

1-4th ADA trains Iraqis in civil defense

Story and photo by
Capt. Wayne F. Rush
1-4th Air Defense Artillery Public
Affairs Office

A new company of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recruits graduated from their basic training at Forward Operating Base Falcon outside of Baghdad Jan. 8.

The last event in the five-day course was a graduation ceremony where the ICDC Soldiers joined their respective units. Following the graduation ceremony, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery — “By Daring Deeds” — hosted a reception for their first class of 31 ICDC graduates at the Radwaniyah Palace to welcome them to the unit.

The ICDC company’s motto is, “We fight for Iraq.” All the soldiers stood proudly in new camouflage uniforms with AK-47 assault rifles slung over their shoulders as the guests assembled in the reviewing stands. Presiding over the ceremony was the commander of 2nd Brigade, 82nd Air-



An Iraqi Civil Defense Corps joins the 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, Task Force 1st Armored Division, as they march past the audience during their pass and review at a graduation ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon in January.

borne Division, Col. Kurt Fuller. “You fight for a free Iraq and for the next generation. You will be their heroes,” Fuller told the graduates. Afterwards, the five ICDC platoons conducted a pass and review for their guests and then exited the parade ground with music of the 1st AD Band in the background.

The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps is

a force of Soldiers much like the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve. They are recruited from local communities to serve with the coalition units in their communities. The five-day basic training course taught them many of the professional Soldier skills they will need in order to fight alongside their U.S. Army comrades. Noncommissioned of-

icers trained the ICDC recruits during the course at FOB Falcon. They served as platoon sergeants and squad leaders for each platoon assigned to the unit.

The guardsmen learned basic skills including drill and ceremony, marksmanship, patrolling and first aid. After completing the last bit of paperwork at FOB Falcon, 1-4th

ADA’s graduates and their NCOs enjoyed a reception at the Radwaniyah Palace.

“You have proven that you are not afraid to stand up and fight for the liberation of your country and I want to personally commend you for your courage and your willingness to stand up for your country,” said Lt. Col. Jenks Reid, 1-4th ADA commander. “You are the citizen soldiers who will ultimately defend your families and your way of life once we move out of your country.”

“By Daring Deeds Soldiers look forward to fighting alongside their Iraqi allies to defeat the remnants of the former regime and the terrorists who fear this great nation’s free future,” Reid said.

Later in the month a second class of 128 ICDC Soldiers will graduate to join the ranks of 1-4th ADA’s force protection mission of Baghdad International Airport. These platoons will be followed by a third class of 33 to form an entire ICDC company.

LSA Dogwood: a legacy of support to 1AD, Iraq

Commentary by Capt. Patricia
Weinstein and Maj. William
McCoy

1st Armored Division Support Command

Iraqi guards with AK-47 assault rifles stood by watching the 1st Armored Division Support Command Soldiers as they mounted their vehicles for one last combat convoy along the supply routes that led from Logistics Support Area Dogwood to Baghdad International Airport.

LSA Dogwood’s mission ended in December 2003. It was the rugged home to the division’s support base for eight months.

DISCOM deployed to Iraq in May and co-located with the 3rd Infantry Division DISCOM. By virtue of the location, the Iron DISCOM assumed its support mission from 3rd Infantry Division in place at Dogwood and remained there until its closing.

LSA Dogwood presented innumerable challenges to protection and sustainment of its forces while completing its support mission. While tasked to support operations from 35 kilometers southwest of Baghdad, DISCOM Soldiers had to survive the harsh environment. Severe weather changes, storms and the unconventional nature of the enemy’s threat necessitated site improvements and increased force protection measures.

Always on guard

Combat convoy operations along ASR Sue and Tampa, leading to Baghdad, encountered over 150 different attacks including small arms, improvised explosive devices and rocket propelled grenades during daily supply runs. It was not uncommon for the unit’s Military Police detachment to discover 155mm artillery rounds daisy-chained to-

gether with remote detonation devices. Convoys were ambushed during daylight and darkness. The LSA was also subject to enemy attack. An estimated 62 enemy rounds landed within the base. Two Soldiers were killed during the eight months of logistical operations. While enemy fire was not always accurate, their activity and tactics were effective. Concrete bunkers were critical for protection.

Dogwood endured several attacks before receiving “Firefinder” radar and a platoon of Paladin Howitzers. Once in place, Soldiers were able to return fire and the LSA operated a firebase while performing its logistical mission.

Despite the hardships of the terrain and climate and constant enemy activity, DISCOM continued to improve life on Dogwood by constructing a gym, a dining facility and a post exchange. DISCOM Soldiers enjoyed evening concerts by the 1AD jazz band and other Soldier bands.

Rebuilding Iraq

DISCOM was also actively involved in the mission to rebuild Iraq and improve the quality of life for the people in the Euphrates River valley. Locally DISCOM civil affairs teams labored in the Jarf Al Sakhar area to improve living conditions for the local population. Daily interaction between the CA team and the local community provided the opportunity for the local business people to sell their goods and for Soldiers to learn Arabic customs while providing community services such as schools, potable water stations and a medical clinic. DISCOM also stood up the first Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Training Academy, training more than 2,000 guardsmen.



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanlis

A class of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recruits arrives for training at Logistics Support Area Dogwood. In addition to its logistics support mission, LSA Dogwood was the site of the first ICDC academy in Iraq.

When the time came to close, Soldiers worked to return the LSA in better condition than they received it.

There were several acres of raw materials, machinery and buildings that belonged to the Ministry of Oil and the Ministry of Minerals and Industry. Several weeks of manual labor took apart tents, bunkers, concertina wire, barriers and guard points. Soldiers collected refuse and disposed of hazardous materials.

Once the work was completed and inspected, representatives of the Ministry of Oil and Ministry of Minerals and Industry came to sign for the land.

DISCOM had a positive impact on the

welfare of the Iraqi people and the restructuring of Iraq.

Community residents presented the DISCOM commander with expressions of gratitude for the unit’s efforts in the area.

The efforts of DISCOM Soldiers will be remembered for years to come in the Euphrates River valley area near Dogwood. The motivation and resources of the DISCOM have influenced the Iraqi people to continue progress in their communities and restore their lives, free from oppression and fear.

The Soldiers of the DISCOM also learned something of their own tenacity and resilience in fighting and surviving some of the toughest times of their lives.



Local spotlight



Explore local restaurants for oriental flavors

Editor's note: This is the first in a series highlighting local restaurants and places to visit within the 221st Base Support Battalion military communities.

**Commentary by
Jolly A. Sienda**

*221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office*

There is no limit to finding places to dine in the Wiesbaden area. Whether your taste buds crave flavors from the Orient, Middle East or Europe, there's something for everyone in the Wiesbaden area.

Thang Long, owned by Thai Phuong Wu and his family, opened a little over a year ago featuring traditional family recipes from Vietnam. The friendly service extended by the Wu family makes patrons feel right at home. When the food is artfully presented on plate warmers, steaming with fragrant fresh herbs, it's hard to hold back and remember one's table manners.

The lunch menu is reasonably priced with dishes starting at €5 including the soup of the day or shrimp chips as a starter. If you like prawns, the Tom Xao Sa Nghe (number 270), served with lemon grass, coconut milk, curry and vegetables, is delicately spiced. The prawns are sweet and succulent, grilled to perfection in a bath of curry coconut sauce.

At the heart of Vietnamese cooking is spiced fried chicken. All of the chicken dishes are excellent. The Ca-Ry Ga, (number 407), is worth sampling not only because the chicken is so flavorful, but is also cooked with a combination of curries and crispy vegetables.

For vegetarians there is a host of vegetarian dishes offering various fresh vegetables, tofu and curries.



Photos by Jolly A. Sienda

Diners sample different dishes for lunch at the China Restaurant Mayflower in Mainz-Kastel. Several oriental restaurants can be found throughout the 221st Base Support Battalion military communities.

Be sure to save room for dessert. The light crispy fried banana served with whipped cream and chocolate sauce will make you put off that diet for another day.

Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. daily.

To get there from the airfield take B-455 toward Wiesbaden Stadtmitte, go through the tunnel in the direction of the Hauptbahnhof, Rhein Main Halle 54. The street then becomes Gustav Stressemann Ring. Passing the Hauptbahnhof on the left, the street becomes Kaiser-Friedrich Ring. Get into the left lane and turn left on Dotzheimerstrasse. Take another left on Stegenwaldstrasse and a right on Veilchenweg. The Thang Long is on Veilchenweg and Nelkenweg 1 at Wiesbaden-Freudenberg. If taking public transportation, bus number 23 from the Wiesbaden Hauptbahnhof has a bus stop across the street from the restaurant.

If sushi is more your style, check out Sakura Sushi, located off Moritzstrasse in downtown Wiesbaden. Within walking distance of the shopping district, Sakura offers an intimate lounge-like atmosphere. There are few tables as most people sit around the sushi bar. Japanese sushi chefs cut and prepare sushi using fresh salmon, prawns, seafood, steamed rice, wasabi and pickled ginger, then place them on bamboo thatched boats that sail around the bar.

Sakura offers a special lunch menu. Select any three sushi boat plates, including miso

soup and a drink for €10. Evening menus are served either by boat or on a Japanese cutting board offering a variety of fresh sushi selections. On Saturday starting at 6 p.m. until midnight the restaurant offers all you can eat sushi for €19.50. Sakura features take-out orders and large sushi menus for parties.

To get to Sakura Sushi from the airfield take B-455 in the direction of the Wiesbaden Stadtmitte. Follow the tunnel in the direction of the Hauptbahnhof, Rhein Main Halle 54. Drive past the Hauptbahnhof and turn right on Moritzstrasse (the second light after the Hauptbahnhof). Parking is free after 6 p.m. on Moritzstrasse, otherwise bring euro coins for the parking meter.

Sakura Sushi is open Monday to Thursday from noon to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to midnight and Sunday

from 3-11 p.m.

If Szechwan Chinese or Thai food is what you crave, the China Restaurant Mayflower located off Uthmann-Strasse 8, Mainz-Kostheim, just minutes from Mainz-Kastel Storage Station has dishes made to order for lunch and dinner.

Try the beef Szechwan for lunch. It comes



Sushi is prepared then set afloat on bamboo boats at the Sakura Sushi Restaurant located on Moritz Strasse in downtown Wiesbaden.

with soup or a fluffy, fried egg roll that is so light and airy it practically melts in your mouth. For those who enjoy crispy duck, there are several specialty dishes. One particularly enjoyable appetizer was duck served sliced julienne style with leeks and cucumber served wrapped in a thin pancake with smoky Hoi Son sauce.

There are also plenty of Thai specialties such as soups, appetizers and dozens of entrees to choose from. A good bet is the Da Naeng Gai (number T11), chicken in Thai curry tossed with roasted peanuts and coconut milk.

The restaurant is decorated with colorful Chinese vases, a giant Coi fish tank and elegant oriental wall hangings.

The Mayflower restaurant is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5:30-11:30 p.m. To get there from the airfield, take B-455 in the direction of Mainz-Kastel and turn left at the first stop light on Otto-Suhr Ring. Continue straight following the priority road. The restaurant is on the corner of Uthmann Strasse and Otto-Suhr Strasse.



Szechwan Chinese and Thai dishes offer a variety of Oriental flavors available at the China Restaurant Mayflower.



Check out the March 16 issue of the Herald Union for another spotlight on local cuisine

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Town Hall Meeting

The 221st Base Support Battalion hosts a Town Hall Meeting March 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the General H.H. Arnold High School auditorium. Information on redeployment, services and upcoming activities will be highlighted followed by a question and answer period for members of the community.

Spouse club fundraiser

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club hosts a Polish Pottery Bingo at the Community Activity Center March 19 at 6 p.m. For more information call civ (0611) 565 7164.

Red Cross classes

The Wiesbaden office of the American Red Cross hosts several classes in the month of March including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation March 18; Healthy Pregnancy/Healthy Baby March 18; Babysitting March 20 and Volunteer Orientation March 25. For more information call mil 337-1760 or civ (0611) 705-1760.

Job opportunities

Hainerberg Elementary School is currently hiring for a lunch/playground monitor, kindergarten ed aide, substitute teacher and office

automation clerk. For more information call mil 337-5160 or civ (0611) 705-5160 or stop by the main office for a job application.

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.

German mail

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, Army Family Team Building, education, force protection, beginning German and more. For more information call mil 337-5419 or civ (0611) 705-5419.

Housekeeping service available

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service now offers housekeeping services for Hainerberg,



Photo by Katrina Roach

Last chance to see 'Lilies of the Field' at Wiesbaden theater

In the Amelia Earhart Playhouse production of the heart-warming comedy, "The Lilies of the Field," Homer Smith, an itinerant former Soldier played by Ardell Johnson, shares a light-hearted moment with a group of German nuns portrayed by Sabine Posniak, Anne Garmon, Magdalena Gerlach, and Ava Geralis. The last performances of the show will be performed in English, March 4-6 at the Playhouse, Konrad-Adenauer-Ring 39 in Wiesbaden. For reservations call civ (0611) 816-2473 or mil 336-2473.

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.

Breastfeeding support group

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 Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825 for more information. Mothers with nursing babies and mothers-to-be are always welcome.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the new BOSS Lounge, Building 1052 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Veteran's briefings

The Army Career and Alumni program offers information on a wide variety of veteran's benefits available to soldiers and their family members March 3. Call the ACAP office at mil 337-5709 or civ (0611) 705-5709 to sign up.

PTSA meeting

The Wiesbaden Middle School Parent Teacher Student Associa-

tion will hold a general meeting in the school's media center March 9 at 5 p.m.

Bridge players needed

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 located at Marktplatz 13. For more information call mil 337-5190 or civ (0611) 307834.

Reunion for children classes

Wiesbaden's Social Work Services offers workshops for children age 7 and up. Reunion workshops for children age 7-12 will be held March 10; for teens age 13-17 March 17. All workshops are held at the Army Community Service cafeteria in Room 22 from 3-4:30 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

Couples communication classes

Learn skills for effective talking, listening, conflict resolution and anger management to help you and your partner build a more satisfying relationship. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

Quarter bouncing

In conjunction with Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Quarter Bouncer competition, the Victory Point Bar at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center hosts quarter bouncing tournaments every Thursday at 5 p.m. A team selected by finalists from all participating facilities will be chosen to represent MWR in Las Vegas in April. For more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Welcome briefing

Newcomers to Wiesbaden are encouraged to attend Army Family Team Building's Welcome to Wiesbaden classes held the first and third Monday of each month at the Newcomer's Information Center in Room 240 at the American Arms Hotel. Call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754 for more information and to register.

Trainers available

Personal trainers are available at the Tony Bass and Dexheim Fitness Centers to help customize a personalized fitness program. Cost is \$35 per session. For more information call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.



Photo by Jolly Slenda

More than he can handle?

Nana Asomoah performs a juggling act during a Black History Month observance at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility Feb. 20. Free food and music were featured throughout the evening as well as a special tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers.

H.H. Arnold videographers shoot like pros

Capture the action at DoDDS-E hoop showdown

By Gene Knudsen
Special to the Herald Union

Three students, a father and a teacher from Wiesbaden's Gen. H.H. Arnold High School descended on Mannheim's Benjamin Franklin Sports Arena the day before the start of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools European Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament.

They arrived early to set up video cameras, string thousands of feet of cable and to connect monitors and editing machines.

Six hours later, Warrior TV was ready to tape the tournament action from any of the 42 teams with over 800 athletes who gathered at the Sports Arena. For the next three days thousands of feet of video tape recorded the video captured by the four cameras placed at strategic points around the arena.

The result, said teacher-sponsor Donald Seltzer, will be "a professionally produced video tape

of any basketball action that took place in the Sports Arena during the three day tournament as well as the cheeleading practice and final competition."

The dedicated band of taping Warriors grew by two for the three days of sports action and included Gen. H.H. Arnold High School 10th-

graders John "Zack" Zidzick and Zach Wilt, and juniors Tony Gagnon, Michelle Cohen and Amanda Martinez.

Marty Wilt, a parent, helped with the set up and take down of equipment and acted as a part-time chaperone for the group.

Wilt said he feels the teens certainly benefit by Seltzer's dedication to the job and the students.

"He's giving these kids an invaluable experience," Wilt said.

"We moved here two years ago from Maryland. My son was involved with radio broadcasting in the States and my friends told me I shouldn't pull him away from the thing that he loved to take him to Germany," said Wilt.

"We've found a great program at Wiesbaden high school. Think of the resume he can have when he leaves high school."

Sophomore John Zidzick said he would like to eventually get

into directing and have his own television show. "In the Video Communications class we produce the Seminar Show for students at Wiesbaden high school. We try to make it as entertaining as possible. We just did a take-off of the *Tonight Show's* Jay Walking. It was pretty funny," said Zidzick.

"In 10 years, you'll be paying to see their work on the big screen."

**— Donald Seltzer,
Gen. H.H. Arnold
High School teacher**



Photo by Gene Knudsen

Using a bank of monitors, John Zidzick, a sophomore at Wiesbaden High School, edits basketball action with video feeds from four separate cameras during the 2004 European Basketball Tournament held in Mannheim, Feb. 19-21.

With three students currently working and gaining experience as interns at the American Forces Network studio in Frankfurt and former students in college now majoring in broadcasting areas, Seltzer has definitely given his students an experi-

ence to remember. "In 10 years, you'll be paying to see their work on the big screen," Seltzer said.

To get copies of the 2004 European Basketball and Cheeleading Tournament tapes send an email to warrior_tv@lycos.com.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

AFTB by night

Army Family Team Building is hosting Level II twice in March to accommodate everyone's schedule. Come join the AFTB volunteers for a day, or night, of learning and networking in the Baumholder community. The class will be held March 22-25 from 8-11 a.m. in the AFTB classroom. For the first time ever the class is also being offered at night, March 16-18 from 5-9 p.m., to allow working family members to attend. Take advantage of the personal growth classes such as:

Adapting to Change, Time Management, Communication Skills, Conflict Management and more.

Child care is available for the day class as long as the child is registered with CYS and reservations are made ahead of time through Army Community Services. Child care is not available for the evening class. To sign up for class space or to get more information call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

Reunion training every Wednesday

Spouse reunion/reintegration training is available every Wednesday at Army Community Service. The class features ideas and suggestions on how to reduce reunion stress, improve marital communications and recognize signals and behaviors that may indicate a need for help.

Free child care and a meal is provided for some of the classes.

Contact ACS today to schedule a group training session with your family readiness group or to find out if one is already scheduled for you. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for details.

Reunion training is an integral part of a successful Soldier homecoming.

Prepare for retirement

The next Army Career and Alumni Program pre-separation and job assistance workshop are scheduled for March 9-10 and 23-24 at Baumholder's ACAP Center. No orders are needed to attend and spouses are encouraged to participate. Pre-separation briefings are required by public law no later than

Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Reunited at last

Sgt. Leslie Arias reunites with her daughter and husband after a welcome ceremony at the Hall of Champions Feb. 20. Sixteen members of the 90th Personnel Service Battalion were the first of Baumholder's Soldiers to return from Iraq as a group.

90 days before separation; however, Soldiers are encouraged to begin as early as one year before leaving the military or two years before retirement.

Pre-separation briefings are conducted with the aid of ACAP computers and job assistance workshops are conducted in classrooms or via a computerized job assistance training application. For more information call mil 485-6330 or civ (06783)6-6330.

VA briefings

Don't be left out in the dark, attend the next Veteran's Administration briefing March 16 at Baumholder's Army Career and Alumni Program office from 9-11 p.m. Additional briefings are scheduled for April 27, June 8 and July 12.

For more information or to schedule individual appointments

with the VA representative call the ACAP office at mil 485-6330.

Attend the next briefing and find out more about education benefits, VA home loan guarantee, disability compensation and other VA benefits.

Scholarship money

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club is accepting applications for fourth term scholarships. Application forms are available at the education center and are due to the BCSC by March 19. For more scholarship information call Bonita Owens at civ (06783) 189-914.

Community spouses luncheon March 17

The next Baumholder Community Spouses Club luncheon will be March 17 at the Rheinlander Convention Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Reservations must be made by email at cher.lim@us.army.mil.

Scout around

Girls new to the community or who are just looking for a place to fit in can now register for Baumholder's Girl Scout program. For more information call civ (06783) 900 788 or civ (06783) 185 236.

Girl Scout week

Girl Scout Week is March 7-13 and Baumholder's Girl Scouts have

lined up a couple of activities to commemorate the event. The Girl Scouts will observe Girl Scout Sunday March 7. A flag ceremony is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. March 12 at the 222nd Base Support Battalion followed by a birthday party with crafts at the Girl Scout hut. All Girl Scouts are asked to report in uniform. For more information call Patricia Inbody at civ (01751) 108 450.

Tax yourself

Three volunteer tax assistance positions are available at Baumholder's Tax Assistance Center. Prior tax preparation experience preferred, but center officials will train people willing to learn. For more information call mil 485-8644.

OCS board change

The date for the 222nd Base Support Battalion Officer Candidate Selection Board has changed to March 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the training support detachment small classroom in Building 8475. The board is open to any qualified enlisted soldier who is interested in becoming a commissioned officer. All application packages must be turned in to the 222nd BSB adjutant by March 11. For more information call mil 485-6788.

Free golf

Rolling Hills Golf Course hosts a membership drive throughout the month of March. Purchase an annual membership and play nine holes for free all month long. This offer is valid for new members only. Call mil 485-7299 for details.

Dine with your family

The Rheinlander Convention Center serves a family Sunday brunch March 7. The buffet includes omelettes made to order, bacon, sausage, waffles, fruit and more. Call the Rheinlander at mil 485-7507 for reservations.

Challenge cup

Sign up for the monthly racquetball challenge cup at the Mountaineer Fitness Center. The cost is \$3, and winners are awarded every month. Round robin or double-elimination play will be determined by number of entries. All players must be 17 years of age. Call mil 485-7286 for more information.

Get away

Join Baumholder Outdoor Rec for some little getaways in March. Call mil 485-7182 for detailed information about any of the following trips.

- * March 6, Feldberg/Black Forest
- * March 6, Frankfurt Zoo
- * March 11, Ikea/St. Ingbert
- * March 11-14, Kaprun, Austria
- * March 19-20, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic
- * March 25, Ikea/St. Ingbert.

Time for taxes

Tax season is here. The dreaded tax day may not be until April 15, but why wait?

The Baumholder Tax Center is now open and will remain open until June 30.

The BTAC is located at Building 8670, next to the Community Bank and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays.

Appointments are available by calling mil 485-6506.

Simple tax returns such as the 1040EZ can be prepared on a walk-in basis. The BTAC offers tax assistance preparation for federal and state income taxes as well as electronic filing.

Youth of the Year eyes greater goals

**Story and photo by
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

If there was ever a dream child, Kadeja Gaines is one. She's 16 years old, has a 4.0 grade point average and now she's the 104th Area Support Group Youth of the Year.

But she's not stopping there. Already she has her sights set on greater accomplishments.

"This for her is just one piece of the puzzle. She's waiting for the rest," said Teresa Gaines, Kadeja's mother, who works at Baumholder Army Community Service.

The next step for her is competition at the Installation Management Agency-Europe level later this month.

"She's been very humble with it, and she's enjoying it, but it's not something that she's taking and running with. She's waiting for the final step... but she's very grateful that she's been given an opportunity to compete," said Teresa.

The Youth of the Year competition is part of the Boys and Girls Club of America program, which operates out of local youth centers throughout America and wherever



Kadeja Gaines

Americans are stationed overseas.

Kadeja credits Edward Norvell, Teen Center and Teen Cafe manager, who recommended her for this competition. "I had to submit several letters of recommendation and write a couple of essays to enter the competition," she said.

"The first essay was about why a post-high school education is

important to me, and the other was on what the youth center means to me," she said.

She summed up her first essay by saying that "learning is an experience that should not end only when you receive your diploma but throughout your entire life and post-high school education is something that helps further that. With a post-high school education you can go anywhere and you can take it anywhere."

When writing about the youth center, Gaines said it was simply always there when she needed it. "The youth center for me has always been a place where, if I felt I had nowhere I could go, the people were always there to talk to me. The youth center has always been there for me ever since I arrived in Baumholder," she said.

Kadeja's mother attributes her daughter's success to setting priorities in order.

"We always knew how smart she is and that doesn't come from her being smarter than anyone else, it's just that she applies herself more. The fact that she applies herself more, gets straight As in school,

is amazing. There are so many other things that she can get into but she's quick to come home and start on her homework, that's her first priority.

"I'm glad she has her priorities straight. I'm glad she won this award and hopefully she can go further with it," she said.

After her book work, Kadeja finds time for other activities ranging from Girl Scouting to representing Baumholder as the economic and social council delegate for Azerbaijan in the Model United Nations program. Later this month she'll be attending the International Unit Leadership Institute for a week.

But that's not all for the young Gaines. "I'm hoping to do soccer this year. I'm also involved in the jazz band and the high school band. I play tenor sax. Right now I'm also involved in the prom committee. We're

running the school store to make money for our prom," she said.

Kadeja's only high school experience has been at Baumholder American High School. This is where she began mapping a path to success, and the fact that it is a small school has had its benefits for Gaines.

"I think it's really nice how the people are very close because the school is small and the teachers know who you are and are willing to help you," she said.

Sounding proud but restrained, Teresa said, "She's a great person to have as a daughter — a good friend. I think that whatever path she chooses in life she's going to follow it until the end."

Kadeja let the cat out of the bag, though, by saying, "My Mom is really excited about all this. She's just bouncing off the walls."

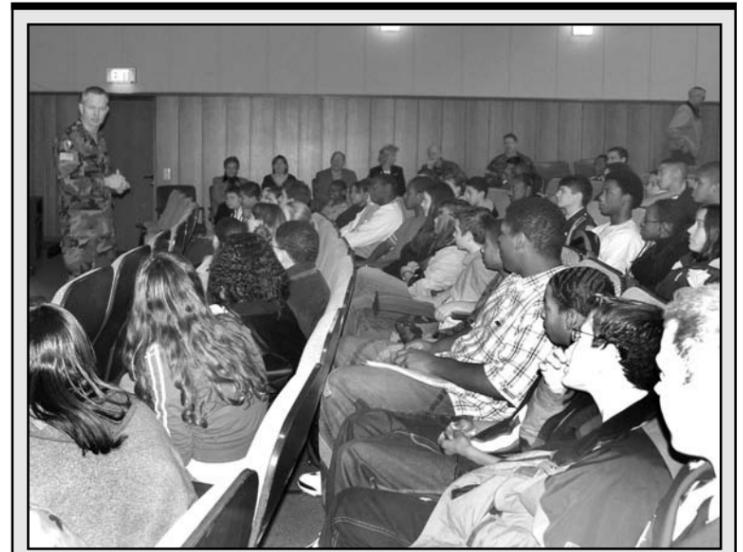


Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

What's on your mind?

Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, talks with students from Baumholder American High School Feb. 17. Bell thanked the students for their many sacrifices while many of their parents were deployed and fielded questions from the student body. The general then met with Family Readiness Group leaders to address redeployment and reintegration issues.

Learning curve Education Center

Learn the lingo

Baumholder's Adult Education Program has scheduled Conversational German I, Conversational German II, Conversational French I, and English as a Second Language courses. Register now for classes beginning March 29. The cost is \$40 per class. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for more information.

Business, crime

Registration for Term IV classes with the University of Maryland and Central Texas College begins March 15 and the term begins March 29. A variety of courses are being offered, from business writing to criminal justice.

For motor heads

Central Texas College presents an automotive electrical systems course beginning March 29. Register now at the Baumholder Army Education Center. For more information call mil 485-6664.

Be music literate

The world loves music and Baumholder's education center recommends the Survey of Western Music Literature course being offered by the University of Mary-



land. For more information call mil 485-6178 for details.

On account

Baumholder's Army Education center provides for future accountants through the University of Maryland's Principles of Accounting II course beginning in March. Call the college representative at mil 485-6178 for more information.

Master minds

The University of Oklahoma representative visits Baumholder on the first Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The school may be reached at mil 480-6807 on a daily basis. The university offers master of human relations and master of arts in international relations degrees. A PhD in organizational

leadership is also currently being offered.

Business, teaching

The University of Phoenix representative visits Baumholder on the first Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The university office may be reached at Ramstein daily at mil 480-8993. The university currently offers graduate degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and Teacher/Adult Education (M.A.).

It's criminal

Sherlock Holmes would surely enroll in the upcoming Central Texas College course for criminal investigation beginning March 29. Call mil 485-6664 for more information.



Wagon Wheel Theater rolling again

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

Ladies and gentlemen it's show time. Baumholder's Wagon Wheel Theater reopened Feb. 20 after a renovation project that lasted just under one month. Actually, the theater did not fully close during the renovation. "We ran shows daily with people sitting only in the balcony," said Michael Sitrin, business manager for the Kaiserslautern consolidated exchange.

The renovation was a consolidated effort

by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the 222nd Base Support Battalion, said Sitrin. "It's been a joint partnership between AAFES, the command and Baumholder's Directorate of Public Works. From the AAFES side we've installed a Reel Time Express snack bar and we've upgraded the projection and sound system. Command has installed new flooring and seating," he said.

"We're proud to be a part of bringing an upgraded facility to the military in the Baumholder community. We're glad that we got it done before the Soldiers got home,"

said Sitrin.

The new seating and snack bar are just the first step in a series of renovation projects planned for the theater. Renovation of the theater balcony will be a follow-on project. The balcony will be refloored and new seats will be installed. There will also be new paneling installed throughout the bottom section of the theater.

"I want to thank AAFES. This wouldn't have happened without their partnership," said Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, during the

grand opening ceremony. "It's a great partnership and we haven't stopped here. We have some more projects that we're going to partner with," he said.

"I also want to say thank you to all of you," Buchs told the community members present during the grand opening.

"You're my inspiration for wanting to make things better here in this community. You deserve it and again, this is not the only project. This is the first of many. We're going to continue to push forward until somebody tells me to stop and I haven't heard the word stop yet," said Buchs.

Other renovations

Another project under way is the renovation of the bowling center. The entire facility has been gutted. Once it is reopened it will virtually be a brand new bowling center with state of the art equipment.

The center's main entrance, which used to look like a warehouse loading dock, will also take on a new look. Planters and foliage will adorn the entrance and instead of walking up to a couple of fire doors to enter the facility, customers will walk into a lobby that will offer a better atmosphere than its former backstage door appearance.

Inside will be an entire new facility, from snack bar to pin setters.

Money is also being poured into the community for the benefit of Baumholder's youth. A new skate park is under construction and soon there will be a consolidated facility for youth in Wetzel Housing. The Underground and Youth Center will be combined into a multi-level facility in the building next to their current location.

A project that will affect everyone in the community is the renovation of the main gate at Smith Barracks. The gate is scheduled to open in April and will feature additional lanes and facilities that will expedite force protection procedures. Motorists will no longer need to stand in inclement weather while their vehicles are inspected.

The new gate is intended to enhance force protection procedures, be more convenient to motorists and expedite the flow of traffic into Smith Barracks.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Michael Sitrin, business manager for the Kaiserslautern Army and Air Force Exchange Service's consolidated exchange, serves cake to customers during the Wagon Wheel Theater's grand opening Feb. 20.



The bowling center will soon have a different appearance. It will feature state of the art equipment.



New theater seating is fitted into place.

PBO poised for supply excellence competition

'I attribute our success to the personnel who work in PBO . . .'

**Story and photos by
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder's Soldiers marched off to war last year and now they are starting to return home. They are being greeted with much fanfare and the cheers of loved ones and friends during welcome home ceremonies. Then begins a reintegration process that will eventually be followed by their perpetual training cycles.

But behind every successful organization stands an equally successful support element — enter the 222nd Base Support Battalion and the unsung heroes of the supply world and the Property Book Office, who have been recognized by Installation Management Agency-Europe for supply excellence and are now poised for Department of the Army evaluation.

The recognition program, which operates from Fort Lee, Va., is designed to identify supply excellence and compliance with supply discipline within an organization.

"They check things such as authorization documents, maintaining property accountability, conducting inventories, receiving supplies, turning in supplies and disposition instructions of supplies and equipment," said Ronnie Crews, 222nd Base Support Battalion property book officer.

Other key areas evaluated include delegation of authority, authorization documents, turn-ins, issues, inventories, Aqualine requests, management control pro-

cedures, petroleum management procedures and mechanical kitchen equipment procedures, which for Baumholder are located in Giessen.

"The disposition and discrepancies of our receipts are also looked at," said Crews.

The way the program is designed, if a unit receives a commendable rating during a command supply distant program evaluation, it is then eligible for competition. The next major command level, IMA-E in Baumholder's case, then makes a determination to submit an organization for further evaluation. Baumholder's PBO is expecting a visit by Department of the Army evaluators in April.

"I attribute our success to the personnel who work in PBO and also to the individual primary individual hand receipt holders we have, who number more than 200. With them supporting us, it contributed to winning the competition. What I mean is that they must conduct

their inventories, keep their hand receipts updated and assist us in accomplishing proper supply discipline," said Crews.

Just a few of the people Crews was referring to include Eva Kraff, Siglinde Werle, Otmar Müller, Siegrid Schaefer, Sybille Kemmer-Rothfuchs and Rosi Ingledue, all members of the PBO team.



Siegrid Schaefer checks details.



Sybille Kemmer-Rothfuchs makes an entry at her work station.



Rosi Ingledue tends the customer service desk.



Eva Kraff concentrates on her work.



Siglinde Werle and Otmar Müller keep the paperwork moving.