Inside

Feedback

"It's too intense," said *Connection* editor Katrina McConnell. "People outside the military are becoming desensitized. It's not really war to them, but just some reality-based TV show they can't wait to watch every night. It makes me fear for our soldiers." See page 2 for more feedback on media coverage of the war.

Get away to Greece

Need to get away from it all? Consider the tranquility of Karpathos, an Aegean island east of Rhodos where life goes on at a slower pace, the sea is never far away and some of the natives speak English with a New Jersey accent. See page 14.

Herald Union

Vol. X, No. 14 — *Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group* — April 15, 2003

1st AD rolls out

Rear detachments stand up to support deployment, families

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Units of the 1st Armored Division began leaving Germany for Iraq and the Persian Gulf in early April. Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st AD commander, confirmed expectations of the move April 4 when he addressed a conference of rear detachment leaders and 104th Area Support Group officials in Wiesbaden.

"The likelihood of us not deploying is zero. This division is leaving starting Monday," he said.

Sanchez addressed the conference to stress the critical importance of rear detachment units to the division's mission as soldiers and their equipment began streaming to the Middle East for a period of indefinite length. The rear detachment will serve as the direct link between soldiers and the families remaining in Germany.

"We don't know when we're coming back. That's why the RD commands are critical. It's the whole team that's got to make it work. It's going to be a challenging job. That's why we need good people behind. You've got to ask the questions and you've got to stay linked with each other," he said.

The rear detachments are tasked with maintaining the division's infrastructure, guarding the well-being of the community and assuring that soldiers can concentrate on the job at hand without worrying about their families being taken care of.

"If that soldier is worried about what's going on back here, he has lost his focus. I don't want our soldiers looking back. It puts them at risk on the battlefield," said Sanchez.

The rear detachments will take care of incoming soldiers and their forward movement. Rumor control will also be a major part of their mission. "That's the root of command information that you've got to be in charge of. It's vital. Some of you may not like to be RD commanders. That's your mission. We do not choose our missions," he said.

Photo by Alexandra Williams

Lt. Col. Thomas S. James, 1-37th Armor commander, briefs Bandit family members on deployment readiness issues March 30. It was a scene enacted at units across the 104th Area Support Group as 1st Armored Division prepared for its mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Noting the danger of the mission ahead he said it was unrealistic to believe that 1st AD

See 1st AD on page 3

News flash

Help out USO

The Rhein-Main USO seeks ID card holding volunteers to assist soldiers transiting the air base on their way from the United States to the Gulf. Help is needed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Non-ID card holders are encouraged to donate baked goods and sandwiches. Call mil 330-6424/7404 for details.

Soldiers identified

The names of two 1st Armored Division soldiers who died were released last week. Pvt. 2 Raymond A. Mendoza, Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, died April 3 while exercising in his work area. Pvt. 1 Vietnam Tram, A Troop, 1-1st Cavalry, was found dead in his barracks April 4. Both deaths are under investigation. ***(1st AD release)***

Steer clear of demonstrations

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Recent demonstrations in Baumholder and Hanau, both for and against America's military action in Iraq, prompted spontaneous responses from Army community members although such responses are strictly forbidden, said Provost Marshal's Office officials.

"Regardless of whether you agree or disagree, especially with those people we expect violence from, aside from being prohibited, we don't want to do anything that looks bad in the press," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wimbish, operations sergeant of the 414th Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal's Office in Hanau. Soldiers, family members and civilians are prohibited by U.S. Army Europe Regulation 600-1 from engaging in political meetings, rallies, picket lines and other forms of public demonstrations, said Maj. Anthony V. Black, 414th BSB provost marshal.

Photo by David Ruderman

Demonstrators rally outside Pioneer Kaserne March 31.

"Soldiers can be in violation of Articles 116 and 117 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice," he said. The articles refer to such acts as rioting, breach of peace and provocative speech and gestures.

Provocative behavior on the part of demonstrators should not lead Americans to respond in kind. "We don't want to provoke them into doing anything that the Polizei will have to apprehend them for. The best thing for us to do, if you can, is just ignore these people," said Wimbish.

"I believe people should show their counter-demonstration through silence. Show pride, duty and honor through your silence," said Black.

Both Military Police and German security forces are guarding American facilities, and community members can be assured their safety is well guarded, said officials. "The Bundesgrenzschutz (German Border Guards) and Polizei are doing a remarkable job, and doing it voluntarily. They have a multi-layered approach to it," said Black.

With the war in Iraq still under way and American presence there continuing into the foreseeable future, community members should realize that demonstrations are likely to continue as well. Denying demonstrators the attention they want is the best possible response for the Army community, said Black.

"That's what protesters want: attention. That's why they're out there and they are going to be around in the near term, they will continue. What would you do if you heard a storm coming your way? The sensible thing is to seek shelter. Stay in your residence. Above all, and it's not fancy, just be silent, do nothing."

For more on area demonstrations see pages 10 and 23.

Commentary

Feedback: How do you rate the media's coverage of the war with Iraq?

Lavon Peoples
221st Base Support Battalion Directorate of Logistics director

"With the embedded reporters, it started out to be a good idea from the start. Then I saw a whole weekend of live fire, and then they didn't want that anymore and now they're just showing clips. It shows how difficult it is for a soldier to do what he really needs to do. We can never pay them enough or give them enough credit for what they do."

Staff Sgt. Brian Hart
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-6th Infantry

"I'd probably say it's too much. It just might put soldiers in danger."

Alielobret Lawson
Babenhausen family member and veteran

"Excellent, because they show daily live coverage, when the day starts and when the day ends, to where we see the actual soldiers speaking."

Spc. Willie Hicks
40th Engineer Battalion

"I think media coverage is about a nine or a 10. They're covering it first hand, they're there. They're not just reporting what they heard. They're there, they know what's going on. The only thing better than that is the soldiers themselves that are doing the firing."

Lu Bertz
Dexheim Elementary School educational aide

"I'm getting too much, too much for me. It's on too much, which is why I kind of limit it. You get the stuff in the morning, and in the evening it's the same thing. I guess it's accurate. I'm not there. It's not that I don't want to hear it, but it's too much for me."

Guarding civil liberties

Commentary by Jim McDonald
104th Area Support Group MWR Marketing

I read with concern the March 18 Feedback feature in the *Herald Union*. The question was "Are you willing to give up some of your civil liberties in the interest of security?"

That our society is seriously discussing this at all is deeply disturbing, but the nonchalance of the answers was downright alarming. Every one of the respondents was willing to give up civil liberties in exchange for security.

A lack of historical perspective produces shortsighted naivete. I'd like to point out that as a society we've lost the perspective of our country's Founding Fathers, who personally experienced the oppression of government out of control. Their response was revolution and the establishment of the rule of law, not the rule of expediency or whim. They enshrined our rights and liberties in the Constitution and added the Bill of Rights to restrict the power of the government to take those rights away.

I find it ironic that people who have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution are so ready to dismantle it. Let's be specific. Exactly which civil liberties and rights are you willing to give up? Freedom of speech? Freedom of association? Freedom of the press?

We all know those press folks can be cluelessly annoying, but while the world's attention has been riveted on Iraq, Cuba has arrested, tried and convicted over 40 dissidents, mostly independent journalists, sentencing them to terms ranging from 25 years to life. Why do you think so many Cubans risk their lives to come to America?

Some assert that only criminals have anything to fear. One only has to look at the round-up of suspicious characters in the wake of 9-11. Some are already being released after being held only on suspicion. They were innocent and falsely accused. Do you want to be the sad story some civil rights lawyer is hawking to any reporter who'll listen? The fact is that if anyone's civil rights are trampled, everyone's are.

What about human error? In our society humans are less and less able to spell correctly. Are you willing to have your information entrusted to the grammatically challenged?

Then there's deliberate abuse. Misuse of power during the Johnson, Nixon and Clinton administrations are part of American history. You may trust the folks currently in office, but what about the next administration?

The fact is that determined terrorists will find weaknesses and exploit them regardless of the rules we make for ourselves or the liberties we choose to forfeit.

It seems that Big Brother is not only watching, he's reclining in his La-Z-Boy, feet propped up, while the details of your life parade past his unblinking eyes in high-definition detail. I hope your head-in-the-sand nonchalance comforts you.

History starts at home

By Ruben Moreno
Butzbach Elementary School fifth-grader

Editor's note: The following is the winning essay in the 2003 Women's History Month Essay Contest sponsored by 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and the 284th Base Support Battalion, which was open to fifth- and sixth-graders in the 284th BSB. Second- and third-place honors went to Alessaundra Ancheta of Giessen and Terrell D. Gross of Butzbach.

If I could sit and talk with one female historical figure it would be my mother, Sylvia Espinozo Moreno, because she is not just a woman who took care of me when I was little, but a hero, a true inspiration and role model to me.

My mom was a hard working citizen and mother, who not only took care of the family alongside my father, but also took care of others. Sometimes she could be loud, like when I would get into trouble or get caught doing something I wasn't supposed to do.

She was also very strict, but polite. She would always expect my sister Samantha and me to do our homework, chores, keep up with the dog and most of all do our schoolwork. My mom was also very generous.

For instance she would get me anything I wanted. I used to think she was mean because she would get mad at Samantha and me, but now I know that she was just looking out for us.

Both my mom and dad did a lot for the family. My mom actually worked in a lot of different places, for instance at the Wal Mart in Arizona and a grocery store in Giessen. Now she's in the Army, in Kuwait City, helping out with the terrorist problem.

Now I know: You never know how much something means to you until you lose it. I still remember the last words she said to me, "I love you," and that's how my mom is contributing to this nation and why she is my female historical figure.

Herald Union

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Commander 104th Area Support Group
Col. George A. Latham II
104th ASG Command Sergeant Major
CSM Jose A. Fontanez
104th ASG Public Affairs Officer
Raino Scharck

Newspaper staff

Editor....**Karl Weisel**
Associate Editor....**David Ruderman**
221st BSB Reporter....**Cassandra Kardeke (mil 337-5772)**
222nd BSB Reporter....**Ignacio Rubalcava (mil 485-6191)**
284th BSB Reporter....**Alexandra Williams (mil 343-6597)**
414th BSB Reporter....**Melody Joy Fields (mil 322-1600)**

Address: 104th ASG, Herald Union, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001; or, Herald Union, Yorkhof Kaserne, Bldg. 1205, Chemnitzer Str. 2-4, 63452 Hanau. **Telephone:** mil 322-9257, civ (06181) 88-9257. **Email:** *hesherald@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil*. **Home page:** *www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil*. **Fax:** civ (06181) 14029.

IACS registration begins in 104th ASG

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Registration for the next generation of Army installation security passes in Europe, the Installation Access Control System, got under way in the 104th Area Support Group April 3. Soldiers and civilians working for the 414th Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal's Office began registering soldiers, family members, civilian employees, local national employees and contractors on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne.

"Today is our first real day so we're actually kind of busy," said Chrisynthia Gardner, an IACS registration employee of CI². She and her colleagues, working in Building 21, Room 8, registered Department of Defense ID card holders. Installation pass holders were being registered in Building 24, also on Pioneer Kaserne.

Photo by David Ruderman

Chrisynthia Gardner helps Pvt. 2 John Davis of 127th Aviation Support Battalion register in the IACS.

Getting it right

"Most people assume they're getting a new ID card, but with DoD card holders we don't give them a new ID, we just scan in their info," said Gardner, noting that people can save themselves time and aggravation by getting their paperwork together in advance.

"As long as they come over with the right paperwork, showing their DEROS or sponsor's date of arrival in country, it's pretty painless. It's when they don't have the paperwork that they have problems. Most people just bring in their ID card. We've got to have orders or a leave form," she said.

"Spouses can come in on their own with a copy of their sponsor's military orders and extensions to register. Civilian employees should bring their hiring documentation, their SF-50, because it has their DEROS date," said Staff Sgt. David R. Henson, IACS program manager in the 414th BSB, noting that by and large the registration was off to a good start.

"The initial phases are resoundingly successful. We processed upwards of 200 pass holders in the first week and probably 200 ID card holders," he said.

"I'm just out of AIT so this is all new to me," said Pvt. 2 John Davis, Company B, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, as he registered along with a large group of other newly arrived soldiers. Aside from waiting his turn for processing, it took Davis about five minutes to have his information logged in and his photograph and fingerprints electronically entered in the system.

Installation pass holders undergo a similar but somewhat more complicated process when registering with IACS, said officials.

"A lot of our personnel are doing very well with this, but the sponsoring organizations need to ensure that employee background checks are correct. It's extremely important for the integrity of the program," said Laurel Hackett, who registers installation pass holders for the 414th BSB PMO.

"All sponsoring organization officials should contact their local IACS office to ensure that they have a sponsoring organization official memorandum on file," said Allen Butler, physical security specialist with the 104th ASG PMO. "The memorandum is on file so that when an individual who needs an installation pass comes in with their installation pass request memorandum signed by their sponsoring official, that official's signature can be authenticated. Without the sponsoring official's memorandum, issuing the installation pass will be delayed."

"Most of this traffic is by email so it's pretty simple," said Hackett.

Call for help

"A lot of it is technical issues, and they should contact me for more information and assistance," said Henson. He can be reached at mil 322-9009, civ (06181) 88-9009 or by email at *iacs@hanau.army.mil.*

Henson pointed out that people with two forms of ID should register with the one that least restricts their access to installations. For instance retirees and military spouses who are also contractors should register with their retiree and family member ID cards. Whichever ID is registered with IACS is the only one that can be used for access when the system comes on line in the fall.

Hours of service in Hanau are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Building 21, Room 8a, for DoD ID card holders, and from are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 24 for installation pass holders. IACS registration in the 221st BSB got under way April 14. It will begin in the 284th BSB April 24 and in the 222nd BSB May 8, said officials.

1st AD rolls out . . . . . .

Continued from page 1

would bring every soldier back alive, but he pledged that every soldier would be brought home. "We have a responsibility to bring back every single soldier," said Sanchez.

Army values will be of greater importance than ever in maintaining discipline and division standards, he said. The rear detachment leadership is also charged with the grim but necessary job of casualty notification. "That will spin rumors that will keep you hopping," he said.

Sanchez singled out Col. George A. Latham II, 104th ASG commander, as the division's number one force protection and support provider. "The best solution for getting the best support and services, and I've seen this time and again, out of my great ASG staff and the BSB staff is to get to know your point of contact. Reach out and touch them," said Latham.

Sanchez noted that soldiers remaining in the rear, including profiled soldiers, should be ready to join in the force protection mission. "You will be pulling guard duty if that's what it takes to protect our installations. I will have no sympathy because there will be other great soldiers like you out there working 24/7."

He concluded his remarks and entertained questions from the rear detachment leaders. "I've got about 10 seconds," said Sanchez. There were no questions.

"Like the general said, it's a duty," said Staff Sgt. Roy Hance, an RD NCO for the 2-3rd Field Artillery in Giessen. "They gave us a week of RD commander and NCO course in February. It's helping out with that, getting to know who some of the other RD people are. It's kind of a refresher on problems that could come up."

"It's just reinforcing the stuff that most of us already know," said Sgt. 1st Class John Gutowski, RD NCOIC for Companies B and E, 123rd Main Support Battalion, in Dexheim. "I don't know if I look forward to it or not. I'd rather be deploying. It's going to be a hard mission."

"I feel very confident that we'll be able to handle the rear detachment requirements," said Lt. Col. Jay Smith, 1st AD rear detachment commander.

Photo by Alexandra Williams

Maj. John D. Steele (left), 2-37th Armor executive officer, and Capt. Roger Maynulet, Company A, 2-37th Armor commander, consult during a predeployment briefing in Butzbach March 30.

Did you know?

A number of websites are recommended by the Army's Community Relations and Outreach Division for expressing and showing support to American service members serving overseas. Among them are the following:

Donate a calling card to help soldiers keep in touch with their families at *www.operationuplink.org.*

Send a greeting card to a soldier far from home through *www.OperationDearAbby.net* or send a message through the Army Home Page by clicking the To Our Soldiers link at *www.army.mil.*

Sign a virtual thank you card at *www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html.* Donations to Army Emergency Relief at *www.aerhq.org* are always appropriate.

Donations can be made to families whose loved ones are being treated at military and Veterans Affairs hospitals through *www.fisherhouse.org.*

The "Gift of Groceries" program allows anyone to purchase and donate commissary gift certificates for military members through charitable organizations at *www.commissaries.com.*

V Corps has a webpage where family and friends can post messages and small images to support deployed soldiers. Go to *www.vcorps.army.mil* and scroll down to the In Our Hearts and Minds link. ***(Courtesy U.S. Army Installation Management Agency Europe Public Affairs)***

News and features

News flash

Bibles by mail

Bibles and other individual religious items may be mailed to soldiers serving in the Gulf as long as the material is solely for the personal use of the recipient according to the U.S. Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency. Religious material mail is not be mailed in bulk. An earlier prohibition was in response to local religious sensitivities. ***(Courtesy of 104th Area Support Group Chaplain's Office)***

Personnel Command to merge active, Reserve

The Army will create a single command to perform the functions of the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command and the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command. The two current commands will retain their present names and unit insignia until a date still to be determined. The new command will integrate the two as multi-component field operating agency under the G-1. The Army National Guard will integrate functions, where possible, and the Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency will realign with the command at a later date. ***(Department of the Army release)***

Protecting soldier IDs

The Department of Defense and the Federal Trade Commission have created a website where military members can securely lodge identity theft and related consumer protection complaints 24 hours a day. Complaints become accessible to over 550 law enforcement agencies including the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the FBI and all 50 state attorneys general. For information and to lodge a complaint go to *www.consumer.gov/mil.*

Almost like homemade

Commissaries are stocked with Easter and Passover foods for the holidays. Easter products include chocolate eggs, rabbits and chickens, Easter cakes, egg-coloring kits and more. Kosher for Passover soups, meats and dessert are available. ***(Courtesy of Defense Commissary Agency)***

Sign up for Summer Hire

Family members ages 14-23 of active duty soldiers and Department of Defense civilians can submit applications now for the 2003 Summer Hire program. Send email to *summerhire@chrma.hqusareur.army.mil* for an application packet. Inprocessing packets must be turned in to local Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers within eight days of submitting a resume. The first cut-off date for applications is May 2. Summer Hire 2003 will run from June 16 to July 25. ***(Courtesy of Civilian Human Resources Management Agency)***

COLA bottom line facts

Cost of Living Allowances remain in effect when soldiers deploy. That includes Basic Allowance for Subsistence and for Housing or Overseas Housing Allowance. In addition a $100 per month Family Separation Allowance begins when soldiers deploy for more than 30 days. When families return to the United States for more than 30 days, that allowance reverts to the "without dependents" rate. A DA-4187 personnel action must be submitted by the commander or soldier to change COLA entitlement, both when leaving for the States and returning to USAREUR. Families that remain in Germany retain all allowances, including COLA at the "with dependents" rate. Families will not be reimbursed for travel without orders to and from the United States. ***(Courtesy of USAREUR Public Affairs)***

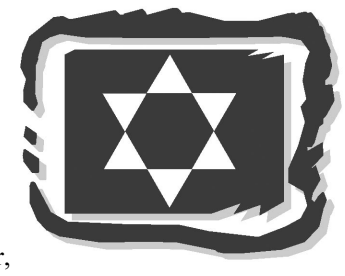
A survivor remembers

By Anemone Rueger
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Editor's note: Yom ha-Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, is marked on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which falls this year on April 29. The date, marking the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943, was chosen to commemorate the memory of six million European Jews murdered by the Nazis and their allies between 1933 and 1945.

Henry Eisner remembers Fort Meade. It was there in 1942 that he was issued his uniform to fight against Nazi Germany, the country he had escaped from three years earlier. His is the story of some 3,000 German Jewish refugees who came to Baltimore, Md., in the 1930s and the subject of an exhibition being developed by the Jewish Museum of Maryland located there.

"Initially we wanted the exhibition to show what Baltimore did for the refugees," said Anita Kassof, associate director of the museum. "But when we had done some research we found out that those people had been very active themselves. So it will be an exhibition featuring their transition and adaptation."



For Eisner adaptation and survival is the story of his life.

Raised in the little eastern German town of Neuhausen, Hans Eisner was the son of a well established Jewish family. His father was a third-generation owner of a cotton goods factory.

"In 1935, after the Nazis had come to power, it became clear that we would have to leave eventually. My parents decided that in preparation for emigration I should learn a practical trade," said Eisner. He was sent to Berlin to be an apprentice clothes cutter, but abandoned the trade to continue his education at a private Jewish school. After graduation he returned to Neuhausen to help his father close the family business. Kristalnacht, the nationwide pogrom launched by the Nazis against the Jews of Germany Nov. 9, 1938, abruptly ended their plans.

"Around midnight we woke up from loud banging at the gates," said Eisner. "A brown-shirted gang of storm troopers surrounded our house and urged us to open. They rounded us up at a certain assembly point together with other Jewish families. I didn't even have time to put my shoes on."

Early the next morning the women were sent home, but the men were taken to Buchenwald concentration camp, Eisner and his father among them. Until this day he talks only reticently about the experience.

"So many books have been written about the camps," said Eisner. In his own memoir, written for his grandchildren to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, one can glimpse the horror of that time.

Eisner's mother learned that she could get her husband and son out of Buchenwald on condition they would leave Germany within 48 hours. On Christmas Eve 1938 Eisner boarded a train to his uncle in Switzerland. He would not see his hometown again until near the end of the Cold War. Swiss law allowed Eisner two months of refuge during which time he applied for a visa to the United States. The visa did not arrive in time.

His salvation came from the family of an English pen pal from his Jewish high school days who offered to adopt him as their fifth child until his visa would come through. With World War II devastating Europe Eisner had found a safe haven until his American visa arrived in December 1939.

"Two days before Christmas I boarded a Dutch steamship to New York," said Eisner. He was 18 years old. "I arrived on New Year's Eve. I was put on a train to Baltimore, where the family of my mother's cousin picked me up. So I started my new life in the United States."

Six months later his parents and brother also made it safely to America. When the United States entered the war in 1941 immigration virtually ceased.

"The tremendous loss makes up a big part in every story of that time," said Kassof. "Many of these people came from prominent backgrounds. When they arrived here they had to start from zero. But their Prussian work ethic helped them. They worked their way back up."

Eisner started delivering advertisements for the Hearst News American, Baltimore's daily paper, for $12 a week. Within a short period he became a supervisor. "I tried to be as American as possible. I thought, how can someone with an accent be successful in the advertisement business," he said.

In 1942 Eisner was drafted and reported to Fort Meade. He went through basic training and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. Since he was fluent in German, he was trained to work as a behind-the-line spy for the Office of Strategic Services.

"That was the point when they first felt really American," said Kassof. "Many ended up going back to Germany gathering intelligence. Later on they worked at the Nuremberg Trials and became a real asset to the armed forces."

"I was extremely committed to fighting a war against Hitler to get even with what had happened," said Eisner, but health problems kept him stationed in Missouri for the duration of his service.

When the war ended Eisner landed a job with one of Baltimore's biggest advertising companies and dedicated his energies to succeeding in the United States. "Some people's lives revolved around people with the same background, but that wasn't so with me. I made a very determined effort to assimilate as quickly as possible," he said.

In the 1960s he bought the firm, now known as Eisner Communications and run by his son. While an American success story, Eisner retains some connection to Germany, albeit filtered through the lens of the war, the Holocaust and over 60 years of experience.

"There was a time when I wouldn't buy a German car," Eisner said, "but times have changed. Now I drive a Mercedes. What do I miss? Well, I'd still like to eat some of the things I ate when I was a child — *Sauerbraten*, *Rouladen*. I have a friend who orders *Lebkuchen* from Germany. Very little of that you can get here. That I miss."

The Jewish Museum of Maryland, built in 1984, is located at 15 Lloyd Street in Baltimore. Kassof's exhibition on Jewish German refugees is scheduled to open in spring 2004.

Stay alert when living off post

By Robert Szostek,
USAREUR Provost Marshal Public Affairs Office

Security consciousness has never been more important than today. Soldiers, civilian employees and family members who live off post need to be situationally aware.

"This means we need to watch our surroundings and stay alert to the possibility of trouble," said Maj. Shawn T. Driscoll, Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program officer with U.S. Army Europe's Office of the Provost Marshal.

"You are at risk when answering your door, particularly at night," Driscoll said. Very late callers should be viewed with great suspicion, he said. Use a peephole or intercom to identify callers before admitting them. Off-post residents should always verify the credentials of utility or service workers asking to enter their home.

Never give out information to people who call door-to-door. Politely let them know you are not interested and close the door. If someone fails to leave or becomes unruly, call the Polizei. Report such incidents to the Military Police.

For more security tips contact your local SNAP coordinator or PMO, or browse to *www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/SNAP.htm*.

Photo by Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes

Help children cope

Commentary by Lt. Col. Dennis E. Slagter
221st Base Support Battalion commander

As deployments pick up we must not forget our youth. It's especially important to speak to our children when a family member is preparing to be deployed to an unknown destination for an unknown amount of time.

Children deal with war and deployments on a completely different level than adults.

The young ones don't quite understand why mom or dad has to leave. Knowing a war is going on, the older ones might understand but may not express their fears and concerns when a family member deploys.

As our operation tempo continues to pick up schools and several families have experienced problems as children begin to vent their frustrations.

Although each of our schools has a counselor to help children and families deal with deployments and concerns regarding the current war in Iraq, it is just as important that families maintain a good communication level and speak to their children about what is going on in the world.

Encourage your children to talk about their fears and concerns. Learn more about what is going on in their lives and let them know you are there for them.

Deployments are hard on everyone. Working together and keeping the lines of communication open between yourself and your child can help the entire family through this stressful time.

New mission, new look

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Corps Support Group, 3rd Corps Support Command, board a commercial airliner en route to their mission in the Gulf. Soldiers long accustomed to standard BDUs have traded them in for Desert Camouflage Uniforms before moving out. Photo right: Spc. Roxsana Seale of 19th Support Center checks out hers at the Wiesbaden Central Issue Facility.

Photo by Cassandra Kardeke