

FRGs help single soldiers too

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

While the Army spends considerable time and energy ensuring married soldiers keep in touch with their spouses during deployments through Family Readiness Groups, the need to include single soldiers in the loop of communication and caring sometimes gets overlooked.

Single soldiers, especially those who are new to the Army or their unit, often do not know what their unit's FRG can do to help them stay in touch with their loved ones when they deploy.

"I have a German girlfriend and we don't really know how to stay in touch at the moment. I guess we will try to send letters to each other," said Spc. David Wright of Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion.

"I just arrived in country and I have not had a chance yet to speak to my parents. Right now I don't know how we are going to stay in touch once I deploy," said Pvt. 2 Richard Miller of Company C, 16th Engineer Battalion.

"I have not really thought about it yet. I guess I will make phone calls to my family back home," said Pvt. 2 Romulo Barbecho of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-36th Infantry.

"I am not sure about the capabilities that we will have to communicate with our loved ones, but I will find out before I leave. My girlfriend is from here and once I get to our destination I will give her the information," said Spc. Shawn Hodgson of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery.

"I will write letters or call home. I have a friend who is deployed, and because of his family I know that I will have the chance to call my family. They have specific days and times to do that," said Pfc. Mathew Bass of Battery C, 2-3rd FA.

Single soldiers should contact their units FRGs

Army Community Service takes the lead in supporting families, especially during deployments. What do they advise single soldiers to do?

"I recommend that single soldiers contact their unit FRG leaders to ask them what they can do to keep friends and families updated on the well-being of their deployed soldier. Recently a local girl, whose boyfriend deployed with a unit from the United States, contacted us because her letters to him were returned. He forgot to give her his Unit Identification Code, and often these units are attached to different battalions so there is no way we at ACS can find them," said Deborah Gantt, family readiness coordinator with ACS in Giessen.

Some FRGs have already taken the initiative to include single soldiers in their networks, said Gantt.



Photo by Luz Medeiros

Receiving mail from loved ones is not only important to Spc. Shawn Hodgson of HHB, 2-3rd FA, but to most soldiers, single or married.

"Once we became aware that soldiers in our company are dating local girls with no access to the military installations, we encouraged the soldiers to get their girlfriends involved in our group," said Clara Magoon, FRG leader for Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion.

"We told single soldiers that they can bring their girlfriends to our meetings so we get to know each other. Even though they cannot be part of the entire process and be placed on our concern list, we can still get their phone numbers so we can stay in touch with them. They can meet with our unit's spouses and stay in touch that way," she said.

"I have not been approached yet by soldiers with local girlfriends," said Robbie Teters, FRG leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor. "If they wish they can bring them to our meetings and they can get involved. I recommend that single soldiers provide me with an email address for their girlfriends as well as for their families in the United States. I can put them on our email list and they will receive the same information as our families over here do," she said.

"We can not only help with keeping them informed about what's going on, but also tell them how to send letters and

packages to their soldier," said Emma White, also of HHC, 2-37th Armor. "They can also go to our link on the web page and get information from there. It's important that single soldiers inform friends and families about how to contact us," she said.

Correct mailing address is important

"I believe knowing the correct mailing procedure is the biggest issue," said Jean Johnson, FRG leader with HHC, 16th Engineer Battalion. "We are telling the first sergeants in our battalion to let the soldiers know that they can contact their FRGs to provide them with the names of their family and friends back home. The soldiers can also give them our names and tell them how to reach us. We can assist in how to send mail and also what can be sent to the soldiers," she said.

Giving correct mailing addresses to friends and families is essential, whether the mail is sent from the United States, Military Postal Service or the German mail system, said officials.

"When we receive letters addressed to service members including an Army Post Office code we will forward them to the APO," said Roger Schmidt of the Deutsche Bundespost distribution center in Langgöns.

"We deliver all mail received from the Bundespost to the soldiers as long as it is addressed correctly. If it only says John Doe at Ray Barracks we cannot deliver it because there is no way of finding the soldier. Beside the name we need the CMR and box number as well as the correct APO address," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles McCoy of the 55th Postal Company in Friedberg.

The length of the upcoming deployment is uncertain, and the ability of most soldiers, married or single, to keep in touch with the important people in their lives will be crucial to their morale. However soldiers want to handle it, their unit FRGs can help.

"I have a girlfriend in the States and I am just going to write letters to her," said Pfc. Nathaniel Runge of Battery A, 2-3rd FA.

"I am aware that the FRG can keep contact with my family, but I decided not to. We will write letters to each other and they can get information from the Internet," said Spc. Aaron Floyd of Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion.

"I have a German girlfriend and we have not brought up the issue of how to stay in touch," said Spc. Rolly Evans, also of Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion. "I don't care that much about receiving mail. I just want to get down there, get the job done and come back. She can also stay in touch through some mutual friends we have. All she needs to know is that I am doing fine, and I don't have to worry about her, but also don't have to worry about receiving or sending mail," he said.

Community spotlights . . . Community spotlights

Free aerobics in Butzbach

Free Step Interval classes are offered Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. and Aerobic Challenge classes take place every Thursday from 7-8 p.m. at the Butzbach Elementary School multipurpose room. For details on these classes and other sports activities offered call the Miller Hall Fitness Center at mil343-7201/8206.

VA benefits briefing

A Veterans Affairs benefit briefing will be held in Building 7 on the Giessen Depot

May 13 from 9-11 a.m. Items to be discussed include education benefits, VA home loans, disability compensation and other VA benefits. For more information or to schedule an appointment with a VA representative call the Army Career and Alumni Program office at mil343-9332.

Smoking cessation class

A smoking cessation class starts May 12 at 10 a.m. at the Butzbach Health Clinic. Preregistration is not required. For more information call Capt. Faith Junghahn at mil

345-4046.

Preschool story time

The 284th Base Support Battalion Library presents preschool story time every Friday at 10 a.m. at the Bad Nauheim Elementary School Community Center through June 20. The program is free and open to all toddlers and parents in the 284th BSB. For information call mil343-1740.

Deployment Parent and Me Playtime

Deployment Parent and Me Playtime takes

place Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. in Butzbach, Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon in Friedberg and Friday from 9-11 a.m. in Giessen. The program is open to all parents and children age 5 and under. For details call Giessen ACS at mil343-7618, Friedberg ACS at mil324-3465 or the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ(0178)4059066.

Help Line

Army Community Service provides a 24-hour-service hotline for assistance. Help can be reached at mil111 or civ(0641)402-111.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen



Spc. Rolly Evans and Sgt. Thomas McKnight of Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion, inspect a vehicle at the ISA.

Photos by Alexandra Williams

Final deployment preparations

Soldiers of Company C, 16th Engineer Battalion, prepare vehicles for transportation by rail to the ports of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and Antwerp, Belgium, where the equipment will be loaded on boats. Deployment exercises and Installation Staging Areas helped the units of the 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade and Engineer Brigade prepare vehicles and equipment for the upcoming deployment to the Central Command region. All items had to be inspected, weighed and measured and properly documented before they could be loaded. Preparations included the issue of new desert combat uniforms. Farewell ceremonies will conclude the predeployment phase.



Staff Sgt. Troy Milam of Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion, tries on his new desert combat uniform.

MOTHERS DAY

BRUNCH

Sunday 11th May

10:30 a.m. – 2p.m

Bring along your special someone this
Mothers Day to the Il Giardino
Mother's Day Brunch

\$11 per person
Under 5 y/o FREE
\$5.50 12 y/o under
American Style Breakfast
&
Italian Style Lunch

For additional information please contact
The staff of IL Giardino at MIL: 343-7793

An insider's viewpoint of war in Iraq

Iraqi exile explains why war is important for freedom of his country

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

As the world learned U.S. military members had entered Baghdad, nobody in the 284th Base Support Battalion was more excited than Hader Almomoir.

Almomoir, a former volunteer for the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine operating the hearing booth in Friedberg, and for the Educational and Developmental Intervention Service in Giessen, said the people of Iraq could finally live a life in freedom. "Iraq is my home and I know how the people suffered.

"I've been living in exile for almost 10 years now; maybe now I can go back and visit my family," Almomoir said.

"Before I left the country I was a captain with the Republican Guard. After the first Gulf War I was involved in an uprising in 1991. After it failed I had to leave the country," he said.

His escape brought him from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, where he lived in a refugee camp for three years. In 1994 he journeyed to the United States where he eventually met his wife, Jamie MacKenzie, the 284th BSB's community health nurse.

Living in exile, knowing that he would not be able to see his family and his country was not always easy, he said. "My people had to wait for so many years to be freed. The only hope they had was for America to come and help them, and they finally did," he said.

Seeing worldwide demonstrations against the war was sometimes difficult for Almomoir. "It made me angry to see all these people protesting against the war. They don't know how much the people in Iraq have suffered. When I saw the protesters I always wanted to tell each one of them how bad life was for the people there," Almomoir said.

Protesters often used the argument that war with Iraq was unjust because the lives of innocent civilians would be lost. "Of course nobody wants innocent people to die. I was in wars before, and nobody means to kill innocent people. But sometimes that's the price you have to pay for freedom," he said.

Since the beginning of the war Almomoir has been doing

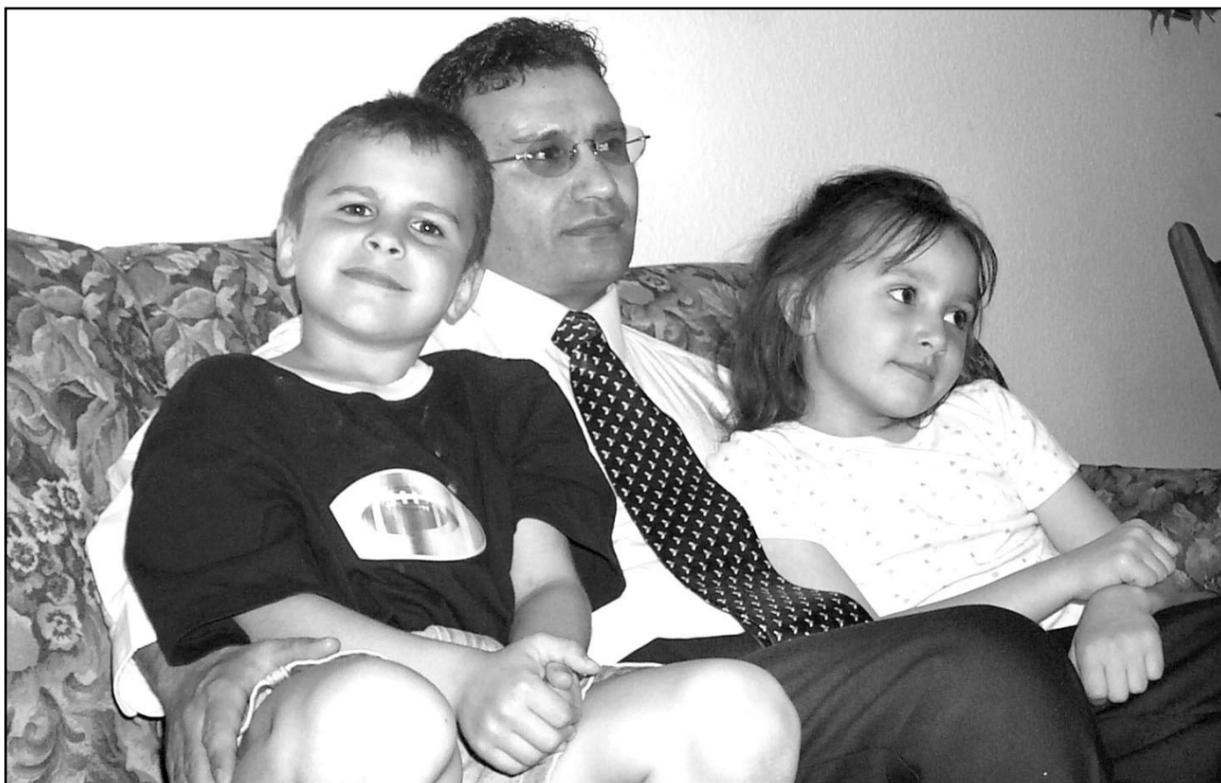


Photo by Jamie MacKenzie

Hader Almomoir and his children, Saad (left) and Nadia, watch the news to stay informed about the situation in Iraq.

his part in providing support to the U.S. Army. "Currently I am an Arabic instructor for the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion and a translator for the 1st Armored Division G5. I also volunteered to deploy with the division — I could serve as a translator for them. That would be my part in freeing my country," he said.

"Right now I am teaching the soldiers about the culture of the Iraqi people. My advice is to listen to the people to find out what they want. They always had to follow orders, so they don't always say what's on their mind. Listen to them to avoid problems," he said.

Since the war Almomoir has not had a chance to speak to his family in Baghdad. News of his family came through a friend, whose family also lives in Baghdad.

"There is a checkpoint in front of my friend's family's house. His mother just went up to one of the Marines and

asked him if he could help her call her son. The Marine let her use the phone so she was able to call him and she told him. She told him to let me know that my family was doing just fine," said Almomoir.

As the end of the war nears Almomoir said he wished he could share what he is feeling with all Americans, especially the troops of 1st Armored Division, who are deploying.

"We will always appreciate what the Americans have done for us, and we hope we will be able to show our gratitude. I hope that they will all return safely. I really mean that. They have put a smile on the face of the Iraqi people. God bless them all," he said.

"My wish is that they can build a free country. I hope that Iraq will have a government for everybody, not made up by only one group like Shiites or any other single religious group. I hope for one Iraq. A place for everybody," he said.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

SAS youths help Easter Bunny

School-Age Services youths made Easter baskets for children in the community as part of their Citizenship Club community project. SAS director Eric Hammonds hands a basket to Megan and Autumn Simpson as their father, Spc. Kenneth Simpson of HHB, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, looks on.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Observe German quiet hours

Soldiers, tenant units and housing area residents are reminded to observe German quiet hours in accordance with host nation laws. Quiet hours are May 1 to Aug. 31 from 1-3 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., and Sept. 1 to April 30 from 1-3 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Quiet hours on Sunday and German holidays are from midnight to midnight. During these times all noise that might disturb others such as loud music or the use of power tools is prohibited. During all other times noise should not become a nuisance to neighboring residents.



Relocation assistance for spouses

The Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program offers assistance to spouses who decide to return to the United States during deployment. Spouses are allowed to use services at any military installation, and the staff at the Relocation Readiness Program provides returning spouses with information about the nearest military installation as well as details about the area they are moving to. For details call Patricia Harper at mil 343-6910 or Candice Grizer at mil 343-6963.

Travel with Outdoor Rec

Giessen Outdoor Recreation features a trip to **Europa Park** May 3. A **Czech crystal shopping trip** to Karlovy Vary and the Asian flea market takes place May 10. For prices and departure times call Giessen Outdoor Rec at mil 343-8202.

Auto Crafts update

The Giessen and Friedberg Auto Crafts Centers offer airport van service for individuals or families including front door pick-up. Offered are one way or round trips. Car storage is also available. Both shops offer car detailing and car rental. For more information call Auto Crafts in Giessen at mil 343-7050 or Friedberg at mil 324-3218.

Children's display at the Alpine Club

School-Age Services invites everybody to a Character Counts exhibit May 19 from 5-6 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot.

Featured will be a display of children's artwork. Information about the various character programs is also available, and refreshments will be provided. For details call mil 343-6951.

YS Teen party May 17

The Keystone Club sponsors a Teen Party May 17 from 8-11 p.m. at Butzbach Youth Services. Cost is \$3 per person if ticket is bought before May 15 or \$5 at the door. For details call mil 343-8216.

Ladies night at the Woodland

Giessen's Woodland Club features 'Ladies Night' every Friday from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Ladies pay no cover charge. For more information on events in the Woodland Club call Richard Wilson at mil 343-6183.

Health Fair to be held May 16

The 284th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness Centers host a Health and Wellness Fair May 16

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. Free health services include cholesterol and blood pressure checks and fitness demonstrations. Door prizes will be awarded. For details call mil 343-7201/8206.

Mail pickup in Bad Nauheim

The 55th Postal Company offers mail pickup 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.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date is May 9 for all housing areas. Put bulk trash items outside the night before. For details call Monika Nelson at mil 343-7161/6627.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Around the community . . . Around the community

AER kicks off

The annual Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign which kicked off in March runs through May 15. Donations are used to help soldiers, retirees and their family members in times of financial crisis. Contact your unit keyperson or Staff Sgt. Windy Ramel at mil 322-8144, civ (06181) 88-8144 to contribute. Information on AER is available by calling mil 321-4786 or mil 322-9525.

VA briefing

Learn about veteran's benefits May 12 from 9-11 a.m. in the Army Career and Alumni Program office in Room 325, Building 11 on Pioneer Kaserne. Individual appointments can be made after the briefing.

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 youths in 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.

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 will be provided for children up to 5 years of age. Food and fellowship will follow. For more information call civ (06181) 520272 or 520422.

10-K run

The American Red Cross hosts their fifth annual 10-kilometer Run May 17 at Pioneer Kaserne. The race begins at 11 a.m. and will be followed by a children's run. Contact Tracy Melancon at mil 322-1760 for details.

Become a dental assistant

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.

CYS registration

Community children can participate in activities ranging from mar-

tial 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.

Awana Club welcomes youths

The Awana Club, a self-paced Christian children's organization, meets every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at Argonner Elementary School on Old Argonner Kaserne. The club is open to all children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Activities include games, sing-alongs, Scripture reading and more. Call civ (06181) 520277 for details.

Toddlers at play

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.

Spring Bazaar

Shop a variety of vendors from across Europe at the third annual Morale Welfare Recreation Spring Into Spring Bazaar May 9-11. Vendors will sell antiques, furniture, art prints, Polish pottery, clothes, European foods, jewelry and more. A

Celebrate the Children Fest will also be held at the same time at Illusions Roller Rink at Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center.

National Pet Week

Celebrate National Pet Week in the Hanau community Saturday May 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Veterinary Clinic on New Argonner Kaserne. Enjoy a fun walk, an obstacle course, the best trick contest, a pet and owner look-alike contest, a military working dog demonstration and discounted vaccinations for pets. For more information contact the Hanau Vet Clinic at mil 322-8160 or civ (06181) 88-8160.

Volunteer recognition

An award ceremony for 414th Base Support Battalion volunteers will be held at the International Club May 2 from 6-10 p.m. The presentation will be followed by cocktails and dance music for the evening.

AFTB classes

Arm yourself with resources for dealing with daily Army life by taking Army Family Team Building Level I classes May 5-7 from 6-8 p.m. Learn how to expand your existing leadership skills May 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone interested in seeking an instructor role for

AFTB can join the Train the Trainer Level IV course May 19-21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spanish and German speaking instructors are encouraged to attend. Enhance your relationships with others and get to know yourself in the process May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free or reduced cost child care is available for most classes. Contact Charlotte Riley at mil 322-5308 or civ (06181) 88-5308 for details and reservations.

Thrift Shop opens

The Hanau Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following Saturdays: May 3, 10 and 17. No consigned items will be accepted at that time. Consigner items will be extended and consigner checks will be available for pick up. If further assistance is needed call mil 322-8847 and leave a message.

Register with IACS

Installation pass holders can register in the Installation Access Control System in Building 24 on Pioneer Kaserne from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pass holders need to contact their sponsoring official for information on necessary paperwork. Department of Defense ID card holders can register in Building 21 on Pioneer from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ID card holders need a copy of their orders and amendments that reflect their correct date of departure. Family members do not need to be with their sponsors to register. Units may schedule large groups by contacting Staff Sgt. David Henson at mil 322-9009. All individuals must register with IACS before Sept. 1.

Tripping with Outdoor Rec

Take a family trip to **Holiday Park** May 3. May 10 shop for **Neustadt crystal** as well as **Villero & Boch**, the **Christkindlmarkt** store and many more. Join the **International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes** May 15-19. Stop in **Carcassonne** to see the medieval castle built by **Ludwig the Saint**, celebrate **Holy Mass** with the bishop in **Lourdes** and tour the city as well as many other famous sites. Experience **Büdingen Wellness** May 16 — get a facial, manicure and pedicure and a tour of Büdingen. Take the children to **Legoland** May 17. May 22-28 join the Memorial Day weekend trip to **Costa Brava, Spain**. Day trip to **Barcelona** and stay on the **Costa Brava** beach. For more information and to make reservations contact **Hanau Outdoor Recreation** in Building 459 on Old Argonner Kaserne or call civ (06181) 88-8891, mil 322-8891.



Photo by Lt. Col. James Schrote

Like a beetle folding back its wings

Soldiers from 2-501st Aviation fold back the rotor blades of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to prepare it for transport by ship to the Persian Gulf. The aircraft blades are folded back over the body of the helicopter and the entire aircraft is shrink-wrapped to protect it during shipment. (See the next issue for more on the unit's deployment.)

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

BSB deploys equipment fast, safely

By Ria Martinez

414th Base Support Battalion Safety Office

"In 10 days the 414th Base Support Battalion processed over 1,100 pieces of deployable equipment with absolutely no accidents or injuries," said 414th BSB commander Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz. "A 100 percent safe operation of that magnitude is an accomplishment to be proud of."

The equipment which belongs to 4th Brigade and 1-1st Cavalry is headed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The short turn-around time ensures the 1st Armored Division will be mission ready when they land in the Central Command area of responsibility, officials said.

Before the tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, trucks and other equipment could deploy, they had to pass a rigorous

series of inspections and a potentially dangerous loading process. Five stations are set up in the Installation Staging Areas to inspect vehicles and cargo for proper documentation and to verify "unit-level maintenance and a thorough safety inspection of each vehicle," said Capt. Lewis Evans, the ISA deployment officer in charge. The vehicles are also checked for "the appropriate level of fuel which is determined by the type of deployment — rail, ship or convoy."

The ISAs were running 24-hour a day operations at times.

"The hardest part of the operation was working in confined spaces at night," said Evans. "To reduce risks we deliberately lowered the pace and brought in all available light sets and reflective materials we could find. However the key to safety was the awareness of the risks on the part of our

soldiers and our great civilians who tirelessly monitored the many stages of these operations."

A five-step safety risk management process was integrated into all planning meetings long before any vehicles made it to the inspection point. This raised safety awareness and established a safety network for all personnel involved in the deployment operations. Throughout the ISA and railhead operations the safety standards were first briefed and then enforced. Every soldier and civilian knew that he or she could stop the entire operation if they saw a safety hazard or felt someone was in harm's way.

"I just want to say to all our people who worked the ISAs and railheads that without you and your visibly hard work it could not have happened," said Mraz. "Thanks for all you've done."



Photo by Karl Weisel

Mohammed Awan (with yellow helmet), 414th BSB safety officer, ensures all protective measures are taken to guarantee a safe rail loading experience at the Pioneer Railhead during the loading of 1-501st Aviation vehicles and equipment for eventual shipment to the Persian Gulf region.

HCSC gives \$15,000 in scholarships

By Gail Dillon

Hanau Community Spouses Club volunteer

Five Hanau High School seniors and 11 local adults will head off to college this fall with a little more money in their pockets thanks to the Hanau Community Spouses Club. The club's scholarship committee recently selected the winners from a pool of 24 applicants and will award \$15,000 in scholarship monies.

The 2002-2003 Hanau High School student winners are Shonda Butler, Vaughn Cotham, Kristen James, Jorge Renjifo-Mundo and

Elizabeth You. The adult recipients are Rana Cox, Cassandra Core-Holt, Jade Freund, Elisabeth Fritz, Anastasia Haff-Chase, Charlotte Riley, Karen Meier, Natasha Moore, Stephanie Moore-Mitchell, Jennifer Sturgeon and Renardo Yearby.

Michelle Swanson, chairman of the scholarship committee, said all of the money comes from proceeds earned from the annual bazaar held on Fliegerhorst Kaserne each fall. "That's really our biggest fundraiser of the year," Swanson said, adding that HCSC collected about \$30,000 from this year's bazaar. Core-Holt, an adult student pursuing a

degree in psychology at the University of Maryland, said she felt "blessed and very grateful" after learning she won another scholarship. She earned a \$500 scholarship last year and said it helped significantly in paying for classes and books. Core-Holt plans to earn a graduate degree so she can eventually counsel women and children. "As long as we're (stationed) here I'm going to keep going to school," she said.

Hanau High school senior Shonda Butler said she was surprised and excited to learn she was selected for a scholarship. She intends to put the

majority of the money toward books when she starts classes at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte next fall. "I've always wanted to go into something where it's something different all the time," Butler said. She plans to study criminal justice and work as a child and youth counselor. She also wants to help innocent victims of crimes, particularly children.

High school applicants are judged on grades, volunteer and extra-curricular activities, involvement in sports and employment, and awards and honors. They also must write a short essay and submit two recommendation letters. Adult applicants

must submit college transcripts and are also evaluated on community and volunteer activities, employment history and their response to two short answer compositions. In addition they are required to turn in two reference letters.

All of the prizes, including the top scholarship of \$3,000, will be handed out at an awards ceremony May 14 at the International Club. Others are welcome to attend.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and costs \$9.

For reservations contact Jamie Linderman at mil 322-9492 or civ (06181)88-9492.

Chaplains shepherd the troops

By Melody Joy Fields

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Members of the 1st Armored Division preparing to deploy are packing their duffels and rucksacks, drawing weapons and getting ready for battle.

That includes most soldiers except the chaplains, who are getting ready for ministry.

“Chaplains will not carry weapons,” said 414th Base Support Battalion Deputy Staff Chaplain (Maj.) Arley Longworth. Chaplains are in the same non-combatant category as medics. While a medic may pick up a weapon to defend him- or herself against attack, the Chaplain of the Army has said no chaplain will be armed under any circumstance, said Longworth. “The chaplain’s assistant will, and that’s one of their major missions, to protect the chaplain. That’s why chaplains drive, so the enlisted can fire.”

Rucksack deployable communion

In place of an ammunition pouch, Army chaplains carry a small nylon box called a chaplain’s kit. “It’s the ultimate traveling communion set,” said 501st Forward Support Battalion Chaplain (Capt.) Alan Leonard. The kit holds an Army issue stole, Army green altar linens, a screw together steel cross and communion goblet, plastic bottles of sacramental wine and water, anointing oil for the sick and communion wafers. The pouch fits onto the load bearing equipment belt or rucksack.

“I use it every time I go to the field,” said Leonard. “It’s easy to carry and has everything I need for a service. They also have a Jewish version and a Muslim version.”

Chaplains serving with a combat unit have to be as mobile as the soldiers around them. “A big part of my job is talking to soldiers one on one, what I like to call a ministry of presence — walking around talking to soldiers, seeing how they’re doing,” said Leonard.

“When I was with an artillery unit I held short services at each gun as I walked the gun line,” said Longworth. Even in a rear area equipped with a chapel tent, duty often keeps soldiers away from services. “You go gun to gun, or you go to the APC (armored person-



Photo by Lt. Col. Howard Malone

Chaplain (Maj.) Arley Longworth gives an Easter message at Fliegerhorst Chapel. Ten chaplains from the 414th BSB are deploying with their units to the Persian Gulf or have already left.

nel carrier) and stick your head in and share a thought, have a prayer for them and offer communion.

“Anywhere I could find two or three soldiers, I let them know I cared. They’re out there wet and muddy, and to see a chaplain wet and muddy, they know you care about them. It’s limited only to the creativity of the chaplain. You make do with what you have,” he said.

The unit’s conscience

In addition to providing services, chaplains serve as command staff. “I advise the command on religion, morals and morale,” said Leonard. “And with increased likelihood of contact with civilians and civilian governments, an important role will be to make my commander aware of the many specific religious requirements in the area — if there are any holy sites that we need to protect or any religious customs and courtesies of the local area.”

“We’re one of the big proponents of adhering to the laws of warfare,” said Longworth. “You make sure prisoners of war are treated humanely, and if there are any concerns, you bring it up to the command. We become the conscience of the unit. If

something’s going on with a unit or squad that’s not right, we bring it to the attention of the commander.”

Chaplains also keep their thumb on the pulse of the unit. “I believe the chaplaincy is very important for support of the readiness of the unit and deployment operations,” said Leonard. His unit, part of the Ready First Combat Team, will deploy along with the rest of the brigade in the coming weeks. “In a battalion the chaplain is the only person you can talk to where you have complete privacy of what you say.”

“During a deployment, chaplains give people permission to be human,” said Longworth. “We help to bring normality and let people know it’s OK just to be a human being.”

Providing this kind of morale boost brings both aspects of a chaplain’s job — military adviser and soldier’s minister — together.

Shepherding the unit

The primary role of a chaplain, however, is as a minister, said Longworth. “Of course you’re the religious leader doing multiple services. When I was in the Gulf the first time I was doing seven services a week,” he said.

“Providing religious support to soldiers covers a whole range of things,” said Leonard.

“It would include providing worship opportunities for all the different religious communities in my battalion. Obviously I cannot lead a Roman Catholic service or a Jewish service, so I need to coordinate with people who can lead those services to come into my area and provide them.

“For the Muslim soldiers we have Korans and a place where they can go and pray,” said Longworth. “We keep Jewish prayer books and Scriptures for them. In Saudi we would take all the Jewish soldiers back to where they could meet with other Jews and a rabbi.”

Next to the area chapel tent the chaplains set up a Bedouin tent where the Muslim soldiers go to pray.

Ministry of presence

Ministry, however, often happens outside the church, synagogue or mosque.

“My main focus is being there for the soldiers,” said Longworth. “You may be off at war, but your primary focus is with the soldiers, helping them deal with life situations, with decisions they make, helping them deal with family separations and sometimes helping them deal with the things they’ve seen and been through during combat.

“Besides just normal counseling, you become a trusted friend and confidant. People seek you out just to talk to you. I spent many an evening there in the Gulf just sitting looking at the stars and talking to someone about family, war, mortality, kids, home — anything and everything,” he said.

“I think for me the biggest issues are going to be family separations,” said Leonard. “Depending on how much hostile fire we deal with there could be issues of fear and combat stress. And I think boredom is going to be an issue.”

But this ministry of presence is what Longworth feels is the heart of a chaplain’s work. “The best ministry of my entire life has been during deployment,” he said, “both during Desert Shield and Storm and in Bosnia during Joint Endeavor, because all the distractions are taken away and you are dealing with real life stuff.

“I get to do exactly what I love and that’s my job — to be able to do ministry and to be a soldier,” said Longworth.

Chapel services reduced following deployments

By Melody Joy Fields

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Local religious services in Hanau and Büdingen will be affected by the deployment of unit chaplains from the Hanau area, said officials.

“We’re having to consolidate,” said 414th Base Support Battalion Deputy Staff Chaplain (Maj.) Arley Longworth. “We had 13 chaplains of whom five are already gone and five are about to be gone. So of course we’re not going to be able to have as many services as we used to have.” (See page 23 for service schedule.)

But Longworth emphasized that “services are still going on.” All of the services led by lay leaders or by contracted civilian pastors will remain as they are. Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal, Spanish Catholic Mass and Church or God in Christ congregations will maintain their normal service schedule, he said.

Catholic Mass will still be celebrated Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with Chaplain (Capt.) Krzysztof Kopec, but the noon Mass will not be held on the third Thursday of each month. In addition to joining the duty chaplain roster with Longworth and 414th BSB Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Aupke, Chaplain Kopec “is going to be working with the 284th BSB out of Giessen and Friedberg to help provide guidance and assist with the parish council,” said Longworth.

“With two Protestant chaplains, what we’re having to do is have a Protestant service at Pioneer and a Protestant service at Fliegerhorst,” said Longworth. “At Büdingen, until we get a reserve chaplain, we’re having a family worship ministry.

“We’re trying to keep it as normal as possible with the limitations. Life continues on, but with a whole lot less people,” he said.

With that in mind, lay ministries such as the Protestant Women of the Chapel, Catholic Women of the Chapel and the AWANA Kids Club program are also working overtime. “Normally PWOC and AWANA take a break in the summertime,” said Longworth, “but they’re both working on having something that continues on during the summer.”



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The reduced number of chaplains in the community also means fewer chaplains to speak with family members. “There have been times when spouses of deployed soldiers just need to talk,” and that ministry is a priority for the chaplains who are not deploying, said Longworth.

Family members wishing to speak with a chaplain can make an appointment through their rear detachment commanders.