

Learning about the military in Spanish

Army Family Team Building instructors share expertise

By Luz Medeiros
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Understanding Army acronyms and other facets of military life can be challenging. Add to that, difficulty with English, and those challenges are compounded.

Army Family Team Building instructors Maritza Ramirez, Carmen Bastos and Luz Medeiros joined together to teach an AFTB class, Level I in Spanish. "We have a big Spanish community in the 284th Base Support Battalion, therefore we are dedicating this class to those family members unable (or having difficulty) to understand the AFTB class in English," said Ramirez. "Soldiers who want to attend this class are welcome also." Carmen Bastos added: "This is something unique. I feel very proud to be part of this team and to be able to transmit such helpful and important information through the AFTB class."

"The class is very informative," said Maritza Vargas, a family member who attended the class. "There are a lot of benefits available for us



Photo by Luz Medeiros

Carmen Bastos discusses Army Family Team Building in Spanish with soldiers and spouses.

that we don't know about, and what is worse, don't use. This class is an excellent resource to find out what services are provided and how we can benefit from them."

"It is my first time attending this class, and I have such a good impression of it, because I have learned

how to act in different situations and which agencies are qualified to help me better," said Bianca Alvarez de Torres, family member.

"The acronyms part I liked the most. (It was) very interesting and useful," said Mariana Corral, a class participant. "Using games in the

class is a good way to learn and remember these abbreviations."

Becky Rodriguez learned a lot during the class. "There are so many resources available. All we need to do is make a phone call or visit the different agencies," said Rodriguez, after attending the class.

"Because I am new to the military community, at the beginning I was uncertain about taking the class," said Spc. Cesar Ventura, Company C, 1-36th Infantry. "But now I feel good and am very glad that I came with my wife. Together we are learning how to use the different resources the Army has created just for us — the soldiers and family members."

"I arrived in Germany last December, and today I feel my life has taken a new route. I feel more capable to confront problems knowing that I can count on others," added Ventura's wife, Maridel.

"The class is a success. I think it should be a requirement for the soldiers to attend with their spouses," said Sgt. Felix Monge, Battery C, 2-3rd Field Artillery. "I have been in the Army for five years, and today I am still learning. The Army provides us with so many ways to solve problems and it is very important to know that. The learning process never ends."

For future Spanish AFTB classes and more information about the AFTB program, contact Maritza Ramirez at Giessen Army Community Service, mil 343-7618 or civ (0641)402-7618.



Photo by Petra Roberts

Make way for spring

Two-year-old Hunter Guerra enjoys a warm winter's day March 10 in Giessen. Community members may have noticed that Mother Nature is making her presence known ever more frequently in the form of buds on the trees and sprouting crocuses. Either she too has had enough of winter weather or she simply wants to join in the many Women's History Month observances being held throughout the 104th Area Support Group.

Women focus during March Women's History Month pays tribute to accomplishments of American women

By Jamie MacKenzie
Occupational health nurse

History is filled with women whose lives and work have transformed America into what it is today.

During March, Women's History Month, Americans are invited to celebrate the accomplishments of Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton and the many other women such as retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general Wilma Vaught, one of the most decorated military women in U.S. history. It is also a time to celebrate sisters, mothers and grandmothers who have been the center of families throughout American history, passing on their various cultures, faiths, aspirations and beliefs from generation to generation. These women have had a profound and lasting effect on communities, contributing to society and culture of today. These women may live quiet, unassuming lives, but their efforts have a lasting effect on those around them.

History is being written every day. One need not look back far to find role models — women who play vital roles in the military and civilian workforce as leaders and visionaries. When given the opportunity they continue to prove they can and will excel in their fields.

Take the secretary or administrative officer who supplies the glue which binds many organizations. Let her be absent for a few days and just watch how quickly the day-to-day operations begin to run less smoothly.

History is filled with courageous, inspiring and compas-

sionate women. March honors those women who have helped empower everyone around them.

Women's History Week was first designated by Congress in 1981. A resolution designating the entire month of March as Women's History Month was passed by Congress in 1987.

In observance of this year's theme, "Women Pioneering the Future," 1st Brigade and the 284th Base Support Battalion will hold a Women's History Month celebration March 27 at 1 p.m. at the Old Ironside Theater on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. Lt. Col. Marilyn Wills, a survivor of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon, will speak. For more information and reservations call Kathleen Phipps at mil 324-3805, or send an email to Kathleen.Phipps@1stbdehq.1ad.army.mil.

Visit the White House website at www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases to read President George W. Bush's Women's History Month proclamation.

School essay contest

Bad Nauheim, Butzbach and Giessen Elementary Schools hold a Women's History Month essay contest. Fifth- and sixth-grade students are invited to submit their entries by March 24. The theme of the 2003 contest is: "If I could sit down and talk with one female historical figure, it would be ... because ..." Essays must be typed and 150-200 words in length. Call the schools for more information.

Storing POVs during deployment Giessen Depot features warehouse area for soldier's vehicles

By Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

In a deployment there are many issues to take care of — forms to fill out — so much to consider.

Soldiers in the 284th Base Support Battalion now have one less worry. The Directorate of Logistics has identified protected indoor POV storage facilities on Giessen Depot capable of holding 98 percent of deploying soldiers' vehicles. Warehouses are available giving soldiers the opportunity to concentrate on their mission without having to worry about having to drive elsewhere for vehicle storage.

While soldiers formerly had to take their car to Miesau or Mannheim, now they can go directly to the Giessen Depot. A visit to the Installation Transportation Office, and within an average of 15 minutes or less all paperwork will be processed and the car will have been inspected and parked.

Once the vehicle is parked, the owner must turn the key and blue copy of the vehicle registration over to the site custodian who will seal DD Form 788 (Private Vehicle Shipping Document) along with the key and registration into an envelope and place it into a safe. A file will be maintained on each POV in the storage site.

"The U.S. government assumes responsibility and performs regular patrols of the storage site," said Alan Matthews, installation transportation officer. "This will not be the case if the vehicles are stored somewhere

else."

Other important factors are time and savings, he said, explaining that DOL officials submit a list of the vehicles to the Provost Marshal Office which in turn notifies the individual's car insurance company and temporarily de-registers the vehicle. That way no insurance premiums will have to be paid for the duration of storage. "Government liability for any loss, damage or missing items is another good reason to store vehicles in the designated area," Matthews said. "The U.S. government allows up to \$20,000 for loss, damage or missing items. Up to \$2,000 can be claimed for damages to paint jobs, \$750 for electronic accessories and \$1,000 for missing parts. Storing the vehicles in a safe and enclosed facility helps minimize claims, therefore saving the U.S. government money that can be used for other projects," he said.

Following are important things to consider before storing vehicles in the storage facility:

☞ All flammable or explosive materials such as gas cans, fireworks, ammunition or other pyrotechnics must be removed. ☞ No other parts other than those considered part of the vehicle such as car jacks, spare tire, first aid kit and warning triangle, may be left in the vehicle. ☞ Items such as music tapes, CDs, repair parts and those not related to normal vehicle operation must be removed. ☞ Cars must be in a clean condition. ☞ After-market CD players, speakers and amplifiers mounted outside the dash-

board must be removed. ☞ Vehicles must meet registration requirements IAW UR 190-1 (Registration and Operating Privately Owned Motor Vehicle in Germany). ☞ In the absence of the POV owner, his or her agent must show a valid general or special power of attorney. ☞ Before taking possession of the vehicle the owner must have the registration re-activated and present



Photo by Petra Roberts

Staff Sgt. Angel Sanchez (right) turns in his motorcycle for storage at the Giessen warehouse before deploying with his unit. Alan Matthews, installation transportation officer, helps him through the process.

proof of insurance. "I strongly urge individuals to use our storage facility. It is the recommended storage facility, and soldiers can be sure that their vehicles are well protected and taken care of," Matthews said. For more information contact the DOL at mil 343-1540 or call Matthews directly at mil 343-7088/7089.

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Preventing inhalant abuse among youths

Common household products can be deadly

When most people think about drug abuse they probably get an image someone using illegal substances such as ecstasy or heroin.

But common everyday substances can also pose a danger — particularly to younger family members.

"Parents worry about alcohol and drugs, but may not realize that home products also pose a substance abuse hazard," said Carrie Hicks, Army Substance Abuse Program coordinator for the 284th Base Support Battalion. "The best way to prevent inhalant abuse is to educate your child about the dangers of these products."

Parents are advised to explain to their children how inhalants can cause both short- and long-term health problems, lead to further drug abuse and even death, she said.

Signs and symptoms of inhalant abuse include:

■ Breath and clothing that smell like chemicals;

- Spots or sores around the mouth;
- Paint or stains on body or clothing;
- Drunk, dazed or glassy-eyed look;
- Nausea, loss of appetite;
- Anxiety, excitability, irritability.

The most effective way to prevent inhalant abuse is to inform commanders, soldiers, parents, teachers and school-age children of the signs, symptoms and dangers, Hicks said. The key to preventing inhalant abuse is the same as striving to prevent abuse of alcohol or drugs. Parents need to be informed to recognize the warning signs of abuse.

Members of the Army Substance Abuse Program observe National Prevention of Inhalant Abuse during the month of March.

Contact the Army Substance Abuse Program for information and/or treatment at mil 324-1710 or 343-1710 to schedule an appointment. (Courtesy of the 284th BSB ASAP)



Photo by Petra Roberts

High finance at Wild West Night

Betty Johnson, a visitor from the United States, and Judith Brown, Friedberg Community Bank manager, discuss offerings at the Western Store during the Hearts and Hands Community Club's Wild West Night in Friedberg March 8. Community members enjoyed a wealth of activities ranging from cancan dancers to gaming tables at the annual fund-raiser which raised more than last year's \$15,000, club officials said. Money is returned to the community in the form of scholarships and other grants for needy individuals and organizations.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

'Fasching fools' take military, city officials hostage

Friedberg Fasching majorettes take 1st Armored Division's Col. Michael Tucker, 1st Brigade commander, and Col. David Bender, 284th Base Support Battalion commander, captive during a traditional storming of the city during Germany's "fifth season" — Fasching. The commanders joined Friedberg's mayor and deputy mayor in voluntarily surrendering the ceremonial keys to Ray Barracks and the city after a valiant, but vain effort to fend off the frenzied, Fasching revelers.

Photo by Petra Roberts



Community spotlight .. Community spotlight

New commissary hours

The Bad Nauheim Commissary is now open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed Sunday and Monday.

'Shirley Valentine' at Keller Theater

The Giessen Keller Theater presents "Shirley Valentine," a drama filled with humor and human insight, by playwright Willy Russell. Show dates are April 4-5, 10-12 and 17-19. For more information or reservations call mil 343-6515 or civ (0641)402-6515.

Youth fashion show

The 284th Base Support Battalion Youth Services in Giessen hosts the 2003 Youth Fashion Show March 29 at the II Giardino Ballroom. Show time is 7 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for youths. Transportation will be provided by request. For more information call Butzbach YS at civ (06033) 73048 or Giessen YS at mil 343-6129.

Giessen School-Age Services lock-in

The 284th Base Support Battalion School-Age Services hosts a lock-in night March 21 from 7 p.m. to midnight. SAS children will enjoy a night full of fun and games. Food will be provided. The cost is \$8. Children must be registered to participate. For more information call mil 343-6128.

SHOP meets Wednesdays

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service and Giessen Miller Hall Fitness Center now offer a Schoolers at Home Outreach Program for families with home-schooled children. SHOP meets on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. at Miller Hall Fitness Center in Giessen for games and crafts. Call ACS at mil 343-6039 or civ (0641) 402 6039 for more information and to register.

NOW in Friedberg

Friedberg Army Community Service hosts a Newcomers Orientation Welcome class April 15-16 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free child care will be available for those who register in advance. For details call Patricia Harper at mil 343-6910/7618.

Watch for amphibians

Ever wondered about small plastic shielding being put up along secondary roads in Germany? The fences are designed to protect amphibians travel-



ing to their spawning places. Some of the amphibians are considered endangered species. The plastic fence keeps them from crossing public roads where drivers would have trouble seeing the frogs, salamanders and toads in the dark. Volunteers collect the amphibians and take them to their nearby spawning places, usually ponds in the area. Members of the Lower Nature Preservation Agency ask vehicle operators to exercise caution especially on those roads marked with warning signs.

Jammie and Judy in the Morning

Stay tuned to the American Forces Network's Z-98 from 7-9 a.m. every Friday to catch up-to-the-minute news about the 284th Base Support Battalion. Join Jammie and Judy in the Morning for the latest about happenings in the Butzbach, Friedberg and Giessen communities. Contact them at j&jshow@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information.



Champagne brunch at II Giardino

A champagne brunch will be served April 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the II Giardino restaurant in Building 10 on the Giessen Depot. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5.50 for children. For more information call mil 343-7709.

Learning to talk turkey without turning chicken at Toastmasters

Most people would rather die than give a speech. There are ways of beating that fear of public speaking. If you are interested in improving your communication skills while making new friends attend the next meeting of the local Toastmasters International Club. Toastmasters provide an opportunity for people to get together and improve their ability to listen critically, think clearly and speak in public without nervousness. The Giessen club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Kanu und Ski Club, Boothausstrasse 20 in Giessen. Call Kristi at civ (0641) 4941258, Wilma at civ (06033) 895442 or visit the webpage at www.toastmasters.org for details.

VA benefits briefing

The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts a Veterans Affairs benefit briefing in Building 7 on Giessen Depot March 20 from 9-11 a.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment with a VA representative call the Army Career

Alumni Program office at mil 343-9332.

Community Information Briefing March 26

Learn all about upcoming events in your community. The next Community Information Briefing will be held March 26 at 10:30 a.m. in Building 10 at the Giessen Alpine Club.

Explore Frankfurt with ACS March 27

Butzbach Army Community Service invites everyone to join them on a day trip to Frankfurt and the historical districts March 27 by train. Attendees are responsible for train fare and any other expenses involved. For more information call the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06033) 925 329 or stop by Building 6543 in Roman Way Village, Apartment 3-B.

Bulk trash pickup

The next date for pick up is April 4 for all housing areas. Put bulk items outside the night before. For details call Monika Nelson at mil 343-7161/6627.

Travel with Outdoor Rec

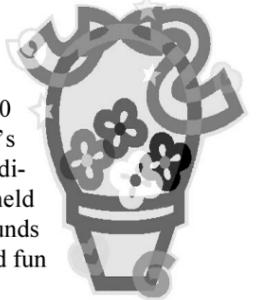
Giessen Outdoor Recreation features a shopping trip to the Wächtersbach ceramics factory March 29. The bus leaves at 7 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m. Cost is \$39 per person. A Poland shopping trip takes place April 4-5. The bus leaves at 11 p.m. and returns at 11 p.m. the next day. Cost is \$49 per person. Explore the night life in Amsterdam April 12-13. The bus leaves at 7 a.m. and returns at 9:30 a.m. the next day. Cost is \$49 per person. For details call mil 343-8202.

Saturday services discontinued

Saturday opening hours at the Giessen and Friedberg Army Post Office have been discontinued. For more information call Capt. Bell at mil 322-8664.

Easter, Spring Fairs

Get your decorating ideas for Easter by visiting Easter Egg Fairs taking place in Giessen's Kongresshalle March 22-23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friedberg's Stadthalle March 29-30. The traditional Giessen Spring Fair will be held March 29 to April 13 at the fair grounds near Swan Lake offering rides and fun for the entire family.



284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Keeping it together during deployment

Home is here while your spouse is away

By Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Knowing where to get help during a deployment is the key to reducing problems and stress. The Army's four-part Family Support System is here to provide guidance and assistance to soldiers and their families in times like these.

The focal point of the FSS is Army Community Service, which will expand into a Family Assistance Center during deployment. Extended hours of operation, resources and programs tailored to families of deployed soldiers will be available. FACs will provide guidance and support to the other components of the FSS.

The family readiness liaison is an officer or noncommissioned officer appointed by the unit commander to coordinate the Family Readiness Group, unit and community services.

The Family Readiness Group is a company- or battalion-level organization of families, soldiers and civilians who volunteer to provide mutual social and emotional support, outreach services and information to their fellow soldiers and family members.

The rear detachment commander is a senior officer who does not deploy, but stays in garrison with the families to act in the place of the commander. He or she provides leadership and assistance to families and nondeploying soldiers. All three elements exist in every unit and are trained to support



Photo by Karl Weisel

Giessen Middle-High School students Jasmine Redman, Ashley Harper, Kayla Wildy and Shumya Clemens work on a construction project in their professional technical studies class. Keeping children anchored in school and the social network of their peers is one important reason to stay in the community during deployments, said officials.

family members and soldiers in the rear.

FSS kicks in when units go through pre-deployment briefings, where all elements are on hand to discuss concerns and answer questions. ACS fields representatives to answer questions along with community service agency providers. They provide checklists for soldiers and spouses to cover all possible issues and concerns.

During deployment the FACs, located at the Giessen and Friedberg ACS centers, will provide most community services in one easy-to-reach location, and will coordinate refer-

rals to any other service required by a family.

FACs help families cope with everyday issues they will face during deployment and maintain stability in their lives. Although going back to the United States when a spouse deploys is an option, it is definitely not the best answer. Staying in your community and relying on your FRG will make it easier to keep in touch with your deployed spouse through free telephone, email and video tele-conference services available at the FAC

Staying in the community with the unit FRL and RDC nearby is the best way to keep

up to date on what's really going on with their soldiers and stay in touch with those who are deployed. Your military family here can take care of your needs better than anyone else and will always be there for you, officials said. Calculate the money saved by staying in the community, since returning to the States will be at your expense, they added.

FRG leaders are experienced from past deployments with the issues and understandable fears that can arise. They know what it takes to help. Most importantly they are the ones in touch with the deployed unit.

You may hear news about units on television, but it likely won't pertain to your deployed spouse. By staying in the community you will get the most accurate, specific and up-to-date information directly from knowledgeable sources. Family members can also quickly check with any component of the FSS to get the rest of the story. Being back in the United States with your folks will make that harder to do, and make you dependent on what you see and hear via public media.

Take advantage of the helping hands that reach out to you. Before making any decision about leaving the community discuss it thoroughly with your family and with your deploying spouse. Involve your children and consider their best interests, especially the reassuring continuity they experience in their schools and with their friends. Your children's friends will be going through the same situation and will be able to provide peer support that is simply not available in the United States, officials said.

Above all remember that at the end of a deployment your spouse wants to come home to you, not an empty house. Home is here.

Finding peace, strength in troubled times

Commentary by
Chaplain (Maj.) Marshall Peterson
284th Base Support Battalion

Life can be troublesome. Uncontrollable circumstances are just plain tough, demanding grit of character and uncommon valor to make it through those times: job loss, unemployment, feeling worthless, financial difficulties.

During such challenging times one struggles just to survive. Marriage and family conflicts, divorce, remarriage problems, stepchildren, simply having children, seeing them through puberty and adolescence seem to make life just plain unfair.

Through it all don't forget your first duty station — being that tough, lean, mean fighting machine squad leader. And the ultimate field problem — war.

Your heart cries out for answers. ✘ Is there any sanity in my life? ✘ I feel so confused ✘ Why me, God? ✘ I knew "re-
upping" was a mistake. In the midst of life's confusions, the

Bible mentions two terrible scenarios — the earth's sudden destruction (Psalm 46) and the outbreak of war (Psalm 27).

The great truth we need today is God. God is our refuge and strength, no matter what comes, no matter what the future holds. Frail, faulty human wisdom and strength will fail, but he is our sure confidence, our eternal hope, our ever-present strength in times such as these.

Those who have this hope need not fear whatever comes. When our hearts are torn by deployment separation and the possible breakout of a war, we shall stand "rock steady" because he is our refuge and strength. Others may quail with fear and regret for life's course, for choices made to serve their country, but we shall stand firm with ironclad resolve.

The Psalmist's words are real. They are "solid rock" for time and eternity. There is no time like the present to make him our ever-present help. Have you made peace with heaven? Isn't it about time?



Photo by Petra Roberts

Driving it home

Army hoopsters score during a German-American basketball tournament held in Giessen March 8. The Polizei, Giessen Rowing Club and local companies competed. This year's Army team beat a squad from Deutsche Bank 50-35 to take the title.

BOSS corner

BOSS does not stand for your supervisor, but rather for Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. A program by soldiers for soldiers, BOSS is built on three pillars.

Quality of life — deals with issues that single soldiers can influence to enhance their shared morale, living environment and personal growth and development. BOSS councils address dining, education, fitness center, quarters, health care, commissary and post exchange needs.

Leisure activities — BOSS councils organize recreational activities. Upcoming BOSS activities include ☛

March 20, Bowling Tournament at Friedberg and Giessen Bowling Centers, ☛ **April 18**, overnight trip to Six Flags of Holland and Amsterdam (register by March 18), ☛ **June 27**, visit Strasbourg, France.

Community service — BOSS councils often participate in community programs that make a positive difference in the lives of others and of themselves. BOSS soldiers in the 284th Base Support Battalion have tutored elementary school students and found it fulfilling for themselves as well as the children they have helped.

BOSS meets every last Tuesday of the month alternating locations between Giessen and Friedberg. Call mil 324-3158 or your unit BOSS representative for information.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

MPs tackle back-to-back deployments

By Melody Joy Fields
414th Base Support Battalion

The 709th Military Police Battalion received orders deploying them to the Central Command region. For soldiers in the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, who returned from a six-month Kosovo deployment in November, this is the second deployment in less than six months.

"I'm not concerned one bit about our ability to meet our mission," said Lt. Col. Rich Vanderlinden, battalion commander. "I would have taken these soldiers straight out of Kosovo into CENTCOM. HHD is the strongest battalion staff team I've seen in 19 years of service."

Training for deployment

The battalion headquarters and the 127th Military Police Company deployed to Kosovo April 15 where they performed a full range of military police functions, especially security. They redeployed to Hanau Nov. 2 and immediately began training.

"I haven't had any soldiers balk at any of the training, the inoculations or at going," said Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Carson. "I think as a team this is the best this unit has been."

"I think about everybody is excited in one way or another. Some see it as an adventure. Some see it as an opportunity to get more experience."

"Nobody really knows what it's going to be like down there," said Spc. Brandy Evans, the company nuclear, chemical and biological noncommissioned officer. "None of us junior enlisted have ever been, so we're just going off what other people have said."

"In Kosovo, you had everything down there. It wasn't like being deployed. They had Anthony's, Burger King, the PX — we just worked longer hours. They even had a movie theater down there."

"They're preparing us for the worst now, like the possibility of washing our own clothes and not having laundry service or no showers for a while."

Heat is the soldiers' biggest concern, said Carson. But no one, not even Evans, said they were concerned about the threat of



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Capt. Brad Martin, HHD, 709th MP Battalion, commander, carries the company guidon as Sgt. 1st Class Joel McJessey accounts for each soldier as he or she boards. HHD redeployed from Kosovo in November and deployed to the CENTCOM region in February and March.

chemical weapons.

"You've got to understand," said 1st Lt. David Sheronas, "while we were in Kosovo, we started training with the NBC." News reports on Iraq's possible connection to al Qaeda prompted the company to prepare themselves for a possible deployment into the region while they were still fulfilling their mission in Kosovo. "Our battalion's NBC NCO Sgt. Hurte and Spc. Evans have given classes every week since the end of July."

"It's what we train for," said Evans. "I figure if we're going to be trained for it we

might as well be able to use it."

"All the soldiers are ready," said Carson. "We've done some training up since we came back from Kosovo. Their morale is good, their training is good, their equipment is good, so we're going to be good."

Family support

Expecting the back-to-back deployments to be stressful, Vanderlinden spoke to the soldiers and families as soon as they received their orders. "We held the pre-deployment brief for headquarters as soon as we found out we were going," he said.

"I briefed the family members and we were specifically looking for indicators of stress and anxiety over the back-to-back deployments. I sent the chaplain to go and find out for me the state of families. But the back-to-back deployment didn't seem to cause any greater anxiety than the deployment itself."

"I don't know if it's because we just got back from Kosovo," said Sheronas. "So they're still in the deployment mindset, or if there's just been so much in the news about CENTCOM that they expected it, but the family members have been amazing."

"You've got to do what you've got to do," said Carson. "It's not like we volunteered for it, but you get your orders and you do the best you can. They just got settled in with their families, and now they have to go back out again. But the families are doing OK. They support their soldier."

No change in law enforcement

Approximately 400 soldiers from the battalion have deployed, including elements of the 527th MP Company from Giessen and the 92nd MP Company from Baumholder. The 127th MP Company remains in Germany to perform community policing activities.

"They are covering law enforcement for Hanau, Giessen, Darmstadt and they're prepared to cover Wiesbaden if 1st Armored Division leaves," said Vanderlinden. "People won't see a difference in law enforcement coverage in the community. Law enforcement coverage will not change — that's the bottom line."

Military Police from the 127th began covering Wiesbaden after the division received deployment orders.

Vanderlinden's confidence in the 127th MP Company was high enough that he passed all rear detachment authority over to them. Capt. David R. Parravecchia will serve as the battalion rear detachment commander as well as the 127th MP company commander.

"It's unusual to have a company fulfill battalion staff," he said. "Usually when you deploy you try to leave back a sufficient number of staff to run the battalion. I don't have non-deployable soldiers in HHD, so I've chosen to deploy them forward."

There will not be a shortage of Military Police in the communities, said Vanderlinden.



Photo by Keli Chevalier

Soldiers greet their families during a welcome home ceremony in November after a six-month deployment in Kosovo. The 709th MPs deployed to CENTCOM this month.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Earn a degree at Parent University



Photo by Karl Weisel

Parents are invited to hone their skills at the day-long event.

Free one-hour classes

By Joseph A. Halstead
Army Community Service

The second annual Parent University will be held April 5 at Hanau High School from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The one-day program offers a variety of classes covering over 25 crucial topics on parenting.

“April is the Month of the Military Child, but this ‘university’ will help parents make every day of the year a day to be a good parent to their children,” said Leslie White, Hanau ACS New Parent Education and Support program coordinator.

Parent University will hold one-hour classes on parenting, throughout the day. Parents can attend up to five different classes, such as Messy Art, CPR, Advanced Infant Training for Daddies, Discipline and Time-out, Child Proofing Your Home, Understanding Boys for Moms, Understanding Girls for Dads, Physical Fitness for Kids, Spirituality with Children and

Stress Reduction.

Parent University was conceived by White as a way to underscore the services the New Parent program offers to the Hanau community. Parent University presents a caring approach toward parenting outreach, which White hopes will encourage parents to attend other New Parent programs such as the New Parent support group.

The program will begin with registration at 9 a.m., and classes will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Each class will be 50 minutes long and is open to all parents and expecting parents.

The event will include prizes and giveaways. Sponsors for the event include Hanau ACS, American Red Cross, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the Hanau Health Clinic, the Hanau health promotions coordinator and many other community organizations.

For a complete list of classes offered at Parent University call Lesley White at mil322-8042, civ(06181)88-8042 or check the website at www.hanau.army.mil.

Clip and save deployment services phone guide

Army Community Service

Pioneer, Bldg. 9
mil322-8963/8965
civ(06181)88-8963/8965

Air travel

Rhein Main
mil330-7746/6567
Rhein Main Hotel
mil330-7265/4610
Ramstein
mil480-5364/2433
Frankfurt Airport
civ(069)6901

American Embassy

civ(030)83050

American Consulate General in Frankfurt

civ(069)75352440
Visa
civ(069)75352108
Passport
civ(069)75352286

American Red Cross

Pioneer, Bldg. 4
mil322-8205/1760

Banking Facilities

Community Bank
Fliegerhorst, Bldg. 1357
mil322-7425
civ(06183)6265
Wolfgang, Bldg. 504
mil322-8064
civ(06181)950160
Andrews Federal Credit Union
Wolfgang, Bldg. 504

mil322-8062
civ(06181)95380

Bus service

Yorkhof, Bldg. 120
mil322-1800/8785
civ(06181)88-1800/8785

Chapels

Pioneer, Bldg. 1
mil322-1570
Büdingen, Bldg. 2237
mil321-4810/4268
Fliegerhorst, Bldg. 1362
mil322-7767/7579

Child and Youth Services

CLEOS/FCC, Pioneer, Bldg. 20
mil370-8738/8458
Millenium Teen Center
Büdingen, Bldg. 2330
mil321-4793
Galaxy Teen Center
New Argonner, Bldg. 200
mil322-8231

Child Development Centers

Büdingen, Bldg. 2223
mil321-4746/4720
civ(06042)80746
Fliegerhorst, Bldg. 1381
mil322-7821
civ(06183)1304
Gelnhausen, Bldg. 1838
civ(06051)4169
Old Argonner, Bldg. 417
mil322-8083/9263

Commissary

Büdingen, Bldg. 2235
mil322-4726
civ(06042)80726
Gelnhausen, Bldg. 1822
civ(06051)4266

Wolfgang, Bldg. 500
mil322-8736/8323
civ(06181)55859

Dental Clinic

Büdingen, Bldg. 2216
mil321-4862/4729
New Argonner, Bldg. 245
mil328-6701/6520

DPW

Emergency (after hours only)
mil115
civ(06181)88-115
Work Orders
Büdingen, Bldg. 2213
mil322-4844
Work Orders
Hanau, Bldg. 11
mil322-8601
Finance
Pioneer, Bldg. 20
mil322-8805/8326

Housing

Pioneer, Bldg. 11
mil322-9227/8431

ID Cards

Pioneer, Bldg. 5
mil322-8793/8579

Installation Pass

Pioneer, Bldg. 21
mil322-8773

Installation volunteer coordinator

Pioneer, Bldg. 21
mil322-9524

Legal services

Pioneer, Bldg. 4
mil322-8467

Medical

Büdingen Clinic, Bldg. 2216
mil321-4820/4789

Heidelberg, Information
mil370-2605

Landstuhl, Information
mil486-7184/6307
Hanau Clinic, Bldg. 245
mil328-6664
civ(06181)500-6664
Hanau Central Appointments
mil328-6600/6601
civ(06181)500-6600/6601
EFMP, Bldg. 246
mil322-8213

Military Police

Yorkhof, Bldg. 1201
mil322-8749/8321
civ(06181)160579

Operator/Information

mil113
civ(06181)88-113

Patient Liaison

New Argonner, Bldg. 245
mil322-6598

Post Office-APO

Büdingen, Bldg. 2210
mil321-4870
Wolfgang, Bldg. 505
mil322-8683/9386

Post Office-Deutsche Post

Wolfgang, Bldg. 504
civ(06181)55395

Post Office-CMR

CMR 401 Büdingen
mil321-4772
CMR 477 Fliegerhorst
Bldg. 1357
mil322-7408/7561
CMR 470 Pioneer, Bldg. 38
mil322-9496
CMR 412 Hutier
mil322-9279

5/7 AD UMR
mil322-8037

POV Inspection

Pioneer, Bldg. 48
mil322-8101
Registration
mil322-8335/8115

Schools

Argonner Elementary
mil322-8374/8819
Gelnhausen Elementary
civ(06051)13011/13012
Hanau High School
mil322-8714/8024
civ(06181)55711/52676
Hanau Middle School
mil322-8647/8649
civ(06181)9069710
Sportfield Elementary
mil322-8990/8600

School-Age Services

Gelnhausen, Bldg. 1827
civ(06051)4307
Sportfield, Bldg. 338
mil322-8155

Schools liaison

Old Argonner, Bldg. 451
mil322-1770

Social Work Services

New Argonner, Bldg. 245
mil328-6730

Vision Center

Wolfgang, Bldg. 503
civ(0171)32225

Women, Infants and Children—Overseas

Wolfgang, Bldg. 514
mil322-9636/9645

Advice on deployment legal issues

By Capt. Thomas Brzozowski
Hanau Legal Center

Ben Franklin once said the only sure things in life are death and taxes. If he were a soldier in today's Army, deployment would definitely have made his list of life's certainties. Deployment can be frustrating, but prior planning can help ease a good deal of the stress. The Hanau Legal Center stands ready to provide all legal assistance necessary to give soldiers and their families peace of mind.

Some of the most common legal issues surrounding deployment concern wills, powers of attorney and taxes.

Wills — A will is an instrument that sets out how a person wants his property distributed upon his or her death. Everyone should meet with an attorney to determine whether a will is required. It's always best to see an attorney just to make sure. For deploying soldiers, the best place to get a will is at the unit PDP (pre-deployment package). The Legal Assistance Division of the Hanau Legal Center also offers Will Workshops for family members and soldiers unable to get to their unit PDP. Will Workshops are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3-4:30 p.m. and on Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. The workshop is located on the third floor of Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne. If all else fails make an appointment with Legal Assistance at mil 322-8993 or civ (06181)88-8993.

Powers of attorney — A power of attorney is a potent document. Unfortunately much confusion surrounds powers of attorney — what they are, who creates them and who will accept them. Three types of powers of attorney are available at the Hanau Legal Center: a general power of attorney, a special power of attorney and a medical care/guardianship power of attorney. Each one empowers an agent to act in a particular manner on one's behalf. The medical/guardianship power of attorney authorizes an agent to act on one's behalf with respect to one's children or dependents. Most of the confusion surrounding powers of attorney, however, concerns which agencies will accept general powers of attorney and which require special powers of attorney.

A general power of attorney authorizes one's agent to do anything that one could do personally, and those acts would have binding legal effect. This means a person armed with a

general power of attorney could withdraw money from your account, sell your house, or take out a loan in your name. As a general rule the duration of a general power of attorney should be limited. No one is legally required to accept a power of attorney. It is entirely within the discretion of third parties, such as banks or businesses, to accept or reject an agent's power of attorney. However the local agencies listed below have indicated their preferences. At a minimum the following agencies in Hanau accept general powers of attorney:

☐ **Banking institutions** (both Andrews Federal Credit Union and the Community Bank): These banking facilities accept general powers of attorney for routine banking transactions such as deposits, withdrawals and check cashing with one significant caveat. Neither bank will accept a general power of attorney for the purpose of cashing an IRS tax refund check made out to two parties (usually the spouse and the service member if they filed jointly). These banking institutions require both payees to endorse the back of the check, or a special power of attorney for that purpose. ☐ **Tax center** — The Hanau Tax Center requires only a general power of attorney for tax preparation. ☐ **Army Community Service** — The ACS accepts general powers of attorney for most services such as the Lending Closet. It does, however, require a special power of attorney for a spouse to receive any Army Emergency Relief funds. ☐ **Personnel branch** — The personnel branch accepts general powers of attorney for processing ID cards and for registering in DEERs. It requires a special power of attorney, however, for obtaining passports and birth registrations. ☐ **Housing** — The housing office will accept a general power of attorney to clear post. However, a spouse should be able to accomplish everything at housing with PCS or EROS (early return of dependants) orders — a power of attorney is usually not needed. ☐ **Transportation** — Both inbound and outbound sections of the transportation office require only a general power of attorney.

A special power of attorney authorizes one's agent to perform a specific act or acts. This limits the power of an agent to act on one's behalf. A special power of attorney is more narrowly drawn and specially tailored than a general power

of attorney. Some agencies require an agent to have a special power of attorney before certain services will be rendered. The following Hanau agencies have indicated they require a special power of attorney: ☐ **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)** — DFAS requires a special power of attorney in order to change, stop or start an allotment. ☐ **Banking institutions** — Both Andrews Federal Credit Union and the Community Bank require a special power of attorney

for an agent to take out a loan on a principal's behalf. ☐ **ACS** — ACS requires a special power of attorney for any AER payments to be dispersed. ☐ **Personnel branch** — The personnel branch requires a special power of attorney to issue passports and birth registrations. ☐ **Vehicle registration** — Vehicle registration accepts general powers of attorney only if granted from a spouse to a spouse. For deployed soldiers, vehicle registration will accept a special power of attorney if it specifies in detail exactly what the principal wants his/her agent to accomplish. In all other situations individuals need to personally visit vehicle registration and obtain a specially tailored power of attorney that vehicle registration has on file at its office.

For more information about powers of attorney call the Hanau Legal Center at mil 322-8993. The center prepares both general and special powers of attorney Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Taxes — The Hanau Tax Center remains operational to serve you. Located on Pioneer Kaserne in Building 2, the center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; noon to 8 p.m. on Thursday for scheduled appointments and drop-off services. Walk-in appointments close two hours before regular closing times. Call mil 322-9577 or civ (06181) 88-9577.

There is an automatic, two-month filing extension for taxpayers who are overseas (until June 16). This is an extension to file, not an extension to pay. If the taxpayer owes money the IRS charges interest after April 15. For deployment purposes the soldier (and his or her spouse if filing a joint return) receives an extension that runs until at least six months after the soldier returns from deployment. This is an extension to pay as well as to file. If the soldier is entitled to a refund, the IRS will apply interest.



German student interns at Hanau Dental Clinic

By Melody Joy Fields
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Jannis Mewes, a German high school student, learns how to make a crown from dental laboratory technician John A. Ross. Mewes spent a week studying dentistry at the Hanau Dental Clinic for his high school practicum.

Patients at the Hanau Dental Clinic in February may have spotted a youthful face behind the counter taking appointments and preparing their records. Fifteen-year-old Jannis Mewes, a German high school student, spent a week in the clinic studying dentistry, administration and laboratory work.

Most German students are required to select a career field before they leave high school. To provide students with as much information as possible, schools set up internships as early as the ninth grade. These practicum opportunities help students decide what course of study they will take after graduation.

"Pupils can look at jobs they might choose and learn what they have to do — what it's like to work there," said Mewes. "I've made records, appointments for patients and worked in supply. And in the lab I made a brace with a tooth in it. It took a whole day to make one thing. Today I worked with a dentist."

The practicum was arranged by Col. Carl Kruger, the dental commander, who has known

Mewes since he was only 4 years old. "His parents approached me, and I thought it was a great idea. I wish somebody had told my kids, 'Go down to McDonalds and flip burgers for a week — then see if you want to go on to school.'"

Mewes worked side by side with dentists, clerks and technicians, and while he seemed impressed with work they do, his colleagues were equally impressed with him.

"He's a very intelligent kid," said Ling Hofer, the records clerk. "I was amazed how quick he was. We are very sad to see him go."

The laboratory, where dental fixtures are made, offered Mewes the most hands-on experience. He constructed dentures, a retainer, molds of teeth and crowns, said Rhonda Siebert, a dental lab technician.

"I was glad to show him how to use the lab, and I hope he takes it into consideration when he's deciding about a career," said John A. Ross, the senior technician.

Mewes will report his experiences in the American clinic to his teacher and classmates before heading out to other practicum assignments.