

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



## Army Community Service news

### Black History Month bash

Wiesbaden Youth Services Keystone and Torch Clubs host a Black History Month Celebration Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Youth Services Complex in Hainerberg Housing. Highlights of the night include performances by the New Hope Adult and Youth Choir and the R&B group 1020. There will also be historical speech recitals that are significant in black history. For more information call mil 337-6726 or civ (0611) 705-6726.

### Volunteers sought

Volunteers are needed to deliver refreshments to troops on force protection duty. For more information call the USO at civ (0611) 721-010.

The Tony Bass Fitness Center needs volunteers for equipment issue, athletic events and enforcing facility rules. Work schedules can be tailored to meet individual needs. For more information call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers for the Healthy Baby Pregnancy class and at both the community mailrooms and the Army Post Office. For more information call mil 337-1760 or civ (0611) 705-1760.

### BOSS meeting

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the 221st Base Support Battalion conference room.

### Religious services

Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel holds Protestant services at 10 a.m., Gospel services at 12:45 p.m. and Catholic services at 5 p.m. Sunday. Hainerberg Chapel features Catholic services at 9 a.m. and Protestant services at 11 a.m. Sunday. For more information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

### Army Family Team Building

Wiesbaden/Dexheim Army Family Team Building offers training to spouses, civilians and family members including teens. Benefits of training include enhancing employment opportunities, promoting self-reliance, learning the ability to adapt to change with minimal stress and preparing families to face challenges of the military lifestyle. Classes are held every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon at Army Community Service in Hainerberg Housing. Night

classes are held the second Tuesday of the month at Dexheim and the third Tuesday of the month in Hainerberg from 6-8 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Extended hours

Wiesbaden Child and Youth Services Central Enrollment has extended its hours to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The 221st Base Support Battalion Housing Office is now open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

### Victim support group

Social Work Services offers a weekly Victim Support group to help educate, empower, motivate and support people experiencing or who have experienced abuse. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.



### Monthly barbecue

Held on the first Friday of every month, the Wiesbaden Youth Services offers a barbecue for all registered members after school. This is also a great opportunity for new youth in the community to get to know other children and what activities are available through Youth Services.

### Scouting in Wiesbaden

Bored? New in town? Make new friends and get together with old ones with Wiesbaden Scouts. Sign up today — Girl Scouts, call civ (06123) 899 593; Boy Scouts, call civ (0611) 520 532; Cub Scouts, call civ (01728) 044 8247.

### FRG session

Family Readiness Group Networking Sessions are held at Army Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. The next FRG session will be held March 11 from 6-7 p.m. at ACS. Call Edwina Brown at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034 for more information.

### Stress classes

Anger and stress management classes are held through Social Work Services. For more information or to sign up call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

### Loan Closet

Household items are available for loan to you and your family at no charge through Army Community

Service's Loan Closet. Basic living items include pots, pans, dishes, cooking and eating utensils, irons and ironing boards, coffee makers, toasters and microwave ovens. Children's items include booster seats, strollers, cribs, car seats, highchairs and sure gates. Call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754 for more information.

### Spouses lunch

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club monthly luncheon will be held March 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Catering Center. For reservations call civ (0611) 565 7401 or (0611) 505 5712.

### Emergency care providers sought

Wiesbaden Army Community Service seeks emergency placement care providers. Free training and certification is offered. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### German lessons

Learn how to speak German free at Dexheim Army Community Service every Wednesday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Call mil 334-5622 or civ (06133) 69622 to register.

### Sponsorship training

The Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program offers unit sponsorship. Although S-GATE is a primary training tool it does not include the entire scope of sponsorship. The next training will be March 12 from 2-4 p.m. at ACS. Units wishing to schedule a different day can call the relocation manager at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034 for assistance.

### Supplemental aid

The Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance program offers eligible active duty service members to increase the basic allowance for subsistence up to \$500 a month. Eligibility is based on gross income of the entire household. For more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

### Newcomers tour

Army Community Service hosts a community orientation for soldiers, civilians and their family members the last Wednesday of every month. The tour begins at 9 a.m. at ACS and ends with lunch at the Wiesbaden Dining Facility. This tour allows newcomers to experience the community visually without trying to locate facilities. Reservations must be made by 1 p.m. the

day before the tour. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034. A Newcomers Class is held the first and third Monday from 6-7:30 p.m. at the American Arms Hotel. Stop by the Information Center at the hotel for more information.

### Financial readiness

Dexheim Army Community Service offers free classes on Leave and Earning Statement basics, debt liquidation, banking and credit services, budget development and record keeping, using credit wisely, insurance and consumer rights. Call mil 334-5827 to sign up.

### McCully ACS

Army Community Service programs are now available at McCully Barracks every Wednesday and Friday. Services include Army Emergency Relief, Financial Readiness Planning, Family Advocacy Program, Family Member Employment Assistance, Volunteer Information, Relocation Assistance and unit and community training. ACS is located in the Soldier's Center, Building 6212 and can be reached at mil 334-4786 or civ (06132) 508 786.

### Planning a successful move

Know what to do when making a Permanent Change of Station move. Get free training and PCS tips at Army Community Service. Classes are held the last Tuesday of each month. Call ACS at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Newcomers coffee

Dexheim Army Community Service holds a newcomers coffee every month. Learn more about the community, how to get around and shop in Germany. For more information call mil 334-5716.

### Digital lab

The Römer Art Center offers a digital lab to work on 35mm or digital photos, scan negatives and photos, or learn techniques in Adobe PhotoShop. Call mil 337-5722 or civ (0611) 705-5722.

### Auto skills services

Check out the local Auto Skills Center for vehicle maintenance and repairs. Mainz-Kastel, McCully and Dexheim Auto Skills Centers can adjust headlights, balance wheels or turn brake discs



and drums and many other services for a nominal fee. Use the Diagnostic Trouble Code Machine at Dexheim Auto Skills to find out what's ailing your vehicle. Learn to properly care for your vehicle at the next Basic Maintenance Class. If you need repair information for your U.S. specification vehicle, use the Automated Repair Manual System at the facilities. Call Mainz-Kastel Auto Skills at mil 334-2460, McCully at mil 334-4776 or Dexheim at mil 334-5766.

### Toastmasters

Become a more confident speaker with the help of the Word-Weavers Toastmasters Club. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Hotel Merkur in Wiesbaden-Nordenstadt. For more information email [president@word-weavers.de](mailto:president@word-weavers.de).

### Towing service

The Mainz-Kastel Auto Skills Center provides a towing service Monday through Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call mil 334-2460 or civ (06134) 604 460.

### Go skydiving

Skydiving is available through Wiesbaden and Dexheim Outdoor Recreation centers. For more information call mil 337-5760, 334-5818 or civ (06133) 69818.

### Playhouse performance

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "Wait Until Dark" Feb. 20-22, 27-28 and March 1. Tickets for this thriller can be purchased at Auto Haus Haese at Boelckestrass 38 in Mainz-Kastel, civ (06134) 284-943; USO Store at Hainerberg Shopping Area, civ (0611) 73 1301; USO at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, mil 337-5806 or civ (0611) 705-5806; and at the Amelia Earhart Playhouse in Building 5312, Konrad-Adenauer Ring, mil 336-2473.

### Health and fitness

In celebration of National Nutrition Month, the Tony Bass Fitness Center offers a free Healthy Eating/Maintaining the Balance Workshop March 8 from 10 a.m. to noon. A TurboKick demonstration, nutritional information and guidance from a trainer will be available.

### Art workshops

Römer Art Center offers Saturday art workshops in basket weaving, gift making, glass and tile painting, watercolor, quilting and even Russian Easter egg painting.

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Photos by Nicholaus Kardeke  
Chayse Mitchell, a fourth-grade student at Hainerberg Elementary School, prepares trays for dental exams as a Groundhog Shadow.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools students take a day off from school to learn what the “real” working world is like during Groundhog Job Shadow Day Feb. 3. Almost 400 students participated in the program that promotes mentoring and teaching children what opportunities await them in the working world.

## All in a day’s work Students get a taste of the working world

By Nicholaus Kardeke  
Special to the Herald Union

Hundreds of students in Wiesbaden schools didn’t show up for school Feb. 3.

It wasn’t a flu epidemic or a snow day. It was Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Leaving classes with as little as five students at Hainerberg Middle and Aukamm Elementary School, area youth got a chance to see what military life and the working world is really like as they spent the day “at work” with parents or mentors.

“My dad gets up, puts his uniform on, goes to work and comes home at night. I never really knew what he did for the Army,” said Andrea Gatnon, a senior at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School.

Gatnon and fellow student Tyler Ruger spent the day shadowing Capt. Andrew Montoya, 221st Base Support Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander, who showed the two how different sections within a company are run on a daily basis.

Gatnon is not new to a military lifestyle. She is, after all, a colonel and commander of her Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at the school. Ruger has also achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel and is a squad commander in the JROTC. “We basically only know what we have learned in the JROTC. But

today we can see how all the things that we’ve been taught come together in the real world,” Gatnon said.

“Groundhog Job Shadow Day was an excellent opportunity for me to show future leaders just what it takes to be a good leader,” Montoya said. “It gives them real world experience and knowledge of what to expect if one day they are wearing gold bars on their uniform,” he said.

The two JROTC cadets were not the only students who shadowed in their career interests. Shawn Huebner, also a Gen. H.H. Arnold High School student, shadowed Bill Elberson,

a computer technician for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Huebner, who has an interest in computers, spent the day learning and actually working on computer systems.

“We’ve been setting up computers for the Army Family Action Plan conference and installing programs that they will need,” said Huebner. “He’s been really working hard with me making sure computers are up and running. He knows what he is doing,” Elberson said.

Some soldiers had to take a second look while being served lunch at the Wiesbaden Dining Facility. Another group of students, ranging in age from 7-14, found out just how much work goes into feeding several hun-

dred soldiers. “It was actually pretty fun,” said A’rel Boies, an eighth-grade middle school student.

“We were working pretty hard in the morning getting things prepared for lunch and now a lot of us are really tired,” she said. “I got to rinse all the fruit and put it in the trays,” said Boies’ 7-year-old brother, Antonio who was helped by another sister, Tonia, age 12.

“They definitely have seen what it’s like to work here, prepare food and experience how quickly the line grows during lunch as

soldiers come in to eat,” said Staff Sgt. Briggette Bates, a cook assigned to the DFAC from 1st Armored Division’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command.

From seeing how the military works, serving food, checking in patients or to the 7-year old Tony Thomas checking a patient’s temperature and blood pressure, Wiesbaden area students may not have spent the day learning in school, but they certainly learned a lot about jobs in the real world and what their parents do for a living.

**“My dad gets up, puts his uniform on, goes to work and comes home at night. I never really knew what he did for the Army.” — Andrea Gatnon, General H.H. Arnold High School student**



Tony Thomas, a first-grade student at Aukamm Elementary School, helps screen Ben Noble, a patient being seen at the Wiesbaden Health Clinic as a part of the Groundhog Job Shadow Day program.

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## Help for parents

### Free classes

The Wiesbaden Women, Infants and Children program offers free educational classes the last Friday of each month. Infant through 2-year-old classes are from 9-10 a.m. Classes for parents of 3-5-year-olds is from 10-11 a.m. Pregnancy and breastfeeding classes are held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. All classes are free and open to the public. Call civ (0611) 380-7366 to sign up.

### Hourly child care

Hourly child care is now available at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Child Development Center. The child must be enrolled through the Central Enrollment Registry before receiving care. For more information call mil 338-7592 or civ (0611) 380-7592. For reservations call mil 337-6282 or civ (0611) 705-6282. Reservations can be made up to one month in advance. Hourly child care pre-paid cards are available for purchase in blocks of 10 hours of care and can be purchased through the Central Enrollment Registry.

### Adoption support

An Adoption Support Group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Wiesbaden. Topics include how to adopt overseas, choosing an agency, medical and developmental issues, post adoption support, home studies, Immigration and Naturalization procedures and crosscultural issues. For more information call civ (06775) 960 675 or (0178) 296 2102.

### WIC Overseas

The Women, Infants and Children Overseas program is available to eligible military families in Wiesbaden and Dexheim. In recognition of its first anniversary, the Wiesbaden WIC office will host an open house from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 28 for all members of the community. For more information call mil 338-7366, civ (0611) 380-7366 or stop by the WIC office at Building 7005 in Crestview Housing.

### Parent programs

The New Parent Education and Support Program assists pregnant women and families with children up to age 4. Focusing primarily on a home visit program, NPESP also offers parent support groups, toddler playtime and parenting classes. All services are free, voluntary and confidential.

The New Parenting Playgroup meets every Friday from 9:30-11 a.m. at Dexheim Army Community Service. The Single Parent Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at Dexheim ACS from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Wiesbaden Health Clinic will host a labor and delivery class Tuesdays from 1-3:30 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5273 or civ (0611) 705-5273.

Toddler Time is a play group designed to help parents discover how children learn and develop through play and positive group interaction. A group meets every Wednesday at the NPESP Training Room in the Women, Infants and Children Building (Building 07005) in Crestview Housing from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The New Parent Support Group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Building 07005 in Crestview Housing.



The group is a monthly gathering for parents-to-be and parents of newborns, infants and toddlers. An Infant and Toddler Parenting Class meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. in Building 07005 in Crestview Housing. The structured class is designed to explore and answer parenting questions. For more information call mil 338-7721, 337-5754 or civ (0611) 380-7721/705-5754.

### Parent support

A Single Parent Support Group meets every first and third Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Dexheim Army Community Service. Free lunch is provided. For more information call mil 334-5716.



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke

## Shadow? What shadow?

Youths and adults alike didn't seem to care whether Phil the Groundhog saw his shadow or not Feb. 2. Instead, it was a day to enjoy the winter and play in the snow outside the Wiesbaden Commissary. German weather forecasters have predicted the wintry weather will continue through April.



## Weather hotline

Team 221st now has a 24-hour hotline for inclement weather. For current road conditions, closures and delays in the Wiesbaden, Dexheim and McCully communities call:

mil 337-7245

or

civ (0611) 705-7245

## Conference tackles community issues

By Cassandra Kardeke  
221st Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Over 90 volunteers combed through quality of life issues during a two-day conference at Wiesbaden Army Airfield earlier this month.

Separated into six groups, community members weeded through over 150 issues to bring forward the top 16 most important issues affecting soldiers, civilians and family members during the Army Family Action Plan Feb. 4-6 at the Wiesbaden Community Activities Center.

"You have a big job ahead of you," said Lt. Col. Dennis E. Slagter, 221st Base Support Battalion commander, to the volunteers at the beginning of the conference. Over the past several months the BSB solicited community members for concerns and suggestions that could improve the quality of life for everyone within the community. "Every issue is an important issue, but it is your job to determine the top three affecting your workgroup, research them and develop a plan to improve or change

the problem," he said.

"Each group had at least 20 issues to sort through with the Family Support Workgroup topping it off at 50 issues submitted by community members," said Donna Cloy, AFAP program manager. The other workgroups included housing, soldier support and entitlements, consumer services, medical and dental and youth support.

"It really turned out to be a successful conference. One of the delegates who volunteered came to the conference extremely disappointed with the military, but by the time the conference ended she had a new outlook on military life," Cloy said.

**"Each group had at least 20 issues to sort through with the Family Support Workgroup topping it off at 50 issues submitted by community members."** —

**Donna Cloy, Army Family Action Plan manager**

Of the many issues, the groups narrowed them down to 16 major concerns within the community.

- ★ Inadequate military shuttle bus service
- ★ Road conditions in the 221st BSB community
- ★ Barracks maintenance and safety
- ★ Access to accurate housing information
- ★ Pedestrian and traffic safety at Hainerberg Shopping Center
- ★ Customer service difficulties with Deutsche Telekom
- ★ Access to slot machines at military installations overseas



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Aukamm Elementary School students perform for volunteers and delegates attending the Army Family Action Plan Conference Feb. 4-6 at the Wiesbaden Community Activities Center (formerly known as the Catering Center).

- ★ Insufficient dental staff at Wiesbaden Dental Clinic
- ★ Domestic violence liaison in units
- ★ Medical costs not based on civilian grade
- ★ Excessive student/teacher ratio
- ★ Middle/high school cafeteria crowding
- ★ Inflexible student enrollment projection policy
- ★ Preschool services
- ★ Unaccompanied tours

- ★ Transportation for Youth Services

"Now that we have our top issues, a steering committee will be formed by each of the departments and the issues will be assigned," Cloy said. Each issue will be assigned to its appropriate lead agency such as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools regarding teacher/student ratios and cafeteria crowding, or to Youth Services for related issues to deter-

mine whether it can be resolved locally or forwarded to the 104th Area Support Group, U.S. Army Europe or the Department of the Army for action as appropriate.

As resolutions or changes are made pertaining to each issue they will be posted on the BSB website at [www.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil) and in the *Herald Union*. Pick up the March 4 issue for a detailed listing of each topic and conference recommendation.

## Employment resources

### Employment help

The Employment Readiness Program at Army Community Service provides free support and encouragement to community members interested in finding a job while stationed overseas. Classes and workshops include Resumix Orientation, Interview Techniques, Resume Writing and Dressing for Success. Computers are available for typing resumes and conducting job searches. A daily listing of jobs is also available. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Volunteer recognition

Army Community Service is now taking nominations for Distinguished Volunteer of the Year to recognize at the Team 221st Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 23. All agencies and organizations must turn in a complete listing of volunteers to the Installation Vol-

unteer Coordinator by March 15; however, only one volunteer per unit/organization can be nominated for the annual award. Nominations must be received by March 13. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Job Fair

Army Community Service sponsors a job fair March 20 from 2-5 p.m. at the ACS cafeteria in Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.



### Job available

The 221st Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program needs a full-time program educator. This position requires a bachelor of science degree in social science with two years of experience dealing with domestic violence. For more

information and to apply contact ACS in Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing, call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Computer lab open

The Computer Lab at Army Community Service is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Use the computer lab to check email, research jobs and write resumes. Call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034 for more information.

### Resume class

Army Community Service offers resume classes every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in Building 7790, Room 22, in Hainerberg Housing and at 3 p.m. at the American Arms Hotel, Room 240. Evening classes are held at 6 p.m. the last Thursday of each month at the American Arms Hotel. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

## AFAP aims to improve quality of life

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

Virtually every demographic aspect of the Baumholder community was represented during Baumholder's annual Army Family Action Plan Conference Feb. 4 and 5 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Delegates at the conference, whose goal was to develop issues to help improve the quality of life in Baumholder and the Army in general, covered the entire spectrum of Baumholder's military community. Everyone from soldiers, high school students, family members and civilians had some form of representation.

Four groups of delegates met separately to discuss and develop issues on specific subjects.

Through this issue identification process Army constituents give leaders a means to assess problems quickly and react to them immediately. Leaders depend on AFAP as a continuing real-time means of taking care of the Army's most important asset — its people.

The following are highlights of the issues and recommendations that were raised during the two-day conference.

- Provide overseas travel for non-custodial children holding valid military ID cards. This would be a quality of life and morale booster.

- Authorization of a second POV for an overseas assignment. Currently only one vehicle is allowed for an overseas assignment. It was recommended to amend JFPR to include shipment of a second vehicle to a command sponsored overseas assignment.

- AFN radio reception cannot be received by many military communities in the area. This was raised as a force and family protection issue and it was recommended that a radio transmitter be constructed in the Baumholder community to improve the AFN reception in this area.

- Another issue was pay-as-you-go Basic Allowance for Subsistence. It was recommended to use a computerized system that will track which meals are eaten and have these meals subtracted from the BAS as they are used. The unused portion would be received in the paycheck. The other related recommendation was to implement separate rations for all soldiers.

- The next issue was access to chaplains for all denominations. It was recommended that an Army chaplain from all major religions visit USAREUR communities at least monthly. Another recommendation was to provide the availability to contract religious leaders to serve the needs of all denominations.

- The soldier group recommended the use of the local German maneuver training area for soldier qualifications. This would decrease travel and family separation and increase morale. It was recommended to upgrade the priority of use for U.S. service members.

- Government sponsored civilian travel was also raised. It was recommended to authorize one round-trip ticket within an overseas tour at government expense for one



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Students in the youth group vote on what they consider to be the most valuable quality of life services available in Baumholder during the annual Army Family Action Plan conference.

civilian family member between the soldier's overseas duty station and the home of record. This was also raised as a morale and retention improving issue.

- Improving Internet access for barracks residents was also addressed. It was recommended to have one DSL access line per room, provide a centrally located secure room with multiple DSL lines, or to have DCA maintain a computer lab in a central location exclusively for barracks residents. Currently quarters not yet renovated have only one DSL access line per floor and renovated quarters have one line per two rooms. It was argued that Internet services are important for quality of life. The Internet is an educational tool, a way to keep in touch with family and friends, a means for career improvement and progression, and a way to maintain personal finance and pay bills.

- In order to improve communication, the youth group recommended the creation of a page in the ASG newspaper for youth, written by youth. Another recommendation was to have youth create public announcements for airing on AFN channels. They also recommended youth representation at LINKS meetings and to initiate a youth maintained web page on the Baumholder website.

- The youth also want an exchange program to share education and or recre-

ational activities with youth outside Baumholder. It was recommended to have students who meet certain criteria trade school slots for a day in other Department of Defense Dependents Schools. They also recommended the initiation of a student exchange with host nation schools on a regular short term basis.

- The youth group's final issue was school lunch variety. They want a greater variety of healthy food to be available for the standard meal ticket of \$2.10. Currently food portions are not adequate, too many items are fried and many items are repeated too frequently. They recommend the creation of a variety of alternatives such as pasta bars, potato bars, soup or salad bars and a Mexican bar.

- Another issue was the deduction of BAS from a service member's pay while on field duty or temporary field assignment, which presents an undue hardship on the service member's family as BAS often accounts for up to 15 percent of the monthly income. The recommendation was to initiate separate rations concurrent with deduction of BAS, remove the 30 day requirement, or the family separation pay, and make the family separation pay equivalent to BAS.

- It was also recommended that every DoDDS school should have at least one qualified guidance counselor. Schools with

300 children enrolled are not authorized full-time qualified counselors. It was pointed out that children from smaller schools require the same emotional and psychological support as students of larger schools.

- The final issue was incentive for career soldiers. This helps to retain qualified and well trained leadership. A recommendation was to roll over use-or-lose leave into annual payments regardless of the 60 day cap. The other recommendation was to increase tuition assistance from 12 to 24 credit hours.

"These are great issues. They are very supportive of our soldiers and their families and that's what this is all about," said Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander.

"I think this really spells it out for the community," said Buchs, noting the work and effort of everyone involved, from the organizers, delegates and facilitators to guidance from senior spouses.

"We've got so many people that care about the community, care about our families and want to make a difference."

Buchs explained that it was now the job of the BSB to get back to the community with answers or action to be taken on all the issues raised. Some issues will definitely be forwarded for further action while others can be dealt with locally, he explained.

# Post office tests Saturday service

Post office customers may now conduct business on Saturdays at Baumholder and at eight major European locations. The other eight locations where U.S. Army Europe has begun testing Army Post Office customer service operations on Saturdays include Hanau, Friedberg, Wiesbaden, Vilseck, Würzburg, Schweinfurt, Stuttgart and Vicenza.

This new Saturday customer service will run for six continuous Saturdays to determine customer use. If the Saturday service is warranted it will continue on a permanent basis. Other Army Europe locations for Saturday postal customer service may be considered after this initial test phase.

During the test phase the Saturday customer service will be available for three hours. Baumholder's post office will open its doors from 9 a.m. to noon. The local Army Post Office hours of operations in each location will be determined by the supporting postal company and the base support battalion commander. Customer service hours will be announced in community news outlets.

The Heidelberg and Mannheim communities are currently providing Saturday Army Post Office customer service with outstanding success, officials said.



Customers lining up for service at the Baumholder Army Post Office during the noon hour may now also conduct their postal transactions on Saturday mornings during a six-week trial period. **Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**

# Wetzel CDC earns NAEYC accreditation

Wetzel Child Development Center was recently granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This prestigious recognition has been achieved by approximately 7 percent of early childhood programs nationwide, some 8,121 programs as of Dec. 1, 2002, serving 716,475 children. Wetzel's 30 child and youth program assistants currently provide care for 118 children. "The staff worked hard and are really pleased to have become accredited," said Jackie Cruz, Wetzel CDC director.

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Child care centers, pre-schools, kindergartens, and before- and after-school programs are eligible to seek NAEYC accreditation. Approximately 19,000 programs are engaged in seeking accreditation.

Programs seeking accreditation undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, administrators and classroom observations. They receive an on-site visit conducted by early childhood professionals especially trained by NAEYC to validate their self-study results. All of this information is independently reviewed by a team of national experts who grant or defer accreditation. When awarded, accreditation is valid for three years.

"The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience," said Barbara Willer, spokesperson for NAEYC. The process carefully considers all aspects of a program including health and safety, staffing, staff qualifications and physical environment.

The greatest emphasis is on the children's relationships with the staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally."

Research supports the value of accreditation for children, Cruz said. Children's language and social skills especially benefit from the better quality found in NAEYC-accredited programs. "These are critical areas for children's success in school as well as in life," she said.

NAEYC accreditation began in 1985, with the first program accredited in 1986. NAEYC is the nation's oldest and largest organization of early childhood professionals dedicated to improvement of quality early childhood education.

NAEYC established accreditation in response to the growing number of American children spending large amounts of time in group settings away from home and the uneven and often inadequate consumer protection afforded by state licensing of child care facilities.

Wetzel Child Development Center is one of four Baumholder CDCs that serve children ranging in age from birth to 6 years old. All four centers are NAEYC accredited.

"We offer full day programs for infants, toddlers and preschool, a part-day preschool program and before- and after-school care for kindergartners. Wetzel CDC will now proudly display the NAEYC torch — the sign of NAEYC accreditation. Parents who look for the torch when choosing child care or early education programs for their children will find programs which have made a commitment to excellence for young children and families," said Cruz.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Photo left: Kiara Benejam enjoys a romp in the nursery. Above: Kameron Eagans and Brianna Fields enjoy a play session with Jennifer Brown, child youth program assistant, while Mackenzie Thompkins shows off her play time creation. Photo below: John Burnett, Gabriella King, Ryan Middleton and Brianna Fields work on a play time project with Tammy Feterl, lead education technician for the toddler room.



## Post notes . . . Post notes

### AAFES employment online

Applications for Army and Air Force Exchange Service jobs are now accepted online only. Job seekers may apply online by going to [www.AAFES.com](http://www.AAFES.com) and clicking on employment. Baumholder's recruitment office is in Building 8402. The Vogelweh office is in Building 2011 and the Ramstein office is in Building 1123. Each of these offices have computers set up to apply for job vacancies in Baumholder. For more information call the Baumholder Human Resources and Recruitment Office at civ (06783) 3086 or mil 485-7334.

### GI Bill not transferable

Many questions have recently surfaced in the community pertaining to the transferability of the Montgomery GI Bill to family members. Much advertisement has appeared in the Kaiserslautern area because the Air Force is conducting a pilot study in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the transferability option on retention of individuals with critical skills.

Whether or not to use or authorize transferability of the Montgomery GI Bill has been left up to the discretion of each service secretary.

"There is a pilot study going on with the Air Force at the direction of the Secretary of the Air Force and there are advertisements on AFN and in the Kaiserslautern/Ramstein area newspaper regarding the program. Unfortunately it is not open to the Army at this time," said Steve Meyers, 222nd Base Support Battalion education officer.

"The Secretary of the Army has complete discretion on whether or not to participate and may or may not decide to utilize this option as a retention tool in the future. If he does the benefit could only be bestowed upon soldiers in critical skills MOSs or positions," said Meyers. Numerous additional stipulations would also have to be met should the Army decide to adopt the program, he explained.

At this time, however, the Army is not participating in the program.

### Museum adjusts hours

To better accommodate soldiers and their families during their off-duty time, the 1st Armored Division Museum in Baumholder now has new operating hours. The new hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

### Weather hotline

Weather and road conditions as well as information about school or post closures or delays is readily available by calling the 222nd Base Support Battalion Staff Duty Office at mil 485-6150/8050 or civ (06783) 6-6150/8050. The office is staffed 24 hours a day and has the most current information regarding weather and road conditions.

### JROTC needs coach

Baumholder's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps is looking for a drill team coach.

The team usually consists of only six or seven students so they participate in individual and color guard competition only.

U.S. ID card holders (except active duty) can be hired as a substitute teacher/coach. Retirees in the local area are eligible for this position and most senior NCOs would be very well qualified.

The season goes from March until May. Practices are dependent upon the coach and there are three scheduled drill meets, plus the European finals, if the team qualifies. Those interested should call retired Maj. David Schwab at mil 485-6722.

### Tax center open

The Tax Center is now open in Building 8670 to provide free tax return preparation for federal and state returns. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays. Except for complicated returns, the center accepts clients on a walk-in basis. Customers must bring their ID card, all W-2 forms, any 1099 and 1098 forms, Social Security or ITIN cards for all family members involved and last year's tax return if available.

The spouse must also be present if filing jointly unless a power of attorney is available. For more information call mil 485-8644.

### AFRC gears up

With the new year well under way, the Armed Forces Recreation Center winter activities are jumping into full swing in Bavaria's winter wonderland. Whether vacationers are looking forward to diverse recreation, enlightening tours or just a relaxing vacation, AFRC has a way for everyone to get outside.

Make reservations or obtain more information by contacting the vacation planning center at mil 440-2575 or visit

[www.afrc-europe.com](http://www.afrc-europe.com).

### Credit union closed

All Service Credit Union branch offices were closed Feb. 17 in observance of Presidents Day. All Service Credit Union branch offices were scheduled to resume normal hours of operation Feb. 18.

### VA briefing set

A Veterans Affairs briefing will be held from 10 a.m. to noon March 21 in the Army Career Alumni Program classroom. Appointments are not necessary but there is usually standing room only so anyone interested should arrive early. Information ranging from VA benefits to the Montgomery GI Bill and VA home loans will be available. For more information call mil 485-6330.

### Looks are everything

Don't let the appearance of your car fall by the wayside. Baumholder Customizing Center can help improve the looks of your car with auto waxing, buffing, shampooing, window tinting, stereo installation, spoiler kit installation and adhesive pin stripping. Call to schedule an appointment with Baumholder Auto Crafts Customizing Center at mil 485-6344.

### Senior pictures

Keepsake Portrait Studio in Baumholder is now accepting appointments for senior portraits. The cost is \$115 and includes the sitting fee, three outfit changes, 36 wallet-sized, four 5x7-inch, four 8x10-inch and one 11x14-inch photos. When scheduling an appointment, inform the receptionist that it is for a senior session, due to the two to three hour time frame needed. For more information call the Keepsake Portrait Studio in Building 8895 at mil 485-6687 or civ (06783) 6-6687.

## Protect belongings before deployment

By Capt. Jocelyn Urgese  
Baumholder Claims Office

When soldiers deploy, their vehicle and personal belongings must be stored for the duration of the deployment. Historically storage of personal items is accomplished in one of two ways. The Army may assume control of these items, placing vehicles in secure areas within company motor pools or parking lots and securing personal property within barracks lockers or supply rooms. Regardless of how soldiers' property is stored during a deployment, property is occasionally damaged by vandals, unusual occurrences, or even stolen. Planning in advance for these types of losses or damages is the key to protecting personal belongings.

The Personnel Claims Act authorizes the settlement of claims for loss, damage or destruction of personal property of military personnel or civilian employees incident to their service. In order to be compensated for loss or damage of his or her personal property, a soldier must be able to substantiate ownership of the property as well as its value and condition.

Before storing a vehicle, take a few steps to protect it. Remove all property not associated with the auto. While it's probably acceptable to leave jumper cables in the trunk, don't leave a compact disc collection there. In addition soldiers may want to consider remov-

ing any expensive stereo equipment from the vehicle, provided it is easily detachable.

Under new U.S. Army Claims service guidance, personal claims of up to \$20,000 are now authorized for damage to privately owned vehicles in government storage as a result of a soldier's operational deployment. However this \$20,000 cap is not without limits; there is still a \$2,000 limit on automobile paint jobs, a \$1,000 limit on automobile parts and a \$750 limit on radios, cassette players, CD players and car alarms. Soldiers whose POVs may exceed these specific limits are encouraged to maintain their private automobile insurance for the duration of the deployment.

Finally, before storing the vehicle, have a complete inspection done that accurately reflects any preexisting damage to the vehicle.

As in the case of private vehicles soldiers should create a comprehensive and legible inventory of personal effects, and keep a copy of this inventory in a safe place. At a minimum make sure that high-value items such as stereo and television equipment and computers are noted on the inventory and that model and serial numbers of these items appear on the inventory as well.

For details call the Baumholder Claims Office at mil 485-8677/6507 or civ (06783) 6-8677/6507.

