

Magician enchants community youth

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Magician Loch David Crane charmed School-Age Services youths from Giessen, Butzbach and Bad Nauheim at Butzbach Elementary School June 7.

About 70 children gathered in the school's gym to see Crane's character Merlin-ye-Mage perform magical tricks such as the burning wallet and mind reading.

The college professor, who has taught technical writing and English at the National University of San Diego for the past 16 years and has been performing magic for 40 years, came to Butzbach to "support the troops because they work hard. Entertaining them, their families and children is a way of backing them up," he said. He donates shows to the military community because he is grateful for their sacrifices.

"The last two times I was in Germany I performed on air bases, and in 1999 I was in Giessen performing for Soldiers at the Wood-

land Club. I thought it was time to do something for the kids, especially after the extension of the deployment," he said.

"I always enjoyed magic and working with children," Crane said. "I perform for adults, but I also entertain at children's birthdays and schools."

Crane established a reading reward assembly for students in San Diego. "We are challenging kids to read 1,000 pages, and when they succeed, the principal has to do something. One principal had to kiss a pig and another was cut in half," Crane said.

Crane wanted to create an exercise assessment especially for children who are not doing well in English or math to lure them with something other than candy, he said.

His bad eyes and hearing prevented Crane from being drafted to fight in the Vietnam War, he said. Several accidents left him almost crippled so that he could never join the military.

"I enjoy working with kids be-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Magician Loch David Crane introduces his Merlin-ye-Mage character to children of the 284th BSB School-Age Services at the Butzbach Elementary School gym.

cause of their lack of tact. When I make a mistake they are all over me. Kids see the mistakes you make and they tell you, so you get to be a better performer. The biggest laugh for them is when I knock the table

over and the props are all over the place," he said.

During his stay in Germany Crane will donate additional shows to local German charities, Ronald McDonald Houses for children

and American troops in hospitals or on base.

For more information on Merlin-ye-Mage or Crane visit his website at www.MagicSantaClaus.com.

Lamb gives Butzbach kindergarteners lesson in zoology

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office

Students in Clare Condon's kindergarten class at Butzbach Elementary School received an unexpected zoology lesson May 28 with the arrival of five-week-old lamb Socke and shepherd Klaus Rinker.

Rinker came to the school at the invitation of Lt. Col. Bart U. Shreve, 284th Base Support Battalion commander.

"Some children have never seen a live farm animal before. It's a great chance for them to see it and to pet it and to ask questions," said Condon. "We talked about animals before just recently, but having a lamb in the classroom is so much better."

Getting to know each other

After initial shyness lasting less than a minute the children and lamb got to know one another.

The children watched with amazement as Socke was fed a bottle of milk. Giggles filled the classroom when the little furball noisily emptied the bottle within a few minutes.

"Lambs are just like human babies which cannot eat food right away. Before they can eat 'sheep food' they have to be fed with milk until they are about three months old," said Rinker.

"But why do you shave off the sheep's fur?" asked Brittany Benavente.

"According to the German animal protection law we have to shear them regularly, especially in the summer to prevent them from sweating. Shepherds are responsible

for the well-being of their sheep," said Rinker.

"Where do the lambs live? Do you keep them in your house?" asked Camryn Bishop.

"No, the lambs are kept in a stable. While all the adult sheep are already out in the meadows, the lambs have to stay in the stable where they are safe," Rinkert said.

"And where is Socke's mom?" asked Sara Sword.

"Socke is a twin, so we had to separate her from her mother. The other twin is a boy and he got to stay with his mom. We have to separate twins because a sheep has enough milk for only one lamb, but not for twins or more," said Rinker.

"Many sheep give birth to twins or even triplets, so we need to take them away from their mother and feed them with a bottle," he said. "After three months they are old enough to join the other sheep and they get to leave the stable."

Not a pet

Any thought that a lamb would make a great pet was immediately dismissed when Socke had to answer nature's call — on the classroom carpet. After noticing the mishap the class immediately divided. As some students left to find another toy, some still petted the lamb.

"I can't believe Socke pooped on the carpet in our classroom. I mean that's not polite. But she is still a baby and an animal, so she doesn't know any better. I guess we just have to clean up after her," said Tyreek Lubin.

"I think having a herd of sheep is just like having a lot of children and living on a farm with them," said Sarah Theurer.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Shepherd Klaus Rinker (right) feeds five-week-old lamb Socke with a bottle as Clare Condon's kindergarteners look on.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Graduation opens new doors for graduates

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It has not been an easy year for seniors of Giessen Middle-High School. With so many parents still deployed to Iraq, most of the 23 students in the graduating class faced celebrating with a parent absent.

But thanks to video teleconferencing parents and students had a live connection for the ceremony, held at Giessen's Kongresshalle June 4. Despite the miles of separation, parents had a chance to witness their children's personal achievements and hear the school's brightest lights speak.

Guest speaker Sheila Smith, a teacher at Mannheim Middle School, encouraged the students to strive for the better things in life.

"Be like air and rise. Go out there and find a job—regardless what kind of job it is—just make sure it's an honest job," Smith said.

"Never lose hope because hope keeps us standing; hope is to know deep down that all things are possible and that your goals are in front and not behind you," Smith said. "Hope is all we have, hope never gets scared, hope is the secret weapon of the soul. Hope is to be like that air and to rise. Stay true to yourself."

"Deployed parents don't give up hope. ... We are proud of you today as we are proud of the graduates," Smith said.

Salutatorian Eric Smart said graduation opens new chapters in the students' lives.

"The doors on various old opportunities have been closed to us while others for new ones have been carefully opened. We must

Retirement at close of school year

Bad Nauheim teacher says good-bye after 37 years

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

After spending four decades educating young Americans, school's out forever for Bad Nauheim Elementary



Photo by Alexandra Williams
Jana Hohe received a Certificate of Appreciation from the 284th Base Support Battalion for 37 years of dedicated service to Bad Nauheim Elementary School.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

High school graduation opens new chapters for the seniors of the class of 2004.

be ready to leave some of what we know behind," he said.

"Now or inevitably later we have to do our own laundry, cook our own food and even pick up after ourselves. While high school will be still fresh in our minds for some time to come, we must not dwell on the past but remember it and face our future with passion and the knowledge that we will do great things in the world today. We carry the knowledge that we have retained before this day and the hopes that we hold for the future.

"As we go on in life we need to be careful

about the people we make friends with," he said. "But do not hold back. We must plow forward, make our path and make good friends.

"You are now finished with high school, but don't close your doors in life. Sir Edmund Hillary once said that it's not the mountains we conquer, but ourselves," said Smart. "When we leave and go out on our own we can't let the bad aspects of life conquer us. Get on top of your life and conquer yourself.

"If you don't hear it at home, hear it now. Life is not fair. It isn't supposed to be. Take what you get and make life fair and wondrous

for yourself, and be able to face what is to come," Smart said.

"Seniors take a last look at your wonderful life at home with mom and dad doing things for you. Now you must go out and create a new one. My friends and fellow graduates, here is wishing you new worlds to conquer, new adventures to discover, new dreams to make come true and more memories to collect. Best of luck fellow graduates of 2004."

Smart, who spent four years in Giessen, will study criminal justice at Wichita State University.

"Despite how you are feeling, we are all proud of everyone sitting up here tonight," said valedictorian Jonathan Castillo. "Many think our weakness will hold us back, putting a restriction on what we can do, and that our strengths alone carry us through everything. There are others who see their weakness as a challenge to improve. ... The point is we all have inabilities and must come to the realization that we can't do everything on our own. ... With the help of others our weakness no longer seem like a weakness. ... We are given the gift of making friends, and we can't forget that we have families, too. People are like puzzle pieces, and finding the right pieces that can fit together makes a bond that will hopefully last a long time."

Castillo, who came to Giessen three years ago, is headed to the University of Texas in San Antonio to study engineering.

"I am glad that I went to a small school. Living here has brought us closer together. I knew everyone," he said. "Instead of a big school where I would be guessing more, I knew all the faces and names."

School teacher Jana Hohe.

Of her 40 years with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Hohe has spent 37 years in Bad Nauheim.

"When I came here I met my husband Heinz who is a host nation teacher at Butzbach Elementary School. We got married in 1967 and I just stayed over here. My son Steffen was born in 1969 and after that my daughter Christina. Germany has become my, our home," she said.

It was time to retire now, Hohe said. "Bad Nauheim is a wonderful school. We've had wonderful principals, wonderful students, teachers and parents. I could have not worked in a nicer place. But it's time to quit because things are changing and the school will eventually close in a couple of years. I would hate to see the school close so it's better to quit before it happens," she said.

"The last couple of years have been stressful for everyone. I had to fly home to take care of my parents and last year my father died. It took a lot out of me to fly home and to take care of things. When you get older things are not as easy anymore," she said.

Change in daily schedule

Retirement will change her daily schedule, but she'll be just as busy as she has been as a teacher, she said.

"My husband and I have a house in Rockenberg. Now I will have time to clean out my basement, take care of the garden. Maybe one day we will have grandchildren, and I am already looking forward to that. I also enjoy painting and I will have time to continue that too," Hohe said.

"I'd like to travel more. It's not as easy now as when I was younger, but I hope I get to travel. I will also spend more time with my husband. For once I will be a housewife and my husband is looking forward to that."

Things have changed in the DoDDS system but not always for the better, according to Hohe.

"We used to put on musicals for the school. That was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it, but then we quit doing that," Hohe remembered. "There is just too much emphasis on testing nowadays."

"For years and years I have taken students to the Hubertus Landschulheim located outside of Butzbach. For a week we would live in a cabin and do a lot of outdoor education. We haven't done that for the past two years because of the situation right now," she said.

The past year has probably been the most difficult one as a teacher, she said.

"The situation in Iraq and the deployment have been very stressful for the children and for the parents. I remember the time of the first Gulf War, but this deployment has not been quite the same. It was hard for everyone," she said.

Retirement does not mean saying good-bye to the school forever, said Hohe.

"I will stay in touch, especially since my husband is a teacher in Butzbach and Bad Nauheim. I think for the first year I will take care of other things and then I might I volunteer at the school. We will see. If I run out of things to do and I get antsy I will be back at the school," she said.

Gunners back on 'big guns' in Iraq

Battery A, 2-3rd Field Artillery, conducts direct support fire mission

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

Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, is back on its "big guns" in An Najaf, Iraq.

Capt. Gregory "BC" Vinciguerra, battery commander, said after a year in Baghdad conducting operations not normally attributed to "red legs," the change of mission was a welcome change for his Soldiers.

The unit, recently attached to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducts counter-fire operations and direct support fire.

Transition to traditional mission good for morale

"With the extension (of the task force's deployment in Iraq) the transition to a traditional field artillery mission did a lot for their morale," he said.

In the Adhamiyah district of Baghdad, the artillerymen conducted raids, cordon and search operations and even used their Paladins, self-propelled tracked howitzers that

some people describe as "tanks on steroids," to conduct mounted patrols.

The battery is ready to fire 155 mm high explosive rounds, illumination and smoke rounds. Other live-fire rounds (for special purpose) include the RAP (Rocket Assisted Propulsion) — for the extra kick to go a little farther) — and the Copperhead, a laser-guided round.

"I liked doing those operations in Baghdad; but I like this better, because it's my job," said Sgt. Esqeyel Cortez, a "number one man" for one of the battery's guns.

A Paladin has a four-man crew — the driver, gunner who loads the round, the number one man who loads powdered firing charges and the crew/section chief.

Peaceful time

Though most of 2-3rd FA only recently moved south, the majority of Alpha Battery has been in the area for about four weeks. Until the rest of the battalion arrived, the battery was staged in the vast desert, far from any city, town or village.

"It was nice and peaceful," Vinciguerra said. "We had a five-gallon water jug for a shower, we ate Meals Ready to Eat and we had to fight the flies, but the guys were happy because they got to shoot their guns."

Vinciguerra said they usually try to fire at least once a day.



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Gunner Spc. Willard Clark (center) of Battery A, 2-3rd FA, demonstrates how to load a round in a Paladin Howitzer while Pfc. Preston Hummel (from left), Staff Sgt. John Tricoche and Sgt. Esqeyel Cortez look on.

Field artillery is a multipurpose tool in the Army, he said.

His battery can shoot live fires, conduct illumination missions to light up an area for observation and conduct smoke mission to provide a smoke screen for other units wanting to break or avoid contact with the enemy.

With two other firing batteries in the battalion, how did Alpha get the honor of manning the hot guns?

Consistently being awarded with the battalion's Top Gun title, it's obvious, Vinciguerra joked, "We're the best firing battery in Division Artillery."

2-37th Armor aids Iraqi neighborhoods

By Pfc. Erik Ledrew
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Reconnaissance missions are standard for any unit in a combat zone, and the armored crewmembers

of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, are no exception.

The Soldiers of the "Battlecat" Company, who are attached to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment along with 1-37th Armor, recently

conducted one such recon mission in the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniya.

"We conducted area reconnaissance of about a third of our total sector in Diwaniya," said Capt.

Geoffrey Wright, Company B commander. "We do this type of thing everyday. Today we concentrated on finding key business locations, key leaders."

Their other task was to try to measure residents' opinions, he said. "We learned that there's a great deal of frustration among them. They're not satisfied with the public services here," he said. "Trash, for instance — it's everywhere and people are upset about that."

Wright said he hoped to assist with some of the community problems in his unit's sector. If he can find a solution, he will relay the information to those who can assist the residents in solving the problems.

"We're going to have to work, because the trash is being used as enemy hideouts," he said.

In addition to patrolling the neighborhoods the Battlecats also regularly visit the community's Iraqi Police Station to see if there are any

problems the unit can help solve.

During one visit Wright asked the IPS commanding officer if joint, Soldier-police patrols in Diwaniya might be beneficial. The Iraqi police officer's answer was,

"Yes."

"We'll go by the police stations, pick up some of the officers there and bring them a long

"We are trying to win the people over in support of a future Iraq that is free and democratic and teach them to have faith in the system." — Capt. Geoffrey Wright, Company B commander.

when we go out on patrol," Wright said.

"It helps us find our way around the city better; and since the IPS only have a limited number of vehicles, it helps them get out and work with their people," he said. "It's a benefit for both sides."

Wright's goal of reaching out and helping Iraqis while on patrol is to win their support.

"We're trying to win the people over in support of a future Iraq that is free and democratic and teach them to have faith in the system," he said.

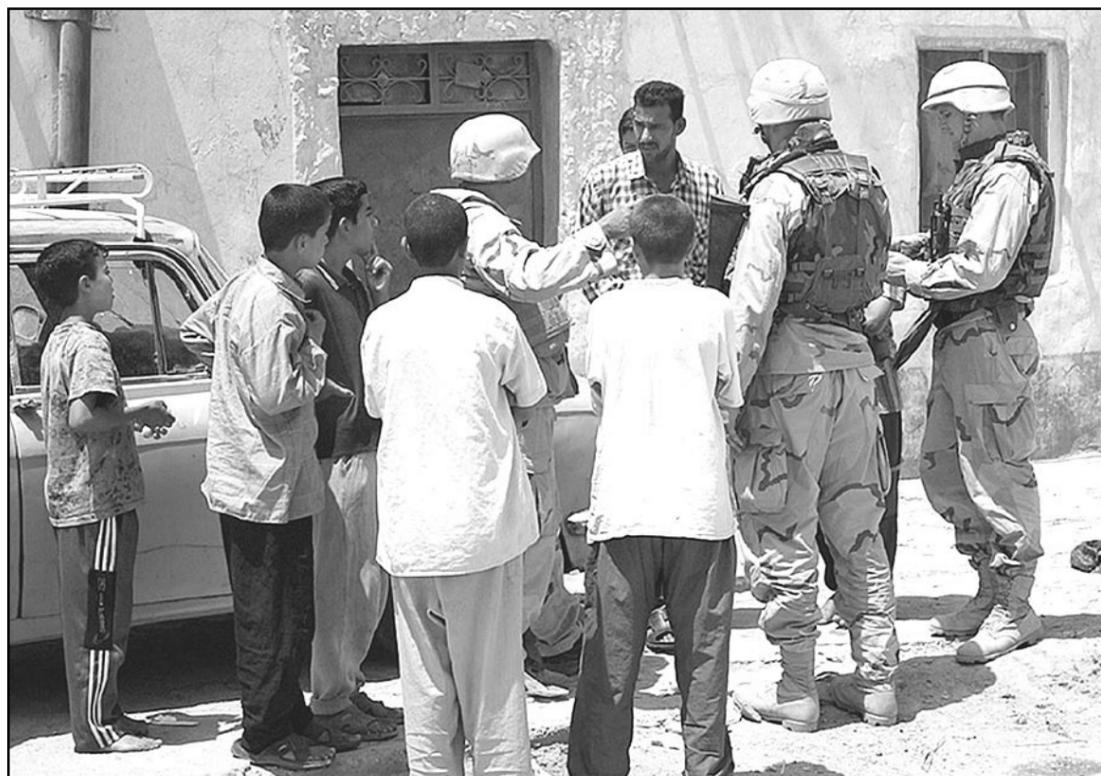


Photo by Pfc. Erik Ledrew

Soldiers of "Battlecat" Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, speak with Iraqi citizens through an interpreter in one of several neighborhoods they visited while on patrol.

Giessen Chapel hosts Spanish Mass

By **Alexandra Williams**
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Thirty-three community members attended the first Spanish Mass held June 6 at the Giessen Chapel.

By offering a Spanish Mass the 284th Base Support Battalion answered a long-time need within the community. "Many Spanish-speaking families regretted that there was no Mass held in their language. One day BSB commander Lt. Col. Bart Shreve approached me and asked if we could try to organize a Mass for the Catholic families who don't speak English," said Luz Medeiros, 284th BSB Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program coordinator.

Team effort

Medeiros and 284th BSB Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart teamed up to introduce a monthly Mass at Giessen Chapel.

"We had to find the time to fit the Mass into the chaplain's schedule,

and we also did not want to interfere with the schedule of the Spanish Mass held twice a month at a German chapel," said Medeiros.

Spouses happy

"Many spouses have told me that they are happy to know that we (the BSB) are willing to do a Spanish Mass for them. While some go to the German chapel, we still have families here who hardly speak English and no German so they feel uncomfortable driving around in Giessen. We wanted to offer a Mass to them here on post where they feel comfortable," Medeiros said.

Ehrhart said he understood the demand for a Spanish Mass. "England, the United States, Australia and New Zealand have one English translation, but other countries without the English mother tongue might have a slightly different translation. Then there are cultural differences. In other countries people might dress differently — they use different instruments, might use



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Luz Medeiros (left) translates Scripture for Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart during the first Spanish Catholic Mass.

native dances.

"The mind of the Catholic Church is that it attempts to preserve cultural differences because many originated from very rich cultures and developed over centuries and should not get lost,"

Ehrhart said.

Since Ehrhart does not speak Spanish he depended on the support of attendees.

"It won't be a problem to read the homily in Spanish, but I will not be able to read the gospel and scrip-

tures. I will read everything the priest has to do, but some things will have to be read by native speakers," Ehrhart said.

During the first Mass Medeiros, Yessenia Sanchez and Melissa Collier read the scriptures.

"When the Soldiers return from the deployment I hope we will have some guys playing instruments like the congas. This way we will have an almost authentic Spanish Mass," Medeiros said.

Upcoming Mass

Presently there are two more Masses scheduled for August and September. There won't be a Mass in July because of the July 4 holiday and other events.

"If everything works out fine and we have a fair amount of participants then we might offer the service twice a month," Ehrhart said.

For information on the dates of the August and September Mass call Medeiros at mil 343-6500 or civ (0641)402-6500.

Community spotlights ... Community spotlights

Tax Center update

Services at the Giessen Tax Center are available by appointment only. Call mil 343-8268 to schedule an appointment. The Friedberg Tax Center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 30 for walk-ins and appointments. The center is located in Building 3635, Room 112. For details call mil 324-2275.

Vacation Bible School

The Friedberg Vacation Bible School will be held at the Bad Nauheim Elementary School June 27 to July 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed for the baking committee, decoration committee, station managers (adults only) and crew leaders (adults and teenagers). For more information call Ashley White at civ (0610) 6976 8730 or the Army Corps Volunteer coordinator at Friedberg Army Community Service, mil 324-3464.

Go flying

Paragliding season is open through November. The Paragliding Glider Club in Giessen offers **gliding lessons** every Saturday and Sunday. The cost is €155 for youths up to age 14 and €260 for adults age 15 and older. A seven to 15 minute ride (depending on the draft) is €15 and participants must be 5 years or older. The Cloudbusters ballooning club in Pohlheim offers **balloon rides** to Frankfurt for up to 25 people per balloon. The cost is €185 per person. The ballooning season is open through October. The Giessen Outdoor Recreation Center will set up appointments for anyone interested. For more information call mil 343-8202/8207.

Free yoga class

Free yoga classes are held at the Friedberg Fitness Center Monday and Wednesday from 4-5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. For details call Daisha Cruz at mil 324-3155.

Satellite gyms opening hours

In support of spouses with small children and no means of transportation the Sports Office has opened two satellite gyms in the Bad Nauheim Community Center and in Building 6543 in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing. The opening hours of the Bad Nauheim gym are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Butzbach mini gym opens Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call the Bad Nauheim Outreach Center at mil 324-3566, the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06032) 925

329 or the Friedberg Army Community Center at mil 324-3100.

Free POV safety inspection

The 284th Base Support Battalion Auto Skills Center offers free Privately Owned Vehicle safety inspections in support of extended families. Family members may bring their POVs to either the Giessen or Friedberg Auto Skills Center. Service is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call the Giessen Auto Skills Center at mil 343-7050 or Friedberg at mil 324-3218.

Crafts in Giessen

The Giessen Arts and Craft Office hosts a **crochet class** June 29 from 4-5. The cost is \$15. A **Kids Sculpey class** will be held June 24 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.50. A **Flag Pillows for Kids class** is scheduled for July 1 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.50. A **scrapbooking class** will be held July 6 from 4-5 p.m. The cost is \$15. For details call mil 343-6445.

Outdoor Rec trips

Giessen Outdoor Recreation hosts a **Rhine a flame trip** July 3. The cost is \$69 for adults, \$49 for children 4-11 and \$19 for children age 3 and younger. A **white water rafting trip** is scheduled for July 10-11. The cost is \$169 for adults and includes one overnight stay. For more information call mil 343-8202.

Employee Substance Abuse training

The 104th Area Support Group and the 284th Base Support Battalion Army Substance Abuse Program host employee substance abuse training June 30 and July 6 from 1-3 p.m. in Building 7 on the Giessen Depot. For more information call Carrie Hicks at mil 324-3139.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date is July 9 for all housing areas in the 284th BSB. Various pickup dates and pertinent information can be viewed online at www.giessen.army.mil.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Army celebrates 229th

Pvt. 2 Jamarr Tate (left) of Battery B, 2-3rd Field Artillery, and 284th Base Support Battalion Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart slice into a cake June 14 at the Giessen Dining facility to mark the Army's 229th birthday. A cake cutting ceremony was also held in Friedberg's Ray Barracks. Traditionally the youngest Soldier assigned is invited to assist the most senior Soldier in the celebration.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Community notes . . . Community notes

Anti-terrorism briefing

Level 1 anti-terrorism briefings will be held at Hanau's Pioneer Evening Star Theater June 28 from 9-10 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m. for all Soldiers, civilians and family members. For information contact Larry C. Bostick, manager of the Community Welcome Center, at mil322-8034/9371 or by email at larry.bostick@104asg.army.mil.

Vacation Bible School

Register now for the Hanau Vacation Bible School, Aug. 2-6, at the Pioneer Chapel. All children entering kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall are welcome. Look for registration forms at the local CMR or Army Community Service. For information or to volunteer call Abigail Dolinger at civ (06181)9062891 or Lisa Hixon at civ (06181)5079250.

Volunteer chairman

The American Red Cross is looking for a chairman of volunteers. This volunteer position involves recruiting, training and developing other local volunteers. For information contact the 414th Base Support Battalion Installation Volunteer Coordinator at Hanau Army Community Service in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne or call mil 322-8977.

Cub Scout day camp

The Cub Scout Pack 49 Day Camp will run from July 6-10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is open to the first 50 boys in first grade through fifth. The camp costs \$65 per child, and activities will include archery and BB gun shooting, crafts, science, nature and sports. All first-graders are considered Tiger Cubs and will need an adult present at all times to participate. Call Debbie Curtis at civ (06184)994 450 or BK Patterson at civ (06023) 320 160 for an application.

Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts Pack 49 is accepting applications for the 2004-05 school year. The Cub Scouts are also looking for a few good volunteers. Share your leadership and mentoring skills with the Scouts as a den leader, treasurer, quartermaster or in a membership or committee position.



Photo by David Ruderman

Not your father's medieval fest

A meandering brass and percussion band plays the cobblestone alleys of the Hanau Altstadt while colorful stilt people make their way through the throngs of revelers June 12 during the annual Lambofest. The 17th annual Hannauer Kultursommer, featuring a wide range of musical and theatrical performances, many of them free to the public, gets under way July 25 with the samba sounds of Quanta Feira. The program continues at a variety of venues around town through Aug. 16.

Call Debbie Curtis at civ (06184)994 450 or BK Patterson at civ (06023) 320 160 for an application.

USO highlights

The USO is selling tickets for Holiday Park, Warner Brothers and Legoland Amusement Parks.

Join the USO Oriental Dance Class (belly dancing). No one is too young or old for this class. Bring slippers, Isotoners or gripper socks to dance in; no tennis shoes. Register for this class at the Hanau USO lounge. Classes will be July 8-29 from 10-11:30 a.m. and 12-1:30 p.m. The class fee is \$40. Sign up by July 2.

Mustang show

The German-American Wild Ponies of Hanau Car Club will celebrate in style on July 4. At least 140 Mustang owners will be vying for one of 33 trophies. You can view all these vintage Mustangs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There'll be fun and games for the children and food and drink, including Mustang Burgers and Nitro Wings, for adults. The event will be held just outside of Hanau at the Crazy Cactus Mexican restaurant located in Kleinauheim.

For more information or if you have a Mustang you'd like to exhibit, details are available at www.wildponies.de.

Hanau CIF closed

The Hanau Central Issue Facility will be closed for full customer service from June 28 to July 1 for inventory. Customer service will be limited to compelling needs or an emergency issue of equipment on a walk-in basis. The CIF will resume normal operations July 2.

Employment Orientation

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

Dress for Success

On June 23 the ACS Employment Readiness Team will host a Dress for Success seminar from 10-11 a.m. in Building 9, Room 104 on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-9191.

Self-help classes

The Hanau and Büdingen Self-Help Stores are holding classes in the safe use of equipment and materials in minor maintenance and repair projects. The Büdingen Self-Help Store will have its class on the first Monday of every month from 10-11 a.m. The Hanau Self-Help Store will have its class on the first Wednesday of every month from 10-11 a.m.

- Büdingen Self-Help Store, mil 321-4778.
- Hanau Self-Help Store, mil 322-8200.

Interview skills

On June 24 the Army Community Service Employment Readiness Team will host an Interview Techniques seminar from 10-11 a.m.

in Building 9, Room 104 on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-9191.

Women's Bible Study

The Hanau Protestant Women of the Chapel invite everyone for relaxed and fun Bible study in July. Join the PWOC for five individual video-based Bible studies, fellowship, fun and no homework. The study will be held 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. Call Robin Longworth at civ (06181)575 775.

Arabic Headstart

Learn about the Middle East — the culture, people and language at the Arabic Headstart program, June 28-29, 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 the Pioneer Education Center at mil 322-8380/9600.

Finance Office moves

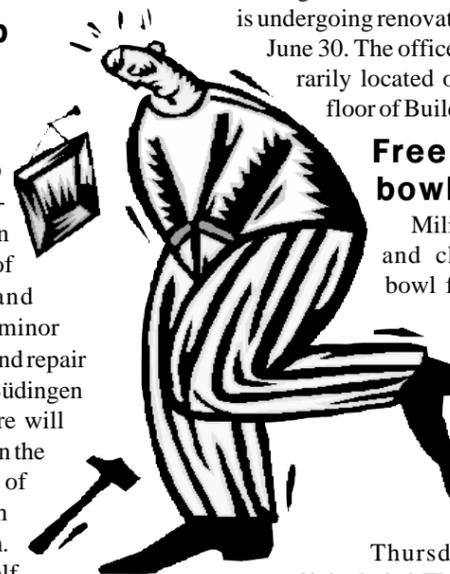
The 39th Finance Battalion Disbursing Office on Pioneer Kaserne is undergoing renovations through June 30. The offices are temporarily located on the fourth floor of Building 5.

Free bowling

Military spouses and children can bowl free at every bowling center in the 104th ASG during Iron Family Time, 3-6 p.m. on Thursdays. Shoe rental is included. The newly renovated, 32-lane Hessen Bowl is at the Wolfgang Shopping Center.

New bus schedule

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



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414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos by Dennis Johnson

Jeri Thompson, Dominique Waller and Megan Wimbish smile as they celebrate graduation. Right: Brandon Rockwell shows off the kilt he wore under his graduation gown to Alyeshia Rosario, Chanel Basnight and Kyle Reed.



Hanau American High School class of 2004 marks graduation at Stadthalle

Fifty-two students of the class of 2004 of Hanau American High School graduated in a ceremony June 3 at Hanau's Congress Park Stadthalle.

The ceremony was attended by family near and far as the event was transmitted live by Video Teleconference to Soldiers in Iraq.

The class had two valedictorians because of a tie in the 4.13 grade point averages of Amber Maultbay, age 17, and Courtney Smith, age 18. Their GPAs exceeded 4.0 because of extra credit for advanced placement classes.

The salutatorian was Melaney Schneider, age 17, who compared graduation to a marathon

in her salutatorian address. "Has it ever occurred to you that graduation is like winning a marathon? You've arrived at the winning post, triumphant perhaps, but exhausted. ... Looking around I see a lot of relieved faces and I know why. During the marathon, they too thought they might never make it to the end of the race. Today we have all qualified for whatever other races we may choose to run. ... Congratulations graduates; we have crossed the finish line."

Schneider is going to Kansas State University to study political science. "I'm happy to be done, but sad that it's over, if that makes any sense?" she said.



Local school children stand behind American graves during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint James, France, May 31.

Air defenders in Normandy 5-7th ADA provides support and honors at Memorial Day, D-Day ceremonies in France

Story and photo by Capt. J. Adam Falk
69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, attended the May 31 Memorial Day ceremony at the World War II Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint James, France.

More than 2,000 people were present to honor Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who gave their lives nearly 60 years ago and to pay tribute to the veterans in attendance. "Visiting the cemetery and attending the ceremony was an interesting experience," said Spc. Karyn A. Obey. "The Air Force did well supporting the ceremony."

The 5-7th ADA deployed there as part of Task Force Normandy 60 which was responsible for providing support to the commemorative ceremonies for the 60th anniversary of D-Day. The battalion was responsible for commemoration events at the World War II Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Omaha Beach on June 6.

"I thought the ceremony was very honoring to veterans," said Capt. Joshua M. Bundt, battalion communications officer. "To hear choirs of four different countries sing made the

event memorable." Choirs from Australia, Germany, France and the United States performed during the ceremony. School children from the town of Saint James placed flowers at the gravestones.

"You could tell the veterans were happy to have children participating in the ceremony," said Spc. James P. Rockwell, generator mechanic with 19th Maintenance Company, 5-7th ADA. "I'm sure they hope the new generation will not forget what happened here 60 years ago."

"It was a very moving ceremony which was made more special by the involvement of the town," said Maj. Clement S. Coward, battalion executive officer. "The professional conduct of the French soldiers involved in the ceremony impressed me as well."

"I was touched and surprised by the amount of appreciation that our Soldiers received from the French people in attendance," said Coward.

"To be in France on Memorial Day was a great experience for us," said Obey. "I'm looking forward to assisting with the ceremony on June 6 at Omaha and hope we have the opportunity to be a part of events like this again in the future."

"To be in France on Memorial Day was a great experience for us."

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



The Schafott is a 19-century execution site that today sits between housing units and alongside a children's playground on Old Argonner Kaserne.

There's history in your own backyard

Former execution site in Hanau housing area

Story and photos by Dennis Johnson
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

How many Americans in the Hanau community, especially those living on Old Argonner Kaserne, walk by that strange-looking circular stone structure next to the children's playground without giving it a second glance?

This is one facility in the 414th Base Support Battalion that everyone is pleased is no longer in use. If you wander over and read the sign you'll find that this stone structure is an ancient Schafott — "scaffold" — an execution site.

Here, elevated above the crowds that would gather for the public execution of criminals, the condemned would literally lose their heads. Seated upright in a chair, the criminal would have his head neatly severed from his body by a masked executioner wielding a flat, square-tipped sword. The execution seat and sword of the type used can be seen in the collection of the Hanau Historical Museum at Philippsruhe Castle.

The execution site on Old Argonner Kaserne was used for 30 years, from 1831-1861, long before there was a military casern here. The spot was selected as an official execution site after a robber and murderer, Peter Kitzler, was executed there on Sept. 12, 1831. At that time it was a wooded area far from town. A natural rise in the land gave the spectators a good view.

In 1834 the stone structure was built to elevate the condemned and the executioner above the crowd so the people could see even better. Although the Schafott was used for 30 years, there were only four executions on the site, and one of those executed was a woman.

Hanau had quite a number of gallows and places for the public punishment of criminals. A two-stone pillar gallows which stood along the road between Philippsruhe and Dörnigheim was erected in 1710 and used until 1834. It was said to have caused "the uneasiness of the Kurfürst (electoral prince) who had a good view of the gallows from his breakfast room." The view of the executions spoiled his morning



You'll find a sword used by master executioner Jacob Nord, a Richtstuhl (judgment chair) and neck irons in the Hanau Historical Museum in Philippsruhe Castle.

appetite, so he ordered the gallows to be moved. This may have been the reason why the executions were moved to the present site on Old Argonner, or it may just be a good story.

There was also a gallows, execution stone and a "shame pole" located next to the Hanau Rathaus until 1834. People were chained by their necks to the shame pole for "honor offenses" such as adultery and for illegal business practices such as cheating on the weight of a loaf of bread.

Thieves and homeless people were also punished at the shame pole and exposed to public ridicule. Townspeople would pass by and laugh or throw food and garbage at the

offenders. Heavy stone or iron weights were chained to their wrists so they could not lash out at the crowd. This punishment lasted from one to several hours. Above the criminal would be hung a sign with his or her name, residence, profession and the offense.

Another gallows was situated in the Neustädter Marktplatz and a Schnell-, Schnapp-, Schnepp- or Wippgalgen — a device for dunking people in the water.

Another gallows was said to have been located between the new and old towns.

In the middle 1800s, with the adoption of the Prussian legal system, public executions were ended except for the period between 1933 and 1945 when public executions occurred once again under the Nazis.

On April 5, 1839, Katharina Beyer, who had killed her son-in-law, became the second criminal executed at the Argonner site and the first to use the new stone structure. She went to her bitter end shouting, "false judges, false witnesses," her words echoing through the forest until her tongue was silenced by the blow of the executioner's sword.

Johann Georg Müller, a robber and murderer who was convicted of killing a livestock dealer, was executed on March 3, 1854. Soldiers and police escorted him from Hanau followed by masses of people. Two Protestant ministers offered spiritual support in his final hours while he swore that the forest would die if they executed him since he was not guilty. The crowd cried so loudly that an officer ordered drums be beaten to quiet the crowd. As the second drum rolled, he cried, "My God, my God," and his head rolled.

Years later, when an invasion of caterpillars ate all the leaves off the trees, the local people remembered what he'd said. In the 1890s unconfirmed sources said that a "rich butcher in America, while on his deathbed, admitted to killing someone in Hanau." So, according to this confession, Müller, who was a butcher's "boy," may have been innocent and the butcher the real culprit.

The last execution at the Old Argonner Schafott took place on Jan. 11, 1861. Heinrich Nolte was a "dangerous marriage swindler" who killed his lover in a vineyard while on a tour of the Rhine. On the day of the execution it was very cold, but more than 15,000 people still came out for the bloody

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414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Pond's guards take over from Bundeswehr

By Dennis Johnson
414th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The German Bundeswehr soldiers who provided a "show of force" while American troops are deployed to Iraq have left for other missions. The full responsibility for post security now resides with the Pond's guards. This has resulted in an increased number of guards who have received enhanced training.

"Before 9-11 Soldiers were always available as a Quick Reaction Force to rush to the scene of any incident. After 9-11 they worked at the gates with us as a show of force," said Christopher Ayers, Pond's Hanau site manager.

"When the American troops deployed, Bundeswehr troops arrived to provide that show of force," he said. "But now that the Bundeswehr troops have gone on to other missions, we've increased the number of Pond's guards, and they're going to increase even more."

The increased force will allow the guards to increase their patrolling of the posts as well; they do not just stand at the gates.

"We also patrol the housing areas at night, something the Bundeswehr used to do. And we used to patrol only the Fliegerhorst flightline, but now we patrol the entire post perimeter," said Ayers.

The increased guard force and patrols are just a part of continually improving security



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Pond's guard Latife Butler checks an ID at the Old Argonner Kaserne gate.

measures throughout the 414th Base Support Battalion. The measures most evident to residents are the new "dragon's teeth" tire shredders which prevent vehicles from entering through an exit lane onto a post. The entrance and exit lanes at the gates have also been made "more serpentine" to slow down the traffic flow at the gates.

Pond's guards, like Soldiers, are continually training and having their skills assessed.

"The guards receive seven hours of refresher training every month," said Ayers. "We try to make it more hands-on, not just classroom learning. In July we'll be doing more intensive night-stick training. We'll put our guards in pads and give them the experience of being hit. This is an extension of our present training, to actually do it, parrying blows and resisting attacks," said Ayers.

Just as important is a focus on interper-

sonal skills, he said. "We try to push interpersonal communication. We're a civilian protection force; we're here to protect and to serve our customers. We try to think about our customers, we're not here to push security on them."

Initial training for a Pond's guard consists of three weeks of classroom and hands-on training. Recruits learn to detain someone, use of lethal and non-lethal force, procedures for dealing with bomb threats, surveillance techniques and patrol techniques.

"We're really strong on safety in our weapons class. They [new recruits] get six days of weapons training before joining the guard force," said John Lawler, Pond's site trainer. "They must also have the Waffensachkunde training to learn the German gun laws. They need to know who can own a gun and who can transport a weapon or ammunition."

The Pond's guards carry Czech-made 9-mm CZ-75 semi-automatic pistols and know how to use them. "Our pistol training focuses on speed and accuracy. If something happens, he needs to get his first shot off quickly and accurately," said Lawler.

"Now that the Bundeswehr soldiers have gone, we do the vehicle checks. We search the cars inside and out, basically checking for bombs," said Latife Butler, a Pond's guard working at Old Argonner Kaserne.

"The job — it's good. The main thing I enjoy is being around the American people," said Butler. "I'm used to being around Americans, I was married to one, and so I like to keep in contact with them. Talking to people and being friendly, even if you're in a bad mood is the first step in security."

"Most people are really nice. People tell us we make them feel secure," said Thomas Barnwell, senior guard at the Wolfgang Shopping Center gate. "You get to meet people and they invite you out to barbecues, they remember you. I've been living in Hanau all my life and I have friends in the American community."

"I'm really proud of our Pond's guard force. They're great technicians in their trade of providing top-notch security on our installations. More importantly, they really care about the people they're protecting. From providing directions to assisting with car problems, they go above and beyond their duties every day ... and their service always comes with a pleasant word and a smile," said Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th Base Support Battalion commander.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Pond's guard recruit, Walter Barrow (right) gets weapons training from John Lawler at the Pond's firing range in Bruchköbel.

Backyard history

Continued from page 22

spectacle. Children were let out of school for the occasion; executions were considered to be a warning as to where a life of crime might lead. Some people climbed the trees for a better view. Those with money could pay to sit or stand on a platform for a better view.

A priest accompanied Nolte and, after the sentence was read, administered the last rites. Nolte spoke and said he regretted his crime. The masked executioner (a state employee) tied him tightly to the seat and quickly detached his head. In previous executions people gathered the blood of

the executed believing it could heal diseases. This time four epileptics ran to the site and drank the fresh steaming blood hoping it would cure their affliction.

After this last public execution the site was abandoned as capital punishment began to be carried out inside the prison walls without spectators. Some of this area around the Schafott was taken for use by the German military before World War I.

Thanks to the Hanau History Association in the 1980s the Schafott was restored to its original condition. Before the reconstruction of the Schafott could start, the site had to be

turned over to the German Federal Assets Office since the German government could not provide funds for construction on U.S. controlled areas. Once the transfer of authority was completed, the German government provided approximately \$9,400 for the reconstruction while the city of Hanau contributed \$1,150 for the gate that secures the site.

To visit the Schafott enter Old Argonner Kaserne. It is immediately on the right by the playground. (Thanks to Hubert Wenzel, a teacher of history, French, German and religion, and a member of the Association of Historians in Grossauheim, for his help in researching this article)