

Fire destroys Butzbach apartment

Soldier saves children

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A Soldier's quick reactions helped save the lives of two children trapped in a fire in Butzbach Feb. 12.

Staff Sgt. Shane Floyd of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, evacuated two children trapped in a blaze that started in the living room of an apartment on Butzbach's Oregon Road at 4 a.m.

"I am very grateful for what Staff Sgt. Floyd has done for us. We are friends for over seven years, but his selfless actions saved two of my children," said Sylvia Castellanoz, the apartment owner and mother of the children caught in the fire.

Castellanoz and her three children, Ashely, age 6, Malik, 4, and Michael, 3, live in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing while her husband, Spc. David Castellanoz is serving on a hardship tour in Korea.

"That night I was sleeping when suddenly our dog started to bark," said Castellanoz.

"Next the smoke alarm went off, so I got up and went to the living room and there was smoke all over the room. The second-hand

floor lamp I'd bought last year was on fire as well as the curtains and the rear wall," she said.

"The hallway door opened and Malik came into the room. I grabbed him and brought him downstairs. I am still glad that I had left the key in the door. I don't want to imagine what would have happened if I had had to search for the key.

"Then I got the fire extinguisher and ran back upstairs to get Ashley and Michael. There was too much smoke to see anything so I called their names but there was no reaction.

"There was too much smoke to see anything so I called their names but there was no reaction." — Sylvia Castellanoz

"My phone was right beside the door so I called Staff Sgt. Floyd because his number was the only one that came to my mind at this moment," Castellanoz said.

"I just screamed 'my house is on fire,' slammed the phone and ran back downstairs where Malik was still standing," she said.

In the meantime Floyd, who lives one block from Castellanoz' building, came running up the street, she said.

"I told him that Michael and Ashley were still in the apartment, and without thinking he ran upstairs, got the children and brought them downstairs," she said.

Floyd said he didn't see anything heroic



Photo by Mary Ann Ernst

Staff Sgt. Shane Floyd (left) and Sylvia Castellanoz walk through Castellanoz' apartment that was destroyed by a fire. Floyd saved two of her children who were trapped in the apartment when the early morning fire occurred.

in his actions. "I wasn't thinking much when she called. I ran outside because all I thought was that I had to help," said Floyd, assistant rear detachment noncommissioned officer in charge of the 1-36th Infantry, and a father of two.

"I just reacted because I knew I had to get those kids out of the apartment," he said.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, said officials. The Castellanozes were assigned a new apartment. Several Family Readiness Groups as well as Kelly McCollough and Samantha Morgan of the Giessen Post Exchange are collecting donations to help the family buy new clothes, furniture and other needed items.

WIC-O opens additional office in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing

By Mary Schrank
Women, Infants and Children-Overseas

The doors are open, the ribbon

has been cut, and the Women, Infants and Children-Overseas program now offers a full-time office in Butzbach.

Staff and community members celebrated the grand opening Feb. 18 with food, balloons and prizes for children. The new office is conveniently located in Roman Way Housing, across from the Butzbach Health Clinic. It's also right behind the bus stop, which is handy for those participants who don't drive.

In the United States the WIC-O program has been available since the late 1970s to help families improve their health by providing nutrition education and healthy foods. Similar to the U.S. program, WIC-O offers nutrition education and drafts to purchase specific healthy foods in the commissary. The program also offers information and referral to other community resources.

Eligible participants include pregnant and postpartum women and children from birth up to 5 years of age.

Applicants are assessed for eligibility based on U. S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for income

in relation to family size, plus an assessment of nutritional risk. Eligibility is not based on rank. WIC-Overseas also offers support to participants with medical-nutritional problems.

The goal of the WIC-O staff is to help families raise healthy children.

WIC-O encourages good health by assessing the child's growth using standardized growth charts and food record information. It offers tips and strategies for parents and children to provide healthy meals and snacks without sacrificing good taste.

The WIC-O staff also offers healthy cooking classes. The next class takes place March 4 at 11 a.m. in Butzbach and features healthy Spanish cooking.

Anyone interested in the cooking class or in finding out if he or she qualifies for the WIC-O program can call the office in Butzbach at civ (06033) 925 736, in Giessen at civ (0641) 402-7448 or in Hanau at civ (06181) 889 636.

ACS classes

Scrapbook making class

The next scrapbook making class will be held at the Butzbach Outreach Center March 17. This is a free class. Participants must bring their supplies and a sack lunch. For details call civ (06033) 925329.

Federal resume classes

Federal resume classes will be held March 2, 9, 16 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Giessen and March 31 from 8:30-11 a.m. in Butzbach. For more information call Dan Adams in Giessen at mil 343-6038 or Tim Fitzgerald in Friedberg at mil 324-3421.

Sponsorship training

ACS offers sponsorship training for Soldiers, family members and Department of Defense civilians to help incoming personnel with their transition into the community. To arrange for a class call Patricia Harper at mil 343-6910 or Christina Daily at mil 324-3789.



Photo by Mary Ann Ernst

WIC-O Mary Schrank (left to right), 284th BSB commander Lt. Col. Bart Shreve and 284th BSB Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Francis cut the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony of the new WIC-O office in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing.

2-3rd FA Soldier to receive Purple Heart

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Pfc. Blake Upton, a driver with Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, will soon be awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during an improvised explosive device attack last summer. While his wounds healed long ago the emotional stress is still a fresh memory, he said.

"I was part of a four-man team in an armored HMMWV on patrol in Baghdad together with another team

of four. I forgot if it happened in August or September, but I remember it was about 2:30 a.m. and I was at the .50-caliber gun in the rear. We drove through empty streets and did the usual stuff.

"Suddenly we go hit by an IED bomb," Upton said. "I saw an orange light and a flash and I dropped down, but then I got up again because I wanted to man the gun. Then I thought that that's maybe not a good idea, so I dropped to the floor again.

"An instant later our driver sped

up and got past the front vehicle. Our tires were blown and the glass was shattered, but he was still able to move the vehicle, which was good because as soon as we drove another IED came in.

"We drove about 25 feet and as soon as we came to a stop we got out of the vehicle and everyone started screaming and yelling because they were very angry. I couldn't hear anything. I just had a ringing in my ears. I didn't feel any pain," Upton said.

"Suddenly my sunglasses had blood in them. I took off my Kevlar and made sure my head was still there. I was in shock, and I didn't know what to do.

"Our driver, who is a medic, came to me and put a bandage on my face, and then we pulled security. We couldn't leave the area because our HMMWV was basically trashed, and we couldn't just leave the vehicle behind. I think we waited maybe for two hours for our battery to bring another vehicle and to tow ours," he said.

Upton was the only Soldier in-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Due to a work-related injury Pfc. Blake Upton was sent back to the 2-3rd FA headquarters in Giessen where he is working at the rear detachment.

jured during the attack.

"The injury was minor — just a few cuts, nothing serious. Looking back I must say that the attack was more devastating emotionally than physically," he said.

"I arrived in Iraq in July and our

NCOs kept telling us what to do over there and to never drop our guard. Downrange the NCOs were more laid back than back home. They didn't want to be in your face all the time because that would increase the stress. But they trained

us so we were prepared, and during the attack I instinctively knew what to do. The experience is still devastating. I don't think you can prepare yourself for the moment when someone tries to kill you while all you want to do is provide security. It's shocking," Upton said.

A work-related accident in which Upton broke his right foot made it necessary for him to return to Giessen for further treatment.

Hard being apart

"It's hard to be over here while my friends are downrange. I wish I could be in Iraq because my friends are there. It's boring without them," he said.

"Deployments change the relationships within a unit. If we weren't deployed most of the guys would just be acquaintances or friends, but downrange I really got to know them like brothers," he said. "I am looking forward to the redeployment, because then I'll get to see my friends again. It's strange to be back here while they are still in Iraq.

"I will get out of the Army when my three years are over, but that has nothing to do with the deployment or the injury," he said. "I want to go to school and I wanted to make some money before that. Plus, joining the Army is like a family tradition. I am happy that I could experience the camaraderie."

"Suddenly my sunglasses had blood in them. I took off my Kevlar and made sure my head was still there."— Pfc. Blake Upton, 2-3rd Field Artillery Regiment

ACS workshops

Multi-Cultural Support Group

The Multi-Cultural Support Group meets March 18 at Giessen Army Community Service. The group is designed to assist and support foreign-born spouses of Soldiers. For more information call Patricia Harper at mil 343-6910.

NOW class March 16-17

A Newcomers Orientation and Welcome workshop takes place March 16-17 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. NOW provides all newcomers with tools to get out and about the 284th Base Support Battalion and make this the best tour ever. The first day highlights various community agencies, and day two includes a surrounding area tour. Participants will visit spots of interest and learn to travel in Germany at leisure. Free child care will be provided when registered in advance. For details call Patricia Harper at mil 343-6910.

Re-entry workshop

A Homeward Bound re-entry workshop is scheduled for March 26 at 1 p.m. at Friedberg Army Community Service. The class is designed to make the transition as smooth as possible. Issues such as logistical, financial and psychological adjustments will be addressed. For more information call Christina Daily at mil 324-3789.

Sugar and Spices Tea Time

The Bad Nauheim ACS Outreach Center hosts a Sugar and Spices Tea Time March 18 from 8:30-9 a.m. Residents are invited to enjoy tea, companionship and conversation. For more information call civ (06031) 813 566.



Photo by Mary Ann Ernst

527th Military Police Company returns home

1st Sgt. Greg Sandell of the 527th Military Police Company hugs his wife Tina and daughter Jacquelyn during the reunion ceremony held Feb. 21 at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. Sandell was part of the main body of the 527th MP Company that returned to Giessen after a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Community spotlights

Kudos to Soldiers

Members of the 284th Base Support Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment thank the participants of the 2004 Conventional Forces of Europe U.S. Army Europe training. A special thank you goes to 284th BSB Hall of Famers — Sgt. 1st Class Juliette Duffie, Sgt. Lamond Reese, Sgt. Tom Vang, Cpl. Joseph Scott, Spc. Donte Murphy, Spc. Dimitri Ramsey and Pvt. 2 Ifiok Idiokakpan.

ACAP classes

The Army Career and Alumni Program sponsors a **Veterans Affairs benefits briefing** March 4 from 9-11:30 a.m. A **Job Assistance Workshop** takes place March 16-17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soldiers and their spouses may begin the ACAP counseling process two years before retirement or one year before ETS. For more information call the ACAP office at mil 343-9332. ACAP is located in Building 7, Room 141 on the Giessen Depot.

Butzbach PTA news

The Butzbach Elementary School **Parent Teacher Association** holds a meeting March 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. An **all-you-can-eat-taco-night** will be held March 17 from 5-7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$4.50 per person and can be purchased in the front foyer of the school March 8 from 8-8:30 a.m. and 2-2:30 p.m. Dinner includes tacos, dessert, choice of juice, tea or water. Soda will be available at an additional cost. Volunteers are needed for Butzbach PTA taco night. Call civ (0179) 724 8669 or sign up when you purchase your tickets.

Super Saturday

A Super Saturday child care service will be held March 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Butzbach Child Development Center and March 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bad Nauheim CDC. Service is available to all Child and Youth Services registered children age six weeks to 11 years. Specialists and below may use their respite card. Deadline to reserve a slot is one week before the opening.

Call Butzbach CDC at civ (06033) 67922 and Bad Nauheim CDC at civ (06032) 83536 to register.

Parents Night Out

The Giessen Child Development Center sponsors a Parents Night Out March 19. Reservation and payment deadline is March 12. Children must be CYS registered and from six weeks to 11 years old. Call CLEOS for more information at mil 343-7028 or civ (0641) 402-7028.

YS baseball registration

Youth Services baseball registration for youths age 5-16 continues through March 22. Fee for participation is \$30 for the first child and \$27 for each additional child. Volunteers are needed for the baseball program. A coaches clinic will be held April 7 and 9 at 6 p.m. at the YS gym. For details call mil 343-7028 or civ (0641) 402-7028.

Spring soccer clinic

Youth Sports hosts a spring soccer clinic April 5-9 for children age 5-15. Cost is \$5. Registration ends March 31. For more information call the YS sports office at mil 343-6969 or civ (0641) 402-6969.



Patient liaison service

The Patient Liaison office supports community members who need assistance in understanding how to use host nation health care providers. Services include assistance in making appointments, directions and maps to local health care facilities, information on what to expect in German facilities and what to take with you, explanation of payment responsibilities and coordination of follow-up care. The patient liaison can be contacted 24 hours a day through the Military Police desk. For more information contact the patient liaison coordinators at the Friedberg

Clinic at civ (06031) 81-3652 or the Butzbach Clinic at civ (06033) 982 148.

Recipe swap

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center hosts a Recipe Swap every fourth Tuesday of the month from 10-11 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22. Anyone interested in participating can call Jackie Kirkeby at civ (06031) 813 566.

Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall Meeting takes place in Bad Nauheim at the community center on March 10 at 5:30 pm. All residents are invited to attend.

Employee Town Hall Meetings

All 284th Base Support Battalion employees are invited to attend an employee Town Hall Meeting March 4 at 1 p.m. at the Alpine Center on the Giessen Depot or March 9 at 10 a.m. in Friedberg's Ray Barracks, Classroom 7. Lt. Col. Bart Shreve, 284th BSB commander, will address employee issues including a closure timeline. For more information call 343-7568.

Neil McBride in concert

Giessen's Keller Theater presents Neil McBride in an evening of Irish music March 20 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 or €10. For reservations call the Keller Theater box office Wednesday to Friday from 4:30-8 p.m. at mil 343-6515 or civ (0641) 402-6515. Children under age 10 will not be admitted.

Storytelling trips

In recognition of the Military Month of the Child the Giessen Library is sponsoring storytelling trips every Saturday morning in April. Children will enjoy stories at the Giessen Library and then travel to sites in the Giessen area to hear an additional story. Trips are two to three hours long, and destinations are a surprise. Sign-up for the trips is through March 31 at the library. Phone registrations are not accepted. First priority for enrollment goes to children in grades one to four who may participate without an accompanying parent. Second priority will be given to children not yet in grade one who can participate with a parent or guardian. Last priority will be for children in grades five and six. For more information contact the Giessen Library at mil 343-1740 or civ (0641) 402-1740.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup day is March 5 in all housing areas. Bulk items should be placed next to the refuse containers the night before the scheduled pickup.

Girl and Boy Scouts

Troop 37 of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scout Pack 37 meet every Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. at Building 54 on the Giessen Depot. Interested Boy Scouts can contact George Tanner at civ (0640) 42981 or leave a message at mil 343-7045. Interested Cub Scouts can call Glenda Wood at civ (06032) 867 836 or leave a message at 343-7045. Adult volun-

teers are needed for both programs. The Girl Scouts invite girls age 5-17 to make new friends while enjoying field trips, arts and crafts projects, camping, community service projects and more. To find out about a Girl Scout troop in your community call Marcia Smith at civ (0641) 44553.

Auto Crafts special

The Auto Crafts shops in Giessen and Friedberg offer a tire service special during March. The offer includes tire rotation, a tire pressure check and tread wear assessment for \$10. For details call Giessen mil 343-7050 or Friedberg at mil 324-3218.

Fourth annual aerobathon

Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center hosts its fourth annual aerobathon March 6 from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will enjoy a day of aerobics, health assessments, camaraderie and door prizes. Entrance is free. For more information call mil 343-7201.

Road conditions information

To find out the latest road conditions call mil 343-8606 or civ (0641) 402-8606 for an automated message service. The message is updated as conditions change and will be available at all times.

Outdoor Rec trips

Outdoor Recreation hosts a trip to the **Wächtersbach ceramics factory and chicken farm restaurant** March 6. A **Garmisch overnight ski trip** takes place March 13 as does a **Köln sightseeing trip**. A trip to the **Dachau concentration camp and BMW museum** is scheduled for March 20. For details call Giessen Outdoor Recreation at mil 343-8207.

MWR employee appreciation day

The Ironside Lanes Bowling Center in Giessen hosts Morale Welfare Recreation employee appreciation day March 12. All employees wearing their MWR name tag when they come to the center will get a few games for free. The Americana Diner will serve hot dogs and french fries for \$1 each to MWR employees. For more information call Denise von Wiecki at mil 343-6172.

Energy conservation tips

✧ Turn off lights when not needed and television and radios if not being used.

✧ Keep lighting requirements of the light bulbs to a minimum. Use low wattage light bulbs.

✧ Wait until you have a full load before using washing machines, dryers and dishwashers.

✧ Use an outside clothes line, if available, for drying clothes.

✧ Keep light fixtures clean. As much as 50 percent of the available light can be lost due to a dirty light fixture.

✧ Defrost the refrigerator and freezer regularly and check gaskets for leakage.

For more information on energy conservation call customer affairs adviser Bruni Andries at mil 343-6305.

Volunteers complete Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program training

The first Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program training for this year was recently held at the Office of the Provost Marshal Building on the Giessen Depot.

After the class family members Dannela Feliciano and Becky Rodriguez became official SNAP volunteers.

"I had never heard about this program before. It's an excellent idea to keep our neighborhood a better place to live in," said Rodriguez.

"I am very happy to be part of this program. This is a good way to take care of the community I am living in and to meet new people. I am sure this program will

reduce the possibilities of being targeted by a terrorist. It makes you realize that there is a lot of danger out in the streets and is our responsibility to learn how to confront and deal with that," said Feliciano.

"We all need to take care of each other. Being away from family and our soldiers deployed is not easy. SNAP will strengthen the bond within the military community and will help us to be better aware of the surroundings," said Luz Medeiros, 284th Base Support Battalion SNAP coordinator.

For information about SNAP call Medeiros at mil 343-6500 or civ (0641) 402-6500.

Community voices concerns during AFAP conference

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

For the past weeks 284th Base Support Battalion community members have addressed their issues of concern and suggestions for improvement of the quality of life in the BSB.

Those issues were looked at during this year's Army Family Action Plan conference held Feb. 17 at the Giessen Chapel.

"We had about 40 issues dropped off before the conference," said Melody Sexton, AFAP coordinator for the 284th BSB.

Issue drop boxes and issue cards were placed for a couple of weeks throughout the community, and community members were encouraged to write down their concerns and suggestions on how the Army can improve the quality of life for families and Soldiers.

Delegates representing Soldiers, spouses and youth were divided into four groups.

"The delegates looked at every issue, did research and spoke to subject matter experts for clarification to determine the priority of the issues," Sexton said.

Top nine issues for the 284th BSB

The following are the top nine issues for the 284th BSB:

- Single Soldier non-relative point of contact.
- Tuition assistance for spouses to continue higher-level education.
- Equitable death benefits.
- Treatment of spousal depression.
- Inconsistent commissary pricing.
- Weekend and special activities for youth.
- Lack of transportation for youth to attend programs and activities.
- Lack of coordination of school and community events.
- Teenager driver's training.



Photo by Petra Roberts

A group of teenagers representing youth in the 284th BSB discuss issues and how to resolve them during this year's Army Family Action Plan conference held Feb. 17 at the Giessen Chapel.

"These issues will be looked at by a local committee and they will keep track of them throughout the year. Some of these issues may get sent to the 104th Areas Support Group level or maybe even to the Department of Army level," said

Sexton.

"All issues raised will be looked at and we are still working on them," she said. (Issue resolutions will be published in future issues of the Herald Union.)

Meet the staff

Going extra mile to issue household goods, vehicles

By Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Transportation officials of the 284th Base Support Battalion are determined to ensure Soldiers returning from Iraq to the Friedberg and Giessen communities have no problems obtaining their personal property and privately owned vehicles.

Alan Matthews, 284th Base Support Battalion transportation officer, and Annemarie Johnson, redeployment transportation clerk, are two people almost every Soldier comes across when redeploying to the Giessen-Friedberg community. The transportation specialists help Soldiers get their household goods back out of storage.

Their office, the so-called "deployment cell," is located in Building 119, Room C-3, on the Giessen Depot.

"It is important that the units provide the manifest to us before the Soldiers return so that we can make appropriate arrangements with the contractor for delivery of the household goods on Day Five, regardless of which day of the week that day may fall on," Matthews said. "The contractor needs a five-working-day notice of the required delivery date to act on the requirement."

The household goods are not stored locally, but in the contractor's warehouses, which are spread throughout Germany.

"We are running a nonstop operation right now. Our main objective for the upcoming months is to give the returning Soldiers a warm welcome and to provide the best

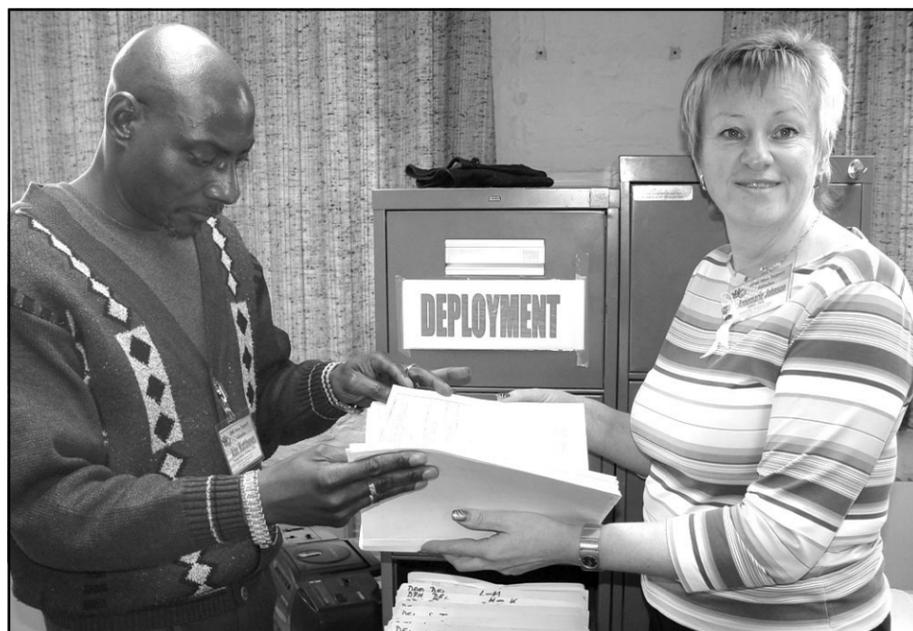


Photo by Petra Roberts

Alan Matthews (left) and Annemarie Johnson of the 284th BSB transportation office help redeploying Soldiers to get their household goods out of storage.

possible service to satisfy their needs," Matthews said.

Not only is Matthews responsible for arranging timely household goods delivery, he is also responsible for releasing privately owned vehicles and providing driver's testing services.

The issue of privately owned vehicles can be a smooth process if a few steps are taken in advance, he said. While most of the vehicles are stored in a warehouse on Giessen

Depot, some cars must be picked up in from the Mannheim storage facility.

"If a Soldier has to pick up his vehicle from Mannheim, the Directorate of Logistics will provide bus transportation there. We make sure that the individual's car gets checked by the Mannheim Facility Storage personnel before the Soldier gets to Mannheim. The check includes battery, lights, tires, engine fluids and more. We want the Soldiers to be able to get into their cars and be mobile,"

Matthews said.

The service also applies to vehicles in Giessen. "Once we know who needs to pick up vehicles, we can prepare the vehicles for the Soldiers. We clean battery posts, check tires if necessary, replace dry rotted lines and cables. We are prepared to assist the Soldier with minor repairs, or we can refer them to shops on the economy and even take them to wherever those shops may be located," Matthews said.

"We are prepared to use any available assets to provide any service possible to our redeploying Soldiers," said Dana Puryear, Directorate of Logistics management assistant. This includes providing bus service from their unit to the redeployment site to supporting transportation requirements for the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program," she said.

'Serve our Soldiers'

"We are here to serve our Soldiers with whatever they may need. That is our mission," Puryear said.

"We work together closely with the Vehicle Registration Office to assure an easy vehicle issue to the Soldiers. Our goal is to have cars operational, lined up outside of the warehouse and ready for Soldiers to drive off. We have the DD 788 inspection form as well as the safety checklist in the car for the Soldier's convenience," Matthews said. "We will do our best to help everyone. Nobody will be turned away."

For more information call mil 343-7088.

U.S. students visit German school



Boys get help with their craft projects from German teacher Alexandra Gösse at the Limeschule in Grossauheim.

Hanau youths share culture, language skills

Story and photos by Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

About 40 fourth- and fifth-grade students from Old Argonner Elementary School ventured down the road for a visit to the two fourth-grade classes of the German Limeschule in Grossauheim. The visits were the idea of Limeschule first-grade teacher, Waltraud Evans who got in contact with Gis Olbrich, the host nation teacher at Argonner Elementary.

Two years ago the Limeschule introduced English into the curriculum, and the students now have English lessons twice a week. The visits are a way for the students to try out their language skills. "They start in the third grade in a playful way with games, music and songs, just to introduce the kids to English," said Evans. "Later, in the fifth grade, they'll do more exercises."

Olbrich has been a host-nation teacher at Old Argonner Elementary for 32 years. "Host nation teachers help the American kids feel more comfortable in the host nation. We organize study trips and teach a little bit of German language, but it's hard because the children come and go every three years. I find it best to teach about the country, culture and famous people. I think it's important to introduce kids to the country they're living in," she said.

Although the German school is just a five-minute drive away, "it takes a great

deal of effort from the teachers to make these trips happen." With school funding cut-backs, getting a bus and the permission from parents takes real effort.

During this day's visit the youths met in the gym at 8:30 a.m. where German and American students were paired up. The German students welcomed their American guests with songs in English and then the classes divided up for various activities. Some played together outside while others made themselves a snack. "They're doing things together they can do with a limited vocabulary," said Carol Parmenter, an Old Argonner fifth-grade teacher.

The students finished the day with a music assembly in the gym where they sang songs and played musical instruments together.

The German students recently returned the German-American friendship gesture with a trip to Old Argonner Elementary.



Students play the bells at a music session at the Limeschule.

16th Corps Support Group returns to Hutier

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Corps Support Group, returned to Hutier Kaserne at 4:30 a.m. Jan. 9.

About 60 family members waited anxiously and sleepily inside the vast CSG maintenance bay to greet the 53 returning Soldiers. Another 24 16th CSG Soldiers remain in Kuwait where they're washing and preparing their vehicles for loading onto ships. They should return by the end of February, officials said.

Other subordinate units of the 16th CSG have recently returned home also such as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 485th Corps Support Battalion, while 26th Quartermaster and the 596th Maintenance Companies, are still in the process of returning from Forward Operating Base Gunner at Taji.

The first group of 16th CSG Soldiers deployed to Iraq last February. The unit started at Dogwood and moved north to Taji, not far from Balad Air Base, in October to set it up for the unit that was to follow. Col. Michael Sevcik, 16th CSG commander, took command in July.

The returning troops marched into the 16th CSG maintenance bay which had been decorated by the Family Readiness Group and family members. "What we did was decorate the bay, and each Soldier will get a box of Girl Scout cookies and an American flag, coffee and snacks if they want them," said Tamara Sevcik, the commander's wife, who like everyone else, was waiting for her Soldier to return. "The USO was generous and donated goodie bags for the single Soldiers in the barracks and we put a welcome sign on each door. Those of us who stayed at home had our ups and downs, but we've survived. We've kept the FRGs busy and we've kept the kids busy," said Sevcik.

After the national anthem played, Joshua Hookness played guitar accompanying Molly-Jo Sevcik in singing the Lee Greenwood song "God Bless the USA."

The group commander delivered very quick remarks and after everyone sang the Army song, he released the Soldiers to reunite with their families. The Soldiers will have seven half-days of reintegration training in the mornings and then on day eight they'll attend an informal welcome-home ceremony.

Thereafter Soldiers can begin 30 days of block leave.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Janet (from left), Hunter and Carter Anderson welcome Capt. Matthew Anderson home from Iraq.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos by Jayme Loppnow

130th Engineers go Fasching in Seligenstadt

Revelers enjoy the floats, candy and marching band music during the Seligenstadt Fasching Parade Feb. 23. Several Hanau Soldiers were among the enthusiastic

celebrants. Photo right: Lt. Col. Joe Ramos, 565th Engineer Battalion commander, Spc. Tanya Christianson and Sgt. Maj. Jose Dorame were among 130th Engineer Brigade

Soldiers who joined the fun as guests of the town's mayor. The brigade has an over 30-year history of German-American ties with the town.

Community notes ... Community notes ... Community notes

Spring cleaning sale

Sell your unused stuff at Argonner Elementary School, March 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To reserve a table contact Margey Wilkinson at margey_wilkinson@eu.odedodea.edu or Brenda Hoff at civ (06181) 906-9847. This sale is being sponsored by the Hanau Education Association to raise scholarship money.

Financial Aid Workshop

Attend the University of Maryland's Financial Aid Workshop March 4 at Pioneer Education Center. You must make an appointment. Contact the UM representative at mil 322-9046 or civ (06181) 88-9046.

Employment opportunities

A job fair will be held at Illusions Roller Rink on Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center March 2 at 9 a.m.

Credit union job

Andrews Federal Credit Union has job openings. Stop by your local branch or call at mil 322-8062, civ (06181) 95380.

'Miss Saigon'

The Five Pfennig Playhouse presents "Miss Saigon," March 5, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. This production contains adult themes, strong language and partial nudity. Children under age 6 will not be admitted. Tickets are \$12 or €12. A March 6 performance includes dinner and begins at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner performance are \$25 or €25. Tickets are available at the Hanau USO on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-8725 or email 5pfennig@104asg.mwr.army.mil. The theater is located in Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne.

Banks closed

The Community Bank at Hanau's

Wolfgang Shopping Center will be open March 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Büdingen's Armstrong Barrack's branch from noon to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. The banks will have reduced hours that day while the staff attends training. All community automated teller machines in the Hanau area will be in operation.

Racquetball

Come to Pioneer Fitness Center for the seventh annual 414th Base Support Battalion Racquetball Tournament March 6-7. Register at 8 a.m. The competition starts at 10 a.m. Individual awards will be presented in each division. There's a \$25 entry fee with a T-shirt or \$20 without. For information contact the Pioneer Fitness Center at mil 322-8197.

Safeguard community

Join your local Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program. Help safeguard the community by patrolling your neighborhood, increasing safety awareness, reporting suspicious activity and watching out for your family and fellow Soldiers. Contact Demetrea Watson at mil 323-2855 or by email Demetrea.watson@104asg.army.mil.

Read Across America

Gelnhausen Elementary School holds its annual "Read Across America" week celebrating Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday this week. On March 4 Shona Flanigan-Queary, the "Cat in the Hat" lady, will present her reading and magic program. On March 5 the students will dress up as their favorite book character and parade through the school. Every classroom will also have special activities to celebrate Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday. Parents are encouraged to join the students for reading and the parade. The school needs volunteers to visit the school to read to students that week. Call Kim Mitchell at civ (06051) 13011 or email kim_mitchell@eu.odedodea.edu.

Civilian Fitness Program

Civilians employed by the Army are encouraged to engage in a regular program of exercise. Commanders may approve up to three hours excused absence per week to allow employees to exercise. The time is limited to six months and is a one-time-only deal. Open enrollment is March 3-4. Enrollment and participant packets are available from the 104th Area Support Group health promotion coordinator. Call mil 322-9509, civ (06181) 88-9509, browse to www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil or email karen.harris@104asg.army.mil.

Coupon socials

Army Community Service sponsors a coupon social March 25. Anyone interested in saving money and having fun is invited to Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call civ (06181) 88-8963.

Comedy After Dark

Performers from America's top stand-up comedy shows, such as BET Comic View and Showtime at the Apollo, are coming to Club i on Fliegerhorst Kaserne March 27 at 10 p.m. for a night of non-stop laughs. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance. This show is for adults only.

Bowling center closes

The Hessen Bowling Center lanes and snack bar will be closed until March 15. The slots room will remain open during the renovation.

Library closed

The Pioneer Library will be closed March 8-12 for painting and the laying of new carpet.

CPR Challenge

Take the written and skills tests to become CPR certified. If you fail the challenge you must take the class. CPR Challenge dates are

March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., sometime in April and June 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call Kristi Kolthoff at mil 322-1760 or civ (06181) 88-1760.

School jobs

Argonner Elementary School has vacancies for educational technicians, educational aides, substitute teachers and lunchroom monitors. Applications are available at the school.

Sunrise Grill hours

The Sunrise Grill is now open Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy homemade foods, burgers, salads and American-style breakfasts made to order. The Sunrise Grill is located in Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne. Call mil 322-9149 or mil 322-9380.

USO CD recordings

Send a recorded CD message to your loved one downrange. Call the USO for an appointment. This program will continue until troops return to the Hanau area. Call the USO at mil 322-8725 or civ (06181) 56119.

Nutrition Nuggets

Join the Women, Infants, Children-Overseas staff every third Tuesday of the month from 12-12:30 p.m. at the Wolfgang Outreach Center, Building 514, at the Wolfgang Shopping Center for discussions on topics in nutrition. Participation is free. The March 16 topic is National Nutrition Month.

Scholarships

Apply by March 29 for one of five \$1,500 scholarships offered by Andrews Federal Credit Union 2004 Scholarship program. Instructions and applications can be found on the AFCU website, www.andrewsfcu.org or at the local branch.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Sgt. 1st Class Pierre Thibodeaux, 1-1st Cavalry Mortar Platoon platoon sergeant (kneeling left) and his men diagram the plan of attack for another patrol.

Wild wild west for 1-1st Cav patrols

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

“Our goal is to create a safe and secure environment so the country can stand itself back up,” said Col. Chuck Williams, commander of 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. Williams and the 1-1st Cav have been in Iraq since last April for 10 months of combat operations. Based at Camp Slayer, on the perimeter of Baghdad International Airport, the officers at least, are working out of lake front buildings that were once holiday guest houses for Baath Party loyalists. Opinion around the 1-1st Cav seems to agree that best part of their lake front offices is the marble bath rooms, complete with modern toilets and bidets that work. Throughout Iraq water systems have been the last of the major infrastructure systems to be restored. On BIAP the Soldiers are still using porta-johns, although contractors are working diligently to bring in toilets that flush.

Looking across the lake from the headquarters you can see the ruins of one of Saddam Hussein’s vast palace complexes. This particular one was a recreational facility with a huge theater, ballroom, conference room and swimming pool. One corner of the palace is completely demolished. It was attacked on the first night of the war by cruise missiles as American forces thought that President Hussein might be there watching a movie.

The 1-1st Cavalry is responsible for an area covering 235 square kilometers from Baghdad airport south to Highway 1 and east to Highway 8. “We’re guarding a sector that includes an electrical generating plant and an oil refinery. We’re responsible for traffic control, fighting insurgents to secure the area so we can help the Iraqis develop their

infrastructure and we also train the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps,” said Williams. The ICDC is a group of Iraqis who will help to maintain order throughout the country once they are properly trained. (See the Feb. 3 Herald Union, page 14.)

The 1-1st Cavalry has 800 ground troops for patrols and 200 air troops who fly Kiowa helicopters in general support for the entire task force. “Besides security, we’ve been involved in many projects to help the Iraqi people; we’ve been assisting in the building of schools, the repair and restoration of water and sewage systems, and electrical plants. Many of these schools haven’t been touched in 30 years. The mission is going great, in 10 months I’ve seen a vast amount of civil and military work and great improvements in the infrastructure. Water is now flowing from the rivers to the canals and then to the farms,” said Williams.

“We oversee about nine zones in our sector, each which now have their own neighborhood advisory councils, the first step toward a governing body. The local people bring their requests to the council for approval and we work with them on security and we can also assist the councils in getting help from Non-Governmental Organizations,” he said. “Right now we’re helping on a huge project that will include a community center, a clinic, a youth center, a school, a nursery and a council headquarters. The major issues we have to deal with are getting the funding and finding the contractors. We try to find local contractors whenever we can. If a project needs support from the Ministry of Education or Health, like the building of the clinic and school, these ministries will provide staff.”

In order to fulfill these humanitarian missions the 1-1st Cav must run almost daily combat patrols. “The number of attacks has greatly reduced recently, but never do we forget

that this is a dangerous place. We keep reminding the Soldiers that there are always people out there trying to disrupt the progress of the country that’s being made. The attacks are not always aimed at U.S. forces either. These people are trying to place fear out there by harming the Iraqis who work with us,” said Williams.

A normal combat patrol will include two to three vehicles; patrols can be long or short and run day and night. Some patrols stay mounted in their vehicles and during others the Soldiers dismount so they can speak face-to-face with the local people. The patrols have interpreters but many Soldiers have also learned a few key phrases in Arabic. “Patrols allow us to collect intelligence but also to see where we can lend a helping hand. If we get good intel, we can return later and remove those troublemaking people from the community,” said Williams. “There’s usually a positive response from the community after removing someone.”

Wild, wild west

“I’ve been here so long I have to remind myself that it’s like the wild west,” said Sgt. 1st Class Pierre Thibodeaux, 1-1st Cav Mortar Platoon platoon sergeant. “This is my longest deployment. I’ve been here 280 days, my fifth deployment and my fourth in a hostile environment.”

Today, Thibodeaux and his patrol are going into a nearby town to search for a suspected improvised explosive device manufacturer. They have specific intelligence pointing to a particular home, but they’ll confirm that with “human intel” when they arrive. “Sometimes you knock on the door and it’s not correct, so you go back to your intel,” said Thibodeaux. “We always go in cautiously. We ask nicely to search a

See 1-1st Cav on facing page