

Inside

Wishing them well
Farewell ceremonies and family fairs throughout the 104th Area Support Group marked the deployment of 1st Armored Division soldiers to Iraq. See pages 10, 17 and 21.



'Snoopy!!!'
Joe Cool beagle and his friends take over center stage at Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse. See page 15 for that story and coverage of the Army Europe's Tournament of Plays.



Staying attuned
Bad Nauheim students turn off the television for a week to tune in to the written word. See page 27.



Herald Union



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Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

May 13, 2003

Newsflash

Summer safety

The "101 Days of Summer" is historically a hazardous time for the Army in Europe, said safety officials. Accidents increase during the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The European tri-service safety theme for 2003 is "Play it Safe this Summer." Everyone can play a role in safeguarding him- or herself, friends and family by only swimming in authorized areas, never mixing drinking and driving, and always being on the lookout for potentially hazardous behavior. For a list of authorized swimming areas in the 104th Area Support Group visit the 104th ASG home page at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil and click on "Authorized swimming areas" on the bottom of the page.

Sanchez tapped for V Corps command

Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander, has been nominated for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general with assignment as commanding general, V Corps. Sanchez is currently serving with the 1st Armored Division in Iraq. (DoD Release)

Dold update

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has established a refund process for customers of Dold Exquisit, which filed for bankruptcy. Refund requests should be made to Thomas J. Hogan, services business manager at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Consolidated Exchange, at mil 489-7481 or civ (0631) 3541 182. Credit card customers are again encouraged to cancel their orders. Customers who paid by check are also encouraged to stop payment if possible and seek protection from their bank. (Courtesy of James Federline, USFLO)



Photo by Donna Dean

A dramatic kiss

Dulcibella (played by Marie Putko) squeals as the King (Jonathan Dean) kisses her hand in the one-act play, "The Ugly Duckling," presented by Wiesbaden's Gen. H.H. Arnold High School students. The students were among some 120 DoDDS students who traveled from as far away as Iceland and Turkey to take part in the festival held at the Wiesbaden school. See page 6 of this edition for the story and more photos.

Force protection support

ASG, 1st AD thank Bundeswehr

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Despite strained ties at higher political and diplomatic levels, a robust German-American partnership and friendship on the ground was very much in evidence at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center April 29. Over 150 Bundeswehr soldiers, Bundesgrenzschutz guards and Polizei gathered with their 104th Area Support Group and 1st Armored Division hosts to be recognized for their vital role in maintaining security at American installations before, during and

since the recent war in Iraq.

Since January over 2,500 soldiers from about 50 units have rotated in and out of 104th ASG communities providing manpower for force protection operations, said Oberstleutnant (Lt. Col.) Michael Guhr of Wehrbereichskommando II.

"The guarding of caserns is not unusual. It's a part of our normal mission, as in peace time," said Oberst (Col.) Bernd Kaltenbach, commander of Verteidigungsbezirkskommando 46, which is based in Saarlouis. "What is unusual is soldiers from the Federal Republic overall, from the Alps to

Realignment 284th BSB communities to draw down in coming years

The Department of Defense today announced April 30 that U.S. Army Europe will partially close the Giessen General Depot and return its other facilities in Giessen, Friedberg, Butzbach, Wetzlar and Bad Nauheim in fiscal 2006-2008 as part of the U.S. Army's Efficient-Basing East project.

The closures will be completed incrementally during that time as brigade combat team assets are consolidated at one location. The concentration of assets at one site will enhance both training and deployment readiness by putting six battalion-sized units adjacent to their major training area, officials said (see page 17). Termed "Efficient-Basing East," the project is in keeping with the Army's goal to station a brigade combat team on a single installation and deploy a brigade combat team anywhere in the world. As such, the facilities in and around Giessen were identified as excess to the needs of the U.S. Army in Europe for military operational reasons.

In fiscal 2006 the MacArthur Family Housing Area in Friedberg,

the George Gershwin Family Housing Area in Wetzlar and the Alvin York Village Family Housing Area in Bad Nauheim will be returned to Germany. In fiscal 2007 operations at the Ray Barracks in Friedberg, the Friedberg Training and Storage Area, Schloss Kaserne in Butzbach and the Roman Way Village family housing area will end. In fiscal 2008 facilities in Giessen, including Pendleton Barracks, the John F. Dulles Village Housing Area, the George C. Marshall Village Family Housing Area and the Giessen military community facilities will be closed. Operations at the Butzbach training area and range will terminate in 2008 as well. Also in fiscal 2008, the partial closure of the Giessen Depot will occur.

As a result of these closures, USAREUR will inactivate the 284th Base Support Battalion and local elements of the 104th Area Support Group after completion of the move in fiscal 2007 and 2008.

Overall the closures will impact approximately 3,400 soldiers and some 5,000 family members. A total

See *Realign* on page 4



Photo by Karl Weisel
Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez thanks Generalmajor Christian E.O. Milotatt and his soldiers for their support.

the Baltic, are coming into an area where the Bundeswehr is no longer stationed, Hessen and the Rheinland-Pfalz. So we have to move in soldiers from very far away. And we have a rotation that interferes with training, every two or three weeks. This is sometimes a challenge of logistics," he said.

"The 104th is the largest ASG in the Army," said Col. George A. Latham II, 104th ASG commander. "We are gathered here this afternoon to say thank you. Since 9-11 all in this room have built a bond together. The great support from See *Support* on page 4

Commentary

Feedback: What is your favorite professional sports team and why?



Staff Sgt. Steven Day
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
222nd Base Support Battalion

"My favorite team is the Pittsburgh Steelers. They're my hometown football team and I've been watching them since I was old enough to sit in front of a TV."



Cassandra Rawls
Bad Nauheim Elementary School
kindergarten teacher's aide

"I never focus on anybody; I just watch the sport. I used to watch the Bulls because of Michael Jordan, but now that he's gone I'm just pretty much a fanatic for all sports. It's just the fantastic shots — it doesn't matter who makes them."



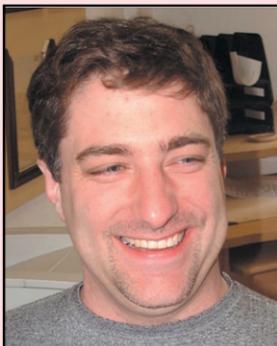
Spc. Jordan Palys
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
104th Area Support Group

"The New Orleans Saints. All the heart in the world, very little talent, but I'm from there. They're trying their best and they're making their way. They finally won one playoff game in their franchise history. If they can do that, they can win two and from there it's on to the Super Bowl."



Lt. Col. Todd Buchs
222nd Base Support Battalion commander

"I'd say the Boston Celtics. For one thing they've always been a winning team. They've had a lot of great players over the years going back to John Havlicek and Larry Bird. They've always been a solid team and I enjoyed watching them — the aura that exists there with the arena and the whole thing. I'd like to take my son someday."



Michael S. Troop
chief illustrator, S-2/3,
104th Area Support Group

"I'm not into professional sports that much. I prefer off-road rally racing. If I had to pick a team I'd say the Mitsubishi rally team. They're professional drivers with a high sense of sportsmanship. They actually got out of a race to help a crashed driver and fell from first to fifth place because of it. You don't see that in pro sports."

Be alert to suicide

By Lori Pineda
104th Area Support Group Health Promotion

Suicide is the second largest killer of American uniformed services personnel after accidental death.

The Department of the Army developed a suicide prevention campaign plan after experiencing a 26 percent increase in active duty suicides between 1997 and 1999. In 2002 there were 65 confirmed suicide deaths in the Army, four of them in Germany. Profiles indicate that victims were predominantly married Caucasian males, age 21-25 and rank E-1 to E-4, having relationship problems.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health there were 29,350 suicide deaths in the United States in 2002, making it the 11th leading cause of death in the nation. Homicide, by contrast, ranked 14th.

Suicide was the third leading cause of death among people ages 15-24 years of age. Men's suicide deaths outnumber those among women by a ratio of 4:1. Suicide by firearms was the most common method, accounting for 57 percent of all suicides.

Everyone in the Army should know the risk factors. They include:

⚡ Impending deployments ⚡ Family or relationship problems ⚡ Alcohol or drug abuse ⚡ Inability to cope ⚡ A history of behavior or emotional problems ⚡ Feelings of isolation ⚡ Available lethal means.

Know the indicators and warning signs:

☹ Unexplained changes in behavior ☹ Increase or decrease in alcohol use ☹ Change in sleep patterns ☹ Change in job performance ☹ Unexplained depression ☹ More time spent alone or withdrawn ☹ Speaking about suicide as a solution to a problem.

How can you help someone who is suicidal?

Early recognition and treatment can save lives. One should seek professional help if experiencing depressive symptoms that last more than two weeks. Individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts must seek professional

help immediately — contact your local medical or mental health provider, Social Work Services, chaplain or Family Advocacy Program.

Crisis intervention does not have to be the work of a trained professional. Anyone who knows of a possible suicide attempt or gesture can intervene to save a life. Once you are aware of such a possibility you are already involved. Anyone, whether trained or not, can provide immediate "buddy aid" to someone thinking about suicide. The key is showing concern and not walking away.

The 104th Area Support Group's Base Support Battalion Health Promotion Councils have established a Suicide Prevention Task Force in each community that meets quarterly. They identify community health needs and coordinate health promotion programs based on identified needs. Suicide prevention is one of their top priorities.

We are often reminded these days to remain vigilant in terms of our external surroundings, but it is equally important to be watchful of our internal feelings and those of the soldiers with whom we live and work. We must pay attention to each other's emotions and give each other support, especially in times of difficulties.

The Department of Defense has named 2003 the Year for Suicide Prevention. In response the Army has contracted to develop the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop. It trains anyone who might come in contact with a soldier at risk for suicide to take immediate lifesaving action until a mental health professional can be alerted.

The first ASIST workshop will be held June 5-6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Hanau. Call mil 322-1570, civ (06181) 88-1570 to register. For more information about suicide prevention and to download the Army Suicide Prevention Manual, point your browser to www.hooah4health.com/toolbox/suicide/default.htm.

Guests can drive POVs

By Robert Szostek
Installation Management Agency-Europe
Public Affairs

Visitors of soldiers and civilians stationed in Germany can get U.S. Army Europe authority to drive a USAREUR-plated vehicle.

"For immediate family members, just go to your local military customs office and fill out an application form," said Anja Rowland, USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal Customs Executive Agency.

A customs authorization can be provided if visitors have an international driver's license for Germany issued in the United States

or their country of residence.

Any military customs office can approve applications for direct family members. For friends and non-immediate family members, the sponsor must apply to the USAREUR OPM Host Nation Customs Policy Branch.

The exception allows guests to drive a USAREUR-plated vehicle in Germany for up to 90 days after their arrival in Europe.

Surf to www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom3.htm for exact procedures and the link to download an application form. Call any military customs office or mil 381-7610, civ (0621) 730 7610 for assistance.



Herald Union

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News and features

News flash

AAFES flowers

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service website, www.aafes.com, now features FTD.com in its CentriMall. Shoppers have the option of sending flowers and other gifts anywhere in the world through FTD, "the world's largest floral services organization." AAFES customers receive a 15 percent discount on FTD purchases. (AAFES Release)

Customs warning

In September 2002 Foot and Mouth Disease was eradicated in the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland. However bovine spongiform encephalopathy or Mad Cow Disease is prevalent throughout Europe. All animal products such as meats, beer or pork (fresh, frozen, chilled, canned or dried), animal parts, hair, milk and yogurt is still prohibited entry to the United States. Commercially produced butter and hard cheese that contains no meat bits is not restricted entry. Customs will continue to inspect for these prohibited items whether brought in for personal use or sent by mail. Those who try to smuggle these items to the United States risk being fined in excess of \$1,000 by Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection officials. (Courtesy of W.L. Manning, EUCOM agriculture adviser)

Drug testing, training

All civilian employees assigned to the 104th Area Support Group will be required to take three hours of substance abuse training in the future. Department of Defense civilian employees in selected occupational series will also be required to be randomly selected for urinalysis testing. These include positions which require the incumbent to maintain a top secret clearance or have access to sensitive compartmented information, to carry firearms, handle munitions or explosives, treat substance abusers, fight fires, operate motor vehicles, aviation flight crew members, air traffic controllers, railroad operating crews and several other duties. For more information about the program call Richard Stock at mil 322-8353. (104th ASG ADCO)

Veteran refunds

Veterans insured by the Hartford Life Insurance Company or the USAA Life Insurance Company may be eligible for a refund of their Veterans Affairs copayments. In a recent settlement with the Department of Veterans Affairs and a coalition of insurance industry groups, Hartford and USAA paid VA approximately \$11.1 million. The settlement involves payments for care provided by VA to insured veterans with Medicare or Tricare supplemental coverage from Jan. 1, 1995, through Dec. 31, 2001. Veterans may ask VA for a refund of their copayments on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests must be post-marked by April 1, 2004. VA will notify by mail those veterans who may be eligible for refunds according to records on file. Other veterans who believe they are eligible can get a claims application by visiting the VA website at www.va.gov/hotopic. (VA News Release)

Voting slogan contest

People have until July 11 to submit their entry in this year's Federal Voting Assistance voters' slogan contest. The winning slogan will be featured in the voter awareness campaign materials and on the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov. All submissions must include the participant's full name, (service, if military), mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number and email address (if applicable). Send entries via email to slogan@fvap.ncr.gov (only one per email). Include the slogan in the body of the message rather than as an attachment, officials said. (Courtesy of Frankfurt Heute)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens

Iraqi images

Women line up to get propane cooking gas in Mosul. Photo right: Iraqi citizens examine an M1-A1 Abrams tank in Baghdad.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

What can be brought back?

Know the rules on Iraqi 'war trophies,' souvenirs

By Spc. Bill Putnam
Army News Service

Some U.S. soldiers are being investigated for illegally sending weapons or war trophies home from Iraq. While still under investigation, the recent smuggling case of a soldier allegedly sending gold-plated firearms home from Iraq is probably an example of commanders and soldiers not understanding the potential value of such trophies, said David Cole, a curator at the Army Center of Military History.

What some soldiers might not know is that it is possible to send weapons home if certain paperwork is filed, said Cole, who also works on Army museum policy at Fort McNair. Defining the word "war trophy" is a matter of semantics and legality, Cole said.

It wasn't until after the Grenada and the Panama invasions that the Army recognized most military museums were filled with items taken from past battlefields and drafted a policy governing war trophies, Cole said. That policy was first implemented in Operation Desert Storm and continues to this day in places such as Kosovo, Afghanistan and, now, Iraq.

In the regulation that governs historical artifacts, AR 870-20, war trophies are defined as something an individual soldier brings home from war — a helmet, uniform, flag or even a weapon.

An individual soldier buying an item from a market is legal as long as receipts are maintained, Cole said. "But finding a prayer rug in a bunker during a battle and taking it home is illegal." An infantry battalion collecting something to send home shouldn't confuse it as a war trophy. "It's federal property," he said.

There are also units called Military History Detachments that collect artifacts to be sent home for research and archiving, Cole said. What they do can't be construed as war trophy collection either, said Cole. "The question is of title," Cole said of the collection of artifacts from a battlefield.

Commanders in the past have issued General Orders banning all trophies because they didn't want to administer all of the paperwork involved, Cole said. "The problem with that is that some people don't recognize the legitimate need for the Army as opposed to hanging it in some dayroom."

From the Army's perspective, sending home weapons, such as AK-47s and even tanks, has two purposes: historical and scientific. The items are used by the Army to document and analyze the immediate after effects of a battle or war. Tanks, like Iraqi T-72s or T-55s, were brought home simply to learn "how they fought that war and how they might fight the next one."

The current Army policy in place is that a battalion can bring home one weapon, Cole said. Each brigade-level unit is allowed to send home three such weapons, he added.

There isn't a restriction on the number of items such as helmets or uniforms that a unit can send, though, Cole added. A recent example of the Army sending something home

comes from Operation Just Cause, the December 1989 invasion of Panama to depose Manuel Noriega's government. After hostilities ended with the dictator's capture, the Army brought home his gun collection, said Cole. Assuming it wasn't taken during the mass looting that ensued after Iraq's liberation, the Army could bring home Saddam Hussein's gun collection, but not his coin collection because that's a cultural artifact.

Cole said the big question of when to send something home is whether the country is at war. He pointed out the country's involvement in the Balkans in the 1990s. The country wasn't at war with Bosnia in December 1995. It was the opposite, a peacekeeping mission, Cole said. Units or individual soldiers couldn't take anything home unless a local farmer gave a unit or individual soldier a weapon with the proper paperwork.

Kosovo, however, was a war and trophies could be taken. Anything taken by units would have been protected under international law.

Currently there is an officer at Army Central Command headquarters who acts as a facilitator for requests for war trophies. That officer forwards those requests to the Department of the Army. If the paperwork meets the guidelines, an approval document is sent from DA. The document clears the weapon's passage through customs and it's brought back with the unit's equipment and is noted on the unit's property books.

Individual soldiers sending weapons home is a different matter, Cole said. Before 1968, soldiers could send weapons home without much of a problem. That year Congress passed the 1968 Gun Control Act, which, among other things, made it illegal to send weapons through the mail.

It also created a weapons registry and a tax that a gun owner would have to pay on that weapon, Cole said.

The Department of the Treasury administered the registry and eventually closed it, making it impossible to register and pay the tax, thus making the weapons illegal to own, Cole said.

There are exceptions to the act, said Cole. Army regulations state there are weapons a soldier can send home legally. A 35th Signal Brigade soldier sending an 1856 Musketoon rifle home from Afghanistan last year is a case in point.

Because the weapon was made before 1898, it was an exception to the long list of banned weapons on the 1968 Gun Control Act's list. Not only was it made before 1898, the soldier also filled out the proper paperwork to bring it home.

"The key there is that he bought it," Cole said. "It wasn't something he took from somewhere."

Those gold-plated weapons from Iraq were sent home illegally, Cole said. That soldier will face Uniform Code of Military Justice charges if it is proven that he sent those weapons home.

"A gold-plated weapon or knife wouldn't be worth my career," Cole said. "To say the least, the legality of all this is complicated."

News and features

CSM Lady: 'We've made great strides'

By Bob Purteman

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

For more than 18 years of his 29-year career, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army Command Sgt. Maj. David Lady has served his country in the European theater. That time will soon come to an end, as he soon turns over responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens.

Lady's next assignment will be at one of the Army's newest major commands — the Space and Missile Defense Command, at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"In my three years, I've seen USAREUR develop into a more deployable, more useful land component in service of our nation and the European Command," he said. "I'm not surprised at the changes that have taken place. We have made great strides in the past three years. I'm very glad the vision of the leaders that had planned, prepared and executed our transformation was realized.

Two big changes Lady mentioned were the addition of a new battalion to the Southern European Task Force and the creation of the Immediate Ready Force.

"We turned our units into lighter, more deployable assets," he explained. "By exercising and training our soldiers quarterly, we have the ability to launch them into a hot location on a moment's notice.

"USAREUR has the land force responsibility for 93 countries on three continents," he said. "Soldiers get the opportunity to train in more countries than the ones stationed in the continental United States do.



Photo by Bob Purteman

Command Sgt. Maj. David Lady speaks to the honor graduates of Professional Leader Development Course graduating class 05-03.

"Soldiers here also get to benefit from some extremely caring and visionary leaders," he added.

In order for USAREUR to remain a great opportunity for soldiers, Lady thinks some things have to be done better on behalf of the enlisted force. "Because self- and professional development are so important in our Army's culture, we need to put more resources into Internet connectivity to allow our soldiers access where they live and work," he said. "We also need a smooth, technologically advanced way for our soldiers to be paid back for the meals that they missed."

One area of concentration during Lady's tenure was living conditions. "We have made great strides improving the living conditions," he explained. "Although I cannot say that every barracks in Europe is a great place to live, they are getting better. We have a long way to go."

USAREUR needs money for infrastructure. Instead of trying to put a band-aid on inadequate facilities at 234 different installations — Lady believes restoration and restructuring will help in quality of life upgrades.

Development of the younger soldiers is something that he firmly believes in and has been a priority during his tenure.

"I think as a group of leaders, particularly noncommissioned leaders, we owe the soldiers the best possible development and counseling system," he said. "We, as leaders can do a much better job of regularly counseling and guiding the professional development of each and every one of our soldiers.

"The only way we leaders can show emphasis is to have our body at the right place at the right time," he explained. "That's the only way we can convince soldiers that we're really interested and care how they're doing and listen to their concerns."

Going to the units and locations to meet soldiers, civilians and family members was the most enjoyable parts of his job and he will miss that part immensely.

"When I started this job on Feb. 12, 2000, I was told to stay out of the Keyes Building (home of the USAREUR command group)," he joked. "It has been a pleasure to follow that direction."

Support

Continued from page 1

the Bundeswehr, the Polizei and Bundesgrenzschutz have greatly increased the security of our installations, from Friedberg to Hanau, Wiesbaden to Strassburg. Bottom line: I've been told on numerous occasions from our families and our service members that they feel protected by our German partners predicated on their professionalism and demeanor. So thanks for all you are doing for making the 104th ASG secure here in the central region. Thanks a lot."

"The contribution you make every day to force protection efforts allows us to focus on our readiness efforts as we prepare for deploying to Iraq," said Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander. "At this time ships are under way transporting our equipment to Kuwait. This task would have been considerably harder without the outstanding support we have received from the Bundeswehr, Polizei and Bundesgrenzschutz. You have brought a sense of security and comfort to our family members that cannot be described. The length of our deployment is undefined, but we leave confident that our families and our installations are well protected. I am confident we can overcome any challenges ahead as long as we sustain the friendship."

"There is no risk, no danger at all, if there

are normal relations between the American community and the soldiers who are protecting them. I think personally there is nothing against this way of burden sharing," said Kaltenbach.

"It is true that both the U.S. and German governments have had a different approach to military intervention in Iraq," said Generalmajor (Maj. Gen.) Christian E.O. Milotatt, commander of WBK II, based in Mainz. "But the German government made clear that Germany would guard American installations should you leave them temporarily. Therefore on behalf of the German secretary of defense, German soldiers and airmen have been guarding American installations since Jan. 24 of this year."

Soldiers have taken up posts at 38 installations across Germany, including 22 in Hessen, with a daily strength of about 1,200 soldiers, he said.

"Our goal was to gain the confidence of our American partners quickly," said Milotatt. "We contribute to reduce the concerns of our comrades in the Iraq war for their dependents in Germany. My soldiers and airmen have experienced how much your servicemen were depended upon, and appreciate that they did their jobs. This has been highly motivating to them. We're happy that the American military could gain so quick and overwhelming a

victory. Now begins the period of nation building. We know how trying this can be.

"We mourn with our U.S. friends for the 137 Americans who lost their lives in the fighting in Iraq. We share in the feelings of the 561 wounded Americans. We hope they will recover soon and come back to their families," said Milotatt.

He thanked his Polizei district command and Bundesgrenzschutz peers for their cooperation and exchange of information. "Thank you again from my side to all the German soldiers and airmen. You brought a grasp of the importance of this job quickly and showed that a truly professional, multinational family of soldiers works together so well when needed."

He concluded his remarks with best wishes for the American soldiers in the process of deploying to Iraq. "Come back with all your soldiers, and God bless you," said Milotatt.

Sanchez and Latham presented awards to representatives of almost 20 units. Afterward Germans and Americans enjoyed refreshments and socializing. "It's been all right, but kind of long in length," said Oberfeldweibel (Sgt. 1st Class) Jens Klee of VBK 1. His greatest challenge was handling both daytime and night-

time details, he said.

"For one, it's very interesting," said Gefreiter (Pvt. 1) Carsten Bruhn of Panzerflugabwehrraketendivision 7. "It helps learn to do our service just right. It's been educational in that respect." Is the American approach to soldiering much different from his Bundeswehr experience. "It's very well organized," he said.

One soldier, who did not wish to be named, reported incidents of disrespect from American soldiers and family members for the soldiers manning the gates, but his was a lone voice.

"With the people we worked together, we had only good experiences and support,"

said Oberfelder (Sgt. 1st Class) Kay Neumann of Panzerpionierkompanie 550. While people occasionally complained to soldiers at the gates, things went smoothly for the most part, he said. "Any ideas we had were accepted and put into practice."

Neumann spent about six weeks on duty in Kaiserslautern before being sent to the 104th ASG. "We tried to speak English with the Americans, or with sign language," he said. He worked with both active duty and Reserve component soldiers and found them both "completely professional."

"I am confident we can overcome any challenges ahead as long as we sustain the friendship."

Realign

Continued from page 1

of approximately 270 U.S. appropriated fund civilians, 140 U.S. nonappropriated fund personnel, and 230 local national civilians will be affected.

U.S. military operations at the retained portion of the Giessen Depot will be the Army and Air Force Exchange

System distribution center and engineer support center. The AAFES distribution center currently employs about 26 U.S. civilians and some 500 local nationals. The Engineer Support Center employs about 12 U.S. civilians and 45 local nationals. Military officials determined the depot remains the most efficient site for these operations in terms of its location and

extensive warehouses.

The engineer support center, an element of Installation Management Agency, Europe Region, is the central administration and distribution point for both issued family housing furniture and unaccompanied personnel housing furnishings throughout the command. (DoD Release)

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Cleanup: a community effort

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

Let's do it. Let's agree to live in clean, neat and orderly housing areas. Thanks to initiatives over the past 18 months (garbage cans instead of dumpsters, renovations, improved Self Help Store), we now have our best chance to clean and maintain our housing areas.

Spring Cleanup is taking place throughout this week with Friday being the day to stay home and concentrate on our common areas. But don't wait until then, start now.

Clean out common areas filled with junk. Attics, basements and common areas need building coordinator leadership and tenant support. It is extremely discouraging to walk through our quarters and find garbage, broken furniture and bulk trash items within our buildings. Not only is this unsightly but it presents a safety and fire hazard as well.

Bulk trash pickups are the first and third Monday of the month.

Items such as mattresses and old unused furniture should be placed near the garbage can areas or in a designated bulk trash pick up point no earlier than 6 p.m. the Sunday before. Common areas such as playgrounds, traffic circles, barbecue areas and schools should have all trash picked up and the lawn mowed by the nearest residents to that particular area. If a recycle container is full, walk or drive to the next one to dispose of garbage rather than just piling the garbage on top of the container.

Be aware of your environment. Several items that are thrown in the trash or placed at bulk trash points are considered hazardous waste. Items such as tires, refrigerators, oils and batteries must be taken to the Hainerberg Self Help Store on Mississippi Strasse for proper disposal.

While at the Self Help Store, take advantage of what is available to help you during Spring Cleanup. Rakes, edgers, trimmers, mowers and other items are available to be checked out. Large blue bags are

available for green waste such as leaves, cut grass and bush trimmings. Fresh flowers can be picked up throughout the week to be planted in and around our housing areas.

Expect enforcement of the Spring Cleanup from your stairwell and village coordinators. It is every resident's responsibility to clean up around our areas. Use this time to get to know your neighbors,

hold a block party or area barbecue. Let's work together to clean up our areas and enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

Sgt. Kevin Dungan trims the edges of the lawn outside his Crestview Housing quarters during last year's Spring Cleanup. Spring Cleanup takes place throughout this week.

Photo by Cassandra Kardeke





SNAP!
Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program
Neighbors helping neighbors
keep their community safe and secure

Be a SNAP volunteer



Welcome
to
Team 221st

Volunteer today and help safeguard your community by:

- ☛ Increasing threat awareness
- ☛ Actively observing your surroundings
- ☛ Watching out for your families and fellow soldiers

Stop by and see the Installation Volunteer Coordinator at Army Community Service in Hainerberg Housing, Building 7790 or call civ (0611) 705-5034. Volunteers are needed at Crestview, Aukamm, Hainerberg, Mainz-Kastel, Dexheim and Mainz-Finthen Housing.