



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A 2nd Brigade soldier secures a vehicle at a railhead in Baumholder. Photo right: Friedberg soldiers from Company C, 1-37th Armor, prepare their M1-A1 tank for loading at the Ray Barracks railhead.



Photo by Karl Weisel

News flash

Free flowers

While no official Spring Cleanup is slated for the 414th Base Support Battalion because of deployments, the Hanau and Bidingen Self-Help Improvement Stores will stock flowers to be issued free to families wishing to beautify their housing areas. Starting May 16 authorized housing and signature card customers are invited to visit the stores to pick up flowers and check out tools to do their own spring cleanup. Call Mr. Sparks at mil 322-8200 for details.

Social Security update

Military families will not lose disability benefits because a member of the household has been sent into combat, said Social Security officials. Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income disability payments and Medicaid coverage can continue to do so even if family income rises because a mother, father or spouse earns a combat supplement to his or her military pay. There's a new place to go for a wealth of information about Social Security's programs and services. Point your browser to www.socialsecurity.gov. One of the most popular features of the website is the online benefits application, where people can apply for retirement, spouse's and disability benefits online. (Social Security Administration release)

Extra pay for foreign languages

Soldiers in Europe who speak a language other than English can earn extra money while helping the Army meet its need to be able to communicate with anyone, anywhere. Soldiers who are not linguists by training but who are fluent in one of about 30 foreign languages can earn an additional \$50 to \$100 monthly by taking part in the Army's Foreign Language Program. Soldiers must demonstrate their language skills by passing the Defense Language Proficiency Test. Higher test scores earn larger amounts. Soldiers must recertify their language skills annually to continue receiving the additional pay. For more information about taking the test contact your local Education Center. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Soldiers bid farewell

Railheads, ceremonies mark 1st AD deployment to Gulf

Soldiers from communities throughout the 104th Area Support Group have been bidding farewell to friends and families during ceremonies in preparation for deployment to the Persian Gulf region in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 1st Armored Division marked the deployment with an official farewell ceremony at the division headquarters in Wiesbaden April 25.

With 16,500 1st Armored Division soldiers gearing up for deployment from Germany and the United States, the unit's "advance party" of 200 soldiers bid farewell to Wiesbaden April 19.

The advance party was composed of officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers who are the "Old Ironsides" Division's experts in their respective fields. Their mission is to deploy to the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility to prepare for the remainder of the division's arrival. Their tasks include coordinating sleeping areas, food, water and support for the 13,000 troops moving out of Germany and the 3,500 troops leaving Fort Riley, Kan.

Members of the advance party will also work with their counterparts on the USCENTCOM and V Corps staffs for the reception and offloading of the division's ve-

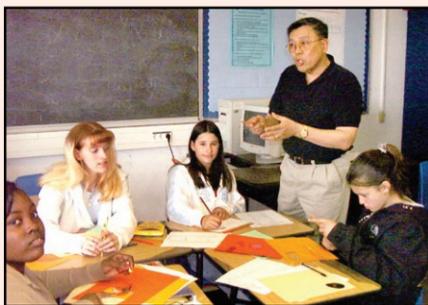
hicles, which are currently being moved to seaports in Europe and the United States.

Officers and senior staff NCOs have spent weeks working on plans which attempt to forecast when the soldiers and equipment will reach the Persian Gulf area. Their goal has been to ensure the troops who are moving to the desert by air arrive a few days before their equipment, which is moving by sea. The advance party's goal is to ensure that the arriving troops spend only a short time in holding areas waiting and preparing for their equipment. The soldiers are then able to receive their tracked and wheeled vehicles at the port and move out

by units to tactical assembly areas in the desert in order to prepare for future operations.

With thousands of troops and tons of equipment all moving east toward the Persian Gulf, the deployment mission of the division will not be complete until all of the "Old Ironsides" units have gathered in their tactical assembly areas in the desert. The brigade and separate unit commanders will then give the division commander, Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, the thumbs up that they are ready and capable to move out and handle any mission that the USCENTCOM commander assigns. (Courtesy of 1st Armored Division Public Affairs)

Inside



School focus
This week the *Herald Union* takes a look at Hanau Middle School. See page 26.

Wine hike
Wander through the vineyards on the foothills of the Odenwald. See page 28.



Get well wishes

Students bring cheer to wounded soldiers

By Barbara Toner and Angie McLean
Special to the *Herald Union*

A school project at Baumholder's Smith Elementary School touched the heart of a patient at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Students in Ramona Emery's third-grade class made get well cards for soldiers wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When 9-year-old Bobby Muraoka handed in his, he told Emery he wasn't finished with it. Bold letters on the front of the card read "God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home," but there was a large empty space in the middle. Muraoka told Emery he had a "special flag" at home that he wanted to bring in the next day to complete his assignment.

The next morning Emery watched him gingerly remove a flag from his backpack and slowly unfold it. "What makes this flag so special,

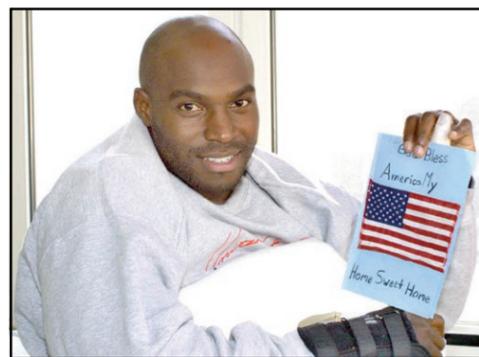


Photo by Barbara Toner

Staff Sgt. Tarik Jackson displays a card he received from Bobby Muraoka, a Smith Elementary School third-grader from Baumholder.

Bobby?" asked Emery. She wasn't prepared for his answer.

"My dad gave it to me to keep to remember

See *Get well* on page 3

Commentary

Second thoughts

The war on television

Commentary by Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

I spent way too much time in front of the television during a visit to my parents' house in Delaware a couple weeks ago. With Operation Iraqi Freedom in full stride, it was hard not to be drawn like a fly to a flame to the flickering images of American men and women under fire on foreign soil.

Whether at the hospital visiting my mother, sitting in a doctor's office waiting room with my daughter or stopping for a meal at a local pizzeria, it was hard to get away from the non-stop coverage of the war in Iraq. While I wanted to look away and did manage to talk my parents into turning off the tube for hours at a time, we found ourselves, like many Americans, constantly returning, as if our collective watching as a nation would somehow help safeguard those on the front lines and ensure a rapid conclusion to the fighting.

What we saw on television over and over again for the most part were close-ups of talking media personalities and retired military officers sharing their insights into what may or may not have been actually happening in Iraq.

While the coverage was more revealing than the previous war with Iraq — embedded journalists reporting alongside those in the midst of the fighting — it was still sterile for the most part, failed to accurately portray people in the midst of wartime (like one of Robert Capa's grainy, black-and-white photographs from World War II or the unforgettable "Life" photographs from the Vietnam War era) and focused more on the messenger and less on military men and women. I got more of a feel for what was happening by reading the local newspaper stories showcasing young men and women on the front lines — and the fears and hopes of their families at home in Delaware.

War is a bloody, ear-splitting, bone-rattling experience that affects those who must undergo it in ways that often last a lifetime, but what was conveyed to the American public on television was more like a sanitized version of somebody's favorite video game.

What struck home more vividly than any of the hours of televised images were the terse Department of Defense messages in my email upon my return to Germany April 14. In amongst the Army News releases and other emails were short, one-paragraph announcements: "The Department of Defense today announced the identity of a soldier/marine who died after being wounded . . ." A 19-year-old specialist from Indiana, a 24-year-old sergeant from New York, and on and on — people who didn't make the headlines but will be mourned by those who knew and loved them for too many years to come.

War reporting is a tough balancing act. On the one hand, we don't want to expose our children and families to the brutality and carnage of war. But on the other hand, what do we risk by trivializing the experience and making believe it's some kind of "reality" television show where the score is constantly updated by glitzy commentators and rarely a drop of blood is shed?

Life is too precious to treat it like some television commodity.



Letters to the editor

Greetings from Iraq

Soldiers from the 709th Military Police Battalion are deployed to Southwest Asia and the Middle East. Our great soldiers deployed today are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion (Hanau), 92d MP Company (Baumholder and Darmstadt) and the 527th MP Co. (Giessen). First and foremost, thanks go out to all the families and friends for the tremendous support you are providing to our soldiers deployed in this time of war. Time away from family and friends is always difficult, and the circumstances of this deployment have caused many of us (here and at home station) to take extraordinary measures to accomplish our mission, while sustaining long distance relationships. As said by some of our senior leaders, "difficult times call for difficult measures." You, the friends and families of the Warrior Battalion, have stepped up to support our great soldiers during these difficult times. Your long distance support is felt daily through the numerous letters and packages our soldiers receive and heard through the words of our rear detachment leaders. Thank you for all that you do to hold onto what is so near and dear to all of us — our family ties, friendship and unit cohesion. Your soldiers are performing remarkable tasks on a daily basis. They work 24 hours a day accomplishing missions in support of operations in Southwest Asia and in the Middle East. There are many success stories. Let me summarize with a single comment that symbolizes your soldiers' success, "Warrior soldiers are setting the example in every assigned task and are being recognized by the leaders deployed with them and by numerous units we are supporting." Warriors continue to amaze me with their versatility, can do attitude, motivation and high morale. Our rear detachments are equally amazing. I receive regular reports on the status of our rear detachments, our mission in Germany and on our families. Our rear detachments and family readiness groups are working together to ensure a safe and secure environment for our families and provide assistance on nearly a daily basis. Keep up the great work. Our deployed soldiers miss their homes, families and friends. As one combined team (deployed units, rear detachments and families/friends) we will accomplish this mission and reunite once again. Thanks for your support and your continued patience.

Lt. Col. Richard S. Vanderlinden
709th MP Battalion commander

Deployed civilian coverage

I realize the *Herald Union* is a military newspaper dedicated to the military community, but do you realize there are Department of Defense civilians in this community? And do you further realize some civilians deploy in support of the troops, on the same six-month rotation that the military does? We are the forgotten ones of the community, there are few if any direct support systems available to us, and it is usually the ones we create for ourselves. Sad isn't it. In a few days my husband will deploy for his six months in the desert and I have not read one word in the *Herald Union* or the *Stars and Stripes* about these dedicated employees and the sacrifice they and their spouses/family make. But let a federal worker make a mistake or do something wrong and people are all over it. Why not recognize the efforts and dedication to duty these

fine men and women make for their jobs. And how about those in command showing some regard for those of us left behind. We have to live in the German community; we do not have the luxury of living in housing and partaking of that support. So here we sit and wait pretty much alone. I do not want lip service, I want action. When I moved to this community I worked with the Community Health Nurse and the clinic to start a Diabetes Support Group open to everyone, not just civilians. So where is our support? I did this as a volunteer and because I wanted to show my support for the community. Now it is their turn. I would at least like to see some recognition for those who do deploy in support of the troops — these unsung heroes.

Sidona Kellogg

Editor's note: Please see last edition (page 19) for a story on Shannon Hayes, a Friedberg Army and Air Force Exchange Service employee who is heading to Kuwait, and the April 1 issue (page 23) for an article on Jocelyn Townsend, a Red Cross manager who is also serving in Southwest Asia.

Schools can and will help

These are stressful times for military families. The daily news and recent deployments leave a great deal of uncertainty in the minds of parents and families. You may ask, "Are Department of Defense Dependents Schools experienced in dealing with deployments, and do they have plans to help?" I assure you that DoDDS is part of the wide community support network available to families and will help. We have great experience in serving our communities in the aftermath of Sept. 11, during the Persian Gulf War, the missions in the Balkans and other deployments in recent years. Each of our schools has a role to play in being an integral part of the total plan to care for families during times of crisis and conflict. We take that responsibility seriously. We have an action plan to provide further guidance on measures that we should take in each community affected by deployments or other military operations. Plans are in place in all school locations in DoDDS-Europe. They are ready to implement. Our teachers are trained. Principals have made connections and coordinated with Family Assistance/Support Centers. Our superintendents have psychologists ready to deploy if needed. Our schools are major players and are ready to collaborate with communities in any way. The school routines that your child is accustomed to are very important. School routines contribute to normalcy. A strong focus on teaching and learning help maintain stability for children in these difficult times. That means minimizing transitions and disruptions in learning. It means being there for children when times get rough. Schools do that better than anyone with the exception of a parent. We are the home away from home for kids. Schools surround students with a caring and supportive safety net. Parents are equal partners in maintaining that safety net. Listen to your child's concerns. Talk to your children's teacher and work together to meet the needs of students. Our goal in these difficult times is to maintain a safe and secure school environment that creates stability in students' lives so that learning may continue as normal. You can count on us to do exactly that.

Diana J. Ohman

DoDDS-Europe director

Herald Union

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News flash

NTV rules changed

Employees may now use nontactical vehicles to attend official ceremonies such as changes of command, promotions, retirements and unit activations/deactivations even if they are not an organization's senior representative at the ceremony. The rules were changed to allow the use as part of the revised Army Travel Policy March 26. All Army employees are reminded to use NTVs responsibly, officials said. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Troubles with AKO?

Are you being denied access to your Army Knowledge Online account because you've lost or forgotten your password or user ID? Use an email account from a private source (such as Yahoo or Hotmail) and send a message with your full name, including middle, your rank/grade and the last four digits of your Social Security Number to help@us.army.mil.

Give them an email address to send you the information. Describe the problem you are having and the AKO managers will send you the log-on information you need to use AKO. If you've created an account for a spouse or other family member, you'll have to log in to approve their account. So unless you know how to get into your own account, you won't be able to activate a family member's account. (Courtesy of Michael Mitchell, 414th BSB Relocation Readiness)



Reward for info

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$20,000 reward to anyone with information leading to an apprehension and conviction in the murder of Pfc. Amanda Gonzales in Hanau in November 2001. Investigating officials ruled that Gonzales, a cook with the 127th Aviation Support Battalion, died through asphyxiation. "We encourage anyone who has any information to come forward," said Special Agent Philip Tackett. "What may seem like a piece of insignificant information, may be just the clue we are looking for to bring the responsible party to justice." Information will be held in the strictest confidence, officials said. Call the Wiesbaden CID office at mil 336-2481 or civ (0611) 816-2485.

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. For applications and packets visit the www.chrma.hq.usareur.army.mil website and click on "Summer Hire 2003." In processing 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 the Civilian Human Resources Management Agency)

Gas coupon options expanded

Managers with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service established contracts this month with 73 Aral gas stations on German Autobahns that will allow customers further flexibility when using gas coupons.

In Germany AAFES gas coupons are accepted at all Esso stations, BP stations on the Autobahn and BP stations in communities that do not have an Esso station nearby.

As a result of a merger between British Petroleum and Veba Oil — which operates Aral gas stations — all BP stations will be remodeled as Aral stations by the end of this year. Existing German Autobahn Aral stations will significantly increase AAFES gas

coupon acceptance for customers who travel extensively outside their local communities.

A listing of the Aral and BP Autobahn stations are posted on the AAFES website at www.aafes.com.

Aral associates are currently being trained to accept and process AAFES gas coupons. That training will take time, so AAFES managers caution customers to check with station operators before using AAFES gas coupons at these or Autobahn BP stations.

"It is a good idea to check before you pump," said Ruth Wagner, a senior AAFES-

Europe retail specialist. "Each of these stations is operated by many employees, all of whom need training to familiarize themselves with the AAFES gas coupon program."

The current series of AAFES gas coupon booklets state that they are redeemable at Esso and Autobahn BP stations only. These coupons are now accepted by those 73 Aral Autobahn stations. Future printings of AAFES gas coupon booklets will identify the acceptance of AAFES gas coupons at Aral stations on the Autobahn. (AAFES-Europe Public Affairs)



To prevent future accidents

Safety critical during deployment

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

With soldiers deploying across the 1st Armored Division, it's important to remember safety in everything they do, said division leaders.

"We've had two accidents too many," said Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st AD commander, during a recent meeting with senior staff officers. "Our leaders need to be out there with soldiers with their eyes open and seeing what is going on. Everyone of us must be focused on safety." Leaders must ensure soldiers receive safety briefings, Sanchez said. They must validate what the soldiers learn and make sure the lessons are understood.

"As a deploying soldier, your priorities are constantly changing and you're being hurried," said Master Sgt. Royce Ray, 1st AD's safety noncommissioned officer in

charge. "Soldiers have to remember basic discipline and enforce the standards."

Two of the most important standards to remember are weapons safety and staying properly hydrated, said Ray, emphasizing the importance of the buddy system. "You need to take care of each other. Your buddies are all you've got," he said.

From the railhead to the port to stepping off the plane, soldiers are constantly facing safety issues, said Jim Brouillette, 1AD's deputy Occupational Health and Safety manager. "Soldiers have got to have situational awareness. It has to be constantly maintained or someone could get hurt. Soldiers need to have their guard up," he said.

"I was focused on rail safety and remain convinced that it is our number one threat in the deployment process," said Gen. B. B. Bell, U. S. Army Europe commander, in a recent

"Bell sends" message. "I cannot make it any clearer: From the time a train is loading for departure to when it is unloading, soldiers are forbidden from climbing onto railcars or the onboard vehicles to check for anything, security seals or otherwise," he said.

"Leaders — corporals through generals — you are the ones who will bring our soldiers home. Be there for them. You are responsible and empowered to do what it takes to make it happen. Our soldiers are willing to die for their country. It's up to us to ensure they don't," said Bell.

"Safety is everybody's responsibility," said Ray. "It's the duty of every soldier to stop safety violations. In some cases people aren't even aware they're committing a safety hazard. Don't assume — if you don't know, ask. And if you do know, make sure everyone else does too."

Get well . . .

Continued from page 1
him by while he's deployed," said Muraoka. His father, 1-35th Armor's Sgt. Robert Muraoka, like military parents across the 104th Area Support Group, will be "heading south" in the next few weeks.

Emery asked him if he was sure he wanted to part with the flag. She explained it would be going to a wounded soldier and he wouldn't get it back.

"He needs it more than I do," said Bobby. A phone call home and a short talk with Bobby's mother, Shanti, assured the teacher if that was what Bobby wanted, it was fine with her and her husband.

"I thought the flag was something special, so I gave it to a special guy," said Bobby.

While all the cards crafted by the Smith third-graders were special, Bobby's held a special place in the hearts of those who knew its story. The story was shared with its recipient, Staff Sgt. Tarik Jackson, 507th Maintenance Company, who lay in intensive care at the hospital.

The card came at a time when Jackson, who had been wounded during an enemy ambush of his convoy, was "really feeling bad.

"I just thought of my family and other



Photo by Bill Rose

Teacher Ramona Emery talks with third-grader Bobby Muraoka about the card he sent to injured soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

things you take for granted," said Jackson. "It woke me up a little bit."

Jackson wanted Bobby to know how much he appreciated the card. He said he would return the flag upon recovery. Obviously

deeply touched, Jackson said he would take it home to show to his family including his nine-month-old son.

"I'm just happy that he's happy," said Bobby.

News and features

VA gears up for post-Iraq support

Troops now committed to the Middle East will benefit from a wide array of programs and services not previously available to veterans of earlier conflicts, said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

"Bullets and shrapnel are not the only hazards of the modern battlefield. We have learned from the bitter lessons of the wars of the 20th century. For any armed conflict in the Middle East, we will be on the alert for environmental exposures and other risks to the health of our service personnel," he said.

Principi noted that since 1998 the Department of Veterans Affairs has had the authority to provide free medical care for veterans newly returned from a combat zone, even without a service-connected disability. That

eligibility lasts for two years after active duty, although anyone with service related medical problems can qualify for life-long VA health care.

"VA's ongoing partnership with the Department of Defense will greatly reduce problems experienced by previous generations of veterans," Principi said.

He cited the development of standardized guidelines for physicians examining military personnel after deployment and VA's establishment of the War-Related Illness Centers to provide research and professional education about deployment-related health issues.

"VA applauds the efforts of the Department of Defense to prevent health problems among deployed troops. Today's high-tech equipment and preventive medicine programs demonstrate DoD's commitment to the health of the troops. We are better prepared to do this than at any other time in history," Principi said.

Many efforts undertaken on behalf of recently deployed troops are an outgrowth of lessons learned from the health problems that many Gulf War veterans experienced after returning home, he said.

Besides working with DoD on deployment issues, Principi noted the VA health

care system serves as a backup to military hospitals during war or other national emergencies. Collaboration between VA and DoD ranges from sharing medical facilities to allowing some military members and their families to refill their prescription drugs through a VA mail-out pharmacy.

"In addition to the range of new programs specifically designed for the newest generation of combat veterans, VA is also prepared to provide the benefits that veterans have expected since World War II," said Principi. He cited the GI Bill, home loan guarantees, educational assistance, disability compensation and health care for service-disabled veterans. *(Courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs)*



Civilian Advisory Board in the making

Training and leader development to more closely resemble soldier, officer paths

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

Creating a Civilian Advisory Board to be an advocate for today's Army civilian workers will help level the training and leader development playing field with that of the uniformed component of the Army, according to a finding of an Army Training and Leader Development Panel Civilian study released March 13.

The study mirrored earlier examinations of training and leader development views of the officer, warrant officer and NCO Corps during the past two years. The studies are part of Army Transformation, aimed at shaping the Army's 270,000-plus work force for future requirements, officials said. While the study was the last planned ATLDP, work continues to resolve issues identified from all the studies.

"We knew going in what most of the issues were concerning civilian training and leader development—the study just confirmed them and provided us with the necessary data to validate the need for change," said Maureen Viall, Civilian ATLDP study director.

Using written and online surveys, focus groups and one-on-one interviews with Army civilians, garrison command-

ers, general officers and Senior Executive Service members, the panel garnered feedback from over 40,000 respondents.

Civilian workers are aware the Army is undergoing profound change as it transforms into the future Objective Force and don't want to be left behind, said Viall. That means the future civilian work force needs to be multiskilled and multifaceted, not tied to doing just one job under a civil service classification system that is over 50 years old.

Most general officer and SES respondents agreed that the current education system is inadequate to develop civilian leaders capable of managing change, said Viall. The study also confirmed there are no sequential leader development plans like the ones that organize soldier plans. Only 45 of 444 employees questioned in study focus groups could name a specific leader development course offered to civilians; 223 were unaware of any core leader development courses. By contrast 80 percent of respondents who had attended a leader development course said it was beneficial.

The study also identified the failure of many civilian supervisors and managers to attend required leader development courses. Reasons for nonattendance included low command priority, lack of time due to mission requirements, lack of money and lack of adverse consequences.

Training opportunities vary widely from major command to major command, according to respondents. Most civilian training is currently funded in individual major command budgets. Exceptions include centrally funded leadership training at the Center for Army Leadership and the Army Management Staff College.

"It is a case of the haves versus the have-nots," Viall said. "There are generally more training opportunities in better

funded MACOMS than in the poorer ones."

Many respondents characterized their jobs as "meaningful, challenging, interesting, exciting, fun and rewarding," and almost 90 percent said they plan to make the Army a career. More than 70 percent said they would recommend working for the Army to others. Still many respondents said they would like more recognition for being productive members of the Army team.

As in earlier studies that examined the uniformed side of the Army, the civilian study found that workers' commitment to the Army is not perceived as being reciprocated, performance evaluations and counseling are inadequate, and current education and career development models are lacking.

Implementing change

An implementation process action team met April 15-17 to consider a number of study recommendations. Among them were creating a Civilian Education System that mirrors those of the NCO, warrant officer and officer Corps; placing civilian leader development responsibilities, including funding, under one Army organization; increasing formal developmental assignments, self-development and mentoring opportunities; and establishing an Army Civilian Creed.

A recommended Civilian Advisory Board comprising Senior Executive Service employees and general officers who serve on a rotating basis would help implement other approved recommendations. The board president would act as a civilian work force advocate to the Army chief of staff. A summary of the panel's findings is posted on the Army home page at <http://www.army.mil/features/ATLDP/CIV/default.htm>.

Captain pin-on increased to 40 months

By Bruce Anderson
Army News Service

The Army raised the time-in-service requirement for promotion to captain from 38 months to 40 months, effective April 1. The change is the beginning of an incremental return to the 42-month requirement that existed before October 2002, said officials.

"The higher requirement provides more time for junior officers to prepare for the responsibilities associated with the rank of captain," said Maj. Patrick T. Budjenska, personnel policy integrator, G1.

In October 2002 the Army started promoting officers to captain after only 38 months of service.

The Fiscal Year 2002 Defense Authorization Act authorized promotions after 36 months, but the Army opted for 38 months to give junior officers as much training as possible before promotion to captain.

Accelerated promotion was one facet of the Army's campaign to alleviate a shortage of captains that resulted from the under-accession of lieutenants in the early 1990s. The shortage was compounded by

attrition during the booming economy of the late 1990s, said personnel officials.

The Army can begin the return to longer development periods for lieutenants because it has exceeded its goal for the number of active duty captains.

In the six months since reducing the pin-on point to 38 months, 700 additional captains elected to remain in the service than in previous years, said officials.

While stop-loss has contributed in a minor way to the increase of overall officer strength, the major

causes are the accelerated promotion of first lieutenants, lower attrition rates among captains, and an increase in the number of captains returning to active duty.

"Officers are foregoing opportunities in the civilian job market to remain in the Army and contribute to securing our country," Budjenska said, adding that commanders have also affected the decision of many officers to remain on active duty.

"The increase in retention can

be attributed to mentoring and counseling by commanders and leaders at all levels," he said.

A marked increase in the number of officers who previously separated from the Army and thereafter elected to return to active duty has also increased the number of captains in the ranks.

Since the end of fiscal year 2001 more than 200 captains have returned to active duty, said Budjenska.



221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Easy as 1 - 2 - 3

Melanie Hicks explains to Christopher Gardner how to complete a form to register for the new Installation Access Control System at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. IACS registration for soldiers, civilians, family members, contractors and local national employees began April 14 and will run through August for the 221st Base Support Battalion communities. "There really is nothing to it. Just bring your current ID card and copy of orders verifying why you are here in Germany and the procedure takes about 10 minutes," said Jose Davila, IACS manager.

Employment

AFAP manager

Team 221st Army Community Service is hiring a part-time Army Family Action Plan program manager. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, knowledge of the AFAP process and organizational skills. Interested applicants must submit a resume to ACS, Building 7790, Attention: Army Community Service officer by April 30. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Instructors needed

Share your special talents with the youth of the future by becoming an instructor at Wiesbaden Youth Services. Instructors are needed to teach ballet, dance, gymnastics,



guitar, piano, tap, jazz and other skills. Positions are contract positions with YS. Call mil 338-7592 or civ (0611) 380-7592 for more information.

NAF positions

The Wiesbaden Nonappropriated Fund Civilian Personnel Office has the following openings: Child Development Center program assistant, operations assistant, custodial workers, cooks (Dexheim), food service workers, recreation aides, food and beverage attendants, materials handler, bar assistant, and waiters (Dexheim). Announcements are also listed at www.chrma.hq.uscraur.army.mil. For more information call mil 337-5272 or civ (0611) 705-5272.

Commander's corner

BSB recognizes spouses

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

The life of a military spouse is not always easy, and current events don't make things easier.

Not only must they take on the role of a single parent when their spouse deploys, they must also play the role of banker, caretaker, mechanic and teacher as well.

Each day there are spouses in our community who put forth their very best. Whether it is working, volunteering, helping their Family Support Group or spending time with their children, they are the nuts and bolts of the military family. Without their support our

soldiers would not be able to accomplish their missions and many would not become career soldiers.

Spouses must endure hard times, maintain a cheery facade for their families while watching loved ones march off to peacekeeping missions or to war, and step up in times of need to help the community keep going until their loved ones return home.

In celebration of all that military spouses do and accomplish we recognize May 15 as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. The 221st Base Support Battalion, Army Commu-

nity Service, Morale Welfare and Recreation, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will offer cake, drawings, prizes and Clinique makeovers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hainerberg Shopping Center.

Spouses can also take advantage of bowling for half-price May 7 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and May 9 in Dexheim. Free aerobics classes will be offered at the Tony Bass Fitness Center. These programs are for spouses with a valid dependent identification card.

Team 221st



Lt. Col. Dennis E. Slagter