

On patrol in Iraq with the 501st MPs

Friedberg platoon makes streets safer for Iraqis, coalition forces

By Patricia Simoes

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. for a squad of Military Police rolling out of Baghdad International Airport for their morning patrol. It ends at 9 p.m. as they return from the night patrol happy for a “slow one” after having drawn fire during their last three night missions.

“We are the bad luck squad,” said Staff Sgt. Arthur Staniec, a member of 2nd Squad, 1st platoon, 501st Military Police Company. “We had three consecutive attacks in six days. A lot of the people are friendly to us, but they are being threatened by these groups,” said Staniec, who is assigned to a Wiesbaden platoon but is now serving with the Friedberg-based platoon.

A patrol normally consists of a squad of six soldiers, three noncommissioned officers and three vehicles. The morning patrol is usually a couple of hours long, and the night one can be anywhere from two to four hours depending on what they find, Staniec said.

“We are looking for IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) along the MSRs (Main Supply Routes) to make sure convoys don’t hit it,” he said. “If we see something suspicious with wires coming out, we call for EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) support.”

With three vehicles, one looks at one shoulder of the road, the other watches the center and the third watches the other shoulder. When one vehicle stops, all others stop to cover.

“The night patrol lasts longer because we also patrol the area looking for local terrorists,” he said.

Squads rotate patrol duty every other day, so each team has a day on patrol and a day not on patrol.

The 1st platoon normally supports the 1st Brigade, but they are supporting Division Artillery in Baghdad with their escort needs. The platoon also works on detainee transfers, EOD escort and other missions that may come up.

In the morning they are usually the only MPs out. In the evenings they see other patrols, he said.

As the patrol makes its rounds, the gunner, Pvt. Christopher Cowan, says there are a couple of vehicles stopped on the side of the road up ahead. The squad stops to check them.

“One was a broken down taxi — the orange and white vehicle, and the other was the milk man,” Staniec says. “We have to check any stopped vehicles on the MSR for IED and weapons.”

As the squad rolls on Staniec talks about his wife, who is

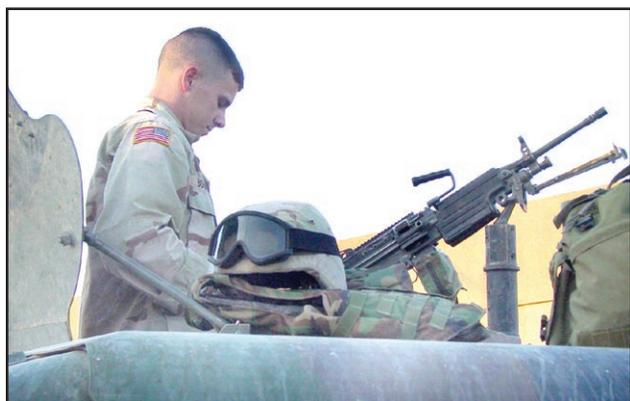


Photo by Patricia Simoes

Spc. Douglas Bowers prepares for a night patrol.



Photo by Pvt. Christopher Cowan

Members of the 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, 501st Military Police Company, check a vehicle during a morning patrol in Iraq.

in Balad with the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, and about their daughter who is 18 months old and is staying with his parents in Chicago. Their photos are neatly taped to his area of the armored vehicle.

“There is a box on the road,” the gunner says. As they drive past it, Staniec notes that it is empty.

After driving up and down MSR Jackson, the road to Kuwait, and making about 10 stops to check vehicles on the side of the road, the squad drives past sunflower fields, a few people and stray dogs as they head back to BIAP (Baghdad International Airport).

“Two more weeks,” says Spc. Robert Colwell, the driver, who will be PCSing to Fort Rucker, Ala. “I hope nothing happens.”

Once inside BIAP the squad stops for morning chow.

Back in the unit area, a hard building the 1st platoon shares with a Hanau chemical unit, Cowan says he is going to get some sleep, and explains that unless something happens, the squad has the day to themselves before going out on night patrol.

Members now have a satellite and can watch American Forces Network television. As the soldiers wait for “Survivor” to come on TV, Staniec describes what it’s like to be out on patrol. “It’s an armored vehicle with armored glass,” he says. “Getting shot at is not as scary as IED, but it’s all bad.”

“You come to expect it,” says Cowan, who awakes from his nap. “Something is always gonna happen.”

“You fear that someone will get hurt,” Staniec says. “You hope that nobody will. And there is a sense of relief when you get back and everybody is all right.”

“They should do a ‘Survivor’ Iraq,” says Staniec. “I would participate, but I wanna play for 39 days like they do in the show.”

Night patrol

During the evening meal in the unit area Staniec tells the platoon leader that one of the soldiers offered to take the place of a soldier who doesn’t want to go back out. After confirming the soldier is physically fit for duty, the platoon leader, 1st Lt. Nicholas Pottratz, says the soldier has to go or he will never get over the incident.

Then at 6:30 p.m. it’s roll-out time.

“The LT comes out on patrol with us after we get hit,” Spc. Douglas Bowers, a gunner, explains. “He also comes out randomly.”

The soldiers are tense, but there is determination on every

face. The driver, Pvt. 2 Christopher “Andy” Anderson, says he was unconscious after the last attack. Another soldier hurt his arm in that incident and was sent to Landstuhl.

Bowers, who says he was knocked unconscious after the same attack, takes his position. Pottratz gets into the vehicle. The first two vehicles move past with Pottratz’s taking the rear. The first half of the patrol is uneventful. Pottratz talks to the gunner and driver about R&R plans and about his apartment in Wiesbaden — he commutes to Friedberg.

As the squad drives slowly past the market where hundreds gather, Pottratz tries to break the intensity of the moment. “I’m thinking about buying property here to retire in,” he says. The gunner and driver laugh. “Lots of tough looks out there tonight,” he adds.

“Shots fired,” the gunner announces after passing the market area. “Kind of far.”

“Big gun?” Pottratz asks.

“Big,” Bowers answers, “bigger than an AK-47.”

The gunner hears shots four times during the patrol, but always in the distance. The squad makes a couple of stops to check vehicles on the side of the road.

Pottratz wants to stop on the ramp where the squad got hit by the IED two nights before. The lieutenant and the squad inspect the area using huge flashlights. It’s clear.

As the squad heads back to BIAP, the conversation turns to Oktoberfest, beer and girls. “Oktoberfest — what an oxymoron. It’s in September,” Pottratz says. “I don’t really care that I will miss it. I went last year, and it was a little disappointing — 110,000 people sitting around drinking beer in a tent.”

As they talk about R&R plans, Andy, the driver, asks the lieutenant about his plans.

“I don’t know about this R&R thing,” he says. “What am I gonna do? Everybody is here. Get drunk by myself on my couch, eat and sleep? I don’t know.”

“Well sir, maybe you will find yourself a girl,” Andy says. “The right one sir.”

“What do you know about ‘the right one’ Andy,” Pottratz asks. “You are 19.”

“The right girl for him is any girl sir,” Bowers yells from the gunner position.

As everybody laughs, the squad rolls into BIAP.

“Nice break,” Bowers says, opening his vest as Andy and the lieutenant step out to clear their weapons.

“About time, huh?” Andy says as he returns to the vehicle.

Getting to know his daughter

R&R leave gives soldier more than relief from Iraqi duty

By Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

When Spc. Jeffrey Hill, a soldier serving with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, in Iraq, learned his wife Jennifer had given birth to a healthy baby girl, little did he think he'd soon be holding the baby in his arms.

His commander and first sergeant delivered the good news about the birth while the unit was in transit during the height of the war. "The news put a big smile on my face, but I had to continue with my mission," Hill said.

"It was not until three days later that I had a chance to talk to my husband on the phone," said Jennifer. "It was so good to hear his voice, and all we did was cry and laugh and share the happy moment."

Baby Abigail was the first of 25 babies within 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, born since their fathers deployed. Now thanks to the Rest and Recuperation program, many parents are getting a chance to see their children — some for the first time ever.

Hill said he was happy to be able to come home and felt quite nervous about the up-



Photo by Petra Roberts

Spc. Jeffrey Hill gets better acquainted with his daughter, Abigail, as his wife, Jennifer, looks on during his 15 days of R&R leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom duty.

coming reunion with his family while flying home. "I didn't know that my wife would meet us at the airport, so after our briefing my buddy and I headed for the bus to go home. The bus was delayed."

Jennifer wanted to surprise her husband and had made the decision to meet him at the airport as soon as she got word he would be returning home on R&R leave. "It did not take

much to decide to meet him at the airport. There were so many people and cameras, I didn't know where to go. All I saw were soldiers in desert combat uniforms, but I knew that I would eventually see my husband," she said.

"When we did see each other we were walking in opposite directions and all of a sudden happened to see each other," said

Hill. "Had the bus left on time, we would have missed each other, and, upon my arrival in Giessen, I would have wondered where my wife and daughter were at 3 a.m."

Hill said he enjoys the family time and playtime with Abigail. "I feel so much better now knowing that my wife and baby are doing all right. When I return to Iraq, separation will not be as hard for the next months as it has been before I was able to see my daughter," he said.

Living conditions for soldiers in Iraq have improved, he added. "We now live in the Alimeda palace, one of the many palaces in Baghdad. The living conditions and the morale are much better now than it was before. The situation in Iraq has definitely changed. When Saddam's sons were killed, Iraqis celebrated in the streets, and the entire city looked like it was lit up by fireworks on the Fourth of July. People were shooting in the air, dancing and celebrating.

"What I hope for now is that Iraqi leaders, who everybody can trust, will be established soon," Hill said. "The police force is up and we are also training Iraqi soldiers at our camp. I am looking forward to being able to help Iraqis build a stable living environment."

While a vital mission awaits Hill upon his return to Iraq, for now he is enjoying a couple weeks of downtime — quality time with his wife, Jennifer, and becoming better acquainted with his daughter, Abigail.

Reunion — a chance for a new beginning

Commentary by Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart

284th Base Support Battalion Chaplain's Office

Deployment is a way of life for the military, always followed by reunion. Deployments are usually for training purposes, although recent deployments are real and the resultant injuries and deaths are part of a wartime deployment.

As hard and difficult as these separations are, the resultant reunions can often be as difficult, if not more difficult than leaving. And, yes, chaplains experience the difficulty of leav-

ing and the resultant difficulties, joys and happiness that accompany every deployment.

Whether with or separated from loved ones there is a continual and constant growth factor that cannot be denied. When together, loved ones do not see these changes or growth. This might be because everyone is experiencing the same growth, and as it happens together each enhances the growth of the other (*as growth and growing together as husband and wife*).

When separated, this growth is not a mutual

growing together as each will grow in different ways. The resulting differences must be met and dealt with in each situation in different ways — as each individual is different.

Is there a common denominator that will not only make reunion easier but also make these reunions joyful and pleasurable and bring the parties close together? Two factors seem to surface when reunions occur. They are communication and moving slowly. Can we separate these two elements? Do they work together for a happy and effective reunion? Or are they separate elements which have nothing to do with the other?

Looking back before marriage you might very easily recognize that you did not meet and decide to marry that same day. No, there was a slow progression of thoughts, feelings and desires toward each other. The one element which enhanced this often slow progression to marriage was communication. The topics covered everything in your present life and projections for the future.

Reunion after deployments should not pick up where you left off before separation. If so the reunion is harder to handle and will take much longer. Looking at the end of the separation as a chance for a new beginning — similar to the beginning that brought you together in the first place and led to marriage — is probably the best way to proceed.

Communication is the exchange of ideas and thoughts, hopes and desires. Communication is the beginning of a relationship

and the greatest element in making relationships stronger. Communication is a two-way street in which each speaks, hears and exchanges thoughts, desires and hopes for the present and the future. Communication must also be a slow and gradual process.

Programs "downrange" and at the time of returning home for Rest and Recuperation, or termination of a deployment, are intended to reunite separated spouse and friends in a peaceful and complete manner. Reunion can be joyful and as difficult as was separation, but the joy and happiness experienced at reunion are meant for and intended to bring peace, harmony and love back into focus to produce happy endings to difficult situations. We ought not to exclude our maker or Supreme Being or God from this equation in bringing about a happy and life-long relationship.

Many years ago Father Patrick Peyton coined the phrase, "The family that prays together, stays together." Why has not prayer and turning to God been a part of reunion?

Sometimes questions are asked that cannot be easily and quickly answered and this might very well be one such question. Prayer and reading from the Bible together is the unheralded element in a happy life together, and God and his presence in our life and in our everyday activities is the silent partner who can help to guarantee success to our efforts.

Yes, even chaplains deploy, and they bring God to our efforts during and after deployment.

Community spotlight . . . Community spotlight

Red Ribbon Week

The 284th Base Support Battalion joins other communities across the United States in observing Red Ribbon Week Oct. 20-24. Community members will pin on red ribbons and take part in various BSB and school events aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. Giessen Middle/High School holds a Boot Out Drugs Day Oct. 20 (wear boots to show your support), Sock it to Drugs Day Oct. 21 (wear wacky socks), a Red Food Day Oct. 22, a Wear Red Day Oct. 23 and a Red Ribbon Pumpkin Run at the Schiffenberg Castle Oct. 24. Other events at the school include an awards assembly, surprise events, a cadet challenge and more. Everyone in the community is invited to take part.

Hearts, Hands events

The Hearts and Hands Community Club sponsors an evening of bingo for its members at the Butzbach Elementary School Oct. 17. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

The Hearts Apart Autumn Feast takes place Oct. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature fall foods. Children are welcome. Call Martha Pinion at mil 324-3465 for details.

The club features a Wine and Wreath Auction at the Villa Calabria on Friedberg's Ray Barracks Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Membership applications are available at the door. The event includes a wine tasting, appetizers, wine sold by the case, Polish pottery, a silent wreath auction and more. Child care will be available from 6-11 p.m. at the Friedberg Child Development Center by reservation only. Call mil 343-7028 by Oct. 17 for child care reservations. Cost of child care is \$12.50 per child including a meal.

Changes at WIC-O

The 284th Base Support Battalion's WIC-O program welcomes a new wellness counselor, Sharon Messinger, and has new hours of operation — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. The Friedberg WIC-O office has closed and a new Butzbach office opened in Building 6543. Hours at the Butzbach center are Monday to Friday



Photo by Petra Roberts

Hispanic cooking class

Community volunteer Rosa Kaczmarek teaches a class in Hispanic cooking at the Bad Nauheim Commissary during Hispanic Heritage Month. Spc. Josh and Esther Hayes of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-37th Armor, watch as Kaczmarek prepares chicken enchiladas.

from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-6 p.m. For more information or to see if you are WIC-O eligible call Sharon Messinger at civ (0641) 402-7448 or Mary Shrank at civ (06033) 925 736.

Vehicle registration extensions

Vehicle registration extensions can be completed by the rear detachments. A sample of the memo needed is available at the welcome desk at the MP station. The Vehicle Registration office staff cannot complete this memo unless it has the rear detachment commander's signature. For vehicles that have already been extended once for a six-month period, another extension will be necessary soon. For more information call the Vehicle Registration office at mil 343-8534 or civ (0641) 402-8534.

Holiday mail help

People mailing five or more packages at their local Army Post Office can obtain an

appointment to do so at the APO from 9-10 a.m. Call at least one day in advance. Volunteers are also needed at the APO to get mail out to families in the United States and deployed. For more information call mil 324-3198/3109.

Play, auditions at Keller Theater

Giessen Keller Theater hosts "Heartland," a comedy by Tony Dunham, Oct. 17-18 starting at 7:30 p.m. Auditions for the Christmas production and "Harvey" will be held Oct. 21-22 at 7 p.m. at the Keller Theater. For details call mil 343-6515.

Home schoolers

Parents who home school their children must register with the school liaison officer in Building 115, Room 109. For details call Tina Sandell at mil 343-7047.

New legal center hours

The Giessen and Friedberg legal centers have new hours of operation. The Giessen Legal Center is now open Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Friedberg Legal Center is now open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. Contact the Giessen Legal Center at mil 343-8269/6017 or the Friedberg Legal Center at mil 324-3867/3871 for more information.

Parent support group

Army Community Service is forming a new deployment support group offering parents the opportunity to talk about the challenges of deployment and redeployment, tips on how to survive as a "single parent" and information about community resources for families with children. Refreshments will be provided and children are welcome. For more information call Katherine Rodgers at Giessen ACS mil 343-9311, Tamara Smith at the Butzbach Outreach Center at mil 343-8076 or Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3421.

Butzbach Health Clinic

The Butzbach Health Clinic has new hours. The clinic is now open Monday to Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call mil 345-0451.

Children craft classes

The Giessen Arts and Craft Center offers a class for children ages 6-10 every Thursday afternoon from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.50 and includes all materials. On Oct. 28 learn the art of gallery glass. On Nov. 7 create foamy door hangers. Call mil 343-6445 or civ (0641) 402-6445 for more information. The Friedberg Arts and Craft Center offers a class for children ages 6-10 every Tuesday afternoon from 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$5.50. New crafts are taught every week. Call mil 324-3266 civ (06031) 81-3266.

Homeward Bound Workshop

Army Community Service addresses the logistical, financial and psychological adjustments families must make when relocating after a tour overseas. The Homeward Bound Workshop will be held at Giessen ACS Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. Contact Patricia Harper in Giessen at mil 343-6910 or Christina Dailey in Friedberg at mil 324-3789.

Keep in touch

The Butzbach Outreach Center has computers available with Internet access for spouses to email family members. For more information call civ (06033) 925 329.

Bad Nauheim Outreach

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center is available for assistance all year long. Call mil 324-566, civ (06031) 813 566.

Bad Nauhelm walks

Walking tours of Bad Nauheim will take place Oct. 17, Nov. 7 and Nov. 21 starting at 9:30 a.m. Each walk covers a different destination. Wear comfortable shoes and bring money for lunch or a sack lunch. Call civ (06031) 81-3566.

Harvest Fest

The Chaplain's Office hosts its third annual Harvest Fest Oct. 31 from 5-8 p.m. at the Giessen High School gym. There will be games, prizes and candy. Bring your own bag for goodies. Volunteers are needed. Call the Chaplain's Office at mil 343-8020 or civ (0641) 402-8020 for more information or to volunteer.

College Fair

Giessen Middle/High School sponsors a college fair in the multipurpose room Oct. 15 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Representatives from various colleges will be available to talk to parents and students about their programs. Contact the school at mil 343-7259 for more information.

New APO hours

The Giessen APO will have new hours starting Oct. 16 — Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday from noon to 6 p.m.



Photos by Mary Ann Ernst

Hunka Hunka Burnin' Spud

Sue Alldaffer, Butzbach Elementary School gifted education teacher, recognizes the winners in the school's potato decorating contest in the school library Oct. 3. Alldaffer, an Idaho native, sponsored the contest in honor of Potato Month. Among the 60 entries were "Sgt. Spud," "Count Dracutater" and the fellow pictured above right.

Improving medical care in Iraq Giessen soldiers support, supply Baghdad hospital



Photo by Sgt. Mark Rickert

1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a physician's assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, from Giessen, visits a patient at the Al-Nuaman Hospital in Baghdad. The 1st Armored Division unit has been helping the hospital staff with planning, budgeting and obtaining needed medical supplies.

Saying farewell to Germany

BSB leader shares tips for memorable stay

By Michael Grizer

284th Base Support Battalion deputy commander

After five wonderful years in Germany, it is time for us to leave. Although we won't miss the overcast weather and small inconveniences of Germany, there are so many wonderful things we will miss. There are also many great experiences and people we will remember forever, not to mention having a daughter who got to see 13 world capitals, 17 countries and countless other wonders by the age of 5.

This article is for those of you who have arrived in Germany for the first time, like we did in January 1999. Right now you may be wondering how you will survive three years here without a 24-hour Wal-Mart or Krispie-Kreme doughnuts. The answer is to just get out and go do it. To help here are our top 10 things we loved about living in Germany:

10. A Cesare & Raffaello pasta or pizza creation you just plain can't get anywhere else, no matter what the cost. And don't forget the Licher, or even better, the Weizen beer.

9. Stunning cathedrals, especially Strassbourg's ability to maintain its original medieval feel and the precarious spiral staircase up the center of the spire in Ulm.

8. Rome. Everything from the crazy Italian overnight train from Munich, to the unbelievably friendly people, to the incredible 2,000-year-old walls and forums.

7. Castles. We have toured at least a hundred and driven past a hundred more. Each one is unique and has a story to tell. With the slightest bit of German, you will discover history you can't find in books.

6. Wine tasting on the Rhine, and even better, on the Mosel. Nothing can beat Cochem and Zell for friendly store owners, beautiful vineyards and the greatest white wines.

5. Copenhagen. Just make sure you go there when it is sunny. It is truly the most pedestrian-friendly city in the world, and aside for the ridiculously high cost of beer, is an experience you will cherish forever.

4. Christmas in Schneeberg and other little villages in the Erzgebirge. This is where they

make the light bows and pyramids you see in the stores here, but going there and experiencing the markets completely devoid of tourist junk you find in the heavily traveled cities is the best way to do Christmas in Germany.

3. Driving through the mountains of northern Italy and Switzerland. Truly the most stunning scenery you will find anywhere at any time of the year, period.

2. Transportation. Kids love going places. We have driven over enormous bridges in Denmark, ridden in glass elevators in Luxembourg, taken trains, subways, trams, trolleys and Austrian horse-drawn carriages, ascended mountains in cable cars, ski lifts and water-powered "funiculars," cruised on ships and canal taxis, seen capital cities from the open top of a tour bus, and walked countless miles through cities and the countryside.

1. Being so close to so much. Get a copy



of Earl Steinbicker's "Daytrips," the "Michelin Green Guide" or simply the spiral-bound 1:20,000 ADAC Stadatlas for whatever area you live in and you will find that within a two-hour drive (or train ride) there are more things to do than can be done during your time here.

Take a Saturday and drive the back roads, the thin lines on the map without the numbers. You will find unspoiled fun and adventure. From a beautiful little out of the way Gasthaus in Schmelz, to the people-powered locks of the Lahn River that kids can open and close, to the panorama from the Feldberg, to sitting on the side of an untraveled road looking up at a billion-billion stars, and maybe even the cloudy line of the Milky Way, so much is so close by.

Leave your inhibitions and need for ice cubes at home. Bring your open-mindedness, sense of adventure, patience and that indomitable desire to experience life you had when you were a child and take in all there to see in this amazing land. We hope you enjoy your time here and take back as many memories as we will.

By Sgt. Mark Rickert

372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Al-Nuaman Hospital is the biggest and oldest public hospital in the Aadhamiya neighborhood district of Baghdad. During the war the hospital remained operational, providing care to an overwhelming influx of patients, even when the battle jeopardized supply routes. The hospital has endured many hardships.

Now that the war is over medical supply lines are still slow moving, and on top of that many parts of the hospital are falling apart. Although the hospital escaped the damage of war, the damage of time is steadily progressing.

When the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, established its post within the Aadhamiya district, 1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a medical officer with the 2-3 Field Artillery realized that U.S. forces needed to support the hospital.

"When I arrived here in Aadhamiya, the Al-Nuaman Hospital was fully operational, but they needed support there," Davila said. "As a medical officer of the battalion, it is my duty to improve the health care system and the level of health care that is provided."

After assessing the hospital's needs Davila immediately tracked down a stockpile of intravenous fluids. During this time the temperature in Baghdad was skyrocketing, causing a steady influx of patients. Davila coordinated with a medical warehouse in Baghdad, and arranged for a five-ton truck to bring a full cargo of intravenous fluids.

"All hospitals needed fluids during this time," said Davila, "especially here in Baghdad, with so many people wounded in the war and people dehydrating."

The 2-3rd FA's support reached its climax recently when an explosion at a nearby detergent factory caused a release of chemicals into the air, which affected the local residents.

"We got a call that there were mass casualties involving inhalation injuries. ... The problem was that the incident happened late at night, and there was no way the hospital could get what it needed."

"We got a call that there were mass casualties involving inhalation injuries," said Davila. "They needed medication, intravenous tubing, catheters and so on. The problem was that the incident happened late at night, and there was no way the hospital could get what it needed."

As fate would have it, the 2-3rd FA had already stockpiled medical supplies at their base camp. Because of a new Iraqi army training program there on post, the 2-3rd FA had recently visited an Iraqi medical warehouse and picked up supplies to start a "mini aid station" where Iraqis could treat heat casualties and other injuries.

"It was a lifesaver to them," said Davila. "Afterward we all said, 'man, how lucky we had all that stuff.'"

"We were very appreciative of their support," said Dr. Thair Al-Rawi, director of the Al-Nuaman Hospital. "We felt they did everything they could do to help us."

The support from the 2-3rd FA won't stop there. Davila is pushing for funds so that the hospital can refurbish its emergency room and outpatient clinic. Because the hospital is so old, many of its older buildings are in poor condition. In many buildings the ground floor is uneven and the walls are cracked. There are holes in the ceiling, and air-conditioning units need repairing.

The hospital has teamed up with engineers from Baghdad University. They are planning the reconstruction as well as drawing up blueprints. The 2-3rd FA is now coordinating the funding for the project.

"The Army has helped us, step by step, with planning and budgeting," said Al-Rawi. "Davila visits with us regularly, and we feel he is helping as best as he can."

"It establishes good rapport to have an open communication with fellow medical providers," said Davila. "The ones who will benefit most are the local Iraqis. We want to provide them with a decent building that is suitable — a clean, hygienic and up-to-standard medical facility."

Around the community ... Around the community

Financial readiness

Financial readiness classes are held at Army Community Service, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne:

First Wednesday of the month — Checkbook management, banking and credit union.

Second Wednesday — Budgeting, debt liquidation and credit management.

Third Wednesday — Principles of personal finance.

Fourth Wednesday — Investments.

For help with money matters, sign up for these classes. For information call Sandi Horyza at mil 322-8977.

HCSC bazaar

The Hanau Community Spouses Club annual bazaar will be Oct. 24-26 in Building 1304 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. All Family Readiness Groups and nonprofit organizations are invited to participate. There is a registration fee of \$75 of which \$50 is reimbursable after the event. For details contact HCSC president Bianca Moton at civ (0160) 9105 2378, bianca.moton@us.army.mil, or FRG chairperson Rose Mary Buckley at civ (06181) 906 3792, Rose.mary.buckley@us.army.mil.

Redeployment training required

Attending a redeployment briefing is required by the 104th Area Support Group. Soldiers will not be cleared to PCS or ETS until they have taken this briefing. The briefing is about an hour long and is held every Friday at 9 a.m. and at 2 p.m. in the ACS conference room, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Briefings can also be scheduled for units at their convenience. For information call Pam Belanger or Mike Hamm at mil 322-8965.

Outdoor Rec trips

Oct. 17-19 — London weekend express trip departs Hanau at 7 p.m. on Friday and returns Sunday morning. Cost is \$109 adult, \$89 children 3-12, \$59 children under 3. Oct. 17-19 — Boles-lawiec, Poland, express shopping trip departs Hanau at 9 p.m. Friday and returns Sunday. Cost is \$55 per person. U.S. passport is required. Call Hanau Outdoor Recreation, Building 459, Old Argonner Kaserne, mil 322-8891, civ (06181) 88-8891.

New phone numbers

The following changes will af-

fect Cardwell, Hutier, Francois and Yorkof caserns as of Nov. 6. All mil lines will have the new mil prefix of 323, with the following exceptions:

- All numbers starting with "1xxx" will keep the old mil prefix number, (322-1xxx).

- If your mil number previously began with an 8, it will now begin with a 2, (322-8xxx becomes 323-2xxx).

- If your mil number previously began with a 9, it will now begin with a 3, (322-9xxx becomes 323-3xxx).

- If your mil number previously began with a 5, you will have a totally new assigned number.

- After the change, all civilian numbers will change from the current civ (06181) 88 to (06181) 180 with the exception that all numbers starting with "1xxx" will keep the old civ in-dial, civ (06181) 88-1xxx.

CLEOS visits

CLEOS visits Büdingen and Gelnhausen monthly for parents to make first time registrations, annual re-registrations and pick up new Hourly Care cards without having to travel to Hanau. Everyone can use Hourly Care as needed by making a reservation with the CDC or with an FCC provider. Soldiers E-4 and below should register as they qualify for 10 hours of free child care per child per month. CLEOS will be in Büdingen on Oct. 28 from 12:30-2 p.m. and Gelnhausen on Oct. 28 from 2:30-4 p.m. Future dates are Nov. 18 and Dec. 12. For more information contact the CLEOS office at mil 322-9144 or civ (06181) 88-9144.

PTA Walk-a-Thon Oct. 17

Kindergartners to fifth-graders will walk to raise money for Argonner Elementary School's Parents and Teacher's Association on Friday Oct. 17. Sponsor a child; any amount is welcome. Feel free to come and walk with the children and donate to the PTA. Preschoolers will walk from 8:30-9 a.m., kindergartners and first-graders 9:05-9:55 a.m., second- and third-graders 10-11 a.m., fourth- and fifth-graders 11:05 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. To sponsor a walker call Debbie Curtis at civ (06181) 99-4450 or email deborah.curtis@us.army.mil.

Domestic Violence Prevention Month

Don't allow domestic violence to grow. Everyone in the community has a role to play in improving the quality of life for soldiers and

Combined Federal Campaign runs through Dec. 10

Hanau PX manager Joe Reinhold (from left), project officer Ulanda Parker and Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th Base Support Battalion commander, cut a ceremonial cake to kick off the Combined Federal Campaign at the Hanau PX Oct. 1. This year's campaign runs through Dec. 10. Contact your unit or BSB key person for details.

Photo by Dennis Johnson



their families. Join Army Community Service in sending the message: *Domestic violence has no place in our community, in our careers or in our lives.*

Oct. 15 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit an information booth at the Wolfgang PX. ACS will be handing out ribbons to promote awareness and professionals will be there with domestic violence prevention information.

Oct. 23 — Information about domestic violence prevention will be presented during a Coffee Talk in Büdingen.

Oct. 31 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit an information booth at the Wolfgang PX. ACS will be handing out ribbons to promote awareness and professionals will be there with domestic violence prevention information. For information call Tina Greaves at mil 322-9526 or civ (06181) 88-9526.

Halloween party

Club i will host a free Halloween party on Friday Oct. 31 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Enjoy variety music with DJ Linda Halsey and a complimentary Graveyard Buffet at midnight. There will be a best costume contest with prizes and a pumpkin carving contest (bring your own pumpkin). Club i is located in the Community Activities Center at Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Call mil 322-7509 or civ (06183) 51-7509.

Reconnecting with your soldier

Military spouses should attend the Reconnecting with Your Soldier Workshop about a week or two before their soldiers return. If they want to attend the workshop before then, that's fine too. The workshops are held in the ACS conference room in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. ACS can bring the workshop to your FRG too. The workshops are held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

For more information call ACS at mil 322-8965.

Vulkanradweg

Bicycle tours on Vulkanradweg (Volcano Bicycle Route) are made easy with a shuttle bus. The bus, with a trailer for 34 bikes, takes hikers and bicyclists from Altenstadt through the Nidder Valley up into the Vogelsberg hills and back. The bus runs each Saturday, Sunday and German holiday during the summer until Oct. 26. It departs at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. from the parking lot at the Altenstadthalle in Altenstadt. The route goes from Altenstadt to Glauberg, Ortenberg, Hirzenhain, Lake Gedern and back. For a complete list of stops and times go to www.wetterauer-vg.de. It's worth stopping on the route to visit the historical sights of the area — the Celtic excavations in Glauberg; the castle, old town hall, Marienkirche and Musical Instrument Museum at Ortenberg; and the Klosterkirche, Iron Arts and Crafts Museum and Märchenland at Hirzenhain. Bus fare is the normal price; no extra fee is charged for bicycles. Groups of more than five cyclists and more than 10 hikers should register by calling the bus company at civ (06044) 2447. More information on the Volcano Bicycle Route is available at www.vulkanradweg.de and www.vbv-vogelsberg.de (both websites offer only German pages).

Central Texas College

Central Texas College is offering courses leading to an associate degree in Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Food Services Management and Emergency Medical Technology. Term II registration begins Oct. 14. Contact the CTC field representative at the Education Center in Building 11, Room

318 on Pioneer Kaserne at mil 322-5410 or www.ctc-europe.com.

Spouses Education Assistance Program

Do you want to further your education or start on a college degree? The Spouse Education Assistance Program is a need-based education assistance program for Army spouses residing with active duty soldiers in Europe, Korea, Japan and Okinawa only. The program provides up to \$400 per academic term and up to \$2,000 for the academic year. For information call ACS at mil 322-8965 or Army Emergency Relief at mil 322-8097.

Coupon Social

Hanau Army Community Service is holding a Coupon Social Oct. 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. The next Coupon Socials will be Nov. 20 and Dec. 18. Call Princetta Wright or Adele Georges at civ (06181) 88-8963 for details.

Guest readers

The Guest Reader program brings people to Argonner Elementary School every Friday afternoon to read to students. Ideally a guest reader will read to the same class each week so that a rapport with the children is established. There are two sessions, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 1-2 p.m. It's important for individuals to make a commitment to read on a regular basis. Guest readers will be trained to read to students. To volunteer call Geraldine Idzerda at civ (06181) 906-9229.

Story hour volunteers

Preschool story hour volunteers are needed to do crafts and read books to children every Thursday

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Commander praises schools, teachers

By Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann
414th Base Support Battalion commander

I recently attended Family Reading Night at my first-grader's elementary school. The event featured a spaghetti dinner and a multitude of classes for parents to help their children improve their reading skills. The school even offered child care so parents could attend the classes.

I was impressed with the program and even more impressed with the passion of the teachers and staff directing the program. They were excited about their work and it really showed in the quality of their instruction. I came home with great tips on how to make reading fun and a new appreciation for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. Indeed, military families overseas are very fortunate to have such excellent educational opportunities.

Our Hanau/Gelnhausen school teachers and staff are particularly well-suited for educating military children. Many are prior service members and understand the unique environment of soldiers' children. Additionally, they're a well-traveled and experienced group. Many have traveled all over the world teaching within the DoDDS system. Our children are receiving a truly international education and benefit greatly from their teachers'



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Teachers Linda Cummings and Kimberly Christopherson teach parents fun methods to improve their children's reading skills at the Old Argonner Elementary School Reading Night.

experience in Guam, Cuba, Japan, Britain, the Netherlands, Turkey, Iceland, Italy, Bahrain, Portugal, Greece, Korea and, of course, Germany.

Our school facilities are remarkable as

well. The classrooms are spacious and each is equipped with networked computers for student use.

Schools also have state-of-the-art computer labs, placing our children at the leading

edge of the educational and technological transformations currently under way. The elementary school playgrounds are new and feature all the latest safety devices. And specialty rooms, such as those for art and music, are well organized and outfitted.

I was curious how the education provided at the Hanau and Gelnhausen schools stacked up against American schools, but it was no surprise when I learned that DoDDS students scored above the national average in every category, at every grade level, as measured by the 2002 TerraNova standardized test of basic skills. The Hanau and Gelnhausen student test data was equally notable.

Many of the programs that have been dropped stateside due to funding shortages are alive and well in our schools. Our schools all have art, music, physical education, host nation, language arts and talented/gifted student programs; and they employ specialists in counseling, speech therapy, compensatory education and reading recovery.

Each school also has a full-time nurse. The high school offers individual and team sports plus a wide range of after-school activities.

Way to go DoDDS. You're doing an outstanding job educating children and making Hanau a great home.

Get the latest community news at www.hanau.army.mil

Around the community

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from 10-11 a.m. at Pioneer Library. Call Christi Bayha at mil 322-9657/8942 to help.

Frazer Coffee Shop

Enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee and a warm atmosphere while reading or surfing the Internet. The coffee shop is open Monday to Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The coffee shop is located in the Hanau Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne.



Ammunition Amnesty Program

The Ammunition Amnesty Program provides that ammunition may be turned in on a no-questions-asked basis without fear of reprisal or prosecution. Anyone finding other than small arms ammunition are directed not to touch or move the ammunition (even if markings indicate the ammunition is harm-

less) mark the location of ammunition, contact the Military Police providing a description and location and keep others from the area. Explosive items found outside an installation must be reported to local authorities or the Military Police.

Vehicle Registry

The Hanau Vehicle Registry will be closed from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 29 for computer system updates.

Flea markets

Frankfurt: Every Saturday in Frankfurt-Sachsenhausen on the banks of the Main River.

Offenbach: Every Saturday on the Main River adjacent to the bridge from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Maintal: Every Saturday in Maintal-Dörnigheim adjacent to the railway station.

Seligenstadt: Every Thursday, Nostalgia and Antique Market at the Historischer Marktplatz from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hanau: Every first Sunday of the month, flea market at the Ikea parking lot from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hanau: Every Thursday, flea market at the furniture store Erbe in Hanau-Steinheim, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Resident responsibility key to quality of life

‘Recycling is the law; it protects our environment for our children’s future and for their children’s future.’

— Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Trash and recycling are two sides of the same issue. Trash is either put in its proper recycling container, in the garbage can or, as is too often the case in some neighborhoods, thrown on the ground.

A recent walk-through of Pioneer Housing with Marcia Flowers, the 414th Base Support Battalion chief of housing, found vandalized playground equipment and litter strewn across the grass and picnic tables right up to the brand-new trash cans. “When I came here three and a half years ago, my first impression of Hanau was that it was going to be a challenge,” said Flowers. “I thought it needed a little tender loving care and a kick in the butt. Hanau needed some tough love.

“The number one issue for residents was that the quarters were not up to standards, not maintained or cleaned. So we responded and hired a new cleaning team, but we have to rely on tenants to keep their neighborhoods clean.

“We’ve spent millions fixing these buildings and the residents don’t maintain these newly renovated units. We put in brand-new playgrounds and there is so much trash around you can’t enjoy it. The parents are not teaching their children to respect their neighborhoods, and Hanau has the potential to be the best community in Germany.”

The Housing Division has spent nearly \$50 million in exterior and interior renovations since Flowers arrived in Hanau in 2000. Of 141 buildings, 101 have been painted and the stairwells renovated. New mailboxes replaced old ones, playgrounds and skate parks were built for children, community information boards installed and parking lots renovated. In all 14 buildings were completely renovated inside and out, said Flowers.

Although trash and recycling is not the job of the housing department, Flowers said she was concerned that trash affects the quality of housing. “If it’s happening in housing it’s my department, although garbage is technically under DPW,” said Flowers. “Emptying the garbage and recycling containers is DPW’s job, but keeping the area clean is the residents’ and the building coordinators’ responsibility. It takes chain of command involvement and especially parents to keep the neighborhoods livable; it must be a community effort.”

Flowers has a collection of photographs to show whenever she is asked about the



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Residents and BSB units are creating impromptu trash dumps by not following recycling policies. Put large items by the dumpsters just one day before the scheduled bulk pickup. The next bulk pickup date is Nov. 3, except at Coleman Housing which is Nov. 4.

challenge of maintaining so many buildings. The photos show graffiti and broken windows in newly renovated buildings and even dog feces in the stairwells.

“Until you hold the residents responsible, there’s no way we’ll have a clean neighborhood,” said Flowers. “I’ve always thought we needed to give the residents the tools to make this a better community. I was tired of seeing sofas and junk all over the neighborhood all month long, so we created a place where the residents can take their bulk trash such as furniture and old mattresses anytime of the month.”

A recycling center for bulk trash is now open on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Recycling centers for large items in other housing areas

have been built and are waiting for recycling containers to arrive. They should be ready to use by early November, said Flowers. Until then continue to use the regular bulk pickups that are scheduled for the first week of each month. The next pickup dates are Nov. 3-4.

Items should be placed by the dumpsters the night before the pickup date. Don’t put out bulk trash on days other than when a pickup is scheduled. If you cannot wait till the first of the month DPW will make a special pickup; call DPW at mil 322-9129.

Plain old trash

Normal household garbage that can’t be recycled should be placed in the tenant’s own trash locker. Lt. Col. Jerry Mraz, former

414th BSB commander, was instrumental in getting the new trash and recycling systems implemented. Flowers, like 414th BSB commander, Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, looks forward to the day when the last of the ugly silver dumpsters will be a thing of the past.

“Hopefully the residents will use the new trash and recycling system properly,” she said.

The Separate or Recycle Trash Program is a program to minimize trash generation and recycle refuse. It requires separating glass and paper from regular refuse, and disposing of it at the recycling centers. Residents are required to participate.

Materials that may be recycled are clean glass, metal, paper and cardboard, plastic, organic waste, old clothing and shoes and hazardous wastes. These should go in their respective containers.

Items that cannot be recycled should be locked in the trash lockers or taken to the hazardous waste recycling site for proper disposal. These include:

- Items made of multiple materials: envelopes with plastic padding, wax coated cardboard including most milk and juice cartons, wax paper, vacuum packed coffee packaging, wallpaper and metallic wrapping paper.

- Items that are dirty — dirty paper towels, tissues, diapers and paper plates with leftover food.

- Unusual materials — porcelain, crystal, mirrors, stoneware and pottery.

- Electronic items — incandescent, neon and fluorescent light bulbs.

For housing, trash and recycling information go to www.hanau.army.mil. Click on “services” on the left side of the home page for information about housing, bulk trash pickup and links to DPW.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Recycling containers are available to dispose of plastic, metal and glass in all housing areas.