

## Fest features drama, comedy

By Cassandra Kardeke  
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It's true; all sorts of colorful characters can be found in a high school. But what about a ghost, a district attorney, an irritated airline passenger, a waitress and jilted lovers?

These were just some of the characters in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Drama Fest held at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School April 27-30.

About 120 DoDDS Europe students traveled from as far as Iceland and Turkey to participate in the first ever Europe-wide Drama Fest.

"Typically, these are held within the school district depending on the school's budget," said Eric Measells, DoDDS visual and performing arts coordinator. "Holding a DoDDS-wide fest such as this enabled all the schools to participate because it is centrally funded by DoDDS and not the individual schools," he said.

Housing the visiting students with families in the local area also helped keep the costs down.

"We had advertised for months and put the word out to the Wiesbaden community that we were looking for families to house the students. Some families were able to take as many as five students," said Jan Myers, drama instructor at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School. "Without the help from the community we wouldn't have been able to take in all the students who participated in the fest."

Such was the case of Joseph Tenant, a sophomore in Wiesbaden, whose family hosted students from Würzburg High School.

"The family has really been great, we have our own space and a place to rehearse or go over our lines when we're not in workshops and performances here at the school," said Ian Hodges, a junior from Würzburg.

During the first day of the fest, students chose one out of 11 workshops in various categories that included Improvisation Through Shakespeare, stage makeup, mask making, costuming, and the all-time favorite, stage fighting.

"Stage fighting was excellent," said Jonathan Dean, a Gen. H.H. Arnold senior. "Ms. [Amy] Keith from Iceland portrayed how to beat the snot out of someone without touching or physically harming them."

Another favorite of many students was learning the art of crying and laughing.

"Crying is one of the harder things to do," said Joseph Anderson, a junior at Würzburg. "Basically, if you have had a very sad experience in your life you can think about that to

help you cry, but if not, you've got to try other ways to make you cry on demand."

"During the workshop, they teach you different methods to help you cry during a scene when it is needed," said Tenant.

Attending the fest and workshops wasn't a new experience for many of the students who had attended similar events in their school districts such as Creative Connections, also sponsored by DoDDS.

"In all the workshops and Creative Connection programs we learn a variety of different aspects of acting," said Ian Hodges, a Würzburg junior. "I just wish some of the workshops were longer, they are a great way to improve your skills."

"I went through a Broadway workshop at Creative Connections where we had to do a smaller version of Cats," said Lauren O'Gara, a sophomore in Wiesbaden.

Although the Drama Fest was not a competition, students were judged in all performances and given ratings to show their strengths and weaknesses in all aspects of their performances.

"Each school had to perform an ensemble using three or more persons from the school, solo and duet acts," said Myers.

Although not every act was different, they were unique in their own way. In some instances two schools gave a different version of one performance. Such was the case in a performance of "Philadelphia."

**"Stage fighting was excellent. Ms. [Amy] Keith from Iceland portrayed how to beat the snot out of someone without touching or physically harming him." — Jonathan Dean, General H.H. Arnold High School student**

"It was interesting watching our peers perform the same play and seeing what they did differently," said Dean.

Overall, these would-be thespians left the fest with a different outlook on their acting abilities and an improved self-confidence.

"I learned a lot throughout the fest and gained more confidence in my abilities just by watching and talking to other students about our performances," said Kate Gerry, a Wiesbaden junior.

"There were definitely some things I learned to help me improve in different areas," said Tenant.

By the end of the week, students left with a better appreciation of the art of acting and several ideas to enhance their skills for the next drama fest.

Rota High School students Karen O'Neal, Gretchen Storm and Kerry Yudisky perform a skit for the school's ensemble category at the DoDDS Drama Fest held in Wiesbaden April 27-30.



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke  
Bamberg High School students Amelia and Silas Lohrenz perform a comic rendition of Romeo and Juliet at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Drama Fest at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden.



# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

## News notes

### Dexheim Town Hall May 14

The 221st Base Support Battalion hosts a Town Hall May 14 at 6 p.m. at the Rheinlander Club in Dexheim. Learn more about deployment services and upcoming community events.

### IACS registration

Registration is ongoing for the new Installation Access Control System at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Anderson Barracks in Dexheim. Dependents do not need to be accompanied by their sponsor. Just bring a current military Identification Card. Registration is in Building 1041 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield (the former location of CMR 430) and at the Military Police Station on Anderson Barracks.

### Veterans benefits

The Army Career and Alumni Program hosts a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing May 15 from 9-11 a.m. at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For more information and to sign up call mil 337-9332 or civ (0611) 705-9332.

### GED class

The Dexheim Education Center offers a free GED preparation class which includes English as a Second Language, basic math and English skills, and a skills review for college May 20 through June 26. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. To sign up call mil 334-5886 or civ (06133)69-886.

### Mexican night

Join the Kontakt Club for a Dining Out experience at the Hacienda Mexican restaurant in Wiesbaden-Biebrich May 30. A €10 refundable deposit is required. Call the 221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 337-5772, civ (0611) 705-5772 or Evelyn Zierer at civ (0160) 655 5976 for more information.

### Rhine Aflame

Sign up now to join the Kontakt Club for Rhine Aflame July 5. This popular riverboat excursion includes dinner, live music and a large fireworks display along the Rhine River. Tickets cost €40 for members and €43 for nonmembers. Reservations must be made by May 31. Call the 221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 337-5772, civ (0611)

705-5772 or Evelyn Zierer at civ (0160)6555976.

### BOSS meeting

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the 221st Base Support Battalion conference room.

### Emergency care providers sought

Wiesbaden Army Community Service seeks emergency placement care providers. Free training and certification is offered. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Sponsorship training

The Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program offers unit sponsorship. Although S-GATE is a primary training tool it does not include the entire scope of sponsorship. The next scheduled training is May 14 from 2-4 p.m. at ACS. Units wishing to schedule a different day can call the relocation manager at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Army Family Team Building

Wiesbaden/Dexheim Army Family Team Building offers training to spouses, civilians and family members including teens. Classes are held every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon at Army Community Service in Hainerberg Housing. Night classes are held the second Tuesday of the month at Dexheim and the third Tuesday of the month in Hainerberg from 6-8 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### WIC Overseas

The Women, Infants and Children Overseas program is available to eligible military families in Wiesbaden and Dexheim. For more information call mil 338-7366, civ (0611) 380-7366 or stop by the WIC office in Building 7005 in Crestview Housing.

### Free classes

The Wiesbaden Women, Infants and Children program offers free classes the last Friday of each month. Infant through 2-year-old classes are from 9-10 a.m. Classes for parents of 3-5-year olds is from 10-11 a.m. Pregnancy and breastfeeding classes are held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Call civ (0611) 380-7366 to sign up.



Photos by Spc. Giovanni Lorente

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division are greeted with cheers and waves by the people of Balad as the division's convoy rolls through this small town in Iraq.

## Soldiers face challenge of peacekeeping roles

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

"If someone is running away from the gas station, don't shoot," Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Lujan told his men. "Remember, this is peacekeeping. We're not in combat."

In a nutshell, that's the problem facing combat units in Iraq: the transition from war to peace.

Lujan and his patrol are members of the Company C, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, 3rd Infantry Division. They fought all the way from the berm separating Kuwait and Iraq to Baghdad. Now the tankers were doing a nighttime patrol to check out a hospital and a gas station once reserved for privileged members of Saddam Hussein's society.

Their battalion had engaged and defeated the Iraqi Republican Guard's armored units during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now they have different rules of engagement.

The patrol didn't have its Abrams tank. Instead it was a dismounted patrol with a Humvee that had a roof-mounted .50-caliber machine gun for fire support.

Lujan didn't expect trouble at the hospital. "The doctors and staff here have organized to protect the hospital," he said. "We're just going to ensure any looters or criminal elements understand this place is under our eye."

The gas station was a different



Children run along a street cheering and waving at U.S. soldiers as a 4th Infantry Division convoy rolls through their town in Balad.

story. The patrol carried plastic handcuffs for looters they might encounter.

Lujan began the patrol with two men up front and he walking behind them. The Humvee followed with lights out. It's a measure of the security in Baghdad that there was no trouble at either place. People were in the streets — it was before the 11 p.m. curfew — but they were peaceful. A group of young men played soccer under a street lamp. Families sat outside their houses. Lujan greeted each family group, and each replied.

"We've got to provide security for these people to get their lives back on track," he said. "It's like the Balkans or anyplace else: People won't go back to work if they are worried about their families' safety,

and businesses won't run if they think they will be looted."

That didn't seem to be a problem in Lujan's sector, although across the 14th of July Bridge, he and his men could hear gunfire and the occasional pop of a flare. "I don't think that's ours," he said.

At the end of the patrol he met up with the second part of his platoon. They were on an Abrams tank blocking the 14th of July Bridge. Young and old stopped by the razor-wire barricade and tried to bridge the communications gap by speaking with the soldiers. "That's one thing we need in peacekeeping — translators," he said.

"I feel we've done a good job of switching from combat ops to peacekeeping," he said.

## Stay safe during warm weather

By Cassandra Kardeke  
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Spring is here and with it comes outdoor activities and vacations. But whatever time of year, safety should be a priority, officials said.

Keep you and your family safe when enjoying those barbecues. Driving through the housing areas, especially on weekends, definitely can whet the appetite with the tantalizing variety of smells coming from barbecue grills. But wait. Where is that grill? If it's on the balcony you can be fined or even worse, lose the privilege of living in government quarters. Besides being illegal in Germany to grill on the balcony it is not safe and can potentially cause a fire.

The leading cause of fires in housing areas in the 221st Base Support Battalion is unattended cooking.

Whether grilling outdoors and not paying attention to the grill or cooking in the kitchen and leaving the room to watch television or just relax while the food is cooking can give fire a chance to break out and cause serious damage.

Worse, people can lose their lives to an unattended cooking fire.

With the warmer weather, many people choose this time to explore Germany and enjoy the outdoors. "Although we do get quite a bit of rain, we also have many days of extremely hot weather in Germany," said Bob Pierce, BSB safety officer. If you're outdoors, be sure to have plenty of water with you and

keep hydrated. Pierce also advised to wear sunblock. "Whether it is sunny or cloudy, your skin can still be overexposed to damaging rays of the sun. Too much exposure can cause skin cancer," Pierce said.

If you choose to go swimming to cool off, be sure you're not alone, said Pierce. Whether swimming at one of the many public swimming pools or allowing the children to play in a wading pool, it is important to remember that anything can happen, especially with unsupervised children and wading pools.

"It may seem like there's not much water but it only takes a few seconds under that water for a child to drown," said Pierce. "And don't forget to wait that 20 minutes after eating before going out for a swim."

As more and more people get out to ex-

plore Germany and all that living in Europe has to offer don't forget safety on the Autobahns.

Traffic on the roadways in central and southern Germany now starts to pick up and only gets heavier during the summer months.

"Expect delays and plan alternative routes while traveling," said Pierce.

Be sure to check fluids and air pressure in the tires.

Know the laws — children under 12 are required to sit in the back seat unless all spaces are taken; it is illegal to use a cell phone while driving unless it is a hands-free device and last of all, "watch your speed, even on the Autobahns.

No matter what you do or where you go, be safe and enjoy the warm weather.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

### Enjoying the fine arts

Five-year-old Troy Clark points out his favorite art design titled "The Clown," by local artist Ehrengard Dr. Hohbach, on display during the Roemer Art Center's fine arts show at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center May 3.

## Community news

### Position open

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 and have knowledge of the AFAP process and organizational skills. Interested persons must submit a resume to ACS, Building 7790, Attention: Army Community Service Officer. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Stress classes

Anger and stress management classes are held through Social Work Services. For more information or to sign up call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

### McCully ACS

Army Community Service programs are now available at McCully Barracks every Wednesday and Friday. Services include Army Emergency Relief, financial readiness planning, Family Advocacy Program, Family Member Employment Assistance, volunteer information,

relocation assistance and unit and community training. ACS is located in the Soldier's Center, Building 6212 and can be reached at mil 334-4786 or civ (06132) 508 786.

### Supplemental aid

The Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance program offers eligible active duty service members to increase the basic allowance for subsistence up to \$500 a month. Eligibility is based on gross income of the entire household. For more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

### Financial readiness

Dexheim Army Community Service offers free classes on Leave and Earning Statement basics, debt liquidation, banking and credit services, budget development and record keeping, using credit wisely, insurance and consumer rights. Call mil 334-5827 to sign up.

### Resume class

Army Community Service offers resume classes every Thursday

from 10 a.m. to noon in Building 7790, Room 22, in Hainerberg Housing and at 3 p.m. at the American Arms Hotel, Room 240. Evening classes are held at 6 p.m. the last Thursday of each month at the American Arms Hotel. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Adoption support

An Adoption Support Group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Wiesbaden. Topics include how to adopt overseas, choosing an agency, medical and developmental issues, post adoption support, home studies, Immigration and Naturalization procedures and cross cultural issues. For more information call civ (06775) 960675 or (0178) 2962102.

### Anger help

Social Work Services offers a four-week anger management group that teaches relaxation and self-calming skills that help you deal with adaptive responses when struggling with anger provoking situations. To sign up call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

### Museum trip

Wiesbaden Youth Services hosts a trip to the Frankfurt Natural History Museum May 17 from noon to 6 p.m. Sign up for this \$15 trip by May 13 at YS. A sack lunch or Euros for food will be needed.

### Rock climbing

Join the Wiesbaden and Dexheim Outdoor Recreation Centers for rock climbing adventures at Frankfurt or Nieder Olm. Beginner and expert climbers are welcome. For more information call mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760.

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Donahue explains the plans and layout of the new home for the American Forces Network radio and television affiliate that will be moving to Wiesbaden Army Airfield next fall.

## New home for AFN Hessen

A \$1.5 million project began May 5 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield for the American Forces Network Hessen affiliate which will relocate to the airfield from Frankfurt next year.

"It is fitting that as we celebrate our 60th year here in Germany that we do so with a groundbreaking signifying our future

home," said AFN Hessen station commander, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Donahue.

Although construction will be completed in September, the building will still have to undergo electrical wiring to accommodate AFN's needs.

AFN Headquarters will relocate to Mannheim.

Sgt. Maj. Steven Smith, 221st BSB command sergeant major; Lt. Col. Michael Edrington, AFN commander; Sgt. 1st Class Tim Donahue; and Hermann Markl, SKE Group director, dig in to signify the beginning of a new home for the Hessen American Forces Network radio and television affiliate that is relocating to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

## Protect yourself before movers arrive

By Heidi Gruetzmacher  
Wiesbaden Legal Center

If you are preparing to move, protecting your interests for a potential claim should be done long before the movers pick up your possessions.

Always expect the worst case scenario — the warehouse burns down or the ship sinks. Now, you have to substantiate what you owned and shipped and its value. Inventories can never be prepared well enough to substantiate the value of your items. Keep receipts for items valued over \$100. If receipts aren't available get appraisals for valuable items before shipment. Do not ship your receipts or other documentation of ownership and value. Hand-carry these important documents.

If you own any extremely valuable items take pictures of the items for your records. Consider purchasing private insurance to protect against loss and damage. The maximum amount that can be paid for any loss or damage to personal property is \$40,000. Within this limitation there are maximum amounts allowable for certain items. For example: if a stereo system worth \$5,000 is lost in shipment the maximum amount that can be paid per item is \$1,000 and \$4,000 per shipment claim. The maximum allowance for all audio recordings (CDs, cassette tapes, records) is \$3,000

per claim. If you own 250 CDs you already exceed this maximum allowance.

When the carrier arrives to pick up your goods, pay close attention to the inventory prepared by the carrier. Ensure that items valued over \$100 are separately listed on the inventory. It is best to hand-carry jewelry. However, if you decide to ship jewelry, make sure each piece is separately listed on the inventory.

A carton labeled "clothes" will not be sufficient to substantiate that you shipped a fur coat or expensive leather coat. Make sure such expensive clothes are separately listed on the inventory. Likewise, a carton labeled "figurines,"

"dishes" or "glassware" will not be sufficient to show that expensive figurines (such as Lladro or Hummel) or china and crystal were shipped. Have expensive figurines separately listed and ensure that cartons containing expensive crystal or china are labeled as such.

Check your inventory for preexisting damage listing. The carrier will use exception and location symbols, which can be found at the top of the inventory. If you disagree with a particular item, note your disagreement on the remarks/exception part of the inventory before you sign the inventory. If the carrier prepares a High Value Items Inventory, make sure it adequately identifies all expensive items. At the

time of the delivery you may be requested to verify delivery of these items by signing the carrier's copy of this separate inventory. Before you sign such an inventory at delivery, open every carton to visually verify receipt of these items. Failure to report the loss of these items at time of delivery could cause a claim to be denied.

When your shipment arrives check whether all items or carton separately listed on the inventory arrived. The items or boxes should have number stickers. The numbers on these stickers are the same as the inventory number. Mark off the corresponding number of the items brought in on your inventory. This is the easiest way to ensure

that all items arrived. Any items not marked off on the inventory are most likely missing. Enter those inventory numbers and items on DD Form 1840. Next check for obvious damage and list those on the same form. Don't let the carrier rush you, they cannot leave before you sign it. If you run out of room use a blank sheet of paper.

In dealing with claims prevention is better than cure. It is our goal to pay soldiers' and civilian employees' claims. However the Personnel Claims Act requires substantiation of claims (proof that the loss occurred as alleged and in the value claimed). For more information contact the outbound shipping counselor or the claims office.

## Community bids soldiers farewell

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder said good-bye to the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Division Artillery April 25 in a ceremony on Minnick Field. Typical blue skies prevailed over Baumholder as Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander, addressed the soldiers assembled on

the field and the hundreds of family members who packed the stands.

"Within the next couple of days, America's tank division will continue its deployment from Germany and the United States to link up in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. For the past two years we have been sustaining our readiness and waiting for our nation's call. We have been called to do our duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Thousands of vehicles and tons of equipment have left Baumholder destined for the Persian Gulf. The 13,000 Germany-based soldiers and 3,500 soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan., are now heading for, or have arrived in the Persian Gulf and are preparing for the mission at hand.

"The 2nd Brigade Combat team, the Division Artillery, the 8th Finance are ready, there is no doubt in my mind," said Sanchez.

He told the troops that they had

trained long and hard and that they had already won a battle, the deployment battle.

"As we transition to the desert, I challenge you to sustain your focus, to sustain your discipline, and the involvement of our leadership that has led us to the successes today.

"The challenges that lie ahead are many, some we have never imagined or trained for. Your adaptability... will lead us to suc-

cess. You will have to be very diligent in adhering to our standards and enforcing Iron Discipline."

He told the soldiers that the length of this mission was undetermined. "But we, both soldiers and families, must be prepared for an extended tour. My orders say 365 days or until the mission is completed," he said.

He then reassured the soldiers their families would be well taken care of in their absence.

"You can leave with absolute confidence that your families will be properly cared for here in Baumholder. Our families will also be called to sacrifice much through this deployment. The families will make it through this deployment with the support of the rear detachments, our family readiness groups, our base support battalions, our wonderful German partners and organizations that provide community services and the American Red Cross," said Sanchez.

In closing he said, "This will not be an easy mission. But there is no question in my mind that the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the Division Artillery, the 8th Finance and every single Iron soldier will shine. Old Ironsides has been down this path many times before... the tens of thousand of soldiers that have gone before us will inspire us and not allow us to fail.

"I look forward to seeing you all in Baghdad. God bless you. Praised be the Lord my rock who trains my fingers for battle and my hands for war. Iron Soldiers."

Sanchez officially transferred the division's colors from Wiesbaden to his new field headquarters in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility on May 2. This is a symbolic event based on centuries of military tradition.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A color guard made up of soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Division Artillery displays the colors as soldiers wait for the ceremony to begin.



Capt. Casey Randal, Division Artillery, serves as the narrator for the departure ceremony. Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Wackerhagen (right), Division Artillery chaplain, gave the invocation before the ceremony.



Hundreds of family members pack the stands under a clear blue sky.

# Teachers honored for all they do

**By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**  
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Baumholder's German and American educational community came together May 2 for the annual German-American Teachers Appreciation Banquet where teachers are honored by the military, DoDDS leadership and German dignitaries for the contributions they make throughout the year.

"Several years ago one of our schools had a saying on their faculty sweatshirts that I feel pertains especially to our current situation, 'I touch the future, I teach.'" These were the words Lt. Col. Todd A Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, used as he praised the teachers for the contributions they make to the quality of life of military members while they serve overseas.

"Each of us knows the importance that teachers have had in our lives and our children's lives. All too often though we forget that and we sometimes regard teachers as just another profession, as nothing special. Well you are special, and tonight we stop what we are doing to say thank-you," said Buchs.

"Your job is often emotionally and physically exhausting, but you do not shirk from the challenge, for you have chosen a profession out of your love to children," he said.

He then challenged Baumholder's teachers to maintain that commitment during the months ahead. "We anticipate a stressful year ahead with our soldiers deployed to Iraq. Separation will be difficult for many children. However our soldiers leave here knowing that their families and especially their children are in good hands thanks to you," he said.

Dr. Archie Bates, Kaiserslautern District superintendent, told the international gath-



Photos by Peggy Schmidt

**Kathryn Forystek (standing), Kaiserslautern District assistant superintendent, speaks with Ann Otterstadt (left), a Wetzlar Elementary School teacher, and Isabella Crowell, a teacher at Baumholder American High School who was honored as a retiring teacher.**



**Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, addresses the guests.**

ering that teachers are more than just teachers. They are a multitude of professions all rolled into one. They serve as substitute mothers and fathers, counselors and often both judge and jury, explained Bates.

Bates also spoke of justice and how it relates to education.

"During these troubling times I often think of justice and what the meaning of justice is. I'm sure that each of you desire that justice prevails and I'm certain that you want to be treated justly and likewise, justly treat others," he said.

Quoting Charlotte Perkins Gilman, American feminist and writer, Bates said, "As educators I'm sure you will agree that 'The child learns more of the virtues needed in modern life – of fairness, of justice, of comradeship, of collective interest and action – in a common school than can be taught in the most perfect family circle.'"

Highlighting the evening was a special

recognition of five retiring DoDDS teachers. Collectively they have taught for 164 plus years, 129 of those years were dedicated to DoDDS and 74 of those years were spent at Baumholder.

Honored were:

- Gary Himango who has taught for 35 years, 19 of those years in the DoDDS system. He taught one year at Baumholder.

- Janet Mann has been a teacher for 36 years, 31 of those years she taught for DoDDS. Eleven of her teaching years were dedicated to Baumholder.

- Helene Guinther is retiring after teaching for more than 30 years. She said she stopped counting after 30. Nineteen of those years were spent in DoDDS and in Baumholder.

- Isabella Crowell has been a teacher for 33 years and dedicated 30 of those years to DoDDS. She has homesteaded at Baumholder for 21 years.

- Also honored as a retiring teacher, was Richard Sever who has been a teacher for 30 years. Twenty-six of those 30 years he dedicated to DoDDS. He holds the longevity record of the five retiring educators in that he spent 22 of his DoDDS years at Baumholder.

Since this was a joint recognition event involving the German and American communities, local dignitaries and representatives from the numerous German partnership schools were also recognized. Partnership schools include:

Realschule Baumholder, Grund und Hauptschule Baumholder, Gymnasium Birkenfeld, Regional Schule Birkenfeld, Grundschule Freisen, Grundschule Heimbach, Gymnasium Kusel, Grundschule Idar-Oberstein, Hauptschule Idar-Oberstein, Grundschule Algenrodt, Grundschule Berschweiler and Grundschule Ruschberg.

## Child, youth

Chinese Goju youth classes are held Mondays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Neubrücke Gym. The cost is \$30 each month and includes an official patch, testing, advancements, belts and certificates. Chinese Goju is a combination of hard and soft elements in karate and kung fu. This discipline enhances flexibility, self-esteem, and builds confidence. Learn from master instructor Thomas Felder who has 30 years of experience in martial arts.

## Youth swim classes

If your child is six months and older he or she can be enrolled for swim classes with Baumholder Child and Youth Services. Classes offered include Parent/Child Water Orientation for six months to 3-year-olds; Preschool Swim Lessons for ages 3-5; and Level I, II, III, IV for ages 6 and up.

Children can participate in synchronized swimming, water polo, stroke improvement and water safety. The cost is \$45 for eight

classes. Classes are on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Baumholder indoor swimming pool. The registration fee includes a skill level certificate.

## Rudy's Pool Tournaments

Rudy's pool tournaments are held at 8 p.m. on the first and last Wednesdays of every month. Prizes are awarded.

## Pizza to order

Get American-style pizza with thick crust at Rudy's in Baumholder. They make their dough fresh daily and deliver to the surrounding area. Get a made-to-order, piping hot 13-inch pizza for \$8 plus \$1 per topping. You can also dine in.

Dining hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6-10 p.m.

## Rod and Gun Club

### Hot, fresh pizza

Baumholder Rod and Gun Club serves and delivers made-to-order pizzas, starting at \$7.95 for a cheese pizza.

Additional toppings are 50 cents each. Call to have your pizza delivered tonight.

### Right on cue

Pool tournaments at the Baumholder Rod and Gun Club begin at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Prizes are awarded to the winners.

### Gone country

If you love country and western, you'll feel right at home at Baumholder's Rod and Gun Club. Round up your friends for free country and western dance lessons every Thursday night and stop in for country music on Fridays and Sat-

urdays until 4 a.m.

## Rolling Hills Golf Spring Open

If golfing is your passion, play in the Spring Open with the Rolling Hills Golf Course. This event is set for May 17 with a 9 a.m. tee time. The entry fee of \$25 includes food and prizes. Nonmembers must pay a green fee. To participate, sign up in the pro shop no later than May 14.

## Demo Days on the course

Rolling Hills Golf Course offers an opportunity for players to try a variety of different clubs from several brand-types. The next Demo Day is sponsored by Nike on June 26 from noon to 6 p.m. Learn more about this event and others at [www.baumholdergolf.com](http://www.baumholdergolf.com).

## Open for lunch

The new Windmill Pub at the Rolling Hills Golf Course is open for

lunch and is serving daily lunch specials from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

## Unit-level golf pass

For \$400 you'll get one annual golf pass, one set of rental clubs and one driving range token to use within your unit.

## Job opportunities MWR Job Fair

Job seekers, opportunity awaits you at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Job Fair on the second Wednesday of every month at the Rheinlander.

Doors open from 9-10 a.m. Visitors learn of MWR positions, have an opportunity to fill out applications and receive interviews on site.

## Outdoor Rec Scuba Diving

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation offers lessons in scuba diving. Call for course dates and times for Introduction to Scuba Diving, Scuba Diving Refresher Course and SSI Open-Water Scuba Diving Course.

# Post notes

# Memories keep growing on ribbon tree

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office.

Neubrücke Elementary School's student body did not tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree to remember their deployed mothers and fathers. Instead they tied 205 yellow ribbons 'round a new birch tree.

Students were given yellow ribbons on which they wrote the name of their deploying parent and then tied it to the branches of a birch tree in the lobby of the school. As their parents deploy, students have brought in pictures of their parents and placed them on the wall around a flag that hangs next to the tree.

"As they come home we'll take the flag down and we'll take the ribbons down and give them back to the students," said Veronica Kulka, a parent who volunteers her spare time at the school. She came up with the ribbon tree idea but credits the entire school for making it happen.

"It's about the school, primarily, supporting the students of the families deploying to Iraq," she said.

"It's a good community thing. And we're so small out here that



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Jennifer Kulka, a 12-year-old, sixth-grade student at Neubrücke Elementary School, checks a ribbon on the "yellow ribbon tree."

we're kind of forgotten, so I thought it would be a nice thing to start. With support of the school we've gotten it done," she said.

Support also came from outside the school in that a German nursery in the nearby town of Brücken donated the birch tree that is being used for the project.

"It's a real morale booster, and I think it also gives these kids a wonderful opportunity to identify with their loved ones who have gone to the Gulf and are serving," said

Wayne Dozark, Neubrücke Elementary School principal.

"The live tree, I think was important." After the tree was obtained, "it has sort of taken on a life of its own" said Dozark.

"As parents ... have come into the school, they've made note of it and they've been very, very complimentary. I know they appreciate the gesture on the part of the school," said Dozark.

All Neubrücke students are also sporting yellow ribbons with a U.S.

flag pin on their clothes or book bags. "I gave all the teachers a ribbon too because there are a lot of teachers with deployed husbands," said Kulka.

The original plan was to construct an artificial tree in the lobby, but as Kulka pitched her ideas to her friends the project began to mold into a more environmentally friendly one. "We talked about how we would make a tree and Ute (Morrison) said, 'I know the mayor in Brücken and there's a nursery in Brücken; let me get a live one,'" said Kulka. Morrison is also a volunteer at Neubrücke Elementary School.

"I think that's great because that also shows the kids that we're environmentally sound because when we're done with the tree we're going to plant it on the school grounds," she said.

The actual project started about two weeks ago. "It took a little while to make three hundred pins," said Kulka. These are the pins the students and teachers are now wearing. I had a friend of mine, Catarina Adreano, help me do that. We spent several hours making the pins for the students. And the PTA paid for everything—the ribbons, the pins, the flags," said Kulka, who has two

children enrolled at Neubrücke Elementary.

With only some 205 students enrolled, Neubrücke is Baumholder's smallest school and easily one of the smallest student bodies in U.S. Army Europe, but it makes up for that by having a very active community involvement program.

"We're out in the country but we make a special effort to do special things for kids," said Dozark.

"That's typical of this school. We produce. We do a very, very good job and parents tell us that. So it's a gratifying place to be and it's a gratifying job," he said.

Kulka echoed Dozark's comments by saying, "We're small, we're forgotten and we're the best kept secret in DoDDS."

She summed up the school's ribbon tree project by saying, "The best thing is that these kids say I did something for my dad or my mom who's deployed and I feel good about it." At the end of the day students at Neubrücke Elementary School can pass by the yellow ribbon tree standing proudly in the lobby and say, "My dad's gone but look at what we've done to show him that we care."

# Bobby's special flag finds its way home

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

When Bobby Muraoka's third-grade class from Smith Elementary School received an optional assignment to write cards for soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center who had been wounded while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, the response was more than Muraoka had expected.

He wanted to make his card a special card so he asked his third grade teacher, Ramona Emery, if he could finish his assignment the following day because he wanted to attach a special flag to it.

The next day Muraoka dug out a small U.S. flag from his backpack and asked if he could attach it to the card.

His teacher asked him what was so special about the flag and he said, "My Dad gave it to me to remember him by when he is deployed."

His teacher asked if he really wanted to give up his special flag because he was certain not to get it back. Muraoka then said "It's going to a soldier, right?" His teacher said yes and Muraoka replied, "Well

that soldier needs it more than I do."

"That got us all a little teary eyed and a little weepy eyed and he did, he attached it to the card," said Angie McClain, Smith Elementary School counselor.

"Since 9/11 all of the different schools in the area have been making cards that we have been sending to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. These cards are distributed to the soldiers that are coming through, those that have actually been injured, as well as those that just simply come for a doctor appointment from down range," said McClain. "The cards are basically well wishing cards, get well cards and thank-you cards. Some students have even written cards to the staff of the hospital, thanking the doctors and the nurses for all of their hard work," she said.

McClain took all the children's cards to the hospital and together with her husband, Chaplain (Col.) David McClain, chief of pastoral services at LRMC, went to the hospital wards to distribute cards. Muraoka's special card was at the top of the stack.

When they went to the Intensive Care Unit they came upon Staff Sgt. Jackson, who was recovering



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Bobby Muraoka shows off his coins and returned flag to fellow students in his third-grade class at Smith Elementary School.

from severe injuries he had received in combat. Jackson was one of the four soldiers who were wounded but evaded capture when the 501st Maintenance Company was ambushed. Pfc. Jessica Lynch was also a member of his unit and was among those captured. She and other prisoners were later rescued in a special operation launched by coalition forces.

McClain handed Jackson the card and explained the significance of the flag to him. "Staff Sgt. Jackson was extremely moved and said he would like to stay in touch with

Bobby," said McClain.

Before he could contact Muraoka, Jackson was medically evacuated to Walter Reed Medical Center.

Dr. Sally Harvey, the psychologist at Landstuhl, had the opportunity of seeing Jackson when she escorted Lynch to Walter Reed Medical Center.

While there, Jackson asked Harvey if she could return the flag to Muraoka. "He wanted to keep the card which had several drawing by Muraoka and the words 'America, My Home Sweet Home'

written in bold, but he felt it was important for Muraoka to have the flag back to remember his dad by until his dad returned home," said McClain.

Harvey came to Smith Elementary School April 28 to fulfill her promise of returning the flag to Muraoka.

His parents, Sgt. Robert and Shanti Muraoka, were also present and watched as Chaplain McClain thanked Muraoka and his fellow students for "making a difference" with all their cards. He then presented Muraoka with coins from Gen. Elder Granger, European Regional Medical Command commander, and Col. David Rubenstein, LRMC commander.

Showered with so much attention at once was a little overwhelming for Muraoka. "I was surprised and scared," he said.

Muraoka's flag may have been returned to him but it's not through traveling. He says he's going to send the flag back to Jackson "because it's something special for a soldier guy who fought for us."

And what will Muraoka's father carry with him when he deploys to Iraq? "Um, we have our own thing. It's a secret," he said.

## Family centers open

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

The Strassburg Family Assistance Office opened its doors May 2 to help meet the needs of Strassburg families. Located in the old mayor's office next to Rudy's, the SFAO will serve the more than 200 families living in Baumholder's satellite community of Strassburg.

A second family assistance office opened in Neubrücke May 9 to meet that community's unique family needs.

"Instead of families having to go to Baumholder for Army Community Service, ACS is now coming to Strassburg and Neubrücke," said Donna Finney, ACS officer.

"These centers are just a place for families to come out and meet new friends or just to talk with somebody," she said. Of course the centers will offer classes and have an ACS staff on hand as well as volunteers who live and work in the community.

"This is just our way to get to

know the neighbors," said Finney, who said that although the Strassburg center will only be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the Neubrücke center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-11:30 a.m., "if there is a big demand ... we'll expand the hours based on what the families out here need, because we're here to support them."

The response to the new centers has been favorable, according to Finney. At the Strassburg center opening she said, "Many spouses have come forward already and said, 'I have something to contribute.' So they're volunteering. We're making them ACS liaisons, we'll train them and they'll be working on the team right alongside of us."

Finney added that in addition to the new centers, she wants everyone to know about the Strassburg Superstars program. "We've already started a program at Baumholder called the Baumholder Buddies. Here we're calling them the Strassburg Superstars," she



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Sue George is excited about her new duties at the recently opened Strassburg Family Assistance Office. Melissa Schaffner helps staff the counter on opening day.

said.

It's a community oriented volunteer program and "we'd like family members to volunteer because everybody has a gift. Everyone has something that they can contribute. And if we contribute to the community, we can work together

and we'll be fine," said Finney.

Finney explained the concept behind the program by saying that "today you may need my help but next week I might need yours. So that's what we're trying to do, to get the community involved, focused and pulling together and

helping each other. Nobody needs to sit in his or her house. No one has to say I have to go back to the States because I'm lonely."

Both of the new centers as well as the volunteer program "will be directly based on what the community needs," said Finney.