

Herald Union



Vol. VIII, No. 5 Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group Nov. 28, 2000



Ask almost any U.S. soldier on duty in Kosovo about the mission and the first thing he or she will mention is pride in helping give the children of Kosovo a brighter future.



Friedberg-based 1-37th Armor soldiers man a checkpoint and guard an Orthodox church in the town of Partes, Kosovo.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Taking an inside look at Task Force Falcon in action

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
Staff writer

Smiles and waves greet peacekeepers as HMMWVs roll through town. Bone-tired soldiers pull back into base camp after wearing their "battle rattle" — Kevlar flak vests and helmets — all day long. American soldiers stand vigilant at outposts throughout their sector on the lookout for possible violence against Serbian or Albanian townspeople.

Welcome to life in Kosovo — the mission that never sleeps.

"They saved a lot of people's lives and they need to be here." That's how Fatmir "Mili" Hasani, a Kosovar interpreter for Task Force Falcon summed up his appreciation for the NATO presence in his country. Hasani, originally from Pristina before seeking refuge in Macedonia during the war in Kosovo, reflected what many Kosovars told us during our recent five-day visit.

"I'm very thankful for the American presence," ech-

Continued on page 6

Inside



Reader feedback

"Be flexible, because the situation can change at any time," was 2nd Lt. Patrick Grow's advice to 2nd Brigade soldiers deploying to Kosovo. See page 2 for more peacekeeping advice.



Unique mission

U.S. presence ensures freedom of movement and helps quell violence in Multinational Brigade East sector. See page 3.



Operation Milos

Cordon and search sweep nets weapons and ammunition in Cernica. See pages 12 and 13.

Commentary

Feedback: What advice do you have for soldiers deploying to Kosovo?



Pfc. William Boozier
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

"Learn the language as much as possible. It's easier to talk to the locals. Also, bring a TV and buy lots of videos."



Pfc. Andrew Gigstead
Company B, 1-36th Infantry, on a cordon and search operation in Cernica, Kosovo

"Just be ready to wear all your gear all the time. Bring a lot of books."



Staff Sgt. Raymond Broadway
Company C, 1-37th Armor, "Outpost Hornets Nest," Monastery Draganac, Kosovo

"Don't worry, be happy. Take your Mission Readiness Training seriously because you will use it in Kosovo."



Pfc. Rodrigo Bunge
Company B, 1-36th Infantry, "Outpost Red Church," Silovo, Kosovo

"At first it's going to be a big culture shock. I know when I got here it was totally new. It'll be stressful at first, and then about a month down the road it'll be like riding a bike."



Pfc. Anthony Morrison
Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion, "Checkpoint Apocalypse," Podgrade, Kosovo

"Just train hard before they come here. It's a pretty easy job. Make sure they practice up on patrolling and searching a vehicle. Keep a positive attitude and stay motivated."

Tradition of quality soldier and family support to be continued

By Col. Daniel D. Imholte
104th Area Support Group commander



Job well done, Ready First Combat Team soldiers. Go safely, 2nd Brigade troops. We are proud of you all.

As members of the 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade (from the 284th Base Support Battalion area) and supporting units count down the final days before returning to friends and families in Germany and the United States, soldiers from the 222nd BSB Baumholder area are gearing up to assume peacekeeping duties in Kosovo. Task Force Falcon's transfer of authority, slated for Dec. 18 when Brig. Gen. Kenneth Quinlan will assume command from Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, marks the second rotation of soldiers from the communities of the 104th Area Support Group to Kosovo.

While 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade soldiers have been training long and hard preparing for any and all situations they may face in the Balkans, officials have been working just as hard to ensure 1st Brigade Combat Team soldiers receive a warm welcome home and 2nd Brigade (Baumholder) family members are well looked after while their loved ones perform the vital mission of keeping the peace.

Working closely with U.S. Army Europe, 1st Armored Division, supported units and our local base support battalions, we in the 104th ASG guarantee that we will continue to do our utmost to provide the highest quality support services for soldiers and families within our communities.

We've learned a lot over the past five years about executing the mission of serving as a power projection platform for deploying units while maintaining a high standard of living and force protection for all members of our local military family. That has included modernizing equipment, refurbishing facilities, offering better modes of communication between soldiers and family members, and striving to upgrade all facets of life that make up "quality of life" in the 104th ASG.

Much needed construction and renovation work is happening throughout the ASG. New and improved dining facilities, state-of-the-art barracks and upgraded family housing (having 110 voltage and in the apartment washers and dryers), enhanced Morale Wel-

fare and Recreation establishments and a host of similar projects are all aimed at making the communities of the 104th ASG a "great place to live, work and grow."

Everyone plays a role in this memorable effort. Whether volunteering as a partner in our local schools or leading a Family Readiness Group, mentoring young people in the Girl Scouts or providing outstanding services at our Central Issue Facilities, every individual effort makes a contribution to the overall quality of our life. As soldiers deploy, the welfare of family members is of crucial importance in all of our minds.

Once again our Army Community Service offices and Family Assistance Centers are ready to provide a wealth of professional, caring services. Community members needing assistance will not have to travel far to discover a complete range of support and confidential services in a one-stop location.

Thanks to improvements in our communication technology, not only will soldiers and families be able to stay in touch through telephone and electronic mail, but they will also be able to maintain visual contact thanks to Video Tele-Conferencing. Just as on past deployments, younger family members will have the capability to stay in touch through email at our local schools.

This special issue features a range of news and feature articles about what it's like to serve in Kosovo, how Department of Defense Dependents Schools administrators are getting a better understanding of what the soldier parents of their students are doing in KFOR and services available to ensure a smooth transition for deploying and redeploying soldiers. This issue is dedicated to all those who have gone before and will continue to play a role in making the world a safer place in which to live and raise our children.

Soldiers, civilians and family members can be proud of the fact that they have been part of this historical process. Real change has occurred — democracy has gained a stronger foothold in the nations of the former Yugoslavia and part of that is due to our soldiers' vigilance in providing a secure and stable environment in Kosovo and the other Balkan nations.

Welcome home Ready First Combat Team; you did great.

See you soon 2nd Brigade. Rest assured that we will do all we can to take care of the "great people" in our "great communities."

Do you have a suggestion for the 104th ASG commander? Send email to the Community Listening Post . . . CLP@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil



Herald Union

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Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Task Force Falcon giving peace a chance

Soldiers' presence ensures freedom of movement, protects citizens

By David Ruderman
Staff writer

Peacekeeping missions in Kosovo vary like the Balkan landscape. Not every U.S. soldier deploying as part of the Kosovo International Security Force works out of the main bases: Camp Bondsteel, about 10 kilometers east of Urosevac (Ferizaj in Albanian) and Camp Monteith in Gnjilane, 25 kilometers to the east.

Just a few kilometers east of Gnjilane, American soldiers man a hilltop outpost above the town of Silovo, a stone's throw from an Orthodox church which the soldiers call Red Church. Things have been quiet in Silovo since soldiers of Company B, 1-36th Infantry Regiment, started guarding the town. "It's really normal. We just maintain freedom of movement for people in the town," said Staff Sgt. Sofonias Phillips. Soldiers run presence patrols half a dozen times a day through town, he said.

About 15 peacekeepers rotate to the hilltop for about two weeks at a time from nearby Camp Monteith. "There's been no violence here so far, thank God. And hopefully that continues for the people coming in," said Pfc. Rodrigo Bunge of San Diego. He said his unit was called in to control a local drunk who constantly created havoc, beating up his own grandparents. "But other than that everybody seems to be getting along, which is the Serbians and Albanians," said Bunge, expressing satisfaction with his role as a peacekeeper. "This is the biggest thing I've ever done," he said.

Life at the Hornets Nest

An equally short distance north of Gnjilane Americans man the Hornets Nest checkpoint in a narrow ravine leading to the Draganac Monastery, home to a group of five Serbian Orthodox monks. Their leader, Father Karillo, was often a target of Albanian extremists during the NATO airwar. "We used to have to shadow his moves everywhere he went, morning and evening," said Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Bush of Company C, 1-37th Armor.

Karillo travels every Friday to Gnjilane to coordinate aid projects, said Bush. "Now nothing ever happens. He's respected by the Alba-



Photos by Karl Weisel

Staff Sgt. Sofonias Phillips and Pfc. Rodrigo Bunge keep a wary eye on the Serbian Orthodox church known as "Red Church" near Silovo.



Friedberg, Giessen and Wackernheim-based soldiers monitor traffic at Checkpoint Sapper on the border of Kosovo and Serbia.

nians and the Serbs alike because he helps everybody. I think he does a lot of good for people, coordinating help for different villages. He's happy now that we don't follow him around so much," said Bush.

In Partes, eight kilometers southwest of Gnjilane, KFOR soldiers man a checkpoint catercorner to a large Orthodox church. The town of 2,500 is entirely Serbian, as it was before the war. "I think we're just here mainly so they know we're here," said Pfc. Brandon Furlong of Company A, 1-37th Armor. "I thought that it was going to look more like a desert," said the Oregon native. "I didn't think it was going to be as calm as it is."

About 15 kilometers to the east, on a hilltop above the all-Albanian town of Podgrade, soldiers of Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion, man Checkpoint Apocalypse. "We're making sure nothing unexpected happens," said Pfc. Anthony Morrison, who hails from Bakersfield, Calif. "We make sure no beatings are going on, no one is trying to bypass our checkpoints.

We do presence patrols pretty frequently. They're pretty friendly. They know we're here to protect them, keep them safe," he said.

Soldiers run an average of 10-15 patrols over a five-day period, said 2nd Lt. Scott Swilley. "I'll go on two or three. The squad leaders are really the people who are making the money, interacting with the people," he said. "We've established councils — I'd like to say bipartisan — and we meet and address issues on a weekly basis. We try to stop eruptions before they get started." Swilley said tensions in the area are among competing Albanian groups and political parties. "In Podgrade there are five parties; in Bilince there are three. We're preventing political violence in our sector, and during the elections [for local councils, held Oct. 28] it worked," said the Hattiesburg, Miss., native.

The engineers have seen an ongoing improvement in their living conditions since June, Swilley said. Residents now enjoy hot showers among other amenities.

"They definitely appreciate it," said Swilley, noting it's still not like being at home. "I think everyone's ready to get back to Giessen, to see the families," he said.

Life on the frontier

Farther east, on a ridge overlooking the Kosovo-Serbian border, U.S. infantry, armor and air defense units oversee the major road link between the political entities at Outpost Sapper. They monitor a five-kilometer deep Ground Safety Zone which prohibits Yugoslav forces from approaching the border. The main security threat comes from an Albanian militia headquartered at Dobrosin in the valley below, the UCPMB, intent on driving Serbians out of this frontier region and establishing a "Greater Albania," according to Army officials.

"We do traffic control, contraband searches, see if anybody's violating restrictions," said 2nd Lt. Jack Richards of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-3rd Field Artillery, out of Giessen. Albanians on the Yugoslav side travel to Gnjilane, the economically bustling regional center, to conduct business under KFOR protection, he explained.

"We basically look at any activity across the border and make sure it's not a threat to order here. We help out other missions, support the infantry. And we do real world training," said Richards.

Farther up the ridge Sgt. Shawn

Malloy and Pfc. Chris Walker, Company D, 1-4th Air Defense Artillery, out of Wackernheim keep watch from an Avenger dug into the hillside, monitoring air traffic and movement on the ground. "The hardest thing is just sitting," said Walker. "We don't see a whole lot of action, people killing each other. It's sitting here watching the headquarters of the UCPMB and 30-35 guys going up and down the hill all day in black BDUs," he said. When the wind blows right they can hear the muezzin's call to prayer from the minaret of the mosque below in Dobrosin.

"We come out for three- or four-day rotations, then go back to Monteith," said Malloy. "All artillery's the same. We help each other out." He said he monitors Information, Friend or Foe signals to help keep KFOR helicopters on track for their patrols, as well as commercial air traffic in the sector. "I came directly here from Korea," said the Michigan native, "and this is pretty much the same thing. This is actually a lot calmer, cooler and collected than the Korean border. I was kind of up near the DMZ," said Malloy.



Members of Giessen's 16th Engineer Battalion monitor life in the town of Podgrade, Kosovo.

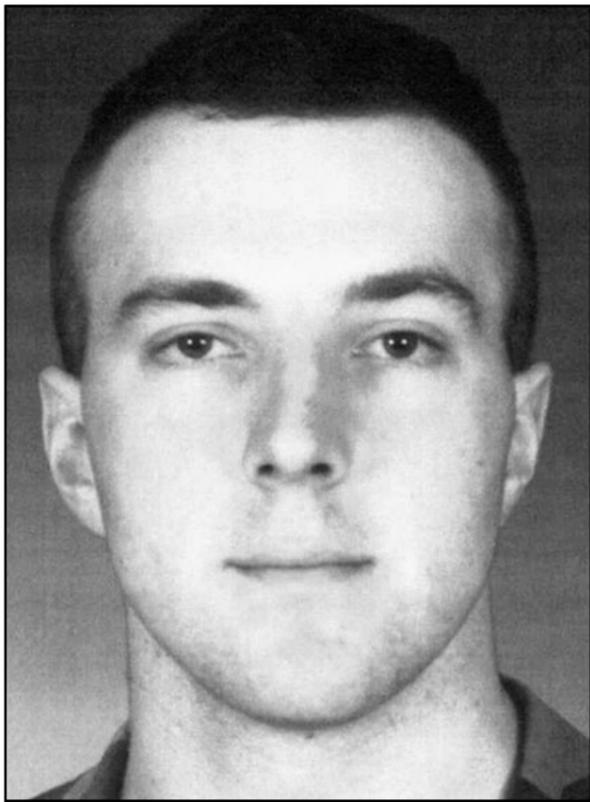


Photo courtesy of the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion
Capt. Erich Kern, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion, was one of eight Americans killed in a tunnel fire in Austria.

Tunnel fire takes life of soldier

Several military communities throughout Europe are struggling with the loss of soldiers and family members killed in a tunnel fire at the popular Kaprun, Austria, ski resort over the Veterans Day weekend.

Wiesbaden was among them. Hundreds of people gathered at the Hainerberg Chapel Nov. 17 to mourn the loss of Capt. Erich R. Kern, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion.

Born in New York City and raised in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., Kern graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1997 with a bachelor of arts degree and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps.

Upon completion of the Army Medical Department Officer Basic Course in 1997, Kern was assigned as a ground ambulance platoon leader with the 557th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) in Wiesbaden.

In February of last year he was assigned as the assistant S-4 and support operations officer for the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion and later deployed with the 67th Combat Support Hospital to Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia, in support of Operation Joint Guardian. He returned to Wiesbaden in April of this year and assumed command of HHD July 6.

His awards include the Army Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the

Expert Field Medical Badge and the German Sports Badge (bronze). He was promoted to captain posthumously.

He is survived by his parents, Angela and Rudolph D. Kern.

An open letter to the community

All the soldiers of the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion join with me in extending our sincere appreciation to the entire Wiesbaden community for the support provided as we dealt with the tragic loss of Capt. Erich Kern.

The outpouring of sympathy and support exceeded all expectations. Mr. and Mrs. Kern left here with a true understanding of the compassion and commitment of our Army family.

At the great risk of overlooking a group or an individual, I would especially thank the 3rd Corps Support Command, the American Arms staff, Hainerberg Chapel staff, Army Community Service, American Red Cross, Commissary staff, Family Readiness Groups for HHD, the 59th and 557th Medical Companies, the United Services Organization, the 221st Base Support Battalion and the 254th CSC Detachment.

The weeks and months ahead will be difficult but with the continued support of this community, we will move ahead and keep the memory of Capt. Kern alive in our hearts.

Lt. Col. Dennis D. Doyle

421st Medical Evacuation Battalion commander

Christmas markets open in local areas

Christmas markets will be opening all over Germany for the holiday season with plenty of shopping and festivities for the entire family.

The Wiesbaden Christkindl Market will open Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m. and stay open through Dec. 23. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sun-

day. It will be located on the Marktplatz (in front of the Rathaus) and the Luisenplatz (in front of Luisenkirche).

The Mainz Christkindl Market is open through Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday. It is located along the river.

Screening to identify youths needing help

Hainerberg Elementary School will host a child find screening Dec. 6. The screening provides parents with children ages 3-5 the opportunity to check their social, communication, fine and gross motor, self-help and learning skills.

Mandated by public law, this service is an effort to provide help to children who may be experiencing developmental delays in one or more areas.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for this screening call civ (0611) 72-1377.

CosCom to host party

A Christmas party for all soldiers assigned or attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Corps Support Command, will be held at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Reunion Center Dec. 14 from 4-7 p.m.

There will be food, refreshments, games and entertainment for young and old. There is no fee for the party; however, those who plan on attending are requested to bring a covered dish or dessert to add to the variety of food planned.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

In tribute to missing and fallen warriors

Dressed in a traditional Irish kilt, Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick J. Douglas of the 19th Corps Materiel Management Center, plays the bagpipes in front of the POW memorial at Veterans Park during Veterans Day ceremonies.

For more information check out the 221st Base Support Battalion's home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil.

221st BSB – Mainz, Wiesbaden

Holiday Lights Festival Dec. 1

Fun activities for one and all will highlight this year's Holiday Lights Festival starting at 5 p.m. Dec. 1 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. A tree-lighting ceremony will get things rolling in front of the 3rd Corps Support Command building at the front gate. Activities continue at the Wiesbaden Catering Center where children can make and decorate Christmas cards, visit Santa and enjoy hot chocolate and brownies. Family portraits will be available for a special low price. Parents should be sure to bring their address books — children can mail Christmas cards and letters for free during the festival.

The main gate at Wiesbaden Army Airfield will be closed at 4 p.m. due to preparations for the Christmas Lights Festival. All traffic must use the truck gate.

ACAP sessions

The Army Career and Alumni Program hosts pre-separation briefings and job assistance workshops in Wiesbaden Dec. 5-6, Jan. 9-10 and Feb. 6-7. For details or to schedule an appointment call the Hanau ACAP office at mil 322-8356/8298 or civ (06181) 88-8356/8298.

Town Hall Meeting set at ACS

The next Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Town Hall Meeting will be held Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Army Community Service cafeteria, Building 07790 in Hainerberg Housing.

Fall Cleanup Dec. 4-8

Fall Cleanup for the Wiesbaden and Mainz communities will be held Dec. 4-8. The date of this year's cleanup effort stems from lessons learned during last year's November cleanup, said Lt. Col. John M. Metz, 221st Base Support Battalion commander. "Not all the leaves had fallen during the cleanup last year, and the community had to clean up a second time after a storm came through and blew the rest of the leaves off the trees," he said.

Village, section, building and stairwell coordinators and housing area residents are required to clean up and police common use areas during the annual event. This includes playgrounds, family quarters, roads, sidewalks, lawns, flower beds and parking lots.

Trimming trees, bushes and shrubs is encouraged, but only to improve the general appearance of the area. Trim new growth and remove dead branches and leaves.

Trimming that changes the general shape, size or composition of the plant is prohibited.

Residents must also collect trash and large debris around playgrounds, buildings, curbs, sidewalks and parking areas. "Be sure to place bulk items being removed next to dumpsters and not in them," said Master Sgt. Mark Kirkendall of the Directorate of Public Works. All trimmings and debris will be collected by DPW during the cleanup.

Stairwells and basements should also be cleaned, including sweeping and mopping of the common use areas.

Residents can pick up the necessary tools at the Home Improvement Store at Mississippistrasse 3 in Hainerberg Housing. Lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, shears and plastic bags are available. The HIS is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

News briefs

Mailroom volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed at the Wiesbaden area community mailrooms. Volunteers can work their own hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and earn credit for local community volunteer hours. For details and to volunteer call Capt. Brian Dolan or 1st Sgt. Carolyn Reynolds at civ (0611) 705-1610 or mil 337-1610.

Dinner and wreath workshop

The Wiesbaden Chapel will host a potluck dinner Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. in the Army Community Service building. It will be followed by an Advent wreath workshop at 6 p.m. The chapel will present a living nativity scene Dec. 16-17 from 5-8 p.m. For information call civ (0611) 705-1570 or mil 337-1570.

Turn in excess furnishings

Government furnishings may not be stored in basements or attics. If you no longer use government furnishings for which you have signed or if there are excess furnishings in your attic or basement, turn in the items. For information call mil 337-5442.

Playhouse holiday musical

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse will present performances of "Nun-crackers, the Nunsense Christmas Musical" Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2, 7-9,

and 14-16. The comedy portrays students and nuns of Mount St. Helen's Convent trying to stage a Christmas musical despite several setbacks. Tickets can be purchased at any USO store or at the Ticket In in downtown Wiesbaden.

Scholarships available

Applications are now available for the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club scholarships for high school seniors and adult college students. For details and to receive an application call mil 337-5283 or email WCSCScholarships@aol.com.

Band Christmas concert

In tune with the holiday season, V Corps' 76th Army Band will perform at the historic Kurhaus in downtown Wiesbaden Dec. 14. Tickets for the Christmas concert range from DM 11.60-33.90. Call civ (0611) 172-9931.

Swim coaches needed

Paid positions for assistant swimming coaches are available for adults who love working with children. Experience with children is necessary, swimming experience is not, and travel is to be expected. For details call David Stephens at civ (0612) 893-8254 or

Shannon Holloway at civ (0612) 893-6280.

Fitness center hours

The Tony Bass Fitness Center is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 5:45 a.m. until 10 p.m., Thursday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Substitute teachers needed

The Wiesbaden Middle School is in need of substitute teachers. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree. Call mil 337-6251 for information.

ADHD support group meets

A support group for parents with children suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 72 at Wiesbaden Middle School. For details call mil 337-6251.

Expand your horizons

Learn new things and make new friends with Kontakt, the German-American friendship club. Groups meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Restaurant Scheidgen in Wiesbaden-Erbenheim. For information call mil 337-5142 or civ (0611) 705-5142.

Holiday commissary hours

The Wiesbaden Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and will close Dec. 25-26 for Christmas. Regular hours will resume Dec. 27-30. The commissary will be open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will close Jan. 1-2 for New Year's.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

News flash

Local musicians are tops

Several local music makers claimed top honors at the U.S. Army's Battle of the Bands and Stars of Tomorrow competitions held Nov. 17-18 in Alexandria, Va. While local bands didn't claim any places among the top bands, band members did among the musicians. Spc. John Morton of Grieve was named best bass guitarist, Spc. Vaughn Dalton of Six Pack Lady Killers earned best guitarist honors and Cpl. Justin Allen of Distorted Soul took best drummer honors. Local winners in the talent contest included Specs. Laura Bybee and Rafael Simmons from Hanau for best vocal duet and Simmons, second place for solo vocals. (ARNEWS)

Supply centers to close

The Baumholder and Bad Kreuznach Self Service Supply Centers will be closed Dec. 4-8. They'll reopen Dec. 11 when customers will have two methods to purchase items — with an Impac card or by Letter of Intent. Customers are asked to contact the SSSC Customer Service section as soon as possible to verify account information. Call Ginger Sullenberger in Baumholder at mil 485-7512 or Gabriele Mueller in Bad Kreuznach at mil 490-7229.

National Counselor Exam

The National Counselor Exam, a requirement for National Counselor Certification, will be offered in Heidelberg April 21, 2001. Application deadline is Dec. 15. All individuals meeting the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. criteria may apply. The nationally recognized NCE is the basis for licensure as a professional counselor in most states. To obtain an application visit the NBCC website at www.nbcc.org/nccapp.htm. For more information call Carole Wellington at mil 370-6762.

Special offers at AFRC

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers in Garmisch and Chiemsee offer "Snow Seeker's Surprise" Dec. 17-22, "A Very Merry Bavarian Holiday" Dec. 22-27 and "2001: A Vacation Odyssey" Dec. 27 to Jan. 1. The holiday packages for two adults are \$499 for E1-5s and \$599 for E6s and above including five overnights, five breakfasts, a special holiday dinner, a reception and special welcome gifts upon arrival. An optional ski/snowboard package is a four-day program which costs \$199 for adults and \$169 for children ages 5-15. Call the AFRC Vacation Planning Center at mil 440-2575 or civ (08821) 72981 for more information. (AFRC Release)

Commissary cheese recall

Schreiber Foods has recalled the following product due to possible listeria monocytogene contamination — Cooper Colby Jack Cheese Chunks, 10-ounce package, UPC 030900 34076 with expiration dates of Feb. 23, 2001 through June 6, 2001. Listeria monocytogenes can cause serious or sometimes fatal infections. Customers should return the product to their local commissary for a full refund. (DeCA-Europe Release)

An inside look

Continued from page 1

oed Ashirim Tahiri, a Brown and Root employee from the town of Gnjilane, site of Camp Monteith. Tahiri described the fear of knowing that masked men would regularly enter his home under the cover of darkness to threaten his family with torture or worse and steal his possessions. Eventually he too left his home behind for the relative safety of nearby Macedonia, only to return when NATO's peacekeepers were in place.

"We are different; we are free men (now), just free," was how builder Halil Kuka described it. Kuka and his brother Skender were busy rebuilding a school in the town of Doganovic, thanks to an infusion of desperately needed humanitarian funds raised through the efforts of the school's American partner unit, the 2-501st Aviation from Hanau. "We can have job — we have chance for life."

"We are very happy KFOR (the Kosovo International Security Force) is here," added Skender.

"We talk about the mission in Kosovo

being peacekeeping, but I'll tell you it's (also) U.S.-Russian relations," said Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, Task Force Falcon and Multinational Brigade-East commander. "This is where East meets West ... It's about international relationships. That's why we're here. ... This is important work."

Some 46,000 military personnel from 39 countries make up KFOR. The Multinational Brigade-East in the southeastern corner of Kosovo is one of five NATO multinational brigades. A typical week in the U.S.-military governed sector includes some 1,500 security patrols covering some 2,000 square kilometers, 120 aviation missions, an average of nine medical and dental missions providing care to 500 people and various ongoing civil affairs and humanitarian assistance missions such as repairing roads and schools.

"Our first real mission is to deter aggression," said Lt. Col. David Hogg, Task Force Falcon G-3. "We have soldiers on the ground every day engaging the local populace and serving as a deterrent to violence."

That includes guarding mosques and Orthodox churches, removing illegal weapons from local households and trying to encourage people to put aside their past differences to live in peace. NATO officials estimate that since assuming peacekeeping duties in Kosovo in June of 1999, more than 1.3 million Kosovo Albanian victims of ethnic cleansing have returned to their homes, and the murder rate has fallen from 50 to seven per week.

As one drives around the American sector of Kosovo, one is immediately struck by the ceaseless efforts to rebuild — construction flourishing wherever one cares to gaze. One is also faced with the shells of houses and churches, smashed cemeteries and children who will explain to you in broken English that the former residents of abandoned, ruined homes in their village — members of another ethnic background — "were all criminals." At the same time both Serbian and Albanian Kosovars praise the NATO presence with hopes for a lasting peace.

"There's been a lot of progress made here in a year and a half," said Hardy, who is also the 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for support. Hardy described the monumental effort being made to ensure the protection of all Kosovars — Albanian and Serbian — in the face of age-old ethno-religious tensions. "The real challenge is getting those folks (Serbian Kosovar refugees) back.

"In some places we've facilitated the progress of bringing people together again," Hardy said, describing how in some instances Serbian and Albanian farmers shared KFOR-supplied farm tools resulting in the first harvest in several years.

"The morale is great here because the soldiers and civilians know they are contributing to something bigger than themselves," Hardy said. "They are making a huge difference in people's lives."



Photo by Karl Weisel

Soldiers of Hanau's 2-501st Aviation Regiment quickly refuel a Blackhawk at Camp Bondsteel.

Domestic Violence Prevention Month essay winner

Yes Virginia, there is life after duty in Kosovo

Editor's note: The following essay was a winner in a recent essay contest conducted by the 284th Base Support Battalion's Army Community Service. Sgt. 1st Class George Glainyk won a ski trip to Garmisch. Soldiers were asked to describe their plans upon redeployment from Kosovo.

By Sgt. 1st Class George Glainyk
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion

My plan to reintegrate back into my family upon return from deployment for six months to Kosovo is to spend as much time as I can with my two girls, Madien, age 10, and Melissa, 7, and also my wife Caroline. My wife and kids love the Weihnachtsmärkte (German Christmas markets) because they really bring out the Christmas spirit and set the tone for the season. So that will be our first stop.

We especially like the small town of Bad Wimpfen where they have one of the most spectacular markets in Germany and also because that is where we had our honeymoon just over 1 1/2 years ago. My wife was

fortunate enough to plan in advance and reserve the same room in the hotel where we spent our honeymoon. My children really love going there, not only because they get to hear and see the tales of our honeymoon, but also because the people who live there are some of the friendliest people I have ever met in Europe and welcome all travelers openheartedly.

After two days in Bad Wimpfen we'll head farther south down to our favorite place in the great mountains of Garmisch. Madien and Melissa both started skiing last year while we were on vacation in Austria, and this will be a great opportunity for us to spend time with each other and continue to teach them how to ski. After two days of skiing the valley we're going up to the Zugspitze where the skiing is phenomenal. They can tell all their friends they skied the highest mountain in Germany. Once we tire of skiing we'll take the gondola into the mountains where we'll spend the day walking and enjoying the scenery of the snow-capped mountains and drinking hot cocoa at the guesthouses along the way. Since my girls love the snow and wish they

could have it all year long, they'll bring their sleds which makes it easier on them to get down the mountains rather than walking all the time. After the kids get exhausted we plan to go to Oberammergau where my wife loves to shop and buy all her woodcrafts. She particularly likes the pictures that are carved out of wood in 3-D.

Upon our return from our getaway I plan to sit down with both of my girls and go over the first half of the school year so they can let me know what they've learned while I was gone and also so I'll know where they need to improve so I can be there to help them out. Madien and Melissa are both members of a German dance club. I'm very excited about being able to take them to their classes to watch them do what they love to do.

Our favorite thing to do during the winter is to sit down in the living room, play family games, take turns picking out the games while drinking hot cocoa or apple cider which my wife has perfected over the years. The funny thing about playing the games is it always seems like Madien or Melissa always wins.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Gaining a new respect for soldiers' role

DoDDS principals, administrators get inside look at peacekeeping mission in Kosovo

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
Staff writer

They came bearing stacks of letters from families in Germany and left with a better understanding of what the parents of their students are accomplishing in the Balkans. Eight Department of Defense Dependents Schools principals and district administrators traveled to Kosovo Nov. 10-12 to get an inside look at the day-to-day mission of deployed soldiers from their local school districts.

Soldiers working 12-hour or more days to maintain the peace in Kosovo. Young Kosovar pupils attending class in bombed out buildings with the most meager of school supplies. Parents expressing pride in the changes they've helped bring about. These, and a host of still and video images, were among the impressions DoDDS officials brought back to share with pupils in schools from Bad Kreuznach to Giessen, Bad Nauheim to Dexheim.

"I got to see a number of my parents and take pictures of them," said David Russell, Giessen Elementary School principal. "I got the photos developed and shared them with the students. Originally I was sort of skeptical about the purpose of our trip, but when I saw the kids' and moms' reactions and then the dads' reactions downrange it was really worth it. I think it helped make us more a part of the community.

"They (soldiers) are doing a tremendous job, and I'm not sure the rest of the world appreciates it," Russell added.

"People come down here, but you can't always relate to them," said Sgt. Ronny Michel, a Company B, 1-37th Armor soldier, who along with Sgt. Shane Perret played host to Gene Knudsen, Hessen District acting superintendent, and Les Hany, executive officer for the Kaiserslautern District, during their visit to Kosovo's Camp Monteith. "These principals (and DoDDS administrators) are taking back videos which will help give the students a better understanding of what soldiers are doing in Kosovo. I told my daughter about it and she was excited."

"We have a new and a better understanding of what's been happening to parents," said Knudsen. "Everyone is really excited



Bad Kreuznach school principals Charlie Helmstetler and Su Somaini enjoy lunch in the Camp Monteith Dining Facility during their visit to Kosovo.

about being here, and they're really proud of what they've accomplished."

"I think this is a great opportunity," said Perret, whose family lives in Butzbach. "I sent a video back to my kids and they got a better understanding of what we're doing here. This visit will provide the principals with the chance to bring more information back to the kids.

"I feel our mission here is to change the future for the children of Kosovo," added Perret. "We try to give equally to the Serb and Albanian children."

"I think they're under a lot of pressure to always do the right thing," said Hany, after getting a chance to see soldiers in action. "Every time there's a confrontation they have to make the right decision."

"It just brought home what a great job they're doing, keeping down the violence," said Su Somaini, principal of Bad Kreuznach Elementary School.

"I'm hoping this will be a long-lived experience for our kids here - that they get to understand that not everyone has what they have," said Somaini who visited two extremely needy Kosovo schools during her visit. She said she plans to organize a school supplies drive to collect the basics such as pencils and writing paper to send to the Kosovo schools.

"We are blessed to have so many things in our schools," said Russell, who along with Ora Flippen-Casper, Hanau's Argonner Elementary School principal, spent time getting to know Kosovo school teachers and visited a school in a village near Pristina. "Everything but the school building had been erased," he said, adding that there was no electrical equipment, no playground equipment and students shared the school grounds with cows. "Teachers were working extremely long hours with very little equipment."

"The school was very barren," said Flippen-Casper. "I really sympathized with the teachers."

"I really didn't know what to expect before the trip," Flippen-Casper said. "It opened my eyes. I have a better understanding of what their mission is when they deploy. In talking to the soldiers I realize they are very proud and have a high self-esteem. I was also surprised that they work so hard - so many hours a day. ... One does not have any idea unless you are there. It was a very enlightening experience for me. I learned a lot. I highly respect their (soldiers) professionalism, their dedication and all that they've done."

Other principals who traveled to Kosovo included Bad Kreuznach High School's Charlie Helmstetler and Giessen High School's Carol Kuzmick. Connie Ball, 104th Area Support Group schools officer, said further trips are planned for more local principals to visit Kosovo next year after 2nd Brigade soldiers have assumed the Task Force Falcon peacekeeping mission.



Gene Knudsen (left), acting Hessen District superintendent, and Les Hany, Kaiserslautern District executive officer, look over weapons confiscated during a search operation in Cernica.



Units and schools have "adopted" several needy Kosovo schools such as this one in Doganovic. DoDDS principals had a chance to visit several during their Kosovo visit.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Casing ceremony marks brigade's departure

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

As a contingent of soldiers representing 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery respond to the commands of a lone bugler during a casing ceremony, the remaining soldiers from those units are busy packing out of their barracks and readying themselves for the rapidly approaching deployment to Kosovo.

The casing ceremony Nov. 9 symbolically marked the departure of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team for its peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. The deployment is expected to last through June 2001.

After each member of the official party presented brief comments to the soldiers and guests, each 2nd Brigade unit, except 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, ceremoniously cased its colors. 1-6th Infantry will remain in Baumholder to serve as 2nd Brigade's rear detachment. Collectively, all supporting agencies staying behind in Baumholder, to include the 222nd Base Support Battalion, will be known as Task Force Baumholder.

The deploying units' colors will be uncased in Kosovo during a change of command ceremony where Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Quinlan will assume command of Task Force Falcon from Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy.

Sergeants major from 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery orchestrated the entire casing ceremony. Leading the formation was 2nd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman J. Fuller. The other sergeants major on point were William K. Gunter, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment;

Jose Gomez Jr., 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; Christopher Taylor, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment; Robert Winzenreid, 40th Engineer Battalion; Jose R. Blanco, 47th Forward Support Battalion; and Douglas C. Delano, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

The 1st Armored Division Band provided the musical backdrop, adding to the pageantry of the event.

As part of the ceremony Col. Gene C. Kamena, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, awarded the Shield of Sparta to Julie Jordan and Sabina Mann for their many years of dedicated service. Kamena also recognized several family support group volunteers for the support and dedication they provided to their respective units.

Kamena said the senior leadership of the Army is faced with the challenge of transforming the army of today into a lighter, more deployable and more lethal force. "I would offer to the senior leaders of our Army a perfect case study, this combat team," he said. "We have honed both our warfighting skills and our peacekeeping skills," he added.

Turning to the families, Kamena said, "We cannot, we must not, overlook their sacrifices. We owe them our gratitude and our support. The leaders of this combat team have worked very hard to mitigate many issues our families will face while we are deployed. Our rear detachment, Task Force Baumholder, is ready to face those challenges.

"With the knowledge that things will be okay back here in Baumholder, after our departure, our soldiers can



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman J. Fuller (left) cases the 2nd Brigade colors with the assistance of Col. Gene C. Kamena, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, during a ceremony that officially marked the departure of soldiers for Kosovo.

and will focus on the task at hand," he said.

"To the soldiers of the Iron Brigade, I know you are ready, you are well trained and you're motivated. I'm very proud of you. I consider it an honor to serve with you, and I would do so anywhere, anytime," said Kamena.

Quinlan, Task Force Falcon commander, echoed Kamena's praise for the soldiers by adding, "As we begin the deployment phase, you must carry the standards and high discipline you displayed during the mission rehearsal exercise forward into Kosovo.

"It is fitting that this ceremony should be led and executed by NCOs, because it is the NCOs, the sergeants, who are at the point of the spear every day in Kosovo. Yes, NCOs are the backbone of Task Force Falcon and our Army. It is not an overused or trite saying, rather, it's the central reason our Army today has no peer in the world," said Quinlan.

"The NCO Creed and the Flat Ass Rules are your Bible. Read them every day. Live them every minute. Maintain iron discipline throughout our entire deployment and treat everybody with dignity and respect. If we do those things, we will advance the peace process and bring everybody home," he said.

Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Jr.,

1st Armored Division commander, focused his remarks on deployment preparation and the mission in Kosovo. Casey assured spouses that no effort was spared to ensure every soldier in Task Force Falcon is trained and ready for the mission.

"A year ago we established as our watch words, no untrained soldiers will go in harms way. They've (the soldiers) worked hard at it ever since. We put them through a very rigorous mission rehearsal exercise in October and we've had numerous visits to Task Force Falcon and they are prepared.

"On Dec. 18 the 2nd Brigade Combat Team will once again be on point for the United States of America in the Balkans," said Casey. "The mission that these soldiers will perform is to establish and maintain a secure environment so that the civil implementation can succeed."

Casey explained that a year ago there was no government in Kosovo. "Before the air campaign, 200,000 Serbs had been basically running an Apartheid government ruling 2 million Albanians with an iron hand," he said.

"A lot of progress had been made since the 1st Armored Division took the mission in June. Overall levels of violence are down. Construction is booming, and the United Nations police have ac-

cepted primacy in our sector. That means that they have taken on the basic law enforcement mission, which is a big relief for our soldiers," said Casey.

He added that there have also been elections in Yugoslavia and Kosovo. "The ultimate outcome of the one in Yugoslavia remains to be seen," he said. He explained that with President Milosevic out of power, "The prospects for the reintegration of Yugoslavia into the European community of nations and renewed regional stability are significantly enhanced."

Casey outlined the three 1st AD goals while in Kosovo. "The first is to be good soldiers every day. Secondly we should advance civil implementation. We, with our experience in the Balkans, know full well that we are not going to close this out on our watch. But we will move the ball forward every day and we will leave the sector better than we found it. And the last, we should bring everybody home. We owe that to you and we owe that to ourselves. Success in Kosovo is critical to U.S. national security interests.

"Undeniably this is a tough mission," Casey said. "But you could not be better prepared, better trained, better equipped or better led. I know you will make a difference in the Balkans yet again."

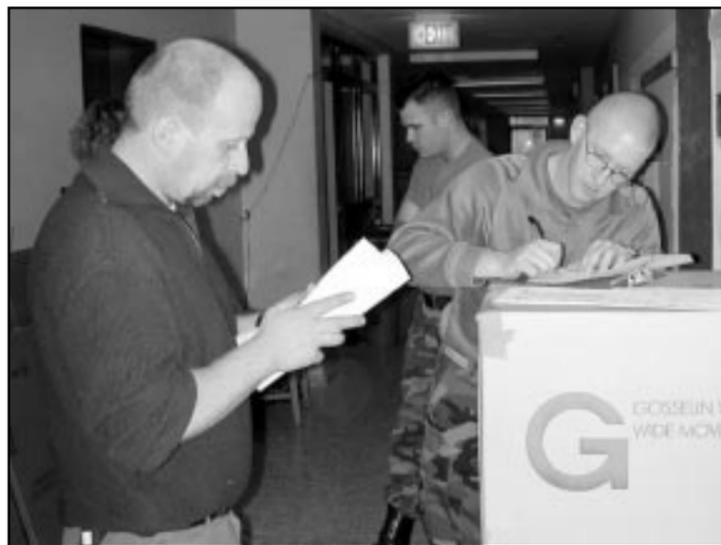


Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

While 2nd Brigade's official departure ceremony is under way at the Hall of Champions, a 2nd Brigade soldier packs out and verifies the contents of his storage goods by signing an inventory sheet.

Stop by the 222nd BSB Public Affairs Office to pick up a copy of the Herald Union's special "Deployment 2000" guide. Or visit the 104th ASG website at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil and click on "Deployment 2000."

Swim camps keep children busy on days off

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs office

One of the best kept secrets of working parents who need a place for their children to go on days off from school is about to be let out. The staff at Baumholder's indoor pool offers one- or two-day swim camps about eight times a year for children during their days off from school. Because Baumholder is the only military community in Europe that has an indoor pool, the camps can be offered year round.

"Most of the time when the kids are off from school, parents are working and the children don't have a place to go. The swim camps give them an opportunity to have some fun with proper supervision and keeps them off the street," said Brigitta Bruehl, fitness coordinator.

Swimming, however, is not the only activity children are treated to during a swim camp. The recent swim camp saw 26 children participating in activities such as water relays, arts and crafts, water

safety, free swim time and swimming lessons that included basic strokes and floating. The more advanced children received diving instructions and more advanced swimming lessons. The children were also treated to a lunch from Burger King. Children who could not swim were suited with flotation vests so they could participate in the fun.

"During the organized sessions, we separate the children by age groups and swimming ability," said Bruehl. For the free swim session, the pool staff brought out crocodile and whale floats for the children to enjoy.

"We're hoping to organize another swim camp during Christmas vacation," said Bruehl. Much will depend on staff availability, she said.

The word for these camps usually goes out through the schools. The pool staff makes flyers and gives them to the schools to hand out to the children. "We don't really need a lot of advertisement, because the camps fill up pretty quick," said Bruehl.

Oh well, the secret's out.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Children enjoy free swim time during the recent swim camp at Baumholder's indoor pool. The pool offers swim camps throughout the year during several days off from school.

Santa dumps red suit to show at swimming party

This Christmas Santa trades his traditional red suit with white trim for beach-comber shorts and a loud Hawaiian shirt to take part in a Christmas Watery Wonderland Splash Party Dec. 20 from 6-8 p.m. at Baumholder's indoor pool.

Admission to the aquatic Christmas activities is \$1 for children and free for

parents. Each child will receive a gift from the jolly ol' elf when he arrives in a sleigh pulled by water treading reindeer.

"Everyone should come prepared to swim," said Brigitta Bruehl, fitness coordinator. "As in the past several of our activities have been open to German children. And this one is no exception. Children

from the local German community are also welcome to join in the fun. Since Christmas is a time for sharing, what better way to share than to give everyone an opportunity to enjoy a Christmas-like atmosphere at the pool," she said. A variety of water-related activities are planned for the afternoon.

Members of the Deutsche

Lebensrettungs Gesellschaft, German life-guard association, will also be on hand for the festivities and to ensure everyone's safety.

After Santa passes out his Christmas treasures the pool staff will offer organized water activities, followed by free swim time for everyone.

Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke commissaries will close at 4 p.m. Dec. 6 for their Christmas party. They will also close Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas.

Post office adds hours

The Baumholder post office has expanded its hours of operation to accommodate the increase in letters and packages during the holiday season. Expanded hours of operation for the main post office are: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday noon to 6 p.m. Saturday openings include Dec 2, 9, and 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mail going MPS to Kosovo will continue to go through the unit mail clerks until Dec. 23 due to the deployment of soldiers.

The Strassburg post office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To ensure packages and letters to the U.S. are delivered before Christmas, customers should mail them by the following dates: Dec. 4 PAL parcels, Dec. 11 priority parcels and first class letters, Dec. 18

express mail.

For more information contact the postal officer at mil 485-6429/7502.

School needs coach

A wrestling coach is needed at Baumholder American High School. Experience is required. Call Dom Calabria at mil 485-7590.

See your VA rep

A Veterans Administration Representative will be in Baumholder Dec. 19 at 9 a.m.

This briefing is open to the public, and all members of the community are encouraged to attend. Call the Army Career and Alumni Program Center at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330 to register for the Dec. 19 VA briefing.

ACAP classes

ACAP is sponsoring the VA briefing on Nov. 28 at 9 a.m. and Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. Call mil 485-6741/

6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330 to schedule an appointment.

ACAP pre-separation briefings are held every morning at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday.

ACS outlook

The International Spouses Club meets Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Army Community Service lounge. The next Newcomers Coffee is Dec. 5 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

Army Community Service and the Baumholder Library offer a story hour for children Nov. 23. Story hours are offered from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for up to age 18 months and from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 19 months through school age.

ACS calendar

Nov. 29 Anger Management

Dec. 1 Workplace Communications



Post notes

- counts
- Dec. 7** Child Safety and Supervision
- Dec. 8** Resume and Cover Letters
- Dec. 11** Successful Parenting Employment Orientation Resumix Workshop
- Dec. 12** Stress Management Step Family Relationships
- Dec. 13** Conflict Resolution Appropriate Touch Fixing Financial Problems For information call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Operation Good Cheer brings German families, soldiers together

By Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Army can't send every soldier home to his family for the holidays but Operation Good Cheer can provide some soldiers with a "holiday" family.

Operation Good Cheer is an annual program that brings German families together with American soldiers during the holidays. German families participating in the program open their homes to American soldiers and invite them to share Christmas, Christmas dinner, and often, New Years with them.

"The fact that German families are willing to open their homes and share the holidays with our soldiers demonstrates that this program not only provides memorable experiences for our soldiers, it also serves to enhance German-American friendships at the grass-roots level," said Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander.

Units wishing to participate are asked

to appoint a project officer and provide a by-name roster of those soldiers selected to Public Affairs by Dec. 6 or as soon as possible.

A get-together is scheduled for Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at the restaurant Haus Aulenbach. This meeting will allow soldiers and families to get acquainted and make arrangements for the holidays. Visitation with German families can last from one to three days.

Transportation to and from the host family's home during the holidays will be



the responsibility of the soldier and the unit. However, experience has shown that most families provide transportation for the soldiers.

Soldiers selected will be representing their commander, their unit, the Baumholder community and the U.S. Army. The Public Affairs Office staff is available to help brief selected soldiers on proper standards of conduct and appearance.

For more information on Operation Good Cheer call the Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600/7517 or fax mil 485-7415.

DIVARTY opens Red Leg Room

By Jennifer R. Babich
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

With the snap of a photo and the break of a ribbon, Division Artillery commander Col. Daniel Nolan III and his wife Ann recently conducted the official opening of Baumholder's newest regimental room, the Division Artillery "Red Leg Room."

Located in the Rheinlander just downstairs from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Regimental Room, the DIVARTY "Red Leg Room" features two rooms decorated in artillery red that will be used for such ceremonial functions as reenlistments, promotions and

award ceremonies, as well as unit social events.

"We're working hand-in-hand to make the Rheinlander a better place," said DIVARTY Lt. Col. Steve Payne, as he discussed the importance of the room.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Nolan expressed his thanks to Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela and his wife Robin for their hard work and dedication, along with all those who helped make the "Red Leg Room" a reality.

Wielding a cavalry sword once owned by Nolan's grandfather, the Nolans wrapped up the ceremony in grand style with a cake-cutting.

Certificates provide holiday meals

The Holiday Food Gift Certificate Program is designed to provide gift certificates for seasonal food to needy families in the Baumholder community.

Army Community Service Consumer Affairs and the Financial Readiness Program coordinate the program.

Community units, clubs and individuals are asked to support the program with cash contributions. Monetary donations may be dropped off at Chapel One or ACS. Checks should be made out to the "Helping Hands Fund."

Volunteers are also needed to assist with preparing the food certificates.

"If everyone in the community were to donate \$1 toward the food basket program, it would be an extremely prosperous, warm and wealthy Christmas for all families in Baumholder," said Stephanie Fluellen of ACS.

"By helping the holiday giving programs in your community you can help others share in the joy of the season," she said.

For more information call Pat Ratcliff or Stephanie Fluellen at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo



Photo by David Ruderman

Ermal Haxhiu (right) and Erjon Ceko key in teaching materials for the Camp Bondsteel Education Center's Head Start Albanian class. Photo right: Spc. Brian Rudd and Pfc. Juan Velez stay in shape at Bondsteel's MWR Center.

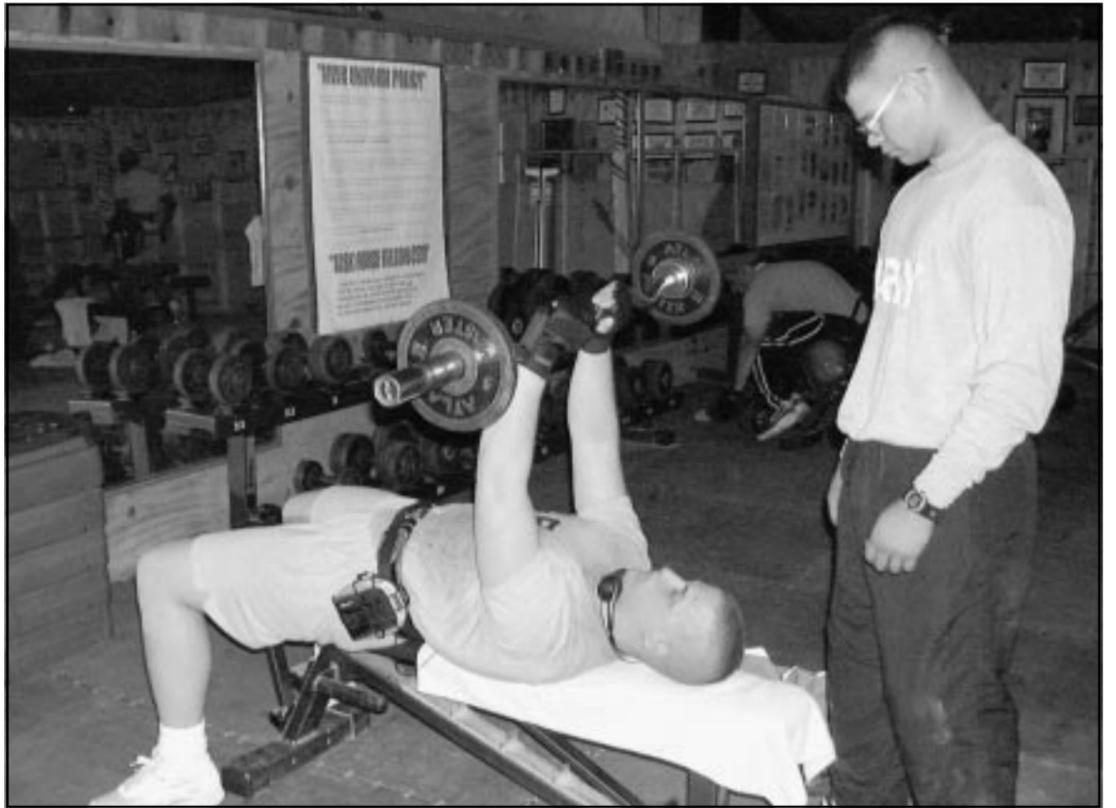


Photo by Karl Weisel

Taking time off in Kosovo, Macedonia Variety of education, MWR services available

By Karl Weisel
Staff writer

People may tell you what to expect upon your arrival in Kosovo, but don't be surprised if you too are dazzled by the "latest wonder of the western world." One of the U.S. Army's largest military camps, Camp Bondsteel is a true sight to behold. Spread out over several hills and covering some 360,000 square meters, the base camp features all the amenities of home (minus the family) and continues to improve on a daily basis.

At both Camps Bondsteel and Monteith, construction is ongoing, with additional, enhanced facilities being opened regularly.

"I spend all of my free time down here," said Spc. Brian Rudd, a 2-327th Infantry soldier from Fort Campbell, Ky., about the multitude

of fitness, computer and recreational opportunities available at the MWR Center in Camp Bondsteel's "South Town." Rudd, who was staying in shape by pumping iron with his unit buddy, Pfc. Juan Velez, also praised the quality of food in the Monteith and Bondsteel dining facilities and the movie theater. While he missed his family and "real beer ('Bucklers don't count')," Velez praised the quality of the facilities in Kosovo.

"The gym is a stress reliever," said MWR programmer Lavon Washington. He said a new gym at Camp Bondsteel would open soon, but would be used first as temporary quarters for soldiers redeploying out of Kosovo. The two gyms on Bondsteel will offer full- and half-court basketball and a variety of new strength and cardiovascular equipment, said MWR specialist Augustus Blair. "We're bringing in all new Hammer Strength equip-

ment — that's top of the line," he said.

In the meantime, soldiers flock to MWR to stay busy and stay in touch. "The computer rooms stay busy," said Washington. "They stay full probably 18 hours out of the day. We have a VTC [Video Tele-Conferencing center] that's up and running. And then you can always call the States." There are 14 telephones for placing morale calls on the north side of Bondsteel, he said.

On any weekend soldiers will discover a host of activities from 10-mile runs to a recent Military Stakes competition.

Soldiers interested in continuing their education will also not be disappointed in Kosovo. Not only is it 100 percent tuition assisted, but there is an equally diverse assortment of classes and programs available as at bases in Germany.

"Everything we do at any of the other education centers we do here," said Nancy Ray, education services officer for Task Force Falcon and Macedonia. "We've got testing programs, and we're just starting Albanian Headstart classes."

The Albanian language instructors, Erjon Ceko and Ermal Haxhiu, are both graduates of Tirana University in Albania. "It's a good thing teaching your mother tongue to other people," said Ceko. "It's interesting to see what other people take from your language."

Albanian, which is unrelated to other European languages, has 36 letters for beginners to absorb.

"The grammar is somewhat difficult, but we can teach the soldiers to communicate," said Haxhiu. "If someone comes here, he's interested," said Ceko. "If he's inter-

ested, I know I'll be 100 percent successful in teaching him." The 10-day course has morning and evening sessions.

With education centers available in Camps Bondsteel and Monteith in Kosovo, and Able Sentry in Macedonia, soldiers will find a range of college and university classes, distance learning opportunities, testing programs, Functional Academic Skills Training classes and more. "We have a wonderful program," said Ray. "We also have an advanced skills education program. Also, each of our computer labs has 15 computers — all hooked up to the Internet. Soldiers can come in and access military materials and do their correspondence courses. Our first priority is education, but if a computer is free, they can use

them to check their email and use the Internet.

"Most of these soldiers are really dedicated, and the education centers give them an opportunity that they may not have back in garrison because they're frequently out in the field," said Ray. "What we do is schedule classes throughout the day so it gives everybody an opportunity to take one. We get people from all ranks who are involved in our education process. Our programs will match up to anyone, anywhere — they're top-notch. And they're here for the soldiers."

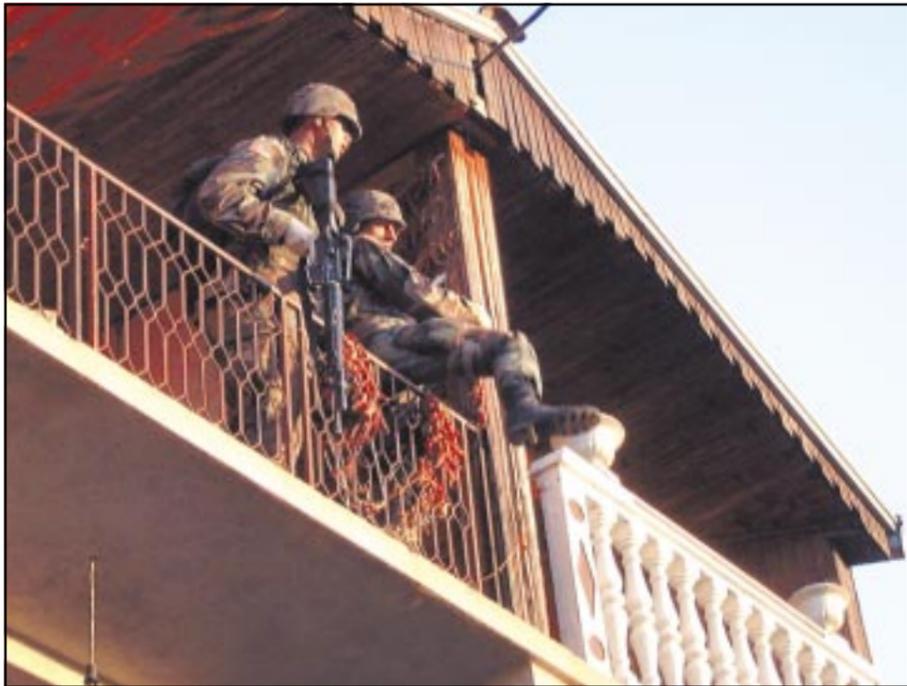
Camp Bondsteel was scheduled to open a brand new Education Center Nov. 22. "When we opened the first one on Bondsteel on March 21, we had 207 people walk in — they were lined up," Ray said.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Sharing the gospel in Kosovo

Sgt. Orlando Dorsey (from left), Sgt. Thaddous Carr and Staff Sgt. Calvin Davenport, Company B, 501st Forward Support Battalion, polish their songs during a rehearsal at the Camp Monteith Chapel. The choir, along with the Camp Bondsteel Choir and the International Choir of Pristina performed at a service Nov. 12. "We have talented individuals, and those blessed with a great voice come in to sing in the choir," said Davenport.



Soldiers enter an unoccupied house during Operation Milos in Cernica.

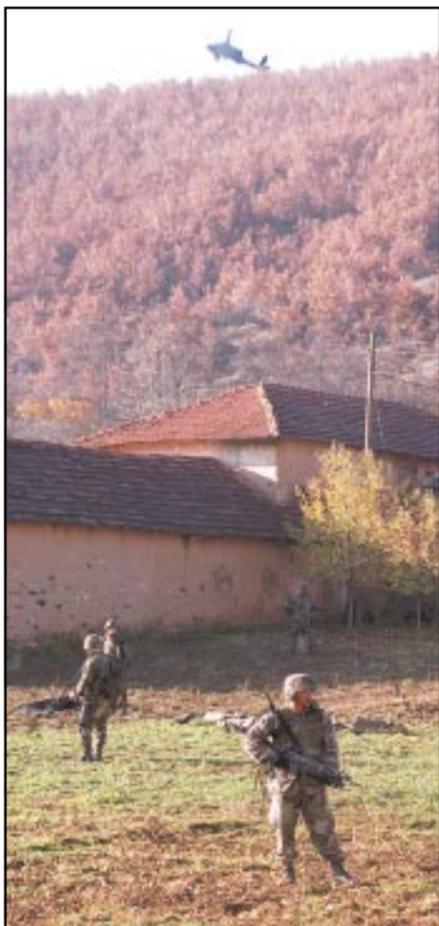
Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Operation Milos

Infantry troops go door-to-door to round up illegal weapons and ammunition in Cernica

By David Ruderman
Staff writer

Battle-rattle ready soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, took a walk along Kosovo's fault line of hate Nov. 11 and left the town of Cernica just a little bit safer in the process. Soldiers searched residents, their homes, barns and courtyards, recovering about 30 weapons and a sizeable supply of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer used



A patrol secures a field surrounding a house while an Apache hovers over the treeline.

to manufacture bombs. The cordon and search mission, called Operation Milos, began before dawn in this ethnically mixed town of about 2,900 residents, less than 10 kilometers southwest of Camp Monteith.

"A Serbian was killed in this town May 28 about 200 meters up that way," said Lt. Col. Michael C. Cloy, commander of the 1-36th, at a marshaling point in the center of town, 50 meters from a gutted mosque. "Cernica is one of the last towns in the American sector experiencing violence on a regular basis," he said. The periodic violence included shootings and bombings. In the May incident a 4-year-old Serbian boy was killed along with two others, and two more people were wounded. The cordon and search mission was named for the 4-year-old victim.

"When a new unit comes in here there's a bombing or a shooting. It was so bad we have soldiers walking kids to school," said Cloy. "It could be someone's doing it just to make sure we stay here. As you look back, every time there's been a relief in place there's been an event. We don't want that to happen. It's time it stops," he said.

About 400 soldiers in five companies searched the town sector by sector while U.N. Mission In Kosovo police broadcast loudspeaker instructions to residents to remain in their homes. Kiowa and Apache helicopters flew overhead conducting surveillance. By dawn the Warriors of Company B, 1-36th Armor, hadn't found anything to confiscate. "Not in the first six homes," said 2nd Lt. Earnest Minichello. "But we have 40 more to go."

"We are searching for assault rifles, modified shotguns, pistols, silencers, ammunition — anything that could provoke violence," said Capt. Rich Mullins, Company B, 1-36th. "If it's not a hunting gun or a shotgun, it's illegal," said Cloy. "Our real purpose is to help the moderates get on with life," he said.

On the largely Albanian north side of



Soldiers examine a pistol and ammunition turned over to them during the cordon and search operation. 1st Lt. David Lozano is center of the discovery noting the location and any identifying marks such as a serial number on the pistol.

town, getting on with life means harvesting cabbage, plowing fields for winter planting and hanging peppers to dry in the sun. Residents live in compounds surrounded largely by plastered brick walls. Inside each compound are one or more houses, a well, barns and pens, fruit trees, vegetable patches and compost heaps. Piles of sandals and shoes lay on strips of carpet before each house door.

As darkness faded, personnel security teams surrounded each homestead, and search crews got ready to enter the homes. A squad leader rapped on the front door, calling out "KFOR." Through a translator, homeowners were told what kind of armaments and contraband the troops were looking for and were advised to turn them over. After establishing the ground rules, the men and children were patted down, the women searched with an electronic metal detecting wand. Then the search crews filed in to go through the homes and farm buildings.

"A lot of these houses, nobody's even living in them," said platoon leader 1st Lt. David Lozano. Some residents who fled Kosovo to escape the Serbian security forces and the NATO airwar have still not returned, he explained. "So far we haven't found any unregistered weapons. It's fairly quick but they're tearing through everything," he said.

At one house the owner, Ardyl Hasani, told the KFOR troops he had a pistol which turned out to be a vintage Colt .45-caliber

revolver. He handed it over voluntarily along with ammunition wrapped in a kitchen towel. A trained geologist and director of mining operations during peacetime, Hasani was known as a former colonel of the Ushtria Clirimtare E Kosoves [Kosovo Liberation Army] and had had a pair of UCK BDUs confiscated on a previous search, said Lozano.

Despite Hasani's wife's protests, Lozano's search crew went through the house looking through wardrobes, the pantry, bedrooms and attics. Hasani, his wife and four children waited in the traditional Muslim living area used to receive guests. An aged relative, the grandfather or uncle, wandered about distracted in his skullcap. After the search Lozano explained to Hasani that his pistol was indeed being confiscated, but since he had surrendered it voluntarily he would not be detained.

Checking a hand drawn schematic map of the area before moving on to the next series of compounds, Lozano said the map was close but not exact. Based on aerial surveillance, the map left out some houses and some details. Still his soldiers knew what they were doing and were flexible enough to deal with any variations in the searching routine, said Lozano. "We trained for this in Hohenfels. It looks different on the ground. We're working with basically good intelligence."

Lozano said the searches and presence patrols have helped dampen the violence in Cernica. "We've seen change since we've been here. The big thing we're trying to do is provide stability and an environment where people can go to work," he said,

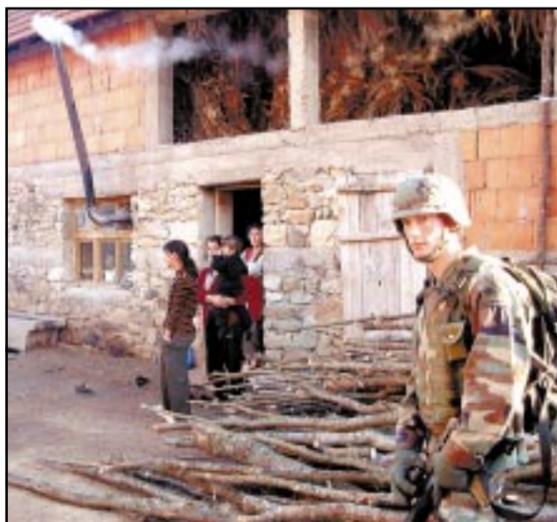
Photos by Karl Weisel



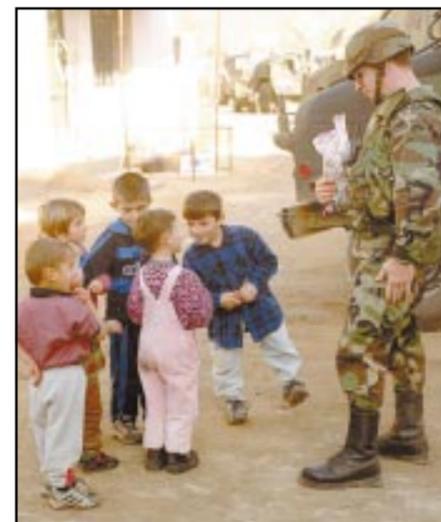
operation. 1st Lt. David Lozano (right) notifies the 1-36th Infantry command tactical operations center on the pistol.



The house of an Albanian Kosovar family is searched during the pre-dawn operation.



A Kosovar family gathers to watch U.S. soldiers search their property. The patrol quickly spread out to secure the area while the search was in progress.



Maj. Greg Baine, 1-36th Infantry operations officer, hands out candy and makes friends among the younger villagers.

crediting the Albanian residents with making the best of a bad situation.

As the morning wore on residents received the KFOR troops with increasing cordiality. In one compound the head of the household listened to the interpreter explain the KFOR squad's requests. After a short exchange the family stepped outside, were searched and wandered, and the squad went in to the house to search. The man waited outside smiling, and his children, at first shy but curious, clustered around the squad members, practicing their few words of English. There was a slight delay as the man went to find the key for a second home in the compound. "The reason there's nobody there is that they fled, like a lot of these people did, to Switzerland or to Germany," said Lozano. In this case the man's brother and family had managed to get out to Canada and hadn't returned as yet to the village.

Lozano's platoon moved on, crossing a small stream running through the village on a narrow bridge, the streambed cluttered with a chaotic assortment of broken items and refuse. They formed another perimeter to search an idle construction site, then moved on through a small field to cordon and sweep another segment of adjoining compounds.

As the morning sun warmed the town and took a little edge off the tension, Spc. Madrek Bolden got a few laughs from his colleagues by playing with a child's wooden gun he turned up while searching the courtyard well. The cordon and search was the largest such mission he'd been on, said Bolden. "We did more like individual searches in our sector, but this is the first big one like this," he said.

As the platoon approached another compound,

radio traffic identified one of the residents as "the bodyguard." The tension notched noticeably higher as Lozano's team entered and spread out around the house. An Albanian in his late 20s, Jeton Sherifi, listened to the KFOR message and promptly led three soldiers into a small room piled high with hay built into the compound wall. From inside the pile of fodder he pulled out a rifle wrapped in a plastic fertilizer bag as well as a small stock of ammunition.

Sherifi claimed he used the rifle for hunting, and Lozano's soldiers examined the cache to see whether it met the standard for authorized possession.

Lozano radioed in the specs and received word back that the rifle need not be confiscated but could be registered. A translator filled out a registration form and told Sherifi that a permit would be delivered sometime in the future. At the same time the 1-36th soldiers discovered a UCK beret and TMK [Trupat E Mbrojtjes Se Kosoves, predecessor of the UCK] patches, and Lozano joined the huddle to examine the outlawed patches.

Sherifi explained he kept them in memory of a friend who was badly wounded fighting

the Serbs and gave them to him before he died. Lozano listened and told him he understood. Sherifi got to keep the patches and other paraphernalia after Lozano's soldiers photographed them with a digital camera for future reference if necessary.

In a compound farther up the hill Lozano's men found a couple of old helmets which they confiscated after searching the family and house. "It's really helping them out. They don't want them. They don't want people thinking they're involved in that," said Lozano.

While running ahead of schedule in their sector, the Warriors were still in for a long day. After wrapping up the northern, Albanian end of town Lozano marched his platoon through the village to the south end to work their way back into the center through predominantly Serbian homes. The searches went on until after nightfall.

The cache of confiscated weapons included three grenades, eight pistols, 14 rifles, a Thompson submachine gun, three AK-47s and about 1,100 pounds of ammonium nitrate. "We're not surprised to find the major-

ity of weapons in Serb neighborhoods," said Cloy, explaining that residents see them as necessary for self-defense. "What we'll see is at least a couple of months where the people will be very cautious about what they bring into town. We can follow up with a more specific set of searches," he said.

As he monitored the operation from the center of town, Cloy was approached by an escort leading a Serbian woman carrying her baby who claimed she was trying to reach her mother's house. Cloy's soldiers had kept her husband and others accompanying them and their auto out of the village while the cordon and search progressed. Cloy lifted the blanket in which the baby was wrapped, asked the woman exactly where she came from and where she was going. Judging her explanation sufficient, he let her pass. Similarly, a memorial service for the Serbian boy after whom the day's operation was named had to be postponed until the search was complete.

"This is a leadership laboratory that you don't find anywhere short of combat," said Cloy. "It's really solidified small unit tactics and skills. It also gives our soldiers excellent weapons training and a sense of mission accomplishment." He said peacekeeping has also exposed soldiers to the cold, hard facts of life in a divided nation. "Our soldiers have seen some tragic things. After a while it begins to wear on you. It's a hard culture. We're ready to go home."

"We've seen change since we've been here. The big thing we're trying to do is provide stability and an environment where people can go to work." — 1st Lt. David Lozano

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

BSB welcome preparations in full swing

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Yellow ribbons, American flags and banners hang from buildings and in the fitness centers in Giessen and Friedberg. Community members sport yellow "I missed you" buttons on their collars in anticipation of upcoming soldier homecomings from Kosovo.

"We want to make sure they know we missed them and we appreciate what they did," said Karen McComas, Army Community Service director of the 284th Base Support Battalion. Currently ACS staff and volunteers are busy with the decoration process. They are also baking cookies and packing goodie bags for single soldiers, while Family Readiness Groups arrange to make the beds of single soldiers. "They'll return to an empty room so at least they won't have to worry about making their beds when they come back," said McComas.

There is more to the redeployment than yellow ribbons and buttons. In the past months BSB officials have been busy preparing for the redeployment. "Actually we started as soon as the soldiers left Giessen and Friedberg," said John Durden, director of plans, training, mobilization and security. Many preparations are going on unseen at the moment focusing on a safe and efficient return of the battalions and their equipment.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Tawania Kovacs, ACS Family Support coordinator, helps decorate Giessen's Alpine Club for the upcoming redeployment ceremonies.

To ensure a smooth transition to normal life the Directorate of Logistics has been busy preparing for the smooth return of household goods and privately owned vehicles to single soldiers.

Families prepared

ACS and the 284th BSB Chaplain's Office have been preparing spouses and children for the reunion with workshops. "Especially

the children need some preparation for the restructure and readjustment phase," said Chaplain (Maj.) Marshall Peterson, family life chaplain for the 284th BSB. ACS has been hosting workshops for spouses at different locations, and Peterson is currently visiting the schools in the BSB to talk to students about the redeployment, their hopes and expectations.

Leisure time activities

Once Task Force Falcon soldiers return they'll go on block leave, so the BSB has also arranged leisure time activities for all soldiers and families staying here during their free time.

"We put together a schedule featuring events and activities that lets our soldiers know how proud we are of the great job they did downrange as well as how happy we are they are back," said Amy Blanchard, marketing specialist of the 284th BSB Directorate of Community Activities. Activities include programs for single soldiers such as special nights at the Woodland and Capri clubs featuring country and western bands and a battle of the DJs.

Sports and fitness are also on the program. During block leave rock-climbing fees in Friedberg will be waived for all active duty soldiers. The bowling centers offer bowling for half price and designated family days with free nachos, coffee and hot chocolate. "The

Sports Office hosts a flag football tournament Jan. 13-14. Active duty soldier teams will not have to pay a registration fee," said Blanchard. Outdoor Recreation has scheduled trips to Amsterdam, the Kreuzberg brewery or to Strassbourg for active duty soldiers for \$20.

Fun activities for families

Special attention will also be given to activities for families. The Woodland and the Capri Club will offer family nights. "Many community members don't think of these clubs as family-oriented, but we decided to dedicate four nights to just children and their parents," said Blanchard. Nonalcoholic beverages and free food such as hot dogs and finger food will be served while a disc jockey plays music, giving the children a chance to dance around to their favorite music and have fun with their parents. With this program the clubs want to give soldiers and their families some place to go, to have fun and to get reacquainted with each other.

Despite all the set schedules employees and volunteers in the BSB are still working on welcoming the troops, ensuring everything has been thought of, everything is being taken care of.

"We want to ensure that this will be the best redeployment ever," said McComas.

Community spotlight

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for all housing areas in the 284th Base Support Battalion is Dec. 1.

Red Cross update

The 284th BSB Red Cross Office conducts **holiday gift-wrapping and photos with Santa** at the Giessen Main Exchange Dec. 2, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16. Photos will be taken Dec. 2 from noon to 4 p.m. and on all other dates from noon to 5 p.m.

Separation briefing, job workshop

Two-day Army Career and Alumni Program **pre-separation briefings and job assistance workshops** will be held in Giessen Dec. 12-13, Jan. 23-24 and Feb. 13-14. Attendance is **mandatory** for all separating and retiring service members no later than 90 days prior to separation; spouses are welcome to attend. A computerized version of the briefing can be completed in the Hanau ACAP Office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-10 a.m. For details or appointments call

mil322-8356/8298 or civ (06181) 88-8356.

New show at Keller Theater

The Keller Theater in Giessen hosts "*Don't Dress for Dinner*," a farce by Marc Camelotti, Dec. 1-2, 7-9 and 14-16 at 7 p.m. It is an adults-only show. For reservations call mil 343-6515.

All about toys

Parents wondering what to get their children for Christmas are invited to join the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services and Army and Air Force Exchange Service for a **demonstration of toys** that are fun and appropriate for the developmental age of their child Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lobby of the Giessen Main Exchange. At 1 p.m. both organizations host the original "*Toy Story*" at the Skyline Theater in Giessen. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for children and free for children under age 4.

Story time at library

Giessen Library hosts a **pre-school story time** Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m. Theme is "**Holiday**." For de-

tails call Ann Burski at mil 343-7713.

St. Nick home visits

Parents in Marshall and Dulles housing can sign up at the Giessen Youth Services to have **St. Nick visit** their children at home Dec. 6. Cost is \$6. For more information call mil 343-6129.

What's up at ACS

Army Community Service hosts **Hearts Apart** sessions Dec. 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Giessen and Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Friedberg. A **Giessen Adventure trip** is scheduled for Dec. 4. Departure is at 8:30 a.m. from Building 3. Return is scheduled for 2 p.m. A **Stress Management** class is scheduled for Dec. 5 from 1-2 p.m. in Friedberg. For more information call ACS Giessen at mil 343-7618 or ACS Friedberg at 324-3465.

Hearts and Hands update

The Hearts and Hands Community Club **seeks a manager** and a **bookkeeper** for the Butzbach Thrift Shop. Positions require experience. Applications can be picked up at any of the thrift shops. Or call Andre



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Celebrating Native Americans

Chief Reuben G. Lavato III teaches Bad Nauheim Elementary School pupils a tribal dance during a celebration of Native American Heritage Month. Lavato visited all 284th Base Support Battalion schools and talked to students about the history and traditions of Native Americans.

Golden at civ (06033) 895 466. **Volunteers** are sought for **Wild West Night 2001**. Cancan girls, aides for gambling and decorating, auction-

eers, sheriffs and other volunteers are needed. For details contact D'Lynn Phelps at civ (06033) 744 747.

For more information check out the 284th Base Support Battalion's home page at www.giessen.army.mil.

Santa Claus sheds light on holiday season

With a little help from Santa Claus, Christmas trees in Bad Kreuznach and Dexheim will light up for the holiday season.

Community members are encouraged to participate in the tree-lighting ceremonies as follows:

► **Bad Kreuznach's ceremony** will be held Thursday, Dec. 7, starting at 5 p.m. at the Nahe Club.

The event will feature the 1st Armored Division Band, Christmas carols sung by a children's choir and a visit from Santa Claus. The jolly ol' soul will help switch on the tree's lights. Warm beverages



Photo by Deborah L. Powers

Santa waves to the crowd at last year's tree-lighting ceremony.

will be available inside the club. Following the ceremony the Nahe Club will offer an all-you-can-

eat chicken buffet dinner as well as an opportunity for children to pose for pictures with Santa in the Fireside Room.

► **Dexheim's ceremony** will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, starting at 5:45 p.m. in the chapel's parking lot.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Bad Kreuznach High School Band, the Dexheim Elementary School Choir and a German Partnership Choir.

Santa Claus will greet the crowd in German and English, and will help illuminate the community's tree. Santa will also offer children rides in his wagon throughout the installation, singing German and American Christmas carols.

Warm refreshments will be available for all spectators in the Chapel Annex.

Baskets of joy

Food basket program helps families under financial strain

Families under financial strain can still enjoy a traditional holiday dinner this Christmas, thanks to Army Community Service's annual Holiday Food Basket Program.

"This is a program where our community can directly brighten the season for those less fortunate," said Lisa Johnson, ACS financial readiness program manager.

Soldiers and their families are nominated for the program by their units, but the names of those assisted are not released to the community, Johnson noted.

The Holiday Food Baskets will contain a commissary food voucher, dry and canned goods as well as toys.

ACS will conduct their annual food drive for canned and dry goods with the assistance of the BK Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

"Every effort will be made to assist all families referred by the units," said Lt. Col. Russell C. Cloy, 410th Base Support Battalion commander, in a recent memorandum to all community members.

"However, it is necessary to remember that we are depending totally upon donations. ... The number of families assisted will depend completely upon the amount of donations," Cloy said.

There are a variety of ways community members can contribute to the program, including:

► **Donate nonperishable dry and canned foods** — A list of needed items will be available Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10 at the Bad Kreuznach Commissary.

"(ACS personnel) will be there from opening until closing, passing

out a list of suggested nonperishable food items that can be donated," Johnson said.

As a special treat ACS will give our free cookies and hot chocolate at the commissary on those four days. They've also invited Santa Claus to visit with children there from 2-4 p.m. on both Sundays (Dec. 3 and 10).

► **Donate monetarily** — Monetary donations from individuals, units, private organizations or chapel programs will be used to fund the commissary vouchers included in the baskets.

► **Buy a toy** — Toys for the baskets will be collected from dona-

tions to "Angel Trees" — Christmas trees decorated with angel ornaments — set up in the main entrance of the Post Exchange and Community Bank starting Nov. 26.

Community members may choose an angel and buy a gift appropriate for the

age and gender of the child indicated on the ornament. Wrapping the gift is optional but welcome. The angel ornament should accompany the gift so that ACS personnel can match the gifts to the proper recipients.

► **Volunteer time** — Volunteers are needed to assist with various phases of the program, especially putting the baskets together.

All donations should be dropped off at Bad Kreuznach ACS no later than Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. to ensure timely distribution to the families.

For more information contact Lisa Johnson at mil 490-7107 or civ (0671)609-7107.

"This is a program where our community can directly brighten the season for those less fortunate."

— Lisa Johnson



Photo by Hector Moreno

(Above) Bad Kreuznach Bearkats' DeQuincy Jarrel heads down field with Hohenfels defenders in pursuit. The championship loss was a tearjerker for BK's players, coaches, fans and cheerleaders (below).

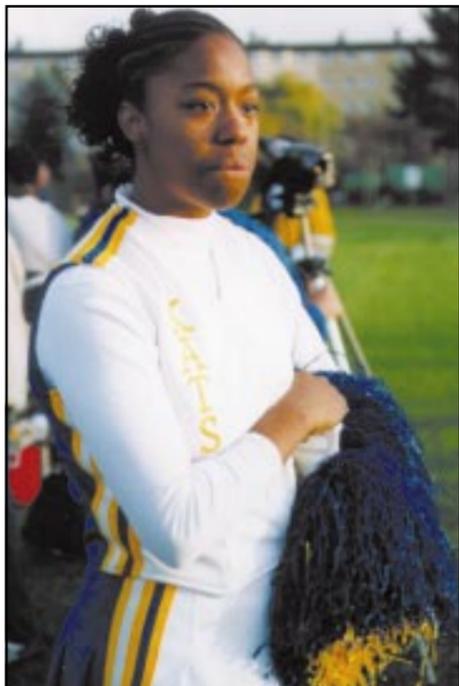


Photo by Deborah L. Powers

Despite championship loss, Bearkats' season 'a fun ride'

Despite the Bad Kreuznach Bearkats' disappointing 28-6 loss to Hohenfels in the Division III European Championship game Nov. 11, Gary Palmer will always look back fondly on his final season as head coach.

"I'm proud of the team and proud that they came as far as they did," he said. "Hohenfels had some outstanding athletes and they were disciplined and well coached. That is a deadly combination for any opposition."

The Bearkats went into the post-season playoffs after clinching the Division III-West crown Oct. 21. Their undefeated season had been full of hard-fought victories with the players responding well to pressure and putting forth a maximum team effort, Palmer said. But accomplishing a stellar season was only half of their dream: A win in front of their hometown crowd in the European championships — and the community's last-ever football game — would have been the icing on the cake for Palmer and his players.

"Of course, I will always remember how close we came to a storybook ending in Bad Kreuznach's last year. ... It was a fun ride," Palmer said.

Wish AFTB 'Happy Birthday' at open house

Bad Kreuznach Army Community Service invites the community to its Holiday Open House Friday, Dec. 15, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Refreshments and giveaways will be offered.

In conjunction with the open house, a birthday party celebration will be held at 1:30 p.m. in honor of "Army Family Team Building Day" — an Army-wide observance officially recognized

on Dec. 16.

AFTB is a Department of the Army training program designed to improve family readiness throughout America's Army. Weekly classes promote independence and self-reliance — especially when spouses are deployed.

For more information on the open house or AFTB call mil 490-7107 or civ (0671)609-7107.

Mörsfeld: first site to be returned

By Deborah L. Powers
410th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

In the first major step toward closure of the Bad Kreuznach military community, Mörsfeld Storage Point — used as a training area by 1st Armored Division units since 1992 — has been readied for turn-over to the German government.

From Nov. 6–9 the 410th Base Support Battalion S2/3, Department of Public Works and the 1st Armored Division combined forces to clean up the German-owned storage point, located 12.5 miles south of Bad Kreuznach between the towns of Steinbockenheim and Mörsfeld.

For the last eight years the vast site — with 127 acres of forested land — has been used as a drivers and maneuver training area for 1st AD tactical units.

“With paved roads and controlled access to the gates, it has been an ideal area for a driver’s course,” said Sergio Tanguma, training area coordinator for the 410thBSB S2/3.

With alternate training areas available within the 1st AD footprint, Mörsfeld was the first installation to be placed on the return list.

The keys to the site are expected to be officially handed over to the German Federal Assets Office before the start of the new year, according to Horst Nau, chief of Real Property for the 410th BSB DPW.

The cleanup detail centered



Photo by Deborah L. Powers

Pvt. 2 Yadira Cruz and Spc. Brian Minix remove one of the last remaining U.S. Army signs from the perimeter fence at Mörsfeld training area Nov. 8. The site is the first installation to be returned to the German government in preparation for the closure of the Bad Kreuznach military community.

around the dilapidated buildings on the property — a maintenance shop, a bachelor enlisted quarters and a storage building. A DPW crew had previously prepped the area for the mission by boarding up ground-floor windows, removing steel mats, emptying septic tanks, removing a fuel-oil tank and securing the buildings.

Tanguma and a team of 13 soldiers from the 1st AD then stepped in to clean in and around the buildings, load roadblocks — huge, concrete slabs — on five-ton trucks, remove massive quantities of

barbed wire and police the entire area.

Despite unseasonably cold temperatures and off-and-on rain, the soldiers — from 123rd Main Support Battalion in Dexheim (*Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pirtle from Company E; Pvts. 2 Yadira Cruz and Chris McGarity, Spcs. Casey Sherman, Jeremy Penny and Craig Monville from Co. B*) and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command (*Pfc. Dashuana Davis-Reed and Spcs. Natalie S. Smith, Brian Minix, Kipp Jones, Terrie*

McKenzie and Laura Grajeda) — forged ahead with the mission.

Tanguma praised the soldiers for going “full throttle” and executing the task “like clockwork.”

“By the 1st Armored Division pitching in, that’s what made this happen — the soldiers,” he said.

“They gave us a mission to execute and we got out there and did our best,” said Cruz. The unforgiving weather didn’t dampen the brighter side of the job, she added.

“Details like this bring (us) together — it gives you a chance to get to know other soldiers.”

Setting the tone

Since Mörsfeld is the first installation to be turned over in preparation for the closure of the BK military community in December 2001, there was a lot of emphasis on getting the job done right, according to Tanguma.

“This will set the tone on how the transition as a whole will go,” he said. “It was a long process to coordinate, but it was worth the effort because it went smoothly, it went fast, and now we can turn this over to the German government.”

Nau, who personally inspected the area several times during the four-day detail, was impressed with the end result.

“Both parties — the DPW grounds people as well as the S2/3 folks together with the 1st AD detail did a great job,” he said. “I was very pleased and convinced the area will pass our joint inspection.”

Briefly noted

Christmas cookie tins now in stock

An assortment of Christmas tins filled with German cookies as well as gingerbread house kits — equipped with everything needed to build a house of cookies and sweets — are now available at the commissaries in Bad Kreuznach and Dexheim. Both commissaries will be open on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. For more information call the BK Commissary at civ (0671) 609-6423 or the Dexheim store at civ (06133) 69-883.

Bid stress ‘bye’

The Family Advocacy Program sponsors “Coping with the Holiday Blues” Dec. 11 from 1–2:30 p.m. at Bad Kreuznach Army Community Service. The workshop will identify sources of holiday stress and will teach coping techniques. Call Lisa Howard at civ (0671) 609-7107 for more information.

Extra APO hours

Through Dec. 22 the Army Post Office on Marshall Kaserne will have extended operating hours — Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and noon to 6 p.m. on Thursdays — and will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Editor’s note: The following is Part X in the Herald Union’s ongoing “Through the Years” series celebrating more than 50 years of German-American friendship. — Deborah Powers



Exhibiting talent

Students show off their creations at a three-day German-American art exhibit held at the Bad Kreuznach Dependents School (elementary school) in 1955. The school’s 370 American students — most of whom were sons and daughters of 2nd Armored Division personnel — as well as more than 100 students from six German schools took part in the event. Among the displays were sculptures, murals, paintings, kitchen gadgets and needlework. Several intricate models were also showcased in the temporary art gallery, including one of medieval Bad Kreuznach as it looked before Kauzenburg Castle was destroyed by war in the early 1600s. Another model re-created the layout of the German fortress at Saarburg as it most likely looked some 2,000 years ago.

Photo courtesy of Bad Kreuznach Elementary School

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Healing deep-seated wounds

Religious leaders share hope for end to ethno-religious strife

By David Ruderman
Staff writer

Assassins bullets failed to kill Father Karillo during the year of chaos leading up to KFOR's occupation of Kosovo. Now on a sunny Saturday afternoon the burly, bearded Serbian Orthodox monk in his 50s watches two younger Serbian Kosovars jump-start his battered red Yugo. Behind him stand Draganac Monastery and the Church of St. Archangel Gabriel which dates back to the 14th century.

"Americans have been good to us," said Karillo. "It's not good, war. War is not good, peace is good. We like peace," he said. U.S. soldiers guard him, the five monks in his charge and the church and monastery 24 hours a day. During the war Karillo arranged the escape of the five monks to Serbia, but refused to abandon Draganac.

"No, if necessary he puts a sign for his grave," said Father Isadore, a monk in his early 30s. He said Albanians attacked the monastery and Karillo was shot at more than once. "But I frankly hope that better times have come and that all these calamities are behind us." What would happen if KFOR forces were not in place? "That question you should put to the Americans," said Isadore, adding he hoped they will stay.

"It would have been a great shame for great powers — the United States, Germany, France — not to stop this war," said Karillo. "Our people are used to say that if the Americans are willing, they will manage it. And if not we can be sure a new war will break out."

Inside the church Karillo receives a visit from Mike Pavich of the Kosovo Fund, a Serbian American charity engaged in preserving the Orthodox cultural heritage of Kosovo and aiding its Serbian communities. The church is sanctified by the relics of St. Jacob the Persian, and was already mentioned in a 1381 charter of Prince Lazar, born five kilometers away in Prilepnica. Lazar, the sainted Serbian national hero went down to



Bashkim Hasani (center) and friends discuss the expulsion of Serbian residents from their now all-Albanian town of Zegra. Above right: Fathers Isadore and Karillo greet visitors to the Draganac Monastery, a Serbian Orthodox holy site not far from Gnjilane and Camp Monteith.



defeat against the Muslim Ottomans at Kosovo Polje, the Field of Blackbirds, in 1389.

It is a reminder that the present and the past coexist in Kosovo today with greater intimacy than its ethnic Albanian majority and Serbian minority. The medieval cradle of Serbian national identity, Kosovo has become a center of Albanian life in the centuries since Lazar's defeat. Modern Albanian nationalism blossomed here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The exodus of Serbians in major migrations beginning in the 17th century and continuing through World War II changed the balance. Milosevic's attempted ethnic cleansing and the KFOR intervention have sealed the new status quo.

The town of Zegra lies 12 kilometers to the south. Now entirely Albanian, it wasn't always so. Burnt out sections of homes show where the Serbian families used to live. Some fled the road to Donja Budriga, a Serbian enclave a few kilometers north.

From the hillside above Zegra the minaret and dome of the central mosque are clearly visible in the valley below. On the hilltop the ruins of a church standing amid the overturned and smashed gravestones of an Orthodox cemetery are hard to miss. The St. Elijah parish church dates from 1931, not

exactly a treasure of Kosovo's medieval heritage, but an outpost of identity nonetheless.

The roof is gone; smashed tiles and charred beams litter the ground. The walls have been repainted inside and out with pink and green pastel color, but it is obvious the building was burned. In the town below, a construction boom is under way. New houses creep up the hillside below the shattered church while farmers till the intervening fields. Children play as the evening gathers and a sense of tranquility dominates.

In a school yard near the center of town bands of youngsters shoot baskets, ride bikes and banter. Do they know who burned the Serbs' houses? "They were all criminals," says 16-year-old Bashkim Hasani. Does he know who burned the church? "No. They were all criminals," he repeats. Did he know any of the Serbs who fled Zegra? "No." He said he never had Serb friends, never went to school with Serbs. He fled with his family to Macedonia to escape the war.

Can Serbians understand the hatred of the Albanian Kosovars who suffered under the brutality of the Milosevic regime? "It's a normal feeling," said Karillo. "Those who suffered hate — but only for people who have a very low faith. Those who have a strong faith don't hate," he said.

"I think, within any population, there's a population of radicals with their own agenda," said Chaplain (Maj.) Peter Baktis, Engineer Brigade, 1st Armored Division. An Orthodox priest, Baktis has contacts with religious leaders on both sides of the Kosovar divide. "Church leaders here in Kosovo want to work toward a unified, peaceful coexistence between Serbs and Albanians. The reality is that the Serbian Orthodox Church has been opposed to Milosevic. They're happy about the change of govern-

ment in Yugoslavia and are cautiously optimistic," he said.

Baktis met Nov. 13 in Pristina with the Mufti of Kosovo, Rexhep Boja, to personally invite him to the Nov. 19 opening of the Peacekeepers Chapel at Camp Bondsteel. Boja is the spiritual leader of 500 Muslim communal leaders throughout Kosovo. "He would want also to have a peaceful state in Kosovo, a Kosovar state," said Baktis. Bishop Artemije, leader of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo, local priests and elders were also expected to attend, he said.

"This region has never known real peace," said Baktis. "It is now, in this new epoch, the new world order, that we can finally teach people how to live together. If it has to be, what we're all praying for, peaceful coexistence, then people will have to come to their senses," he said.

Dusk spreads over Kosovo. KFOR soldiers return to scores of camps while others head out on another night of peacekeeping patrols. Thousands of black birds whirl through the sky above Camp Monteith, settling in slowly for the night. Their distant ancestors may have flown over Kosovo Polje 600 years ago. Maybe not. When the dawn comes they will take again to the sky above a land that has yet to heal.



Shattered gravestones and a destroyed Orthodox church bear witness to the violent conflicts that tore Kosovo apart.

Photos by Karl Weisel

Did you know?

The two U.S. camps in the Multinational Brigade-East sector of Kosovo are named for American soldier heroes of World War II and the Vietnam War.

Camp Bondsteel, named in honor of Staff Sgt. James Leroy Bondsteel, is one of the U.S. Army's largest military camps in the world. Encompassing some 900 acres, it can easily be compared to a small city. Bondsteel distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant with Com-

pany A, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, near the village of Lang Sau in Vietnam. His exemplary leadership and great personal courage throughout a four-hour battle are credited with saving the lives of numerous soldiers.

Camp Monteith, home to soldiers from such units as 1-37th Armor, 1-36 Infantry and 2-3rd Field Artillery, is named in honor of 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith Jr. Monteith, who landed with the initial assault waves on the coast of France during World War II, died on June 6, 1944, but not before helping destroy several enemy positions.

Both camps today are home to 1st Armored Division troops serving proudly in Kosovo.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

Things to keep in mind when deploying

Housing officials to the rescue

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home. Base support battalion Housing Office personnel are on call to help deploying soldiers properly secure their housing and property before deploying. Details of what must be done vary depending on whether the soldier is accompanied or unaccompanied, living in government quarters or private family housing.

Soldiers may have to have their personal goods packed and stored, make arrangements for terminating utility services, arrange for bill payment in their absence and appoint a point of contact with a power of attorney to act on their behalf while deployed. Authorizing a family member to act on your behalf may require a special or general power of attorney. Officials pointed out that pets may not be left unaccompanied for any period of time.

To make sure you are on the right track call the Housing Office for assistance.

Storing property, Privately Owned Vehicles

Single and unaccompanied soldiers who deploy for more than 90 days are entitled to storage of their personal belongings and household goods while downrange. The agency that provides guidance and support for moving, storing and returning personal property, including Privately Owned Vehicles, is the Installation Transportation Office.

Vital papers to have on hand

Because emergencies are unpredictable, deploying soldiers and their families have to plan ahead to ensure they have the tools necessary to deal with a range of contingencies. Every spouse should have vital documents updated

and on hand before the husband or wife deploys. Among them are:

Passports — One for every member of the family, including newborns.

ID cards — If they will expire before a spouse's return date, extend them before deployment.

Powers of attorney — Should be on hand for emergencies. Know what it entitles you to do and when it expires.

Wills — Bring them up to date and know where they are.

Personal documents — Whether they are birth certificates, marriage certificates, baptismal records, divorce papers — store them safely and know where they are.

POV registration — Make sure it is up to date and in your possession whenever you drive.

Shot records, prescriptions — Store records safely and know where they are. Update medication and eyeglass prescriptions. Have them filled before deployment and know how to get them refilled.

Financial planning — Agree on arrangements with your spouse before deployment for checkbook management, check cashing, paying bills and budgeting money. The key to controlling legal and financial matters is to be informed, to share that understanding with your spouse, and to act in advance.

Most everyone has heard it before: You should have an up-to-date will and power of attorney. But what are these documents and why do you need them?

Will and powers of attorney

A power of attorney is a document that authorizes someone else to act as your legal agent when you are not present, for example, when you are deployed downrange. With a

power of attorney, a family member or friend can sell your car, ship your household goods or take your child to the hospital. They can also be authorized to buy or sell property, or create or pay off debts in your name. The point to keep in mind is that there are two powers of attorney: a general and a special.

A general power of attorney allows your agent to do any and all things that you can legally do. A special power of attorney lists a particular act that the agent is authorized to perform and limits their authority to that particular act.

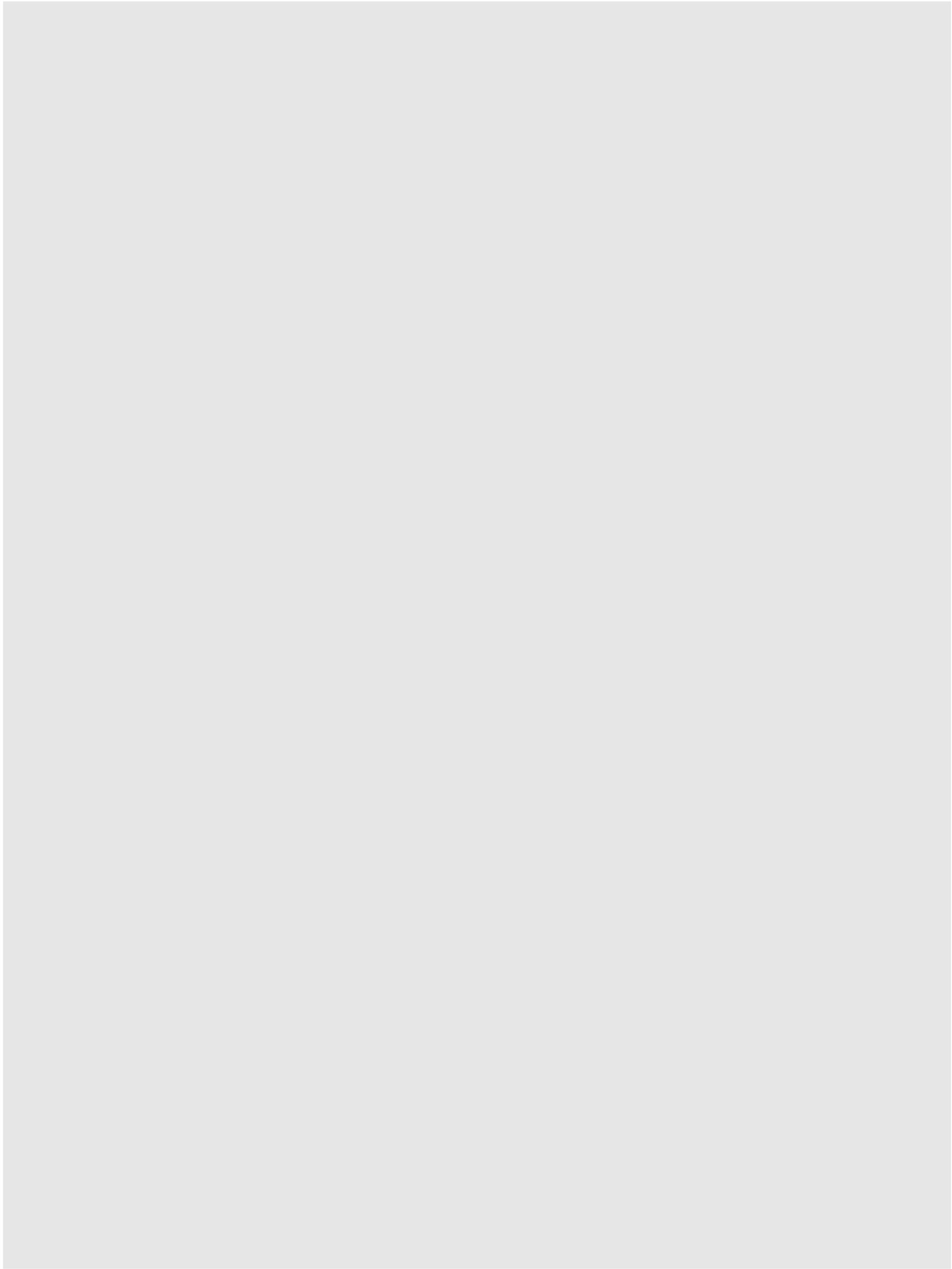
Some on-post agencies require a special power of attorney: Transportation — to ship vehicles and household goods; Housing — to sign for or clear quarters; Schools — require a medical power of attorney to allow children to play sports or attend field trips; Hospital and dental clinic — in most routine cases require a medical power of attorney to treat children in the absence of a parent.

If you need to authorize a general power of attorney make sure you trust your agent. A general power of attorney allows your agent to sell your car and clear your accounts. Make sure it is someone you trust completely to act on your behalf.

A will is a legal document which determines who will be responsible for the care of your children and how your property will be distributed upon your death. If you do not have a will the laws of your home state will determine these important matters. It is much to everyone's advantage if you as an individual make these decisions in advance.

For details and guidance in making sure your legal house is in order contact your Legal Assistance Office. For more information on planning for deployment stop by the 222nd BSB Public Affairs Office to pick up a copy of the *Herald Union's* special "Deployment 2000" guide or visit the 104th Area Support Group's website at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil and click on "Deployment2000."





Distance Learning Center opens in Hanau

By Sheila R. Garrett

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Hanau area is home to the U.S. Army's latest in digital technology. The Distance Learning Center's grand opening was conducted through a digital videoconference from Vilseck, Nov. 16. The facility, located in Building 451 on Old Argonner Kaserne, is a "high-speed, no-drag" approach to learning. Educational applications include CD-ROM and digital video conference instruction. Promises of Internet and satellite learning are still to come.

Brig. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, 7th Army Training Command commander, opened the ribbon cutting with a reflection. "We have come a long way since Alexander Graham Bell told his assistant to 'come here I want to see you,' and now we can see each other because of digital video technology," Swan said as ceremony attendees watched him on TV screens.

The Distance Learning Center classrooms are equipped with cameras at the front of each room and microphones at student work areas. Ribbon-cutting participants tested out the equipment by speaking with Swan in real time via video. "We have five sites in Germany including Mannheim, Vilseck, Würzburg, here in Hanau and Baumholder. All of the sites are linked. There are sites to come in Bosnia, and one was just built in Vicenza. If there is a class being given in Italy, soldiers can come here and take the class through digital video conferencing," said Darrell Pelt, Hanau Distance Learning Center classroom manager.

"The facility in Hanau has been under construction since February. Now it is complete. But there are a couple of additions to come. They will add Internet access and possibly a satellite in the future," Pelt



Photo by Sheila R. Garrett

Sgt. Joaquia Goodman, 104th ASG, uses the new Distance Learning Center facilities to explore the educational classes available to enhance her military and continuing educational goals.

said.

"I maintain the classrooms. I work with the hardware and the software making sure the computers are operating and aiding students in getting their schedules and making sure they have a place to work," Pelt said. "The main reason for the facilities is to accommodate the educational needs of soldiers, but we are also welcoming DOD civilians," Pelt said.

Improved training methods

Pelt said he understands the demand for training in the military. "I was in the military for 10 years and worked my way up to staff sergeant," Pelt said. "A lot of soldiers have gotten out of the military because they want to go to college but find that college is too far away from where they are stationed. Now they can come and take college classes in these modern classrooms with an instructor back in the States somewhere," Pelt explained.

The Army is making the move into the digital age in an attempt to save money and enhance soldier growth. "This will cut down on TDY

spending. The soldier can sit here in Germany and take the same class as a soldier sitting back in the States," said Ernesto Garcia, Digital Learning Center program manager.

The new technology is very impressive to Sgt. Joaquia Goodman assigned to the 104th Area Support Group Personnel Action Center. "This is top technology, it's just beautiful," Goodman said. "I think this will give more soldiers the opportunity to attend classes. Normally classes are offered in Vilseck and we have to drive or go on TDY, it's three hours away for us. So now we can take classes close to home," she said.

The new approach to learning keeps soldiers interacting during the learning process. "The new technology is different than what I have seen," Pelt said. "It is interactive and will keep the soldier interested," Pelt said. The learning center will also help units continue normal operations. "Having this facility here will alleviate the hardship on the units, because it will allow training

while we are still in the community instead of being hours away on TDY," Goodman said.

"This type of educational training center also means that the soldiers don't have to be away from their family," Pelt added.

"I have three classrooms with 16 work stations in each classroom," Pelt said. "Two classrooms will be used strictly for whole classroom studies, which is one class together covering the same topic," Pelt said.

"The third classroom is going to be used for [individual] self-development," Pelt said. "Some of the courses we have include learning about Microsoft programs including Internet Explorer, Windows. You can learn about email and software for routers—we just have a wide variety of training materials available," Pelt said.

"As of now I am mainly open for the military, but eventually the program will incorporate civilians, but military training will come first," Pelt said.

Pelt explained that the facility is a 7th Army Training Command facility, but all scheduling will be

handled through the 414th BSB. "This facility falls under the 414th BSB S3 training division, which coordinates with 7th Army Training Command to set the training schedules."

"We are gearing our centers toward sergeant's time training. The units can bring all of their soldiers here and use all three classrooms simultaneously," Garcia said. "One instructor can teach in all three classrooms by using the video systems."

Serving three communities

The Distance Learning Center in Hanau serves the training needs of three military communities. "We are covering the Hanau, Friedberg and Wiesbaden areas through this center," Garcia said.

With the realignment of the 1st Armored Division we will have a lot of classes that will be available to all of the soldiers. We aren't set on one certain time schedule, so we will be flexible to meet unit needs," Garcia explained.

"The soldier now has a lot of flexibility. They can come and take a course and self-develop here in this center. The education opportunities have no limits," Garcia said.

"We are on the ground floor of what is going to be a great endeavor," said Swan. "We will be going up to 41 facilities here [overseas] in the next five years. I think that is a big win for the Army, for the command and for the soldiers."

Customer Service Week Nov. 27 through Dec. 1

When you visit any service organization in the 414th BSB—and they provide excellent service—give them a customer service buck. You can get your bucks at any business or military service department in the 414th BSB area which includes Büdingen, Hanau, Gelnhausen and Erlensee. **Give your bucks wisely** because when you give the buck you are casting your ballot for the organization to win the honor of being named the top customer service organization of the quarter. So place your **vote. It will count.**

If you think the service can be improved the Base Support Battalion Command Division wants to hear your suggestions.

You can:

1. Ask for and fill out a customer comment card, putting your improvement suggestions in the space provided, or
2. Fill out a customer comment card online at www.hanau.army.mil. Click on the Customer Comment Card and submit your concerns electronically.
3. Use the commander's Open Door Policy to voice your concerns. Call for an appointment at mil 322-1500 or civ (06181) 88-1500.

Service is our difference

\$ Excellence in Service \$

One Customer Service Buck is awarded to (organization's name)

By (presenter's name) _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Tell us why you are presenting us with this Customer Service Buck

This card is only to be presented to organizations that have provided excellent service.

Around the community

Holiday reception

The 414th Base Support Battalion hosts its holiday reception at the International Club Dec. 8. It is open to all BSB soldiers and employees. All BSB offices will be closed from noon until 5 p.m. The Hanau Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will close at 11 a.m.

Turkeys to troops

The Hanau Silver Chapter Warrant Officer's Association distributed 126 turkeys and 115 bags of groceries to 22 units and 126 families in the Hanau, Büdingen, Erlensee and Gelnhausen areas. Tina Koening of S&K Sales donated \$2,191.61 worth of groceries. Over \$1,500 in donations purchased turkeys which were distributed in mid-November.

New Thrift Shop hours

The Büdingen Thrift Shop is now open Wednesdays from noon until 4 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 5 p.m.

Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots campaign needs volunteers to help collect, wrap and distribute toys. To volunteer call Sheila Garrett at mil 322-1600 or civ (06048) 950 325.

Tree lighting dates

Celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the following tree lighting ceremonies: Hutier Kaserne, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m.; Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Dec. 11; Underwood Kaserne, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.; and Büdingen's Armstrong Kaserne, Dec. 14. The community tree lighting will be held Dec. 7 on Pioneer Kaserne at 4:30 p.m. For more information call mil 322-1600 or civ (06181) 88-1600.

Yard sales online

Having a yard sale? You can advertise it on the BSB's website, located at www.hanau.army.mil. Send yard sale information to paofeedback@hanau.army.mil.

Hometown News

Soldiers in the Hanau, Büdingen and Erlensee areas who have recently PCSed, received awards or have been promoted can send the news to their hometown newspapers and TV stations. To have information sent home complete form DD 2266 and return it to the 414th BSB Public Affairs Office, Building 451 on Old Argonner Kaserne.

Ronneburg market

Ronneburg Castle features a historical Christmas Market with a live nativity scene Dec. 2-3 and 9-10 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ronneburg Castle is located between Erlensee and Büdingen.

Student mosaic beautifies Sportfield Elementary School

By Sheila R. Garrett

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Sportfield Elementary School is a little more colorful these days thanks to a dedicated art teacher and his students. Art teacher George Kofas and his kindergarten through fifth-grade students designed and executed a 6 feet by 26 feet mosaic landscape mural which was dedicated at the school Nov. 15.

The mural is a collage of a river, the German Alps, a forest and a castle. "I thought the Germanic landscape theme would be very meaningful to the students and the adults here," said Kofas. The mural was installed directly outside the main entrance to Sportfield Elementary.

The mosaic was carefully pieced together, said Kofas. "It is composed of 12 different panels," he said. "The children created the drawings of the land-

scape. Then I took parts of their drawings and transferred and enlarged them and put them onto the panels. The project was started the second week of school, and we just finished it. In all it took about six weeks," he said.

Kofas said the entire school took part in bringing the mosaic to life. "Basically as each class came to class they glued the tile pieces onto the panels. All grades took part in the project — K through five. Primarily it was third-, fourth- and fifth-graders who took part in making it, but Sure Start and as well as first and second grades also helped."

Bauhaus donated tiles

The mosaic is made up of different colored tiles affixed to the supporting panels. "The tiles were donated by the Bauhaus," Kofas explained.

One art student said she is very proud of her work. "I thought it was the most wonderful thing I have ever done in my life," said fifth-



Photo by Sheila R. Garrett

Students gather at the installation of Sportfield Elementary School's giant mural at the main entrance Nov. 15.

grader Heather Lurvey. "It took a lot of participation and teamwork," she said. "It is beautiful and I am proud of it," said second-grader Brittany Maultgay.

Other teachers in Sportfield also pitched in to help complete the project. "A special thanks goes to the teachers, parents and community volunteers who helped grout this mosaic," said Eric Gentry, Sportfield's principal. "I think you should know that Mr. Kofas doesn't

speak German, but in a matter of weeks we had thousands of tiles for the project," he told the audience at the dedication ceremony.

"I think this is phenomenal. The purpose of the mosaic was to be a representation of the German-American friendship we are enjoying here in the Hanau community," he said. "I am proud of you all," Gentry told the students.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo

TF Nightmare aviators adopt Kosovar school

Building a better future while keeping 'the birds' in flight

By David Ruderman
Staff writer

The Ali Asllani School in Doganovic was a wreck before the 2-501st Aviation Regiment stepped in to lend a helping hand in June.

The school educates over 400 children from the village and surrounding area about 15 kilometers southwest of Camp Bondsteel. With 11 makeshift classrooms in a battered former medical clinic, children attend either a morning or an afternoon shift. Thanks to a \$78,000 grant the school is being completely renovated and will reopen in January, according to Capt. Robert Gunther, fire support officer and information operations officer, for the 2-501st.

"The school fell behind in the postwar rebuilding. Since it wasn't hit during the airwar it was low on the priority list and fell through the cracks," said Gunther. "The roof was so leaky that it shorted out the electrical system. All the windows were shattered, the floor boards were rotted out," he said.

Gunther accompanied 2-501st commander, Lt. Col. Tom Muir, on a goodwill tour of the school Nov. 13 to view the reconstruction work and plan a Nov. 21 visit, the unit's last before handing off leadership of Task Force Nightmare to aviators from 1-501st Aviation in mid-December. Helicopters will fly to a field above the town with a cargo of school supplies, winter clothing and soccer balls, and children will be invited to examine their aircraft.

"In the beginning we had a lot of problems adjusting," said Enver Daloshi, the school's principal. "Now things are better. The children had an interruption from their studies and difficulty adjusting to going back to school. But now it's like the war never happened. It helped that the refugees came back soon," he said.

Most villagers left Doganovic (Dogoni in Albanian) about three weeks before the airwar began, Daloshi said. The majority fled across the Macedonian border in Tetovo and Skopje while some found refuge in Germany, Switzerland and even the United States.

"They are shy, but they come around you more," said Cpl. Toby Miers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-501st. "They are learning English in their classes, and they come up to you and ask you questions. You have to repeat what they say and give them textbook answers because that's what they recognize. That's what they're learning in class," he said.

Daloshi led Muir on a tour of the school, where some workers hauled in wooden beams for the new roof and removed rubble while others installed new heating ducts, electrical wiring and light fixtures for the classrooms. "It's unbelievable, the great work that's going on here," said Muir. "Very impressive."

"We expressed an interest in getting involved," said Capt. Reed G. Erickson, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-501st. "We wanted to do some-



Photos by Karl Weisel

Lt. Col. Tom Muir (from right) and Capt. Robert Gunther discuss plans to deliver school supplies and other items to their "adopted" school in Doganovic with Principal Enver Daloshi.

thing, at least for a small group of people, and they appreciate it. When the 1-501st comes down, that's one of the things we want to do, go down there for a handoff, get the kids to know some of the new faces."

"It gives us a feel for the mission that we're doing here," said 1st Lt. Leo C. Lesch, pilot and platoon leader with Company A, 1-501st Assassins. "It gives you those warm fuzzies inside, the feeling that we're doing good things here."

The 2-501st is also involved in a first-of-its-kind partnership with the town's TMK, former KLA fighters being trained to assume the role of a civil police force, said Muir. "I think we'll work on Medevac procedures, combat lifesaver skills. It'll be interesting."

Meanwhile, back on Camp Bondsteel, 501st Aviation soldiers keep Task Force Nightmare on track. "It's great, it's fun, especially refueling the birds," said Spc. Luis Rosado as

he helped fuel a Blackhawk with fellow members of HHC, 2-501st. "It's a rush. It's like a natural high going under the birds with the blades turning," said Pfc. Latoya Hill.

"It's a little better here than back in the rear because it's focused on aircraft maintenance," said Cpl. Jesse Cantu of Company A, 1-501st, as he checked an Apache along with Spc. Tongia Paulauu and Lesch. The helicopters undergo preventive maintenance service after every 10 hours in the air, he said.

"It's a very high percentage of aircraft being operational," said Gunther. "In six months the crews get as much training as they do in a year and a half or two years back in garrison," he said. "The only bad thing for the maintenance guys is that they can't go out and fly with us," said Lesch.

Muir said TF Nightmare has given leaders a picture of what the future force structure might look like. "We are figuring out what works and what doesn't work, and making it work better. Kosovo is a paradigm for that model," he said. Meanwhile his soldiers are looking forward to getting home.

"Just being in my house, taking a bath, and seeing my daughter the next day when my Dad brings her," said Spc. Janis Miller, describing what she is anticipating. Her 16-month-old daughter Jayla has been with her grandfather in California while Miller is in Kosovo. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Todd Larson of the Company B Bearcats also looked forward to being reunited with his wife and daughter. "It's been pretty good, but long. We're ready to come home," said Larson.

"We've got to realize that getting back, it's a very deliberate process," said Muir. "In the meantime we have to still keep focused on the mission here. There is danger in not being in the present." He foresaw no end to Army involvement in peacekeeping missions. "I was a believer back in '95 in Bosnia," said Muir, a veteran of three previous deployments to Bosnia and Macedonia. "I imagine that most of our soldiers will see the Balkans again."



Cpl. Jesse Cantu (from left), 1st Lt. Leo C. Lesch and Spc. Tongia Paulauu perform a check on an Apache at Camp Bondsteel.



Bulletin board

At the movies Nov. 28 to Dec. 14

Bad Kreuznach, Rose

- Nov. 28 — Lucky Numbers (R) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 29 — Bring It On (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 30 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 5 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — Men Of Honor (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — Little Nicky (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — Little Nicky (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — The Watcher (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- Nov. 28 — Bring It On (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 29-30 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1-3 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 4-5 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6-7 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8-10 — Men Of Honor (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11-12 — Little Nicky (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13-14 — Nurse Betty (R) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- Dec. 1 — The Art Of War (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — What Lies Beneath (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — Godzilla 2000 (PG) 7 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

- Nov. 29 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 — Little Nicky (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — Godzilla 2000 (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Rugrats In Paris (G) 5 p.m. The Grinch (PG) 7 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

- Nov. 30 — Godzilla 2000 (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — Bedazzled (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7 — The Art Of War (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — The Watcher (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — Lucky Numbers (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — The Patriot (R) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- Nov. 28-29 — The Contender (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 — The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 5-6 — Bedazzled (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — Dinosaur (PG) 7 p.m.



Cuba Gooding Jr. (from left) in the role of Carl Brashear, Robert DeNiro as Billy Sunday and director George Tillman Jr. prepare a scene on the set of "Men Of Honor."

- Dec. 9 — The Watcher (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12-13 — Lucky Numbers (R) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

- Nov. 28 — Godzilla 2000 (PG) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 29 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 30 — Bring It On (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 — The Grinch (PG) 7 p.m. The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — Rugrats In Paris (G) 4:30 p.m. The Grinch (PG) 7 p.m. The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 — Rugrats In Paris (G) 4:30 p.m. The Grinch (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 4-5 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6-7 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — 102 Dalmatians (G) 7 p.m. The Watcher (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — 102 Dalmatians (G) 4:30 p.m. The Watcher (R) 7 p.m. Way Of The Gun (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10 — 102 Dalmatians (G) 4:30 p.m. The Watcher (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12-13 — The Watcher (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

- Nov. 29 — Men Of Honor (R) 8 p.m.
- Dec. 1 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m. Lucky Numbers (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3 — Godzilla 2000 (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 — Rugrats In Paris (G) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Watcher (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.

- Dec. 10 — The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — 102 Dalmatians (G) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

- Nov. 29 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

- Dec. 1 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 — Men Of Honor (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — Way Of The Gun (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — The Watcher (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- Nov. 28 — Hollow Man (R) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 29 — Godzilla 2000 (PG) 7 p.m.
- Nov. 30 — Bring It On (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1-2 — Little Nicky (PG-13) 7 p.m. Men Of Honor (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 — Men Of Honor (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 4 — Little Nicky (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 5 — The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 — Rugrats In Paris (G) 7 p.m. The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 — The Grinch (PG) 4 p.m. Rugrats In Paris (G) 7 p.m. The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10 — The Grinch (PG) 2 and 4 p.m. Rugrats In Paris (G) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 — Rugrats In Paris (G) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Wonder Boys (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Bait (R) 7 p.m.

Movie plots

Men Of Honor (R) — Carl Brashear (Cuba Gooding Jr.) lets nothing stand in the way of his dreams. The son of a Kentucky sharecropper, Carl leaves home for a better life. After he joins the newly-integrated Navy, Carl spends two years writing a hundred letters before the service accepts his application for its Dive School program. Carl's training officer, Billy Sunday (Robert DeNiro), wants no part of Carl or his ambitions. Sunday, a celebrated master chief navy diver whose exploits as a troublemaker are as legendary as his accomplishments as a diver, relentlessly taunts and challenges Carl, expecting him to falter and quit. But Carl has other ideas.

Hollow Man (R) — A scientist heads an experiment to uncover the secret of invisibility. After the formula works on animals, he experiments on himself. Stars Kevin Bacon.

Lucky Numbers (R) — A TV weatherman plans a scheme to get rich by running a lottery scam. Even with help, things don't go according to plan. Stars John Travolta.

Bedazzled (PG-13) — A bored and suicidal computer geek is given seven wishes to turn his life around when he meets a very seductive devil. Stars Brendan Fraser and Elizabeth Hurley.

The Legend Of Bagger Vance (PG-13) — Robert Redford directs this mystical golf story about a World War I veteran who learns from his caddy the secrets to life and mastering any challenge. Stars Will Smith and Matt Damon.

102 Dalmatians (G) — In the sequel to "101 Dalmatians" Cruella De Vil (Glenn Close) is released from prison for good behavior swearing she will have nothing to do with fur ever again in her life. She, however, cannot keep this promise and soon is plotting another scheme to get her ultimate Dalmatian coat — this time in Paris.

Little Nicky (PG-13) — Adam Sandler is Little Nicky, a shy guy with a penchant for heavy metal music. He also happens to be the son of the devil and has two bullies for older brothers. When Dad decides not to make his brothers the heir to his evil throne, they go to New York, hell-bent on creating their own hell on Earth. In the process they disrupt the natural order of things, causing Nicky's dad to lose his power and slowly die. With the fate of the planet resting on his shoulders, Nicky must overcome his brothers and restore the balance between good and evil.

The Original Kings Of Comedy (R) — The comic geniuses behind the successful "Kings Of Comedy" bring the house down at the Charlotte Coliseum in North Carolina. Stars Steve Harvey and D.L. Hughley.

Birth announcements

Zoey Collette Unrein — born Nov. 2 to Patricia and Pfc. Tim Unrein of 38th Engineer Company, weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces.
Damon Alexander Juan — born Nov. 3 to Natalie and 1st Lt. Melvin Juan of 130th Engineer Brigade, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces.
Naomi Alia Tunstall — born Nov. 8 to Doris and Sgt.

Michael Tunstall of 19th Maintenance Company, weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces.
Nicholas Alexander Gruver — born Nov. 15 to Jennifer and Sgt. Jerold Gruver of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce.
Gabrielle Renee Molina — born Nov. 12 to Maria and

Staff Sgt. Rene Molina of 15th Movement Control Team, weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Brandie Rachelle Hagedorn — born Nov. 13 to Misty and Spc. Curtis Hagedorn of 26th Quartermaster Supply Company, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

Zyon Rodriguez-Corona — born Nov. 15 to Pfc. Claudia Corona-Burciaga of Headquarters Support Company, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, and Pfc. Harold Rodriguez-Montes of 1-6th Field Artillery, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces.



Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

