

## Giving a little goes long way for local youths

By Jolly Sienda

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Once in a while you may meet someone who truly gives more than he or she expects to receive. That can be said for 20 pre-school-age children, led by Teresa Rains, lead education technician and Gwen Eggleston, assistant education technician at Hainerberg Child Development Center.

The group gathered hundreds of children's toys that were just sitting in the children's

closets and donated them to the Al-Baroodi Elementary School in Baghdad. The Iraqi school has more than 350 students.

Rains' husband who is currently deployed to Iraq agreed to facilitate the toy exchange for his wife. The donation resulted in hundreds of toys including dolls, teddy bears, trucks, Beanie Babies and stuffed animals. Some of the children in Iraq had never owned or even played with a toy before.

"The kids would say in class that their dads and moms were taking care of the bad guys," said Rains. "We told the children that there are children in Iraq who need help too," she said. This got the children thinking, and pretty soon several of them brought toys from home that they were not using.

"Once one child brought toys the others wanted to as well. Some of the toys had to be repaired and sewn which was easy to do," Rains said. A special toy that a child no longer wanted could not be sent to Iraq because of its size — a large

stuffed Scooby Doo dog; however, one of the children nominated himself to be the adoptive parent of Scooby.

Children in Iraq were not the only beneficiaries of the donations. A magazine and book drive spearheaded by the children has been

thriving for over a year.

"At one point we could barely keep up with the sheer number of books and magazines that were donated," said Rains. "The libraries have been our greatest support. Dexheim, Darm-

stadt and Wiesbaden libraries have really come through for this program."

Book, magazine and crossword puzzle shipments are mailed downrange weekly. The drive got started with blue boxes that featured children's hand prints reaching out and beyond for the Soldiers sent downrange. This small gesture from the children has paid off more than they ever had dreamed possible.

Many pictures, letters and thank you cards have been sent to the Hainerberg Child Development Center from appreciative Soldiers in Iraq thanking the children for their kindness.

"For Mrs. Rains Infants and Toddlers class: Best wishes for 2004 and thanks so much for your prayers, support and the books and magazines. You're the reason we do what we do. Thank the toddlers, infants and their families too," wrote Capt. Jeremy Gottshall, 27th Transportation Battalion, stationed in Balad, Iraq.

"Hello, I am currently deployed to Balad, Iraq. I am writing this letter to say how much the Soldiers appreciate all of the gifts that have been sent to us while we are deployed.

"A lot of soldiers

have not been receiving any mail from home, and when people like you go out of your way to help us out, it's a very warmhearted thing. We appreciate the amount of support you guys have for the Soldiers out here.

"This is a very sad time for a lot of the families back home as well. But thanks to caring Americans such as yourselves you have made this feel a little more like home. We are very thankful for people like you," wrote Spc. Shameka Appel, also of the 27th Transportation Battalion.

Donations are still being taken at the Hainerberg Child Development Center. Call mil 338-7166/7729 or civ (0611) 380-7166/7729 to help donate items for Soldiers downrange.

Photos courtesy of Hainerberg Child Development Center



**"I am writing this letter to say how much the Soldiers appreciate all of the gifts that have been sent to us while we are deployed. A lot of Soldiers have not been receiving any mail from home, and when people like you go out of your way to help us out, it's a very warmhearted thing..." — Spc. Shameka Appel, 27th Transportation Battalion**



Children in the Infant and Toddler Room at the Hainerberg Child Development Center pack a box of toys to be donated to Al-Baroodi Elementary School in Iraq.

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

## Conference focuses on community issues

**By Cassandra Kardeke**  
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Every one has an issue. No matter how big or small, there's always an idea for improvement.

Those issues brought together over 100 people within the 221st Base Support Battalion communities earlier this month to sort through and work out resolutions to make life a little bit easier for everyone.

Over the past few months BSB officials have surveyed the community asking for suggestions and issues to be discussed during the Army Family Action Plan Conference held Feb. 4-6 at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center.

### Oodles of issues

"This year we have 108 issues on the table from the Wiesbaden, Dexheim and McCully communities," said Mary Ferguson, AFAP coordinator at the beginning of the conference.

Delegates including youths, spouses, Soldiers and family members were grouped into four committees and tasked to sort through all the issues and decide the top three issues

for their respective group.

"I've been involved with AFAP for the last three years. All of you are my heroes because you are here to take on hard issues that can make a difference for the military, their families and civilians," Lt. Col Christopher Franks, BSB commander, told the delegates during the conference.

### Top 12 issues

After spending two days researching issues, talking to subject matter experts and devising resolutions, the delegates briefed Franks on the following top 12 issues:

- ✓ Sponsor accountability for family member conduct
- ✓ Antiquated phone system in USAREUR health care facilities
- ✓ Availability of USAREUR dental care
- ✓ Commissary produce
- ✓ European commissary produce pricing
- ✓ Civilian employment tracking and reporting system
- ✓ Shuttle service operation throughout the BSB communities
- ✓ Thrift Savings Plan matching contributions for all uniform services occupations/specialties



Photo by Jolly Sienda

A Hainerberg Elementary School kindergarten class performs for volunteers at the 221st BSB's Army Family Action Plan Conference Feb. 4 at the Community Activity Center. The annual AFAP conference looks into quality of life issues affecting military and civilian families in the community.

- ✓ Speeding in housing areas
- ✓ Exterior lighting throughout military housing communities
- ✓ Adequate military housing standards
- ✓ Resident responsibility of military housing standards

These issues will now be tasked to the appropriate agencies for resolutions based on delegate recommendations. Although not every issue can be resolved, "some issues may get forwarded to the 104th ASG [Area Support Group] or may

go on higher to the Department of Army," said Ferguson.

Keep up to date on AFAP issue resolutions by checking the BSB website [www.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil) and future issues of the *Herald Union*.

### Exercise common sense to stay safe

## Time to go crazy during Germany's final Fasching frenzy

**By Robert Pierce**  
221st Base Support Battalion Safety Office

We are now in the middle of the German Fasching season. That means a lot of fun attending those famous meetings and assemblies of the German Fasching clubs and don't forget the balls, where you can dance the night away.

The Fasching season will reach its peak on the "crazy days" Feb. 21-23. It starts on Saturday in both Mainz and Wiesbaden with a children's parade and carnival which have a more family atmosphere.

In Wiesbaden the children's festivities take place at Luisenstrasse at 10:11 a.m. and in downtown Mainz at the Dom at 2:11 p.m. But the real events are the parades on Sunday, Feb. 22 in Wiesbaden and on Rose Monday Feb. 23 in Mainz. The parade is often more than six kilometers long.

Take advantage of the opportunity of being here in this area during that time and attend and enjoy some of the Fasching events.

The parade in Wiesbaden starts at 2 p.m. in front of the Rathaus and continues throughout the city. The best place to view the parade is on Rhein Strasse and Wilhelm Strasse.

Be sure to get there early.

In the Mainz area Fasching is as important as Christmas and the parade on Monday is one of the most famous in all Germany. An average of 500,000 people watch this parade



Photos by Karl Weisel

Topical floats satirizing current affairs are a large part of the Mainz Fasching parade.

as it makes its way through the inner city of Mainz. The Mainz parade will start at noon from downtown in front of the Dom and make its way through the main streets of downtown.

Enjoy the festivities and have fun, but don't forget that there are several hazards to be aware of.

Keep in mind that while standing in the street to watch the parades there is a lot of

pushing and shoving as parade participants standing on large decorated trailers throw sweets, pretzels and plastic toys into the crowd. There have been several occasions in which fatal accidents have occurred when spectators are pushed in front of the trailers.

Always watch as the participants toss those goodies. Those little sweets can do some damage to an eye for those not paying attention.



Mainz Fasching parade spectators get into the spirit of the occasion by donning costumes of their own making.

Horses participating in the parade have also been known to get excited and nervous because of all the people, loud music and shouting.

Alcohol is the biggest danger parade-goers will encounter. Many spectators carry a bottle of wine or beer and often offer it to other spectators for a sip. Remember the 0.5 blood alcohol limit. If you plan on drinking have a designated driver or use public transportation to get to Fasching events.

During this time the Polizei will also be increasing traffic checks.

Above all, enjoy this fun, "crazy" time and keep safe. Remember force protection and don't bring attention to yourself.

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Soldiers from 3rd Corps Support Command's 19th Support Center and Special Troops Battalion file into a hangar Feb. 3 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield upon returning from a year-long deployment to Iraq.

## 3rd COSCOM Soldiers welcomed home

Story and photos  
by Cassandra Kardeke

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs  
Office

While most of the Wiesbaden community was still sound asleep and snuggled in their beds at 4 a.m. Feb. 3, several families found themselves wide awake in a building adorned with flags, posters and red, white and blue ribbons.

Sitting in a hangar at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, family members and loved ones waved flags and held up banners as they awaited word of the arrival of Soldiers assigned to 3rd Corps Support Command's

19th Support Center and Special Troops Battalion who have been deployed to Iraq. As three buses pulled in front of the hangar with a Military Police escort the moment had finally arrived.

"They're here," cried several people as they fervently waved American flags and hoped to catch a glimpse of their loved ones stepping off the bus.

As Toby Keith's song "American Soldier" played in the background, one by one, the 93 soldiers walked into the hangar and into formation. "Welcome home. We're certainly glad you're back," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion

commander. After a brief speech by Franks, Col. John Hall, COSCOM deputy commander, welcomed the troops home and thanked the BSB.

"Thanks to the 221st BSB we were able to perform our mission and not worry about the families left behind. The BSB did a good job taking care of our families while we were away," Hall said.

Following the speech the Soldiers were released and wasted no time getting back into the arms of their families.

Later in the week Soldiers from the 27th Transportation and 205th Military Intelligence Battalion returned. Throughout the month the rest of the 3rd COSCOM Soldiers will be returning followed by the 1st Armored Division units later in the year.



Photo left: Families cheer as buses arrive with 3rd COSCOM soldiers. Above: Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Scott is welcomed back by his daughters Rebecca Scott and Heaven Murphy during a welcome home ceremony Feb. 3. Soldiers from the 3rd COSCOM continue to return home throughout the month of February from Iraq.

## Community Information Network Survey

### Goal is to serve you better

The Community Information Network reaches all 221st Base Support Battalion housing areas, the American Arms Hotel and the American Arms Office Tower. The channel consists of presentations with information about services, activities and events happening within the 221st community. If you are in the above areas and don't receive the channel you must re-program your television by selecting the program menu and having the television search for available channels. The CIN is typically available on channel 2 or 4.

The CIN is also available on the web at [www.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil). Click on Enter then click Public Affairs Office Community Information Network.

#### Where do you live?

- A) Housing
- B) Barracks
- C) Economy

#### How often do you watch the Community Information Network?

- A) Daily
- B) Two to three times per week
- C) Once per week
- D) Never

#### How do you find out what is going on in the Wiesbaden, Dexheim or McCully communities for you or your family?

- A) Community Information Network
- B) Herald Union
- C) AFN radio
- D) AFN TV
- E) Posters in the communities
- F) Other

#### If you are just learning about the CIN today, will you re-program your television to receive the channel?

- A) Yes
- B) No

#### What information would be useful to you on the CIN?

After completing the survey, place it in the box located in the main lobby of the community mailroom or send it to 221st BSB Public Affairs Office, Unit 29623, APO AE 09096.

# Tune in, stay informed

By Jolly Sienda

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Listen, look and see — there is information all around you.

The information and technology age continues to boom. We are constantly bombarded with information and information overload is a constant in our lives. A solution to where to get local information about what's going on in the 221st Base Support Battalion is to use the information services that the BSB Public Affairs Office offers.

"Information is out there and we are constantly trying to spread the word about services, activities and events throughout the community," said Cassandra Kardeke, public affairs specialist with the 221st BSB.

"We realize that people are busy working, raising their family, attending school, volunteering for community functions, and when there is leisure time people want to know about options in their community and on the economy for quality of life," she said.

Fortunately there are many information tools in place where people can get their information.

The 221st BSB web page at [www.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil) is just one of several information tools offered by the Public Affairs Office.

"We update it regularly with photos taken throughout the community," she said. The website also provides valuable information on services and organization phone numbers. Also found on the website is the Interactive Customer Evaluation form, better known as ICE. Members of the community can find hours of operation and phone numbers for key facilities as well as rate customer service, make suggestions or even complaints about

What's going on in the community? What services are available to Soldiers, civilians and families? Check out one of several information tools out there to keep you informed.

- ❖ Community Information Network
- ❖ [www.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil)
- ❖ Herald Union
- ❖ AFN television and radio
- ❖ Team 221st Hour
- ❖ Town Halls
- ❖ Community Information Exchange

facilities with the electronic comment card. "What's nice about ICE is that the comment or suggestion goes straight to the facility's director and will be acted on immediately if needed," Kardeke said.

In addition to the website the BSB offers a Community Information Network available to all TKS Cable subscribers in all the military housing areas, Anderson Barracks, Mainz-Kastel, McCully Barracks, Mainz-Finthen, American Arms and the Amelia Earhart Complex. Based on PowerPoint presentations, the CIN is a collection of colorful slides filled with information on activities, upcoming events and services offered throughout the community.

A special feature offered on the channel includes photos of Wiesbaden Soldiers in Iraq. The slides are updated several times a week. Along with the slides, a scrolling message can be displayed at the bottom of the screen.

"We are still working out the kinks on the message, but our goal is to have that availability immediately during an emergency or when we have severe weather," Kardeke said. For those living in housing who do not receive the channel, Kardeke suggested reprogramming

the television to search for channels. Once that is done, it should automatically pick up the CIN. For those not living in housing areas the CIN presentation can also be viewed on the website.

Another information tool widely used is the *Herald Union* newspaper. This biweekly newspaper features news and community information for all the communities within the 104th Area Support Group. Delivered every other Thursday, the newspaper can be found at the mailroom, dining facilities and shopping areas.

The use of local media is widely depended on by public affairs offices worldwide. Stationed overseas, a lot of information is passed out to the community through the American Forces Network. On television and radio, the BSB Public Affairs Office continuously feeds information to the community.

"With the assistance of AFN, we host the Team 221st Hour every Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m.," said Kardeke. Every week is set aside for a different topic with a guest speaker to talk about activities and services throughout the BSB communities.

If you have something on your mind that you would like to voice, there are Town Hall Meetings and community exchange meetings. Both Wiesbaden and Dexheim hold bi-monthly Town Hall Meetings, and a community exchange takes place on the last Tuesday of every month at the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

"The Community Exchange meeting is good because members of all of the organizations such as the commissary, AAFES, the health clinic, Provost Marshal and other organizations sit on a panel and update the attendees on the latest developments in their organizations. Naturally the floor is open for questions so it's a good time to speak your mind if you have a question or want to offer a solution," said Kardeke.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ames, 221st Base Support Battalion, and his family preview photos from downrange on the Community Information Network in their home in Aukamm Housing.

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

## Community news notes

### Job opportunities

Hainerberg Elementary School seeks a lunch/playground monitor, kindergarten aide, substitute teacher and an office automation clerk. For more information call mil 337-5160, civ (0611) 705-5160 or stop by the main office for a job application.

### Reunion workshops

Army Community Service hosts several reunion workshops for families and Soldiers returning from deployment. Scheduled workshops will be held at Dexheim ACS Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. and at Hainerberg ACS Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Reservations for the workshop must be made by noon the day before. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 for more information.

### Potluck observance

The 221st Base Support Battalion Equal Opportunity Office hosts a Black History Month potluck dinner Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility. For those planning on attending call civ (0611) 531 6412 or (0611) 532 9826 with the type of dish you wish to bring and the number of people in your party.

### Scholarship available

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club offers scholarships to high school seniors and adult students continuing their education. Applications are available at the Gen. H.H. Arnold High School guidance office, the Wiesbaden Commissary, Treasure Trove Thrift Shop and both Wiesbaden and Dexheim Education Centers. Applications must be submitted by March 1. For more information call civ (06134) 555 615.

### Women needed for career fair

In honor of Women's Heritage Month the Wiesbaden Girl Scouts



Photo by Jolly Sienda

### Snow day in Wiesbaden

Wiesbaden youths enjoy a snowball fight Jan. 29 after three to five inches of snow fell overnight closing area schools and delaying Soldiers and civilian employees for up to three hours while roads were cleared.

will host a Career Fair March 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Professional women are needed to present and speak about their careers. For more information call civ (0611) 360 7776 or send email to [gs322ah@yahoo.com](mailto:gs322ah@yahoo.com).

### PWOC meetings

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-11:30 a.m. Thursdays at the Hainerberg Chapel.

### Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers meet their breastfeeding goals 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 Wiesbaden's Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825 for more information.

### BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third

Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in Building 1052 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

### Spouses welcome at inprocessing

Spouses of Soldiers are encouraged to attend inprocessing with their sponsor at the Welcome Center. Inprocessing is an important tool for 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.

### Vehicle donations

The 221st Base Support Battalion vehicle storage lot cannot ac-

cept any more donations because of lack of space. Vehicles can be donated by calling Hollman's Auto at civ (06134) 3381 or the Hanau donation lot at mil 322-1610.

### Playhouse presentation

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "The Lilies of the Field," a heartwarming comedy of faith and dreams based on the classic Sidney Poitier film. Performances will be Feb. 19-21 and 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Hainerberg and Wiesbaden Army Airfield United Service Organization offices or by calling mil 336-2473, civ (0611) 816-2473.

### School fundraiser

Wiesbaden American Middle

School Parent Teacher Student Association hosts a bingo fundraiser Feb. 27. Cards go on sale at 5 p.m.; games begin at 6 p.m. For more information call civ (0611) 267 8676.

### School book fair

Wiesbaden American Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association hosts a school book fair Feb. 23-26 in the media center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents will also have an opportunity to order books Feb. 27 during parent-teacher conferences. For more information call civ (0611) 267 8676.

### Dance show

Dexheim Elementary School hosts the Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theater Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. The group performs traditional African drum and dance skits to promote cultural understanding of African countries. The performance is free and open to all ID card holders.

### Bridge players sought

Duplicate bridge players are invited to compete with the American Contract Bridge League every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Wiesbaden bridge club house at Marktplatz 13. For more information call mil 337-5190 or civ (0611) 307 834.

### Parent's Night Out

Team 221st Child and Youth Services offers a special Parent's Night Out for all reunited families Feb. 28 from 7-11 p.m. Child care for all ages will be available at the Hainerberg Child Development Center and School-Age Services building. For more information call mil 338-7610 or civ (0611) 380-7610.

## Post notes

### Need a job?

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

### Officer board

The 222nd Base Support Battalion will conduct an Officer Candidate School selection board March 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 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's Office by March 11. For more information call mil 485-6788.

### Anne Frank house visit

The 222nd Base Support Battalion sponsors a trip March 5 to Amsterdam to visit the Anne Frank house, a German-Jewish teenager, who was forced to go into hiding during the Holocaust. The bus leaves at 12:30 a.m. The trip is opened to all Soldiers, Department of Defense employees and family members from the Baumholder

military community. Family members age 16-18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information call mil 485-6510 or 1530.

### SAEDA briefings

Briefings on Subversion And Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army are scheduled for March 2 in the Wagon Wheel Theater. The English version begins at 2 p.m. and the one in German starts at 3:15 p.m. This is an annual requirement for Soldiers and civilians including host nation employees. Family members are invited. Units planning to have 10 or more attendees are asked to call mil 485-7386 to confirm seating availability.

### Need a job?

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### TIPOSH on line

Annual refresher Training In the Prevention Of Sexual Harassment is now available online and must be completed by March 31.

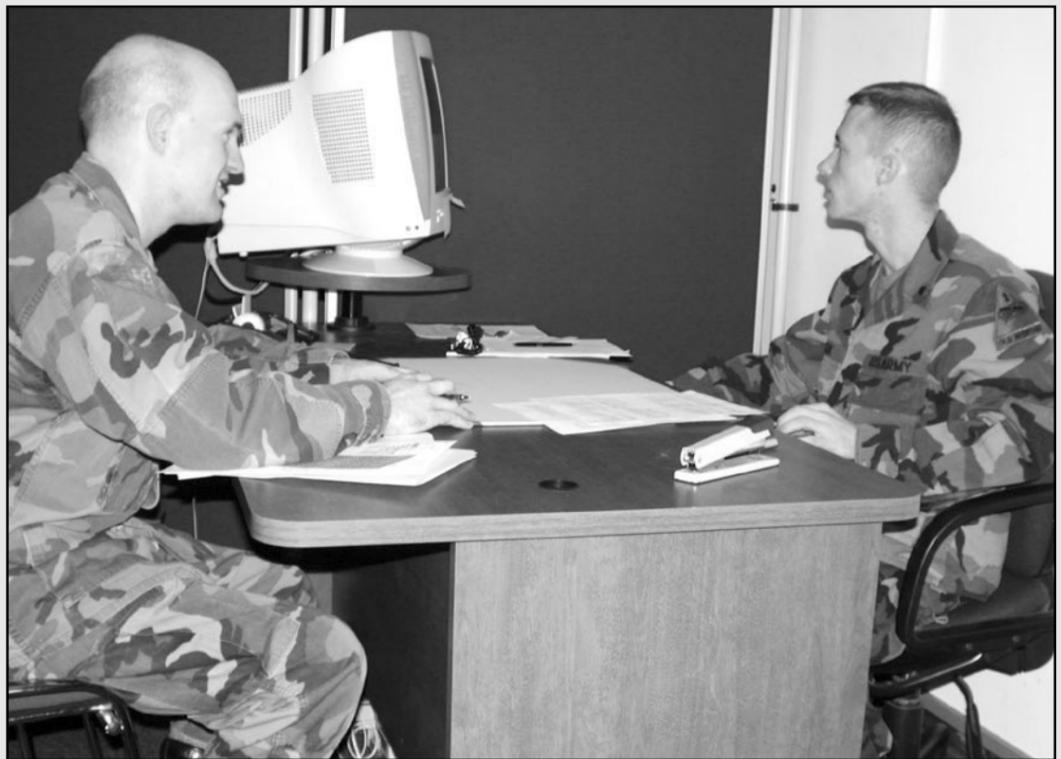


Photo by Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava

Cpl. Brian Cronoble, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4-27th Field Artillery, gets tax help from Spc. Jeremy Cook at Baumholder's Tax Assistance Center. The center opened Jan. 31.

## Tax center up and running

Baumholder tax center officials remind everyone their office is open for business.

The center is located in Building 8670, next to the Finance Office, Service Credit Union and Community Bank.

The center offers tax assistance preparation for federal and state income taxes, as well as electronic filing.

Tax center volunteers are prepared to offer free tax services to all service members, their family members and eligible Department of Defense civilians.

Internal Revenue Service

trained Soldiers and volunteers will prepare both federal and state tax returns.

Last year the BTAC saved many customers upwards of \$200 in tax preparation fees.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Customers may walk in or schedule an appointment. Appointments may be scheduled by calling mil 485-8644.

Customers must bring all W-2s, Social Security cards for all family members, military identification cards, all 1099 forms, a voided

check or banking information including routing number, a copy of their 1999 tax return and a power of attorney if needed. Customers will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire.

This questionnaire enables tax center personnel to expedite the customer's tax return. If a customer's taxes are complex, such as those that involve itemized deductions or child care providers, they must schedule an appointment. The center wants everyone's business and looks forward to serving the community.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava

### A different drum

Dancers from the African Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theater move to the sound of rhythmic drums Feb. 11 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. The group is sharing their cultural performances with U.S. military audiences throughout Europe. This is the second year they have performed for military audiences.

### Shop till you drop

The 2004 Baumholder Community Spouses Club Spring Bazaar is scheduled for Feb. 27-29 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.

Traditionally vendors from throughout Europe set up shop at the bazaar and offer an array of exotic items to select from. It's an excellent opportunity to pick up that special gift.

For more information call civ (06783) 188 844.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava

A shopper examines all that glitters at a previous Bazaar.

## Fasching madness peaks this weekend

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

If you've been living in Germany and have not heard of Fasching, you've probably been living in a cave and the U.S. military is looking for you.

The Fasching or carnival season reaches its peak this year Feb.

21-23. As is the custom in Baumholder, the carnival club has organized numerous events during these days that are open to the entire military community.

"The Americans are very much a part of the Baumholder community. They live, work and coexist amongst us and they have the right to play as we do," said Bernd Mai,

a Baumholder Carnival Club member.

"Not only are the activities open to Americans, but we encourage their participation so that we can share our cultures and continue to solidify the bond between us," said Mai.

One of the highlights of Fasching in Baumholder and just about anywhere Fasching is cel-

ebrated, is the traditional parade that includes dancing, music, fun and lots of noise. As the merry-makers parade down Kennedyallee Strasse, many throw candy to the spectators, sending the children and many adults into a gathering frenzy as they scurry to collect as many of the colorfully wrapped goodies as possible. Baumholder's Fasching parade begins at 2:11 p.m. Feb. 23

The parade stretches down Kennedyallee Strasse and ends at the Brühlhalle, where a large Fasching party for children ensues at 3 p.m.

"We hold our parade on Rosen Montag (Rose Monday) and like many other communities, we dedicate this day to the children. That's why the parade ends at the Brühlhalle with a large Fasching party for the children," said Mai.

A "sit-down" party will be held Feb. 22 at 7:31 p.m. at the Brühlhalle.

The party includes stage performances by community members, "roastings," music, drinks and lots of fun and noise. Although this event is also open to Americans, it is recommended that those who attend have a good understanding of the German language in order to fully enjoy the evening.

Translation services will not be available. Tickets for this event cost €8.50 and may be purchased by contacting Mai at mil 485-1600

or civ (06783) 6-1600.

How people celebrate Fasching may vary from one region to the next but two things are constant — noise and masks.

During Fasching, or Fastnacht, celebrations, dances and balls are accompanied by Kappen (caps) and masks. In many cities a carnival prince, referred to as "His Crazy Highness," is elected to lead, with his princess, a court of fools and spearhead the festivities.

In many communities the "Crazy Fasching Royals" symbolically occupy the "Rathaus" (city hall) to govern until midnight just before Ash Wednesday, when the merry-making and foolishness come to a sudden halt.

Baumholder's Crazy Royals take this tradition one step further. Together with their court, they descend upon the military community the week before Fasching and proclaim themselves to be in command until the festivities come to an end. During this symbolic ritual, the 222nd Base Support Battalion commander and the commander of the German military training area are relieved of command by the Crazy Royals. If this all sounds like a party just waiting to be crashed, then go out and get crazy with the Fasching experience.

A list of other Fasching activities are currently airing on the Baumholder Information Channel.



Photo by Madeleine Dwoiakowski

Prince Dirk I signs the 222nd Base Support Battalion guest book during a visit to the 222nd BSB headquarters where he proclaimed himself symbolically in charge until the end of Fasching festivities. With him is Princess Esther I, former Prince Bernd I and a reporter from the local German newspaper, the *Nahe Zeitung*.



Photo by Ignacio 'Iggy' Rubalcava

### Mega fest?

This massive fest tent will take up the entire parking lot in front of the Wagon Wheel theater but the only partying that will occur will be after the returning Soldiers finish their seven-day reintegration program inside this mother-of-all-tents that will remain in place until the last Soldier has returned from Iraq. The tent will be sectioned into seven areas, one for each portion of the reintegration process. The facility comes complete with lighting, telephone lines, online computers and everything else required for Soldiers to complete their reintegration process.

### FRG leader and FRL training

Don't miss the two-day training session March 4 and 5 from 8:30 a.m. to noon for Family Readiness Group leaders and liaisons. Child care will be provided, but reservations must be made one week in advance with Army Community Service. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

### Job orientation class, fair

Take advantage of the Employment Orientation Class at Army Community Service Feb. 17. This class includes insights into employment opportunities in the Baumholder community and surrounding area. Participants in the free class receive information concerning military spouse preference, defining federal and private sector opportunities, application procedures, basic Resumix start-up information and volunteer possibilities. Call civ (06783) 6-8188 or mil 485-8188 to reserve a space. Also be sure to attend the Employment Readiness Job Fair Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Participating agencies include (but are not limited to) the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Civilian Personnel, Nonappropriated Funds, Community Bank, TKS and the Service Credit Union. Call mil 485-8188 for more information.

## Athletic club concept combines services

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Anyone looking for a good physical workout like they used to get by going to the Rec Emporium or the indoor pool can forget about it because those facilities no longer exist — as individual entities.

Say hello to Baumholder's latest offering to customers looking for a good physical fitness workout, the Rolling Hills Athletic Club.

"The Rolling Hills Athletic Club

is more of a change in concept than a change in name," said Jeff Milkas, 222nd Base Support Battalion Community Recreation Division chief.

"What we did is we established a standard fee so that our customers can now pay one price and they have access to the entire facility," said Milkas.

Before, customers who wanted to use the pool paid one fee and those who wanted to use the fitness facility paid another fee.

"We changed the pricing concept because we want to make it

more of a club atmosphere for our customers," he said.

"A self-help renovation of the facility to make it more pleasing to the eye has been completed, but really the concept is not in the physical plan — it's more on how customers pay to use the facility," Milkas said. "We've made it more user-friendly. Our hours have increased. One of the problems we had before is that our hours were all over the board and it was difficult to remember when specific areas of the facility were open.

"For the most part we've made the hours more consistent so that when customers go to the facility the whole thing is open. Before, each facility had separate hours.

"By doing this we'll have more customers satisfied with the services because they'll get more bang for their buck," said Milkas.

Customers can buy a 10-day punch pass that's good for six months. There's also a daily fee of \$3 that customers can pay when they walk in the door. This fee allows them access to the whole facility. There are also extended passes available.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation determined that a distinct group of people use the pool and another distinct group of people use the fitness center side of the facility, and only 5 percent use both.

"So we priced the entire facility at the fitness side, which altered the overall daily fee from \$2 to \$3, but the other price changes, when purchasing extended passes, are much less," said Milkas. This new pricing scheme allowed pricing on the fitness side of the house to remain unchanged.

"Of course the daily fee is the most expensive way to go, but as you get into the other passes you'll note that the difference is like a cone, it (the price) gets smaller and

smaller," said Milkas.

The new prices for passes that allow customers use of the entire facility are: daily club pass \$3; 10-visit punch pass \$20; monthly club pass \$25; quarterly pass, \$65.

"You get a discount with the more you purchase," said Milkas.

The pricing for family passes has also been adjusted. The family pass costs double what a single pass costs, but allows the whole family access to the facility. A family of three, four or five would only pay the price of two passes.

"The facility's proximity to the golf course, driving range and camp grounds is the next logical step we're working toward. What we want to do is include the camp grounds in this package so that when people pay a fee during the summer to use the camp grounds they'll also get access to the athletic club," said Milkas.

"We've also talked with the golf folks about opening up the driving range at the same time as the fitness center and making this a package deal. We're working toward that end," he said.

The Rolling Hills Athletic Club is open to all military and family members and the same exception to policy that applies at the fitness centers for children 12-16 years old applies here.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The Baumholder indoor pool is now aligned with the fitness center as part of the Rolling Hills Athletic Club.

## Deployment benefits youth fitness

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Youth in the community are more than happy that their parents are deployed because they now have the run of Baumholder's fitness centers. The deployment has dealt the fitness centers at Smith Barracks, Neubrücke and Strassburg a shortage of customers so the 222nd Base Support Battalion turned a bad situation into a beneficial one for the youth of the community.

Youths age 12-16 have been given special permission to use the fitness centers while the deployment keeps the Soldiers away from Baumholder.

"The deployment has opened up lots of free time at these facilities," said Jeff Milkas, Community Recreation Division chief.

The program started Nov. 11. "It was set up as a 90-day trial, but we've asked for an extension from Installation Management Agency-Europe, which initially approved the exception to policy and opened the facilities to the kids," said Milkas.

The idea was coordinated with the

IMA-E sports director. "We threw ideas around to see what was good and what was bad about the program so we could make an informed decision," said Milkas.

"Children ages 12-16 don't really have enough to do so, at the time when they need us the most, we simply figured out how to open up the doors to children in these age groups. As a result we've had 10 percent of the eligible kids, about 40 children, come and take part," he said.

### Rules for use

There are a couple of formalities the children must go through before they can participate, such as reading the rules of the facility, making sure they understand the consequences of any misbehavior and signing the statement they read.

"At that point they're able to come in and play basketball, use the multipurpose areas or play racquetball without parental supervision," said Milkas.

After receiving their orientation and youth fitness card, youths are also able to use the new Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Like all other customers, children must pay a fee for the use of this facility. All other facilities such as the Hall of Champions, Mountaineer

Gym and the fitness centers at Neubrücke and Strassburg are free.

For safety and health reasons, children who wish to use the weightlifting equipment must adhere to stricter rules before using the facility. Younger children must be screened to ensure their bodies are able to take the stress of weightlifting. Parental approval and the presence of a coach are required.

Sports director David Jefferson works individually with each child who wants to use the weightlifting equipment.

"He's looking to make sure that kids who are 12-16 can handle the weightlifting. A great example would be kids who play football who want to get bigger and stronger so that they don't get hurt may be able to use the weights, but they have to have a coach or guardian present who knows what they're doing," said Milkas. "Of course when the deployment is over, the Soldiers will have priority in the facilities."

Children between the age of 12 and 16 may call mil 485-7176, civ (06783) 6-7176 or stop by the Mountaineer Gym to obtain an orientation and youth fitness card.

## ACS offers reunion training

Spouses are urged to jump on the reunion training band wagon and contact ACS to schedule their session today. Soldiers will be redeploying to Baumholder soon, and it is important for all family members to get equipped with the knowledge and skills to make the most of their return. 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.

The reunion/reintegration training can and should be taken without the service member before he or she redeployes 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 before 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 communication issues.

Contact ACS to learn how to schedule a training session for your FRG. If the training is held during the day child care is available provided the children are preregistered with CYS and reservations are made in advance. ACS can even come to your next FRG meeting at the location of your choice. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 to learn more.

# Cub Scouts get media savvy at Public Affairs

**By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**

*222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office*

A few tigers and bears are now a little smarter about Public Affairs. The tigers and bears are of the two-legged variety, ranging in age from 6-8 and belonging to Baumholder's Cub Scout Pack 96.

The Cubs dropped into the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office Feb. 6 to find out what Public Affairs and information gathering are all about.

"They have requirements they must fulfill in order to make their rank and in order to do that one of the requirements was to go to a newspaper or a public affairs office or some kind of information gathering place," said Kimberly McHugh, den leader for the Tigers and Bears of Cub Scout Pack 96.

The Cubs learned how information is gathered and then passed on to the community to keep everyone informed of everything from recreational activities to command news. They learned how Public Affairs uses the post newspaper, the *Herald Union*, the new Baumholder Information Channel as well as AFN radio and television to pass on news and information.

The Cubs also received an earful about community relations and



Photo by Kimberly McHugh

**Cub Scouts listen as Ignacio Rubalcava, *Herald Union* staff writer, explains how he gathers information and produces the 222nd Base Support Battalion's section of the newspaper.**

media relations. "Although they were quite young they showed a keen interest in learning how we work together with the local community to foster German-American relations," said Bernd Mai, public affairs specialist.

Visiting a Public Affairs Office or information dissemination center is nothing new for the Cubs. Previously the Cubs have gone to AFN in Kaiserslautern, "but because so many of the dads are deployed I wanted us to do it here on

Baumholder so they can learn and appreciate a little bit about their own community. K-town is close by, but this is their community," said McHugh.

"This is exactly what they were looking for ... the process of gath-

ering information and also the public affairs side, especially the German side because on German day we're going to talk about German-American relations," said McHugh.

During the annual Blue and Gold Banquet, Cubs who have completed all their requirements will be moving up in the ranks. Some of the Webelos 2 members will be moving up to the Boy Scouts. The banquet is scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Rheinlander.

For any boys interested in Scouting it is not too late to get involved. "We want everyone who's interested to please get involved. It's not too late if they want to find out about Scouts. Our boys can recruit them and they even earn a recruiting badge for bringing in another Scout, even this late in the year. It wouldn't be impossible for new Scouts coming in at this time of the year to earn rank because the end of the scouting year is in May," said McHugh.

The Cubs are also looking for help from parents in the community. "We'd like to encourage people to volunteer. We have a lot of people leaving so we're going to need den leaders and we're even going to need a pack cub master next year," said McHugh.

To find out more about Cub Scouting call civ (06783) 904 787.

# Children shadow community work force

Dozens of children traded school for work Feb. 2 as part of National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. The goal of the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day is to provide 1 million young people with job shadowing experiences.

"This is an opportunity to mentor a young person and introduce him or her to the workplace by being a shadow for part of the day,"

said Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer.

"Job shadowing demonstrates the connection between academics and careers, exciting students to learn by making their classwork more relevant.

"It builds community partnerships between schools and businesses that enhance the educational experience of all students," he said.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

**Staff Sgt. Edgardo Colon, cash control officer, explains how checks are tracked to Tony Moore and Christopher Tuncap as part of Groundhog Job Shadow Day.**



Photo by Julie Gowel

**Beth Curran and her son Corey man the customer service counter at Army Community Service.**