

## Community farewells fallen Soldier

### 1-37th Armor Soldier killed in Karbala

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Spc. Philip Ian Spakosky was remembered during a memorial service May 21 at Friedberg's Ray Barracks. The 25-year-old, Company A, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, Soldier died May 14 of injuries sustained May 13 in Karbala when shot by a suspected sniper.

"Today we bid farewell to not just a Soldier, but also a father, a son and a husband and brother," said Capt. Kenneth Siverson, rear detachment commander, while quoting a letter from 1-37th Armor commander, Lt. Col. Garry P. Bishop, who is still serving in Iraq. "This is pertinent because over the past year Spc. Spakosky has come to represent more than just a Soldier in the eyes of his peers and comrades. We have shared, bonded and yes, bled together over this past year and have forged a kinship that transcends a mere working relationship. Spanky was our brother — our comrade whose loss will leave an indelible mark on this Task Force."

#### Protect and defend

"His personality, perseverance and mere presence were felt by all those individuals he touched," Siverson read from Bishop's letter. "I reflect on the many times we discussed our roles as Soldiers and our role here in Iraq. One of the key points that I have made was the oath that each and every Soldier, officer and enlisted, has made at some point during their service. Each of us has sworn an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies — foreign and domestic. However on the morning of May 14, while conducting combat operations in Karbala, Iraq, Spc. Spakosky was not reciting the NCO creed, nor thinking about



Photo by Sgt. Gregory Withrow

Honor guards of the Ready First Combat Team fire volleys during the memorial service held for Spc. Philip Ian Spakosky who died in Iraq May 14.

upholding the Constitution. What I imagine he was thinking about was his duty to his fellow Soldiers. He knew that his position was to move to the flank of his commander to provide overwatch in order to protect a fellow Soldier. He knew just as he was depended upon to uphold his duty, someone was equally responsible for watching over him. Incredibly there is no questioning of these orders as Soldiers move from one hostile location to another. There is no questioning because every Soldier has a sense of duty, not to a calling or to a belief but to his or her fellow Soldier. Spc. Spakosky departed us prematurely in the performance of his duty to protect his fellow Soldiers. This is a trait forged in the trust and love developed by Soldiers who have lived, bled and died with each other and for each other during this past year.

"We will miss 'Spanky' but we will never forget him. He will remain part of our legacy and our inspiration to continue to provide the

same selfless service and duty to each other. Spanky, rest in peace my friend. Job well done."

"One of America's sons has fallen, a man whose hopes and dreams will never be realized ... a hero who we honor, not only because of how he died, but also because of how he lived," said 1-37th Armor Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Schindler during the ceremony.

#### Extraordinary Soldier

"To personally know Spc. Spakosky was to know an extraordinary Soldier, an extraordinary person, an extraordinary human being," he said.

"Philip was the type of Soldier that no matter what, you would be able to depend on. When asked for volunteers he would always step up. Even if not asked he would always offer his help," Schindler said.

"He was the type of person who got along with everyone, and everyone most definitely

got along with him. Even though he only had a few years of experience in the military, he had the maturity to be able to perform his duties while never losing his focus to take care of his family and to take care of all of their needs," Schindler said.

"Philip had a special aura surrounding him. He was never depressed and he could always cheer up the people close to him. He was one of those special men every leader wanted in their ranks for he had a way about him, a way to make everyone feel good about him or herself — an uncanny ability to lift everyone's spirits. He was an essential part of his platoon, and his loss will be hard, if not even impossible to compensate.

"If I had to model a Soldier for the 21st century, Spc. Spakosky would be my mold because he possessed all the ingredients of what success looked and should feel like," he said.

"To see him with his family was to see a family filled with love and devotion for one another. To him his family meant the world," said Schindler.

"As for our Army and our nation, Spc. Spakosky represented everything that is good and right. He totally understood the awesome responsibility thrust upon us by events outside of our own control. He always strived to be a true representative to not just our unit but to his nation in everything he said or did," Schindler said.

"On behalf of Task Force 1-37th Armor Bandits I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity and the distinct privilege to have been able to serve alongside you. Your name, your picture, but especially your sacrifice to our nation will forever be etched into our memories. Farewell to you and God Speed... Bandits," Schindler said.

Spakosky is survived by his wife Lakisha, daughter Mariah, stepdaughter Imani, stepson A'John, mother Kim Good of Browns Mills, N.J., and his brother Lance Cpl. Eric Spakosky of the 2nd Marine Division.

## BSB solves several issues raised during AFAP conference

By Melody Sexton

284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service

Leaders in the 284th Base Support Battalion have found resolutions for several issues raised at the 2004 Army Family Action Plan Conference.

Soldiers, civilians and family members brought quality of life issues to the attention of the command during the conference held in February.

The following is a list of problems solved as of this date:

#### Issue: Lack of awareness of Youth Services programs.

**Resolution:** Continue marketing efforts already in place such as flyers passed out at the school during lunch periods by YS staff, update large bulletin board at Giessen High School and major events coordination between HS junior and senior class representatives.

#### Issue: Lack of weekend and special activities.

**Resolution:** Increase awareness of the many activities already offered by 284th BSB YS.

#### Issue: Lack of transportation for youth activities.

**Resolution:** Publicize daily shuttle from school to YS, as well as transportation from housing areas to all major YS events and trips upon request.

#### Issue: Circumstances surrounding a Soldier's death affect the benefits available to the surviving spouse, such as benefits received from Veterans Affairs, as opposed to those when Soldier is medically retired from the Army.

**Resolution:** Issue was forwarded to the 104th Area Support Group AFAP Conference. It was one of five issues selected by the 104th ASG to forward on to the Installation Management Agency-Europe AFAP Conference.

#### Issue: Single Soldiers do not have a non-relative next of kin contact person during deployment; as a result do not have anyone who can greet them upon return.

**Resolution:** Encourage an "adopt a Soldier" program within the Family Readiness Groups; include parents and families on Family Readiness Group websites; allow designated person (non ID card holder) on post for welcome home ceremonies.

#### Issue: Concern about the large number of spouses treated

#### for depression and anxiety because of stress from the deployment.

**Resolution:** Eight social workers arrived to work in the 284th BSB from May 17 to June 31 at Child and Youth Services, Army Community Service and the Chaplains Office.

#### Issue: People are not supervising or cleaning up after their pets in the housing area.

**Resolution:** Military Police are now writing citations for pet control policy violations. Housing residents are encouraged to report owners of unleashed pets or those who do not clean up after their animals.

#### Issue: There is no affordable way for teenagers to get their driver's licenses in Europe.

**Resolution:** Suggestion is the Department of the Army hire instructors to train teenage drivers so they can get their German driver's license, and thereby qualify for the U.S. Army Europe driver's license. This issue was brought by several BSBs to the 104th ASG AFAP Conference and therefore was forwarded on to the IMA-E AFAP Conference.

## Engineers take on mean Karbala streets

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

The late morning skies were overcast and a breeze blew through the trees. The air was cooler than usual. The order came over the radio for the troops to dismount.

The combat engineers from Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, piled out of their M-113 armored personnel carriers and onto the wide Karbala streets.

Following behind M1-A1 Abrams tanks, squads took staggered positions on either side of the avenue. The tanks' engines bathed the combat engineers with blast furnace heat from their exhaust vents. So much for the cooler weather.

The Soldiers' tactical march up the ruined Karbala street was short in terms of distance, perhaps only two kilometers, but lengthy in time. Tanks, M-113s and Soldiers slowly closed on the area where they had encountered resistance in the days before.

"Recon by fire" is the method used here, said Sgt. 1st Class James Flum, a Company B platoon sergeant. "When the tanks are rolling, if they see something that looks like an Improvised Explosive Device they will put a few rounds in it."

Once the IED has been disabled, the engineers step in. "That's when they'll call us forward to place some C-4 (explosives) and blow it in place. It's an excellent process and it works every time," said Flum.

At one point the tanks turned off into another area of the vacant neighborhood, but two squads of engineers and three M-113s continued their reconnaissance patrol along the

thoroughfare. Pushing farther into the city, the Soldiers heard the quick, cracking report of enemy rifle fire. As they took cover the walls opposite their position erupted in tiny puffs.

Snipers had been lying in wait. The dismounted Soldiers and their track vehicles turned their weapons to the structures across the street.

The enemy riflemen were very close but apparently lacked the skill or nerve to hold their aim long enough to hit any Soldiers. The large caliber weapons on the American tracks pushed out their heavy brass with a roar and the Soldiers paid close attention, searching for any movement or suspected sniper perches.

"I started laying some suppressive fire down the alleyway, while the dismounts were trying to get into the vehicle," said Spc. Angel Ramos, the track commander. Every Soldier had a job to do during the firefight.

"I carry a Squad Automatic Weapon so I have to put down suppression," said Spc. Snowden Neill, a combat engineer. "I look for something that would be ideal for a sniper's spot."

If the engineers could not kill the sniper this time, at least they would deny him any advantageous positions to occupy. Systematically the column assailed windows, balconies and rooftops. As angry rifles barked, the drapes in one of the targeted windows caught fire and smoke poured from the building.

Backing out of the kill zone, the patrol met with their company's main body and exited the area. No more shots



Staff Sgt. Aaron Owen, Company B squad leader, provides his Soldiers with covering fire while on dismounted patrol in Karbala.

were heard. Afterward there were laughs from the Soldiers about their close call, but they knew they were in a serious situation.

"At least everybody came out safe, and there were no injuries, so it was a good day," said Ramos.

## Volunteers lauded for contributions

### Ceremony acknowledges donation of time, talent

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Members of the 284th Base Support Battalion honored their volunteers in a ceremony May 27 at Giessen's Alpine Catering Center.

A mock \$1,153,159.78 check was given to Lt. Col. Bart U. Shreve, 284th BSB commander, during the event representing the more than 73,000 hours donated by volunteers over the past year. "It would have taken one person eight years, 141 days and 20.5 hours to do that," said Kelly Kreis, 284th BSB Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. "Our volunteers truly amaze me. They have their plates so full, especially with the deployment and extension, but they still found time to volunteer."

Family members, Soldiers and civilians serve in schools, Family Readiness Groups and various organizations throughout the community guaranteeing ongoing services.

Bobbi McKenna, a family member from Friedberg, works two days per week as a substitute art teacher at the Bad Nauheim Elementary School. The mother of four children also wears many hats in support of the community.

"I volunteer for the 501st Forward Support Battalion, the elementary school and the Catholic Church in Friedberg as the Catholic Women of the Church president, the religious education coordinator and as a Sunday school teacher," she said. "I enjoy getting to know people and being with people — that's why I volunteer."

"I always volunteered for my church. Seeing the community grow in their faith is wonderful, especially overseas.

Working with kids gives me the greatest motivation. Getting a hug from a child when you are having a bad day makes it worthwhile," McKenna said.

"I definitely recommend volunteering. It's a great way to get out of the house and meet the community, especially for young wives just arriving in the community. It gives them a break and something to do," she said. Rebecca Martinez, a Giessen family member, started volunteering for the Privately Owned Vehicles Storage Office at the Directorate of Logistics on the Giessen Depot in February and was recently hired for the position.

"I never expected to be hired. When I came to Giessen in December 2002 I just graduated from high school so I had no prior (work) experience," said Martinez. "I started working at the Giessen Post Exchange but then went back home for nine months after my husband deployed. When I returned to Germany I could have worked at the PX again but they could only guarantee three days of leave when the guys come back and I didn't want that so I decided not to work there anymore."

Dana Puryear, a fellow spouse and DOL employee, told her the POV Storage Office sought volunteers, she said.

"I was really bored at home. We have no kids and my husband is deployed, and I needed something to keep me busy," Martinez said.

Martinez gained experience helping out in every section of DOL to become familiar with the organization before specializing in the POV Storage Office, she said. When a position became available in the office, Martinez applied for it. "Thanks to my volunteering I had all the qualifications," she said.

"Volunteering had many benefits for me. I live in Butzbach and I don't know many people there because all the other



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Rebecca Martinez prepares a vehicle for a jump start at the POV Storage Office. After volunteering for a couple of months at DOL, Martinez was recently hired.

families in my battalion live in Giessen," Martinez added. "By volunteering I had a chance to get out of the house, meet new people. I learned a lot about the BSB and the Army at the same time. It's a great learning experience for anyone — especially at such a young age."

## Conference promotes female well-being

Story and photos by Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Seventy-five women attended the 284th Base Support Battalion Women's Conference May 25 at Giessen's Alpine Catering Center. The conference, designed to promote female well-being, featured 12 classes from which participants could choose to attend four.

Included were briefings on German customs, crafting classes, tips on fitness and proper diet, Italian cooking and a class on how to motivate children to take responsibility.

"This is a way for the BSB and the Army to say thank you to the women. Spouses of Soldiers have to juggle everyday, and now with the deployment and the extension they are juggling even more. So it's a way of saying 'this is a special treat for you for all you do,'" said Melody Sexton, 284th BSB Army Community Service Army Family Team Building coordinator and conference organizer.

"They are designed to provide informative classes that are of interest to women. Some of the classes such as the car care class are important for women right now. With the guys gone we have to take care of the car and do things like change the oil. Getting a lesson on the basics of maintenance is very helpful," Sexton said.

Attendees said they appreciated the free program that also included a free lunch and



Christina Ancheta learns basic floral care and design.

child care.

"I am a family child care provider. I have four children and watch plenty more everyday. Sometimes I just need a break, so I signed up for some of the classes," said Christina Ancheta. "It was great to meet other people, have nice conversations and learn new skills during the classes. My favorite class was Motivating Kids. The instructor answered many questions and gave valuable tips."

"The Breast Cancer Awareness class was very informative. I enjoyed the day and all the information I received," said Patricia Hamilton.



Robert Babcock (left) of the Friedberg Auto Crafts Center explains basic car maintenance to conference participants Merrill Wessmann, Dezarai Poston and Johanna Zoell.

"The classes should have been a little longer though. I think 50 minutes weren't enough. Other than that it was a great day. I was able to get out of the house and attend interesting classes. And I appreciated the free child care and free lunch."

"I loved it. It was very uplifting," said Kelly Lane. "My favorites were the Traveling in Germany and Changes class. They should host such conferences more often."

"I attended a women's conference in Washington, and it was very informative too," Lane said. "The conference lasted the entire weekend, which was better because you could attend more classes. Such conferences are great because you came back changed and you learn so much. The BSB's conference was very varied. There was something for everyone. It should have just been longer."

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlights

### Free DAFFY trip

The Butzbach and Bad Nauheim Outreach Centers sponsor a trip to Hessenpark, the open-air museum near Friedberg, June 18. The museum features life from past periods to include a variety of buildings ranging from northern Hessian farms to south Hessian pubs, a pottery store, restaurant and a bakery. Pick up time at the Butzbach center is 9 a.m. and at the Bad Nauheim center at 9:30 a.m. Reservation is required. For details call Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465.

### Customer Service Challenge workshop

The 284th Base Support Battalion Directorate of Strategic Plans and Programs hosts a Customer Service Challenge workshop June 11 from 8 a.m. to noon in the ITC classroom in Building 4. For more information call mil 343-7568.

### Driving in Europe

Relatives and friends of military families visiting Germany may drive U.S. Army Europe-plated vehicles with the written permission from the local Customs office. For details call mil 343-6518.

### Free trips

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs of the 284th Base Support Battalion host a shopping trip to France and Ger-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Tribute to the fallen

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 5122 and 2785, 284th Base Support Battalion commander Lt. Col. Bart U. Shreve and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith E. Francis lay down wreaths at a Memorial Day ceremony, held May 31 at the U.S. Depot in Giessen, to remember the Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for freedom.

many June 16 in support of extended families. Participants are taken to the CORA shopping center, the Ramstein AAFES Mall and the Vogelweh Super Power Zone. A trip to **Strassbourg, France**, is scheduled for June 19. A

**Rüdesheim river excursion** trip takes place June 26. All trips are sponsored by the BSB and MWR and are free. For reservations call mil 324-3158.

### Tax center update

The Giessen Tax Center will close for all walk-in services June 30. Anyone needing service after that date can schedule an appointment at mil 343-8268. The Friedberg Tax Center remains open until Sept. 30 for walk-ins and appointments. The center is located in Building 3635, Room 112 and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details call mil 324-2275.

### Free concert

The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts a free open-air concert June 19 from 6-9 p.m. at the Butzbach Sports Field featuring the band Spectrum Project. Everyone is invited.

### Poland shopping trip

Youth Services hosts a Poland and Germany shopping trip June 19. Departure is at 1 a.m. at the AAFES gas station in Giessen and at 1:30 a.m. at the YS gate in Butzbach. Participants must have a valid passport. The cost is \$30 there will be no refunds. For details call Giessen YS at civ (0641)402-6129 or

Butzbach YS at civ (06033) 73048.

### Sports registration open

The Youth Services Sport Office is now holding registration for the fall season of soccer, flag football and cheerleading through July 30. Soccer players must be age 4-15; cheerleading is open to ages 6-15; and flag football is available for youth age 10-12. All children must be CLEOS registered. Volunteer coaches are still needed. A mandatory coach's clinic takes place Aug. 4 at 5 p.m. at the YS gym in Giessen and a mandatory parent's meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3 and 5 at 5 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. For more information call the YS Sports Office at mil 343-6969.

### Free Saturday child care at Friedberg, Giessen CDCs

Free Super Saturday child care service will be offered by the Friedberg Child Development Center June 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the Giessen CDC June 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The service is available to all Child and Youth Service registered children age six weeks to 11 years. For details call Friedberg at civ (06031) 81-3137 or Giessen at civ (0641)402-6200.

### Seasonal basketball

Registration for the recreational youth basketball league is open to June 11. The season runs from July 10 to Aug. 10 and is open to CLEOS registered children age 5-15. There will be no tournaments or awards. A mandatory parent's meeting is scheduled for June 15 and 17 at 5 p.m. in the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. For details call the YS Sports Office at mil 343-6969.

### Outdoor Rec trips

Giessen Outdoor Recreation hosts an overnight trip to **Normandy** June 18-20. The cost is \$69 for adults. A trip to **Euro Disney** takes place June 26. The cost is \$99 for adults, \$69 for youths and \$29 for children.

### Bicycle rodeos

The 284th BSB Provost Marshal's Office hosts a bicycle rodeo for children June 12 from noon to 4 p.m. at the basketball court in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing and June 19 from noon to 4 p.m. at the basketball court in Giessen's Marshall Housing. Registration is open from noon to 1 p.m. and a briefing for bicycle laws and safety will be held from 1-2 p.m. For more information call Sgt. Robyn Green at mil 343-8601/8602.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Fields of fun

Second-graders Mason Kidwell (left) and Takeysha Brockington compete against classmates at the Boot Camp Relay station at Giessen Elementary School's field day May 25. Volunteers and Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, helped teachers man the 19 different stations, including a disco on stage station, a jungle relay and hamster hot wheels so the students could enjoy a morning of games and competition. A pie eating contest and a slide show ended the field day. "Thanks to the help of the volunteers and Soldiers, the day was a huge success and the kids had so much fun," said physical education teacher Heide Hurd.



## Community notes . . . Community notes

### New bus schedule

The 414th Base Support Battalion announced a new shuttle bus schedule. Changes include a stop at Underwood Kaserne and an additional run during the middle of the day. Buses will run on German holidays. For information call the Transportation Motor Pool at mil 322-1800 or civ (06181) 88-1800.

### Employment Orientation

Have you just arrived in Hanau, Büdingen or Gelnhausen and don't know where to begin your job search? Army Community Service offers a helpful Employment Orientation June 8, 15, 22, 29 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 9, Room 104 on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-9191.

### Get that job now

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Team will host a **Dress for Success** seminar June 23 from 10-11 a.m. An **Interview Techniques** seminar will be held June 24 from 10-11 a.m. Both sessions meet in Building 9, Room 104, on Pioneer Kaserne. For details call mil 322-9191.

### Bible study

The Hanau Protestant Women of the Chapel invite everyone in the community for relaxed and fun Bible study during July. Join the PWOC for five individual video-based Bible studies, fellowship, fun and no homework. The study group will meet at Pioneer Chapel July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Activities will be provided for school-age children and watch care is available for children under age 5. For information call Robin Longworth at civ (06181) 575 775.

### Register children for summer reading

Register your children age 10-12 for the summer reading program at the Hanau and Büdingen libraries beginning June 11. Parents may still register their children after this date during normal operating hours. The program for both libraries will take place July 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 10-11 a.m. For information call the Hanau Library



Photo by 1st Lt. Erik S. Archer

### 127th Military Police arrive in Iraq

Pfc. Anthony Dibasilio, 127th Military Police Company, pulls security duty in an Armored Security Vehicle at an Iraqi police station in Baghdad. The company's approximately 170 Soldiers recently arrived in Baghdad and are located on Camp Huggins, where they are training and mentoring Iraqi police to become an effective, self-sustaining law enforcement organization.

at mil 322-8942 or the Büdingen Library at mil 321-4739.

### AFTB in Büdingen

AFTB Level III will be offered June 8-10 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Family Outreach Center, Building 2207 on Armstrong Kaserne in Büdingen. For information call Rick Krenz, AFTB program service coordinator, at mil 322-5308 or civ (06181) 88-5308.

### Arabic Headstart

Curious about the Middle East? Learn about its culture, people and language with the Arabic Headstart program to be held June 28-29 at the Pioneer Education Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class is free and open to all ID card holders. Space is limited so register early. To enroll call mil 322-8380/9600.

### Self-Help classes

The Hanau and Büdingen Self-Help Stores hold basic and advanced classes in the safe use of equipment and materials for minor maintenance and repair projects. The Büdingen class meets the first

Monday of the month from 10-11 a.m., the Hanau class the first Wednesday of the month from 10-11 a.m. For details and to sign up call mil 321-4778 in Büdingen or mil 322-8200 in Hanau.

### Parent Advisory Council to meet

The next Hanau Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet June 9 at 6 p.m. in Building 200, the Galaxy Middle School and Teen Center on New Argonner Kaserne.

### Lose weight safely

The Take Off Pounds Sensibly weight loss group meets every Thursday at Sportsfield Elementary School — take the outdoor staircase upstairs to find the meeting. Weigh-ins begin at 6:15 p.m. and the meeting is from 7-8 p.m. Visit a meeting for free. For information contact Stephanie at [topshanau@yahoo.com](mailto:topshanau@yahoo.com). For general TOPS information go to [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

### Free bowling

Military spouses and children can bowl for free at the newly reno-

vated, 32-lane Hessen Bowl at Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center during Iron Family Time, every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. Free shoe rental is included.

### Retiree Dental Health Day set

The Hanau Dental Clinic will hold its annual Retiree Dental Health Day June 18. All military retirees and family members are welcome. Dental examinations will be provided on a walk-in basis starting at 7:30 a.m. with appointments for routine care being offered throughout the day. Services available will include cleanings, fillings, extractions and limited specialty care. For information call the Hanau Dental Clinic in Building 245 on New Argonner Kaserne at mil 328-6520/6522 or civ (06181) 500-6520/6522.

### Airport shuttle

Looking for a ride to Frankfurt International Airport? A shuttle bus is available Monday to Friday from Pioneer Kaserne, Building 20. Departure is between 9:15-9:50 a.m.

The bus arrives at Rhein-Main Air Force Base between 10:35 and 11:05 a.m. A shuttle bus runs to Frankfurt International Airport every 30 minutes. A return bus leaves Rhein-Main between 12:10 and 12:30 p.m. and arrives at Pioneer between 1:20 and 1:45 p.m. For details call 414th Base Support Battalion In-processing Training Center at mil 322-8952 or civ (06181) 88-8952.

### USO has tickets, dance classes

The Hanau USO sells tickets to summer getaway destinations such as Holiday Park, Warner Brothers and Legoland. Stop by the office in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne or call mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 88-8725 for information. The USO will offer an oriental dance (belly dancing) class for beginners July 8-29. Participants should bring slippers such as Isotoners or gripper socks to dance in. No tennis shoes will be allowed. Classes will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. and 12-1:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Sign up by July 2.

### Finance office moves temporarily

The 39th Finance Battalion Disbursing Office on Pioneer Kaserne will undergo renovations until June 30. The offices are temporarily located in Building 5, fourth floor.

### Büdingen fitness

Armstrong Fitness Center in Büdingen offers fitness classes four days a week. Step aerobics, spinning, pilates and circuit mania classes are conducted both mornings and evenings. Advance sign-up is required for the spinning classes. Classes cost \$3 each, 12 for \$30. Stop by the fitness center to pick up a schedule or call Becky Bliss at civ (01609) 241 3136 for information.

**Monday** — Step aerobics/abs, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday** — Circuit mania, 10 a.m.

**Tuesday** — Pilates, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday** — Spinning, 10 a.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

**Thursday** — Spin and stretch, 10 a.m.

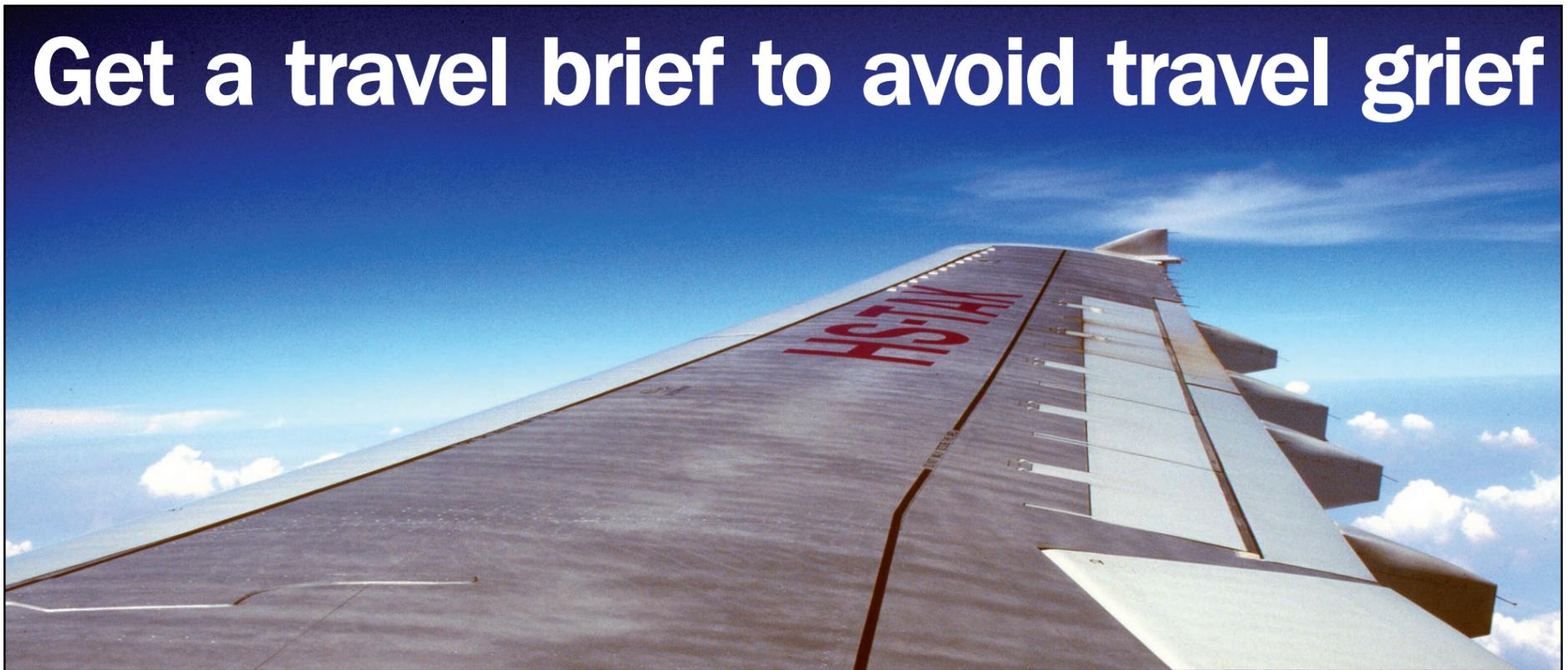
### Farewell, Ms. Yanoff

Gelnhausen Elementary School students, teachers and staff bid a sad farewell May 28 to Marcy Yanoff, long time school librarian, at a memorial service held in her memory. Yanoff passed away May 19 at the age of 59.

Get the latest news online at [www.hanau.army.mil](http://www.hanau.army.mil)

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Get a travel brief to avoid travel grief



**By Dennis Johnson**  
414th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Many people come to work in Europe for the pleasure of visiting the great cities, touring historical sites and to experience cultures as varied as Italian, French, German, Danish, Dutch, Czech and Polish.

But few Americans assigned to the 414th Base Support Battalion know that before traveling they are required to receive a travel briefing on their intended destinations from the 414th BSB Security Office.

A briefing is required for individual travel, unofficial group travel sponsored by the 414th BSB such as Outdoor Recreation, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, church groups and for travel to conferences. These requirements are for any travel outside of Germany, except to the USA. There are also requirements for official travel. Check with the security office for information on that.

### Individual travel

Before traveling, whether on leave or just for the weekend, Soldiers and civilian employees must receive "a country specific threat briefing" that is available by appointment at the 414th BSB Security Office in Building 459 on Old Argonner Kaserne.

"We have a program in place that provides specific country threat information, travel restrictions and entry requirements that people should be aware of," said Frank Lewis, 414th BSB security manager. "What people will get at their appointment is the consular information sheet provided by the State Department for the country they wish to visit, an anti-terrorism tip-sheet, the country's DoD entry requirements and general travel information. People should be well aware of the situation in a country they want to visit, especially in today's global threat environment," he said.

"When you come to the Security Office for your appointment, you should bring your leave request, before it's been signed, which we'll stamp. Then you'll take it to your supervisor for final approval. Also bring a copy of

your Anti-Terrorism Level I training certificate or a verification of training from your supervisor. Your supervisor should also have a current list of restricted and off-limits countries which was recently sent to all directors in the BSB," said Lewis.

### Group travel rules

Those who are organizing group trips sponsored by the 414th BSB should check with the Security Office before making extensive travel plans or hotel reservations so they'll know the situation in the country they're planning to visit. They may find that it's not wise to visit at that particular time. For group travel, a risk assessment is required along with the country briefing. Group leaders will receive the briefing and pass on the information to the members. Leaders are also required to ensure that all group members have completed their AT Level I training. Group travel also requires the approval of the BSB commander or deputy commander.

### Conferences

Travel to a foreign country for a conference is similar to group travel. A risk assessment must be made and approval is required.

### Different countries, different threats

Depending on the level of the terrorism threat assessed in a country by the Department of Defense, countries are rated:

★ Low or moderate threat level — There are no current restrictions on individual travel and no warnings.

★ High and significant threat level — Individual travel requires approval from the BSB commander or deputy commander (or designated department/agency chief approval for civilians), completion of AT Level I training and a country specific threat briefing.

★ Travel warnings — Individual travel requires general officer approval, completion of AT Level I training and a country specific threat briefing.

★ Restricted or off-limits level — Travel to

these countries requires general officer approval and a country clearance, which is a specific request sent to the American embassy in that country. The request must be approved by the embassy before traveling.

### Top 10 destinations

According to the 414th BSB Security Office the 10 most visited countries by BSB employees are France, Austria, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands. As of April 1 three of these popular countries were listed by DoD as having high or significant threat levels: France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

### What to take

Department of Defense regulations provide a list of specific country entry requirements for DoD employees. Travelers should be aware of these requirements before their departure. In most cases individuals must carry with them a copy of their DA 31 or OPM 71 leave form, their ID card, passport and a visa, if it's required by the country being visited. In many nearby countries, however, military personnel are not required to carry passports — their ID will suffice, although their family members must have passports.

### Visiting France — what to do as a Soldier?



For example if a Soldier assigned to the 414th BSB wants to visit Paris, he or she must have the approval of the BSB commander or deputy commander, complete AT Level I training and receive a country specific threat briefing from the Security Office. This is because France is on the list of countries with a high or significant threat level.

Soldiers must carry a copy of their DA31 leave request form and ID. Soldiers sta-

tioned in Europe do not require a passport, but their family members do. Soldiers not stationed in Europe need a passport.

### Visiting France — what do I do as a civilian?

Civilians assigned to the 414th BSB must have approval of their designated department or agency chief, complete AT Level I training, receive a country briefing and carry their ID, passport and a copy of their OPM 71 leave request form.

### Visiting France — do I need a visa?

In the Consular Information Sheet for France you'll find the requirements for travel to France. It says that a passport is required for entry, and that is true for everyone except military personnel stationed in Europe. Americans are not required to have a visa for tourist or business stays of up to 90 days.

### Consular information

For the latest security information Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs homepage at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

The site makes available current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings and Public Announcements to be used as guidance by travelers.

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-317-472-2328. These numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday except on American federal holidays.

### Security Office contacts

To make an appointment to discuss travel requirements and receive a country brief call the 414th BSB Security Office at mil 322-8444. The Security Office is located in Building 459 on Old Argonner Kaserne in Hanau.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Training for urban war at 'Chicken Farm'

### Büdingen Soldiers hone combat techniques in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer  
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

In an abandoned, makeshift town referred to as the "Chicken Farm," Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, practiced battle drills and combat skills essential to their every-day missions.

For most of last year, some Soldiers did this sort of mission nightly, while others were experiencing "the farm" for the first time. Regardless of their background, these Soldiers needed to come together quickly as a team to be successful in the drills.

"We are doing refresher training on the things we need to be very familiar with, that we do everyday," said Capt. Jerry Patak, B Troop commander.

Three distinct yet related training lanes were set up. The first dealt with reacting to an improvised explosive device. In the second area, Soldiers practiced gathering intelligence during a dismounted patrol. The last lane consisted of Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain drills such as crossing a danger zone or clearing a room. "We need to maintain that razor's edge — become experts at this," said Patak.

Throughout the farm observer-controllers acted as graders and guides for the various scenarios. Other Soldiers, dressed in authentic clothing, acted out the parts of local government officials, religious leaders or police officers.

Patak said that the simulation of events added realism to the training and was useful



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer

Members of Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, practice intelligence gathering techniques during a mock patrol at the "Chicken Farm" on Camp Slayer.

in elevating the training's effectiveness.

"It not only hones our everyday skills, it allows the platoons to learn from each other," he said. "It's a good opportunity to cross-pollinate our good ideas and skills that we have learned during our actual experience out there in the zone."

Bringing real-world experience to the training environment is exactly the kind of thing the trainers seek. "It gives us more practice in a safer environment," said Staff Sgt. Walter Milligan of B Troop. Milligan supervised the "React to an IED" lane. During this training exercise, a small group of Soldiers drove through the dirt roads of the Chicken Farm until they came upon a tangled mass of gar-

bage, wire and cloth. "I think we have an IED up here," said a lookout from the turret of the lead Humvee.

The convoy stopped and the Soldiers ran through the steps they had rehearsed a few minutes earlier. The Soldiers were taught to recognize and react to improvised explosive devices "so they will know what to do if they get attacked by one or their vehicle gets damaged by one," said Milligan.

The repeatable aspect of lane training gives the students a chance to rotate through leadership positions and try different tactics. "This training helps our younger Soldiers who are not in leadership positions to get into one and see what it is like. That way they will

know what to do if their leader gets injured," said Milligan. "We alter our training to reflect what new tactics the enemy is using."

The troop trains here monthly for more than those reasons, however. "This deployment has shown that people can be thrown into situations that they are not accustomed to or trained for," said Sgt. 1st Class Pierre Thibodeaux, B Troop's mortar platoon section sergeant. "This deployment has changed a lot of people. Truck drivers are now MPs; tankers are doing dismounted patrols. This training adds confidence and shows a different perspective from their normal duties."

Thibodeaux immersed his students in a town populated with actors who dealt with the Soldiers much the same way Iraqis would. The Soldiers needed translators, patience and good boots to make it through the two-mile foot patrol simulation.

All three training sites were developed to compliment and build on lessons learned in the preceding lane. Most of Baghdad presents an urban terrain environment, so the urban warfare tactics taught in the third lane will be used in numerous missions. Assault teams practiced in a "glass house" where white engineer tape represented walls and doorways. The openness of the structure allowed squads to practice "stacking" and silent communication techniques.

Tasks common to all Soldiers, such as applying first aid, communicating with radios and reacting to indirect fire, were also added to the "street skills" to round out the training. "We start with the skills they learned in Basic Training and add to those," said Thibodeaux.

"These Soldiers are giving up sleep and maintenance time to get in this training," said 1st Sgt. Roy Bartnick, B Troop's top enlisted leader. "It's that important, to us and to them."

### Status report update

## AFAP issues addressed by 414th BSB leaders

By Rick Krenz

414th Base Support Battalion Army Family Action Plan coordinator

The 2004 414th Base Support Battalion Army Family Action Plan Conference convened Feb. 10 at the Community Activity Center Annex on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Eleven issues were selected for action by the four workgroups at the conference.

From this list the BSB commander's AFAP Steering Committee selected three for advancement to the 104th Area Support Group level. The 104th ASG AFAP Steering Committee met March 16 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and the 2004 Installation Management Agency-Europe AFAP Conference was held May 24-27 in Heidelberg. There, issues were selected for advancement to the Department of the Army AFAP Conference scheduled for later in the year.

Most issues have already been resolved at the BSB level. Following is an update of the 414th BSB AFAP issues and the actions taken to remedy them:

**414-01-04:** As requested by teen delegates to the conference, a Teen Dance Club, formerly the Paradise Club near Cardwell Housing, will be open by the beginning of the 2004 school year. Some events are being held in the club now, but the formal opening is scheduled for later in the summer.

**414-02-04:** A college transition center is being developed at Hanau High School to contain a library of college and university tapes and CDs. This center will be staffed by students and supervised by adults to assist students who are seeking information about colleges and universities.

**414-05-04:** Catholic religious services have been requested at the chapel in Büdingen. Assistance was requested by the BSB from IMA-E; however, there aren't enough resources available, and Büdingen community members will have to continue to travel to Fliegerhorst Kaserne for Catholic services for now.

**414-06-04:** Cleaning up after your pet is an ongoing issue in the Army. Responsible pet ownership takes effort, planning and discipline. The Housing Office of the 414th BSB Directorate of Public Works is working to improve compliance with this issue.

**414-07-04:** The issue of poor customer service by Deutsche Telekom in regard to its American customers is being worked by the 104th ASG. Several comments concerning this issue were voiced at the 104th ASG AFAP meeting, causing Col. George Latham, 104th ASG commander, to intervene. Latham said this issue has high priority within the ASG and is being actively worked.

**414-08-04:** Improving the 414th BSB shuttle bus routes

and increasing the scheduled stops has been an ongoing issue. In response some bus routes and the schedule have already been increased and stops added.

**414-10-04:** Living harmoniously in government quarters takes effort, planning and discipline. If you want good neighbors, be a good neighbor. If things get out of hand, notify the Military Police, your building coordinator or chain of command. Conference delegates requested standardization of housing policies and increased coordination between all departments involved in housing issues. Requests to create common area rooms and an incentive program for building coordinators were also made.

**414-11-04:** Recycling is the law. Housing residents who live near the new recycling centers need to follow the guidance of the DPW and the BSB commander. It was recommended to increase the frequency of pick-ups and number of containers as needed. Two additional staff members have been added to the BOS staff to deal exclusively with trash and recycling issues in the 414th BSB.

All AFAP issues from the General Officer Steering Committee are available for inspection in the office of the 414th BSB AFAP coordinator. Call mil 322-5308, civ (06181) 885-308 or email [Rick.Krenz@104asg.mwr.army.mil](mailto:Rick.Krenz@104asg.mwr.army.mil) for assistance.

