

Exercise tests emergency readiness

Germans and Americans team up during mass casualty training

Story and photos by
Karen Edge
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 221st Base Support Battalion joined forces with host nation fire departments, emergency medical services, quick reaction teams, the German and American Red Cross and K-9 units for a mass casualty exercise Sept. 18 in Aukamm Housing.

The exercise kicked off at about 10 a.m. when a simulated vehicle loaded with explosives detonated in front of Westfallenstr. 30. According to the scenario residents were trapped in the building and smoke accumulated on the second floor. Surrounding buildings were also damaged.

Moulage added realism to the faces and bodies of the volunteers acting as the injured, with glass and fragments protruding from their extremities. The adrenaline was pumping as firefighters, emergency technicians, Military Police officers and first responders assessed the scene and jumped into action.

Participants wandered around in simulated shock, yelling for help and drawing the attention of residents not participating in the exercise.

Smoke billowed up from the carcass of a burning van, ignited to simulate an actual explosion.

Within minutes local national fire departments, ambulances and medical crews arrived on the scene, extinguished fires and assessed the wounded. MPs arrived and cordoned the area. Bystanders were taken outside the perimeter of "ground zero."

Back at the base the Emergency Activation Center was activated and communication lines were established between the site and

Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Shortly after 10 a.m. Michael Spannaus, assistant divisional officer for the Wiesbaden Fire Department Disaster Branch, opened the airways. "A car exploded in the Aukamm Housing area. We're on the scene. Preliminary counts total 10 dead, at least 20 wounded," Spannaus reported. "Fires are being extinguished. A car was seen fleeing the area. Several people are missing, and the search and rescue dogs from the Wiesbaden Fire Department are en route."

Maj. Jake Jacob, 221st BSB provost marshal, soon arrived on the scene. Radio traffic was heavy. Speaking to Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st BSB commander, Jacob said, "Sir, I recommend we go to Delta." Franks responded with, "I've already ordered that. Call DPW, call the city — we're re-routing traffic."

"0123, 0123, we're enroute. The bomb actually went off around the corner," crackled the radio traffic. "0106, 0106, that's a roger. They got units rolling."

"Doc, are you keeping track of all the names? We need to know who went to what hospital and what their injuries are."

"We're identifying body parts at this time."

"Seven injured have been transported to hospitals."

"Are all these people coordinating efforts. What's going on?"

"We're looking for a six-foot male, shoulder length hair, dark sweatshirt, unknown race seen departing the area at 1000 hours, get that out to all our vehicles and Pond's guards."

"You recommend we go to Delta in Crestview and Hainerberg Housing?"

"Roger that, but the boss says go to Charlie, go to Charlie. Over."

The information being relayed sounded like organized chaos. Radios squelched, sirens blared and everyone did their jobs.

The exercise was a success, said Franks. "These exercises may pose a slight inconvenience to the community, but they are really a necessity of great magnitude," Franks said. "In a post-9-11 era we are all too aware that these scenarios could happen. It is extremely helpful when we can practice on the ground. We learn something new at each exercise that increases the safety of our families."



Emergency personnel from the city of Wiesbaden work together with 221st Base Support Battalion members during a mass casualty exercise in Aukamm Housing Sept. 18. Local national fire departments and rescue teams are usually the first on the scene and work with Wiesbaden Army Airfield officials during emergencies.



An emergency rescue responder comes to the aid of a "victim" during the exercise.

Franks said he feels as safe here in Germany as he would in the United States. He also said the host nation forces do a phenomenal job.

"By conducting these yearly exercises we are able to identify potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses while simultaneously testing the local communities and the 221st BSB's abilities to respond to a mass casualty incident," said Otis Hawes, 221st Base Support Battalion Force Protection manager. "This is a force protection requirement. We hope to synchronize the efforts of our installation and host nation first responders to support and safeguard our military and civilian populations."

After the exercise was over, Jacob said, "The response by our



A Wiesbaden city firefighter extinguishes a burning vehicle.

host nation counterparts and the overall outcome, from planning to the execution, was outstanding. It was an extremely successful event.

It went as planned, but better than expected. I can't praise the efforts of our U.S. and local national responders enough."

Prevent abuse before it hits home

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on domestic violence prevention.

By Junel Jeffrey

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Imagine a country where a woman is beaten every nine seconds, a place where women experience the highest homicide rate of any other developed nation and where domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women.

That country is the United States, according to statistics from the American Institute on Domestic Violence. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Todd Baumann, a licensed clinical social worker with the 221st Base Support Battalion Social Work Services office, hopes to raise awareness of domestic violence prevention and treatment available within the 221st Base Support Battalion.

"I think that particularly now, with the redeployment, the potential for increased violence may go up. Any time partners are separated for a significant amount of time it can cause stressors within the relationship when they reunite and realize how much has changed during their time apart. There are a lot of things that could be going on with the Soldier and or spouse that could be contributing to the arguing and conflict at home," Baumann said. "Domestic violence can be emotional, psychological, physical or sexual. If someone is developing an intimidating way of interacting with his or her spouse, then the chance of that escalating to an actual physical episode is high."

Though domestic violence affects the abuser and the abused, the family and work environment, many people involved in abusive incidents do not notify the appropriate agencies themselves. Often it is a neighbor who reports suspicions of abuse to either Social Work Services or the Military Police.

"We get calls from neighbors who say they heard a lot of noise coming from a residence and that they want someone to check in with that family," said Baumann. "A lot of times neighbors just hear the noise of arguing because of the close proximity of their quarters." Baumann said calling the MPs is the safest way to report suspected abuse, even though neighbors may feel a little hesitant at getting involved.

"The MPs need to be involved because domestic violence is a very dangerous situation to respond to," said 221st BSB Military Police investigator Phil Williams. All calls are taken seriously, whether it's verbal abuse or physical.

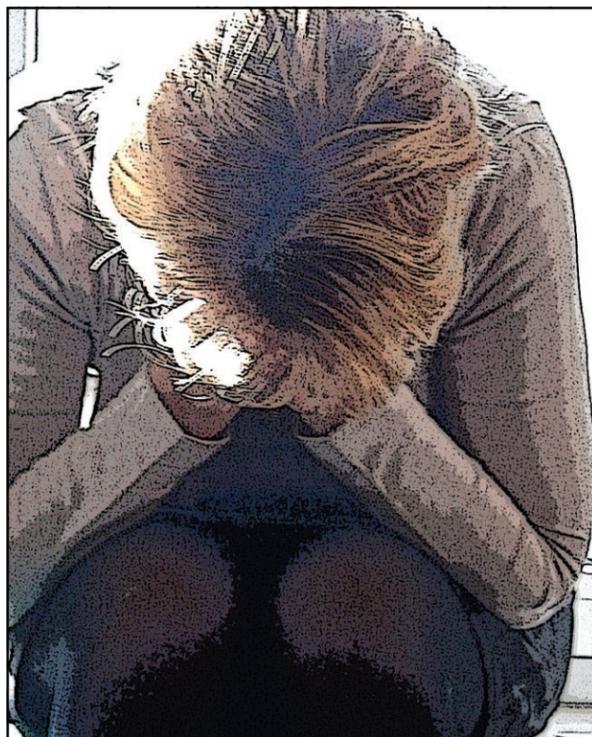


Photo illustration by Karen Edge

Victims of domestic violence often feel isolated, but there is help available.

"The MPs don't make any assumptions about a call prior to completing a thorough investigation," said Williams. "We investigate aspects of an alleged incident. Investigators process all the facts and then submit those facts to the agencies which have the power to levy punishment and give assistance."

Issues of domestic violence are often routed through the MP station and then to agencies that can help the victim and the abuser, he said.

In addition to the chain of command and friends, Baumann said there are many agencies that can help people remedy potential or existing instances of domestic abuse.

"Without intervention the abuse isn't just going to go away, unless the marriage dissolves, because those involved feel they're at a point of no return and divorce is the only way out," said Baumann, who counsels victims and

abusers on a daily basis. "Too often people are seriously injured before ever seeking help. Ask for help because the problem is not going to remedy itself."

Baumann listed the fear of being in trouble within one's command as one reason more people don't seek help before violence escalates.

"I know people may hesitate to get commands involved or to call the MPs, but a lot of times that's what gets things resolved. People can also go to the family life chaplain, Family Advocacy, Social Work Services, ACS (Army Community Service) or other groups," Baumann said. "Those helping agencies are designed to help folks remedy potential violence or help even if a violent incident occurred."

Baumann said Social Work Services is concerned with helping all parties involved in abusive relationships, and people shouldn't be afraid to seek help.

"Although we work with commands to get Soldiers involved in treatment, we're not interested in getting people in trouble. I usually see supportive commands," Baumann said. "I see them freeing up the Soldier's time for recommended treatment. If you're talking about the possibility of breaking the cycle of abuse, then the long-term effect is a lot better than standing by and allowing it to continue."

Command support is often shown at monthly 221st BSB Case Review Committee meetings. There, community assistance agencies invite commanders and first sergeants to take part in planning treatment for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

"If a command has a Soldier who is having multiple domestic problems, to include domestic violence, our main function is to get that Soldier squared away so that he or she can get back to their job. While we realize that we are here for the families and Soldiers, we are also here for the commands to help get the Soldiers ready for whatever mission is happening," said Baumann.

While he believes that violence is unacceptable in any relationship, Baumann says by seeking support the relationship can once again become healthy.

"If behaviors change in a relationship, such as increased arguing, yelling, resentment or anger, it is time to seek out counseling," said Baumann. "I am always hopeful that things can get better at any stage of the relationship. It's never too late to get out of the relationship or to seek help in making it better."

Team 221st MWR wins IMA-E honors

Story and photo by Karen Edge
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs

The 221st Base Support Battalion swept the 2004 Installation Management Agency-Europe Recreation Awards competition at the Land Combat Expo awards presentation in Heidelberg for outstanding recreation programming.

Twenty Morale Welfare and Recreation operations and individuals competed and were recognized, with the 221st BSB taking home top honors in six of the nine categories for large communities.

The awards recognized the outstanding individuals and organizations which provided noteworthy recreation activities in installations and support services to Soldiers and their families.

The 221st BSB won in the Outstanding Installation Recreation Program, Arts and Crafts, Entertainment, Outdoor Recreation, Sports and Fitness and Recreation Deliv-

ery System categories.

Susanne Dale, fitness coordinator for the 221st BSB Sports and Fitness Center, took home the Recreation Employee of the Year award.

"Our goal is to provide the highest quality fitness programs throughout the Department of the Army. Soldiers, DoD civilians, contractors and their families arrive in Germany and should be able to enjoy the same standard of sports and fitness here that they receive in CONUS," said Dale.

"With our superb staff, our ability to expand programming with over hires, and hand picking the most qualified contractors to provide services, we have been able to offer more than ever before. We want this community to have the very best because we service the very best," she said.

Europe Region Area Support Group MWR communities coordinated submissions and judged the best among their responding BSB operations within each defined discipline.

Then local selections were packaged and forwarded to IMA-E MWR for competition on a regional level.

The submission packages were reviewed by a panel of IMA-E recreation professionals, evaluated under a strict methodology, and reflect this year's outstanding recreation programming, officials said.

"I always knew our MWR recreation programs were providing excellent services, but it is nice to get our hardworking MWR folks recognized and rewarded for their efforts," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st BSB commander.

"For many of the programs this is the second or third consecutive year that they have received this recognition, which is a true reflection of their commitment and dedication," he said. "We will continue to search for ways that will further improve and expand our recreation programs so that we can better serve our Soldiers, civilians and families in the Wiesbaden community."



Susanne Dale, 221st BSB fitness coordinator, is the Installation Management Agency-Europe Recreation Employee of the Year.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes . . . Community news notes

Dexheim Town Hall

A Dexheim Town Hall Meeting will be held Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in the Rheinlander Club on Anderson Barracks. All Soldiers, civilians and family members are invited to attend. For more information call the Public Affairs Office at mil 337-1600 or civ (0611) 705-1600.

Lamp-lighters Bazaar Oct. 1-3

The annual Wiesbaden Lamp-lighters Bazaar will be held Oct. 1-3 in Hangars 1035 and 1036 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Vendors from throughout Europe will sell jewelry, wine, oriental carpets, antiques, Polish pottery and other items. For more information call mil 337-6111 or civ (0611) 705-6111.

OCS board

The 221st Base Support Battalion will conduct an Officer Candidate School selection board Nov. 23 and 24 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For location, times and packet submission requirements call Harold Griffin, 221st BSB adjutant at mil 337-7068 or civ (0611) 705-7068.

Give to CFC

Last year the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas collected a record \$14.1 million. This year the 2004 CFC-Oruns from Oct. 4 through Dec. 3. A kick-off ceremony and cake cutting will be held at the Hainerberg Food Court Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. All community members are invited to attend. For more information call Harold Griffin at mil 337-7068 or civ (0611) 705-7068.

Voting assistance

All information about voting, including state specific requirements, is available at www.fvap.gov. Residents who are registered to vote and need a write-in ballot can stop by the Adjutant's Office next to the food court on Wiesbaden Army Airfield or call mil 337-7068, civ (0611) 705-7068.



Belly dancing

Belly dancing for beginners will begin Saturday Oct. 2 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Cost is \$40 for the four-week class. Stop by any Rhein Main area USO for details.

VFW to meet

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 27 "Watch on the Rhein" holds its monthly meeting Oct. 14 at the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. The meeting begins with a social meeting at 5 p.m. at the Victory Point Bar,

and the business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the community meeting room. All eligible veterans are invited to attend. Call Joe Mulligan at civ (0611) 306 123 or (0171) 2229 359, for information about joining VFW.

Hispanic Heritage Month performance

Enjoy salsa music and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with "Orquesta Latino" Oct. 5 at 1:15 p.m. in the Wiesbaden Middle School gymnasium. For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ames at mil 337-5897 or civ (0611) 705-5897.

BOSS Talent Show

Show off your talent at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Talent Show Nov. 6 at the Flyers Theater. Tryouts are Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Flyers Theater on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. First place winner receives \$300, second place \$150 and third place \$50. There is a \$10 registration fee. Call Spc. Ashley Patrick at mil 337-6523 or civ (0611) 705-6523.

Boss' Night

Having a tough day at the office? Put it all on your boss and head for the Victory Point Bar the fourth Thursday of every month. Chips and dips are on the house and the drinks are on the boss. Victory Point Bar is located in the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Recruit the Recruiter

The Recruit the Recruiter Team will be available Oct. 15 from 9:30-11 a.m. to brief all sergeants through sergeants first class about benefits, challenges and qualifications of recruiting duty. They'll be at the Wiesbaden Education Center, Room 4, Building 1023E on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Call Christine Maxwell at mil 337-5559 or civ (0611) 705-5559 for details.

Sgt. Morales Club

The Sgt. Morales Club meets the first Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. in Room 210, Building 1023W. The next meeting will be Oct. 6. All Sgt. Morales and Sgt. Audie Murphy inductees are encouraged to attend. For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ames at mil 337-5897 or civ (0611) 705-5897.

Box Tops

Gen. H.H. Arnold High School is collecting General Mills box tops to raise money to support the academic awards program. Soldiers, civilians and family members are

encouraged to save box tops marked with Boxtops for Education and deliver or mail the box tops to the school: General H. H. Arnold High School, ATTN: Sue, Unit 29647, APO AE 09096. Call mil 337-5348 or civ (0611) 705-5348 for details.

Hot stone massage

Starting Oct. 12 the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center and Dexheim Fitness Center will feature hot stone massage therapy. The therapy uses volcanic basalt stones and massage. To make an appointment or for information call mil 337-5943/5379 or civ (0611) 705-5943/5379.

Job/volunteer fair

Wiesbaden Army Community Service hosts a Fall Job and Volunteer Fair Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Youth Services gym, Building 07775 in Hainerberg Housing. Find out about local employment and volunteer opportunities. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 for more information.

Help wanted

The Wiesbaden Army Airfield American Red Cross seeks a full-time office assistant to provide emergency communications and casework services. Duties include scheduling and registration of

221st BSB –Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

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volunteers, preparing correspondence, reports and vouchers and data entry. Qualified applicants must have strong computer skills, an associate's degree or equivalent knowledge, and work experience is preferred. Call Kristi Balli at mil 337-1760 or civ (0611) 705-1760.

DFAC renovation

The dining facility on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Build-

ing 1052, will undergo renovation Oct. 8-11. The facility will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner on the weekend instead of the normal weekend brunch and supper menu. The schedule will be breakfast from 8-9 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner 4-5:30 p.m. Normal operating hours will resume Oct. 12. For more information call Glenn Abdon at mil 337-5968 or civ (0611) 705-5968.

Housing survey

The Directorate of Public Works will conduct a lead-based paint survey in family housing in October and November. The testing involves screening interior walls and taking samples from paint and dust. Residents will be given a schedule 30 days before the testing. Access to the housing units at the scheduled times is mandatory. If a resident cannot be home other arrangements must be made through the housing coordinator or DPW to

allow contractor access. The screening takes about 15 minutes. The schedule will be posted on the Commander's Information Network and distributed in the housing areas. Call Victor DiMarzo at mil 337-6324 or (0611) 705-6324 for details.

Library

What happened to local teen Angela Day? Is she a runaway or the victim of foul play? Join detectives at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Library on Oct. 1 from 5-7 p.m. to solve the mystery "The Disap-

pearance of Angela Day." Students in grades six through nine are invited to investigate the crime scene and examine evidence. Call David Schaffter at mil 337-1740 or (0611) 705-1740 for more information.

Entertainment

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "Lovable Lunatics," an evening of one-act comedies Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. Performances start at 7:30 p.m. (6 p.m. on Sunday). The Amelia Earhart Playhouse is located at Konrad-Adenauer-Ring 39. Tickets are \$10 or €10 for adults and \$5 or €5 for students and senior citizens. Pick up tickets at the Hainerberg and Wiesbaden Army Airfield USOs or call mil 336-2473, civ (0611) 816-2473.

Spades and bones

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers sponsors a spades and bones tournament Sept. 30 from 5-9 p.m. in the Victory Point Bar on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Entry is \$5. Win a free car rental or other prizes. Call Spc. Angela Patrick at mil 337-6523 or civ (0611) 705-6523.

Baumholder named top community in IMA-E

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 222nd Base Support Battalion has earned first place in the Installation Management Agency-Europe Army Communities of Excellence competition and is now eligible for entry into the Headquarters IMA fiscal year 2005 Army-wide ACOE competition.

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, who commanded the 222nd BSB through the long period of deployment, re-deployment and reintegration of Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division stationed at Baumholder, said he is confident the men and women of the 222nd BSB are destined to achieve the highest levels of excellence.

"I won't expect anything less when the community, the BSB, goes to DA. I guarantee you they'll take first place. This organization has proven itself year after year after year and now they are at the Ph.D. level," said Buchs.

That this organization continues to prove itself year after year is not just a "complimentary" remark by the former commander. Sean Lambur, special projects officer for the 222nd BSB, is of the same belief and attributes the organization's success to the maturity of its people and its practices. "To be first in USAREUR required a level of maturity that took three to four years to reach through continual implementation of improvement in the way we operate," he said.

ACOE awards recognize installations for continuous business process improvement, individual



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
Soldiers from 1-35th Armor are welcomed home July 14 in a ceremony arranged by the 222nd Base Support Battalion. How Soldiers were reintegrated into the community after their long deployment in Iraq was one of the many missions that made Baumholder the best community in IMA-E.

innovation, groundbreaking initiatives, and dedication to efficiency and customer care. They are presented annually to installations for exemplary efforts to provide support to Soldiers, civilian employees, retirees and families.

"This organization has imbedded in it processes that will carry on. And what I mean by that is, they do things for a reason, they measure how they do things and they get better as an organization because of the processes that are in place," said Buchs.

"And as long as you're an organization that continues to improve, you will always be a successful organization. The by-product of that is you will always treat your customers well. There's no better organization than the 222nd BSB; there isn't," said Buchs.

Lambur explained that there is nothing comparable in the civilian

sector to what the 222nd BSB offers its customers. "In terms of the kinds of services, variety and scope of services we provide, we're more complicated than a small town or city administration," he said.

Putting the many services the 222nd BSB offers into perspective, Lambur said, "You would be very hard-pressed to find any organization on this scale, that does the variety and the details that we do.

"We do more than cities do. We are a shipping company, a building company and a utilities company. We are a chain of bar and restaurants and child development centers. So we're doing things here that in a normal city you would find being executed by anywhere from seven to 15 different private companies," Lambur said.

So what did the 222nd BSB do to get where it is today? Lambur said one of the reasons for the success

of the 222nd was the caliber of senior leadership.

"There's no question about it, it was outstanding leadership by the garrison commander, the deputy garrison commander and the command sergeant major. We've had two years of a very solid senior leadership team that always did the right thing. They gave us our priorities and they followed up and they led the way."

"We've now changed BSB commanders, but the same leadership role is being conducted by the new BSB commander," said Lambur.

There's no question the deployment of Soldiers challenged the skills and dedication of the members of the 222nd BSB. They were charged with deploying Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team in a safe and timely manner and properly receiving them upon their return while at the same time seeing to the needs of all their family members.

"During this period we were able to attain benchmarks for doing some processes the best," said Lambur.

"For instance when troops first deployed from Europe to Operation Iraqi Freedom, our method of deploying them was adopted Europe-wide," said Lambur.

The deployment of Soldiers and all the actions that followed were actually a plus for the BSB and allowed it to focus on how the organization could better serve its customers. "It sounds strange but by having all of our Soldier customers gone, we were able to take more of a strategic view of things. We were able to look downrange and say these are the things that we're go-

ing to have to do in nine months to successfully reintegrate Soldiers and their equipment and help them reconstitute their unit. So by not having all of our Soldier customers here it helped us engage in a bit of strategic planning," he said.

"It has given us the time and ability to work unimpeded but not isolated. We brought in all the rear detachment commanders into our decision process. Nothing was planned in a vacuum. We were always able to account for our customers' needs, and that's probably the most single significant factor in our success," said Lambur.

To service the entire scope of its customers the 222nd BSB reached out beyond its physical boundaries.

"When we worked out reintegration details with our rear detachment commanders we then communicated with our customers down range by VTC, by email, by courier, long before they began their trip back home. So we were constantly getting intimate details on customer participation from our rear detachment commanders while at the same time obtaining concept approval or final procedure approval from our senior customers down in Baghdad," Lambur said.

The 222nd BSB is now poised for the next level of achievement which could make it the Army's premier community worldwide. The 222nd BSB placed second worldwide last year and BSB leaders have set their sights on a bigger and better performance this year by the 222nd BSB during the final round of ACOE competition, where a \$2 million cash prize awaits the first place community.

Memorial honors Soldiers who paid ultimate sacrifice in Iraq

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

When planning began months ago for the Welcome Home Ceremony, Baumholder community officials realized they also wanted to honor the memory of those Soldiers who would not be returning.

The Fallen Soldier Memorial was unveiled across from the 222nd Base Support Battalion headquarters on Sept. 10 before the Welcome Home Ceremony also scheduled that day. The solemn ceremony was well attended by the community in remembrance of the Soldiers who lost their lives during the deployment.

Fueled by fundraising efforts from the Baumholder Community Spouses Club, the 222nd BSB led the conception and planning of the Fallen Soldier Memorial.

Helen Williams, BCSC community liaison officer, and Lt. Col. James Larsen, 222nd BSB commander, stressed that it was the generosity and dedication of the community that made the memorial possible.

The memorial, held by a solid granite pedestal and shaped in the likeness of the 1st Armored Division crest, displays an open book. On the left is a quote by Dwight Eisenhower, "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." The right page states, "Every generation has its heroes; ours is no different. ... In remembrance of the Soldiers from the Baumholder community who gave their lives so that others may live in a peaceful, secure and free world."

Two benches and four flower



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
The unveiling of the Fallen Soldier Memorial Sept. 10 took priority before the Welcome Home Ceremony for Baumholder Soldiers.

vases have been added for visitors' use.

Williams presented the memo-

rial to Larsen on behalf of the BCSC and thanked the Baumholder community for its overwhelming gener-

osity. Col. Jonathan Brockman, Division Artillery commander, and Col. Ralph Baker, 2nd Brigade commander, spoke to the crowd about those killed in the line of duty in Iraq.

Baker described his feelings on the occasion as he referred to the farewell ceremony in March 2003, saying, "We knew not everyone was coming home."

Larsen worked tirelessly to make the memorial a reality.

"My expectation is that the Fallen Soldier Memorial will stand as a monument to their achievements — to become a place for members of the community to offer thanks to the Soldiers and families of the Baumholder military community and to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by the heroes we honor here today," he said.

Happenings

Holiday greetings

The Hometown News Center team visits Baumholder Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to record holiday greetings for soldiers and family members. The recordings will be sent to hometown television affiliates to be aired during the holiday season.

Family members may participate along with the Soldier. Soldiers must wear their duty uniform during the recordings.

For more information call the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600 or civ (06783) 6-6191.

Force protection

A briefing on Antiterrorism, Force Protection Awareness, Subversion And Espionage Directed Against the Army is scheduled for Oct. 26 at the Wagon Wheel Theater. Conducting the briefing will be the 222nd BSB and 66th Military Intelligence Group representatives. The English version is from 1-2 p.m. followed by

the German version from 2:15-3:15 p.m.

This briefing is an annual requirement for all Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, and local national employees. Family members and dependents age 16 or older are highly encouraged to attend. Any unit or element with 10 or more people planning to attend should call to ensure space is available. Direct any questions to the Baumholder MI office, mil 485-7386 or civ (06736) 6-7386.

Yard sale

The Baumholder military community holds its semi-annual yard sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 2 in all of Baumholder's housing areas to include Smith, Wetzel Neubrücke and Strassburg housing as well as Champion Village.

All participants must clear their merchandise from outside their buildings by 6 p.m. The sale is open to all U.S. personnel. For more information call Bill Kalavsky at mil 485-6080.

High end plasma TVs not fully refundable when damaged

By Captain Leticia Soto
Legal Assistance attorney

We have all seen the big screen plasma televisions in the Power Zone and marveled at how clear the picture is, how great the sound is, how awesome it would be to have one in our homes. With so many service members returning from extended deployment, larger purchases such as plasma televisions are becoming more common. While many service members and their families want to purchase these high-end items, they should be aware that plasma televisions are very fragile, and there is a limit of how much may be paid for claims for damages to such televisions.

Although the televisions sell for thousands of dollars, the service members and their families should think about the potential cost of repairing the television if it is damaged during a government move. With constant PCSing, most of us have encountered a broken item or

two or 20. However these types of televisions have a greater risk of damage due to their sensitive nature. They are extremely sensitive to temperature, humidity and altitude, and can be damaged if not kept upright throughout the move. The televisions also can be damaged simply from shock or impact however slight. While the claims office will work with the Soldier for determining lost value based on the actual damage received for most items, when it comes to plasma televisions, the U.S. Army Claims Service has set a limit of \$1,500 per item recovery on these televisions. So no matter how long the service member owns the television or how severe the damage is, the Soldier is limited to only a maximum compensation of \$1,500.

Although the service members and their families are capped at the amount of recovery, there are still some ways they can protect their television during a move if they

simply cannot live without one. The purchaser should be sure to keep the original manufacturer's container, and make sure the movers use that container to package the television when moving time arrives.

The service members should also inform the carrier as soon as possible of his or her plan to ship a plasma television. Certain carriers may not ship these types of televisions because of their fragile nature so the service members should know early on if they need to find alternative shipment methods. Another option is for the service members to purchase private insurance to protect their financial investment. By taking a few simple precautions, service members can be assured the television will survive a Permanent Change of Station to entertain their families for many years to come. For more information contact the Baumholder Claims Office at mil 485-6507.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Col. Michael S. Tucker, 1st Armored Division assistant division commander, leads the colors during the Welcome Home Ceremony for Soldiers in Baumholder Sept. 10.

Community celebrates return of 2nd Brigade Soldiers

By **LeAnne MacAllister**
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Sept. 10, 2004, is a day for the Baumholder history books. Under sunny skies, every seat at Minick Field was filled and crowds gathered around the periphery to watch as the long-awaited Welcome Home Ceremony commenced.

Approximately 5,000 Soldiers from the Baumholder community were officially welcomed back home from their 15 month deployment to Iraq — the longest division-wide deployment since World War II.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, V Corps commander, oversaw the formation of troops as representative Soldiers from each battalion of Division Artillery and 2nd Brigade stood at attention on Minick Field. Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander, welcomed the Soldiers home.

"I can't think of any greater honor than the honor of welcoming you back home after 15 months of truly remarkable and historic accomplishments in Iraq. Thank you for this honor."

Dempsey then led the awards ceremony presentation to dedicated family members. "We are really lucky to be surrounded by heroes. How else would you describe a group of people, far from home, in a foreign land, accomplishing multiple, complex tasks simultaneously, with great perseverance, bravery, and patriotism? I'm speaking, of course, about our family members."

The enthusiastic crowd cheered as numerous family members received Family Readiness Group medallions and Heart of Victory

Awards for their service to the community while the Soldiers were deployed.

Members of the Baumholder community then rose for The Army Song. The lyrics were sung loudly by Soldiers and family members alike.

The crowd applauded the Soldiers and family members once more as the ceremony concluded.

Minutes later the festivities began. Carnival rides for young and old, games, concerts, free food and fireworks kept the community celebrating until midnight.

Thousands gathered in the festival tent to watch the show while enjoying the complimentary selection of grilled chicken, hamburgers, wurst and more.

Headlining acts included funk-rap group Custom Made, comedian Christopher Titus and alternative rock band Puddle of Mudd.

The crowd came alive to Titus' stand-up act. It was obvious he did his military homework for the routine, and the Soldiers loved the difference. "I tell my kid 'don't be afraid that the world's going to end. It can't. The 1st AD's here.'"

Puddle of Mudd kept up the energy. Soldiers were packed shoulder to shoulder surrounding the stage as the band played their familiar radio hits, including "Blurry."

Lt. Owen Banks, one of the thousands of Baumholder Soldiers returning from Iraq, echoed the sentiments of the crowds. "The Army really came through for us with this Welcome Home — Titus, Puddle of Mudd were better than we expected. You can tell they had the Soldiers specifically in mind, and that means a lot."



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A Baumholder unit uncases its colors during the Welcome Home Ceremony.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Families and Soldiers mingle on the carnival grounds for the long awaited celebration.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

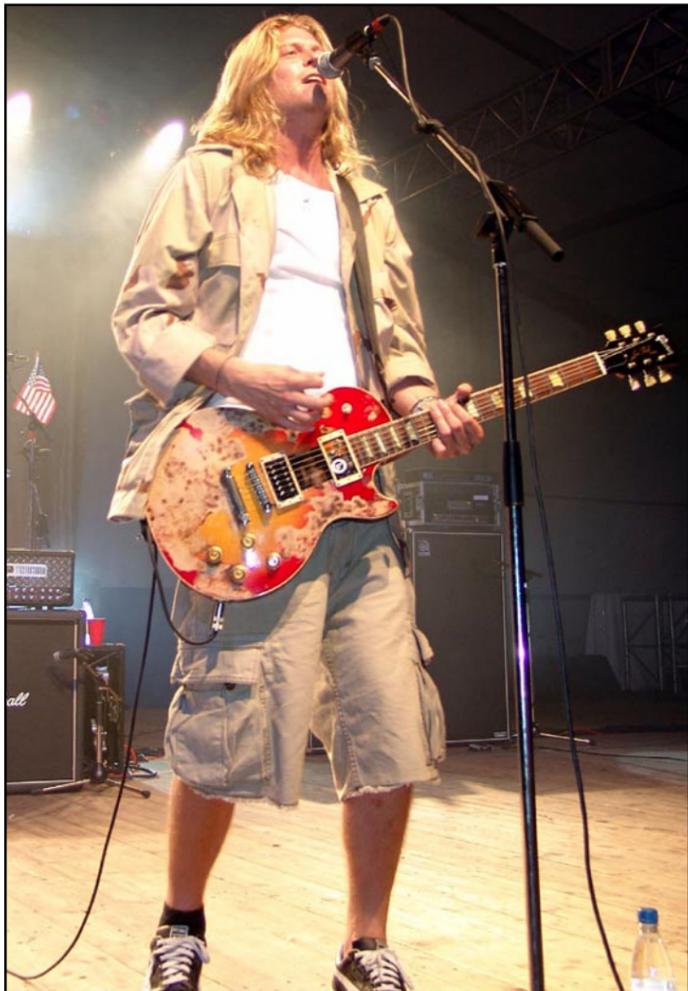


Photo by LeAnne MacAllister



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Minick Field is filled to capacity Sept. 10 as the Soldiers of 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, are welcomed home after their 15-month deployment to Iraq. After the ceremony, Soldiers and family members enjoyed the many carnival attractions in the parking lot of the Hall of Champions. Later in the evening Puddle of Mudd energized the crowd in the massive festival tent and the evening was capped by an elaborate 20-minute fire works display that was synchronized to music. Photo left: Puddle of Mudd front man Wesley Scantlin cranks out one of many tunes that electrified the audience and kept the party going well into the evening.