Spouses of Soldiers are encouraged to attend inprocessing with their sponsor at the Welcome Center. Inprocessing is an important tool in integrating new Soldiers and families into the Wiesbaden community. Classes include safety, Army Community Service and Army Family Team Building, education, force protection, beginning German and more. For more information call mil 337-5419 or civ (0611) 705-5419.

Tax preparers sought

The Wiesbaden Tax Center is looking for volunteers to prepare tax returns. All volunteers will be offered free certified training Jan. 20-23. For more information call mil 337-4722 or civ (0611) 705-4722.

Playhouse auditions

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse hosts auditions for the upcoming production of "The Lilies of the Field" Jan. 6-7 at 7 p.m. Four adult males and five females are needed for the production. Call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473 for details.

Housekeeping service

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers housekeeping services for Hainerberg, Crestview, Aukamm, Dexheim, Mainz-Kastel, Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Finthen housing areas. People living off post may also be

eligible for this service. Call civ (0171) 751 2762, (06732) 933 326 or email squeakyclean@t-online.de.

Flu shots available

Free flu shots are available at the Immunization Clinic at Wiesbaden Health Clinic for civilians and family members. The Immunization Clinic is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-11:30 a.m.; 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednes-

day and Thursday; and from 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesday. Be sure to bring your shot records. For more information call mil 337-6633/7413 or civ (0611) 705-6633/7413.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month in Room 210 at the Welcome Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers breastfeed through mother-to-mother support and information. The Rhein Main area LLL meets the fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825 for more information.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Post notes

Help your friends

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. The basis of the program is to promote designated drivers and sober ride programs.

These programs are essential in preventing DWIs and saving lives. Individuals often will drink alcohol, drive their cars and not get caught for DWIs. This act is repeated over and over again until a career is ruined or there is loss of lives. Every time I or you let a friend drive impaired, we are setting us all up for failure.

This holiday season let us all adopt one person to look out for and don't let that person drink and drive and lose. Friends truly do not let friends drive drunk.

Credit union down

All Service Credit Union branch offices will have limited hours of operation on the following days:

□ Dec. 24 and 31, all branch offices will close at 1 p.m.

All Service Credit Union branch offices will be closed on the following holidays:

□ Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Branch offices will resume normal hours Dec. 26.

□ Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. Branch offices will resume normal hours Jan. 2.

Honored cadet

Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Justin Beasley was selected as cadet of the month for November by a board of senior cadets of the 6th AJROTC Battalion at Baumholder American High School. Beasley was selected for superior demonstration of JROTC procedures and knowledge.

Beasley, 13, hails from Alexandria, La. For fun Beasley enjoys video games, basketball and running. Beasley is in the eighth grade and likes spaghetti, pizza and hot cheetos. His mother is Spc. Yvette Beasley, of the 90th Postal Company.

BSB focus

Bowling center upgraded

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

It's no secret that Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division will be returning soon after their yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Baumholder is priming itself to greet them.

Beyond the numerous welcome home ceremonies, reintegration into the community and general decompression from a combat environment, the 222nd Base Support Battalion is also focusing on readying some of its facilities for the returning Soldiers so that they may better enjoy their time off. One such facility is the bowling center.

"The community has been waiting for many years for either a renovation or a new bowling center," said Greg Galloway, Directorate of Community Activities director. "Be-

cause of the reprioritization of bowling centers here in Europe, we're not going to get a new bowling center any time soon, but we have support from the 104th Area Support Group commander and the Installation Management Agency-Europe director to do a real nice renovation that will include a new lounge and a strike zone theme snack bar," said Galloway.

The renovation will go beyond the snack bar and lounge. Everything inside will be replaced. "There will be new scoring systems, new furniture, new pin setters, a new kitchen. Basically it's going to be a totally new facility," said Les Quick, bowling center manager.

The overhang at the entrance will be enclosed and turned into a new lounge. The entrance will be spruced up with foliage to eliminate the center's present "back door entrance" look.



Photo by Patricia Inbody

Girl Scouts send messages

Girl Scouts and their parents wait while an assistant parent for the Baumholder Girl Scouts adjusts her camera to record digital holiday messages of mothers and their Girl Scout daughters to send downrange to deployed soldiers in Iraq. There was no shortage of messages sent downrange during the holidays as the Baumholder High School video class also recorded messages and the 104th Area Support Group contracted two video crews to visit Baumholder and record messages at the dining facilities while families enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal.

EEO refresher training now online

Refresher Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment is now just a mouse click away. This training is now online and is only for people who have already taken the basic TIPOSH here in Baumholder.

TIPOSH refresher training is an annual requirement and must be successfully completed by June 30, 2004. New employees or those employees or supervisors who have not taken TIPOSH must first take the Basic TIPOSH in a classroom setting.

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

The training can be accessed in two ways. To access this pro-



gram go to the 222d BSB homepage (www.baumholder.army.mil/) and click on the EEO link on the right side of the home page. Or click on the enter button on the top center of the home page and then click on the "Equal Employment Opportunity" link. Once

there, click on "Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (TIPOSH) refresher training is now available online" link. Both of these options will take you to a page of instructions. The first option will only be available temporarily.

Once completed the program will automatically notify the 222nd Base Support Battalion EEO office with the test taker's name and score. Employees successfully completing the test will be prompted to print a certificate for their records. This certificate is only for the employee's records and does not have to be forwarded to the EEO office.

For more information call Norman Estrada, EEO manager, at mil485-7118/7450 or civ (06783) 6-7118/7450.

Support continues for deployed Soldiers



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Siggi Zimmer, center, owner of the the Berghof Hotel, works with Soldiers and family members to prepare the last shipment of packages this year to Soldiers downrange.

Support from the city of Baumholder for deployed Soldiers has not wavered since the first care packages were sent earlier this year. Another 140 packages were sent downrange Dec. 4 to single Soldiers.

Working jointly, Siggi Zimmer, owner of the Berghof Hotel, and Tina Olsen, a military family member, organized and collected donations from numerous community organizations. Those contributing were the Vegas Bar, 50 packages; Hotel Berghof, 25 packages; International Car Import/Export Abbas, 25 packages; Sunshine Grill, 25 packages; Sun Studio Tropical Heat, five packages; Kitchen Team Berghof, five packages; and the DRM office Baumholder, five packages.

Homemade Christmas cookies were donated by the Hotel Berghof, the German Protestant Children Service Baumholder and Melanie Hinze, a newspaper reporter with the Saarbrücker Zeitung. Since the program began, more than 700 pack-

ages have been donated by the community.

"This is the last action before Christmas. We want to make sure that the Soldiers in Iraq receive the packages before Christmas," said Zimmer. Organizers were quick to point out that this does not signal the end of the program. Zimmer and Olsen said the support effort will continue after Christmas.

Representatives from all of Baumholder's deployed units showed up to receive packages for their deployed Soldiers. This ensured each deployed unit benefited from the support effort.

"I have received information from downrange that the Soldiers really appreciate these donations. Some even share the packages with their fellow comrades," said Olsen.

Pro Baumholder, an organization of local merchants, is the driving force in the civilian community that is keeping this program alive.

They also donated 100 Christmas packages especially for the spouses of deployed Soldiers.

New service helps avert annual weather panic

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Oh my God it's snowing — this never happened in Texas. How are the kids going to get to school? How am I going to get to work? No way am I driving in these conditions. I could slide off the road in the dark and somebody will find me two or three days later with my hands frozen to the steering wheel.

The first white flakes and icy roads catch many who are not used to inclement weather by surprise, but there's no need for panic. The 222nd Base Support Battalion is on top of the situation and will provide inclement weather advisories to the community through radio and television.

Baumholder's primary source for broadcasting inclement weather conditions this winter is the new Baumholder Information Channel. If inclement weather hits, information will appear on the ticker tape that runs across the bottom of the screen.

The channel may be found by conducting a channel search on the television and should appear on channel 3 or 4. For those who can tune their television to a specific frequency, the channel is available on frequency 67.250. Because all televisions are different it is virtually impossible to provide a step by step set of instructions on finding the channel.

Weather information will also be available on the AFN radio affiliates that broadcast from Kaiserslautern and Frankfurt.

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

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

□ Road conditions are also heard in English on the German radio sta-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The first snowfall of the year covers a village during the start of last year's snow season.

tion RPR 1 at frequencies 98.1 FM, or 103.3 FM.

□ To obtain additional information during duty hours call your unit or the 222nd Base Support Battalion operations officer at mil 485-1530. After duty hours call the 222nd BSB staff duty personnel at mil 485-6150 or civ (06783) 6-6150.

When inclement weather hits a community, the road conditions and any delays or cancellations in work, schools or other community services as determined by the local commander are promptly reported to AFN radio.

By about 5 a.m. the AFN affiliates in Kaiserslautern and Frankfurt begin airing inclement weather conditions and other pertinent information.

The new Baumholder Information Channel will begin announcing road conditions, delays, cancellations or advisories as soon as the information becomes available.

Weather advisories

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

Like clockwork, once the first snowflakes hit the ground

Baumholder residents reach for their phones and inundate the 222nd BSB command group and Military Police with an avalanche of questions like "Are the schools closed?" "Is the post closed?" "What facilities are closed and which are open?" "Is it safe to drive to the PX or commissary?"

Community residents should not call the Military Police as the influx of calls will tie up the phone lines and prevent their timely response to a possible emergency.

The panic that ensues with the first snowfall of the season was not as intense last year, mainly because the snowfall was not as severe.

Color blind

Confusion breaks out annually when residents begin to interpret the definition of the color coded road conditions that are reported by AFN and who they apply to.

During adverse weather conditions people often mistakenly believe a road condition advisory such as "Amber" or "Red" applies to all motorists. This is not the case. Here are a few facts that may help.

Just the facts

The most common weather related report heard over AFN radio

and television and other alert channels pertains to road conditions. A road condition report applies only to military vehicles and restricts operators to various degrees of travel. It does not apply to civilian vehicles. Motorists traveling to work in their own cars should use road condition announcements to help them take appropriate safety measures when traveling to and from work.

Some AFN affiliates will report actual road conditions, such as icy, slippery, snow covered, etc., instead of color code conditions for military vehicles. These notices may be used by motorists driving their personal vehicles to determine appropriate travel plans.

Late for work

Another announcement often heard during adverse weather is a delay in reporting to work. If AFN reports that all Baumholder personnel are authorized a two-hour delay in reporting to work, this means that motorists have two additional hours to report to work. It doesn't mean people should roll over and go back to sleep.

The intent of a delay is to allow staff who don't live close to their

work a reasonable amount of time to report to work in a safe manner. Those who live on post or do not commute are expected to report to work on time.

The third and most extreme action a commander may take is to close an installation as a result of dangerous weather conditions. This means that all facilities are closed — including schools, commissaries, exchanges and shopettes. It does not mean everyone has a day off to go shopping or run errands. For one, all these places will be closed. People should not be out on the road during extreme inclement weather.

During a post closure or a delay, military and civilian mission-essential personnel should coordinate their reporting times with their chain of command as appropriate.

Accountability

Another aspect of closures and delays is the accountability for missed work hours. Military members do not need to record this downtime. However, if a military member was on leave during a closure, that day will be counted as leave.

Civilian employees are placed on administrative leave during a post closure. Those on leave during a closure will remain on leave, just as military members. This applies to American and local national civilian employees.

A post closure does not affect the leave status that a member might be on during that time. Civilian employees who don't live near their place of work may determine on their own if they can make it to work or not.

If civilian employees think it is unsafe to travel, he or she must report that time as regular leave (except during a post closure) and tell their supervisors. The bottom line is: use common sense.

ACS hosts open house with Christmas spirit

By Julie Gowel

Army Community Service marketing manager

Christmas carols rang out along the halls and the "ho, ho, ho" of jolly St. Nick set the stage for a day of holiday cheer as Baumholder Army Community Service held its first Holiday Open House Dec. 5.

The ACS staff spent weeks preparing for the event, sending personal invitations to more than 150 people and handing out over 1,400 candy canes to the community at both the post exchange and the commissary.

As community members entered the Army Community Service center Dec. 5, they were greeted by what looked to be a winter wonderland of magic and excitement. A glittering tree, 13 tables filled with holiday refreshments including non-alcoholic Glühwein, cookies, finger sandwiches and the

quickly famous hot nonbuttered rum, and children's movies playing in the lounge were just a few holiday favorites eager celebrators could enjoy.

Children enjoyed sitting on Santa's lap. Santa was gracious enough to take time out of his busy schedule to support the ACS mission of providing real life solutions for successful Army living. Adults had the opportunity to meet the team of employees who not only host holiday events, but who help the community every single day in so many ways.

Some of the ways the ACS team helps families include obtaining information about their new location when they are about to depart, offering household items through the Lending Closet for people who are awaiting their household goods and assisting family members with special needs through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

The driving force behind hosting the Holiday Open House was to give families and soldiers a fun reason to come into ACS and learn about all the programs and services offered.

A few staff members worthy of special note are Melissa Schaffner, Doris Price and Jenny Gerber. Schaffner did a great deal of food preparation and was able to borrow sterling silver serving ware from the Baumholder Community Spouses Club that added an air of elegance to the decor.

Price wowed not only the staff but many guests as well with her gourmet cooking.

Gerber put an immense number of hours into delivering invitations and standing at the PX and commissary to be sure ACS spread the word to as many members of the community as possible.

Commander sees community as family

By Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs
222nd Base Support Battalion commander

Throughout the world the holiday season is a time for families and friends to come together again. This is everyone's wish for the holidays, to be together as a family again after a long, busy year.

Even though many families aren't complete this year at this holiday time, I see us all in the Baumholder community as one large extended family; a family that includes Soldiers, spouses, the children and teens of our community, some grandparents, our civilian employees and their families, and our German hosts.

Some of you will travel to your families. We wish you a safe journey and we'll see you again when you return.

Some of you will find your family in your friends here. Celebrate friendship this holiday season.

I ask you to continue to take care of each other and continue to look out for one another. This closeness

is what makes Baumholder a great community.

Soon we shall all be enjoying the excitement of the Baumholder winter. Snow and ice will come. Be prepared.

Be patient. Be safe. That goes for you children out there too. Enjoy the snow, but think about what you are doing. Take care of yourselves and your friends too.

As this year comes to a close, we can now pause briefly, reflect on all we have accomplished, make some time in our hectic schedules to enjoy the company of our families and loved ones and prepare ourselves for the challenges of the new year.

As Soldiers and military families you all make a sacrifice for your country, a sacrifice to preserve freedom and peace.

My family and I offer each and every one of you our personal thanks for your selfless service to our Army and our nation. We wish you and your families a joyous holiday season.



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, his wife, Renee, son, Austin, and daughter, Alexie, take the first coach ride around the housing area next to the Rheinlander Club after the annual community Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Santa Claus used the horse drawn coach to make his appearance.