

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Spartans tune up, get ready to go

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

As the 1st Armored Division moved closer to deployment to the Central Command units continued to focus on deployment readiness for their soldiers and equipment. The 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, completed a Deployment Exercise March 25-27 to ensure their equipment was ready for movement to port and to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The purpose of the exercise is to practice our strategic deployment with all of our equipment from Germany to the area of contingency," said Maj. Michael ShROUT, 1-36th executive officer. "It's quite an undertaking because we have a lot of equipment. We have to be very detailed so we don't leave any equipment behind."

Six stations

"Such exercises are a good method of testing the abilities of the units and preparing them for deployment either by train, airplane or ship," said 1st Lt. Alexander Kasarda, 1st Brigade assistant adjutant. "The vehicles have to go through six stations and each station has to be passed. The staff at the stations makes sure the vehicles are ready to go," he said.

Stations range from accountability and vehicle cleanliness to oil and

other fluid leaks, from safety checks to special sea move requirements.

"The experts from the 284th Base Support Battalion are here to help in the process as well as a special deployment team from the Military Traffic Management Command in Fort Eustis, Va. Our school-trained unit movement personnel are also present. They are all here to help us accomplish the standard checks required of each vehicle. The packing and planning is all on us," said ShROUT.

"The units have to make sure that all the paperwork is correct. The measurements and weight of the vehicle or equipment needs to be properly documented. They need to follow the standards of how to pack hazardous materials and so on. Everything has to be done according to established standards. All vehicles get inspected and even if one is deadlined we will take it with us," said Kasarda.

"The reason we do this is because the part may arrive at our destination allowing us to repair the vehicle once we're there, or we could move parts over from one deadlined vehicle to another," he said.

For soldiers participating in the exercise it was more than a practice for real deployment.

"We are making sure that there are no safety deadlines, no leaks or major deficiencies. For us it's ev-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

SpC. Ches Johnson of Company B, 501st Forward Support Battalion, checks a vehicle during the 1-36th Infantry's Deployment Exercise March 25-27.

eryday routine, but it's good to meet the other soldiers we will support," said Sgt. Jerry Lee, a mechanic with Company B, 501st Forward Support Battalion.

"It's my first time being part of such an exercise, but it's a good experience," said Pfc. David

Marklein of Company B, 1-36th. "It's also a great chance to meet other soldiers so we know who we will be working with when we deploy."

"I'd rather have them pick up the deficiencies now than later during a deployment," said Staff Sgt. Michael Bettencourt, also of Com-

pany B, 1-36th.

"The exercise is also beneficial to us because we get to know each other. It means cohesion within the brigade. We meet each other and other important parts of the brigade. That's important because we all rely on each other," he said.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Top brass visits Friedberg

Gen. Burwell B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, talks to Debra Hammer, new parent education and support coordinator at the Army Community Service in Friedberg as Russell Hall, director of the Installation Management Agency European Region and Command Sgt. Maj. David L. Lady look on. The group paid a visit to Friedberg's Ray Barracks March 25 and met with staff of the 1st Brigade and the 284th Base Support Battalion command group as well as with the ACS staff.

Youth programs

Teen Group meetings

Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services will host a 10-week, teen support group centered on the notion of "Reaching Out." Student children of deployed or predeployed parents are invited to participate.

Child and Youth Services separation activities

During a deployment children's activities and schedules should remain the same as if the service was at home. The 284th BSB CYS has scheduled special events such as Make a Videotape, Make an Audiotape, Make a Scrapbook, Prepare a Photo Album, Send a Care Package and Measure Time. Call mil 343-6129 for details.

Free email for children

Children up to age 10 can send a self-made, letter-sized drawing or handwritten letter to their deployed parent. Bring a drawing or letter to the Giessen or Friedberg Library with an email address. The staff will scan the child's work and email it to their deployed parent. For details call mil 32401740 Friedberg and mil 343-1740 in Giessen.

SAS hosts talent show

School Age Services will host a talent show April 24 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Keller Theatre for children age 6-12. Tickets are \$3 for ages 3-12 and \$5 for ages 13 and up. For information call civ (06033) 65961.

Family Fair prepares spouses for deployment

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A Predeployment Family Fair hosted by the 284th Base Support Battalion March 29-30 at the Butzbach Elementary School helped empower the families of deploying soldiers to handle the weeks ahead on their own.

Representatives from a host of community support agencies ranging from Army Community Service to the Army and Air Force Exchange Services to the Legal Affairs Office were present to answer questions and provide detailed information. Visitors learned about services currently available and those that will be there to support them after their soldiers deploy.

"The Predeployment fair concept grew out of the after action review that we held right after our Family Assistance Center training in February," said Col. David J. Bender, 284th BSB commander. "Lana Young, wife of the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade commander, suggested that we should consider mirroring the format that was used at Fort Stewart, Ga., and have agencies set up stations. From this the Predeployment Family Fair blossomed into the outstanding event that you saw at the end of March."

Each unit in Giessen and Friedberg was allotted its own time at the fair, allowing unit commanders and rear detachment commanders to talk personally to their soldiers and families. Those attending then had the opportunity to direct their own individual questions to representatives from the BSB and its support agencies.

"I came here to support my husband," said Margie Young, whose husband Rick is the first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade. "We are telling spouses about the importance of leaving a stateside address with the rear detachment or Family Readiness Group should they decide to leave after the units deploy. That's the only way that we can get a hold of them immediately if we have news or to keep them informed about what's going on."

"It's our first time going through this kind



Photo by Petra Roberts

Family members of the 501st Forward Support Battalion gather at the Family Readiness Group table of FRG leader Kimberly Dollen, right, to fill out a family member questionnaire.

of deployment so this fair is helpful. I learned more about the services available to me while my husband is deployed," said family member Stephanie Nally.

"I think the fair is very beneficial for my wife Rosemary. She learned a lot about the services ACS has to offer. Now I am feeling better about deploying. I know she's being taken care of," said Sgt. Joseph Mendoza of HHC, 2-37th AR.

"I am glad I came here because I thought that a power of attorney is good everywhere, but I learned that this is not the case," said family member Harriet Boyd. "I will go and see the JAG representatives later on. My husband deployed before, but that was in El Paso and we did not need all that."

"It's the first time my husband's deploying," said family member Rochelle Davis. "I think coming to the fair will help me get my

questions answered. The staff is being very helpful. My dad was in the military so I know a lot about life as a military spouse, but there are others who might have more questions. Here they have a chance to get an answer."

"We already knew about most of the programs because they told us about them during inprocessing, but it's good to get firsthand information," said her husband, Pfc. Bobby Davis of Company C, 2-37th Armor.

"I just got more information about the Star Card, found out details about jobs and got some information about housing," said family member Octavia Canty. "I think the most important part of the fair is that you personally meet your points of contact. I made up my mind to stay here in Germany. I feel safe here with the Pond's guards and the German soldiers."

"It's good that you have all the agencies

in one location," said family member Nelosha Oliver.

"It's going to help my wife while I am gone," said Spc. Jose Vega of HHC, 2-37th Armor. "Actually after getting all of the information my wife changed her mind. Initially she wanted to go back to Puerto Rico when I deploy, but now she's decided to stay. We both feel better now."

Not only the families benefited from the fair.

"The fair inspired me," said Friedberg's Auto Crafts supervisor Richard Babcock. "As families came to our table and asked for our programs I suddenly had the idea of offering quick auto repair classes to spouses of deployed soldiers. It will be no lengthy class, just something to teach them how to help themselves with minor problems or oil changes. So the fair is good for both sides — the customer as well as the agency providing the service. The questions they asked helped us find out what they really need, and if possible we can increase our programs," he said.

Gen. Burwell B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander learned about the fair while visiting Friedberg earlier in the week and decided to pay a visit.

"I think it's a great way to inform the community. The fair brings a lot of services together. It provides families with a quick understanding of what's available to them when the military spouse deploys. Instead of just having addresses and phone numbers they see the very person to contact," he said.

"There is a terrific response. Hundreds of families are here to get informed. When the soldiers deploy they are leaving pretty smart families because they know who to see and who to talk to when they need help."

"I am glad we came," said his wife Katie. "I wish we could export this fair to every community. All the information empowers the family members. The spouses are so brave, and that's what sees the soldiers through when they deploy. It's wonderful. There are hundreds of families here. Kudos to all the agencies — they are doing a wonderful job."



Photo by Petra Roberts

Gen. Burwell B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, chats with family member Markia Shields during the Predeployment Family Fair held March 25-27 in Butzbach.

Deployment services

Parenting during deployment

All parents are encouraged to attend this monthly meeting at the Giessen Middle-High School media center. The first meeting will take place April 23 at 6:30 p.m. Child care will be available. Parents who wish to establish a group in Butzbach should call Carol Hill, GMHS psychologist, at mil 343-7259.

Free AKO accounts for spouses

Spouses can register for their own Army Knowledge Online guest account. AKO accounts let them email their deployed spouse, chat online and post photographs online for each other. See the employment readiness program at the Army Community

Service to set up an AKO.

Commissary and PX shuttle

The Auto Crafts shops in Giessen and Friedberg offer commissary and PX shuttle service. Call mil 324-3218, civ (06031) 813 218 in Friedberg or mil 343-7050, (civ) 0641) 402 6050 in Giessen for information.

Auto repair help

Community members who'd like to fix their car themselves but need help can contact the auto crafts shops in Giessen and Friedberg. For \$10 Auto Crafts will make an appointment for the owner in a separate vehicle bay with a mechanic on hand to help. For details call the Friedberg Auto Craft Center at mil 324-3218.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Warning of fraudulent website

The U.S. Army Europe warns soldiers and their families about a fraudulent website, www.nacec.org, aimed at gathering deployment and personal data. While it gives the impression that is a government site designed to help families communicate with deployed soldiers, it is in fact is not affiliated with the U.S. government. Department of Defense personnel should not enter any personal information on a nonfederal website for emergency notification of families or any other reason. Soldiers and family members should establish and use Army Knowledge Online accounts as their official channel for communications.

IACS office relocated

Effective April 21, the 284th Base Support Battalion Installation Access Control Office will be located in Building 5 (Military Police), room 109. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m. For more information call Lenard Mason at mil 343-6623 or civ (0641) 4026623.

Cashier service in Friedberg

During a temporary trial phase from 14-18 April, Detachment C, 39th Finance offers cashier services in Building 3726 on Friedber's Ray Barracks. The cashier window is open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. to active duty and reserve soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians. There will be no cashier service available in Giessen during the trial phase. For details call mil 324-3474/3476.

Auditions for *Sleeping Beauty, The Taming of the Shrew*

The Keller Theatre will hold auditions for *Sleeping Beauty* April 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Butzbach Elementary School gym. Children from kindergarten through 12th-grade are welcome to try out. For details call Tawnya Moreno at civ (06033) 7520 or David Turner at mil 343-6515, civ (0641) 402-6515. Auditions for Williams Shakespeare's comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* April 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. at the Keller Theatre. For details call David Turner at mil 343-6515.

Jammie and Judi 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 BSB. Join Jammie and Judi in the Morning for the latest happenings in the Butzbach, Friedberg and Giessen communities. Contact them at j&jshow@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information.

High school bingo

The Giessen High School Booster Club and the junior class will host bingo April 17. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games start at 6:30



Photo by Kay Cooke

Sharing the gift of music

A soldier of the U.S. Army Band Woodwind Octet explains his clarinet to students of the Bad Nauheim Elementary School. The band performed March 21 at the school as part of the Music in Our School month.

p.m. Tickets are \$9 for 10 games; \$8 for tickets purchased in advance. For details call Ronda Lambert at civ (0641) 495 5954.

Health Fair May 16

The 284th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness Centers will host a Health and Wellness Fair May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alpine Club on Giessen Depot. Free health screenings for cholesterol and blood pressure as well as fitness demonstrations

will be featured, and door prizes will be given away. For details call mil 343-7201/8206.

Red Cross update

The 284th BSB Red Cross seeks volunteers to become instructors for first aid, CPR, AED, babysitting and sports safety. Classes are also offered to interested community members. For information and to register call Bridgett Jones at mil 343-6044 or civ (0641) 402-6044.

WIC-O job vacancy

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has a part-time position available at the Women, Infants and Children-Overseas program in Friedberg. Experience in maternal, child or infant nutrition is required. A WIC-experienced, registered dietitian is preferred. Applicants must have a current U.S. Army Europe driver's license and be willing to travel. Email a resume, cover letter and copy of applicable licenses to cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil, fax to civ (06731) 479 383 or bring it to the Friedberg WIC-O office in Building 3622 on Ray Barracks.

Summer Hire application help

Youth Services offers help preparing resumes to youngsters interested in working through the Summer Hire program. Appointments are required. Call the Giessen YS at mil 343-6129 and the Butzbach YS at civ (06033) 73048 for more information.

Outdoor Recreation trips

The Outdoor Recreation Center will run a trip to the Tulip Fest at Keukenhof and an afternoon in Amsterdam April 26. The bus leaves at 5 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m. The cost is \$69 per person and includes the entrance fee to the garden. A trip to Europa Park will take place May 3. The cost is \$39 for adults and \$29 for children ages 4-11. For details call the Giessen Outdoor Recreation Center at mil 343-8207/8202.

DPW recycle day April 26

The Directorate of Public Work will host a recycle day April 26 at the Giessen Commissary. Free cloth shopping bags and information on recycling will be given away. For information call the customer affairs adviser at mil 343-6305.



Photo by Judith Brown

Young patriots support Iron soldiers

Five-year old Ike Emerson, a student at the St. John's Kindergarten in Salisbury, N.C., presents a banner made by all students in his class. Ike was accompanied by his parents, retired Maj. Gen. James W. and Bonnie Emerson, to deliver the special message to the soldiers of Ray Barracks. Ike and his classmates chose Friedberg because his brother, Pfc. Kemp Wilson, is stationed there with Company B, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment.

Protestant Women of the Chapel lend a hand

Members renovate family room for new arrivals

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Members of Giessen's Protestant Women of the Chapel group donate their free time and money to make newcomers feel as welcome as possible on arrival in the 284th Base Support Battalion. To make the experience more pleasant they began renovating the family room in the Central Processing and Inprocessing Training Center Building on the Giessen Depot last month.

"The room is used to provide the family members of inprocessing soldiers with a place to sit down, read a magazine or watch television while the soldiers are taking care of their paperwork," said LaTasha Jackson, 284th Base Support Battalion CPF administrator.

Local initiative

"The ladies came to my office a couple of weeks ago and asked if they could rearrange our family room," she said. "Of course we said yes because it was not much of a family room. The paint was not that great, it had Army-style curtains, it was just not looking all that great," she said.

"Initially we planned to renovate the family room at the Rhein-Main Air Base because that is the very first place where families arrive," said Kristel Cecka, a PWOC member.

"As we were thinking about it we decided

that there is a greater need to have a nice family room in Giessen," said Sarah Peterson, another PWOC member.

"We asked the ITC staff for permission and then Kelly Saul, one of our members, purchased most of the materials we needed with PWOC funds, but ITC also bought some materials, for instance the paint," Peterson said.

"They came in one afternoon, picked up the keys and started painting the room. They worked very hard. They even came in on weekends and after duty hours. We were impressed because they are very dedicated," said Jackson.

"They are not finished yet, but the room looks great already," said William Riley, CPF coordinator. "I've seen how it looked before and now it just has that creative touch. The ladies painted the room, put new pictures on the wall, hung up new curtains. It just looks so much better now," he said.

"We are also able to serve the families free food. Upon request of the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade, the dining facility delivers us plates with sandwiches, pretzels, a candy bar, applesauce and a soda. It's all sealed in plastic. Sometimes we even get hot meals for the families," Riley said.

"I wish I had the opportunity to use a family room when I arrived in 2001," said Jackson. "I had to stand outside in the hallway waiting for my husband to finish his paperwork."

"There are still some things that need to be done. Kelly is still making the throws and



Photo by William Riley

Kristel Cecka, left, and Kelly Saul of the Giessen Protestant Women of Chapel take a break in the newly renovated family room in the Central Processing facility on Giessen Depot.

pillows for the couch. We want to put up wall baskets so we can put brochures from the different agencies in there instead of having them lying on a table. We might get tables with chairs so they can eat their meals and we hope to get a DVD and VCR player," said Peterson.

"We just want the room to look nice because it's the first place families will see in the 284th BSB. We want them to feel welcome, feel at home and have all the information at their fingertips. We want them to know what Giessen has to offer and that this is not the

last place on earth. We want to encourage them to discover the 284th BSB," Peterson said.

"We make it our project to maintain the room, too. We do not want to put extra work on the CPF staff," she said.

The PWOC already has plans for their next project. "We want to send a Father's Day box to our deployed soldiers. We want to show them that we support and salute them," Peterson said.

"Whatever these ladies are doing — it's all about customer service," said Riley.

Serving soldiers

AAFES manager heads to Kuwait

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

As Friedberg's 1st Brigade prepared for deployment an Army and Air Force Exchange Service civilian volunteered and packed his bags to make a similar trip.

"I am not going with our troops though it might seem like it," said Shannon Hayes, an AAFES store manager on Friedberg's Ray Barracks.

"Actually now that more troops are being deployed to Central Command, AAFES is looking for volunteers to go downrange to Kuwait for a time frame ranging from six months to one year to provide service to the troops. I applied for the deployment," he said.

Hayes was prompted to sign up for the job by the good relationships he has with the soldiers, he said.

"It's really nice working with them. A lot of them know me by face or personally. Most of them could be my kids," he said.

Hayes has worked in Friedberg since 1999 and grew up in a military environment, though he himself has

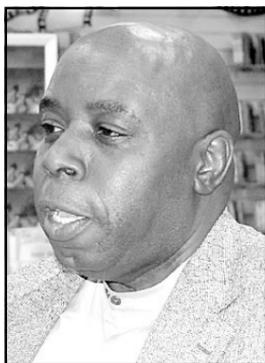
never worn the uniform.

"My dad spent 30 years in the military and I'm an Army brat. Two of my three children even decided to serve in the military. I was always around the military and I like it, but joining the military was just not an option for me."

Music played an equally important role in Hayes' life. "I always enjoyed music so after high school I studied it. I even had my own band for about four or five years. We played soul music and right now I am a Gospel musician. After earning my degree in music I started working for the exchange. It was either that or the civil service," he said.

Supporting soldiers

"I always saw my job as supporting our troops and I feel comfortable working with the military. I can also see that they really appre-



Shannon Hayes

ciate AAFES. It's really nice working with the soldiers."

After 30 years with AAFES Hayes still finds something satisfying in his work.

"I enjoyed every day and I still look forward to going to work every morning."

When soldiers got the call to move out to the Gulf, going along seemed like a natural thing to do, said Hayes.

"That's why it was easy for me to volunteer for a deployment. It's not my first deployment. I have been to a 10-month deployment to Haiti. Whatever I decide to do, I always get 100 percent support from my wife Ann," he said.

Going downrange is also part of Hayes' working philosophy, he said.

"I truly believe in 'where you go I will go.' To me it's like giving back to the soldiers. These men and women are defending us so I want to do all I can do to support them."

Family support

AFTB in English and Spanish

Army Community Service in Giessen will conduct an Army Family Team Building level 1 class in Spanish April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Giessen ACS training room. For information call Maritza Ramirez at mil 343-7618. An English language AFTB level 1 will take place April 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Butzbach Outreach Center. Register with ACS in advance. Free child care is provided for both classes. For details call Kelly Peterson at mil 343-7618.

Hearts Apart meets

ACS in Giessen and Friedberg will host Hearts Apart luncheons again starting in Giessen April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Special emphasis is on the spouses of deployed soldiers to join the community for soup, support, laughter and friendship. Advance reservations are required. Call in Giessen mil 343-7218 or Friedberg at mil 324-3465 for details.

Mail pick up in Bad Nauheim

The 55th Postal Company offers mail pick up service from the Bad Nauheim Commissary. The mail drop box is located between the entrance and exit doors. Community members may place letters and first class mail inside the box during commissary opening hours. The mail will be picked up every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30 p.m.

SNAP seeks volunteers

The 284th BSB Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is looking for volunteers to safeguard the community by actively observing their surroundings. Prior training will be provided, and after completion free classes are offered on personal protection, child safety, first aid and more. Participants must be at least 17 and reside in 284th BSB housing areas. For details call Tina Gonzales at mil 343-6500.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

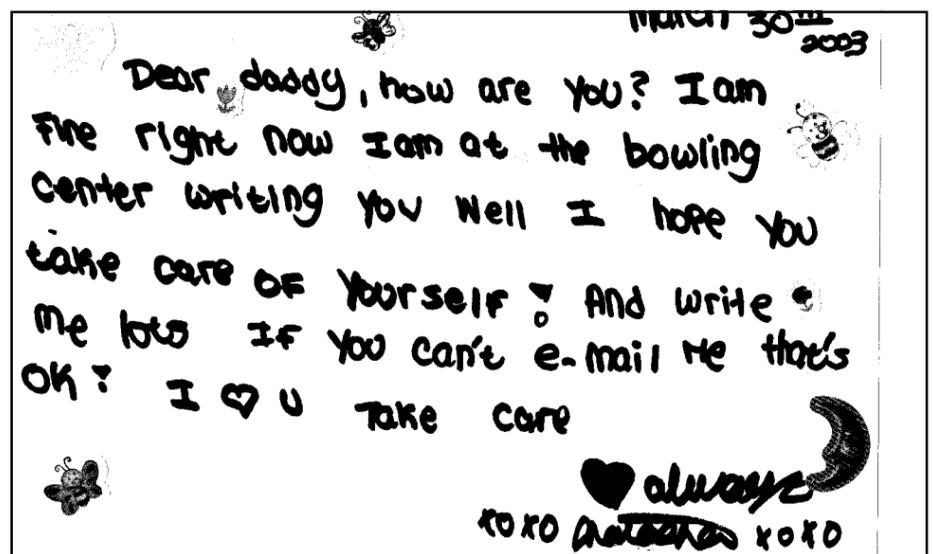


Photo by Heidi Höss

Letters from home

Johnny (left), 4, and McKenzie, 10, decorate letters to their parents deployed to Kuwait. The 502nd Engineer Company Family Readiness Group hosted the letter writing activity to help keep children connected with their deployed parents. All children associated with the 130th Engineer Brigade were invited to write letters parents deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I wanted the kids to feel like they were doing something special," said Julie Jeszenszky, the FRG leader. "I used to work for a cosmetic company and asked them to donate Lip Smackers." They donated 500, which the children used to seal their letters and pictures with a kiss. Natasha wrote a letter (above) to her father deployed with the 38th Engineer Company.

Community notes

National Day of Prayer

Hanau Protestant Women of the Chapel will observe the National Day of Prayer May 1 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Chapel. Free watch care is provided for children up to 5 years of age. A time for food and fellowship will follow. For more information call civ (06181) 520 272 or (06181) 520 422.

CACs for civilians

The Hanau ID Card Office on Pioneer Kaserne (Building 5) is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to issue Common Access Cards to Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors. All other people will be serviced on a space-available and case-by-case basis. Call Mr. Anderson or Ms. Griffin at mil 322-8793 for more information.

Dental assistance program

The American Red Cross will accept applications through May 13 for the Hanau Dental Clinic's dental assistant training program that will run from June 2-30. Call mil 322-1760 or civ (06181) 88-1760 for details.

Reduced DFAC hours

The Pioneer Dining Facility has new hours of service. Weekdays, breakfast is served from 7-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 4-5:30 p.m. except on Thursdays when dinner is from 3-4:30 p.m. Weekends and holidays the facility is open from 10 a.m. to noon for brunch and 3:30-4:30 p.m. for supper.

Feeding the Patriots

Orders of pizza, soda and hot soup can be sent to American Patriot missile battery soldiers stationed in Israel through the website <http://pizzaidf.org>. Click in and scroll down to the green box that says "Currently Israel is hosting American forces."

Get crafty

The American Sampler Craft Shop on Wolfgang Kaserne offers a full range of classes in April including a Ukrainian Egg Decorating class. Put those beautiful eggs in a hand-made basket from the Cape Cod Blueberry Basket or Harvest Basket Class. Enroll for the Bunny Trail Baby Quilt Class or make a cuddly bunny called Hortence Hare. For details call mil 322-8082.

Pre-register for school

Pre-registration for all students in kindergarten through 12th-grade for the 2003-2004 school year will be held April 18 at all Hanau area schools. Call your school for exact times.

CYS registration

Community children can participate in activities ranging from martial arts to ballet by registering with Hanau Child and Youth Services. Call the central registration office at civ (06181) 88-9144, mil 322-9144 or stop by Building 20 on Pioneer Kaserne for information.

Internet cafe

Stay in touch with family and friends through computer links at the Cyber Zone in the International Club on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The Internet cafe is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next morning. Weekend hours are Saturday from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Sundays from 5-11 p.m.



Country Easter Brunch

The Hanau Rod and Gun Club will host an Easter Brunch April 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5-9 and free for children under 5. Enjoy eggs, sausage, bacon, creamed beef, potatoes, honey roasted ham, chicken in wine sauce, roast beef, rice, vegetables and more. Call civ (06181) 51 485 for details.

Easter egg hunt

Protestant Women of the Chapel and Awana children's club will sponsor a community-wide Easter egg hunt April 17 from 4-6 p.m. Come out for an afternoon of family fun, food and games. Comedian Carol Simpson will be there to entertain. Festivities will be held at Pioneer Chapel and the adjacent football field. Call civ (06051) 828 655 or (06181) 520 277 for details.

Hanau APO open Saturday

The Hanau Army Post Office at the Wolfgang Shopping Center is open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until further

notice. It also remains open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 6 p.m.

Büdingen Teen Center open

The Büdingen Teen Center in Building 2330 on Armstrong Barracks is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Transportation will be provided daily to and from the Gelnhausen bus stop. Call mil 321-4793 or civ (06042) 80 793 for information.

Easter services

Pioneer Chapel hosts a community-wide Easter Sunrise Service April 20 at 7 a.m. and a Liturgical Service at 9 a.m. The Gospel congregation will hold their Easter service at 11 a.m. April 20. Fliegerhorst Chapel hosts several Catholic Lenten services throughout April. Mass will be held April 17 at 6 p.m., a Prayer Service April 18 at 5 p.m. and an Easter Vigil Mass April 19 at 8 p.m. Easter Mass will be held in English at 9 a.m. on April 20 and in Spanish at 12:45 p.m. Protestant Good Friday Service at Fliegerhorst will be held April 18 at 7 p.m., and a Protestant Contemporary Easter Service at 10:45 a.m. April 20.

Toddlers at play in Büdingen

Join in play mornings every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. at Büdingen Army Community Service. Play mornings offer an interactive playgroup that can help improve a child's social, cognitive and motor skills.

Children's theater workshop

The 414th BSB Entertainment Branch, Hanau Youth Services and Missoula Children's Theater present a free Children's Theater Workshop for kindergarten through 12th grade, May 5-10 after school. To participate, attend the first workshop at the Five Pfennig Theater May 5 at 3:30 p.m. The workshop will present *Sleeping Beauty* May 10 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at the Hanau USO.

Spring Bazaar at Wolfgang

Shop a variety of vendors from across Europe at the Third Annual MWR Spring Into Spring Bazaar May 9-11. Vendors will sell antiques, furniture, art prints, Polish pottery and more. Celebrate the Children Fest will be held at the same time at Illusions Roller Rink at the Wolfgang Shopping Center.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Taking care of special needs

By Kaye Nazarko
414th Base Support Battalion
Exceptional Family Member
Program

Even though there are almost 600 family members enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program within the 414th Base Support Battalion, many people do not know what role EFMP plays in the community and which individuals qualify for the program.

EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program for soldiers with family members who have special needs. The program works with other military and civilian agencies to provide special treatment, therapy, training, education or counseling for family members with physical, emotional, developmental or educational needs.

Family members requiring medical care above the level normally provided by a family practitioner in an outpatient clinic; any individual with a potentially life threatening condition; children requiring special educational services or are on an Individualized Education Plan should be enrolled in EFMP. A physician is the only one who can make a final determination as to whether or not an individual is enrolled.

Eligibility

Family members of active duty military, Department of Defense civilians and U.S. contractors who have been referred to one of the EFMP clinics are eligible for EFMP

services. Only active duty military dependents of any age with special needs, however, are required to be enrolled.

EFMP specialists will help community members answer any questions regarding eligibility requirements or the enrollment process, assist in completing the screening documents, provide referral information and offer a support network.

EFMP screening should occur when a soldier marries, at the birth of a baby, when a soldier is seeking command sponsorship or re-enlisting for transfers or permanent change of station either to the United States or overseas. Failure to complete the screening process could result in unwarranted family separations or reenlistment delays.

An updated screening is required for reenrollment every three years or as significant changes occur. A good rule of thumb is to remember that if a person requires medication or ongoing care, chances are he or she is a candidate for enrollment.

Enrollment in EFMP does not affect promotions or schools. EFMP information is not shared with any selection or promotion boards. Only the day, month and year of enrollment are placed in a service member's personnel file.

For more information on the EFMP in the 414th BSB call the EFMP specialist at Army Community Service on Pioneer Kaserne at mil322-9275 or civ(06181)88-9275.

Unit watch

By 1st Lt. David A. Sheronas

HHD, 709th MP Battalion, Rear Detachment commander

I am happy to report that our deployed soldiers are all doing well and their spirits remain very high.

Capt. David R. Paravecchia and I have been in contact with our deployed soldiers frequently as of late, although military phone communications have proven somewhat difficult — the lines aren't that dependable given the distance and technical challenges.

One of the main reasons our soldiers are doing so well is that three days ago they received a whole trailer full of mail. The reports I've gotten state that it "was like Christmas day when you're a little kid." The soldiers were absolutely thrilled to receive all your packages, cards and letters. Your generosity and support made all the long days and challenges fade away. They send their love and thanks for thinking of them and sending your support and prayers.

Our soldiers are still at the location they've been in for the past few

days. It is, as I've mentioned before, likely that they will move again; there's no way to predict when that might happen or to where they'll relocate — as always, the mission dictates this.

The battalion signal officer has proven just how good he is every step of the way by finding a way for our soldiers to communicate no matter what. I'd love to be able to guarantee that will

always be the case, but although we sometimes think the lieutenant must wear a cape and capital "S" on his chest, he can't always work miracles.

Despite everyone's determined efforts, not all soldiers have gotten the chance to make a call home. I've spoken briefly to a few of them, and believe me, this is not because they're not thinking about you and all their loved ones. It's because there's so much going on day and night, and because the phone lines are in poor condition and frequently cut off on them. Letters still remain our best bet to communicate, and

we just got terrific confirmation on what a difference they make.

Contrary to recent media reports, our soldiers have plenty of food and water. They have been

getting supplies regularly. Now that they received your packages they are sitting quite contentedly in terms of snacks...and baby wipes and toilet paper.

They will take everything you can send, so keep it coming, they said.

The message from the field is that the 709th remains proud of and dedicated to their mission. They know the risks, are well aware of what is happening around them, and realize how critical they are to the overall success of our forces. At this trying time they rely on their discipline, knowledge, training and leadership to perform their duties safely and in the right way every time. As one officer put it, "They are absolute studs."



Photo by Wolfgang Niebling

Gettin' in the gates

Pioneer Kaserne is the newest 414th Base Support Battalion installation to receive an upgraded main entrance. Gate improvements include new lighting, improved fencing, installed drop arms, more secure gates and barriers in front of guard shacks to increase security. Guards have better control on traffic and improved guard shacks with better communications. The BSB has already completed gates at Fliegerhorst's main entrance, New Argonner Kaserne, Old Argonner Kaserne, Wolfgang Shopping Center and Gelnhausen Housing. Grossauheim and Hutier Kaserne are scheduled for completion in the next month.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Soldiers, families swarm Deployment Fair

By Wolfgang Niebling
414th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Over 2,000 soldiers and family members attended the 414th Base Support Battalion Deployment Fair March 29 at Fliegerhorst Kaserne and March 30 in Büdingen.

Before the fair unit commanders held briefings to explain the process of deployment and indicate what soldiers should expect to have completed before leaving.

Families then proceeded to the fair where over 35 support agencies from the 414th BSB were gathered to answer their questions. Agencies also offered on-the-spot assistance.

The Legal Affairs Office helped soldiers execute wills, write powers of attorney and file taxes. Long lines of customers indicated the vital interest in these services as soldiers prepared to deploy. Finance, personnel and Army Community Services also attracted long lines of customers.

A fire truck was on hand to distract children while their parents were busy and Family Readiness Groups provided lunch.

Community agencies were generous enough to provide door prizes ranging from passes to Holiday Park from the USO to the grand prize of a barbeque grill and related grilling supplies donated by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.



Photo by Wolfgang Niebling

Soldiers from 4th Brigade and 1-1st Cavalry brought their families to the 414th Base Support Battalion Deployment Fairs in Hanau and Büdingen March 29 and 30. Over 35 agencies provided information, services and support for the deploying units.

Free Iraqi Forces fight to topple Saddam Hussein

By Capt. Wells Parker
Army News Service

The requests are pouring in to the forward office of Task Force Warrior in Kuwait.

A typical message states, "Request three Free Iraqi Forces with expertise in Basra region." The requests usually end up on the desk of Col. James Doyle of Task Force Warrior, an Army training task force in Taszar, Hungary.

"The requests are pouring in," said Doyle. "Initially the warfighters did not know their value. Now the secret is out about how invaluable they are. There are strong-willed exchanges among senior officers for their use."

Dozens of Iraqi exiles arrived at a former Warsaw Pact base in Hungary to receive military training from the task force. Volunteer Iraqi exiles from the United States, Canada and Europe received four-week courses in military survival training and basic military orientation.

Proving it in the field

Soldiers who have seen FIF first-hand while operating with 101st Airborne Division units currently in Iraq have been impressed.

"I wish all our task force trainers could have seen the FIF in action," said Maj. Danny Hassig. "The FIF volunteers stood in front of the division commander pointing to the Iraqi regional maps, telling us everything that no map will show. They knew the locations of reputable suppliers, locations of critical infrastructure, how to distinguish certain groups by the manner in which they pray and warning signals of trouble that only a local would know."

They quickly proved their value when FIF volunteers

assisted in the apprehension of two would-be terrorists, Hassig said.

"They are the assets that make all interaction with Iraqi civilians safer and much more productive," said Capt. Carl Spear.

"A translator can talk to Arabic or Kurdish speakers. This is invaluable to the front-line soldiers. A single one of our graduates can be ready at 2:17 a.m. in a sandstorm when he is needed," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Odette.

Among the FIF volunteers is Saib Al-Hamdy, a practicing civil engineer who is a master's degree candidate at the University of Southern Illinois. "I have three children in America. I have a son at a fine university, one a high school senior, and my little girl who is a typical American teenager," said Al-Hamdy.

"When I first learned the FIF were forming, the recruiter mentioned a monthly payment of a little more than \$1,000. I immediately started making the arrangements so I could pay the money. Later I was happy to find that it was I who would be paid and not the other way around. I would have sold everything I own to have this significant role in Iraq's liberation. I have waited for this moment my whole life. Alongside you, and at any cost, I am here to bring freedom to my countrymen."

FIF soldiers were with frontline troops in the port city of Umm Qasr and accelerated the humanitarian assistance process through their knowledge of the local language and customs, said Hassig.

"Each hour following Umm Qasr's liberation was critical as supplies were needed countrywide immediately. The FIF

saved much time, all the while building further support for the coalition forces among Iraqi citizens," he said.

Many of the FIF volunteers know Saddam Hussein's reign of terror from first-hand experience.

Brother was shot 15 times

"My brother was shot 15 times by Saddam's thugs," said one, Ali. "My mother and father watched in horror as they delivered my brother's lifeless body to our doorstep, told us he was a disloyal and shameful disgrace, then ransacked our home for possessions when we had no money to pay them for the 15 bullets. In our despair my father still thanked God that the thugs did not kill more of our family. Many FIF volunteers have much worse family hardships under Saddam than me. This is the terror that every Iraqi child grows up with," he said.

"To bring my personal revenge will make me no better of a man than Saddam. My work right now is all of my passion, so that my son will never lose his brother to Saddam," said Ali.

As American soldiers solidified their control of Iraq, FIF volunteers are working as refugee assistance, humanitarian aid and prisoner-of-war camp liaisons. They also help orient newly arrived American soldiers.

"Look for Iraqi people who receive unusual respect or are avoided," advised one FIF volunteer. "Look for the man whom others give their food to. Such a man is likely to cause you big problems soon." (Editor's note: Capt. Wells Parker is assigned to the 350th Civil Affairs Command)

