

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Recreational events

Help needed at Giessen animal shelter

Like to have a pet but just don't have enough time to permanently take care of one? The Giessen Animal Shelter (Tierheim) welcomes individuals and families who would like to help care for the animals in their facility. You can either go to the "Katzenhaus" (cat house) and play with the cats or walk a dog on the weekends. Leashes are available. Food donations are always appreciated. The Tierheim is open Saturday and Sunday from 3-6 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-5 p.m.

Season greetings

The Army Hometown News team comes to Friedberg Sept. 16 and to Giessen Sept. 18 to record season greetings of Soldiers and family members for their families back home. For exact times and locations call Petra Roberts at mil 343-1600.

Make new friends with Kontakt

New in Giessen? Interested in learning German? Would you like to make some German friends, learn about the culture and go on fun outings? Kontakt, the German-American friendship club, is open to military and civil-

ian participants, and all ages are welcome. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Building 59 at the Giessen Depot (left inside the main gate). For more information call mil 343-6488 or civ (0641) 402 6488.

Warrant Officers Ball

The U.S. Army Warrant Officers Corps will hold their 86th anniversary ball Nov. 6 starting at 6 p.m. at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. Reservations must be made by Oct. 21. For more information send an email to g4mrclix@hq.c5.army.mil, call Victor McLaughlin at mil 370-5427 or Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Peterman at mil 379-6444.

One act plays at Keller

Giessen's Keller Theater hosts "One After One After One," an evening of one-act plays, Sept. 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 starting at 7:30 p.m. Featured are "The Straight Poop" and "Animal Decisions" by Sean Michael Welch, "Heads" by Jon Jory, "Love and Death" by Katheryn Chetkovich and "Habits" by Steve "Spike" Wong. Anyone without a U.S. ID card must provide the Ausweis or passport information at least seven days in advance. The box office is open Wednesday to Friday from 4:30-8 p.m. For details call mil 343-6515.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

School bells bring excitement

With mixed emotions 6-year-old William Le Duc anxiously awaits the first day of school Sept. 7 at Giessen Elementary School. The new school year, new teachers and new classmates brought excitement to hundreds of students in the 284th Base Support Battalion on their first day back to school.

Budding playwright entertains audiences

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Members of the 284th Base Support Battalion military community have a playwright in their midst.

Yvette Joshua, a Bad Nauheim Outreach Center employee, recently debuted one of her works to standing ovations at Giessen's Alpine Club.

"Sometimes people need a break from all the stress and hardship in the military, and I am happy when I can do my part to make them laugh and have a good time," Joshua said.

To back up her words she produced the play "Secrets To Be Kept" which premiered Aug. 28 at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot.

Over 200 people from Giessen, Friedberg, Hanau, Darmstadt and Mannheim came to see the comedy-drama-musical about family, friendship and love.

Joshua did not only write the play and the songs, she also

held cast auditions, directed it and played the leading role.

"I had so much fun doing it. But what really makes me happy is that so many people came to see it and that so many youths and teens told me that they liked it.

"I like to reach out to people. I like to make them smile or laugh, because that's what I like, and I

want everyone to feel the same way," she said.

Joshua said she got her first experiences in acting and choreography in 1997 with the Clearwater Production group in San Antonio, Texas.

"It was not a military community group, just a bunch of people who enjoyed entertaining others. After my colleague Rick Williams left the group I decided to do it on my own. In 2000 I wrote my first play 'Unforgettable Me,' which was about me," she said.

When her husband Staff. Sgt. Christopher Joshua, automation noncommissioned officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, received orders a year ago to come to Germany she knew it was an opportunity to reach out to military families.

"When I first arrived I noticed

"Sometimes people need a break from all the stress and hardship in the military, and I am happy when I can do my part to make them laugh and have a good time."

that there wasn't much offered for the spouses here, and I had the idea to

produce a play for the community. My plans intensified when the Soldiers deployed, and I started to write. My goal was to have everything ready when the troops return," she said.

The idea for the story came quickly. "I have a very large imagination — it just expands beyond expectation," she said. "I enjoy lis-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Harold Kirk (from left) Sgt. Maria Nelson, Yvette Joshua and Staff Sgt. Charlotte Perry give audience members a taste of their acting and singing talents at the premiere of the play "Secrets To Be Kept" written by Joshua.

tening to people, and sometimes I write about what they say and life in general. But everything I write always has a message."

Writing was the easiest part, Joshua said. "I need about two to three weeks to write a play. The next step is to make it a reality onstage by finding the right people for the roles. It's more than just writing words on a paper — you have to make it happen."

The hardest part of the production, she said, was serving as director and having to play the leading role.

"I didn't want to act, but I lost two of my actors three weeks before the performance, so I had no choice. It was hard. We practiced every

night until almost midnight."

The hard work paid off in standing ovations.

"The play is really great. I liked the concept of singing and acting and Ms. Joshua has a strong voice," said Hanau's Rennee Davis. "Obviously all the actors have talent, and the play is lifelike and entertaining. At first I didn't know what direction the play was going, but then it had my full attention."

"They really did a great job, because one could feel the emotions of the characters come across," said Giessen's Erin Moore.

"The songs were great and the story was funny. It was truly entertaining," said Irma Moore, also from Giessen.

Joshua gives credit to her actors

for the play's success. "Monica Battle, Staff Sgt. Charlotte Perry, Harold Kirk, Sgt. Maria Nelson and Alvin Perry are all first time actors, but they made no mistakes — they were so professional," she said. She also credited her husband's support — he built all the props and gave advice whenever needed.

"I had such beautiful feedback, and many asked me to perform the play once again. So I will do 'Secrets to be Kept' again. I hope to be able to move on and bring it to other areas. And then it's also time to start on my next production," she said.

The play will be featured again Oct. 2 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Alpine Catering Center.

Crafts classes

The Friedberg Arts and Crafts Shop hosts an **adult art class** Sept. 23 and 30 from 5-7 p.m. The **Creative Kids class** takes place Sept. 14 and 21 starting at 5 p.m. The cost is \$5.50 per class. Also offered are beginning and advanced pottery classes, sculpture and pottery turning on the wheel. For more information call mil324-3266. The Giessen Arts and Crafts Shop offers a **framing class** Sept. 21 from 4:30-7 p.m. The cost is \$20 without materials. Registration is required. The **Creative Kids class** is scheduled for Sept. 23 and 30 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. the cost is \$5.50 per class. For details call mil343-6445.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Counseling hotline available 24/7

The Army One Source free counseling hotline is available 24 hours a day at civ (0800) 4648 1077. The toll-free service puts callers directly in touch with professional counselors.

Tax office still open

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

Outprocessing briefing Sept. 28

The next PCS/ETS outprocessing briefing takes place Sept. 28 starting at 10 a.m. in the Old Ironsides Theater in Friedberg. Spouses are encouraged to attend the briefing. For more information call mil 343-8077/6535.

Civilian fitness signup Sept. 20-22

Registration for the Civilian Fitness Program takes place Sept. 20 from noon to 4 p.m., Sept. 21 from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Giessen Fitness Center and Sept. 22 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Friedberg Fitness Center. In Giessen call mil 343-7201 and in Friedberg call mil 324-3155 to arrange for an initial fitness assessment.

Bowling Center grand opening

The Giessen Ironsides Lanes bowling center will host a grand

opening ceremony Sept. 17 from 5-7 p.m. Complimentary finger food, a keg of free beer and free cosmic bowling will be provided. Door prizes include free games coupons, a trip to the Oktoberfest, an overnight trip to Euro Disney in France and many bowling items.

Photo support

The Training Support Division located in Building 3746 on Friedberg's Ray Barracks provides photo support for military and community events. To request support send an email to kevin.porter@us.army.mil or call mil 324-3590.

Volunteers sought

Army Community Service offices in Giessen, Butzbach, Bad Nauheim and Friedberg seek volunteers for various positions. Requirements include being able to work flexible hours and days. Child care may be reimbursed. For more information call installation volunteer coordinator Kelly Kreis at mil 324-3713.

Pianist sought for Giessen Chapel

The Giessen Chapel seeks a pianist for the Protestant worship service to play for the service and choir rehearsals. Piano and directing skills would be ideal. For details call the Chaplains Office at mil 343-8020.

WIC-O hours, class

The Women, Infants and Children-Overseas office in Butzbach, located in Building 6543, Apartment 3A, is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-5 p.m. The WIC-O office in Giessen is located in Building 12 on the Giessen Depot and is open

Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-5 p.m. For appointments call the office in Butzbach at civ (06033) 925 736 or Giessen at civ (0641) 402 7448.

Army Family Survey could be coming your way

During the month of September randomly selected Army spouses will receive an Army family survey providing them with a chance to voice their opinions on housing, paid and volunteer work, children, health care, Morale Welfare and Recreation, deployments and other issues. Recipients are encouraged to complete the survey to fine-tune the programs that serve Army families. This year survey participants also have the option of completing the survey online. The results of the survey will lead directly to changes in family focused programs and services to improve the life of Army families. For details go to www.armymwr.com.



Photo by Petra Roberts

New York art comes to Giessen

Tobias Butzkies, age 11, looks at a picture drawn by James Rizzi displayed at the Mathematikum in Giessen. More than 100 pictures by the New York artist are featured in the exhibition "New York meets Giessen" which will be featured through Oct. 3. Rizzi has been described as the most successful artist of his time, and his art depicts life in New York City. The Mathematikum is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Masonic lodge sponsors teen dance

The Kirch-Goens Military Lodge 132 and the Order of the Eastern Stars host a Halloween Teen Dance Oct. 29 from 7 p.m. to midnight for teenagers age 13-18 at the Alpine Catering Center on the Giessen Depot.

"We've been looking for a long time to do something for the community, and we are glad that now we can host this dance," said Ken Joy, Giessen American Red Cross station manager and member of the lodge.

"Teens may dress up in a costume or come as they are. There's a \$5 cover fee per couple, and every couple who brings a canned good will get a \$1 discount. We

will not use the proceeds for ourselves but put the money back into the community because we'd like to sponsor the Giessen High School cheerleaders and buy their uniforms this year," he said.

A disc jockey will play the latest teen music and pizza and beverages can be bought at the club. Members of Lodge 132 and Eastern Stars will be chaperones, but parents are welcome to stay.

"We are asking parents for one thing. When they drop off their teens at the club we are asking them to be back on time to pick them up," Joy said.

For more information call Ken Joy at mil 343-1760.

Support group builds nursing mothers' confidence

Breastfeeding policy, group first step in creating understanding

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Breastfeeding, one of the most natural and misunderstood things in the world, is a subject that arouses strong feelings in some people. The hostility some breastfeeding mothers experience from those who look down on breastfeeding leaves many young mothers not only insecure but also with unanswered questions on the subject.

"The problem in the U.S. is that for many people female breasts are just a 'tool' to sell a product," said Tammy Castro-Leduc, a mother of three children, employee of the 284th Base Support Battalion's Directorate of Community Activities and founder of BosomBuds, a breastfeeding support group. "They have to realize that breasts are made to feed a baby and not to sell a car. I think that Germany and some other European countries are more open toward the subject."

Castro-Leduc, who has lived in Germany since 1993, said she has grown used to the German lifestyle.

"What I like about Germany and Europe is that people do not look funny at you or say something when you are nursing your baby in public. After all we are just doing something that's natural."

Reports of nursing mothers being banned from restaurants and other public establishments in the United States leave her stunned, she said.

Castro-Leduc said she appreciated the efforts of the 284th BSB command to support nursing mothers, especially those returning to work, by encouraging alternate work schedules and asking public facilities to provide semi-isolated areas for breastfeeding customers/mothers.

She established BosomBuds to help young women build their confidence. "I asked ACS (Army Community Service) if they are hosting a breastfeeding support group, but they said no. After returning from a Mom-2-Mom training that was held in Mannheim I decided to start my own group," she said.

The group provides practical help, assistance, resources and an advocate for breastfeeding, she said. "There are different opinions about many issues such as when to start weaning your baby. Some say that you should stop once the baby starts crawling; others say after six months," Castro-Leduc said. "Many mothers are unaware that the World Health Organization recommends [breastfeeding] at least two years as a minimum because breast milk has tons of benefits."

Support group attendees may bring up any issue, talk about their personal experiences or simply share good conversation and company with other mothers and their



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Shelby Wray (left) and Tomas Castro-Leduc have a good time at the BosomBuds meeting which supports nursing mothers in the 284th Base Support Battalion. Nursing mothers and their babies are welcome to attend the biweekly meetings.

babies, Castro-Leduc said.

"Breastfeeding is a natural thing, said Anne Wray, who attends the group meetings with her five-month-old daughter Shelby. "It's just surprising that at first you think about what to do. I can only advise mothers-to-be to think about what they want to do and then to have it in their head. All you have to do then is to trust your body because it's natural."

Wray said she appreciates the regular

meetings because it gives her a chance to socialize with others and get expert answers to her questions. "It's great to have someone to talk about your concerns but to also share the fun stories."

BosomBuds meet the last Wednesday of the month rotating between Giessen ACS and the Butzbach Women, Infants and Children-Overseas Office. New mothers wanting to attend can contact Castro-Leduc at mil 343-1550.

Customer feedback helps identify needs, priorities

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Improving customer service is the goal of several initiatives in the 284th Base Support Battalion. Guidelines and customer service training ensure members of the 284th BSB realize that the command expects top quality service at all times. In support of this effort cus-

tomers are encouraged to provide feedback to the BSB commander to help focus priorities and identify customer needs.

Ways to provide customer feedback

Several feedback mechanisms are available including:

☞ Secret customer — This is a new tool to measure customer ser-

vice. By becoming a secret customer community members can help evaluate services by visiting agencies and providing feedback to the Directorate of Strategic Plans and Programs. Secret customers will survey an activity of their choice focusing on a questionnaire provided by the DSPP and will report results within 72 hours to the DSPP.

☞ Commander's hotline — Call

mil 343-9999 or civ (0641) 402-9999 and leave a message for the BSB commander. Calls can be made anonymously. Names and phone numbers must only be given if an answer is requested.

☞ Commander's Open Door — Community members and employees may arrange for an appointment to personally talk to either the 284th BSB commander or command sergeant major about their concern. To arrange for an appointment call the commander's secretary at mil 343-1500.

☞ ICE cards — The Interactive Customer Evaluation cards are a web-based tool that can be used to make suggestions for improvement, praise an outstanding service, obtain information or get answers to questions. Click on the ICE button on the 284th BSB website at www.giessen.army.mil and select your service provider. The rating can be done anonymously, but a phone number or email address is required if an answer is requested.

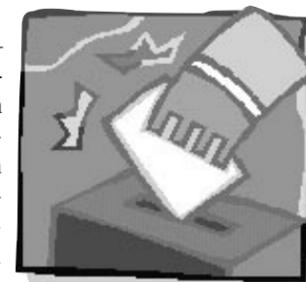
☞ BSB Town Hall Meetings — Town Hall Meetings are held every other month in one of the BSB hous-

ing areas. Residents of the respective housing area can address their concerns to the BSB commander and leaders. Employee Town Hall Meetings are held quarterly and provide BSB employees with a platform to raise their concerns directly to the BSB commander. Call the commander's secretary at mil 343-1500 to find out dates, times and locations.

☞ Customer walk-about — Teams of staff members walk through the community to gather feedback from residents and employees about living conditions and the work environment. Results of the walk-about will be reported in the *Herald Union*.

These customer feedback tools are not a complaint line and do not replace the work order section. They are solely designed to provide additional feedback mechanisms for gathering information on and improving customer service.

For more information on these programs contact Jane Wingate at mil 343-7568 or Charles Butler at mil 343-6010.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Community notes . . . Community notes

Holiday greetings

A Hometown News video team will be at **Fliegerhorst Kaserne** Sept. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and **Pioneer Kaserne** Sept. 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to tape holiday greetings to be aired on television in the United States. All active duty military, family members, government civilians, Department of Defense Dependents Schools teachers and retirees are eligible to participate in the free program. Soldiers must accompany their families and appear in uniform. If the Soldier is deployed, the family is more than welcome to do a greeting but must mention the Soldier is deployed. Bring address books with relatives' names, phone numbers and addresses to the taping so that TV stations can be pinpointed in the United States. For more information call mil 322-1600/9102 or civ (06181) 88-1600/9102.

Welcome home bash

A welcome home ceremony will be held Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. at the airfield on Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Erlensee. The ceremony will be followed by a welcome home party adjacent to the airfield from 2-10 p.m. featuring non-stop entertainment including a performance by the Mavericks and comedian Pete Gray, children's games, pony rides, food and fireworks. For more information call mil 322-1550 or civ (06181) 88-1550.

Issues of concern

Submit your issues to be considered at the 414th Base Support Battalion's Army Family Action Plan Conference by Jan. 14. Fill out an issue sheet and mail it to 414th BSB Army Community Service, AFAP Coordinator, Unit 20193 Box 0006, APO AE 09165. Or fill out the issue sheet online by clicking on the AFAP link on the 414th BSB website, www.hanau.army.mil. You can also send your concerns by email to afap.issues@104asg.mwr.army.mil. AFAP is an opportunity for Soldiers, family members and Department of Defense civilians to voice their opinions and offer quality of life enhancement suggestions. Call Amy Cuebas at mil 322-8766 or civ (06181) 88-8766.

Tax preparation for redeploying Soldiers

Tax preparation is available for redeploying Soldiers at the Hanau Legal Center, Building 4, third floor on Pioneer Kaserne through Sept. 30. Redeploying soldiers have an automatic filing extension which is

comprised of the number of days spent in a combat zone plus six months. Appointments, walk-ins and drop-offs will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. After Sept. 30 all clients must wait until the re-opening of the Tax Center in February 2005. Call mil 322-8993 or civ (06181) 88 8993 or stop by Legal Assistance at the Hanau Legal Center.

Hispanic Heritage

Hanau community Equal Opportunity advisers seek volunteers to participate in this year's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Hispanic dishes of all kinds are wanted. Call Sgt. 1st Class Gayden at mil 323-2012, Sgt. 1st Class Robinson at mil 322-7397 or Sgt. 1st Class Sanders at mil 323-2998 to get involved.

Hanau PWOC

The Protestant Women of the Chapel, Hanau Chapter meet each Thursday from 9-11:30 a.m. at Pioneer Chapel for fellowship, Bible study and encouragement. Watch care is provided for children age 5 years and younger. Fall studies include "The Battle Belongs to the Lord," "Living in Love with Jesus" and "Following God: Life Principles from Women of the Bible." Hanau PWOC also offers study in Spanish titled "Mi Experiencia con Dios." Call Robin Longworth at civ (06181) 575 775 or Cheena Nyhus at civ (06183) 919984 for details.

Crafters sought

The Hanau Community Spouses Club will sponsor a Crafters' Corner at the Fall Bazaar Sept. 24-26 and seeks people wishing to sell their craft items. Call Paula Remily at civ (06183) 928929.

Büdingen PWOC

Büdingen Protestant Women of the Chapel hold their fall kickoff Sept. 15 with fun and fellowship in the chapel on Armstrong Barracks. Fall Bible study and opportunities for discipleship and service will be on the agenda. For information call Amy Taylor at civ (06042) 979 119 or send email to ain13@aol.com.

Do-it-yourself classes

The Self-Help Stores offer basic and advanced do-it-yourself classes in Hanau and Büdingen. The classes are free for occupants of government and leased housing. Stop by your local Self-Help Store to reserve a spot or on the day of the class. Classes will be held at the Büdingen Self-Help Store in Building 2208 on Armstrong Barracks Mondays from 10-11 a.m. and at



Photo by Karl Wessel

Parental involvement wanted

Marie Krause, a parent volunteer and School Advisory Committee president, helps students find their class schedules on the first day of school at Hanau High School. "Parents should come out and join us," Krause said, inviting all parents to get involved with SAC. "We want students to do great this year." For more information about getting involved in your child's education call your local school.

Hanau Self-Help, Building 28 on Pioneer Kaserne, Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. Lawn mowers, leaf blowers, goggles, weed eaters and other lawn care tools are free loaner items. Gas is even provided for the gas mowers. You do not have to be a building coordinator to sign out these items. Call the Büdingen store at mil 321-4778 or the Hanau store at mil 322-8200 for information.

Büdingen Pet Jamboree

Büdingen Army Community Service will host a Pet Jamboree Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. on the parade field on Armstrong Barracks. It will include a three-kilometer doggie walk, races, contests, prizes, and a canine demonstration by the Military Police. Call mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80786 for more information.

Fall Bazaar

Hanau Community Spouses Club holds its Fall Bazaar Sept. 24 from noon to 7 p.m., Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fliegerhorst Kaserne's Building 1305. It will feature food, drinks, entertainment and vendors from all over Europe. The bazaar is open to U.S. ID card holders only. It is stroller friendly. Cash, checks and major credit cards will

be accepted. Volunteers are sought to help at the bazaar. If you are interested in volunteering contact Bianca Moton by email at bianca.moton@us.army.mil or by calling civ (0160) 9105 2378.

Recruiting Girl Scout leaders in Gelnhausen, Hanau, Büdingen

Girl Scouts in Hanau, Gelnhausen and Büdingen seek leaders for Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadets and Studio 2B. Contact Lisa Wenke at civ (06181) 9062 899 or (0175) 8518 695.

American Red Cross classes

Hanau's American Red Cross offers classes in CPR and first aid the second week of each month on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Recertification classes are

held Wednesday from 10-12 a.m. Register at the Red Cross Office in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne by paying in advance for the class and book. The classes cost \$30 for CPR and first aid, \$35 for professional rescuer and \$10 for recertification. All classes are held in the American Red Cross office. Other classes are available on request. Call mil 322-1760 or civ (06181) 88-1760.

School highlights

Argonner Elementary seeks substitute teachers, educational aides and lunch room monitors for the upcoming school year. The school is also in need of parent volunteers to serve on the School Advisory Council and the School Parent Teacher Association. Call mil 322-8374 for details.

Pioneer bike race

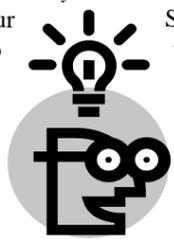
Train for a bike race at Pioneer Kaserne, Sept. 18. There'll be many age categories and distances. Americans are encouraged to sponsor German riders. For information contact Larry Bostick at mil 322-8034, civ (06181) 88-8034 or larry.bostick@104asg.army.mil.

Army Community Service events

Hanau Army Community Service offers an Employment Orientation Sept. 14, 21 and 28 from 10-11:30 a.m. A Dress for Success seminar will be held Sept. 22 from 10-11:30 a.m. An Interview Techniques seminar will be held Sept. 23 from 10-11:30 a.m. Classes take place in Building 9, Room 104 on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-9191. ACS has 13 computers available for you to create your resume and search the Internet for vacancies. All computers are equipped with Internet access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Visit ACS on Pioneer Kaserne, Building 9, Room 204, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Youth craft classes

Every Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. CLEOS offers craft classes for children age 3-6. Children must be accompanied by a parent. Call mil 322-8082 or civ (06181) 88 8082 for reservations.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos by Midori VanBrunt

A time to celebrate

Spc. Jonathan Smith of the 55th Personnel Services Battalion slugs a softball during a game at the battalion's Welcome Home Ceremony/Organization Day on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne Sept. 2. Photo right: youngsters enjoy a game of hot potato during the event. Redeployed Soldiers, rear detachment personnel and family members were recognized during the day which featured a barbecue, basketball games, tug-o-war and more. The unit supported 1st Armored Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom deploying May 12 of last year and returning home July 12 of this year.

Hanau air defenders compete in Stinger contest

Perhaps last live-fire before Soldiers change job specialty

By Capt. J. Adam Falk
69th Air Defense Brigade Public Affairs Office

Stinger missile crewmembers from the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, stationed in Hanau, and the 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA, stationed in Ansbach, participated in a best crew competition and live fire exercise in Putlos Aug. 7-12.

Six Stinger missile crews from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Southern European Task Force, stationed in Vicenza, Italy, joined the 69th ADA Brigade Soldiers for the live fire.

The event may mark the last Stinger live fire by the U.S. Army in

Germany following changes in the air defense branch which will retire the Stinger missile weapons system and reclassify the Stinger crewmembers into another Military Occupational Specialty.

Stinger missiles are a portable, shoulder fired, surface to air missile used for short-range air defense. Current enemy threat capabilities make the weapon system less applicable on the modern battlefield, officials said.

"From what I hear, this will be the last Stinger live fire. It's cool to be a part of that and to be in one last competition," said Spc. Matthew M. Antonelli.



Photo by Capt. J. Adam Falk

Sgt. Eric Hughes (center) helps Sgt. Brian Roberts locate an aerial target as Sgt. 1st Class John M. Telgenhof observes.

Thirteen Stinger missiles were fired during the live fire Aug. 12. The outcome of the best crew competition determined the firing order.

Antonelli and Staff Sgt. James N. Davis of 6-52 ADA won the competition and were the first crew to fire a missile.

"We spent weeks doing crew drills during sergeants time and PT (physical training) two times a day to prepare for the competition," said Antonelli.

The extra PT paid off for the crew members who were the overall winners due largely to their speed on the 12-mile ruck march.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 4th ADA, evaluated the crews' performance through six events: the vehicle aircraft recognition test, a Gunnery Table VIII certification in a moving target simulator, crew drills, a general knowledge test, the Army PT test and the ruck march.

"The competition was held over four days with a down day for Soldiers to recover before the live fire on the sixth day," said 1st Lt. Mark Nussbaum, officer in charge of the event.

"I thought the competition went well. ... The events were well organized and safely executed, but the live fire was the highlight of the week. It's always a pleasure to see missiles go downrange and destroy a target," said Sgt. Eric E. Hughes, 5-7th ADA.

"An event like this really boosts morale by getting us to compete against one another. Although we have to reclassify, the reality is that we're not out of a job yet," said Pfc. Ryan A. Hanagan of 5-7th ADA.

"The Soldiers came to Putlos with an open mind and put forth a tremendous effort. It's great to see this level of dedication," said Nussbaum.

War Lions on road to readiness

Soldiers of the 485th CSB train for future missions

By 1st Lt. John F. Gavigan
485th Corps Support Battalion

The 485th Corps Support Battalion War Lions are back to the grindstone. Post-deployment leaves have ended, the 90-day recovery period has come to a close and the enormous task of recuperation and paving another road to readiness is in full swing.

Soldiers of the 485th began returning from Iraq in November 2003. By May of 2004 most had returned to Germany. The unit's first priority was reintegration training to relieve the stress that Soldiers faced downrange. After that Soldiers took a well-deserved block leave to spend time with family and relax. As the summer drew to a close the climate began changing in and around the 485th CSB — the wheels began to pick up speed once again.

Although no decision has been made as to whether the War Lions will deploy again to support Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, the command has decided that the battalion will be ready.

The battalion's Operational Readiness Rate was deeply affected by the wear and tear the equipment faced in Iraq. The tremendous workload, harsh environment, constant movement of supplies and Soldiers, and the initially sluggish supply of repair parts all contributed to the hurdles the battalion now faces.

"The road ahead is filled with obstacles, but nothing that we can't handle," said Capt. Shawn M. Calvert, the battalion's S-3.

The laborious process of refurbishing equipment began long before transport ships unloaded their cargo at Antwerp,

Belgium. For maximum efficiency, equipment identified as having serious deficiencies was identified while being loaded in Kuwait so it could be immediately rerouted for refurbishment in Kaiserslautern once it was unloaded in Antwerp. Rather than inspecting equipment at the port and using up valuable dock space, equipment was set to flow swiftly to the refurbishment center.

The 485th CSB also sent a team led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Bolton of 77th Maintenance Company to assess 1st Armored Division equipment in Kuwait. By identifying equipment that needs refurbishment in Kuwait, the team freed up time and space at the port and supported the redeployment and readiness of the 1st AD.

As the vehicles begin to return from the refurbishment center to their units, the 485th CSB mission has picked up speed. Along with external mission support, the training calendar has also started to fill up.

As the tempo shifts, commanders are staying on top of their pre-deployment checklists to ensure their Soldiers are ready to deploy when called. They are drawing on the experience of 485th CSB's deployment to Iraq to enhance readiness.

Ranges, sergeant's time, convoy live fires, family care plan reviews and focusing on the Mission Essential Task List



Photo by 1st Lt. John F. Gavigan

Staff Sgt. William Cooley (above left) and Spc. Robert Payne direct maintenance support team Soldiers in a loading exercise.

are all tools that enhance the battalion's ability to be fit to fight. First sergeants are the battalion's backbone, and its noncommissioned officers remain the key to mission success and vital to unit morale.

The recent return of 1st AD to Germany will certainly increase 485th CSB's workload, but simultaneously ensuring the battalion's readiness while supporting the warfighter is business as usual for a corps support battalion — and a challenge that 485th CSB will face head on.

Teaching, coaching Iraqi Police

MPs help build future Iraqi law enforcement structure

By 1st Lt. Erik S. Archer
127th Military Police Company

Soldiers of the 127th Military Police Company have left the streets of Baghdad littered with their calling cards — candy wrappers and shell casings. While their current mission focus is to train the Iraqi Police, danger is always at the doorstep. On the same street corner where MPs hand out sweets one day, they may wage war on enemy insurgents the next.

The company has conducted numerous cordon and search operations, netting wanted criminals and sporadically engaging the enemy. When not fighting insurgents, 127th Soldiers tackle an array of missions that support the stabilization of the security situation and the rebuilding of the city.

MPs have escorted prisoners, defended Iraqi Police stations, raided houses and compounds, conducted mounted and dismounted patrols at all hours of the day and night, guarded key United Nations personnel, and won hearts and minds through tolerance, compassion and the intelligent application of force.

The company's primary mission has been to teach and coach the Iraqi Police who, under Saddam Hussein, were an impotent law enforcement organization. With the sudden overthrow of the Baath regime they were shoved into the role of primary law enforce-



Photo by Spc. Cole Kimsey

Sgt. Brian Shepard (from left), Sgt. Alfredo Armenteros and Spc. Nicholas Wigginton scan for enemy targets as insurgents assault the Al-Shoula Police Station in west Baghdad.

ment organization in a country in turmoil.

When the 127th MPs assumed their training mission the IPs were afraid to leave their stations, and local residents had little or no faith in their reluctant protectors.

To combat the problems the 127th decided to teach the IPs law enforcement in the toughest of environments — the class-

room of the streets.

The MPs took the IPs out of their stations and into the community. They worked hand in hand with IPs on the streets of Baghdad, walking them through key tasks such as conducting checkpoints, mounted and dismounted patrols, and cordon and search operations.

Through consistent teaching and mentoring, MPs are helping the IPs become independent and proficient. The local populace responded favorably to their approach and began to trust the IPs. The strongest evidence of their acceptance came when individuals would approach IP patrols with complaints and tips.

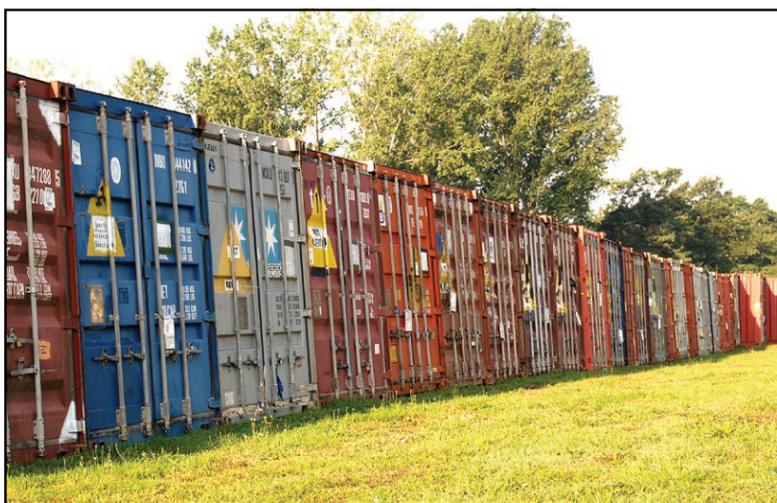
"When we first arrived in Baghdad an IP checkpoint consisted of nothing more than one or two IPs walking into the middle of traffic, waving over a car here or there and checking an ID," said Pvt. 2 Jeremy Miller of 4th Platoon. "Now if you were to drive up to an IP checkpoint you would see one or two cars pulled over to the side, the doors and hoods completely open and the passengers of the vehicle on the sidewalk while the IPs systematically search the vehicle."

Joint operations help the IPs become more confident and builds trust with residents.

"I'm just glad I can make this country a little better every time I go out, and I think the situation improves a little every day," said Pfc. Evan Becker of 4th Platoon.

While never trained to teach law enforcement to experienced police officers or to interact so closely with people of a distinctly different culture, the 127th MP Soldiers have enabled their Iraqi peers to establish a professional law enforcement organization that continues to improve every day.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos by Midori VanBrunt

Equipment keeps rolling home

Above left: Soldiers, safety officials and rail workers unload tracked vehicles at Fliegerhorst Kaserne Aug. 24. Above right: Members of the 2-501st Aviation unload a Blackhawk at Fliegerhorst Aug. 24 after four helicopters flew from Mannheim on their way back from Iraq. Left: containers sit in a line at Fliegerhorst after being loaded off trains Sept. 3. Right: Maj. Glen Jordan, 4th Brigade, and Mohammad Awan, 414th Base Support Battalion safety officer, cook for Soldiers working at the railhead site.

