

## Inside

### Reader feedback

"The status of transformation of the military" and "education" are major issues in this year's election, said Master Sgt. Douglas Padgett, 130th Engineer Brigade. See page 2 for more feedback.



### German-American Police Fest

Annual event brings law enforcement officers and their families together to get to know one another, share the good times. See page 3.



### Hooah Soldier competition

Athletes converge on Wiesbaden Army Airfield to compete for bragging rights. See page 28 for that story and other sports news.

# Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 25

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

Sept. 28, 2004



Photo by Karl Weisel

Members of the 1st Armored Division Band parade on Friedberg's Ray Barracks during the Welcome Home Ceremony Sept. 15.

## Celebrating their return

### Ceremonies, fests mark deployment's end

By Karl Weisel  
104th Area Support Group  
Public Affairs Office

It was celebration time for Soldiers and families after more than a year of separation, anxiety and the completion of an extremely challenging mission in Iraq. The communities of Baumholder, Friedberg and Hanau pulled out all the stops to give

community members days to remember at Welcome Home Ceremonies Sept. 10, 15 and 17 (see BSB pages for more photos).

"This was a great day to bring closure to what was a very successful deployment," said Col. Peter Mansoor, commander of 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade, following an official ceremony on the parade field of Friedberg's Ray

Barracks Sept. 15.

"It feels wonderful to be back with our families after a long deployment. Most of us have been back for two months. We've had lots of opportunities to take block leave and see Europe. This is a good experience to unwind," said Mansoor.

"I can't think of any greater honor than the honor of welcoming you back home after 15 months of remarkable and historic

See *Celebrating* on page 22



Photo by Karl Weisel

Fireworks capped off the day's festivities at each of the three Welcome Home bashes.

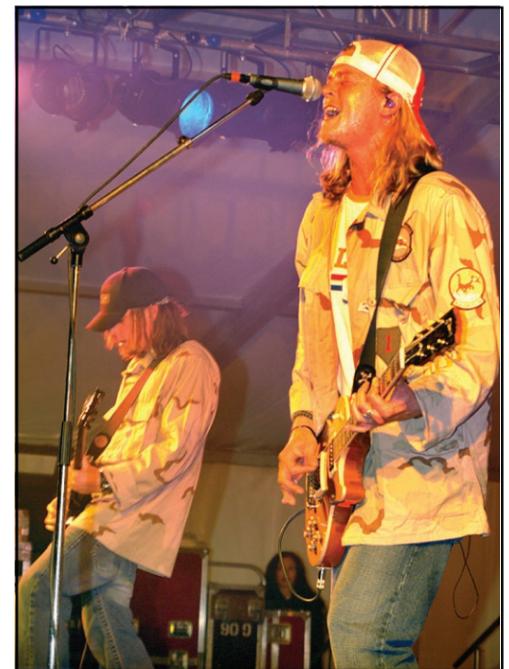


Photo by Karl Weisel

Paul Phillips (left) and Wesley Scantlin of the band Puddle of Mudd rock the Friedberg fest tent during the Welcome Home celebrations.

## 'Make a difference' — give to Combined Federal Campaign

Soldiers and civilians have the opportunity to support the charities of their choice during the annual Combined Federal Campaign Overseas which runs from Oct. 4 to Dec. 3.

"Last year U.S. military members and federal employees pulled together and generously raised over \$14.1 million overseas," said Renee Acosta, president of the campaign management organization for CFC-O. "This year we know the tradition of giving will continue."

People worldwide gave \$249,232,146 to charitable organizations through the CFC last year, according to

the CFC website.

Contributors wishing to support their local military community can specify that their contributions go to "FSYP," or the Family Support and Youth Programs — 100 percent of which is returned to local communities. In 2003 more than \$523,000 was returned to military communities overseas through the FSYP designation.

Contributions are designated by charitable organization number (or code) on an allotment card. The donor cards and campaign literature describing eligible charities will be available through unit and community keypersons throughout



the 104th Area Support Group in the coming weeks.

This year's campaign overseas also features a giveaway for people who turn in a pledge card. While no actual financial commitment is required, anyone who turns in a pledge card is eligible to win one of several prizes including a Jeep Liberty Renegade, airline tickets or a \$1,000 savings bond. Winners will be notified by March 31, 2005.

For more information about this year's fundraising campaign contact your local unit keyperson, call the 104th Area Support Group's Sgt. Anna Sierra at mil 323-3001 or visit the CFC-O website at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).

# Commentary

## Feedback: *What issues are most important in this year's federal election?*



**1st Sgt. Eric Laub**  
1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Baumholder

"I know there are a lot of important issues like health care and the economy, but for me national security is the most important. In my line of business, that is one of the top issues."



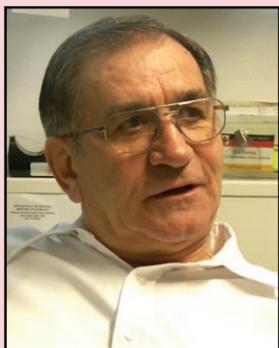
**Maj. Elizabeth Halford**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, Hanau

"Number one is where the administration is on the future of our forces in Iraq. Number two is having a plan for sustainable economic growth. The outcome of the election will also determine the future makeup of the Supreme Court."



**John Haygood**  
221st Base Support Battalion, Directorate of Logistics, Wiesbaden

"The economy, overall international relations that have suffered because of current decisions being made, security and job market growth. We've seen more jobs lost under this presidency than any other."



**William Parent**  
284th Base Support Battalion, Giessen

"I believe the two most important issues in this election are the economy and the situation in Iraq."



**Pfc. Joe Zujkowski**  
501st Military Intelligence Brigade, Dexheim

"I want a president who will ensure we're strong enough that we don't have to deploy back to back. I'd like to see a little more in pay as well — a general pay increase for the military."

## All support the mission

**Commentary by**  
**Lt. Gen. William E. Ward**  
*U.S. Army Europe deputy commander*

I want to extend my thanks to all our Soldiers, host nation and U.S. civilians, and family members assigned to the European theater. We appreciate the difficult and important work that you carry out every day, sometimes under extreme stress and less than perfect conditions.



Each of you has a unique and important role in helping us meet the challenges of today and those that we face in the future as we move forward into global basing and rebalancing, and into creating modular brigade combat teams. While our Soldiers are executing with excellence — Any Mission,

Anywhere — our U.S. civilian employees are providing special skills as they rotate through positions in this theater. Our local national employees provide stability and expertise while serving as the backbone of our civilian structure in Europe.

President Bush announced Aug. 16 the planned return of some 60,000-70,000 troops from overseas locations to the United States over the next 10 years. Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, in his Impacts of Global Rebasing on United States Army Forces in Europe message, provided more information on the effect that this will have on the Army in Europe. He clearly stated that our transformation will require a thorough, intense and coordinated effort among all affected organizations and units. He also thanked each of you for everything you do for our nation.

We appreciate every one of you for your important contributions to the future of our command and the Army. Thank you.

## Fire awareness saves lives

**By Helmar Kuhn**  
*104th Area Support Group chief of Fire and Emergency Services*

National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 3-9. The emphasis is on saving lives through awareness, and this year's slogan will be "Test Your Smoke Alarms."

During Fire Prevention Week U.S. Fire Departments in the 104th Area Support Group will visit child development centers and schools, conduct fire evacuation drills, perform fire extinguisher demonstrations and distribute handout materials to increase life safety awareness.

Inherent in the message are three simple but lifesaving lessons:

- \* Test smoke alarms monthly.
- \* Be ready to respond if your smoke alarm goes off.
- \* Practice fire evacuation drills with your spouse and children.

By law all family housing units, barracks, hotels and many other facilities throughout the 104th ASG are protected by hard-wired smoke alarms. Battery operated detectors are not permitted in U.S. Army facilities because they are not reliable.

Roughly 70 percent of home fire deaths in the United States result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke detectors are the great fire safety success story of the 20th century, but only when they are working properly.

Most fatal home fires happen at night while people are asleep. Smoke detectors

sound an alarm when a fire starts waking people up before they are trapped or overcome by smoke. With smoke alarms the risk of dying in home fires is cut nearly in half. Be sure to test smoke detectors monthly.

When a fire does occur there is no time for planning. Fire response and escape plans must be made in advance. Sit down with your family today and make a step-by-step plan for escaping a fire.

Agree on a meeting place outside your home where everyone will gather after escaping to wait for the Fire Department. Count heads and inform the Fire Department if anyone is trapped inside.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Make it realistic. Pretend some exits are blocked and practice alternative routes. Remember: a fire drill is not a race. Get out quickly but calmly.

Remember that smoke contains deadly gases and heat rises. If you encounter smoke in your primary exit, use your alternate route. If you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees, keeping your head 12-24 inches above the floor.

If you live in an apartment be sure all doors and windows can be unlocked easily, even in the dark. Use stairs to exit a building. Never use an elevator during a fire.

Fire safety awareness saves lives. This year be sure you and your loved ones know what to do in case of a fire in your house or apartment. Getting ready now could make this the most important National Fire Prevention Week in history for you and your family.



## Herald Union

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# News and features

## News flash

### Wiesbaden Welcome Home

The Wiesbaden military community plays host to thousands of Soldiers and their families during the final 1st Armored Division Welcome Home Celebration on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Oct. 7. The official ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. with entertainment including food, the group Sawyer Brown, children's rides and more being featured throughout the day late into the evening hours. Most parking lots on the airfield will be unavailable that day. Civilians and Soldiers should park at Mainz-Kastel Storage Station and hop on a shuttle bus which will operate every 15-20 minutes starting at 5:30 a.m. to the airfield. Shuttles will also run from Hainerberg, Aukamm and Crestview Housing areas and from Dexheim and Wackernheim. The normal shuttle bus that runs throughout the 221st BSB will not be running that day. People interested in attending are advised to listen to AFN Hessen, FM 98.7, for more specific information about parking, shuttle buses and featured entertainers. Call the 221st BSB Public Affairs Office at mil 337-1600 for details.

### Reward for information

A \$1,000 reward is being offered for the recovery and information leading to the arrest and conviction of people responsible for the theft of a Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle with bumper number CDC-G15, last seen in a parking lot near the Defense Commissary Agency facility on Germersheim at about 6 p.m. Sept. 7. Call the Criminal Investigation Division at mil 370-8453/6671 or civ (06221) 57-8453/6671 with any information. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

### Memorial service for former employee

A memorial service was held Sept. 25 at the Armstrong Barracks Chapel in Büdingen for former Büdingen sports director David Deinhardt who died Aug. 27 of a heart attack. Deinhardt, who was described as a "walking rule book" by Gary Lewandowski of the 414th Base Support Battalion's Community Recreation Division, was a sergeant first class when he retired from the military in 1981 after more than two decades of active duty, earning the Bronze Star and duty in Vietnam. After retiring he dedicated his time to officiating military sports, serving as the sports director in Friedberg and later Giessen before joining the 414th BSB sports staff from 1992-96. A funeral with military honors was held Sept. 16 at the Bergstrasse Cemetery at Ober-Rosbach. He is survived by his wife, Andrea.



### Hanau book signing

Bestselling author Nelson DeMille will be at the Hainerberg Bookmark in Wiesbaden Oct. 9 from 10-11 a.m. to sign copies of his books. DeMille is the author of "The Charm School," "Cathedral," "The Gold Coast," "The General's Daughter," "The Word of Honor" and other works.

### Anderson promoted

Randy Anderson, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for support, was promoted to brigadier general at the division headquarters in Wiesbaden. Anderson has served as the assistant division commander since July. (1st Armored Division Public Affairs)

### Winterize vehicle

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Car Care Centers, U.S. Forces Vehicle Inspection Stations and German repair shops will provide free lighting system inspections in October as part of the international motor vehicle lighting campaign. AAFES Car Care Centers will also inspect windshield wipers, exhaust systems and tires. AAFES centers equipped with a brake analyzer will test brake systems. Repair work to correct deficiencies will be chargeable to the vehicle owner. (IMA-E Public Affairs)



Photo by Karl Weisel

German and American police officers and their families watch as a German police dog handler puts his canine partner through his paces during the German-American Police Fest Sept. 18.

## Police fest recognizes support German-American law enforcers celebrate teamwork

By Anemone Rueger

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A celebration of police camaraderie brought nearly 300 German and American law enforcement professionals from across the 104th Area Support Group together Sept. 18 at Hanau's Campo Pond Training Area.

The sixth annual German-American Police Fest offered a platform for networking and featured food, working dog demonstrations, vehicle displays, live music and games for the children.

"This fest began seven years ago as a way for us to say thanks to our German colleagues for the strong support and warm friendship shown toward the U.S. Army Military Police and our families," said Lt. Col. Howard Malone, 104th ASG provost marshal.

Recalling German police cars guarding every U.S. casern after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as one of his first impressions of Germany, Malone stressed how much this show of concern and solidarity meant to military families.

"I am convinced that since 2001 our cooperation and friendship has become even stronger," said Guenter Hefner, vice police president for the state of Hessen. "You could say that with no other nation do we work together as closely as with the Americans," from force protection to crime investigation to providing security for Welcome Home Ceremonies.

"I was out there at the welcome home ceremony on Fliegerhorst," said Hefner. "Being so close to the Soldiers left a deep impression on me. Suddenly you realize they were the ones who were down in Iraq, and some of them didn't make it back."

Malone also praised the German Polizei and other security forces for going the extra mile to protect U.S. installations while Soldiers were deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, at a time when the Polizei system in Hessen was undergoing major changes and cutbacks. "Better is a friend nearby, than a brother far away," he said, quoting his favorite Bible verse. "Many Americans back home spoke out against Germany, but they weren't here with us, receiving the continuous outpouring of support and genuine care."

"There have been disagreements between our nations, but this has never affected our relationship at the local level," said Hefner. "It's important to see each other and do things together. Look how many of my colleagues are out here on their day off. That speaks for itself."

"In the end, all officers on both sides, German and American, left the talking to the politicians and stood the line to help keep innocent people out of harm's way. After all, that's what professionals do," said Malone.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Youngsters enjoy a ride in a Military Police armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, one of several German and American vehicles on display.

## Child supervision guide

### Army in Europe defines rules on parental responsibility

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A new Army in Europe Child Supervision Guideline spells out precisely when children may be left alone and when they must have adult supervision. The memorandum, signed by Russell B. Hall, Installation Management Agency Europe director, provides "information to help parents safeguard their children" and "is based on the child's grade in school, not the child's age."

"It's important to the community because of the whole safety issue," said Demetrea Watson, Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program coordinator for the 414th Base Support Battalion.

"The Military Police can ticket parents for neglect or having unsupervised children," said Watson. "It's for the safety of the children. When parents properly supervise their children it makes our community stronger and lets the MPs focus their time on other issues."

"Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children," according to the guidance. "Failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use good judgment and consider the physical, emotional and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision the child requires."

"Parents should not give the degree of self-management and responsibility allowed in this guidance to children with a history of attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, behavioral problems, developmental delay, impulsivity, psychiatric problems or impairment," the guidance further instructs.

Following is guidance stipulated in the guidance:

- \* Newborns through age 4 may not be left alone, overnight, outside unattended, in a car unattended or babysitting children.

- \* Children in kindergarten through grade five may not be left home alone, overnight or babysitting other children. Kindergartners through fifth-graders may be left outside unattended if in a playground or yard with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision.

- \* Kindergartners may not walk to or from school or other supervised activities alone. First- through fifth-graders may walk to and from school and other supervised activities alone but parents must consider the distance to school, school opening times, hours of darkness and the child's maturity.

- \* Kindergartners through third-graders may not be left unattended in a car. Children in grades four and five can be left unattended in a car for up to 10 minutes if the keys have been removed and the handbrake applied.

- \* Children in grades six and seven can be left alone at home and outside unattended for up to six hours in a 24-hour period (but not overnight) with ready access to adult supervision. They may also be left unattended in a car for up to 15 minutes if the keys have been removed and the handbrake applied. Sixth-graders may not babysit other children, but can babysit siblings over 2 years old for up to three hours with ready access to adult supervision. Seventh-graders can



Photo by Karl Weisel

**Children age 4 and under may not be left outside unattended at any time, according to guidelines.**

babysit siblings and other children for up to six hours with ready access to adult supervision.

- \* Children in grades eight, nine and 10 may be left home alone and outside unattended but may not stay home alone overnight. They may also be left unattended in a car for up to 20 minutes if the keys have been removed and the handbrake applied. They may babysit younger children for up to 12 hours (but not overnight).

- \* Children in grades 11 and 12 can be left alone at home for up to 48 hours, but an adult neighbor or adult friend must check on them at least every 12 hours. They may also be left unattended outside, in a car and are old enough to babysit their siblings and other children.

Because of the high operations tempo of Army families it's crucial that parents ensure their children receive proper supervision, said Watson. "Having community observers — stay-at-home moms and dads, people out walking their pets — helps ensure the safety of children."

"The new child supervision policy is very good," said Joanne Hernandez, Child and Youth Services coordinator for the 222nd BSB in Baumholder. "Articulating the responsibility parents have to look at the abilities of their individual children when making decisions about self-care, walking to school, etc. will help ensure all children are kept safe."

For more information about getting involved with the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program call your local SNAP office, the Installation Volunteer Coordinator or Military Police. To get a copy of the Army in Europe Child Supervision Guidance point your Internet browser to <https://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/ltr/iml2003-008.htm>.

## Air, missile detachment activated

The first ever air and missile detachment in the Army was activated Sept. 16 at Wackernheim's McCully Barracks. The activation came a day after the 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, was inactivated.

"The detachment is the initial wave of more detachments that will spring up throughout the Army in an effort to restructure," said Maj. Adrian Stocker, the new detachment's commander. "This is part of the Department of Defense's initiative to balance the fighting force."

A small contingent of Soldiers formerly assigned to 1-4th ADA comprises the new detachment. Other Soldiers from the inactivated unit were either reassigned throughout the Army or given a reclassification to another Military Occupational Specialty before the unit was inactivated.

"The families affected by the inactivation of 1-4th ADA were notified approximately six months prior and given help with everything from visas to pets," said Stocker. (1st Armored Division Public Affairs)

## Newsflash

### V Corps Memory Project

Soldiers and civilian employees who deployed with V Corps units saw, heard and learned a lot during their time downrange. The Memory Project is an online opportunity for those individuals to describe their experiences and submit photographs and videos that capture personal and organizational views of Operation Iraqi Freedom. When possible the submissions will be posted on the V Corps Memory Project web page. Items will also be shared with the V Corps historian to be archived. Visit the V Corps website at [www.vcorps.army.mil](http://www.vcorps.army.mil) and click on the Memory Project graphic for more information. (V Corps Public Affairs)

### Land Combat Expo

Land Combat Expo 2004 will be held Sept. 28-30 at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion. The theme will be "USAREUR at War and Transforming." For information point your web browser to [www.expo.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.expo.hqusareur.army.mil).

### Clear vehicles with Customs

Military Customs officials report seeing an increase in the instances of U.S. Soldiers and civilians encountering legal problems after selling their U.S. Army Europe plated vehicles to non-USAREUR civilians, car dealerships and junkyards. The problems result when the seller fails to obtain a "Permit to Transfer" from military Customs before selling or giving the tax-free vehicle to the non-ID card holder. People who don't obtain the permit will eventually fail to clear USAREUR Vehicle Registration when moving out of the theater. German Customs may also require proof of what happened to the vehicle or payment of the full tax due. Visit the [www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom2.htm](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom2.htm) website or your local Customs office for more information.

### Police officers wanted

A recruiting team from the Richmond, Va., Police Department will visit the 284th Base Support Battalion Oct. 12-15 to conduct in-depth briefings about available jobs with the force, to answer questions and to provide help applying for jobs. Interested Soldiers from Giessen, Friedberg, Hanau, Wiesbaden and Baumholder may contact the Giessen Army Career and Alumni Program office to sign up for a briefing. Briefings may be scheduled at the respective installation depending on the number of interested Soldiers. Anyone age 21 and older with an honorable or medical discharge as well retirees may apply. For more information call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

### American Legion commander

Thomas P. Cadmus, age 58, of Ypsilanti, Mich., was elected national commander of the 2.7 million member American Legion. Delegates to the Legion's 86th national convention chose Cadmus, an armored reconnaissance specialist in the Army during the Vietnam War era, to lead the organization for a one-year term.

### Life insurance open season

The Office of Personnel Management announces the first open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program in five years to be held through Sept. 30. Eligible employees can make a selection by visiting the Employee Benefits Information System website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or by calling civ (800) 101 0282. (ABC-C News)

### Voting assistance hotline

Never voted overseas before? Don't know when to mail your absentee ballot? Wondering if you can vote by fax? Answers are a phone call away with the new U.S. Army Europe Voting Assistance Hotline at mil 379-9712 or civ (06202) 80-9712. In addition to the hotline people can email specific questions to [USAREURVote@hq.1perscom.army.mil](mailto:USAREURVote@hq.1perscom.army.mil) or get help online at the Voting Assistance home page at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). (IMA-E Release)

## Building coordinators play vital role in housing

**By Karen Edge**  
221st Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

With rules about how big a wading pool can be, quiet hours, pet policies, parking arrangements, recycling and child supervision, all the dos and don'ts can get a little confusing living in base housing.

Knowing this, members of the 221st Base Support Battalion Housing Office, in coordination with the Directorate of Public Works, are working to strengthen the housing coordinator program.

### Chain of command

"It is our goal, now that we have our Soldiers home, to re-establish a chain of command within the individual housing areas and units for residents to address their concerns, vent their frustrations and work toward a better standard of living

for all tenants," said Master Sgt. Milton Dawkins, the new housing coordinator for the BSB.

The housing coordinator program provides residents with a means to address any and all concerns within their government quarters. The housing coordinator program is the chain of command for residents to resolve their problems. Moreover, the housing coordinators are also liaisons between housing residents, the Housing Office and DPW.

Whether it is taking out the trash correctly, submitting a work order, sorting and recycling appropriately, keeping a pet on a leash and cleaning up after it or just common courtesy, these concerns need a proper forum to be addressed and handled at the lowest possible level.

But before using any chain of command to resolve issues, it is

best to have a clear understanding of the community rules.

The 221st BSB Housing Office gives everyone moving into a housing unit a resident's guide, which is one-stop shopping for information pertaining to living in government housing.

### Guide information

Where residents can park, where their pets can be, when certain facilities are open, quiet hours, trash pickup and a detailed chain of command for the housing coordinator program, can be found in the guide.

"Residents have a responsibility to maintain their quarters, stairwells, building and grounds. Housing areas need to be clean, orderly and safe at all times," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st BSB commander.

"I know that given the proper

means, such as the housing coordinator program, residents will take pride in their houses, yards and common areas, and we'll begin to see the evidence of that pride," Franks said.

When walls, parking lots, laundry facilities and other facilities are shared with many people it can make for some difficult situations.

There are steps residents can take to be a good neighbor and make living on post a pleasant experience.

A good idea is to get to know neighbors. It makes it easier when differences arise.

According to the resident's guide, a resident should first go to the person he or she has a difference with and calmly discuss the issue openly and honestly, while refraining from making the issue a

personal one.

"Unresolved issues must be documented and then taken to the stairwell coordinator. If this doesn't solve the issue, the stairwell coordinator will then elevate the documented information up the chain of command to the building coordinator," said Alice Logan, 221st BSB Housing Division chief.

### Address issue

Logan also said the building coordinator will then address the issue and elevate it to the area/village coordinator if necessary. The issue will be resolved at the lowest level in the chain.

"With the housing coordinator program up and ready to roll, and a little common courtesy, respect for others, our housing areas will reflect the outstanding people living in them," said Franks.