

Small unit does big job

Wiesbaden unit gets things moving in Iraq

Story and photos by
Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Sometimes great things come in small packages. The same can be said for the 27th Transportation Battalion stationed out of Wiesbaden, now headquartered at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.

This small unit of 51 soldiers is responsible for all movement in Iraq. After arriving in Kuwait in Feb-

ruary, the unit was augmented with 27 other units bringing up the number of personnel to 336, to aid in their large task.

“Our mission is movement control for all of Iraq, whether it is by convoy or air traffic, we’re responsible to keep track of it,” said Capt. Cecil Woode, commander of the unit’s Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. In order to keep up with their mission groups of soldiers are stationed at several strategic locations throughout Iraq

to monitor traffic movement. These seven-to-19-soldier-strong groups are known as Movement Control Teams.

During the war a major part of the mission was keeping track of ammunition: Who needed it, where it was and where it needed to go.

“During the war we had to inform the general what units needed ammo and where it was as it made it’s way there. Along with that we had to keep track of all convoys and anything being supported throughout Iraq,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Anderson, the unit first sergeant. With the war now over the focus isn’t so much on ammunition as on supplies and cargo.

The unit also has a highway traffic division that handles road management. Any convoys traveling anywhere in the country must get authorization and march credits through 27th Transportation. But travel by land isn’t the only thing this unit keeps track of. They are also responsible for airflights, both incoming and outgoing.

“We coordinate flights within Iraq. What and who needs to be on the flight and where it needs to go,” said Sgt. Jose Melendez, a member of the 619th MCT, working at Balad Army Airfield. Melendez, along with Pfc. Teresa Williams, inputs all scheduled flights coming in and going out of Balad.



Sgt. Jose Melendez, a transportation clerk with the 27th Transportation Battalion, tracks incoming and outgoing flights from Logistical Support Area Anaconda. Headquartered at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the 27th deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Engineers from Company A, 142nd Engineer Battalion, North Dakota, put the finishing touches on a “hard surface” floor in 27th Transportation Battalion tents at LSA Anaconda. The addition of raised flooring will alleviate flooding problems as the rainy season begins this month in Iraq.

Outside of their primary mission the unit is currently working on quality of life improvements for the soldiers assigned at LSA Anaconda.

“This was all one big patch of dust when we arrived here in May from Kuwait. We had the gravel brought in to reduce the dust levels and showers built as soon as we got here,” said Anderson.

The soldiers now have air conditioning, lights and a refrigerator in each tent, as well as use of a microwave. “We even have AFN hooked up in the headquarters building so soldiers can watch the same things their families are watch-

ing back home,” Anderson said.

The next big quality of life improvement will be the addition of hard-wood floors being built in the tents and an actual wooden door.

“We were able to hook up with the 142nd Engineer Battalion out of North Dakota who have been out here the past few days installing the floor and doors to all the tents,” he said.

Many of the soldiers agree that quality of life isn’t as bad as they thought. “The entire deployment has been better than I expected and our quality of life just keeps improving every day,” said Pfc. Jonathon Nelson.

Morale still challenging during deployment

By **Patricia Simoes**
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office

The mission is important, the work sched-

ule intense and the facilities are better, but the soldiers of Wiesbaden’s 141st Signal Battalion serving in Iraq are dreaming of being home.

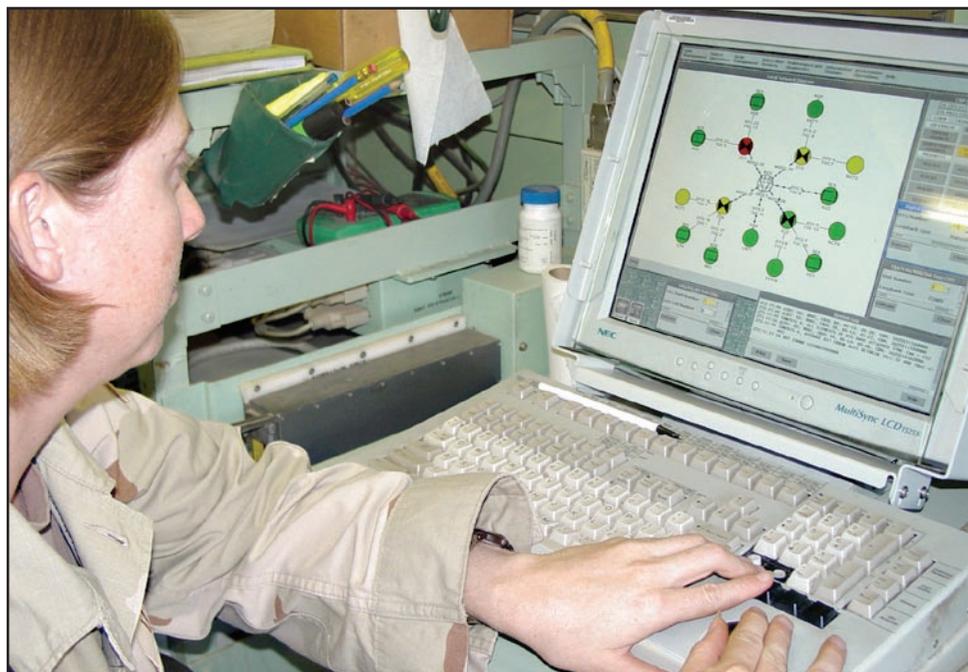


Photo by Patricia Simoes

Sgt. Audry Woolsey, a cable systems installer and maintainer, monitors the signals while being cross-trained as a node center operator.

“The one-year deployment is hard. I miss the freedom to travel, see the sites, get away from the military environment and eat at all the good restaurants,” Sgt. Audry Woolsey of Company A said. “I miss the ‘Hacienda’ and ‘Yours’ — the sports bar in downtown.”

The mission of the soldiers assigned to the al-Sijood Palace, Saddam Hussein’s former palace on the Tigris, is to provide SIPR, NIPR and DSN lines for Baumholder’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team headquartered there.

Woolsey, who will PCS in April, is hoping to get some R&R time since she will be just a few days short of completing a one-year deployment.

“If I get it, I will stay in Germany,” the single soldier said.

Things are better now for the 2nd platoon. There are showers, regular porta-potties (no more burning), and there is an MWR area in the palace and one in the unit area.

“The palace is still amazing to see,” she

said. “It’s nice to wander around it to see it change and get cleaned.”

With a one-year deployment, maintaining morale in the group is the biggest challenge for the platoon sergeant.

“The one-year deployment is hard. I miss the freedom to travel, see the sites, get away from the military environment and eat at all the good restaurants.” — Sgt. Audry Woolsey

“Communication home is important,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wood.

“I also try to get soldiers to play volleyball in the evenings — we have a net in our area — and stay busy,” Wood explained.

The unit has two soldiers currently on R&R, and Wood hopes all eligible soldiers will be able to take advantage of it.

“Personally I expected conditions to be a little more severe,” he said. “It’s easier when you prepare for the worst and it turns out to be better.”

“We even have an Iraqi worker here who can get us anything we need from the outside,” he said. “He says that he can get us anything but Saddam.”

Safety primary concern for 1st MI soldiers

By Cassandra Kardeke

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Whether at home or at war, safety comes first. That was the message stressed over and over again to 100 soldiers assigned to the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion. Headquartered at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the unit is now deployed to Logistical Support Area Anaconda, in Balad, Iraq.

"It really doesn't matter where we are, safety is always our primary concern," said the battalion's safety officer, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Petty.

The battalion along with the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, from Fort Hood, Texas, divided up into small groups and rotated

between several hands-on briefings that included field sanitation, generator safety, flight safety and the dreaded waste burning safety, widely referred to as "s*** duty."

"Nobody likes the waste burning duty, but for the environ-

ment and sanitation purposes it's something we have to do," said Sgt. Harold King, who said that the duty wasn't anything different than what soldiers had to do during Desert Storm. Soldiers from several units throughout LSA Anaconda often complain about the duty; however, when done properly it's purely safe and does keep the latrine areas clean.

"Basically what we do is take the cans from the latrines and pour diesel fuel into the can and burn the waste into ash," King said. Each can has to be burned for two and a half

hours twice a day, and stirred during the burning to ensure the waste is taken care of. Because chemical toilets are still rare to find at Anaconda, it is not an uncommon site to see cans being burned throughout the day and night at this remote installation.

"We all have to do s*** duty, it's just a way of life around here," said Sgt. 1st Class Luis Ramirez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the battalion's force protection.

Another more popular demonstration was the field sanitation briefing that focused on personal hygiene in the desert environment. Even the use of certain bug sprays and mace were explained as well as ways to keep the dust mites away. Several different types of bugs many soldiers aren't accustomed to

populate the desert area. One such bug, found by an airplane mechanic right in the hangar appeared to be a common insect, but with one significant difference. The praying mantis had a horn on its head. "I'm not sure if that's dangerous or not," said Brett Bingham, a

DynCorp aircraft technician, as he held the insect on his hand. "That's one thing that's very important out here. We've got a lot of different types of bugs that the soldiers need to be aware of," said Petty, although no one was certain whether or not the insect could be harmful.

As the unit's primary mission is to gather intelligence through their RC-12 aircraft, flight safety is always a primary concern. "Whether they've been flying for years or not, we still

"It really doesn't matter where we are, safety is always our primary concern." — Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Petty, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charlie Griffin, Company B, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, briefs soldiers on the proper entry and exiting of an aircraft during the battalion's safety day at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. Headquartered at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the battalion deployed earlier this summer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Right: Sgt. Trent Cain gets a hands-on safety lesson on the proper use of safety belts in an aircraft.



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke

need to make sure everyone knows the safety precautions needed around the aircraft," Petty said. It may seem like a "no-brainer" but even proper seatbelt safety was displayed.

All in all the soldiers took their briefings seriously and ended the day being awarded for having no injuries while on the job.



Soldiers run 10-miler in Iraq

By Pvt. 2 Christopher Fincham

3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office

More than 1,500 runners converged at Logistical Support Area Anaconda Oct. 5 to participate in the inaugural Anaconda 10-Miler.

The run, sponsored by the 3rd Corps Support Command, corresponded with the annual Army 10-Miler held in Washington, D.C., on the same day.

"We wanted to do something this fall to give soldiers an activity to look forward to and train for," said Maj. Alex Fink, the race director. "Something to kind of get their minds off of being away from home."

Originally expected to be a smaller event with runners from the post, the 10-miler quickly bal-

looned into a race of well over 1,000 runners who came to the installation, located near Balad, from posts all over Iraq.

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"There's definitely a lot more runners than we expected to see," said Fink. "We were expecting 400-500 runners and we easily doubled that."

While intended to be a fun, enjoyable run it was still a race. Broken down into various categories—overall male, overall female, numerous age groups, relay teams—winners received trophies and other prizes provided by companies such as DHL delivery service and Kellogg, Brown and Root, which support the military operations in Iraq. Every participant, as they should, will receive something for their efforts, according to Fink.

"Every finisher gets a medal," he said.

For some it was the competition, some the exercise, some the break from the routine and some

just like to run. Whatever the reasons, each runner represents the Army and the American spirit, said Fink.

"It shows the spirit of America and the strength of the Army having a 10-mile run out here under these conditions," said Fink.

For Spc. Adrian Camano of 253rd Transportation Company, it was a personal challenge of completing the 10 miles.

"I just wanted to see if I could do it," said Camano. "I was really surprised with myself. It feels really good."

Camano finished in the middle of the pack at one hour and 32 minutes, roughly 33 minutes behind the race winner Maj. Jeff Olive, who finished in 59 minutes and four seconds. The top female runner was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Angela Jewett at one hour and eight minutes and the top relay team was the 130th Engineer Brigade's 957th Mobile Ribbon Bridge Company.

123rd making home away from home

By Patricia Simoes
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 123rd Main Support Battalion soldiers are missing the birth of their babies, their wedding anniversaries, their girlfriends, family and friends, but they are working hard to make Baghdad International Airport their home.

“My site didn’t have a lot of facilities like showers, phones and MWR,” said Staff Sgt. Juan Neves, a petroleum lab specialist. “But as soon as we took over we started working to make it better. It improved a lot.”

Neves, who has a wife and two children in Wiesbaden, said that he can give his soldiers a day off every 10 days or so, but many others aren’t so lucky. Mission allowing, there is no Sunday formation so that soldiers can get some extra sleep, he said.

“Some people like to go swimming when they are off. Camp Victory is the place I go to. You have to have an NCO in the group for safety. You travel in full uniform and then swim in PT uniform,” said Neves. But most people just watch mov-

ies, go to the PX and sleep.

“We have a lot of movies we can watch and a nice little area,” said Spc. Samuel Harshaw, a communications NCOIC.

The 123rd soldiers can eat breakfast in the unit area. For lunch people usually go to the dining facility or eat an MRE, and then dinner is available in the unit area. “Weekend food is special,” said Harshaw. “Picnics, barbecues, wings — really good.”

“It’s all in the mind,” said Spc. Valerie Finnaman, a cook with the unit, when asked about the heat in a field kitchen. “Tonight I’m serving beef cubes, gravy, rice and corn.”

“Her gravy is awesome,” Harshaw said.

Calling home

“The phone is still hard,” Neves said. “Sometimes it takes 15 tries, but I usually talk to my family every Saturday night.”

Neves has a calendar his mother sent with all the birthdays and special days for the family, but he said he remembers all the important days. He uses the calendar to mark how many days he

has left before moving to Fort Lee, Va., in December.

“Email is kind of slow, and the whole thing depends on work schedules,” said Spc. Marcos Flores, a truck driver with the unit, who has a wife and three children, including a new baby, in Wiesbaden. “The baby was born in July. I was there for the first two, so missing the birth was really hard. I’m hoping to see the baby during R&R.”

Flores said that even though he misses his family a lot, he likes his job and hopes that the outcome of the mission is good.

“R&R would be great,” said Spc. Martin Hernandez, also a truck driver. “But if I don’t get to go, that’s fine too. I know I’m needed.”

Hernandez, who has a girlfriend in Germany and family in California, said that the deployment is what he expected.

“It’s adventurous. You get used to the convoys,” he said. “I’m out there about five times a week. You get used to it — you become more and more aware of what to watch for, the people and



Photo by Patricia Simoes

Sgt. Juan Neves, petroleum lab specialist assigned to the 123rd Main Support Battalion, holds up a calendar marking off the days until he moves back to the United States. Headquartered at Dexheim, the 123rd deployed to Iraq earlier this year as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

the environment, and I do my best to make sure myself and my fellow soldiers are safe.”

Spc. Anthony Patterson, a mechanic with the unit, has a girlfriend in Germany and a baby on the way.

“I will miss the birth,” he said. “By the time I get back the baby will be three or four weeks old.”

Patterson talks to his girlfriend on the phone and via email. His favorite item in the care packages she sends is soap.

Visit gives wannabe anglers a chance to talk to the pros

By Jolly Sienda
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Dressed in eye popping black race car jumpsuits with bright yellow racing stripes, a celebrity bass fishing team of Gary Yamamoto’s Custom Baits got a chance to visit with soldiers Sept. 26 at Wiesbaden’s Dining Facility.

Hosted by Outdoor Recreation, Gary and his wife Beverly had just flown in from Spain where they were preparing for the \$500,000 Casper Bass International Fishing Tourna-

ment being held near Barcelona. Joining them during their visit was Roland Martin, a veteran bass fisherman of 35 years and host of his own bass fishing television show.

“It’s both an honor and a privilege to get a chance to talk to the soldiers,” said Martin, who served as an Army officer in the 1960s.

Judy Wong, another member of the renowned fishing team, smiled and eagerly spoke to soldiers about fishing and soldiering. Wong recently took second place in the U.S. Women’s Bass Fishing Classic

Championship.

“You can find fish, but you can’t control the fish. Fishing is not catching — its recreation. We re-create and recreate 168 hours per week. I can’t think of a better way to have a good time and support myself and family,” said George Braswell, the spokesperson of the group and known as “the Singing Cherokee.”

The group was also joined by the “World’s Greatest Fishing Band,” led by singer/songwriter Gary Shiebler and “Seth” David Walters. The two-man band entertained soldiers with original bluegrass tunes “Papa Was a Fishin’ Man” and “When Tammy Does the Shimmy at the Fish Fry” from their album titled “World’s Greatest Fishing Band.”

“This was the first time that Gary Yamamoto’s team and the World’s Greatest Fishing Band have performed together. Its natural for the band to hang with us,” said Braswell. “We both like fishing.”

The fishing group will continue to tour several military installations throughout Germany as well as pay a visit to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Community news notes

Town forum set

The 221st Base Support Battalion hosts a community Town Hall Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gen. H.H. Arnold High School auditorium. All community directors will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on upcoming activities and events. The meeting is open to the public.

Gospel workshop

The 221st Base Support Battalion chapels host a free Gospel music ministry workshop Oct. 15-17. The workshop will be held at Hainerberg Chapel Oct. 15 and 17 and at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. The workshop will conclude with a free Gospel concert open to the public Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Hainerberg Chapel. For more information call mil 337-1570/6248 or civ (0611) 705-1570/6248.

Stress class

221st Base Support Battalion Social Work Services and Family Advocacy offer a Stress and Relaxation class Oct. 16 from 1-2 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 to register.

Halloween events

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service hosts Fright Night at Mainz-Kastel Oct. 31. Enjoy a haunted house, jack-'o-lantern con-



Photo by Jolly Sienda

Community gets special visit

Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army commander, visits with children at the Dexheim Child Development Center Sept. 29. While in Dexheim Bell visited several community facilities and spoke to soldiers and family members regarding their concerns.

test and haunted hay ride from 7-9 p.m. All AAFES facilities at Mainz-Kastel will remain open until 10 p.m.

The 221st Base Support Battalion chapels hosts Hallelujah Night Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m. at the Gen. H.H. Arnold High School gym. This is an alternative to trick-or-treating for children up to 11 years old. Although children are welcome to wear

costumes, no scary costumes will be permitted. Cost of the event is 2 bags of candy per family. For more information call civ (0611) 565 7181.

DA photos not available

Because of annual leave the Training and Support Center photographer will not be available Nov. 20-26. If you need Department of the Army photos make arrangements for your photos at another time. For more information call mil 337-5006 or civ (0611) 705-5006.

Help wanted

The 221st Base Support Battalion Equal Opportunity Office seeks volunteers for its Native American Special Emphasis Committee. Share your knowledge of or passion for Native American culture with other people. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 9 a.m. on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Call mil 337-5897 or civ (0611) 705-5897 for more information.

Family reunion workshops

The 221st Base Support Battalion and Army Community Service will host family reunion workshops Oct. 15 and 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 22 of ACS, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. An extra



communications techniques workshop will be held Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon and will include a free pancake breakfast. The classes are free and child care will be available. For more information and reservations call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Free lunch for students

The Catholic Women of the Chapel host a free lunch for Wiesbaden middle and high school students Oct. 22 during the school's lunch hour. No reservations are needed, just show up during the school's lunch hour for a free meal.

Wahoo bingo

Support the Wahoo Swim Team during a Polish Pottery Bingo fundraiser Oct. 24 at the Hainerberg Food Court. Cards go on sale at 6:30 p.m. and games start at 9 p.m.

Dinner with Kontakt

Join the German-American friendship club, Kontakt, for an unforgettable dining experience at a Persian restaurant Oct. 17. Call mil 337-5772, civ (0160) 65 55976 or (0172) 67 15152 for more information and directions.

Helping the Iraqis: a two-way street

By Patricia Simoes
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

When Baumholder's 47th Forward Support Battalion settled in to the Baghdad International Airport area in May, the village on the other side of the wall posed a security concern.

It was clear that to successfully support the 2nd Brigade Combat Team — the unit's core mission — they had to do something about the neighbors. Hiring the village people to work for the unit was the first step.

"In the beginning there was a lot of shooting," said Lt. Col. Paul Hurley, the battalion commander. "Not now."

Besides employing the people, the unit also helps by supporting an orphanage, clearing unexploded ordnance with the help of Explosive Ordnance Disposal, providing medical assistance, and providing water, food and clothes. In late September, Spc. Tomi Jacobs re-enlisted in the village.

"When we got there, the village council was talking about how to keep the bad people from influencing the village," said Chaplain (Capt.) Terry Kesling. "Like in most places in Iraq, the bad guys intimidate people into helping them attack us."

Jacobs chose to re-enlist in the village because she wanted it to be a helping event.

"We usually help out anyway, but being there showing we are there for them made my day special," she said. "The people are very hospitable and giving."

The orphanage

Al-Wiya, an all-girl orphanage accommodating about 40 children whose parents cannot support them, requested help from female soldiers who could serve as positive role models while teaching about American culture.

A group of about six women from the 47th FSB volunteered to do the job.

They visit the orphanage about three times a month and hope to go more often as the security situation improves.

When they visit, they play games, learn Arabic, teach English, teach dances and they also take items such as personal hygiene products, clothing and school materials that the unit's FRG is sending to support the effort.

Kisses and hugs

"Going there is good for us and for them," said Spc. Johanna Landry. "It makes you feel good because they are so open with kisses and hugs — being in a military environment all the time, you don't show affection much."

Even though a translator goes to the orphanage with the group, the girls are very eager to talk and show the English they know, she



Photo courtesy of the 47th Forward Support Battalion

2nd Lt. Jenny Stewart gathers some of the girls from the Al-Wiya orphanage around her.

said.

Capt. Sonya Rowe, who in the States worked as a mentor in a boys and girls center in Virginia, said that the girls will get together and as a group to form sentences and get their thoughts across.

"They are very interested in learning," 2nd Lt. Jenny Stewart said. "The best part is to observe

their reaction to you — there is lots of interaction with male soldiers in the village, but not much with females — so they love to play with your hair as they realize you are one of them — we are also girls."

Sgt. Roger Kennedy volunteered to provide security for the orphanage mission. He secures the door and the women's weapons and gear. "I love

kids — I have five," he said.

"The other day a 3-year-old from the village walked over when I was securing the door and shook my hand. I melted all over. It makes you feel good about being here. This place is not what you see on TV. When my father was in Vietnam, he didn't get to do this type of thing," he said. "He is glad I can."

Soldier credited with saving 2-year-old's life

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Like most people who voluntarily come to the aid of others, Spc. William Sanders does not consider himself a hero. But his quick response to the events that unfolded Sept. 9 helped save a 2-year-old girl from choking to death.

Williams, a member of the 92nd Military Police Company, was walking down the street near Burger King when he noticed two women hurriedly stepping out of a car that had just pulled over to the curb.

They quickly moved to the back of the car and took a child out of the back seat. He heard one of the women crying for help so he ran toward them to see what he could do.

"I saw that they were in trouble and I just ran up there. I didn't really know exactly what was going on at first. I was kind of scared too, I guess, because I didn't know what I would be able to do. I just wanted



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Spc. William Sanders receives an Army Commendation Medal from Command Sgt. Maj. Ann McDaniels during the September LINKS meeting as Berenice Sandoval and her daughter Genesis look on.

to see if I could do something," said Sanders

Moments before, Berenice Sandoval had stopped at the ATM machine near Burger King. While she was using the machine, her

friend and neighbor had given Sandoval's 2-year-old daughter, Genesis, a piece of candy which apparently became lodged in the child's throat.

"I could tell she was choking, so

I pulled over to the side of the road," said Sandoval. By the time I got out of the car my neighbor had already taken Genesis' seatbelt off so I pulled her out and I put my finger down her throat to see if I could feel anything. I didn't feel anything so then I panicked and I started screaming 'she's choking,'" said Sandoval.

While Sandoval was crying for help a private walked by but, "he just said he didn't know what to do," said Sandoval.

"Then I looked back and saw Spc. Sanders, who I didn't know at the time, running toward us. He took Genesis from me, bent down on one knee and put her over his knee and did the Heimlich maneuver for infants and toddlers on her. She threw up a little and then she threw up the piece of candy," said Sandoval.

"I just patted her over her back a couple of times and she started breathing a little bit so I did it again and she spit the candy out that she

had in her mouth," said Sanders.

Sanders credits his Army training for his actions. "I guess stuff that I've learned while being in the Army kind of came into play. The training pays off," said Sanders.

For his heroic actions Sanders was presented the Army Commendation Medal by Command Sgt. Maj. Ann McDaniels at the recent LINKS meeting before members of the community and numerous soldiers from his unit.

"Quite often, around here, we have soldiers who do outstanding things," said McDaniels. "He just happened to be walking down the street, but being the soldier and MP that he is, he came in and took charge," said McDaniels.

The grateful mother admits she was very scared. "I'm just very thankful to him because I don't know what would have happened.

"I don't know how to thank him. He acts like it's OK, like he's not a hero, but he's my personal hero," said Sandoval.

Military thanks citizens for support

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

It was a perfect Indian summer's day in September as guests from the city of Baumholder gathered at the Rod and Gun Club for a German-American fun day. Numerous city dignitaries and members of Pro Baumholder, an organization of business owners and merchants, were hosted by the 222nd Base Support Battalion in thanks for the numerous contributions and support they have provided to Baumholder's deployed soldiers.

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd BSB commander, told the guests that the military community appreciates and is grateful for all they do on a day-to-day basis for the deployed soldiers. He added that their support was not only in words but also in deeds, referring to such things as the ongoing care package program which provides single soldiers downrange numerous "bare necessity" type items that are not readily available to them in Iraq. Pro Baumholder is coordinating this program with Army Community Service and the numerous family readiness groups.

Buchs recognized Maj. Lars Keine, representing the German



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Jürgen Muhr, Military Training Area commander, is thanked for his support of deployment operations by Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander. Oberstleutnant Jürgen Schaadt (left), Idar-Oberstein chief of police, was also among those Buchs thanked for their support.

Artillery School in Idar-Oberstein, Ingrid Schwerdtner, assistant city mayor, and Udo Schweihs, assistant district mayor, for their efforts in organizing numerous trips for family members of deployed soldiers.

Maintaining security of the Baumholder military community while the soldiers are deployed has been a challenging task so Baumholder military officials called on the German military and Polizei for assistance. Recognized for their

assistance were Erich Roob, acting Baumholder chief of police, Hans-Jürgen Schaadt, Idar-Oberstein chief of police, Oberstleutnant Jürgen Muhr, Military Training Area commander, and Hauptmann Zollner from the Verteidigungs

Bezirks Kommando in Trier.

Sigrid Zimmer, owner of the Hotel Burghof in Baumholder and a member of Pro Baumholder, was recognized for her care package initiative together with FRG members Natalie Carrillo and Tina Olsen.

Buchs also took the opportunity to introduce Cindy Scaparrotti, wife of Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, assistant division commander for maneuvers.

It was also a time to recognize heroes in the community who came to the aid of Americans. This summer, four Americans were rescued from drowning in Baumholder Lake.

Most recently a child was saved from drowning by quick response and actions of Mareike Heinz and Patrick Geibel. Günter Heinz was also recognized for coming to the aid of Americans this summer and Michael Röhrig, president of the local Deutschen Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft (German lifesaver's organization), accepted certificates of recognition for the others who were not able to attend.

After the formalities German and American guests were treated to an American style barbecue and were offered the opportunity to participate in games of horseshoes and basketball.

Free via cable service

Baumholder Information Channel on the air

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

A new channel featuring local Baumholder information is now on the air. The program is available on cable to residents in Smith Barracks and Housing as well as Wetzels, Neubrücke and Strassburg Housing, and Champion Village.

The channel has been fittingly baptized as the Baumholder Information Channel, or BIC for short.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion has contracted with TKS, the cable company servicing the military community, to provide this service to Baumholder residents. The service is free to all residents who have cable service in their residences, which includes practically all Baumholder residents.

"As long as you have cable, you will be able to receive the new Command Information Channel," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer. Public Affairs operates the channel directly from the 222nd BSB head-

quarters. "Every building that has cable service, regardless if the residents have paid service or are just receiving the free cable package, will be able to receive the new information channel," she said.

Some customers will automatically receive the channel on their television while others will need to conduct a "search" on their televisions in order to receive the channel. Those who can tune their television to a specific frequency can find the channel at 67.250. The program is also viewable on channel A04.

The new channel also features a "ticker tape" along the bottom of the screen where emergency information can be displayed. "With winter weather approaching, this is an excellent means of getting the word out to community residents whenever we have inclement weather conditions and the commander decides to delay school or work hours," said Dwoiakowski. Updates to the channel are almost instantaneous so the community will receive critical information as

quickly as it can be typed into the channel.

The new channel is much more sophisticated than the old Commander's Access Channel that was available to residents in Baumholder and featured a very simple text format and AFN music in the background.

"That was a very problematic and labor intense process," said Dwoiakowski. The new channel is Power Point based, and almost anything that can be created in Power Point can be included in the channel.

"The channel also features background music as well as all the 'bells and whistles' that can be created with Power Point," said Dwoiakowski.

Practically any information that is currently disseminated via flyers or leaflets can be placed on the channel and will be instantly available to the entire community. "This will be an excellent means for organizations like family readiness groups and service agencies to put out their information to the commu-

nity in a timely manner," said Dwoiakowski.

Public Affairs has established procedures and policies for the new Command Information Channel. The only limitation to the channel is that if customers do not have access to a computer with Power Point capability, they will have to find a means of putting their information in the proper format for submission to Public Affairs.

Like any new endeavor, growing pains are expected.

"We are urging all our customers to be patient until we get into the routine of producing this broadcast and have ironed out all the kinks in the system," said Dwoiakowski.

Agencies that wish to use this new and free service may call Public Affairs for information at mil 485-6191 or civ (06783) 6-6191.

Rheinlander Club

mil 485-7507

Saturday market

The Baumholder Saturday market is like an indoor garage sale. Persons can buy or sell household items, children's items, clothes and much more. Reserve a space for \$5. Tables rent for \$7 and \$10. The next Saturday market is Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rheinlander Ballroom.

Outdoor Rec

mil 485-7182

Furniture shopping

Are you still looking for just the right accents to make your govern-

ment quarters feel like home? Let Outdoor Rec take you shopping at Ikea, the Swedish home furnishing store. The cost for transportation is \$24 for adults and \$15 for children. Trips are scheduled for Oct. 16, Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4 and 18.

Polish pottery

Get on the express shopping trip to Poland and pick up some Polish pottery. The cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Make reservations one week in advance. Trips

are scheduled for Nov. 14-15 and Dec. 12-13.

Frankfurt Zoo

There is still time for a day trip to the Frankfurt Zoo. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. The next trips are Nov. 1, 22 and Jan. 17.

Flea markets

You can find antiques, furniture and souvenirs galore by joining Outdoor Rec on flea market excursions. The cost is

\$35 for adults and \$15 for children. Trips are scheduled to the Metz Flea Market Oct. 25, the Saarbrücken Flea Market Nov. 8 and the Luxembourg Flea Market Nov. 22.

Mall experience

You can have an American mall experience at Centro Mall. The cost is \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Reserve your seat for trips on Oct. 18, Nov. 15 or Dec. 13.

Express shopping

Reserve a seat today for an express shopping trip to Karlovy Vary and the Dragon Flea Market. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$45 for children. Trips are scheduled for: Oct. 24-25, Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 19-20.

Hit the slopes

Take a break from the everyday routine with a one-day ski trip to the Black Forest. The cost for transportation is \$65 for adults and \$45 for children. Reserve your seat early because space is limited. Trips are scheduled for Dec. 27, Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 7 and March 6.

MWR update

Exercise to test community response to mass casualty, terrorist incident

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The 222nd Base Support Battalion and numerous German and American emergency response agencies will be exercising their ability to respond to an emergency involving mass casualties Oct. 25 beginning at 2 p.m. in the Champion Village area near the Aral gas

station.

Emergency response agencies including the German Red Cross, Polizei, Provost Marshal and Health Clinic will use their equipment and vehicles so motorists are asked to be extra cautious when driving in the area at that time.

The exercise will test the emergency response plans and procedures of the numerous agencies in the event of a terrorist attack resulting in mass casualties.

Champion Village residents who will be affected by the exercise will be notified in advance. "Since numerous vehicles and personnel will be involved, persons not participating in the exercise are asked to avoid traveling through the area during this time," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer. Motorists should also watch for detours.

European 'Super Bowl' comes to Minnick Field

It's the Super Bowl of European high school football and it's coming to Baumholder Nov. 1. Billed as the Super Six Playoffs, the division I, II, and III championships begin at 10:30 a.m. on Minnick Field.

"We're going to have quite an influx of people in the community the day before as at least 400 players will be arriving," said Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer.

All together, 3,000-4,000 people are expected to find their way to Baumholder Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 for the championship playoffs.

The Division III game is at 10:30 a.m. Division II plays at 2:30 p.m. and Division I will be under the lights at approximately 5:30 p.m., depending on when the other two finish.

Teams fall under Divisions I, II,

or III according to the size of the school. Being a school with a small number of students, Baumholder falls under Division III.

"We'll probably be in the playoffs, it's hard to tell," said Dom Calabria, Baumholder American High School principal. "Ansbach probably is the team to beat in Division III since they were the champs last year and they have a pretty good team this year," he said.

"Baumholder was chosen primarily because of the outstanding facility and force protection," said Calabria. To help feed the influx of people, AAFES will keep its food court facilities open longer during the championships.

Planners are also hoping to include NFL participation and performances by the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders.

CARE Fair centralizes community information

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

About 350 community members turned out for Baumholder's 10th annual CARE Fair Sept. 27 at the Hall of Champions.

This program provides a central location where members of the community can receive information on programs and services offered at Baumholder. Family members can receive up-to-date communications and sign up for services and activities offered throughout the year.

This event is valuable for people new to the community or those who would simply like to get more information about clubs, organizations or other activities offered in Baumholder.

The event also gives agencies throughout Baumholder the oppor-

tunity to market their programs to the community.

Some 35 organizations were on hand to provide information to the community. Customers obtained information from organizations such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation; fire and emergency services; Provost Marshal; Protestant Women of the Chapel; American Women's Activities Germany; Baumholder Community Spouses Club; Red Cross; the Boy Scouts; and more.

The Red Cross gave away cotton candy and the Boy Scouts set up a camp fire demonstration and cooked chili outside the Hall of Champions.

"The MPs had a line constantly for their ident-a-child program," said John Visneski, CARE Fair coordinator. "We're hoping to do another CARE Fair when all the soldiers get back," he said.

It's Domestic Violence Awareness Month

'Make the changes that strengthen families and relationships'

Commentary by Julie Gowel

Army Community Service marketing manager

The term "wife beater" is sometimes used to describe a flimsy white tank top some men wear to the gym. However a real wife beater is not nearly as soft as his cotton counterpart.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Army Community Service is promoting consciousness from within the Baumholder neighborhood.

"We need the commands and the community to step up the effort to identify and report family violence. With accountability and responsibility for the offenders, we can make a difference in the human dimension of family wellness," said ACS Family Advocacy Program manager Floyd Davison. According to the Bureau for At-Risk Youth, domestic violence is non-discriminatory with regards to race, religion, ethnicity, geography and so-

cial class, and exists in one out of every four marriages.

Statistics show that only one in every 10 incidents of abuse is reported to the police. There are many reasons why victims do not come forward. According to the Bureau of Justice statistics 90-95 percent of domestic violence victims are women and may not file complaints with the police out of fear that it will provoke another attack. Others are ashamed of the relationship and suffer from low self-esteem. Still others are afraid officials will not believe their allegations of abuse.

Children face an almost insurmountable struggle as they are often times unable to escape the violence and do not know enough to tell someone about the abuse. Some factors contributing to child abuse are stress, economic hardship and parent immaturity. Parents begin to feel overwhelmed in situations such as a deployment of a family member or insufficient funds to pay bills and other living expenses and may

turn to violence in reaction to their frustration. Drugs and alcohol are also triggers for abuse against children.

Whatever the reason, it is time for the community as a whole to recognize domestic abuse as a threat to the morale and welfare of our families.

"Make the changes that strengthen families and relationships. Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives," is the motto for this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Community awareness is the goal for October. Everyone can participate simply by learning more about domestic abuse. Learn how you might be able to spot abuse and possibly help save the life of a woman or child of our community. Some signs of domestic abuse include:

□ Unexplained bruises or recurrent bruises with unreliable explanations;

□ Signs of neglect such as poor hygiene or dirty clothing;

□ An erratic attendance record at school or day care with no explanation;

□ Withdrawal or passivity from normal everyday activities;

□ Open marital or relationship conflict in front of others.

ACS and the Family Advocacy Program are participating in a community outreach program for domestic violence awareness.

There will be an informational booth set up at the entrance of the PX on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Friday, Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by to get your booklets about domestic violence and recognition along with other "goodies" to help promote awareness.

Also, look for members of the Family Advocacy Program team at Family Readiness Group meetings this month. "Strong Families and Relationships, Right Attitude, Right Action." For more information contact ACS at civ (06783) 6-8188 or stop by Building 8746, second floor.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week 2003 is Oct. 23-31. The campaign's theme is "Unite For a Drug Free World." The campaign runs throughout the 104th Area Support Group. The 104th ASG joins individuals, businesses, schools and community organizations across America to say no to drugs.

Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for people and communities to take a visible stand against drug abuse and to show their personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the red ribbon.

The Red Ribbon campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a DEA agent, in 1985. This began the continuing tradition of wearing and displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance toward the abuse of drugs.

The purpose of the campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America.