

Inside

Asian-Pacific heritage

Wiesbaden audiences were treated to a vibrant display of music, dance and storytelling during Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. See page 7.



Young authors

Creative DoDDS writers converge on Rhein-Main Air Base for a day of sharing and learning. See page 26.



Dexheim Biathlon

Competitors cover 30 kilometers by bike and on foot during fourth annual race. See page 28 for the results.



Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 17

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

June 8, 2004

News flash

Casualties in Iraq

Staff Sgt. **Jeremy R. Horton**, age 24, of Carneys Point, Pa., and Baumholder's 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, died May 21 near Al Iskandariyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded. **Capt. Robert C. Scheetz Jr.**, age 31, of Dothan, Ala., and Baumholder's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, died May 30 in Musayyib, Iraq, when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. **1st Lt. Kenneth Michael Ballard**, age 26, of Mountain View, Calif., and Friedberg's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, died May 30 in Najaf, Iraq, during a firefight with insurgents. **Pfc. Nicholas E. Zimmer**, age 20, of Columbus, Ohio, and Friedberg's 2-37th Armor, died May 30 in Kufa, Iraq, when his vehicle came under attack by rocket propelled grenades. **Sgt. Aaron C. Elandt**, age 23, of Lowell, Mich., and Baumholder's 1-6th Infantry, died May 30 in Al Musayyib when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

IMO Conference

The 102nd Signal Battalion will host an Information Management Officers Conference June 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Activities Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. All signal officers, IMOs and other interested personnel are invited. The conference agenda includes baseline, IAVA compliance, SUS server, update expert, a pre-migration survey, OLA forms and training. Call Winfred Robinson at mil 337-5929 for more information.

Issue facilities closing

The Baumholder, Friedberg, Giessen, Hanau and Wiesbaden Central Issue Facilities will close June 28 to July 1 during inventory. Customer service will be limited to compelling need and/or an emergency issue of equipment on a walk-in basis. Normal operations will resume at all facilities July 2. For more information call John Weeks at mil 323-2743.

Back-to-school catalog

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service now offers a Back to School 2004 catalog. Orders can be placed by mail, fax or phone. Authorized customers can shop the catalog online at www.aafes.com. (AAFES Release)



Photo by Hugh C. McBride
Spc. Stebel Buissereth places flags at Normandy American Cemetery.



Photo by Spc. Jeanine Kinville
Staff Sgt. Robert Parker, drillmaster of the 1st Armored Division's Division Support Command Drill and Ceremony Team, walks through his formation during a Memorial Day torchlight ceremony at Baghdad International Airport.

Memorial Day tributes

Soldier 'feels Army values' in Normandy

By Hugh C. McBride
6th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Spc. Stebel Buissereth joined the U.S. Army to help pay his college bills. Standing among the graves of Normandy American Cemetery, though, Buissereth said his service has resulted in more than just financial aid.

"You feel the values of the Army here,"

Buissereth said. "You can understand how hard it was for the Soldiers who fought here and how important it is for us to work hard to honor them."

A native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Buissereth spent part of his youth in France as a student in an international school near Paris. So, in addition to acting as an unofficial translator for his colleagues in the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, 69th ADA

Brigade, he brings an international perspective to the first D-Day commemoration ceremony he has attended while in uniform.

"As a civilian you admire what's going on, but you understand more when you're here as a Soldier," he said while walking through the cemetery with an armful of small French flags.

Buissereth spent the morning of May 29 placing flags beside the ivory crosses and Stars of David in the cemetery, which is

See 'Army values' on page 3

Task force addresses nine shortfalls

Army policy confronts sexual assault

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

The Army is devising a policy that will re-emphasize that all offenses of sexual assault must be reported to the Criminal Investigation Command, officials announced.

A task force spent 90 days conducting a detailed review of the Army's current policies and programs on sexual assault. One of

the findings was that while all commanders had taken action against assailants accused of sexual assault, not all were going through the proper investigation channels, said Darlene Sullivan, a task force member.

The task force was assembled from various Army organizations and began looking into how the Army addresses matters of sexual assault in February. Acting Secretary

of the Army Les Brownlee authorized the task force.

The task force recommendations were approved by Brownlee, and were briefed to the House Armed Services Committee June 3 by Reginald J. Brown, the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

There were nine shortfalls the task force
See Sexual assault on page 4

Kontakt: Volunteers continue tradition of building strong German-American ties at grassroots level. See pages 14 and 15.

Commentary

Feedback: What do you recommend doing for fun in Germany?



Charles Butler
284th Base Support Battalion

"Visit all the castles and small towns. There is a lot of historical information available. Also go to the AFRC (Armed Forces Recreation Center) in Garmisch. It's a wonderful area to relax. Last but not least, I recommend the volksmarches."



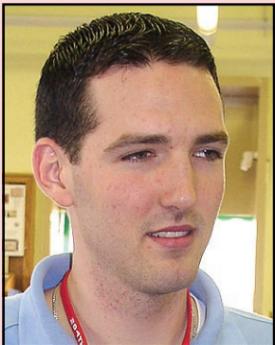
Pvt. Levi Smith
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
2nd Brigade

"Beer fests, wine fests and traveling are always fun things to do. Taking advantage of MWR offers, seeing Frankfurt and going to Garmisch is fun. It's also fun using the trains to get around in Germany."



Connie Chesser
284th Base Support Battalion
Directorate of Community Activities

"Get out and learn about the history of Giessen and Germany. Take trips to other European countries too. I went to Poland and Holland and just signed up to go to France. It's really fun visiting different countries and learning more about their culture."



Tom Farrington
284th Base Support Battalion
Directorate of Community Activities

"Visit all of the castles in Germany because there is a never-ending supply. On weekdays I enjoy taking crafting classes. I can definitely recommend them because there is something for everyone."



Pvt. David Sharp
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
2-6th Infantry

"It's fun to go shopping in Trier, and I also recommend going to the go cart track next to Kaiserslautern. There are lots of concerts to go to, or even going to the movies in Landstuhl is fun."

Heeding nation's call

Army marks 229th birthday, lauds American Soldiers

**By Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker
and Les Brownlee**
*Army chief of staff
and acting secretary of the Army*

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress established our Army. In the 229 years since that day our Army has proved itself on countless battlefields as liberty's best friend and oppression's worst foe.

Since its birth over a year before the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation. From winning our new nation's independence in a tough eight-year fight, to preserving the Union through the tortuous struggle of the Civil War, to the global conflicts of the 20th century, our citizens can draw great satisfaction from knowing that whenever the nation was in need, our Army answered the call.

Sixty years ago this month, our brave Soldiers stormed ashore at Normandy to begin the final thrust to liberate Western Europe. While that beachhead was expanding, our Soldiers liberated Rome, advanced against Japanese invaders in New Guinea, struggled against terrain, weather and a tough enemy in Burma, and reinforced the U.S. Marine Corps on Saipan.

We celebrate our veterans of 1944 on this 229th Army birthday as we celebrate the service of our younger veterans who fought

in Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq and in other conflicts.

Today's Army is the greatest land fighting force in the history of the world. This spring we completed the largest troop movement since World War II while continuing our engagement in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Our Army is serving



in more than 120 countries, conducting missions across the spectrum from humanitarian assistance to combat operations. While at war, we continue to transform to meet the needs of current and future strategic environments.

Our Army is strong, and its strength comes from our greatest asset: the American Soldier, whose courage, compassion and determination have for generations been the bedrock upon which our victories have been built. In all that the Army has accomplished, and in all that it will be called upon to do, the American Soldier remains the single most important factor in our success.

We are proud of you, our Army family — Soldiers, civilians, retirees, veterans and your families — and you are always foremost in our prayers and in our actions. Thank you for your service, for your sacrifice and for your steadfast devotion to duty. Your courage, dedication and selfless service to the nation are the hallmarks of the U.S. Army.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America.

Three tips for Father's Day

**Commentary by Chaplain
(Capt.) Cloyd Colby**
*221st Base Support Battalion Family Life
chaplain*

This Father's Day is sure to be filled with mixed emotions. Some fathers will have returned from downrange while many others will still be away from their children. For those of us lucky enough to be with our children, let's show them our love by giving them what only we can give: our presence, our best example and our fun.

Our presence — Sam Grant served a typical military career — lots of time spent away from his family. His relationship with his oldest son, Phil, suffered most. Shortly after Sam retired, Phil was injured in a traffic accident. "That night, after two major operations, I sat holding his hand in intensive care," said Sam. "He opened his eyes and made me understand through his scribbles and motions that during his darkest moments he had been visited by an angel. The angel told him he might never walk but, 'you will be

OK.' At that moment I made a commitment that he wouldn't be alone again during this trial."

Our best example — Charles Ballard shares this lesson on setting examples. "Last Sunday our 16-month-old son, Christopher, attempted to walk in my shoes." After failing to walk by himself, Christopher grabbed his father's hand, pulled him from his chair and together they walked across the room. "One day they're taking their first steps, the next they're trying on our shoes for size." Don't take setting examples for granted.

Our fun — Jerry Greenfield gives us a peek at having fun with his children. "Drip, drip, drip. The ice cream drips onto the counter and oozes onto the floor. We stand there watching it, taking part in the conspiracy. A little ice cream from the big wooden spoon drips onto Tyrone's head. He laughs as if it's funny to have ice cream dripping from your hair."

Whether we are with our children or not this Father's Day, may the Lord bless us to take time to be with them, to set our best example for them and to plan on having fun.

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News and features



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Celebrating high school graduation with dad in Iraq

Jennifer Ruzicka (left), her brother Jason and mother Lt. Col. Diana Ruzicka talk to Chief Warrant Officer Alan Ruzicka, who is serving with 1st Armored Division's 4th Brigade in Iraq, after Jennifer celebrated her graduation from Hanau American High School at the Hanau Stadthalle June 3. Ceremonies throughout the 104th Area Support Group were broadcast live via video teleconference to parents serving in Iraq. See next issue for more stories and photos.

Rules change for shipping alcohol

Shipment and storage of alcoholic beverages with Household Goods or Unaccompanied Baggage is unauthorized, but PCSing Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians may still ship them under the following guidelines.

The Joint Federal Travel Regulation (paragraph U5330-I) and the Joint Travel Regulation (paragraph C5330-I) provide that with written approval from the Transportation Office, Soldiers and civilians may personally procure transportation for the shipment of alcoholic beverages.

After receiving approval, contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms of the state to which you intend to ship the collection, quoting the amount, type and cost of the alcohol. For a list of websites and addresses go to www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/state.

They will inform you of the rules for importing alcohol and how to pay any necessary tax. If your state authorizes alcohol shipments, make arrangements with a local merchant. Most TOs maintain a list of local companies that perform the service.

When you arrive stateside you will need to bring the shipping documents to the airport's cargo section and fill out additional paperwork for the Customs Office. Customs will

determine the duty to be paid and stamp the customs clearance, which is taken back to the cargo section. Your shipment will then be released to you.

Customs officials report that the duty on still wine is presently 8.4 cents per liter, but increases to 19.8 cents for sparkling wine. IRS tax depends on the alcoholic strength of the beverage, working out to around six cents per liter for wine.

Customers are responsible for the costs and must comply with laws associated with customs, duties and taxes. The personally procured shipment will be reimbursed by the government for the transportation only at the Government Constructive Cost of shipping a like weight of HHG at the Code 4 rate.

Customers who were counseled that they would receive full reimbursement for personally procured shipments dated before May 6, 2004, will be reimbursed under the old rules with good proof of TO's approval. Those counseled after that date will be reimbursed only up to the cost of shipping the same weight of HHG at the Code 4 rate. (Courtesy of the 104th ASG Directorate of Logistics Transportation Division and IMA-E Public Affairs)

'Army values'

Continued from page 1

located on a hilltop overlooking Omaha Beach. As they are every year in preparation for Memorial Day and the anniversary of the D-Day invasion, the graves of each of the 9,387 service members buried in Normandy American Cemetery were marked with both U.S. and French flags.

In addition to participating in this tradition of honor, Buissereth and fellow members of his unit were scheduled to participate in the Memorial Day and D-Day ceremonies. Though he had attended similar events in Normandy before joining the service, Buissereth said being there in uniform had many differences — the most striking being the reaction that he has received from veterans of the invasion.

"They see us and they stop us," he said, recalling a

recent meeting with veterans of the 10th Mountain Division. Though these men have been acclaimed as members of the "Greatest Generation" and credited with saving the world from the horrors of facism, Buissereth said they don't stop the young troops to regale them with stories from the history books.

"The vets, when they talk to you, they want to know about you," he said, adding that the veterans only shared stories of their exploits after considerable prodding from the active-duty Soldiers. "They are very humble," he noted.

Turning toward the rows of graves that awaited his flags, Buissereth reflected on the meaning that his time in Normandy has added to his military service. "When you are here, that's when you know how important your job is," he said.

News flash

Ballot initiatives

The Department of Defense and U.S. Postal Service are launching a series of initiatives aimed at expediting the delivery of absentee ballots to U.S. military personnel abroad for this year's general election. Postal employees will contact each of the approximately 3,000 county election offices throughout the country to coordinate the mailing of absentee ballots. Once ballots are prepared for mailing, stateside post offices will facilitate the initial mailings of ballots via overnight Express Mail to the three military gateways (San Francisco, Miami and New York). This will take place about 30-45 days before election day. After the initial ballot mailings, remaining ballots will be expedited on a daily basis. The Military Postal System will then take over to ensure ballots are given priority handling at overseas destinations. (DoD News)

Visual Information Conference

The 7th Army Training Command hosts its second annual Visual Information Conference June 15-17 at Heidelberg's Marriott Hotel. More than 50 graphic, photo and video employees of 7th ATC Training Support Centers in Germany, Italy and Belgium will attend. The conference will address standard levels of service, equipment, VI issues and warfighter support. Call Timothy Heefner at mil 475-6558 for more information.

Employees honored

Three former employees of the Bad Kreuznach military community received belated recognition in a ceremony at Bad Kreuznach's Kurhaus June 1. Lt. Col. Steve R. Steininger, former 104th Area Support Group chief of staff, presented awards to Hans Dieter Fabian, Hermann Rennollet and Klaus Rettig on behalf of Col. George A. Latham, 104th ASG commander, for their superior performance and length of service. Three other former Bad Kreuznach employees to be honored — Josef Novy, Friedel Schwanke and Karl Heinz Ammann — were unable to attend the event and will be sent their awards.

Most popular names

The most popular baby names in the United States for 2003 were Jacob and Emily, according to the Social Security Administration. Emily has been the most popular girl's name since 1996. Jacob has been the most popular boy's name since 1999. Second on the list for 2003 were Michael and Emma followed by Joshua and Madison. (Social Security Administration News)

Election forum

The Kaiserslautern American German Business Club holds a forum on the upcoming U.S. presidential election June 10 at 7 p.m. at the Haus des Bürgers in Ramstein. Representatives of Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad will be available to answer questions. Reserve a space by June 8 by sending an email to Larry Zani at Larry_Zani@compuserve.com.

Leave donations sought

Debra S. Ruffin, a 104th Area Support Group S-2 employee, is in urgent need of annual leave donations. Ruffin, new to the civil service, is suffering from colon cancer and needs time off for treatment and recovery. To donate annual leave contact Hanau human resources assistant Letau Quintanilla at mil 323-2614.

Apply now for CAC, AKO

All eligible personnel must apply for Army Knowledge Online email accounts and Common Access Cards now if they have not already done so. They should visit their local ID card section to do so and must remember their Personnel Identification Number in order to use their CAC reader. (104th ASG Automation)

News and features

'There is no such thing as a safe tan'

Army dermatologists warn everyone to protect skin from harmful rays

By Spc. Todd Goodman

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Public Affairs Office

It really isn't fair. We have this wonderful ball of fire millions of miles away in space that provides light and warmth and goes really well with tank tops and swimming. Unfortunately it also goes well with premature wrinkling and skin damage.

"There is no such thing as a safe tan," said Maj. Michael Bryan, chief of Dermatology at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. "Tan skin means the skin has been damaged. Most people agree that tan skin looks better than pale skin, so what I tell them is to get color from a bottle, not the sun."

A tan acts as a shield, Bryan said, laying down more color to protect the skin from the sun's rays. However over time and without protection, that shield will give way to the sun's damaging rays.

As summertime approaches, there are a few things to consider before venturing outside in the noonday heat. Think wide brimmed hats, long sleeved shirts and sunblock.

"I am a big proponent of hats, considering that 90 percent of our skin cancers form on the head and neck," said Bryan.

Other areas of the body are particularly susceptible, also. The shoulders and back are body parts that have a

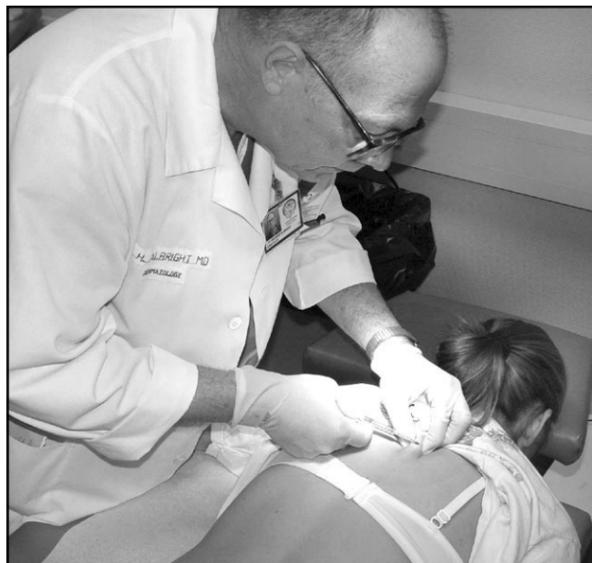


Photo by Spc. Todd Goodman

Landstuhl dermatologist Lt. Col. Havard Albright prepares to cut a portion of a mole from a patient's back for testing to determine if it is cancerous.

high chance of burning because they are almost always in the sun. Wearing a shirt in conjunction with a wide brimmed hat and sunscreen can greatly reduce chances of sunburn. One major sunburn can increase the risks of skin cancer by as much as 50 percent.

"Sunscreen is a great thing," said Bryan. "Unfortunately we don't use enough or put it on as often as we should."

"And there is no sunscreen in the world that is water or sweat proof," said Lt. Col. Havard Albright, a Landstuhl dermatologist. "It all washes off. You should apply it every two hours, and if you have been swimming, apply it every hour."

Albright also recommended people perform regular self exams. "Examine your body once a month," he said. "You should be looking for new moles or moles that have changed either shape or color."

Although most skin cancer doesn't develop from moles, there is a chance of it happening, so here are the ABCs of examining a mole.

Asymmetry, borders, color and diameter are things to look for. The mole should be symmetrical, meaning if it was cut in half, both sides would look alike. The borders of a mole should be smooth, not choppy. A change in color, either lighter or darker, is a sign to get it checked. Finally, diameter. If the mole is bigger than a pencil's eraser, get it looked at.

To examine normal skin, look for a sore that won't heal or a spot of skin that bleeds on its own. These are two warning signs that should be checked immediately.

"I wish people who don't take this stuff seriously could spend one day when either Dr. Albright or I am doing surgery on someone's face to remove a skin cancer," said Bryan, "just removing large pieces of skin off, trying to cure skin cancer."

For more information or to schedule an exam contact LRMC's Dermatology Clinic at mil 486-8171 or civ (06371) 86-8171.

Sexual assault

Continued from page 1

noted in its 80-page report. One major finding pointed out there was no standard way of handling sexual assault cases, making it hard to collect data and keep track of what services had been rendered to victims.

There were 24 recommendations made to improve the system. One was to develop a sexual assault policy for inclusion in Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy. The chief of personnel, Army G-1, is responsible for the overall sexual assault policy.

The policy will define sexual assault as alleged offenses of rape, forcible sodomy, assault with intent to commit rape or sodomy, indecent assault or an attempt to commit any of these offenses, Sullivan said. The definition is the same one used by the Department of Defense in its recent report, "Care for Victims of Sexual Assault."

The roles and responsibilities of commanders from major command to the unit level will be addressed in the new policy and become a part of AR 600-20, said Lt. Col. John McPhaul of Army G-1.

"Commanders must create a command climate where victims feel comfortable reporting acts of sexual assault," said Sullivan. "Rape is one of the most unreported crimes nationwide.

"As a first sergeant, if you don't know your Soldier was attacked or raped, how can you protect that Soldier? What if you put that Soldier on guard duty with his or her attacker?"

"It's imperative that leaders know that prevention, training and assistance are a commander's responsibility," she said.

Company commanders will no longer have the authority to sign the disciplinary paperwork for Soldiers who are accused of a sexual offense, when the cases don't go to court. The battalion commander's signature will be required, Sullivan said.

Department of the Army form 4833, Commander's Report of Disciplinary or Administrative Action, is a permanent record that states what a Soldier was accused of and what action was taken against him.

Sullivan said the task force found that about 20 percent of the commanders had not filled out the form because of operational tempo. Another recommendation of the task force is to alter the form, so that instead of stating that administrative action was taken against a Soldier, his or her specific punishments will be listed on the form.

Commanders alone cannot round out a successful program to prevent sexual assault, according to the task force. Commanders alone cannot be the judge, juror and pros-

ecutor.

Under AR 600-20 one of the responsibilities commanders will have is to assign a unit victim advocate to support victims of sexual assault. It is important to keep the victim and the chain of command informed of all case actions as they occur. The unit victim advocate will work to provide emotional support to victims while assisting them in the step-by-step processes involved, McPhaul said.

Other agencies whose roles will be outlined in the chapter will include CID, the Provost Marshal, the Surgeon General, Staff Judge Advocate and Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (Community and Family Support Center), McPhaul said.

"The Army agencies already have some procedures in place and know what to do, and are doing it, if an act of sexual assault occurs," McPhaul said, "but we must develop a comprehensive policy of dealing with sexual assault, from awareness/prevention to victim support and data collection.

"We are developing a mechanism that gets all the agencies in concert with each other by establishing a policy that deals with sexual assault not only in garrison, but in a deployed setting as well," McPhaul said.

Training requirements will also

be addressed in the regulation, McPhaul said. Within the next 60 to 90 days, new chapters will be added to the regulation and staffed with the field, he added.

Training and Doctrine Command is currently devising lesson plans on the prevention of sexual assault to be included in all professional development schools, refresher courses at the unit level and additional training for law enforcement, medical and legal personnel, Sullivan said.

When looking for ways to improve the Army's policies and programs, the task force sought advice from outside agencies including Department of Veterans Affairs; Na-

tional Organization of Victim Assistance; Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network; the Miles Foundation; Navy; Coast Guard; the University of Arizona and Purdue University in Indiana.

Both universities were given grants from the Department of Justice for their prevention programs, Sullivan said. The age category for the Soldiers who report the assaults and their assailants are in the same age category as the university students, she added. Nearly 84 percent of alleged perpetrators were identified as junior Soldiers, and 95 percent of the victims were in the rank of staff sergeant and below, according to the task force report.