

## Inside

### Reader feedback

"Keeping a positive attitude," is the hardest part of duty in Iraq, said Sgt. Grant Calease in this week's survey. See page 2 for more.



### Grappling in Giessen

High school wrestlers converge on Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center for a day of challenges on the mats. See page 27 for a look at the action.



### Adventures in the powder with AFRC

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers-Europe have expanded their R&R program to include redeployed Soldiers on block leave. See page 28.



# Herald Union



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Photos by Dennis Johnson

Air Force Staff Sgt. Judson Osborne, 1st Operational Support Squadron, and Wiesbaden's Pfc. Joshua Meister, 3-58th Aviation, control air traffic at Balad airfield in Iraq.

## 'My bags are packed and I'm ready to go'



Soldiers line up at Balad airfield to catch a U.S. Air Force C-17 flight out of Iraq.

## Gearing up to welcome Soldiers home

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A visit by a team of operations and logistics specialists from the 104th Area Support Group to units in Kuwait and Iraq was the latest effort to ensure redeployment, reunion and reintegration goes smoothly for Soldiers returning from duty as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The team, comprised of S-2/3s from the base support battalions and 104th ASG, a representative of the ASG's Directorate of Logistics and Col. George A. Latham II, 104th ASG commander, met with leaders from 1st Armored Division, 3rd Corps Sup-

port Command, 130th Engineer Brigade and other V Corps units to detail the ASG's overall reintegration plan and discuss redeployment issues.

"We went to plan and coordinate the redeployment, reunion and reintegration of Soldiers in the 104th ASG footprint," said Maj. William Boice, 104th ASGS-2/3. "The mission was requested by the 1st Armored Division and we started the process back in October. The plan was to bring the base operations side of the house to Iraq to talk out the details.

"We wanted to let the Soldiers know that we are ready for them and that we'll take good care of them upon their return," said Boice.

"The biggest gain for all was having the BSBs represented by their S-2/3s who were able to talk out the details of what reintegration should be like, have their plans approved by the downrange chain of command and in turn take that information back to their local BSBs for implementation."

With redeployment plans calling for more than 15,000 Soldiers to flow back into local communities through summer, U.S. Army Europe and local community officials have been extremely active ensuring that all aspects of the massive move go smoothly. Once Soldiers arrive and are welcomed home with a ceremony, they will begin immediately a seven-day, half-day reintegration process

aimed at providing them with all of the tools to jumpstart their lives back in garrison.

"It's very Soldier friendly," explained Lt. Col. Steve Steininger, 104th ASG chief of staff. "They will only be working four or five hours a day to give them plenty of time to spend with their families and friends.

"What we're about to do is not something new," he said. "We've been busy bringing back individuals and smaller units since Operation Iraqi Freedom began. The system is pretty well established. What we're doing is expanding the program to incorporate the larger numbers of returning units and Soldiers."

See Welcome home on page 3

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

## Engineers lay foundation for post-war Iraq

Soldiers from Hanau's 130th Engineer Brigade tied up a few loose ends at LSA Anaconda in late January. As they prepared to transfer authority to the 420th Engineer Brigade, from Fort Hood, Texas, and begin their journey home, the Soldiers began to close the circle on a nearly two-year cycle that found them planning, supporting and often leading the American invasion of Iraq that began March 21.

"We did the breach, we cut all the lanes, filled in the ditches, tore the wire out of the way, marked everything for



Col. Gregg Martin, 130th Engineer Brigade commander

the attack into Iraq, so we were the tip of the spear," said Col. Gregg Martin, 130th Engineer Brigade commander. "All the key battles, we were there doing engineer stuff in every one of them."

Martin's troops established logistical support areas, put down tactical bridging, opened runways, built landing strips and helipads, cleared roads and sometimes led attacks. When combat forces took control of Samawah, Najaf and Karbala, the attacks were led by 130th Engineer Soldiers driving giant D-9 bulldozers, said Martin. "They actually led the attacks into these cities, basically pushing rubble and tanks and obstacles and mines out of the way so the advance infantry guys could get to their targets."

When the Marines moved into Baghdad, "the engineers

See Engineers on page 4

# Commentary

## Feedback: What's the hardest part of duty in Iraq?



**Spc. Jonathan Ochoa**  
19th Support Center

"I would say being out here is like a pause in my life, to kind of look back and see what I've done before. I have had a lot of time to think. Being single I think it's been good for me. One thing I learned out here is lots of people try to make friends, but you have to be your own friend first. It makes you a stronger person."



**Sgt. 1st Class Monica Herron**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Corps Support Command

"Being away from family. My husband's deployed as well. Being away from the kids."



**Spc. Brandon Brown**  
19th Support Center

"Keeping everybody together as a unit, bringing up good unit relations. You've been trained to do your job. Doing your job is the easy part, it's the interaction with the other Soldiers is the difficult part. You must all come together to get the work done."



**Spc. Marlyce Rogers**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Corps Support Command

"Pulling guard duty for 12 hours straight on Tower 6 because we have to deal with a lot local nationals entering the compound. You have to keep monitoring the situation till they leave the area."



**Staff Sgt. Hope Mullen**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Signal Battalion

"Being away from your family. Having to deal with the stress of war. Being there with others and seeing them go through it. Keeping each other up — that's the hardest."

## Letters to the editor

### 'To be a Soldier means hope'

**Editor's note:** The following letter from Col. Michael C. Sevcik, 16th Corps Support Group commander, was excerpted from an email describing the events surrounding his base in Taji, Iraq, in the opening weeks of the new year. Sevcik described how convoys were hit by explosive devices maiming several Soldiers and eventually killing Spc. Luke A. Frist of the 209th Quartermaster Company, how the unit's liaison officer, Maj. Roy Carlton of the 19th Support Center, died of a brain tumor while on R&R leave, how another Soldier, Staff Sgt. Craig Davis of the 603rd Transportation Company, died when a helicopter he was being transported on was shot down west of Baghdad and how a mortar attack on Logbase Seitz killed yet another Soldier, Pfc. Jesse Misner of the 542nd Maintenance Company.

"What you may ask is the point of the multitude of deaths and casualties our Team 16 Soldiers have endured during this first bloody week of 2004. There are several.

"While the capture of Saddam several weeks ago has reduced the number of attacks on American Soldiers, Iraq remains a very dangerous place. An evil wind still blows here in the face of our national treasures — our Soldiers who are giving the gift of freedom to the Iraqi people. They continue to serve our nation and Army — often at a horrific price. Even as things are improving here in Iraq, there are still some very bad places. There are still some tough times ahead. But I'm very optimistic that we are turning things around. Most of Iraq is stable and improving — lots.

"I can't tell you how proud we are of our Chaplains Corps and what magnificent support they are giving to our Soldiers. Chaplains here in Iraq are honoring our fallen

Soldiers in memorial ceremonies, running the unit ministry programs and often putting themselves in harm's way to complete the mission. They give all of us a stronger faith, hope for the future, especially when we are hurting from the pain and love of country. But we should change the chaplain's age-old saying, "There are no atheists in a foxhole," to "There are no atheists riding shotgun on a gun truck through the heart of the Sunni Triangle."

"To be a Soldier means hope. Soldiers destroyed Saddam's evil regime in less than a month and caught him several months later. Soldiers are on guard in this global war on terror and Soldiers here are suffering and paying the price of freedom everyday. Soldiers here keep the peace and give hope for the future to the Iraqi people.

"Keep Team 16 and all the Soldiers assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom in your thoughts and prayers. Unlike other wars in our nation's history the traditional jobs of supply, transportation and logistics are much more dangerous than in previous wars and conflicts. Our Team 16 Corps Support Group has more than 3,000 Soldiers assigned from the active, reserve and National Guard forces. We have both stateside and Germany-based units. To date our Team 16 has had six Soldiers killed here in Iraq. Every fallen Soldier is a lost national treasure. We've had almost 100 Purple Heart decorations awarded to our Soldiers who shed their blood for this cause.

"I know it has been a sacrifice for all the families back home. Our nation and our Army and all of us here in Iraq are in debt to families who endure the family separation and hardships. The good news is that we'll be home soon."

**Col. Michael C. Sevcik, 16th Corps Support Group commander, AlTaji, Iraq**

### A salute to all Soldiers

As I think about all of you who are working harder than you've ever imagined, striving to achieve the greater good for those less fortunate, I realize now how lucky I am.

President George W. Bush labeled you well when he called the combined countries the "coalition of the willing." The men and women of the U.S. armed forces should be labeled as the "coalition of hearts" for it takes those with heart to give to those who need. America's greatest triumph is not a celebration of winning a war, but the victory of giving the American heart.

God bless all of you — you serve our

country well. The history you've made, the stories you'll have to tell your children as you continue your work — know that we are proud of you — for giving of yourself in honor of the Red, White and Blue.

This was written as tribute to my stepfather, Sgt. Ralph J. Garnes, of Company C, 1-36th Infantry. For it is he and the rest of the men and women of the U.S. military who deserve to be saluted for keeping our country safe.

Thank you very much and God bless.

**Angel Wagner**  
Sebring, Ohio

## Herald Union

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## News flash

### OCS screening boards

The 222nd Base Support Battalion in Baumholder and 414th BSB in Hanau will hold Officer Candidate School boards in March to interview potential OCS candidates for possible referral to the Army's board to be held in May. Soldiers interested in appearing before the Hanau board March 12 should call Sgt. Vershinin at mil 322-8144 or email [filipp.vershinin@104asg.army.mil](mailto:filipp.vershinin@104asg.army.mil). Those wanting to appear before the Baumholder OCS board March 17 should contact Sgt. 1st Class Draught at mil 485-6080 or email [damon.draught@us.army.mil](mailto:damon.draught@us.army.mil). Candidates must have their OCS packets completed and reviewed by their chain of command before the local board is held. Refer to Army Regulation 350-51, U.S. Army Officer Candidate School, online at [www.army.mil/usapa](http://www.army.mil/usapa) (under "Administrative Pubs") for a guide. Call Arthur Cheney at mil 323-3001 for additional information.

### Civilian pay raise

The 2.1 percent pay raise for civilian employees authorized by the president on Jan. 23 will be retroactive to Jan. 11. However before it can take effect an Executive Order must be issued addressing how the increase will be split between base and locality pay. After the order is issued the Office of Personnel Management will publish new salary tables and the adjustments will be processed. As in 2003 not all employees will receive the retroactive pay increase at the same time with the change taking place over several paydays. Specific dates will be published once they are available, officials said. (*Defense Finance and Accounting Service Release*)



### Safeguarding information

There may be times when your spouse cannot talk about the specifics of his or her job. It's very important to conceal and protect certain information such as flight schedules, ship movements, temporary duty locations and installation activities, just to name a few. Something as simple as a phone discussion concerning where your spouse is going on temporary duty or when deploying can be very useful to someone wishing to use it for terrorist or criminal activities. (*Courtesy of the 104th ASG S-2/3 Security Office*)

### Committee seeks parent

The Army in Europe Exceptional Family Member Program Oversight Committee and Working Group seeks a parent representative to serve as a member of the group. The group meets to review and evaluate EFMP programs in Europe, initiate improvements and policies and increase awareness of services for exceptional family members. If interested in getting involved contact your local EFMP manager at Army Community Service or William Cannon, Installation Management Agency-Europe EFMP coordinator, at mil 370-7423. (*IMA-E Public Affairs*)

### Black History Month bash

The 104th Area Support Group and 414th Base Support Battalion Equal Opportunity Offices invite everyone to celebrate Black History Month Feb. 21 from 4-7 p.m. at the International Club on Hanau's Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Dr. Shirley Sheck, Gelnhausen Elementary School principal, will speak and the event will also feature family entertainment, an African clown show, free food, prizes, a fashion show and more. Call Sgt. 1st Class Gayden at mil 323-2012 for more information.

### Cell phone abuse

Users of government cell phones are reminded that they may be used for government business only. Use of government-paid or leased cell phones for private calls is prohibited.

## Keeping your pay straight

### Finance commander reminds redeploying Soldiers to file travel claim, end entitlements

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Staying out of trouble financially is not all that difficult for most people.

This is especially true with local Army finance officers ready to make Soldiers fully aware of their entitlements, tax breaks for serving in a combat zone and follow-up obligations to stop their entitlements and file a travel voucher to collect their per diem upon their return.

While the main body of Soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom will receive financial advice and support during their seven-day, reintegration workshops, some may have already returned or may slip through the cracks and bypass an important obligation to end their combat zone/danger pay entitlements.

"My main concern is education," said Lt. Col. Tom McKenna, 39th Finance Battalion commander, "reaching those people who have come back and failed to stop their entitlements. The ones I'm concerned with are the roughly 10 percent who have already redeployed."

"While the rear detachments have been good about getting the information out to people, some Soldiers haven't come in to stop their entitlements," said McKenna.

"The thing I don't want to happen is Soldiers coming back and continuing to get that roughly \$1,000 a month," he said. "We will catch it eventually and then they'll have to pay it

back. That's the thing I want to prevent.

"We're working hand in hand with the 8th Finance Battalion in Baumholder to ensure the word gets out," said McKenna. "We'll make it as easy for the Soldier as we can. I want to make it as transparent as possible for the Soldier."

At the same time as stopping their combat zone entitlements, Soldiers must file their DD 1351-2 travel voucher to claim the \$3.50 per diem per day they are due. While that may not sound like a lot, after a lengthy deployment it can build up to a sizable sum, McKenna said. "Say a Soldier was gone for 365 days, that totals up to \$1,277.50."

Anyone who has questions or still needs to stop their entitlements and file a travel voucher should visit his or her local finance office immediately, McKenna said.

"Soldiers also need to know they can come to the 39th Finance at any time," he said. People with financial difficulties who may need help reworking their personal finances or planning a budget will be referred to the financial counselors at Army Community Service.

For more information about financial entitlements and obligations call Capt. Ron Steward at mil 322-8838 or Sgt. 1st Class Lincoln Wood at mil 322-9017.

For current military pay rates visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service website at [www.dfas.mil/money/milpay/pay](http://www.dfas.mil/money/milpay/pay). For current Cost of Living Allowance rates browse to [www.dtic.mil/perdiem/ocform.html](http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/ocform.html).

## Welcome home . . . . .

Continued from page 1

For a detailed look at how the redeployment, reintegration and reunion process will take place, Soldiers and families are invited to visit the USAREUR "Roadmap To Reintegration" website. It can be reached by browsing to the 104th ASG's home page at [www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil](http://www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil) and clicking on "Roadmap To Reintegration" at the top of the page.

During the week-long reintegration workshop, Soldiers and families will find a wealth of community resources aimed at helping them cope with and resolve any financial (*see related story above*), personnel, housing, transportation and other issues of concern. Representatives from throughout the spectrum of community support agencies will be on hand to describe the process, answer questions and help tackle issues.

"We want to ensure that they get everything they're entitled to and are afforded the opportunity to obtain the things they need," said Steinger.

During the process social workers from the Chaplains Office and Army Community Service will impress upon Soldiers and families that reunion takes time and not to have false expectations.

"We also want to make sure the communication skills are good with our single Soldiers," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Frank Bruning, 104th ASG deputy chaplain. That includes making sure that everyone is aware of how it can sometimes be difficult for individuals to make the transition. "We want everyone — Soldiers, spouses, children, girlfriends and boyfriends — to look out for signs of stress and depression. We all have a personal investment."

Once the reintegration process is completed, every redeploying Soldier will be given the opportunity to go on block leave. "The idea is that after having spent seven days on the ground, Soldiers will have let off steam and will be ready to go on block leave," said Bruning.

Even then help will be available in the case that Soldiers are still suffering from the strain of returning from a lengthy deployment to a combat zone.

"Making that transition from combat to peacetime is not



A team of 104th ASG and BSB operations and logistics specialists met with leaders from 1st Armored Division, 3rd Corps Support Command, 130th Engineer Brigade and other V Corps units in Iraq to work out reintegration details.

an easy thing," said Paul Matthews, 104th ASG director of community activities. "We're working with our chaplains, the medical command and Army Community Service to make sure we recognize the specific indicators for referring individuals to make sure they get the help they need and receive follow up care. It's a total community involvement."

Community officials have also been brainstorming to offer special opportunities for returning Soldiers and their families such as coupon books good for reduced rates at Morale Welfare and Recreation activities. The Armed Forces Recreation Centers in Garmisch are also offering special rates (*see page 28*).

After block leave units will begin the "reconstitution phase" — getting equipment back in shape and performing light training. "Within 90 days they (returning Soldiers) should be ready to go back to normal duty," said Steinger.

"Our greatest concern is that no one gets left behind in the reintegration process," he added.

# News and features

## Engineers

Continued from page 1

were right with them," said Martin. "They immediately went to work opening up the airfield, getting it repaired so we could land aircraft within 12 hours."

As American forces poured into the country, engineers facilitated their missions. "We supported all these guys with engineers — construction engineers, combat engineers, geospatial, bridging — you name it, we did it," said Martin. "The day we attacked we had fewer than 4,000 engineers in all of V Corps. By the time we got to Baghdad we had a little bit under 6,000. By June we had 19,000."

As initial combat operations drew to a close, the 130th concentrated on constructing base camps, said Martin. The chaos in the country, and in Baghdad in particular, led to new missions, known initially as Task Force Neighborhood.

"A lot of the things that we were going to do for the locals involving big money, big contracts, big strategy — it was very difficult for that big idea to get pushed down to where the average Iraqi in the street was getting any benefit," said Martin.

The problems included trash and raw sewage in the streets, schools, hospitals and government buildings looted. The situation in the country was dangerous and contractors were slow to move in to take on projects. A combined task force was organized and 130th got the go-ahead from V Corps to lead the mission.

"It was to go into the poorest Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad, the most neglected neighborhoods, and start doing cleanup, construction and put Iraqis back to work," said Martin. "After that, that was sort of the model, and everybody started doing that all over Iraq in all the cities." The work helped thousands of Iraqis in small ways.

"I think that's just a testament to the troops on the ground," said Martin. "They did such a great job. They love getting out, helping the Iraqi kids and doing good things to make life better in Iraq."

As the 1st Armored Division replaced the 3rd Infantry Division in Baghdad in May, and Combined Joint Task Force 7 was organized in June, the 130th's main mission became constructing base camps and sweeping supply roads to counter mounting attacks with homemade bombs, IEDs.

The brigade acquired a South African-made minesweeper that proved effective in hunting the devices, said Martin. The Army made an emergency purchase of eight additional units, and 130th set up a training academy for their own engineers and engineers from other divisions.

Brigade Soldiers continued to build base camps and other projects as they came up. "We have literally done every kind of mission," said Martin. "We've done lots and lots of humanitarian civic action missions. We've been in charge of repairing schools, health clinics, Iraqi police stations. We've



Photo by David Ruderman

Pfc. Nathaniel Ellis (left) and Pfc. Justin Cole, HHC, 130th Engineer Brigade, perform vehicle maintenance in Iraq.

built bases for the new Iraqi army. We've done over \$1 billion of construction in Iraq. We've pretty much done everything."

Reconstructing Iraq's infrastructure will continue long after 130th is back in Germany, he said.

"I think that as Iraq becomes a safer, more secure environment — and it's getting better everyday regardless of what you see on television — as that continues, the guys after us will be able to put a lot more emphasis on long term, substantial improvement of the Iraqi civilian infrastructure, which was really neglected for 30 years under Saddam."

A Project Management Office has been organized specifically to deal with the rebuilding, said Martin.

"They're going, for the next couple of years, to take \$18 billion in U.S. appropriated funds, and pour it into major infrastructure construction inside Iraq. What we have done is the initial, early work. We've built the base camps to securely and safely house our coalition forces so they can do the security mission. There will continue to be more base camp development because it's still pretty austere, so we'll improve that."

The future of Iraq depends in large part on rebuilding its infrastructure, said Martin.

"This country can become an absolute economic juggernaut. As long as we stay the course and ensure that the terrorists don't drive us out or we don't quit the fight, which is what their strategy is by the way ... to kill and wound coalition [Soldiers], wear down public opinion at home and cause us to quit. We leave, they win. So we can't quit, we have to stay. But by staying, they can't defeat us."

"We can get this country turned around. This is an incredibly wealthy country — oil, water, farmland. It has a port to the Persian Gulf. It has a very industrious, motivated populace with a very well-educated professional class. It has a lot of engineers, scientists and so forth. This place can be really, really a great advanced country, and I think you're going to see a huge step forward in that regard in the next year and then beyond.

"I think what you're going to see in the next years is much,

much more massive infrastructure development. And this is going to be funded by not only the U.S. government, but also by the Iraqis themselves once they get their oil industry back on its feet because it's such a wealthy oil country. And I think there are going to be lots of international donors that come in.

"It took 30 years for the infrastructure of Iraq to be in as bad a shape as it is today, so it's going to take several years to really ramp up this construction. But it's going to put hundreds of thousands of Iraqis to work. It is going to expand the economy. Once the oil and the electricity infrastructure are repaired, that then will open up the tap on this enormous wealth that this country has, and they're going to be able to fund themselves."

American Soldiers, the 130th among them, have brought that prosperous future closer to realization through their actions, said Martin. "It was hard, it was challenging, it required a lot of sacrifice. We mourn the loss of many lives and a lot of Soldiers who were wounded. That was tragic and painful. That said, on balance, I think this was a very exhilarating, painful, but positive experience for most of the troops.

"I think people can clearly see that we really have liberated a country of 26 million people from a brutal tyrant. It's one thing to have just heard about it on television or read about it in the newspapers. But [it's something else] to have seen it, and to see the terror and the fear that these people lived in, to have seen the torture chambers and the hanging gallows and mass graves, and the absolute poverty that these people lived in while he [Saddam Hussein] spent the nation's wealth on wars, untold quantities of weapons, extravagant houses that are just mind-boggling ... while his people lived in dirt, in mud huts.

"So I think you have to feel good about having set these folks free and accomplished the mission that our country gave us to do. I think on balance most people are clearly better Soldiers. I think most of our troops have emerged from this very challenging trial as better people. I think we're more cohesive and motivated probably as individuals and as a unit than we were before.

"All that said, a year is a long time, and folks are ready to get on back home and get on with another phase of life," said

Martin, noting the important support his Soldiers have received from their families and friends.

"Thank you, and a great job by all the folks back home. They're kind of the unsung heroes in the whole thing. We're down here doing our mission, but that's what we signed up with the Army to do. Our life is challenging, but it's relatively simple. The folks back

home — in many ways their experience of the last year has been more complicated and challenging than what we've gone through. There are just so many things they've had to deal with. So I'd like to say thanks to the families. I'm just enormously thankful and proud of them."

Martin's remaining Soldiers were in good spirits and looking forward to going home.

"At this point it's just turning in our equipment," said Spc. Jacob Ramsey, a nuclear, biological and chemical specialist with the 130th's Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "Going home — that's what everyone's talking about, and how great it'll be."

"We've gone to war with this unit. We've made a name and people know who you are," said Pfc. Justin Cole, a communications specialist, with HHC, 130th.

"You never think a 19- or 20-year-old is going to be a war veteran, but we did it," said Cole's fellow communications Soldier, Pfc. Nathaniel Ellis. "It's an experience I'll never forget. I just say good luck to all the units that are here and still coming."



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Hanau Soldiers might recognize a familiar sign outside a dining facility on LSA Anaconda.

## Trash: Reduce overflow by recycling properly

By Cassandra Kardeke  
221st Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Trash is piling up around the community. The way to take care of this heaping problem is to make a change in how residents dispose of their trash, officials said.

"The biggest problem right now is the fact that not everyone in our housing areas is recycling," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion commander, during a recent Town Hall.

Several residents complained about garbage piling up on curbs and overflowing trash containers during the community forum. Others complained that recycle bins are shared among too many residents and fill quickly.

"We are aware of the problem and are looking into adding more recycle containers throughout the housing areas," said Franks.

In the meantime residents are reminded of the proper use of the recycling containers. Recycling in Germany is a way of everyday life and mandatory for all soldiers, civilians and their families stationed at installations throughout U.S. Army Europe. If you haven't yet become an experienced recycler, it can be a challenge to get into the habit. There are many different recyclable items in Germany that Americans may not be used to discarding.

Officials recommend taking the following steps to start a simple recycling system in your home if you live in the greater Wiesbaden community:

\* Start off with two different colored garbage cans for your kitchen. This will help you and your family get started. One can should be for recyclable garbage and the other for biodegradable compost.

\* Now for the Gelbe Sack, more commonly known as the "yellow bag." If you don't have any of the German yellow bags, be sure to pick them up at the Home Improvement Store in Hainerberg. Then decide which can to put the yellow bag in and keep it that way so that no one gets confused. Although there are pictures on the yellow bag describing what items may be discarded in it, there are only three main types of items — **metal**, including all aluminum cans, plates, lids and aluminum foil; **plastic**, including bags,

bottles, jugs, bowls (such as margarine or yogurt containers) and Styrofoam; **cartons**, including milk cartons and vacuum-sealed bags.

\* Recycling bins. Throughout the housing areas there are recycling bins labeled "Altpapier" and "Altglass." All types of paper can be placed in the Altpapier bin including newspapers, magazines, catalogs, brochures, office paper and flat cardboard (other forms of cardboard can be placed in the "Cardboard" bins, but must be broken down). What cannot be placed in these containers are pizza boxes, milk cartons or photographic paper. Staples, tape and plastic windows on envelopes must be removed from items before being discarded.

\* Altglass containers can normally be found subdivided into three sections, clear, green and brown. Be sure to rinse the bottles and remove the caps or lids before discarding them. This bin is not for window glass, mirrors, porcelain or lightbulbs. These items can be tossed with your regular trash.

"Sometimes it's a matter of just taking a little extra time when recycling," said Franks. For example the cellophane wrap on a pack of cigarettes can be removed and placed in the yellow bag while the cigarette package can be placed in the paper receptacle, he said.

Now that you have the basics down also consider:

\* Hazardous waste. Many items and household cleaners around the house are considered hazardous waste such as oven cleaners, paints, fertilizer, insecticides, disinfectants and aerosol cans. Whether full or empty, if you are finished with any of these items they should be taken to the Home Improvement Store in Hainerberg Housing.

One way to help determine if your household waste has hazardous components is to read the labels on products. If the label reads danger, warning, caution, toxic, corrosive, flammable or poison then it is more than likely considered a hazardous waste and should be recycled through the Home Improvement Store.

Hazardous materials constantly found lying around throughout housing areas are tires. After putting on that new set or changing

tires on your car, be sure to take the old ones to the Home Improvement Store for recycling.

\* Other items that many people are not used to recycling are batteries. Not just car batteries which can be taken to the Home Improvement Store as well, but regular household batteries such as AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries must also be recycled. These items can also be dropped off at the Home Improvement Store or in one of the bins located at the shoppettes throughout the community.

It may seem like a hassle, but just making a few changes in how trash is discarded can make a big difference in housing areas. Doing one's part not only helps make the world cleaner but also helps save valuable resources.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

### Fifteen minutes of fame

Daniel Hartwich (left), a disc jockey for the German radio station YOU-FM, interviews Duane C. Domingo, reservations clerk at the American Arms Hotel. Domingo won a contest sponsored by the new radio station in which the station aired a 15-minute segment from the Arms Hotel.