

COSCOM honors fallen

By **Bruce Anderson**
3rd Corps Support Command
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers, family members and friends of the 3rd Corps Support Command witnessed the unveiling of a monument honoring seven of its Soldiers who died in Iraq as a result of enemy action in a ceremony in front of the unit's headquarters building at Wiesbaden Army Airfield May 27.

The ceremony, led by Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, 3rd COSCOM commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood, was timed to coincide with the Memorial Day

holiday. Before unveiling the monument, Boles explained the meaning of the holiday and of the monument.

"Every American holiday has its own special meaning," Boles said. "On this holiday, Memorial Day, we do something important, something significant — and at the same time very simple. The significance of Memorial Day is that we remember.

"There are seven names on this monument that we're about to unveil. They are the names of seven American Soldiers, seven 3rd COSCOM Soldiers, who did not

come home from Iraq. They died as a direct result of enemy action. They sacrificed their lives in the service of their great country. I've carried their names with me every day. I've never forgotten, and I don't think you should either," Boles said, his voice filled with emotion.

Boles went on to name the seven Soldiers and described the circumstances of their death. He led the audience in a moment of silence honoring those who sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom.

Afterward Boles joined his command sergeant major in front of the still-covered monument. After a respectful pause, the two seasoned Soldiers reverently removed the covering from the monument, stood quietly in front of the engraved stone and finally, with heads slightly bowed, rendered a salute to the Soldiers whose sacrifice will now be permanently honored by the monument.

Soldiers recalled

Sgt. Roger Rowe, 54, of Bon Aqua, Tenn., died as a result of a sniper attack while he was driving a fuel truck in a convoy near Baghdad. He died July 9, 2003, less than a week before he would have been 55.

Spc. Ramon Reyes-Torres, 29, of Caguas, Puerto Rico, was killed by a command detonated device while driving in a convoy near Baghdad. He died July 16, 2003.

Comics entertain Soldiers

Story by **Spc. Jeanine Kinville** and **Spc. Derrol Fulghum**

1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

There was a lot to laugh about at Baghdad International Airport when comedians from the Comics on Duty World Tours, sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, entertained 1st Armored Division



Photo by Bruce Anderson

Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles (left), 3rd Corps Support Command commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood unveil the memorial dedicated to seven COSCOM Soldiers killed in Iraq.

Spc. Ryan Carlock, 25, of Macomb, Ill., died of injuries sustained when his fuel truck was attacked northwest of Baghdad. He died Sept. 9, 2003.

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Bolor, 37, of Whittier, Calif., died when the helicopter he was riding in crashed in Mosul. He was on his way home on leave. He died Nov. 15, 2003.

Spc. Luke Frist, 20, of West Lafayette, Ind., was part of a convoy that was attacked with an improvised explosive device in

Baghdad. He died of his wounds at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Jan. 5, 2004.

Pfc. Jesse Mizener, 24, of Auburn, Calif., was killed in a mortar attack on Logistics Support Area Seitz, in Baghdad, Jan. 7, 2004.

Staff Sgt. Craig Davis, 37, of Opelousas, La., was on board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter when it crashed near Fallujah, while on a medical evacuation mission. He died Jan. 8, 2004.

"We remember," Boles said.

Soldiers May 22-23.

The tour featured comics Jefferey Steele, Steve Mazan and PJ Walsh.

"It was very 'ha-ha' funny," said Pfc. Brandi Georgi, a Military Policewoman with the 501st Military Police Company. "I'd love to see it again."

The tour made three stops around BIAP and one in Al-Kut.



Photo by Spc. Derrol Fulghum

Soldiers laugh during a comedian's performance at 1st AD's 4th Brigade hangars in Iraq May 22.

The Friday show at the 4th Brigade hangars opened with the 1st AD Rock Band playing such tunes as "Fat Lip" by Sum 41 and "My Girl." A crowd of over 200 Iron Soldiers came to let loose.

On Saturday morning the comics began their day at 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Stryker Island, entertaining Soldiers alongside the 1st AD Dixieland Band.

More than 300 Soldiers from 2nd BCT and the Division Artillery Brigade came to enjoy the show. After the musical warm up, the five comics performed for 15-20 minutes each, leaving Soldiers in stitches.

The comedians moved on to perform for the 123rd Main Support Battalion, where the "Mighty Main" Soldiers thanked them with an overwhelming uproar of laughter and applause.

Before leaving, all the comedians expressed their appreciation for the Iron Soldiers. "You guys have it the worst, since you had to stay," said Steele. "We really respect you all for what you do. Thanks for doing what you do."

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Discount travel opportunities with MWR

Armed Forces Vacation Club

Commentary by
Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

With all the entitlements that go along with being in the military, there's one benefit that tends to be overlooked within Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

A few years back, I heard of a great vacation package that just sounded too good to be true. A week's stay in a condominium for under \$250. Even better was the fact that you could pick a place almost anywhere in the world, including destinations most people just dream about.

Knowing the old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is," I put that piece of information away for another day. However a couple years later while searching through websites looking to try something new, I happened upon the MWR website and thought I'd look into that \$250 condo deal.

Through MWR, the Armed Forces Vacation Club offers special rates and weekly condo rentals to

all service members, Department of Defense civilians and federal employees. You can learn more about eligibility requirements and travel deals at www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/patronlinks/sav.asp. Click on the AFVC link and it tells you how easy it is to plan your next vacation.

I did find that there was a catch — picking the place to go. During high-season, places in the Caribbean or Bahamas aren't readily available. So when choosing a destination it's best to be flexible. If you already have the dates planned out, just browse through the site to find availabilities in different locations.

I soon discovered that there are several accommodations to choose from for the same low rate. Houseboats on canals throughout the United Kingdom (and several other

places) are available for the weekly rate of \$249. Thatch-roof bungalows, fully equipped, are available in Africa. Studio apartments and chateaus are available in southern France. When choosing a destination, all available resorts pop up for you to browse through.

Still not believing the luxurious places I was seeing for only \$250 my



family decided to give it a try. Let's just see if this really is too good to be true. In our case, we decided to choose places that Ryan Air services. I mean, if you're going to try to save money, you might as well save on the airfare too, right?

We ended up choosing a resort in the Scottish Highlands that offered fully-furnished cabins for up to six people with full access to the resort's fitness center, indoor pool, spa and restaurant. A notice at the bottom of the screen informed me that we would have to pay for any electricity used within the cabin. But considering the savings we would already have it wasn't too worrisome.

We were not disappointed. A map of Scotland, informational brochures and a listing of local events were sent to us by the resort a few weeks before the trip. Ryan Air flew us into Glasgow, we picked up a rental car and headed north into the Highlands. The cabin was located

in a beautifully green hilly area. It was everything we expected and more. We spent our week visiting sites throughout the Highlands such as the William Wallace memorial, lavender fields, Edinburgh Castle, a reindeer park, and of course, Loch Ness, returning each night to our cozy cabin. When it was finally time to leave, it was that electric bill that began to worry me, but it ended up being only \$12 for the entire week.

Sitting in a hot tub the night before our vacation ended it dawned on me that we had just spent a week at a beautiful resort in Scotland sightseeing throughout the country and it hadn't burned a hole in my purse. I later asked the resort's receptionist what it would have cost had we not gone through the vacation club. She informed me that our cabin rents out for £700 a week. Considering the conversion rate at that time, which was \$1.62 for one pound, we saved over \$800 on our accommodations alone. It actually wasn't too good to be true — it was better.

If money is an issue (and even if it's not), be sure to check out all your options when planning your next vacation. And check out the MWR vacation club packages — you just may end up in a place that you thought you'd only dream about.

Vacation spotlight



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Welcome to Wiesbaden

The American Forces Network's Staff Sgt. Joe Thompson broadcasts live from AFN Hessen's new studio on Wiesbaden Army Airfield May 28. The affiliate relocated from the AFN Europe Headquarters Building in downtown Frankfurt. Engineers worked around the clock to ensure things were up and running in time for the grand opening of the new studio facilities in Wiesbaden.

1st ADer provides Army Soldier Show with technical expertise

By Karen Edge
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Technical help from a 1st Armored Division Soldier helped make this year's U.S. Army Soldier Show a success.

Spc. Amy Padilla, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st AD, who traveled with the Soldier Show on its 2001 tour, threw her hat in the ring again this year vying for a spot as a video technician.

"A memo was sent to my shop looking for video techs, and I enjoyed working with the show so much in 2001 I sent in my resume," Padilla said. "I was selected and have been working with the Soldier Show since January."

Padilla produced videos and ran them as virtual stage backdrops during the show.

"My favorite part of working in the show is seeing the reactions on the faces in the audience. I only wish my unit could've been here because this year's show deals a lot with families and how deployment and returning home affects them,"



Wiesbaden's Spc. Amy Padilla tours with the Army Soldier Show.

said Padilla, following a performance at the Taunus Movie Theater in Wiesbaden May 23.

It was the seventh stop on the world-hopping tour. The show will perform for Soldiers and their families in Italy, Cuba and throughout the United States after leaving Germany.

Wiesbaden happenings

June 8 — Boulderling with Outdoor Recreation; free trip to Frankfurt Zoo with Outdoor Rec

June 9 — Shopping trip to Koblenz with Outdoor Rec; ski clinic with Outdoor Rec; Dog Days of Summer Cookout with ACS; Kontakt Wiesbaden meets at Kleinfeldchen; Field Day at Wiesbaden American Middle School; Dexheim Town Hall Meeting

June 10 — End of school block party with Youth Services; free bowling; shopping trip to Michelstadt with Outdoor Recreation; swim trip to Frankfurt with Outdoor Rec; Land of Lakes Boys Choir at Hainerberg Chapel

June 11 — Military Spouse Appreciation Day at Hainerberg PX; movie night with Youth Services; Dexheim Community Appreciation Day

June 11-13 — Trip to Paris or Alpine hiking with Outdoor Rec

June 12 — Bingo Bowling in Dexheim; Parents Night Out; Auschwitz Concentration Camp tour with Outdoor Rec

June 14 — Army Birthday celebration at WAAF food court; Runners Club meets at Tony Bass Fitness Center

June 14-18 — Vacation Bible School in Dexheim

June 15 — Boulderling or trip to Holiday Park with Outdoor Rec

June 16 — Shopping trip to Karlsruhe or ski clinic with Outdoor Rec; Kontakt Wiesbaden meets at Kleinfeldchen; youth movie night

June 17 — Free bowling; trip to Neuschwanstein or swimming with Outdoor Rec

June 18 — End of school year Yellow Ribbon Fest at ACS; Thunder Thump Softball tournament in Dexheim

June 18-20 — Swiss Adventure weekend or trip to Budapest with Outdoor Rec

June 19 — Kinderfest encore at Wiesbaden American Middle School; Outdoor Rec rock climbing

June 20 — Father's Day Brunch at McCully Club; Father's Day bowling; scuba diving with Outdoor Rec

June 21 — U.S. Army Europe training holiday; hiking in Feldberg with Outdoor Rec

June 22 — Opel Zoo or rock climbing with Outdoor Rec

June 23 — Wiesbaden Town Hall Meeting; shopping trip to Trier or bike clinic with Outdoor Recreation; Kontakt Wiesbaden meets at Kleinfeldchen

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



A member of the Aloha Polynesia dance ensemble performs for Wiesbaden Middle School students May 20.

Celebrating Asian-Pacific heritage

Wiesbaden American Middle School students get a lesson in hula dancing during a performance by the Aloha Polynesia dancing ensemble that toured military installations throughout Europe in conjunction with Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Aloha Polynesia tours Wiesbaden

Story and photos by Karen Edge
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Wiesbaden American Middle School students streamed into the gymnasium and sat cross-legged on the floor, Polynesian music barely audible over the roar of almost 500 private conversations.

As the tempo quickened the audience quieted and clapped to the beat. A first Polynesian dancer came onstage wearing a grass skirt and shell top, and grabbed the audience's attention. Her hula skirt swished back and forth with the movement of her hips. The sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders erupted in applause.

Having won their attention, the seven-member Aloha Polynesia dance ensemble from Honolulu, Hawaii, went on to teach the middle-schoolers a history lesson about heritage and tradition, while entertaining them with exotic music and dance.

The dancers explained Samoan greetings and the meanings of their traditional dances. Several students got to go onstage to move to the beat of the Hawaiian music.

"The dancers tell a story with their hands, and the music is a reflection of customs and traditions from days long ago," said tour manager Gary Fields. "It's a lot of fun to bring our culture here. We're teachers and we're also students learning about the U.S. communities overseas."



James Bibbs, an eighth-grade teacher at Wiesbaden American Middle School, is framed by a pair of Aloha Polynesia dancers during a number at the school May 20.

Aloha Polynesia travels through Europe during Asian Pacific Heritage Month, entertaining students, Soldiers and their families at military installations.

"Doing all these tours gives us a chance to build relationships with those who serve here. We know many of the families we are performing for have husbands, wives, moms or dads downrange," said Fields. "It means so much to us. We gear our shows to the families and Soldiers, trying to make them feel at home."

portunity to be part of."

Other Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebrations in Wiesbaden included a luau at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center May 21. Soldiers and families dressed up in clothes reflecting Asian heritage and brought ethnic food to share with the community.

Opening remarks came from Maj. Hengmo McCall, head nurse at the Wiesbaden Health Clinic, who shared her personal story of growing up in Korea, the youngest child in a

large family. She told of how her brothers and sisters joined together to pay for her education.

McCall joined the Army as a medic in 1983, she said. She later received an Army scholarship to attend nursing school and graduated with honors, receiving her commission as a second lieutenant in 1993.

"Whenever someone told me 'no, you can't do that,' I took it as a challenge. I've been overcoming obstacles since joining the Army," said McCall, encouraging everyone to do the same.

The luau was a family event in every sense of the word.

Ashi Martin performed a Tahitian dance and her brother Kinji performed on the ukulele. Shirley Martin, mother of Ashi and Kinji, works for the Hanau Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at the Wiesbaden Site Office servicing all tenant activities and the 221st BSB including Dexheim and Wackernheim.

The Islander Dancers awed the audience with swaying hips, grass skirts and smiling faces. There was a best dressed contest with both an adult and child category.

Ashi Martin took home the best dressed prize in the adult category and Rachel Rolle won the children's competition.

Then came the food. In no time the ethnic dishes were devoured and people mingled, enjoying the chance to talk about their Asian heritage.

EO class focuses on relationships

By Sgt. Shauna McRoberts
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 8th Finance Battalion, the 1st AD Band, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company participated in Equal Opportunity training recently in a class held at Baghdad International Airport.

More than 100 officers, noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted Soldiers were present for the hour-long class that covered fraternization and improper relationships.

This class is an annual training requirement for all Soldiers.

"We want to make sure we educate you on what you can and cannot do, and who you can and cannot entertain a relationship with," said 1st Sgt. Percy Black, HHC first sergeant.

The class, taught by Sgt. 1st Class Lucia Cantu, Equal Opportunity adviser, went over the different types of relationships that are prohibited by Army regulations. It also covered commanders' options in dealing with improper relationships and what has changed and not changed with Army EO policy.

Most Soldiers are aware that the Army prohibits certain sexual relationships: relationships between officers and enlisted Soldiers, between NCOs and junior enlisted Soldiers in the same direct chain of command, between married and single Soldiers, and between two married (not to each other) Soldiers.

However, improper relationships are not limited to those of a sexual nature, Cantu said.

Other improper relationships include a business relationship between officers and enlisted Soldiers, a relationship between Soldiers of different ranks where preferential treatment or favoritism is displayed or appears to be displayed, a relationship that compromises the chain of command or any relationship that creates an adverse impact on unit discipline, authority, morale or

mission accomplishment.

Gambling between officers and enlisted Soldiers is also prohibited.

Cantu made it clear that commanders can stop personal relationships based on perception and not necessarily facts or evidence.

"Out here, your business is everyone's business," she said. "Everyone in this class has their own opinion of what a professional

and unprofessional relationship is. Everything starts with perception. If perception is there, it can create conflicts and hurt the mission.

Soldiers should know that perception can lead to an investigation."

If a commander learns of an improper relationship, he or she has several options. The relationship can be dealt with by coun-

seling or education, or a commander can impose more extreme punishments under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"Also, if you are a sergeant first class or above and you are investigated for having an improper relationship, the division commanding general will know," Cantu said.

Cantu told Soldiers that improper relationships should first be addressed at the lowest level.

"Speak with your platoon sergeant, first sergeant or commander," she said. "The Equal Opportunity office will not pursue anything unless your chain of command is already involved."

Cantu also advised Soldiers to seek guidance if they have questions. They can learn more about fraternization and improper relationship policies in Army Regulation AR 600-20 and Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-35.

"...Everything starts with perception. If perception is there, it can create conflicts and hurt the mission. Soldiers should know that perception can lead to an investigation." – Sgt. 1st Class Lucia Cantu



Photo by Karen Edge

Clean up time

Sgt. Geanno Thompson, 55th Postal Company, sweeps up outside his quarters in Wiesbaden during the Community Spring Cleanup May 24.

221st BSB –Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Theater workshop coming

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse hosts a Children's Summer Theater Workshop beginning June 14 for children ages 8-14 years old. This year's theme is animal folktales from around the world. Workshops will be held from 2:30-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To register call the Amelia Earhart Playhouse at mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Dexheim appreciation

Dexheim Soldiers, civilians and families are invited to celebrate Dexheim Community Appreciation Day June 11. The fun begins at 10 a.m. at the Dexheim Fitness Center with a Family Expo, followed by a Spouse Appreciation ceremony at 1 p.m. A pig roast and barbecue will be held at the pavilion behind the fitness center throughout the day.

Free choir concert

The 221st Base Support Battalion invites Soldiers, civilians and family members to a free concert by the Land of Lakes Choirboys June 10 at 1 p.m. at Hainerberg Chapel. This is the choir's only stop at a U.S. military community during its three-week tour of Germany. For details call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

Happy birthday, Army

Celebrate the U.S. Army's 229th birthday with the 221st Base Support Battalion at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Food Court June 14 at 11:30 a.m. Cake and balloons will be given away to children.

New Testament class

The University of Maryland University College in Europe offers a three-credit, four-weekend "New Testament as Literature" course at Rhein Main Airbase June 12-13, 26-27 and July 17-18 and 24-25. The class analyzes the New Testament in historical context, examining the literary origins and canonical traditions of the Gospels. To enroll call the Maryland field representative at your local education center.

Nutrition classes

Wiesbaden Women, Infants and Children-Overseas offers free nutrition classes the third Tuesday of the month. Classes are held at 1:30 p.m. at the WIC-O office, Building 7005 in Crestview Housing. For details call mil



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

ACS hosts Garden Show

Chuck Hackney (left), a cashier for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Four Seasons store in Mainz-Kastel, shows Bruce Ski, a 3rd Corps Support Command spouse, how to properly pot a plant during Team 221st Army Community Service's Garden Show May 19. "Never break apart the roots. I don't know why people think they should," said Hackney, who has over 10 years experience working in a greenhouse in the United States. The event is just one of many extra programs offered by ACS throughout the coming months to alleviate some of the stresses due to the extended deployment.

338-7366 or civ (0611) 380-7366.

Office closures

The Wiesbaden Transportation Office, Transportation Motor Pool and Property Book Office will be closed June 10-11. The main finance office will be closed June 25, including customer service, personnel action processing and the cashier cage. In- and outprocessing at the Welcome Center Finance Office will remain open.

Baseball players sought

The Dreieich Vultures baseball team seeks players for its hardball and softball teams. Men and women of all skill levels are welcome for play that takes place near Frankfurt. For details call civ (06074) 861 650 or send email to president@vultures.de.

Retiree health fair set

The Wiesbaden Health Clinic sponsors a Retiree Health Fair June 25-26. The clinic will conduct pre-screening for optometry June 25 from 1-4 p.m. Follow-up exams will be scheduled for June 26. The optometry, pharmacy and dental clinics will be open June 26 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dental exams will be done on a walk-in basis. For details call mil 337-7306 or civ (0611) 705-7306.

Free bowling

Spouses and families of deployed Soldiers can bowl for free at both the Wiesbaden and Dexheim Bowling Centers every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. during Iron Family Bowling. Shoe rental is also free. Contact your Family Readiness Group leader to obtain your Spe-

cial Programs Pass.

FCC providers needed

Join the 221st Base Support Battalion Family Child Care program. Stay at home with your children while building a career. Providers receive free training and nationally recognized accreditation. For information call mil 338-7729 or civ (0611) 380-7729.

School registration

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

Bingo bowling

The Dexheim Bowling Center hosts Bingo Bowling June 12 from 1-8 p.m. Bowl a strike in specific frames for your choice of free prizes and tours.

Bank job available

Andrews Federal Credit Union has an opening for a branch manager in Wiesbaden. The position requires a bachelor's degree in business, finance or a related field with three to five years experience in a retail branch environment. For details call mil 337-6581 or civ (0611) 9787535.

Girl Scouts need help

The Girl Scouts need a full-time, volunteer Overseas Committee chairperson. For information call civ (0611) 174852.

Meeting at Rheinblick

Hold your next gathering at the Rheinblick Golf Course. Conference facilities are free of charge when combined with a catering package. Unit tournament packages start at \$20 per person. For details call mil 336-2816.

Dining facilities open

The Dexheim and Wackernheim Dining Facilities are open for all meals. Dexheim DFAC serves breakfast daily from 7-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 4:30-6 p.m. Brunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to noon and dinner from 4-5:30 p.m. weekends. McCully DFAC serves breakfast daily from 7:30-9 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 4:30-6 p.m. Weekend brunch is served from 10 a.m. to noon and dinner from 1-3 p.m.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Army Community Service

Reservations

Make reservations for any of the following classes by calling mil 485-8188.

Tots group

The Parents and Tots Play Group (birth to pre-school) meets every Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Iron Kids play group room, Building 8222.

Nurturing parents

The Empowering Nurturing Parents Group for nurturing graduates to continue the learning meets every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Iron Kids play room, Building 8222.

Reunion Training

Spouse Reunion Training is June 9, 16, and 23 at the Family Readiness Group building in Wetzel from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Choose one that suits your schedule.

Take a break

The Spouse's Coffee Break, a support group for all military spouses, meets every Wednesday and Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Iron Kids play room, Building 8222. Bring your children along.

Get the power

A Power and Control Signals Session meets June 10 from noon to 2 p.m. at Army Community Service.

Rules of combat

A Fair Fighting Rules/Conflict Resolution for Couples Session meets June 8, 3:30-5 p.m. at ACS.

Tactical support

A Parent Power Rules (control tactics) Session is scheduled for June 15, 3:30-5 p.m., at ACS.

Crafts outing

Take a trip to a German crafts store. Join Trudy Krämer on a walking trip to a local craft supplies shop, June 8, 9-11 a.m. Strollers are welcome. Make it a craft-filled day by stopping for a quick lunch on the way back and then stay at ACS for the class listed below.

Get crafty

Learn a few craft ideas that are inexpensive and fun to do from Tina Olson, June 8, 1-3 p.m., at ACS.

AFTB classes

Army Family Team Building level I, II, and III is offered in the AFTB classroom, Building 8745.

Level I will be offered June 9, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Level II is scheduled for June 15-17, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Level III is set for June 21-24 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Baumholder happenings

Train your parents

The Training Your Parents Group focuses on helping youths resolve family issues and is offered at the Iron Kids Play room, Building 8222. Adolescents (age 8-12) are invited June 11 from 3:30-5 p.m.

Get a job

A job fair is scheduled for June 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rheinlander.

Welcome class

A three-day class that offers insight into the German culture and language and provides tips on enjoying an overseas assignment is scheduled for June 8-9 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Information on the German train and bus system, and field trips to restaurants and Idar-Oberstein are included.

Army Family Team Building is offered on the third day and an optional field trip to Globus will be offered. Free child care is available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, but limited spaces are available and preregistration is required. Participants are responsible for their own meals and transportation expenses.

Food for thought

Join ACS for a free hot breakfast every Friday from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the FRG building. In addition to a tasty hot meal, a short 30 minute program of interest to spouses and parents will be offered. Advance reservations are required. Breakfast menus will change weekly, so mark your calendars for every Friday.

Training for care providers

In-service training for certified child care providers is offered June 8, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. An informational briefing for persons interested in becoming certified providers is scheduled for June 15 from 5-6 p.m.

Business Operations Division

Bowl for free

Strikers has free bowling every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. for all families.

Strikers specials

Bowling specials include Monday Night Madness 5-11 p.m.; Tuesday Nifty Fifties Night 5-11 p.m.; Wild Wednesdays starting at 5 p.m., \$5 cover charge and 25 cent games; Early Birds Bowling on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday Color Pin Bowling from 6-11 p.m.;



Photo by Ignacio "Igggy" Rubalcava

Marking a career of service

Command Sgt. Maj. Vern N. Croley tells Division Artillery Soldiers to "never forget where they came from as they climb the ladder of success" during his retirement ceremony May 27. Croley received a Legion of Merit medal for his years of dedicated service. He joined the military with no college education and retired with a masters degree in history.

Friday Kids' Night Out from 6-11 p.m.; Saturday Cosmic Bowling from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday Family Bowling from 1-9 p.m.

Shooters

Shooters offers Kids' Cinema Night on Thursdays at 5 p.m. Kiddie Bingo is offered June 12 from 3-5 p.m. The grand opening is set for June 25 at 3 p.m.

Rudy's

Grab Bag Night is offered every Thursday from 5-10 p.m. For every purchase of \$5 or more you can grab at a chance to win a prize.

Rheinlander

Ladies Night is June 11 from 5 p.m. to midnight. The evening features a makeover theme with a free glass with the purchase of a promotional beverage and door prizes.

Rolling Hills Golf Course

Rolling Hills Golf Course offers Thursday night golf scrambles. Sign

up in the Pro Shop from 3-5:30 p.m. Shotgun start is at 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$10, and nonmembers pay greens fees.

Commander's Cup

Drive your golf buddies crazy and win the Commander's Cup Championship at the Rolling Hills Golf Course June 26 at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$25. Nonmembers pay a green fee.

Sign up by June 23.

German-American Junior Golf Clinic

Youths age 7-18 can learn to putt, chip, pitch and drive at Rolling Hills Golf Course every Tuesday starting June 15 from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$75.

Community Recreation Division

It's bazaar

The Baumholder Bazaar is scheduled for June 11-13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hall of Champi-

ons. Call mil 485-8779 for details.

Adventure trips

The following trips are offered by Outdoor Recreation during June.

June 12 — Raft Float on the Mosel River

June 17-20 — White Water Rafting in Austria

June 17-21 — Malta Scuba Diving Trip

June 13 — Legoland, Guenzburg, Germany

June 20 — Six Flags, Belgium

June 26 — Sea Kayaking, Bostal Sea

June 27 — Kayaking Trip, Sauer, Germany

Call Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-7182 for more information.

Free shuttle

A free shopping shuttle bus ride to the Ramstein and Vogelweh exchange facilities is offered by Outdoor Recreation. Advance reservations are required and may be made by calling Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-7182.

Trips are offered to Ramstein on Tuesdays and to Vogelweh on Thursdays. Call Outdoor Recreation for departure times. A coupon for 20 percent off purchases and a coupon for \$2 off lunch will be offered to 14 persons per trip.

Express shuttle

A free Saturday express shuttle is offered to families of deployed Soldiers. Call mil 485-6115 beginning the Monday before the trip. The next trip is June 12 to Neuschwanstein Castle from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Rolling Hills Athletic Club

Free family swim nights are offered Fridays from 6-9 p.m. through July. Swim nights feature games and activities for kids.

AAFES

Food Court

AAFES offers the following Food Court promotions:

Mondays, free king-upsize with any combo meal at Burger King;

Tuesdays, free taco with any combo meal at Taco Bell;

Wednesdays, free six-piece cheesestix with any large pizza at Anthony's;

Thursdays, free ice cream sandwich with any combo meal at Robin Hood;

Fridays, 99 cents kids meal with any combo meal at Popeye's;

Saturdays, free movie matinee at the Wagon Wheel Theater at 4 p.m.;

Sundays, large drink and popcorn for \$2.99 at the Wagon Wheel Theater.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Child and Youth Services

Hourly child care

Families of deployed E-5 Soldiers can now receive 10 free hours per month of respite care. Call for reservations.

Infants to kindergarten care is offered at the Dispensary and Strassburg CDCs.

Kindergarten care is offered at Wetzel and Smith CDC.

First- through sixth-grade care is offered at Wetzel SAS 485-7475; Smith SAS 485-6641; and Neubrücke SAS 485-7731.

Counselors

Professional counselors from the United States have been placed in the schools, Child and Youth Services and Army Community Service.

Baumholder happenings

Their services are free. If you need crisis intervention or short-term assistance call the schools, CYS or ACS as appropriate to your need.

If you would like to have a counselor come to your Family Readiness Group meetings call Donna Finney at ACS, mil 485-8188.

To contact a counselor at CYS call mil 485-7003.

Teen adventures

The Teen Adventure Program offers the following adventure opportunities:

Kayaking/Canoeing, June 16-18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rolling Hills Athletic Club Pool and Bostal See. Call Werner Graff for more info at mil 485-7182.

For more information on youth

activities call Steve Ferguson at mil 485-8249.

Youth activities

The following activities are available for youths in grades six to 12: Europa Park trip, June 11, 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Miramar Schwimbad trip, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A free school's out barbecue will be held June 12 for sixth- to eighth-graders at the Underground from 3-6 p.m. and for ninth- to 12th-graders at the Teen Cafe from 5-8 p.m.

Lava Lava Island

Lava Lava Island is coming to Baumholder. Vacation Bible School is erupting with fun this year.

Preschoolers through fifth-grad-

ers can join in the activities at Wetzel Elementary School June 28 through July 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily.

The theme is "Let Jesus' love flow."

For more information call Karyn Couly at civ (06782) 887948 or Rocio Rivas at civ (06783) 903795.

Teen and adult volunteers are needed. See you on the island.

Chapel

Operation FEED

Operation FEED, Families Enduring Extended Deployment, is a community chaplain's sponsored event to assist spouses with Soldiers downrange to deal with the challenges of the extended deploy-

Education

Operation Health

Operation Health is now under way at the Digital Learning Center. The course is offered Mondays and Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. and runs for eight weeks. Come and join with others who are changing their bodies and minds.

'Striker Hurricane' nets enemy, information

By Marine Sgt. M. Trent Lowry
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

When 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, gets hit by the opposition, they don't just take the punch, they hit back strong where it will really hurt.

That was the message the Iron Brigade wanted to send when it initiated Striker Hurricane May 1.

Instead of flaunting its superior firepower, the brigade chose to design the operation to round up

insurgents and other anti-coalition parties, based on intelligence provided by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and using help from its sister brigade, 1st Brigade Combat Team, according to Staff Sgt. Matthew B. Rice, intelligence analyst with 2nd BCT.

Striker Hurricane was the response to the deaths — by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack April 29 — of eight soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, one of 2nd BCT's units.

"Operation Striker Hurricane

was in response to that attack, which was a catastrophic loss for the brigade. We wanted to let the enemy know we're not going to flinch," said Rice, a native of Lancaster, Calif. "We targeted anyone we had enough intelligence for and decided we're going to collect them right now, to show the insurgents that the coalition is here and we're not going away.

"I think it was a big eye-opener for the enemy," Rice said. "Aside from hitting our known targets, we

also did a cordon and search operation that rooted out 61 enemy prisoners of war — people with tons of intelligence potential for us."

Though the operation may have been initiated as a response to a tragedy, careful planning helped it reach another of the brigade's mission objectives: building up contacts within the community.

The last 12 months of operations in Iraq for the brigade had been concerned with happenings in Baghdad. The unit now has a new area of operations and is restarting its efforts at interaction with the community.

"We're building up our human intelligence base," said Spc. Kelly B. Leonard, intelligence analyst with 2nd BCT.

Establishing those connections and establishing trust with the people is essential to digging up useful information, according to the analysts.

"The intel is really coming from the Iraqi people," Rice said. "Down at the ground level the Iraqis are really contributing to the success of what we do. When we can get a local to say, 'My neighbor has mortar rounds stashed in his backyard,' then a lot of good points come out that help us build a picture of the enemy."

When one element of the operation — the cordon and search — is done properly, it is the first step to building good relations with the residents.

The ground components of the operation, including Soldiers from 1st BCT, 4-27th FA and 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, applied sound search practices to minimize the

inconvenience to the citizens of the community.

Information operations cells even sent out flyers to prepare the populace, telling the residents that the 2nd BCT's operation was necessary to ensure the safety of the neighborhoods, said Rice.

"When we were going into the areas, the local populace would stop their farming and were waving at us," said Leonard. "That's a good sign."

One of 2nd BCT's overall mission goals is to maintain lines of communication — such as roadways, railways and communications networks — ensuring the flow of information about mujahadeen, anti-coalition and foreign fighter activities is always relevant to preventing attacks and punishing those responsible for the attacks that do occur.

"Based on interrogations of the EPWs, we're getting new intel," Leonard said. "We have more up-to-date information based on what we know now."

This intelligence-gathering coup brought about by Striker Hurricane should not be the last of the information-gathering successes of the brigade. The 2nd BCT intelligence section is maneuvering as a well-oiled machine thanks to the experience it has gained over the past year.

"When Najaf was attacked we went; when Al Kut was attacked we went," Leonard said. "We've got some of the strongest people on this team that I've worked with."

"I believe 2nd Brigade can go into any part of Iraq and be successful," Rice said.



Photo courtesy 2nd BCT intelligence section

Keeping lines of communication open, Spc. Kelly B. Leonard, an intelligence analyst with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, keeps up with updates of what is happening during Striker Hurricane May 1.

Employees honored for dedicated service

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Employees of the 222nd Base Support Battalion were honored for their work and dedication during a length of service ceremony May 26. Suzanne Strawhorn was recognized for 45 years of service. Strawhorn currently works in the 222nd BSB headquarters as an administrative assistant. During her 45 years with the U.S. military she has worked as the director of Resource Management and chief of the Directorate of Community Activities.

Employees who were recognized for 35 years of service were Wolfgang Albert, Guenther Boettcher, Hans-Juergen Clemann, Hannelore Cook, Madeleine Dwoiakowski, Bruno Kryschik, Reed Leader, Karl-Oskar Mueller, Herbert Sauer, Ingrid Ulrich, Gerhard Weinz and Klaus Weirich.

Those who earned recognition for 30 years of service include Edda Johnston, Peter Preusse and Udo Rennwanz

Honored for serving with the U.S. military for 25 years were Joseph Ayson, Monika Early, Roland Frech, Dorothee Frick, Hermann Gierend, Otto Kessler, Wolfgang Neu, Wolfgang Schwan, Birgit Sheetz, Paul Uhl, Michael Wagner, Waldemar Weingarh, Burkhard Werle and Petra Schmidt.

The honorees receiving 20-year recognition were Hermann Josef Baltes, Carmen Baumhardt-Cullmann, Gerd Becker, Harald Bell, Hans-Guenter Donner, Hans-Werner Eifler, Karin Fath, Manfred Faust, Petra Franz, Thomas Goerlitz, Michael Hauch, Christine Hennchen, Frank Hibel, Mario Jacobs, Werner Korb, Ute Levering, Thomas Mais, Bernd Moessner, Otmar Mueller, Hanni Nahrn, Yogendra Patel, Ellen Pontius, Robert Prescott, Isolde Rueckert, Brigitte Schanz-Hachenthal, Heinrich Schmitt, Berthold Schuhmacher, Norbert Schwenk, Armin Simon, Hans-Ludwig Simon, Winfried Wagner, Harald Weber and Hubertus Zerfass.

Command view

Before the ceremony Col. George A. Latham, 104th Area Support Group commander, passed on his views about the current proposal to streamline ASG and BSB operations, the possible loss of positions as a result of this merger and closure.

"I see no change for you all," said Latham, "If in fact the merger does wind up happening in Hanau, the whole goal of that is just to merge together, not to let a lot of



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Suzanne Strawhorn is congratulated by Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, and Col. George A. Latham, 104th Area Support Group commander, during a length of service ceremony May 26. Strawhorn was recognized for 45 years of service with the U.S. military.

folks go or anything like that," he said.

"The bottom line is I see little change for you in Baumholder. If anything you might wind up reporting directly to Heidelberg or something like that. So, no change. If anything you'll probably get a few more people," said Latham.

Addressing the possible closure issue Latham told the BSB employees, "I see Baumholder staying around here for a number of more years...I'm telling you the truth. I honestly see Baumholder staying around here for a few more years. I think you should feel confident that you're going to be here. We need you here. You all do a great job. I'm proud to serve with you."

General assembly

In conjunction with the length of service ceremony, Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd BSB commander, conducted a general personnel assembly in which he addressed Baumholder's Army Community of Excellence award, the recent personnel survey, recognized some award recipients and laid out the BSB's mission as it prepares to receive the returning soldiers of the 1st Armored Division.

"Baumholder placed third world wide in the Army Communities Of Excellence competition. Super job by all of you," said Buchs.

"That's third place out of 166

installations worldwide, so again, super job by all of you out there. I'm extremely proud of you," he said.

"But it doesn't stop there. We won the supply excellence award in all of Europe in the small category and now we are headed to the Department of the Army to compete for the coveted first place in supply excellence," said Buchs.

Sean Lambur presented the recent personnel survey results, and although the turnout was slightly lower than last year, those who participated returned a favorable response. Since the survey was conducted on computers this year, this streamlined tabulation and analysis significantly, according to Lambur.

"In my eyes these are extremely good results. ... It tells wonders as to what we're doing out there as a team. It shows that everybody is proud of being part of this great organization," said Buchs.

"And again, being placed third in the Army Communities Of Excellence competition is probably the biggest demonstration of how well we work together as an organization, how proud we are of this organization and in the future of this organization," he said.

"I look at it as teamwork, everybody pitching in, working outside of their lane and helping someone else to complete the mission. That doesn't happen in a lot of organiza-

tions, said Buchs. He then turned to the tasks and mission that face the 222nd BSB in the coming months.

A look ahead

"Let's look at the future," he said. "We're expecting our Soldiers to return in the July and August time frame. We have no firm date but my guess is we're going to start seeing Soldiers around the first of July so we've got to be ready. We've got to get ourselves back into the reintegration mode. We have to be ready to give that first class support that we were giving and continue to give to our Soldiers and the families.

"The same schedule will apply as last time. They'll come back here, they'll go through a required, mandatory seven-day reintegration period and then they have the opportunity to take up to 30 days of leave. So that means we'll start seeing them return from their block leave sometime after Aug. 15 to the

beginning of September," said Buchs.

"The start of school will be the 7th of September. DoDDS has agreed to work with our families that may not arrive back from their block leave before then. They're going to work with those families to make sure their child gets back into school with no penalties on their child or the family," said Buchs.

With so much work ahead in the coming months, Buchs urged employees to take leave now before the Soldiers start returning, but he also passed on a word of caution. "Now, understand we still have families to take care of until the Soldiers redeploy. But I know our directors are working with our division chiefs to get people out on leave and still take care of our mission.

"So this is a time to start using some of our annual leave. I ask again that people refrain from taking leave in the July/August time frame so that we have everybody that we need here to take care of these Soldiers and their families as we reunite them back into the community," said Buchs.

He then addressed community improvements such as the theater, bowling center and the old Rod and Gun Club, now known as Shooters. "We've got a lot more projects that we're doing out there to make it better... We've got a lot of success stories out there and we've got a lot more to come. That's all part of being a growing, learning and improving organization," he said.

He encouraged everyone to attend the Shooters grand opening June 25 and then talked about the 4th of July celebration. "We're going to have multiple bands, different types of music such as country and rock. It's going to be a great day for the Baumholder community, so put that on your calendars also," said Buchs.

"The last thing I'll leave you with is to keep your focus on our customers... Our customers think we're doing an awesome job. We're just getting absolutely positive feedback. They think we're doing a great job in supporting them... so keep your focus on them and help them through this difficult time," said Buchs.

Teachers are an 'island in the storm'

By Dr. Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt
Kaiserslautern District Public Affairs Officer

The Baumholder military community honored the teachers of the Baumholder area schools with a dinner and reception May 24 at the Rheinlander Club. The teachers were praised by Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, for being a "constant island in the storm" for the children of the military.

"I have grown to love this community because of people like you, teachers. You have been there for our children in this difficult time. It doesn't get any harder than the times we have had this year, but you show how it can be done," Buchs said. "You, the teachers, are islands in the storm; steady, reliable members of our 'military family,' continuing to provide a nurturing environment for our children."

Diana Ohman, director of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, was the keynote speaker to pay tribute to the teachers and administrators of the Baumholder area. "Education is not a business. It is about kids and schools. . . . Teachers take all our children and nurture them," she said. She shared that during two days she visited each classroom of the Baumholder area schools and learned about the 'extra miles' the

teachers and administrators were going to support the children and families during this difficult time.

She listed a myriad of extra efforts being extended including after school activities, parent support groups, concern groups, ice cream socials, after school homework nights, parent teas, author visits, cookouts and yoga lessons, to name a few, all extra efforts extended to try and meet the needs of the community during this stressful time.

In addition to expressing her own thanks and appreciation to the teachers, Ohman shared important messages from the House of Representatives and three general officers. She read from special messages. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution praising teachers of the DoDEducation Activity for their important role in providing a "normal environment" for children.

"The contributions of DoDEA worldwide are commended . . . the teachers are working on the front lines."

Gen. John P. Abezaid, sent a special message expressing his pride and gratitude to the teachers of DoDEA. "They are integral to the success of the central command." Gen. B. B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, also sent a special message: "This year is especially important, and the critical support given by DoDDS teachers is greatly



Photo by Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt

Diana Ohman, DoDDS-Europe director, meets with students at Wetzel Elementary School.

appreciated." Gen Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, U.S. Air Force, also expressed his gratitude, "to the teachers who make daily contributions to the well-being of the children of our military." Ohman praised the teachers in closing for the "awesome job" they are doing for the children of the military. "You are dedicated, caring people, making education

and children your priority," she said.

Dorrie Meckes and James Graham, teacher leaders of the Baumholder Area Education Association, showed their appreciation to Buchs by presenting him gifts of appreciation. Meckes said that his support for the schools and the teachers was their "beacon of light" in the storm.

The celebration for appreciating the teachers was hosted by the 222nd BSB as well as being supported by the Baumholder High School Jazz Band, AAFES and the PTAs of the local schools. German partnership schools from the area joined the special evening, adding to the celebration of the Baumholder area teachers.

Harnisch steps down after 39 years

'They were nice years. Sometimes it was hard ... I always had great colleagues.'

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs office

Thirty-nine years, four months and 16 days. That's how long Ursula Harnisch dedicated herself to serving the Soldiers and families of the Baumholder military community as an employee of the Baumholder Commissary.

Harnisch retired May 28 to care for her ailing mother. "I chose to retire because I must take care of my mother," said Harnisch.

During her many years as a commissary employee Harnisch accumulated lots of memories of Baumholder and her fellow employees. "They were nice years. Sometimes it was hard but for the most part they were good years and I always had great colleagues," she said.

One of her most memorable moments was perhaps not one of her best, but memorable nevertheless.

"One day we arrived at the commissary and the commissary was burning. It was a Friday and on

Saturday we opened up in the warehouse downtown. This happened sometime in 1970. I'm not sure of the exact date."

At that time the commissary was located next to the post exchange. When it burned down staff members were relocated to the warehouse downtown to provide continued service to the Soldiers and families.

Harnisch explained that around 1977 they moved back on post to the present location, only to be relocated once again in a facility near the wash rack while the commissary underwent renovation for about a year and a half. "In that time they put in the bakery, deli, redid the floors and generally refurbished the entire facility," said Harnisch.

But service continued and "There were no problems with our customers during this time," she said.

Her colleagues honored her with a retirement luncheon and presented her with numerous gifts. They all knew how addicted she had become to "junk food," so one

of her gifts, which was too heavy to be lifted off the trolley on which it lay, was a large basket filled with every imaginable type of "junk food" her colleagues could forage from the commissary shelves.

"Thirty-nine years, four months and 16 days, that's a long time and I'm sure that if all of the store directors were here today they would say what I'm trying to say, that's a long time and we greatly appreciate it that you've been working for the commissary for that amount of time," said Reed Leader, commissary manager, during Harnisch's retirement luncheon.

Her service to the community did not go unnoticed by the U.S. military. Maj. Mike McAllister presented her with a certificate of appreciation and a pin on behalf of the 222nd Base Support Battalion and the military community.

As the formalities came to a close, an emotional Harnisch told her fellow employees that had gathered to say good-bye, "I cannot say a lot but I'll say thank-you and I'll miss you."



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Ursula Harnisch unpacks one of several gifts she received during her retirement luncheon May 28. Harnisch retired after more than 39 years of working for the Baumholder Commissary.