



**Retiring 'Eagle Rising'**  
Warrant officers replace their branch insignia with traditional functional branch insignia. See page 3.



**Where knights still rule**  
Medieval life comes alive during re-enactment weekends at Ronneburg Castle. See pages 14 and 15 for a look at this historical fortress.



**On the ropes**  
Boxers come from far and wide to compete at Fliegerhorst's Spirit of America tournament. See page 27.

# Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 20

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

July 20, 2004

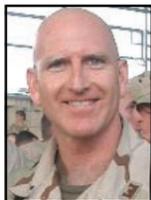
## Lessons learned

### Engineer commander reflects on Operation Iraqi Freedom mission

*(Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on lessons learned in Iraq. Col. Gregg F. Martin passed command of the 130th Engineer Brigade to Col. Thomas W. Kula July 9 [see story on page 21], and moved on to an assignment as deputy G-3 with U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg. The former commander, who helped plan and execute the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and the foundation of American military presence in Iraq, reflected on the events and lessons learned over the past two years.)*

**By David Ruderman**  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The invasion of Iraq has proved to be a classroom of historical significance for Army leaders. One lesson learned was the critical role engineer units contribute across the spectrum of battlefield operations and the need to include them in the force mix from the very beginning, said Col. Gregg F. Martin, former commander of the 130th Engineer Brigade.



"In peacetime you don't realize how critical combat engineers are because you don't need them to survive and win," said Martin. "But with a war going on, if the physical infrastructure doesn't exist, it has to be built. It's a huge deal when you actually do it. The need to get engineers early into the flow is critical—it's necessary for momentum and speed.

"The need for engineers is a core competency. We need their equipment on the battlefield, better protected and with more speed to keep up with the armor and better protect their crews. You don't have contractors and civilians to do things for you," he said.

Teamwork, task organization and integration of active duty, National Guard and Reserve engineers, Army Corps of Engineers and specialists contributing expertise worked well and will serve as a model for future operations, said Martin.

Engineers in Iraq were able to telecommunicate with colleagues in Kuwait, Europe and the United States to leverage the power of their knowledge. "Then we could fly in small groups of experts we didn't have."

**See Lessons on page 4**



Photo by Karl Weisel

Adrian McMillan enjoys lunch and a heated chess game between Demetrius Verrett (right) and Antoine Medina at the Galaxy Teen Center in Hanau.

## Staying engaged during summer

### CYS programs keep youths involved as deployment nears end

**By David Ruderman**  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

If they were worried about their parents, it didn't show.

While 1st Armored Division Soldiers were wrapping up 15-month deployments to Iraq, hundreds of

their children were making the most of summer at Child and Youth Services centers across the 104th Area Support Group.

"Our School-Age Services day camp started July 10," said Lara Odle, CYC school liaison officer

**See Summer programs on page 26**

### Largest division-based task force ever

# Iron Soldiers case their colors as they leave Iraq



Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. M. Trent Lowry  
Commanders and command sergeants major case their unit colors during a ceremony July 4 at Baghdad International Airport.

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

In a brief, early-morning ceremony, Task Force 1st Armored Division cased its banners and flags, signifying its departure from the Operation Iraqi Freedom area of operation July 4.

The longest deployment of a division in Iraq, the 1st AD spent an unprecedented 15 months in a combat zone. Task Force 1st Armored Division was the largest division-based task force in U.S. Army history. It secured some of Baghdad's roughest neighborhoods and

brought stability to the city and its surrounding countryside.

Since last year the task force has protected and improved the quality of life for over 5 million Iraqi residents in the city of Baghdad.

After turning the city over to the 1st Cavalry Division April 15, the task force headed south to pacify the cities of Najaf, Ad Diwaniyah, Al Kut and Karbala.

"Your performance in Baghdad showed a clear indication of the kind of professionalism that Iron Soldiers have always had," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander.

"Iron Soldiers have great discipline, great precision," Metz continued. "I can assure you that the world watched as Iron Soldiers etched a place in history during your extension. Military history will note the tremendous tactical maneuvers of the Iron Soldiers. You can be very proud of that."

The early morning ceremony saw representatives from the division's units give honors to the accomplishments of its Soldiers, and then roll and sheath the panoply of flags and guidons representing each unit.

**See Case colors on page 4**

# Commentary

**Second thoughts:**

## Putting German weather in perspective

**Commentary by Karl Weisel**  
104th Area Support Group  
Public Affairs Office

As Germany continued to experience one of the gloomiest summers in recent meteorological history, it was hard not to think about those folks who were still sweating in Iraq and Kuwait.

It may not have been hot enough to go swimming outside or dry long enough to enjoy a cold Weizen beer at a local beer garden this summer in Germany, but still it sure beats wearing full battle rattle in 100-plus degree heat for month after month while worrying about constant danger and being separated from friends and loved ones.

Now Soldiers are rolling in by the hundreds everyday. They're shedding the near constant weight of body armor, helmets and weapons and trading them in for the open arms of family members and friends.

The weather may be less than grand, but you could hardly tell from the tears of joy and excited cries at welcome home ceremonies in communities throughout the 104th Area Support Group.

Officials predict that everyone in the 1st Armored Division who served 15 months in Iraq should be home by Aug. 1.

But that doesn't mean that everyone is out of harm's way. Far from it.

As 1st AD wraps up its mission in Iraq and makes the long, dangerous trip home, Soldiers are still falling victim to terrorism every-



Photo by Karl Weisel

Passengers and terminal workers wait for the all-clear signal after one of several mortar attacks at Balad Air Base in Iraq on June 25.

day in towns such as Al Hillah, Ad Diwaniyah and Tikrit — place names that have become familiar to anyone who has followed news about Operation Iraqi Freedom.

And members of other units, not part of the 1st Armored Division such as the 127th Military Police Company from Baumholder, Darmstadt and Hanau have only just begun serving their 12 long months on the front lines in Iraq. They are brave men and women

who have vowed to do the best they can to restore peace and security in that war torn land, but they will be the first to say the outcome is still an uphill struggle full of uncertainty and ever-present dangers.

One also has to think of the thousands of support personnel who have made the trek into Iraq to serve in various capacities alongside service members. Anyone who has enjoyed a meal at one of the contracted dining

facilities or a hot shower at a forward operating base will quickly tell you how quality of life improved immensely for those serving in harm's way from the time early in the deployment when a daily ration of Meals Ready to Eat and a wet wipe bath were standard fare.

Those quality of life improvements are thanks to people in low-paid jobs, many of whom don't speak English from such far-away lands as India and Sri Lanka, who manage to keep a smile on their faces while working under the same extreme conditions facing service members.

One of the many vivid memories from a recent trip to Iraq is of a mortar attack at Balad Air Base. As mortars whistled overhead and exploded 50-100 meters behind a tent staging area for passengers awaiting Air Force flights, a warning sounded and people in the area strapped on protective gear and sought what little shelter was available. A group of workers responsible for maintaining the toilet facilities and handling baggage milled around in the open, apparently without any protective gear or at best one or two Vietnam era flak vests among them.

Several hours later, after the all-clear sounded, passengers eagerly boarded flights while those same workers stayed behind in the blazing heat ready to risk their lives to serve the next batch of travelers and to face whatever the future held in store.

So who really cares about a little rain in Germany?

## Task force fields initiatives to improve Army education

**Commentary by Joe Burlas**  
Army News Service

Today's methods of training and educating the force and growing leaders are effective, but they do need some tweaks to ensure continued success on tomorrow's battlefields, according to the findings of Task Force Leader Development and Education.



LDE is one of 17 focus areas directed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker to channel Army efforts in winning the global war on terrorism and increase the Army's relevance and readiness.

"We have what I consider a world-class Army and world-class leaders today — you have to recognize they are products of the education system we have in place today," said Brig. Gen. James Hirai, deputy commandant, Army Command and General Staff College. "Recognizing that level of competence, we still need to grow. We need to anticipate and prepare for the unknown."

As part of its charter the task force reviewed the findings from officer, warrant officer, noncommissioned officer and civilian Army Training and Leader Development Panel surveys conducted over the past few years. The task force

validated the majority of those findings, but the task force did not limit itself to just validating past studies, Hirai said.

While the Army has long espoused a culture of lifelong learning in leaders at all levels, accountability for that learning has not been well defined. The individual Soldier, the organizations the Soldier belongs to during an Army career and the institution itself all have roles to play in the lifelong learning journey, Hirai said.

Those roles need to be clearly defined and understood by each player. There must be some kind of formal, standards-based assessment and feedback mechanism in place to determine if lifelong learning goals are being met and to adapt to changing needs and emerging technologies.

The task force has recommended the Army schoolhouses move toward a common scenario based upon today's asymmetrical threat. Working off a common scenario may allow different career field training centers to build synergies in conducting collective joint exercises via linked simulators and computer networks, Hirai said.

Another initiative the task force recommended is conducting a formal, recurring-training needs assessment across the Army, Hirai said.

Task Force LDE is also reviewing content delivery and timing of training. Part of that review is to determine when a

Soldier should get resident training and the duration of that training. "The question is: What type and amount of training does the Soldier or leader need to be comfortable with in current and future operations," Hirai said.

Joint operations training should be conducted at a lower level than most Army school curricula presently do — likely at the basic qualification course, said Hirai. "Joint interoperability, joint operations training, is not at the right level. We are finding in the contemporary operating environment today that joint operations are done by junior leaders."

Not all institutional training may need to be done at the schoolhouse, Hirai said, especially with off-the-shelf technology that allows for more distance education than was available 10 years ago.

There is more to leveraging technologies than distance learning via linked simulators and distance learning via the web, said Hirai. "We are looking at the human dimension — how people learn. It's about identifying what leaders and Soldiers have to do, and how to most effectively deliver the training they need to do those tasks."

The task force agreed with the Civilian Army Training and Leader Development Panel in recommending a single education proponent for all Soldier and Department of the Army civilian training.

## Herald Union

The Herald Union is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the 104th Area Support Group. Contents of the Herald Union are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. This is a biweekly publication printed by The Stars and Stripes in Griesheim, Germany. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 13,000 copies. For advertising rates contact Fred Schneider at civ(06155) 601-295, mil 349-8295 or [schneiderf@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:schneiderf@mail.estripes.osd.mil).

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# News and features

## News flash

### Legal education program

Applications for the Army's funded legal education program will be accepted Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 at the U.S. Army Office of the Judge Advocate General. About 15 active duty officers will be selected to attend law school at government expense, pending funding, beginning in fall 2005. They will remain on active duty while attending law school. The program is open to second lieutenants through captains who have at least two, but not more than six years of active federal service at the time legal training begins. Interested officers should review Chapter 14 or Army Regulation 27-1 to determine their eligibility. Eligible officers should apply immediately and register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admissions Test (visit [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) or your local Education Center). Applicants must send their request through command channels, including the officer's branch manager at Human Resource Center, with a copy furnished to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (FLEP), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194. Contact your local SJA office for more information. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

### Iraq casualties

Sgt. James G. West, age 34, of Watertown, N. Y., and Spc. Dana N. Wilson, age 26, of Fountain, Colo., both of Baumholder's 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Brigade, died July 11 near Al Hillah, Iraq, when the vehicle they were riding in was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle.

### Retroactive reimbursement

Service members who traveled on Rest and Recuperation leave while deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom from Sept. 25 to Dec. 18, 2003, may be eligible for reimbursement of airline costs. Payment of onward travel airline costs for R&R leave program participants was approved Dec. 19, 2003. Authorization was granted on June 21, 2004, to provide retroactive reimbursement for individuals who paid out of pocket for onward travel airline tickets from the aerial port of debarkation to which they flew from overseas, such as Baltimore-Washington International Airport, to their final destination. About 40,000 service members traveled during the period of eligibility, according to Army records. They should file a claim with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. More information for those who believe they qualify is available at [www.armyg1.army.mil/WellBeing/RRLeave/index.htm](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/WellBeing/RRLeave/index.htm). (ARNEWS)

### Dexheim homecoming bash

The 123rd Main Support Battalion and 221st Base Support Battalion are teaming up to host a Welcome Home Ceremony and Kidsfest for 123rd MSB Soldiers and families July 26 at noon on the sports field at Anderson Barracks. The event will include a free barbecue, children's games, rides and more.

### Reporting fires

Did you know that the correct fire emergency number at U.S. facilities throughout Germany is 117? By calling 117 from U.S. facilities you get the Base Support Battalion Fire and Emergency Control Center which is staffed around the clock with bilingual dispatchers. From civilian telephones and outside local exchanges the prefixes for 117 vary depending on location: 221st BSB — civ 705-117; 222nd BSB — civ 6-117, 284th BSB — civ 402-117, 414th BSB — civ 51-117. The 112 emergency number is to report fires to German fire officials only. Only German-speaking residents of private rental housing that is not located near a military facility should dial this host nation emergency telephone number.



### Retiring the 'Eagle Rising'

1st Lt. Michelle Riniker, 130th Engineer Brigade, pins new insignia on Chief Warrant Officer 3 Addison C. Allen, 485th Corps Support Battalion, in a ceremony at Hanau's Pioneer Fitness Center July 9 retiring the "Eagle Rising" insignia formerly worn by members of the Warrant Officer Corps. Warrant officers now use traditional branch insignia. The ceremony, held on the 86th anniversary of the Warrant Officer Corps, also introduced a change in insignia of grade worn by chief warrant officer 5s.

Photo by Dennis Johnson

## Enhancing security

### Communities testing new Installation Access Control System throughout 104th ASG

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Sophisticated ID scanning technology is being installed and tested at entry gates around the 104th Area Support Group. Its introduction will enhance force protection operations as the Installation Access Control System becomes standard practice later this year, said officials.

"It's out there; it's working," said Maj. James K. Sickinger, IACS project officer for U.S. Army Europe's Office of the Provost Marshal. "The command groups were hesitant at first because they saw mostly the pain-in-the-butt aspect of it, but we've solved crimes with IACS, caught AWOL Soldiers and gotten Red Cross messages to people. The people at the local levels have been working hard for two years to make it happen, and it's finally coming to fruition."

In the 414th Base Support Battalion, all hardware has been installed, Pond's guards have been trained to use the system, and one gate at Old Argonner Kaserne was activated June 15 on a test basis. Another six gates were to be activated July 19-20, and the remaining six Aug. 4-6.

Hardware installation is under way in the 222nd BSB, and is expected to be completed shortly. One gate system has been activated and the remainder of gates around the community will be activated in August, said Sickinger.

Hardware installation in the 221st BSB has yet to begin, pending completion of work at other installations, though training of guards was completed in early June. The first gate will be activated in late August.

IACS hardware installation in the 284th BSB was slated to begin sometime this month and training to be conducted by the end of the month. The first gates will be activated at the end of September.

"The 104th ASG should be done by the end of October," said Sickinger.

For the system to work it is vital that everyone who requires access to American installations — Soldiers, family members, Department of Defense civilians and Local National employees — be registered with IACS offices in their base support battalions, said officials.

"It's required," said Staff Sgt. David Henson, IACS program manager for the 414th BSB. "If you don't register you'll have a longer time getting in at the gates."

Implementing the complex program demands everyone's cooperation, said Sickinger. "It depends totally upon the community. It went excellently in two ASGs so far. The feedback we're getting from the field is that the throughput at gates with IACS is faster than at gates without it. It takes them less time to scan the card than if they were to properly check the IDs by hand."

"We've had good cooperation with the community," said Henson. "We've registered over 11,000 people. I'd say the majority has, but we'll find out on fielding day when they come to the gate and they can't get in."

IACS registration offices are open weekdays at the following locations:

**Baumholder** — Building 8749, basement, 8-11:30 a.m. and 1:15-4:30 p.m. Call mil 485-7141.

**Friedberg** — Building 3635, Room 109, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-3:30 p.m. Call mil 324-3444.

**Giessen** — Building 5, Room 107, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Call mil 343-6609.

Also, Building 4, Room 214, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Call mil 343-7363.

**Hanau** — Building 21, Room 8B, Pioneer Kaserne, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call mil 322-9008/9022.

**Wiesbaden** — Building 1023W, Room 4, 7 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Call mil 337-7259/6770.

Community members should expect minor delays as gate guards go through the learning curve of putting the system into operation later this year, said Henson. "Be prepared for a slight increase in wait time. It takes about three to five seconds, which is the time it takes to manually check ID cards."

"Nothing's fail-safe, but it makes it more difficult for them [the bad guys] because even if they get their hands on a lost or stolen ID card, if the individual has reported it as missing, we've already shut it down and denied access," said Sickinger.

IACS installation at Army posts should be completed in January, he said. Fielding at U.S. Air Force bases will continue through 2005.

**"The people at the local levels have been working hard for two years to make it happen, and it's finally coming to fruition."**

# News and features

## Lessons

Continued from page 1

Conceptual flexibility and adaptability on the battlefield were crucial characteristics to accomplishing the diversity of missions with which units were tasked and to minimizing casualties, said Martin. "People need to think hard about these things. You have to always be thinking and looking — what's out there; what's this stuff."

Being able to "think outside the box" and take on missions outside established doctrine were part of the Iraq experience, and leaders need to keep that in mind for the future, he said.

"The transition from combat operations into nation building was a challenging and complicated task. It's a far bigger role and mission. Conceptually it's more complex because we're not trained for it. We rebuilt neighborhoods and civil infrastructure; not something we were planning to do."

Engineer units built the infrastructure base for Iraq's future army, trained Iraqi Civil Defense Corps inductees, ran river security patrols in their bridge-building boats, conducted civilian convoy protection missions and took on Military Police and infantry missions.

"I thought our people were awesome at every level. Thousands of our Soldiers were all over the battlefield and all over Iraq in dangerous and difficult circumstances. It's a testament to their courage and skill."

Martin said it will also be necessary in the future for leaders to come up with what he called "the 70 percent solution" — the ability to very quickly analyze mission requirements, decide what assets are required to get the job done and dispatch appropriately task-organized groups of Soldiers without trying to nail down every single detail in advance.

"We could almost immediately execute large, dangerous, complicated missions by getting the ball rolling. We could very rapidly tailor mission modules with the right skills and equipment sets to do the mission," he said.

The nominal peacetime unit structures are not as critical in wartime as the proper mix of skilled Soldiers: leaders who know what needs to be done and the capable Soldiers

who can do it.

"You may have a platoon or a company or a battalion, but the key is to do a quick mission analysis and get the ball rolling. Also, efficiency is critical; you have only limited resources. Rehearsals are key. Those really keep your Soldiers alive."

Taking care of both Soldiers and their equipment are vital responsibilities.

"Procuring and integrating new equipment during operations went well," said Martin, pointing to the D-9 armored bulldozer as one example. The lumbering behemoths paid off in both combat operations and in postwar construction projects. Engineers trained on the equipment at Camp Virginia in Kuwait, then turned around and trained Soldiers from units across Iraq.

"It turned out to be a huge force multiplier," said Martin.

Another mid-operation success story was the acquisition of the Intervehicular Mounted Mine Detection System, a South African mobile mine detector that played an increasingly important role in dealing with the threat par excellence of the post-combat Iraqi opposition — the Improvised Explosive Device.

"This thing worked. It was not a silver bullet, but it was a good tool to have in your kit bag," said Martin. In the future leaders will have to be equally innovative in adapting and fielding equipment to meet evolving environments.

At least as important to the equation for success on the battlefield is ensuring the health and well-being of the Soldiers who make it all happen, said Martin.

"Leaders have got to take care of their Soldiers and themselves." He described wartime conditions under which people work under enormous stress with minimal amounts of sleep and no "downtime." Time to sleep, eat, rest and recuperate, and a structured PT program are important to keeping Soldiers and their units capable of performing at peak intensities and effectiveness.

"You cannot sustain that over a period of weeks and months. Leaders need to create structured programs to take care of their troops. I call it 'sharpening the axe.' You have to give people some sort of program to stay balanced — and leaders have to do that." (Editor's note: See next issue for part two of this series on lessons learned in Iraq)



Photo by Sgt. Herica Bonilla  
Sgt. Rolando Del Valle (left) and Spc. Billie Taylor, 320th Engineer Company, explain the operation of a new Trimble 5600 Automated Integrated Instrument System to Col. Gregg F. Martin, then-130th Engineer Brigade commander, in Iraq in December 2003.

## Case colors

Continued from page 1

Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, 1st AD commander, applauded his Soldiers and pointed out the significance of their accomplishments.

"Fifteen months ago," Dempsey said, "Iron Soldiers of 1st AD and Dragoons of 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment formed a task force and set out to make the world safer for their fellow Americans and provide an opportunity for the Iraqi people to be free. They did that."

Dempsey reminded the Soldiers after handing Baghdad to the 1st Cavalry Division that his words to the Cavalry were brief and to the point: "Talking ain't fighting. Let's get about that business."

The task force was to "continue mission" in a new location, he said.

"Three months ago," Dempsey continued, "the same group of Soldiers was asked to remain in Iraq to defeat a militia uprising

and preserve the path to an Iraqi sovereignty. They did that too. I hope you are as proud of what you have accomplished as I am of you."

During 15 months of duty the task force planned and executed Operations Iron Hammer, Iron Justice, Iron Grip, Longstreet, Iron Bullet, Iron Promise and Iron Saber. During those operations Soldiers captured more than 700 criminals and former regime insurgents. They also confiscated thousands of rockets, mortars, tank rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

Iron Soldiers have also supervised an estimated \$2 billion in community improvements to Baghdad, rebuilt the failing infrastructure, restored public utilities and services, refurbished war-damaged buildings and repaired roads.

Those missions and achievements will be symbolized by a battle streamer attached to

the division's colors, Dempsey said.

"The colors we have just cased are part of what defines us," said Dempsey. "Sometime soon we will add a battle streamer to those colors. That simple strip of silk will represent many things."

"It will represent more than a year of your life. It will represent your 135 fellow Soldiers who gave their lives for this mission and who made the journey home ahead of us. It will represent your great courage in battle. It will represent your remarkable stamina over these past 15 months."

"It will represent your unshakable honor tested in the most complex environment imaginable. It will represent your immeasurable sacrifice and that of your families."

"Forever more it will represent you," Dempsey said. "These are truly your colors now. You have earned the right to stand tall behind them."

## News flash

### Reward for info

Fifteen V Corps unit vehicles stored at the Kaiserslautern General Services Center-Europe were vandalized between March 20 and April 26 causing more than \$56,000 in damage. The Criminal Investigation Division is offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the crime. Call civ (0631) 340-6020 for more information. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

### Coupon scanning

A recent upgrade to commissary scanners allows cashiers to automatically compare coupons presented during check-out against actual products purchased. That means if a coupon is for a "brand name soup, 16 ounces, dry mix," but the shopper bought a "brand name soup, 10 ounces, canned," the coupon will be refused. Commissaries will continue to accept coupons for up to six months after the printed expiration date, officials said. (DeCA-Europe Release)

### Traffic accidents

Because of the time it takes to process accident reports, drivers are advised that if involved in a vehicle accident they should secure the following information from the other party involved to present to their insurance agent: driver's name; license number; address; vehicle owner's name; owner's address; make, color, license number of vehicle; insurance company and policy number; time and date of accident; location and brief description of accident; were German or Military Police notified. Providing this information to the insurance agent will speed up handling of the insurance claim and repair of your vehicle, said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Sandefur of the 104th Area Support Group Provost Marshal's Office. (104th ASG PMO)

### Job opening

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Wellness Europe seeks a health promotion coordinator for the 104th Area Support Group. The position requires communication skills, discretion, judgment, analytical ability and knowledge of administrative techniques and methods, including basic program management. The position is equivalent to a GS-12. The incumbent will be responsible for coordinating and planning, organizing and implementing comprehensive health promotion programs to enhance readiness in the 104th ASG. For more information call Laura Mitvalsky at mil 486-7099 or Kym Ocasio at mil 350-7276.

### German ancestry

Nearly 43 million people — about one in six U.S. residents — identified their ancestry as German in Census 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Other large ancestry groups were Irish (30.5 million), African American (24.9 million), English (24.5 million) and Mexican (18.4 million). (U.S. Census Bureau Release)