

Soldiers train for urban operations

Spartans learn local landscape in 'glass houses'

Story and photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, yell out their positions to each other as they navigate the hallways, securing rooms and moving forward. Each Soldier has an assigned task until all corners have been

locked down and secured.

The "glass house" that Company C secured is two-dimensional. Its walls are strips of white engineering tape pinned into the ground in assorted rectangular shapes. The action inside is just as real to these Soldiers as if it were somebody's home.

Glass houses are nothing new to these Soldiers, but the location carries with it cultural characteristics that are different from anything they've seen before. Operating out

of Camp Lima near Karbala, Iraq, as part of Task Force 1-37th Armor in support of Operation Iron Saber, the Company C's glass house has the configuration and floor plan of a typical Iraqi home — an arrangement radically different from plans used for European structures.

"The first house that we came into in Iraq — we were so surprised at the layout," said Staff Sgt. Rogelio Cortes, 2nd Platoon squad leader.

"It was a lesson learned. After we did our first house raid we had to adjust how we thought it would

"It was a lesson learned. After we did our first house raid we had to adjust how we thought it would look," — Staff Sgt. Rogelio Cortes, 2nd Platoon, Company C

look."

Keeping his Soldiers safe while accomplishing their missions is his paramount concern, said Cortes. Proper and repeated training is the way to achieve the goal.

"I want them to be proficient, so that once we get into a room we can dominate it. This way we create a foothold for the rest of the platoon or another squad to come through safely," he said.

The heat and unfamiliar terrain make fighting in Iraqi urban envi-



Spc. Dennis Wells, a grenadier with Company C, 1-36th Infantry, practices urban movement and security drills inside a "glass house" at Camp Lima near Karbala. Attached to TF 1-37th Armor, Company C moved from Baghdad to Karbala in support of Operation Iron Saber.

ronments one of the most challenging missions a Soldier can encounter.

"It's very, very hard to train for an urban fight," said team leader Spc. Michael Shea.

"There are a lot of new techniques to pick up. The only way to

learn is by repetition," he said.

Grenadier Spc. Dennis Wells said drilling is a key training tool for his squad.

"It teaches us how to deal with combat in an urban environment, clear a room, take down the enemy. We've had a lot of training on the

job as well as courses like this," he said.

The challenges and the danger are just part of being an infantryman, said Wells.

"I wanted to be in the infantry. I joined when I was 25 and I'm 28 now. It's what I want to do."

16th Engineers see action in Karbala

Block escape routes, clear weapons in confrontation with Al-Sadr militia

By Spc. Andrew Meissner
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

For two successive nights in early May

Soldiers of Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion, took to the streets of Karbala, Iraq, in support of Operation Iron Saber.

The first night of operations found the combat engineers setting roadblocks to encircle and trap escaping enemy forces, and conducting dismounted security in support of tank, infantry and air assaults on known militia strong points in the city.

"We're the ground-pounders out here,

making sure the roadblock personnel have good security on the ground. We've done a lot of this stuff," said team leader, 1st Lt. David Drake.

The company is part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Armored Division.

The sounds of explosions echoed down the streets and red tracer fire streamed overhead. Soldiers assigned to secure the area acted with deliberate speed, deftly stringing concertina wire across the broad boulevards. Teams of engineers found cover in the underbrush, in dry irrigation ditches and under covered alleyways, denying the enemy pathways of escape around their cordon.

"Whatever the other Soldiers need help with, we can do it," said Pvt. James Watkins, an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner with 1st Platoon.

Although there was no contact with enemy fighters during the operations, the engineers knew their contribution was necessary to the whole effort.

"I was hoping we'd be able to see more ... but we did our part," Watkins said.

After only a few hours of sleep the engineers were out again the following night. This time the mission was to search for weap-

ons at an abandoned amusement park.

Dismounted infantrymen initially combed the area, encountering some resistance, which they quickly dispersed. After the infantry secured the park, it was the engineers turn to fan out.

"You have to do most of your soldiering first, and be a mechanic second," said first Platoon mechanic Pfc. William Lockey. "Actually it's been quite challenging. Most mechanics don't do the things I do."

The engineers did not need sophisticated, ground-penetrating radar to find weapons and ammunition caches that evening. Visual searches were enough to uncover the park's deadly treasures. Many of its small structures contained mortars, RPG launchers, heavy caliber ammunition and improvised explosive devices — many readied for emplacement.

The sappers collected the ordnance and destroyed it. Thunderous explosions disintegrated the weapons so completely that none were left for salvage.

"They sent us here because they feel that there is more that (Coalition Forces) need to do," said Pfc. Alec Fowler, an M-113 armored personnel carrier driver. "I have no problems staying here until it's done."



Photo by Sgt. Andrew Meissner

Illuminated by the red glow of Karbala's street lamps, Pfc. Alec Fowler, an M113 driver from Company B, strings concertina wire across the roadway while platoon mechanic Pfc. William Lockey and Squad Automatic Weapon gunner Pvt. James Watkins provide security.

‘Mess daddy’ sets sights on home

Cook prepares to settle down after 20 years in service and 11 deployments

By Sgt. Christopher Stanis
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Food service is not typically tagged as a “glamour job” in the Army, but Staff Sgt. William Hughes understands that someone has to do it, especially in places like Iraq. The demands of the job have always been a part of life for the senior food operations noncommissioned officer of Task Force 1st Armored Division’s 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

“I’ve been working in restaurants since I was 13,” said Hughes. This “mess daddy’s” military journey began in February 1984.

“I managed a Steak and Ale in Atlanta,” said Hughes, an Atlanta native. “I asked my boss when I would receive another promotion. He said, ‘when I retire and you take my spot.’” When exactly would that be, asked Hughes.

“When you’re 30,” said the boss. That’s when Hughes decided to look for something different.

Seeing the world

The aspiring chef joined the Army to “see the world at someone else’s expense,” and he has. In his 20 years of service Hughes got married, had two children, earned a bachelor’s degree in food service management, a master’s degree in business management and has been through 11 deployments, including

a number of combat tours.

His first assignment was with 3rd Battalion, 59th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, a Hawk missile unit in Baumholder. During that tour he was named the 1987 U.S. Army Europe Cook of the Year. One of the benefits of winning was a classroom slot at a German culinary school in Frankfurt.

Making it through the three-month program took some work, including negotiating assignments with a tough instructor. “He was an ornery guy,” Hughes said. “Let’s just say I stayed on soups and sauces for a long time.”

During his tenure in Baumholder Hughes deployed to the former Czechoslovakia, the first of many deployments to come. During his next assignment in Korea, he deployed to Thailand, Burma and Laos for Operation Cobra Gold.

After Korea, Hughes returned to Germany with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 32nd Support Command, in Worms. While there he deployed to Panama for Operation Just Cause, but not with his unit.

“I was on leave in Atlanta when the news ticker came across the screen on the television for all service members to report to the nearest military installation,” Hughes said. He reported to Fort McPherson, Ga., and shortly afterward found himself in an aircraft hangar at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

“They gave us our shots and sewed on our jungle fatigues right there,” he said.

But it wasn’t until he had boarded an aircraft and gone airborne that Hughes found out where he was headed. Once the plane landed he was handed a parachute and put on a helicopter. Having never attended the Army’s basic airborne course, he didn’t know what was going on.

“I was just a dumb cook. I thought it was just for safety,” he said. The next thing he

knew, he was “thrown” out of the helicopter in to lands unknown.

Hughes spent 37 days in Panama. The new “airborne cook” with one jump under his belt and combat jump wings on his chest returned to Germany. His unit had written him off as absent without leave — AWOL.

“They thought I was still goofing around on leave,” Hughes said.

Since then he has deployed to Egypt, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo and now Iraq.

With 1st AD’s extension in Iraq, Hughes and his experienced crew are leading the way for a new group of cooks. “My guys have been through the Iraqi summer already, so they’re working pretty smoothly. We know what to expect and what the Soldiers will need when it starts hitting heat category 5,” he said.

This tour in Iraq is likely the last deployment for Hughes as he winds down his last few months in the Army. It is time, he said, to settle down with his family and act on his



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Staff Sgt. William Hughes, the senior food operations noncommissioned officer with 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, stands outside of his military kitchen trailer at a base camp near An Najaf, Iraq.

lifelong dream of managing a hotel. “I’m just an old ‘mess daddy’ trying to retire,” said Hughes. “My wife has been playing the mommy-daddy role for the last 10 years.”

Hughes already has a job waiting for him at the Grand Casino Hotel in Biloxi, Miss. “All I have to do is show up for work,” he said.

Chaplain's retirement means end of equine therapy

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Eight months after its successful introduction in the 284th Base Support Battalion, the Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program — a program in which horses play a significant role in helping people deal with psychological problems — has ceased.

"We've worked with only one client, but the program has proved to be a success," said Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service counselor and youth therapist Billy Wray. "It presented new and exciting challenges in the helping field. We cannot continue the program because Chaplain Davies is retiring, and the program requires two licensed therapists and one needs to be a licensed equine therapist."

Wray and 284th BSB Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Davies introduced the program last fall to help youths deal with the disturbances of adolescence. By performing different tasks involving the horses of the Butzbach Riding Club, the program's single young client learned more about herself and others, and then processed the feelings, behaviors and patterns, said Wray.

Powerful form of therapy

"This particular form of therapy actually can be very powerful. I've studied it, I've seen it and I heard about it, but it's the first time I've experienced it. I am glad that I chose to introduce it here in the 284th BSB. I only wish that I had done it sooner and with more people," said Davies, who is a licensed equine therapist.

"The sessions brought out some problems, fears and emotions that probably would have taken longer to get through traditional means of therapy. The beauty of this form of therapy is that horses have distinct personalities and when working with them the client has to adapt to their

reactions, which are comparable to those of other people," said Davies.

The end of the program is a sad development for the teenager involved.

"I've learned a lot, especially when my mom and I started working together as a team," she said. "In order to accomplish a task involving the horses we had to talk and work as a team, and I've realized that my mom loves me even though sometimes it's not obvious to me. She does not always have an answer and needs to ask for help too. But she is not afraid to ask for help and she listens to other people. She's cool and she most definitely is not like others who beat their kids when they are upset. My mom gives me food, she takes me shopping and she cares for me even when I sometimes think she doesn't like me.

"The horses showed me, by letting me get close to them, that I can be a nice person. They kind of looked through my rude behavior and this made me become nicer. I did not have to pretend to be so tough. I guess this could also work with people. When I am nice, they are nice," the girl said.

"I am glad that Billy Wray asked if we wanted to try the horse therapy. After every session I saw how my daughter's self-confidence grew. But I also realized that she's not a little girl anymore — that was the hardest part for me to learn," said the client's mother.

"We learned that part of her problem is that our family is not working together, and throughout the sessions it became more evident. We are not a happier family now, but we are experiencing more happy times. The roller coasters are not that high anymore — it kind of evened out. I'd definitely love to continue the therapy. There is so much more we could learn from each other. It's too bad that the program is no longer offered," she said.

"After reading about the program in the *Herald Union* many people inquired about it, but we had to refuse them

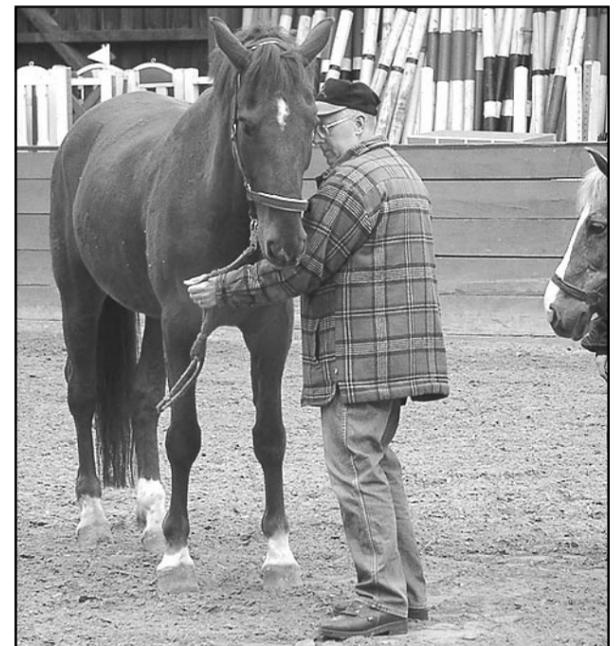


Photo by Alexandra Williams

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Davies tends to one of the horses after the final session of equine assisted therapy. Davies' retirement ends the therapy.

because we wanted to make sure we had enough time to give our client all the attention she needed. Later we realized that once Chaplain Davies retired we would not be able to continue the therapy," said Wray.

Davies, his wife and their six horses are moving to Montana after his 30 years of Army service.

"I plan to open a therapy center with my own horses, and who knows — maybe the BSB will hire me as a therapist and I'll be back for a couple of sessions," Davies said.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Celebrating Asian Pacific culture

Community members look on as Robert Radeke (second from right) from Club Beyond joins a Tahitian dancer during a dance competition at this year's Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration May 15 on the Giessen Depot. The event featured a variety of dance performances, games and a martial arts demonstration. The community was also treated to free food samples featuring food from Korea, Thailand and Guam.

Renovations enhance safety in Scout camps

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The 284th Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Work has spent approximately \$100,000 this spring for the renovation of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps located in the backcountry of Marburg.

Because of their location both camps depend on the support of the 284th BSB, the nearest military installation.

"We go out there twice a year. In spring we check on the safety of buildings and other constructions, cut back trees to eliminate safety hazards and cut the grass. In September when the camps close we prepare the buildings to protect them from vandalism. Throughout the summer we do seasonal maintenance work such as cutting grass," said Ulrich Arnold, 284th BSB DPW chief of the Engineer Resource Management Division.

BSB suggests repairs

Earlier this year representatives of the camp administration requested different repairs but Craig Birchard, the 284th BSB deputy commander, added most of the suggestions for renovations on the list, said Arnold.

At the Girl Scout Camp four buildings

have been painted, some wooden walls at the dining facility were replaced and sealed and the entire building was painted. The old admin building was torn down and replaced and the wooden stairs on this building as well as the art house were replaced by concrete stairs.

"We've spent approximately \$60,000 on this special project," Arnold said.

Another \$40,000 was spent at the Boy Scout Camp.

"We've painted four entire buildings, wooden stairs were replaced, the roof of the archery range was replaced, the entire water supply was cleaned and the pumps were replaced," he said.

"In several buildings the rotten wood had to be replaced, and then we cut the branches and trees around the lake," said Arnold.

The 284th BSB does not receive any additional funding for the maintenance of the camps, so funds had to be squeezed out of the budget.

"Safety is number one so we make sure that money is available to keep the safety standards up. Especially during the extension of deployment we want to make sure that the children of our Soldiers have decent camps to enjoy a good time and that parents do not have to worry about their safety," Arnold said.

Inprocessing briefings for spouses available

Classes designed to help with smooth transition while Soldiers are deployed

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Giessen's Inprocessing Training Center hosts weekly inprocessing briefings for spouses aimed at easing the transition of families new to the 284th Base Support Battalion.

The three-hour class is especially designed to help spouses of deployed Soldiers complete the inprocessing process with all agencies while their sponsor is not available. It also provides an orientation of what services are available to them at the same time.

Class gives spouses an orientation

"The two-week inprocessing briefings are mandatory for Soldiers. Since most Soldiers deploy within a short time after their arrival in the BSB, we created the short briefing for spouses to give them an orientation at their new home and to let them start the inprocessing," said 284th BSB inprocessing

specialist Carrie Cook.

"We are providing spouses with the right tools to help her or him get settled in the BSB when the military sponsor cannot be with the family. For many families it's the first time coming to Germany or Giessen and they have to find their way around," Cook said. "In the briefing they receive details about all organizations on post and where they can find help. They get a checklist so they can see what needs to be done, because with the exception of personnel and finance, they are entitled to do the inprocessing when the Soldier is deployed."

New spouses are notified of the briefings through their sponsor's battalion S-1 section upon arrival and can make arrangements to attend a briefing. Spouses already living here are also encouraged to attend a briefing.

Child care is provided

Classes take place every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Inprocessing training includes briefings from the Installation Access Control System office, health clinics, Child and Youth Services, Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, driver's testing station, Housing, Transportation, community bank and Army Community Service among others. Pre-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Hansi Moosberger (left), driver's testing station instructor, gives spouses a briefing on the driver's testing classes during the first inprocessing briefing held in May for newly arrived spouses.

sentations are given in person as well as digital voice.

Child care is provided during the class.

"Transportation is provided for participants," said Cook. "Once they register we get in touch with them to determine where and when they will be picked up."

Children are transported to the Child Development Center, spouses are given a ride to the briefing and afterwards the family gets a ride home, she said.

For more information on the inprocessing for spouses call Becky Rodriguez at the Welcome Center at mil 343-8077.

Community spotlights

'Baby' at Giessen's Keller Theater

The Keller Theater presents "Baby," a musical comedy, June 4-5, 10-12 and 17-19 at 7:30 p.m. For reservations call the theater at mil 343-6515.

Outdoor Rec trips

Outdoor Recreation hosts a trip to Paris June 5-6. The cost is \$129. Nightlife in Amsterdam can be experienced June 12. The cost is \$49. For more information call mil 343-8202.

Weekend child care

Child and Youth Services hosts a Super Saturday child care service June 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Friedberg Child Development Center. The service is available for all children age six weeks to 11 years old. Respite cards for E-4s and below will be accepted. Deadline for reservations is one week before the opening. For details call the CDC at civ (06031) 81-3137.

Münzenberg fest

A medieval fest takes place in Münzenberg June 5 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and June 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fest features musical groups, Irish music, flame throwers, jousting, handicrafts and much more. Entrance is €4 for adults and €2 for children.

FAP educator sought

Army Community Service seeks a Family Advocacy Program educator for 30 hours per week. The job opens Sept. 1 and applications will be accepted until June 4. Requirements include a bachelor's degree and two years of experience. Interested applicants must complete and deliver their resume with a cover letter including identification of position to the Giessen ACS. For details call Perry Tripp at civ (0641) 402-8142 or email Perry.Tripp

@104asg.mwr.army.mil.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date is June 4 for all housing areas in the 284th BSB. Residents are reminded to put out the bulky items next to the trash container the evening before the scheduled pickup date. Various recycling tips and pertinent information can be viewed online at www.giessen.army.mil. Click on the "Directorate of Public Works" link.

School registration

All students returning to Butzbach Elementary School for the upcoming school year are encour-

aged to reregister for school now. Early registration ensures resources and staffing are in place for the upcoming school year. New students need to bring: ✎ birth certificate or passport, ✎ updated copy of immunization record, ✎ child's Social Security card, ✎ copy of sponsor's orders with the child's name on them.

SORT needs input

The Separate or Recycle Trash program seeks ideas or concerns on how to improve the BSB SORT program. For suggestions call the 284th BSB SORT coordinator, Marsha Williams, at mil 343-6736.

Mini fitness centers opened for families in Butzbach, Bad Nauheim housing areas

The 284th Base Support Battalion opened two satellite gyms in Butzbach and Bad Nauheim

to support spouses with small children and no means of transportation.

The gym in Butzbach is located in Building 6543 and offers cardiovascular equipment, treadmills, stepper, freerunners, bicycles and a Nordic Trak. Located in the Alvin York Community Center, the gym in Bad Nauheim has cardiovascular equipment and cam machines with an eight-station Universal

Exercise Gym.

Each facility has an area for small children set up so that parents are able to monitor the children while using the equipment. Televisions and VCR/DVD players are also available to keep the children occupied.

The Butzbach gym is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at civ (06033) 925 329. The Bad Nauheim gym is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can be reached at mil 324-3566.





Community notes ... Community notes

Büdingen Fitness Center aerobics

The Büdingen Fitness Center now has weekly aerobics classes.

- ◆ Mondays 6-7 p.m. — Cardio Blast/Abs
- ◆ Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. — Circuit Mania
- ◆ Wednesdays 6-7 p.m. — Pilates/Pilates on the Ball
- ◆ Thursdays 10-11 a.m. — Pilates Stretch

For information call the fitness center at mil 321-4737.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets every Thursday in Sportfield Housing (take the outdoor staircase at Sportfield Elementary School). Weigh-in begins at 6:15 p.m. The meetings are from 7-8 p.m. Come for weight loss support, accountability, friendship and fun. For more information send an email to Stephanie at topshanau@yahoo.com or visit the www.tops.org website.

Summer camp

Registration for Hanau Youth Services summer camp for middle school children and teens is now in progress. There will be 10 weeks of summer camp filled with adventure and fun and nine weeks of sports camp activities. YS offers summer camp for \$35 per week, 10 weeks of summer camp for \$315, sports camp for \$25 per week and nine weeks of sports camp for \$200. To register call Central Registration at civ (06181)88-9144 or mil 322-9144.

Self-Help classes

The Hanau and Büdingen Self-Help Stores are now offering basic and advanced classes in the safe use of equipment and materials in minor maintenance and repair projects. The Büdingen Self-Help Store will have their class the first Monday of every month from 10-11 a.m. The Hanau Self-Help Store will have their class the first Wednesday of every month from 10-11 a.m. For information call the Büdingen Self-Help Store at mil 321-4778 or the Hanau Self-Help Store at mil 322-8200.

Free bowling

Military spouses and children can bowl for free at every bowling center in the 104th Area Support



Photo by Dennis Johnson

MWR Spring Bazaar

Matthew, age 7, and his mother, Sharon Perry, from Rhein-Main Air Base look over a quartz crystal fountain at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Spring Bazaar which was held at the Pioneer Fitness Center May 7-9. "We try to go to all the bazaars. I like the variety, all this stuff in one place and on one day," said Perry.

Group during Iron Family Bowling, 3-6 p.m. on Thursdays. Shoe rental is included. The newly renovated 32-lane Hessen Bowl is at the Wolfgang Shopping Center.

Tax Center closed

The Hanau Tax Center will be closed May 28 for the Memorial Day training holiday. For information call the Hanau Tax Center at mil 322-9577.

Parent Advisory Councils

The next Büdingen Youth Services Parent Advisory Council is scheduled for June 7 at 6 p.m. in Building 2330 on Armstrong Kaserne, the Millennium MS/Teen Center. The next Hanau Youth Services Parent Advisory Council is scheduled for June 9 at 6 p.m. in Building 200 on New Argonner Kaserne, the Galaxy Middle School/Teen Center.

Central Texas College

Registration for Central Texas College summer classes continues until June 4. The courses offered in Hanau include EMT Basic, EMT

Clinical, Fundamentals of Criminal Justice and Introduction to the Hospitality Industry. Call mil 322-5410 for information or visit their office in Building 11 on Pioneer Kaserne.

Awana Club

The Awana Children's Club, sponsored by the 414th Base Support Battalion Protestant chapels, meets every Tuesday from 6-7:45 p.m. at Argonner Elementary School on Old Argonner Kaserne for games, songs, puppets, scripture and fun. The club is open to children in kindergarten to sixth grade. Call Vickie Horton at civ (06181)569 0670 for information.

Women's softball

The community women's softball team practices every Monday and Wednesday at the Fliegerhorst softball field. Interested players should call the Fliegerhorst Fitness Center at mil 322-7672.

School Advisory Council

The Hanau High School Advisory Council is a forum for communicating concerns and advice to the principal on educational mat-

ters. Parents are needed to share their ideas and participate on committees. A council meeting will be held June 2 at 3 p.m. in the high school conference room. For information contact Melissa Schuchmann at melissa_schuchmann@eu.odedodea.edu or civ (06181)906-9956.

Airport shuttle

Are you looking for a ride to the Frankfurt Airport? A shuttle bus is available Monday to Friday at Pioneer Kaserne, Building 20. Arrival and departure is between 9:15 and 9:50 a.m. For information call the 414th BSB ITC at mil 322-8952 or civ (06181)88-8952.

Softball league

Join the Büdingen AST / FRG family softball league for spring-time fun. For information call the Büdingen AST at mil 321-4845, mil 321-4755 or civ (0604)280-845.

Basic car care

Learn about basic car maintenance at Hanau Auto Skills every Saturday at 10 a.m. Topics include changing your oil, fixing flat tires, checking fluid levels and brake pads for wear. Class size is limited to 20

people. Call Hanau Auto Skills at mil 322-8247 or mil 322-8625 to register.

MainLine

A special train called the "MainLine" now connects Hanau and the Frankfurt airport. This train avoids the Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof and travels directly to the airport. It takes 40 minutes from the Hanau Hauptbahnhof to the Frankfurt airport. Breakfast (€2.50), snacks and beverages are served on the train. The regular tickets purchased at the vending machines are accepted. The MainLine departs Monday to Saturday at 7:30 and 11:25 a.m., 2:28 and 4:45 p.m. from the Hanau Hauptbahnhof.

Lending Closet

If you have overdue Army Community Service Lending Closet items, return them to ACS in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Nearly all ACS items are loaned out now and about 60 percent are overdue. Help ACS serve incoming and outgoing Soldiers and their families by returning the Lending Closet items.

AAFES jobs

AAFES has job openings at the Hanau, Giessen and Rhein-Main post exchanges. U.S. citizens can apply online at www.aafes.com. Local nationals can visit the AAFES Human Resources Office at the Wolfgang Shopping Center or call civ (06181)958-4403. The office is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chili Cook-Off

Bring your beans to the ACS Community Chili Cook-Off, May 29 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Büdingen Gazebo. In case of rain the cook-off will move to the Community Activity Venue, Building 2214.

PMOC

The Protestant Men of the Chapel meet 8-10 a.m. in the basement of Fliegerhorst Chapel on the second Saturday of each month. They serve breakfast and then have a group Bible study. Call Tim Bowers at civ (01511)425-0338.

ASIST Training

The next ASIST Training will be June 2-3 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 1351 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. For information and registration call the Chaplain's Office at mil 322-1570.

Get the latest news online at www.hanau.army.mil

New force protection measures

Security beefed up with dragon's teeth, overlooks and Nasatka barriers

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

"We've received 13 Nasatka barriers provided by the Department of the Army to improve the level of force protection in the 414th BSB community," said Staff Sgt. David Henson, the 414th Base Support Battalion force protection officer.

Henson, along with the force protection officers of the 104th Area Support Group and the 221st BSB, gathered at Grossauheim Kaserne May 11 for the unloading and a demonstration of these new barriers.

The 9,000-pound steel barriers are meant to pop up to stop any unauthorized vehicles from entering. These same barriers are used to protect the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and other important sites in the city.

The Mobile Model XV Barriers delivered to Hanau are meant to be towed into a needed location, but some may be installed permanently around Hanau and Büdingen. "We're looking at a couple of places to install these barriers and we'll use them for special events and during heightened force protection conditions," said Lewis Evans, the 414th BSB anti-terrorism adviser.

Other recent force protection improvements include the construction of "overwatch" positions. These are those square concrete buildings constructed with bullet resistant windows and walls, and firing ports, that are situated just behind the gates of the caserns.

These climate-controlled structures will provide more protection for Soldiers on guard from inclement weather and from any hostile fire that they might encounter in an emergency.

Throughout this past winter German soldiers stood guard from behind makeshift sandbag and plywood emplacements. These new overwatch positions will be manned if



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Force protection officers from the 104th ASG, the 414th BSB and the 221st BSB in Wiesbaden visited Grossauheim Kaserne May 11 to see a demonstration of the new Nasatka barriers.

there is ever a heightened security condition. If you've wondered where the German soldiers have gone, "our improved security measures have allowed them to be freed up for other missions," said Henson. "We've also increased the Pond's guard force and, in cooperation with the Pond's management, we've increased their level of training and professionalism.

The most visible and noisy improvement to force protection are the new "dragon's teeth" which have been installed at selected

gates. They "click-clack" as each car passes over in the proper direction. There'd be a loud "pop" and "whoosh" if anyone tried to cross them in the opposite direction. "The road spikes installation was completed May 7," said Henson. "They were installed to prevent any unauthorized entry through the exit lanes at the gates."

"The safety and security of our community members is the foremost mission of the base support battalion," said Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th BSB commander.

Dragon's Teeth safety

Do not go over the spikes too fast – less than five miles per hour – but also do not stop on top. If your car's tires slip sideways atop the spiked strip they could be punctured by spikes adjacent to the ones being depressed.

Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Lewis retires

Story and photo by Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The command sergeant major of the 414th Base Support Battalion, Herbert Lewis, retired after 29 years of Army service in a ceremony at the Pioneer Kaserne parade field May 14.

The ceremony was attended by members of the 414th BSB community; Lt. Col. Amy L. Ehmann, 414th BSB commander; Col. George A. Latham II, commander of the 104th Area Support Group; and Lewis' wife, Ulrike, and son, Dominique.

Ehmann spoke about the work Lewis performed for the BSB.

"It takes a truly uncommon leader to be a command sergeant major for a base support battalion," said Ehmann. "It takes a person who can lead a community, not through the authority given to him by his rank, but through an understanding of human nature, a willingness to listen and a passion to do right by people.

"For the past several years, Hanau has been blessed with a senior noncommissioned officer greatly endowed with these attributes. Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis is one of those rare leaders who successfully adapts his leadership skills to fit any situation.

"I have watched him negotiate

with great expertise some of the most difficult problems in the community, and the outcomes were always positive," she said.

"Ulrike and Dominique, this is a proud day for your family. We want to recognize and thank you as well for your successful Army careers. You have provided the support that has enabled Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis to be successful, and you have given so much to our communities. We are in your debt, and you have my greatest thanks," she said.

Photo right: Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th BSB commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Lewis salute during Lewis' retirement ceremony.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Soldiers find services under one roof at CPC

Buildings connected with covered hallway, waiting area

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

"This is all new," said Sgt. Roberto Ordonez of the 502nd Engineer Company, speaking about the new connecting hallway at the Central Processing Facility.

"I've been here since 1997 and all this used to be in Buildings 4 and 5 (on Pioneer Kaserne). I think it's much better now, a vast improvement. The kids can play outside on the playground equipment and spouses also have a nice place to wait while processing," said Ordonez.

The 414th Base Support Battalion Central Processing Facility now occupies two buildings — 20 and 21, on Pioneer Kaserne. "We moved into the newly renovated Buildings 20 and 21 from the old Building 4 in November of 2002 after \$2.3 million of renovation," said CPF manager, Larry Bostick. "But the hallway was outside the perimeters of 'renovation' because of its size and cost."

The CPF staff wanted to build a connecting hallway between the two buildings so their customers could move back and forth without having to walk outside.

Keeping costs down

After numerous meetings and site visits with Directorate of Public Works engineers and civilian contractors, a glass and steel structure was designed to connect the buildings.

The challenge was to get the cost of the structure below \$100,000. This way it could be funded as part of the renovation instead of as new construction, officials said.

"Today [April 26] we had the official inauguration of the hallway attended by the CPF staff, Col. George A. Latham II, the 104th Area Support Group commander, Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, the 414th BSB commander and the

414th BSB executive officer, Richard Davis," said Bostick. "We had quite a spread of food and a cake; I think everybody really enjoyed themselves."

"The CPF is the one-stop shop for in- and outprocessing. Before things were automated Soldiers had to make personal appearances at perhaps 10 to 12 different agencies. On some of the larger posts, that meant a lot of running around in personal cars and burning a lot of gas. And for those Soldiers who didn't have their own transportation, getting to all those agencies could be a problem," said Bostick.

"We receive new Soldiers here everyday. Whether they're coming from the USA or from across Germany, we have to delete them from the 'losing community' and add them to our community. Inprocessing a Soldier involves many agencies, such as personnel, finance, medical, housing and transportation. We're basically updating records and entering them into the system, tracking the Soldiers and their shipped personal possessions. We're the silent heroes here; we provide one of the most important functions in the Army. But we sometimes go unnoticed because we've made the process so seamless."

For all inprocessing or outprocessing questions, call the CPF at mil 322-8034. The SATO travel office is also located in the CPF, Building 20, and is available for all official and leisure travel needs.



Photos by Dennis Johnson



Above right: Soldiers wait in the new connecting hallway to take care of business at the Central Processing Facility. Above left: Children can play outside the CPF on a new playground while their parents are processed.

Celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage

Nikolei Castaneda, age 8, dances with the Hawaiian dance group, Castaneda Keikis (kids in Hawaiian), at the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration at Hanau's Evening Star Theater, May 8. Asian Pacific Heritage celebrations were also held at the Community Activity Venue in Büdingen May 11. On May 22 the Büdingen Area Support Team threw a free Aloha party at the CAV with dancing, food tastings and a 90-pound roast pig.

Photo by Dennis Johnson

