

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Wiesbaden's Lord Mayor Hildebrand Diehl and Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command, answer questions from U.S. and German media after the unit's welcome home ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. During the ceremony Diehl presented Boles hundreds of tickets for various attractions and events in the Wiesbaden area. The tickets were donated as a gesture of friendship from the German community to Soldiers and their families in Wiesbaden and throughout the state of Hessen.



Members of the 3rd COSCOM troop the U.S. colors, COSCOM colors and the colors of the COSCOM's subordinate units during a welcome home ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield April 29.

3rd COSCOM welcomed home

Story and photos by
Spc. Christopher
Fincham

3rd Corps Support Command
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers, families and friends gathered at Wiesbaden Army Airfield April 29. The group, including German dignitaries, met in front of the 3rd Corps Support Command headquarters building to honor the Soldiers and civilians of the 3rd COSCOM during a welcome home ceremony.

The ceremony officially marked the return of the 3rd COSCOM, the U.S. Army's largest corps support command, which recently com-

pleted a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following the uncasing of the 3rd COSCOM colors symbolizing the unit's return, Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, acting V Corps commander, spoke of a valued and dedicated corps support command.

***"Our legacy was built one Soldier at a time, one mile at a time, one gallon at a time, one work order at a time, one toolbox at a time — a band of brothers and sisters, forged into disciplined units that stepped up and flourished until we were one COSCOM, one heartbeat, one team."* — Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles**

"These Soldiers did their duty in an unforgiving environment and surrounded by constant danger," said Wojdakowski, "and did that duty exceptionally. This is truly one

of the most professional and respected units in the Army, and we in V Corps are extremely proud to have them a part of our corps."

Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, 3rd COSCOM commander, put the past year in perspective, saying, "In Germany the 3rd COSCOM consists of 4,000 Soldiers operating in an area the size of Connecticut. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, 3rd COSCOM grew to over 16,000 Soldiers operating in an area larger than the state of California."

The Soldiers used their augmented size to support the 150,000-Soldier coalition during their deployment. They set new standards in logistics support while accomplishing unprecedented missions. They provided water, repair parts, fuel and ammunition throughout the theater of operations over a road network of more than 3,000 miles. Basically, if a Soldier in Iraq or Kuwait used it in any way it came from the Soldiers of the 3rd COSCOM.

While the numbers are astounding, none of these missions could have been done individually. Everything that was accomplished was done so together as a team, said Boles.

"While the measure of our success could be found in statistics that stagger the imagination, the essence of our success was found in each Soldier's contribution every day," said Boles. "Our legacy



Command Sgt. Maj. David D. Wood and Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles uncasing the unit's colors signifying the unit's return from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

was built one Soldier at a time, one mile at a time, one gallon at a time, one work order at a time, one toolbox at a time — a band of brothers and sisters, forged into disciplined units that stepped up and flourished until we were one COSCOM, one heartbeat, one team."

The welcome home ceremony not only enabled everyone to pay tribute to the Soldiers who deployed, but served as an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the family members and loved ones

who waited patiently and supportively in the rear — the Soldiers' "secret weapons," according to Boles.

"Just as no COSCOM in our Army's history was asked to meet and master these challenges, no families and those left behind had been so challenged," said Boles in a voice charged with emotion. "They did not wring their hands. They rolled up their sleeves and did what needed to be done ... and showed us the true meaning of our motto, 'Sustaining the Line.'"



A piccolo player from V Corps' 76th Army Band performs during 3rd COSCOM's welcome home ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

BSB offers programs, activities to ease life for 'extended families'

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Moments after the announcement of 1st Armored Division's extension in Iraq, Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion commander, called an emergency staff meeting of all directors with one thought on his mind, "what can we offer these families?"

Following a brainstorming session with directors, unit commander and Family Readiness Group leaders, the first priority was to ensure the correct information was put out.

"More important than ever, we need to ensure the Soldiers and families know what exactly is going on," said Franks.

24-hour hotline

The first initiative began with a 24-hour community support hotline, 111. Spouses and families needing assistance can call from a civilian line, (0611) 705-111, or from a DSN line, 337-111, within the Wiesbaden area. Following the hotline, the BSB implemented a new link on the BSB's website titled "Operation Homefront."

"Operation Homefront was designed to put out the most up to date and factual information for 1st Armored Division families regarding the deployment," said Sandra Keefe, BSB deputy commander.

The link is designed to provide a one-stop place for spouses and families to view current information as well as to dispel any rumors regarding the deployment. Information such as how to go about getting refunds for airline tickets purchased for block leave, how to go about updating powers of attorney that are about to expire and information on tax extensions are all provided on the Operation Homefront link. A listing of frequently asked questions is also provided as well as a link for anyone with more questions regarding the 1st AD's deployment extension.

"As we receive any information that can assist these families we are putting it out immediately through the Operation Homefront link," said Donna Dean, 221st BSB public affairs officer.

In the meantime BSB officials are implementing several initiatives to ensure families are well informed and know that the BSB is here for them. One such initiative was creating a community calendar of all activities and events available throughout the community.

"Our community calendar is filled with upcoming events open to the entire community and is updated every three weeks," said Maj. Christopher Wolney, BSB operations officer. Calendars were placed in all community mailroom boxes as well as throughout several key high-traffic facilities such as the



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Directorate of Public Works employees take service order requests at the Hainerberg Shopping Center May 1. The implementation of a Service Order desk at the PX is one of many extra services being offered by the 221st Base Support Battalion. Service orders can be submitted on the spot every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hainerberg Food Court, Army Community Service, dining facilities and the Community Activity Center. The calendar is also available on the BSB's website at www.wiesbaden.army.mil.

Reduced fee pass

Another initiative is the 1st AD Special Programs' Pass which entitles spouses and families to free or reduced fee activities throughout the installation. This includes receiving priority for the newly implemented Iron Bowling held on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. at both the Wiesbaden and Dexheim Bowling Centers. The cards must be requested by a Family Readiness Group leader from Army Community Service.

Although several of the new programs have been initiated due to the deployment extension, they are available to the entire community; however, priority will be given to those with the Special Programs' Pass, Franks said.

"The Soldiers in the 221st BSB community are my brothers and sisters. Their families are my family and I will do anything I can to make their lives better," said Franks.

Child care assistance

For just that reason, the BSB and Child and Youth Services had contracted child care workers from the U.S. to assist with child care during the block leave period. Rather than postponing the contract until 1st AD returns, the eight child care providers from Arkansas and Texas came on board anyway.

"They have been a tremendous help and began working as soon as they arrived," said Denise Faison, CYS director. Almost 50 percent of the community's child care providers are 1st AD spouses who originally anticipated taking block leave when the Soldiers returned. "Some have cancelled or postponed their planned vacations, but with the assistance of the contractors we are able to provide a much needed break for our caregivers," Faison said.

The dining facilities have also chipped in by adding a Family Night once a month beginning May 19 that will include children's movies and a play area. The BSB will also host a Family Day every Saturday after school is released.

"The Kinderfest during the Month of the Military Child was such a huge success, I'd like to have that available again for our kids," said Franks. An encore of the Kinderfest will be held at the middle school playground June 19 offering similar activities for the entire family. Family Day activities throughout the rest of the summer will be held at the Community Activity Center or other locations. Check future issues of the *Herald Union* or the BSB website for more information.

Other events include several trips through Outdoor Recreation. Added to their weekly activities of rock climbing, fishing, bicycling and swimming are several trips to amusement parks, Poland, The Netherlands and Switzerland throughout the summer.

"Whatever it takes, we're going to try to offer something for everyone during this extended deployment," Franks said. Plans are still in the works to offer dance and sewing classes, a youth arts program, teen overnight camps and a free movie night once a week.

Wiesbaden happenings

May 11: Asian Pacific Islander lunch at the Rheinlander Club in Dexheim; Bouldering with Outdoor Recreation.

May 12: Ski Clinic at Outdoor Recreation and shopping trip to Koblenz; Homefront seminar at Army Community Service.

May 13: Swimming with Outdoor Recreation; free bowling; Funniest Home Video Awards at Cappuccino Casino.

May 14-16: Prague tour or Swiss Adventure weekend with Outdoor Recreation; Rheinland Pfalz Tag in Dexheim; Quest Retreat (ages 12-15).

May 15-16: Fitness Certification at Tony Bass Fitness Center; Shopping trip to Poland with Outdoor Recreation.

May 16: Römer Arts Center Show and art sale.

May 17: Hiking at Frankenstein's Castle with Outdoor Recreation; Youth summer camp sign-up begins with Child and Youth Services.

May 17-21: Army Family Team Building Training (Levels 1-3).

May 18: Rock climbing with Outdoor Recreation.

May 19: Scuba diving course and bike clinic with Outdoor Recreation; Wiesbaden Middle School Spring Concert; Dining Facility Family Night; Gardening Show at Four Seasons in Mainz-Kastel.

May 20: Employment Fair at the Community Activity Center; Biking and swimming with Outdoor Recreation; free bowling.

May 21: Asian Pacific Heritage Month Luau.

May 21-23: Bicycling, camping and barbecue on the Mosel River with Outdoor Recreation; High School European Track and Field finals.

May 22: Rock climbing with Outdoor Recreation; Parent's Night Out.

May 23: Performing Arts Recital at Römer Arts Center; free U.S. Army Soldier Show at the Taunus Theater; bicycling with Outdoor Recreation.

May 25: Bouldering with Outdoor Recreation.

May 26: Frankfurt shopping trip or ski clinic with Outdoor Recreation.

May 27: Free bowling; swimming with Outdoor Recreation; Volunteer orientation at Army Community Service.

May 28-30: "ART" theater production at the Amelia Earhart Playhouse; Tour Amsterdam with Outdoor Recreation.

May 29: Mountain biking, Dachau Prison camp tour or scuba diving with Outdoor Recreation; 4th Annual 20K bike and 10K Fun run with Tony Bass Fitness Center; Youth shopping trip to Centro Mall with Child and Youth Services.

June 3: Family Readiness Expo at the Community Activity Center.



"The Soldiers in the 221st BSB community are my brothers and sisters. Their families are my family, and I will do anything I can to make their lives better." — Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st BSB commander

Caring for extended families

Tanker gives leaders view of the battlefield

Story and photo by Sgt. Shauna McRoberts
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

When Sgt. Jose Suarez arrived in Wiesbaden in the summer of 2001, the first thing he asked to see was his company's motor pool.

Trained as an armored crew member, he was surprised to discover that the only vehicles in the motor pool of his new unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, were 5-ton vehicles and HMMWVs.

"I asked 'where are the tanks?'" he recalled.

Suarez soon learned that instead of serving as an armored crew member, he was going to be working in 1st AD headquarters' operations section as a command and control personal computer (C2PC) operator.

C2PC is a computer program that allows a division commanding general and other key leaders to see a clear picture of the battlefield by plotting important information on a digitized map. The operator is responsible for plotting this information, which includes unit locations, checkpoints and boundaries, offensive operations, and any significant actions that occur within the division's area of operations.

"When I found out what I was

going to be doing, I was really surprised," Suarez said. "I didn't know what to expect; the only thing I knew was tanks."

Nearly three years later, Suarez now tracks 1st AD's battlefield all over Iraq, and is known as "the C2PC subject-matter expert," said Sgt. Maj. David Davenport, 1st AD operations sergeant major.

"He is a very smart and aggressive young noncommissioned officer," said Davenport. "And he knows his job very well."

When Suarez, a native of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, enlisted in the Army in April 1998 he never envisioned he'd one day be working as a computer operator in Iraq.

"I just wanted to be a tanker,"

"I just wanted to be a tanker. ... A recruiter showed me a video of a tank gunnery and I knew right away that's what I wanted to do."

said Suarez. "A recruiter showed me a video of a tank gunnery and I knew right away that's what I wanted to do."

In May 1998 Suarez started his military career at Fort Knox, Ky., where he went through armor one-station unit training which included basic and military occupational specialty training. He graduated in September 1998.

Suarez, who has been married for seven years to his high school

sweetheart, Sandy, and has a four-year old daughter, Lourdes, then reported for his first assignment with Company B, 1st Battalion, 33rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Wash. During his time with 1-33th Armor, Suarez worked as a tank driver, loader and gunner.

"It was great, I loved it," he said. "We were always in the field, doing gunneries and battalion, company, and platoon STXs (situational training exercises). When we weren't in the field, we were doing maintenance on our tanks."

In April 2001, Suarez re-enlisted for an assignment in Germany. Though he never expected to wind up as a C2PC operator in a division

headquarters, Suarez said he is grateful for the experience.

"I have gained a lot from this unit," he said.

"I've worked with some great people who have taught me a lot about leadership and professionalism."

Suarez exemplifies professionalism, said Maj. David Sink, a 1st AD battle major, who has served with him in Baghdad for the past year.

"A C2PC operator has an extremely important job because he allows the commanding general to see a picture of the current fight," said Sink.



Sgt. Jose Suarez, an armored crew member with HHC, 1st AD, plots a traffic control point on his command and control personal computer program at 1st AD headquarters in Baghdad.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Making a career at home

Stay at home with your children and have a career by joining the 221st Base Support Battalion Family Child Care program. Receive free training and nationally recognized accreditation. For more information call mil 338-7729 or civ (0611) 380-7729.

Spring Concert

Gen. H.H. Arnold High School students will perform in a Spring Concert at the auditorium of the Music and Art School, located across the square from the Rathaus in downtown Wiesbaden, May 13 at 7 p.m. The Warrior Show Choir will make its debut during this special concert. For more information call mil 337-6319 or civ (0611) 705-6319.

Western Union services

Western Union services are now available at the Hainerberg Main Exchange.

School registration

Registration for all Wiesbaden schools is now ongoing for the next school year. Even if your child is currently a student, you must re-register for the upcoming school year. Limited registration is also available online at www.registration.eu.odedodea.edu. For more information call mil 337-7004 or civ (0611) 705-7004.

Office closure

The Wiesbaden Transportation Office, Transportation Motor Pool and Property Book Offices are closed on all U.S. holidays as well as upcoming German holidays May 20-21, 31 and June 10-11.

Job availability

The Women, Infants and Children-Overseas Program has an opening for a full-time administrative assistant in the Wiesbaden WIC Office. If you like working with mothers, babies and children; have some computer

experience and organizational skills, this may be the job for you. Fax your resume to mil 338-7836, civ (0611) 380-7836 or call mil 338-7837, civ (0611) 380-7837 for more information.

Help needed for Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts need a new Overseas Committee chairperson. This is a full-time volunteer position. For more information call civ (0611) 174 852.

Rheinblick Golf Course

Hold your next gathering at the Rheinblick Golf Course. The conference facilities are free when combined with a catering package. Rheinblick also offers unit tournament packages starting at \$20 per person that include lunch, equipment rental and a range token. For more information call mil 336-2816.

Outdoor Rec tours

Join the Wiesbaden and Dexheim adventure experts at Outdoor Recreation for trips to Paris, Disneyland Paris, kayaking, Legoland Germany, Six Flags Holland and white water rafting in Austria. For dates or to sign up for a trip call mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760.

Tax assistance

The Tax Assistance Center is available for all Soldiers, civilians and family members to help prepare 2003 taxes. Located at Heer Strasse 31 in Building 1255, the Tax Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. The office is closed daily from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch. For more information call civ (0611) 705-6506.

Dining facilities open

The Dexheim and Wackernheim Dining Facilities are now open for all meals. Dexheim DFAC serves breakfast from 7-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., dinner from 4:30-6

p.m., brunch during weekends from 10:30 a.m. to noon and dinner from 4-5:30 p.m. McCully DFAC serves breakfast from 7:30-9 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., dinner from 4:30-6 p.m., brunch during weekends from 10 a.m. to noon and dinner from 1-3 p.m.

Change of command

The Wiesbaden community is invited to attend the change of command ceremony for the Wiesbaden Contracting Center June 9 at 10 a.m. at the Community Activity Center.

AFTB for youth

The Army Family Team Building program offers classes and workshops for youths. Upcoming classes include Organizational Skills/Time and Meeting Management, Military Acronyms/Protocol and Flag Etiquette, and Financial Management and Budgeting. Classes are limited to 15 students and are offered at Army Community Service, Room 22, afterschool. To sign up or for more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the BOSS Center, Building 1052 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

'Aloha Polynesia'

Armed Forces Entertainment and the 221st Base Support Battalion's Entertainment Branch present "Aloha Polynesia," a seven-member dance troupe from Hawaii, May 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Wiesbaden American Middle School auditorium. Admission is free, and all are welcome. Call mil 336-2473 for details.

Spouse and family member inprocessing

As soon as the jet lag is over, sign up for the new Spouse and Family Member inprocessing training with the 221st Base Support Battalion. Learn about services and

activities available throughout the community and life while in Germany every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 to sign up.

Housekeeping service available

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers housekeeping services for Hainerberg, Crestview, Aukamm, Dexheim, Mainz-Kastel, Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Finthen housing areas. Personnel living off post may also be eligible for this service. Call civ (0171) 751 2762, (06732) 933 326 or email squeakyclean@t-online.de.

Stress management

Wiesbaden's Social Work Services hosts stress management workshops at Army Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

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.

Bundespost office

The German Post Office at Wiesbaden Army Airfield is open Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for mailing letters and packages. Customers can no longer pay any bills through the Bundespost office.

Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers meet their own 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.

Veterans briefings

The Army Career and Alumni Program offers information on a wide variety of veterans benefits available to Soldiers and their family members May 19. Call the ACAP office at mil 337-5709 or civ (0611) 705-5709 to sign up.

Family room available

Tony Bass Fitness Center features a family fitness room equipped with treadmills, elliptical trainers, stationary bikes, a television, DVD player, tables, chairs and mats for children. Bring your own movies and fun activities for children while you do your workout. Movie donations are also welcome.

Aerobics classes

A variety of aerobics classes are offered at the Tony Bass Fitness Center every day. Learn how to do pilates, yoga, kickboxing and much more. Classes are \$2 each and held at the Tony Bass Fitness Center.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

On tiptoe at Buccaneer Night

A young ballet dancer shows off her talent onstage during Buccaneer Night, the annual college scholarship fundraiser for Baumholder American High School's graduating seniors. This year's annual fundraiser netted the seniors \$20,000 plus. All proceeds from the pirate-themed evening go into a scholarship fund to be distributed among this year's seniors who will be continuing their education after graduation. Buccaneer Night featured live entertainment, children's games, the Whopper Hopper, cake walk, theme basket auction, silent auction, food sales and raffle giveaways. Throughout the evening dozens of items contributed by local merchants, organizations and professional sports teams were raffled or sold in a silent auction.

Post notes

Crisis assistance

The Crisis and Assistance Center at Army Community Service in Building 8742 is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Assistance is available by calling mil 485-8188/6604 during duty hours.

After duty hours call the 222nd Base Support Battalion EOC at mil 485-7533/6150 or civ (06783) 6-7533/6150.

Call or stop by if you need someone to listen or to resolve an issue.

AFTB training

Army Family Team Building offers instructor training May 18, 19, 20 and 21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Army Community Service. Free child care is provided with advance registration. Call mil 485-8542 for more information or to sign up.

May sports

The following sports and leisure activities are offered in May:

- ★ Walk to Iraq and back is now under way. Call your Family Readiness Group leader for details.

- ★ Beginners racquetball lessons start May 11 at all gyms.

- ★ Weight training orientation will be offered May 12 at Gym II, May 13 at Neubrücke and May 14 at Strassburg. All sessions begin at 10 a.m.

People who cannot meet these times may call for an appointment at mil 485-6671/7176.

Players needed

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for men and women community level softball players, coaches, officials and scorekeepers. Call mil 485-6671/7176 for details.

Unit level softball

Units interested in intramural softball competition may register at the Sports Office or call mil 485-6671/7176.

Spare time? Bowl

There are good times to spare at Baumholder's newly renovated Strikers bowling center. During Iron Family Bowling on Thursdays, all military spouses and children can bowl for free from 3-6 p.m. while lanes are available and shoe rental is included.

Strikers has an all new kitchen and snack bar and state of the art bowling equipment. There's a new lobby in front of the facility, and the exterior has also been given a facelift.

Downtown fun

The town of Baumholder invites

everyone to a weekend of live music and entertainment May 15 and 16.

Activities begin May 15 in the town marketplace with an antique flea market, booths, a children's carousel, food and drink booths, and open air music.

The evening's activities begin May 15 at 9 p.m. when live music and entertainment will be offered at Bistro Pierrot, Aktuell, Vis-à-vis and Treffpunkt. Customers pay one cover charge that allows them admission to all four locations.

May 16 activities begin at 11 a.m. with a performance by a gospel choir in the marketplace. The same activities will be offered throughout the day as the day before plus a special obstacle course for children and free face painting will also be available.

All shops will also be open until 8 p.m. May 15 and from noon to 6 p.m. May 16.

Case lot sale

Mark your calendars for May 28-30. Those are the dates for the annual worldwide commissary case lot sale.

Call the commissary for the two days of those three that they will hold this popular event. Some items will be reduced as much as 60 percent off the regular price.

The sale will include selected grocery, household, health and beauty items, chilled and frozen food and more.

Scramble night

Grip it and rip it Thursday nights at Rolling Hills Golf Course starting May 16 through Sept. 20. Sign up from 3-5:30 p.m. in the Pro Shop and tee off at 6 p.m., with a shotgun start and a \$10 entry fee.

A minimum of 16 people are needed to play. Call the Rolling Hills Golf Course at mil 485-7299 for more information.

Deployment extension update

Website assists family members

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion public affairs office

Baumholder's website features two new links of interest to family members affected by the extension of 1st Armored Division Soldiers in Iraq. Operation HomeFront is a link where family members can find answers to questions pertaining to deployment extensions, airline ticket refund guidance, new travel orders policy and more.

The site will continue to be updated with the latest information as it becomes available.

"We want families to know that this information is available to assist them through these demanding times," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd Base Support Battalion public affairs officer.

The guidance and information for family members affected by the extension is so fluid at this point that it is difficult to determine what the latest guidance is. "Family members can be sure, however, that

whatever information appears on the web is the latest information we have available," said Dwoiakowski.

Also new to the website is a link called Baumholder happenings. Army Community Service compiles this information every two weeks and publishes a flyer which is then placed in mailboxes at the Community Mail Room. This same information will be placed on the Baumholder website.

The site features activities for youth, ACS classes and programs, club events, trips, sports, recreation activities, chapel activities and more. The information will be updated every two weeks.

The Baumholder website is located at www.baumholder.army.mil.

Baumholder's website is just one of three avenues the 222nd BSB is using to keep family members informed with the many activities offered in Baumholder and up to date with the latest extension information.

The second leg of Baumholder's information triad is the Baumholder Information Channel, or BIC. This service is available to all residents who have cable access, regardless if it is the basic free service or any of the paid packages. Residents in Smith Kaserne and Housing, Wetzel Housing, Champion Village, Neubrücke and Strassburg have access to this service.

The third avenue available to family members is the *Herald Union*. Key information that appears on the web or BIC will also be highlighted in the *Herald Union*.

"There is so much information coming in that the 222nd BSB decided to maximize the flow of information by highlighting key events and critical information in all three media formats. This way, we can be assured that community residents will be informed one way or another. If they don't read the paper, they'll watch TV or go to the web for the latest news and information," said Dwoiakowski.

Caring for extended families

Families get OK to move without Soldier

Army families whose Soldiers were recently extended for another four months in Iraq will be allowed to move back to the United States without the service member, according to a new Army policy.

According to MILPER message 04-149, any family that was originally scheduled to rotate back to the United States between May 1 and Sept. 30, but whose Soldier's tour in Iraq has been delayed, is authorized to return before the service member comes back from deployment.

Cut through the red tape and bureaucracy and do all you can to help the families affected by the extension of 1st Armored Division Soldiers is the message Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander,

had for members of the 222nd Base Support Battalion. In addition to other things, "this empowerment from Bell allows Alpha Detachment, 90th Personnel Service Battalion to issue orders to family members, right now and immediately," said Capt. Terry D. Brannan, Detachment A, 90th PSB commander.

This message adjusts the Soldier's DEROS to Nov. 15, 2004, with a report date of Dec. 20, 2004. This is based on the 90 day stabilization which the Soldier may waive, upon approval from the first O-5 in the Soldier's chain of command.

Orders in hand, the family member may then proceed on assignment this summer on the original report date and settle the family at

the next duty assignment. The Soldier will proceed later to the same duty assignment.

"We will base these orders on the current assignment instructions as found on our DA assignment systems. These orders allow the family to travel, ship POV, ship household goods, clear/retain housing and also allow for the travel of the Soldier upon their return—in any combination of dates or shipments," said Brannan.

Upon return Soldiers are still required to complete the reintegration process at their home station.

"If we do not hear from the family member, we will publish the orders based on the adjusted DEROS, leave requested by Soldier and the

90 day stabilization. Please call us and ask any question you may have," said Brannan.

Family members who have questions may contact the reassignment section at mil 485-6978/6634/7216 or Warrant Officer 1 Michael McKoy at mil 485-7215. Customers may also call Staff Sgt. Joseph Hall or Brannan at mil 485-6068. Brannan is also available on email at terry.brannan@us.army.mil.

The bottom line is all family members of Task Force 1st AD Soldiers with original report dates of May 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2004, may still proceed, without their Soldier, on that assignment and original date, if they desire. (Courtesy of DoD and 90th PSB)



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava
Gen. B.B. Bell fields a question from a Baumholder resident.

Eight Soldiers killed while making Iraqi roads safer

Eight Baumholder Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom died April 29 in Baghdad while part of a dismounted improvised explosive device sweep patrol. A driver detonated a bomb while approaching their unit.

The Soldiers were assigned to the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

Killed were:

Staff Sgt. Esau G. Patterson, Jr., 25, of Ridgeland, S.C.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey F. Dayton, 27, of Caledonia, Miss.

Sgt. Ryan M. Campbell, 25, of Kirksville, Mo.

Spc. James L. Beckstrand, 27, of Escondido, Calif.

Spc. Justin B. Schmidt, 23, of Bradenton, Fla.

Pfc. Ryan E. Reed, 20, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pfc. Norman Darling, 29, of Middleboro, Mass.

Pfc. Jeremy Ricardo Ewing, 22, of Miami, Fla.

The eight Soldiers killed and four Soldiers wounded were part of a task force that was working to make the roads south of Baghdad safer for the citizens

and those traveling to the holy sites in the area. The Soldiers were working to remove roadside bombs that have resulted in the deaths of many Iraqi citizens as well as Soldiers over the last year.

The task force has worked hard over the past several weeks improving security for the area, officials said.

"These courageous young men, who lived and fought with such passion over the past year, fell while doing their mission," said Capt. John Hickman, Battery C, 4-27th commander. "These men were heroes and they will never be forgotten."

Memorial services were held May 2 at Striker Forward Operating Base in Baghdad and May 5 in Baumholder.

"The deaths of our friends and fellow Soldiers will not go in vain," said Hickman. "We will honor them by keeping up the fight against terrorism."

The Soldiers were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals. (Courtesy of the DoD and 1st AD Public Affairs Offices)



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

A vehicle is inspected by a Ponds security guard at the new inspection point at Prussman Gate.

Prussman Gate reopens; traffic flows

By Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

It did not take long for traffic to start flowing through Baumholder's Prussman Gate once it reopened April 30 after a year-long construction project that replaced the old guard shack that had only one lane in and one lane out with a modern three lane entry point and six checkpoints. Where the old guard shack once stood, now stands a massive vehicle search facility.

No other construction project has affected the entire community more than this, for sooner or later, everyone must pass through the main gate.

The gate is open to pedestrians and vehicle traffic only. Truck and bus traffic continues to enter the post from Chicago Gate. Daily visitor passes continue to be issued at

the Army and Air Force Exchange Service warehouse parking lot location and the Shooters Gate, formerly known as the Rod and Gun Gate, has closed to vehicle traffic but remains open for pedestrians 24 hours a day.

Construction on the main gate began March 17, 2003, but the project started affecting people even before then. Shortly before construction started, motorists and pedestrians who wanted to enter post via the main gate discovered that the gate was boarded up and Baumholder was "closed."

Motorists and pedestrians, however, quickly adjusted to the minor inconvenience of entering Smith Barracks through one of its other entry points.

Nothing remains of the old gate. The entire facility is new and provides efficient entry control as well as convenience for motorists whose

vehicles are randomly inspected. Drivers and security persons are now sheltered from the weather during a vehicle search by a large bay area that can accommodate 18 vehicles at one time.

The old vehicle checkpoint area allowed only three or four vehicles to be checked at one time, which often backed up traffic during peak hours. The Ponds security force also has a new spacious operations facility at the main gate.

Beyond the checkpoints and vehicle inspection area is a traffic circle that streamlines the flow of incoming and outgoing traffic. In the center of the circle is a large marquee pronouncing the latest happenings on post.

The Army Corps of Engineers was the overseer for the details and specifications of the construction and SKE Maintenance GmbH & Co KG from Mannheim performed the work.

Bowling center reopens after renovation

Remodeled facility has new look, attractions

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

**222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office**

Baumholder's bowling center holds its grand reopening ceremony May 11 at 3 p.m., marking the end of an intense renovation project that gave the center a complete face-lift as well as a new name, Strikers. It has a completely new look and features a couple of new attractions for customers.

New to the facility is a lounge area with slot machines, a bar and smoking area. Large glass doors in front of the lounge open out into a newly built patio that will offer a street cafe atmosphere. By adding this new lounge area, "we've separated the adult entertainment from the family entertainment," said Les Quick, bowling center manager.

The lounge is in front of the bowling center and can be entered without going into the bowling area. "Everything has been replaced, from the tables to the pin setters. We've also added an additional family lounge area where children and adults can enjoy their favorite video games. It's a brand new facility in an old building," he said.

The center's scoring system is also state of the art, with overhead scoring monitors at every lane that also have the capability of television reception. "If an adjoining lane is not in use, it is possible to have AFN showing on one monitor while scoring is displayed in the adjoining monitor," said Quick. There are also plasma television monitors throughout the center that offer AFN satellite reception. "These monitors also have a marketing potential since we can display Power Point based presentations with community information," said Quick.

The Strike Zone Snackbar is also new to the center. "This is a theme food concept operation that will open in a couple of weeks," said Quick.

"The Strike Zone is the food service application for bowling centers," said Brad Puterbaugh, an employee of the Community and Family Support Center, Branded Theme Concepts of Alexandria, Va. "These (food service packages) have been in development for 10 years. We have different applications for different locations and we've got 54 units worldwide now," said Puterbaugh. "Twelve are Strike Zones, this is number 12. We've got them in Korea, all over the United

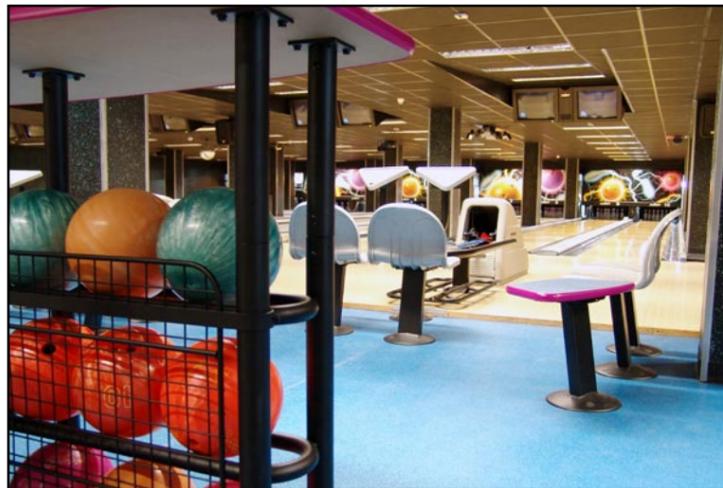


Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Bright colors and family friendly surroundings make Strikers the place to be for those with time to "spare."

States, in England and in Germany. This is the fourth one in Germany. It is an upgraded food service standardized package in terms of quick-serve food service for a bowling center, tried and tested in many locations over the past 10 years and perfected over the past few years, so that's what we're installing here. This is a product of MWR and we're here to do the training — myself and Berry Pensky," said Puterbaugh

"The Strike Zone Snackbar will offer consistency in quality food service to the bowling center. It brings to bear the true nature of food service which needs to be a consistent product from unit to unit," said Puterbaugh.

"So when you go to a unit in Theilerbach or you go to a unit at Fort Bragg, you're going to get the same product," he said.

As part of an initiative to support the community and family members during the extension period, Strikers will be providing free bowling for everyone in the community. "We're going to provide free bowling during sergeants time every Thursday from 3-6 p.m.," said Quick.

"The intent is to support the spouses and dependents left behind, but the community has civilians who are doing a lot of other support. Everybody is involved whether it's family members, German employees or civilian employees and their family members, they're all doing their 10, 11 or 12 hours and they all deserve a pat on the back. And this is just a piece of that," said Quick.

Other programs offered at Strikers include Monday Night Madness, Nifty Fifties on Tuesdays, Wild Wednesdays, Early Bird and Color Pin Bowling on Thursdays, Kids Night Out on Fridays, Cosmic Bowling on Saturdays, Family Bowling on Sundays and Open Bowling

on holidays. Open Bowling is also offered Mondays through Fridays.

Striker hours are 1-11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday, 1-10 p.m. on Sunday and holidays.

Lounge hours are Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Sunday and holidays from 4-11 p.m.

The Strike Zone Snackbar is open Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to mid-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Berry Pensky and Brad Puterbaugh examine the new equipment at the Strike Zone Snackbar.

night, Sunday and holidays from 1-8 p.m.

Eleven employees currently work at Strikers, but Quick said he's looking at expanding it. "I want to hire at least four or five additional employees," he said.

Strikers is also open to the German community. "As long as they

can access the post they can use our facility. The only restriction is that they cannot buy items such as bowling balls for personal use. But as far as coming in and consuming products, whether it's food, beverages or bowling, they're welcome to use our facility," said Quick. "We're open to the community."

High school, Neubrücke earn re-accreditation

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

A team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools completed an in-depth evaluation of Baumholder American High School April 16 that led to the school being recommended for continuation of the accreditation process by the NCA.

The team then moved on to evaluate Neubrücke Elementary School and also found the school to be an exceptional place of learning and recommended that it be accredited for an additional five years.

"The schools are involved in an improvement process over a five-year period and we're here to provide assistance and guidance to help them move forward," said Phil

Lebeau, chairperson for North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The NSA is the largest school accreditation organization in the United States.

The team interviewed and observed student and teacher interaction, evaluated the school's curriculum for adherence to NSA standards and also interviewed staff members and parents.

Of the students and faculty at Baumholder American High School, Lebeau said, "We saw kids in this school who were engaged, energetic ... respectful, part of your goal of character development, and friendly ... I think, this along with you as an enthusiastic, motivated staff made this a very pleasant experience for us. ... There really is a sincere rapport that exists between the staff and the students at this school.

"My team reports that the open and honest communication helped us with the endeavors of our report," said Lebeau.

"The process that we used was to interview and visit classrooms. We met formally and informally with students. That was always a treat. That's always a breath of fresh air. ... It certainly is a joy to talk and converse and get information from the student population," he said.

After the evaluation, Lebeau read the general appraisal and provided three major findings on school improvement and three major next steps.

The final report will come back in two parts, one on school improvement, which has four different components to it. These components include the involvement of the school in the school improvement process, the leadership for school



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Dom Calabria, high school principal, listens to Phil Lebeau's comments after the North Central Association accreditation visit.

improvement, the high expectations for school improvement and the culture and climate for school improvement. Each one of those sections has a subheading of findings or strengths and another subheading called next steps as they were called before, recommendations.

Lebeau summed up the team's findings by telling the staff and teachers, "You followed the process diligently through the North Central process of school improvement. ... You're in your third year. You've done a darn good job.

"The tone of the school reflects a respectful, caring and safe environment," he added. "The students, staff, including support staff, the parents, administration, district office, and the military community take pride in this Baumholder middle high school.

"The school must now connect the work of the first part of the cycle to the documentation of student success at the end of the cycle.

"The team obviously recommends continued accreditation for Baumholder middle school high school, and it really has been our good fortune to be here with you the past three days. We thank you. We wish you success as you travel on your journey to school improvement and I congratulate you and again thanks for your time and your efforts," said Lebeau.

At Neubrücke Elementary School, the results were equally impressive. Principal Wayne Dozark said, "The out brief went extremely well. As a matter of fact the words were more flattering than we expected. They deemed the school to be one of the very best that they've ever visited. They found no citations. They were anxious to give us our additional five years of accreditation," he said.

"They even commented that they had had a very interesting and

productive parent meeting in which they asked the parents to rate the school from one to 10 and the parents said, 'give them a 12.' It really impressed them that the parents were so supportive of the school and felt it truly was the hidden secret of DoDDS," said Dozark.

In a letter to parents, Dozark encapsulated the team's comments by writing, "I'm very proud to announce that the North Central Accreditation team unanimously and without reservation recommended that Neubrücke Elementary be accredited for an additional five years.

"They cited the school as an A plus place of learning, with an outstanding and caring staff, well behaved and respectful students, very supportive parents, a varied and effective curriculum, a full and wide ranging program for children, and an extremely strong and talented support staff.

"The two stateside evaluators representing NCA, headquartered in Chicago, indicated in their out briefing to the staff, to the district office personnel, military representatives and parents, that this is the best school that they have had the pleasure of visiting this year — quite a compliment considering they are on the road for about six months out of each school year evaluating schools in the States as well as throughout the world of DoDEA.

"I'm genuinely pleased and humbly flattered that we received such incredibly high marks and compliments. As parents I hope you are as pleased as we are.

"The team of seven professionals from the USA, from schools in Belgium, from DoDD schools in the Netherlands, validated that what we are doing with children's learning is right on track with the goals of DoDEA. Thank you for your continued support."