

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Reaching Out helps teens cope with stress

### Networking to handle parent's deployment

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It's tough being a teenager, and it doesn't get easier when your father or mother deploys to a war zone for an indefinite period of time.

The Reaching Out Teen Support Group established by the 284th Base Support Battalion's Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services has taken on the mission of supporting teens during this time.

"Putting together a class was actually a joint effort," said ASACS counselor Billy Wray. "I talked to Army Community Service staff about establishing a support group and one of the seniors, Shannon, was working at ACS at that time. We talked about what we could do, what's needed and we got together a group of interested students. They actually created some curriculum ideas; I simply coordinated the process by putting the classes and content together."

Their joint effort resulted in a two-phase lesson plan comprising classes such as Understanding the Deployment, New Rules and Responsibilities, Sibling Rivalry, Feelings, Risky Attitudes and Behaviors, Stress and My Perceptions, and Coping Strategies.

The class meets once or twice a week during seminar period, and attendance is voluntary. The number of students showing up varies weekly. "It's not a must to attend every class. If a student has an assignment, he or she cannot attend of course," Wray said.

Teenagers expressed a variety of reasons for joining the support group.

"My father is not deploying, but I know how it feels and what's it like when your dad is deployed," said 11th-grader Dirk Toombs. "That's why I joined the group. I can tell the other students what I went through, what has happened and the feelings and emotions I went through. I think it will help them to hear it from somebody who went through such a situation."

"My dad is already deployed to Iraq. In a way it's my first deployment. He participated in Desert Storm, but I was too little then to understand what was going on," said seventh-grader Ashlee Ursi.

"Right now I am scared because I don't know what is going to happen. I am glad I have a lot of friends I can talk to. I often talk to my cousin and my mom. My cousin always tells me that my dad is going to be OK. Attending the class helps me a lot to understand what's going on and how to deal with



Photo by Alexandra Williams

ASACS counselor Billy Wray (left) talks about emotional stress and how to deal with it to students of the Giessen Middle and High School. The students are participants of the "Reaching Out" teen support group of the school.

the emotions. We talk about how we feel and Dirk, for instance, gives us advice. I think this helps us because he has been through this and he still remembers how he felt at that time," Ursi said.

"It's my first [deployment] experience," said seventh-grader Stephanie Rabena. "My father deployed before but I was not really involved in it. I find this group very interesting because I get to hear different points of view and make new friends."

"My dad deployed Feb. 14. I was already kind of used to him being gone for a long time because prior to coming here he was a recruiter," said ninth-grader Ashleigh North.

"I feel a little stress right now. Coming to this class helps me in finding different ways to deal with the entire deployment situation. But it's more important to me to see what I can do to help others," said senior Shannon Prosser.

"There was some pre-deployment stress but now everything is packed and my father is ready for deployment. His deployment is something we have to deal with," said her sister, 10th-grader Kat Prosser.

One objective of Reaching Out is to help students identify

their own emotional, physical and academic needs, and understand the skills they need to meet those needs. And it's a safe place to practice.

"I know that certain emotions are normal during deployment and that most of us will go through that. Now I often talk to friends at school when I feel stressed. When I am at home and I feel stressed I turn up my music or I go outside for a walk," said North.

"Sometimes when we are stressing we went to Mr. Wray, and then he asks us what the problem is and he tells us what we can do," said Kat Prosser.

"I can tell that right now there is more stress on them. The military culture fosters the 'I am all right' attitude, but these are also very resilient kids. They are able to bounce back, but they still have a need for support. Sometimes they are not sure about why they are reacting a certain way, and that's why we meet," Wray said.

"I can see a change in some teens. I can tell when we talk about their perception of situations and how they are more able to accept what feelings have surfaced for them," he said.



### Nobel Prize winner visits Giessen

John Fenn (left) 2002 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry pays the Education Center in Giessen a visit to talk to community members about his life and career. Fenn, a professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., was invited by the Justus Liebig University to attend anniversary ceremonies and said he gladly accepted the BSB's invitation to speak.

Photo by Alexandra Williams

### DPW corner

The 284th Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Works offers Fire and Emergency safety classes to all community members. Classes available are fire extinguisher classes, fire warden training and fire prevention classes. The classes are not only educational, they could also save you and your family's lives one day, officials said. There is no mandatory number of attendees of any of the classes. To arrange for training call the Giessen Fire and Emergency Services at mil 343-8388.



# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Seniors host special farewell for deploying fathers

### Dad and I dinner celebrates high school graduation

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Graduation celebrations came early for a group of high school seniors of Giessen High School.

A special "Dad and I" graduation celebration May 7 at Friedberg's Villa Calabria let deploying fathers who will miss the actual graduation on June 6 mark the occasion with their children. The event included seniors wearing their caps and gowns, family photos and dinner.

Senior Kalia Thayer, one of the organizers, was inspired to host a special ceremony for the deploying

fathers after talking to Carleen Pilcher, a peer's mother. "Mrs. Pilcher told me that her son Carl would be the first child in five generations in his father's family to graduate from high school and now he would miss the graduation because he is deploying. I thought about all the dads who would be gone when we graduate, and I was wondering what could be done."

"I spoke to my friends Aiana (Garin) and Greg (Reilly), other students, teachers, the principal and the senior class adviser. Together we had the idea to host a special dinner for the deploying parents," she said.

"The initial date for the deployment was May 14," Thayer said. "The dates for the deployment kept being changed, but we had to make a final decision for the ceremony so we came up with May 7 and it worked out for us." After a number of telephone calls, she said, support was made readily available by the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, Giessen's Alpine Club and the Villa Calabria. "It



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Seniors Carl Pilcher, Shannon Prosser and Aiana Garin prepare themselves for the "Dad and I" graduation dinner which was held for the deploying fathers.

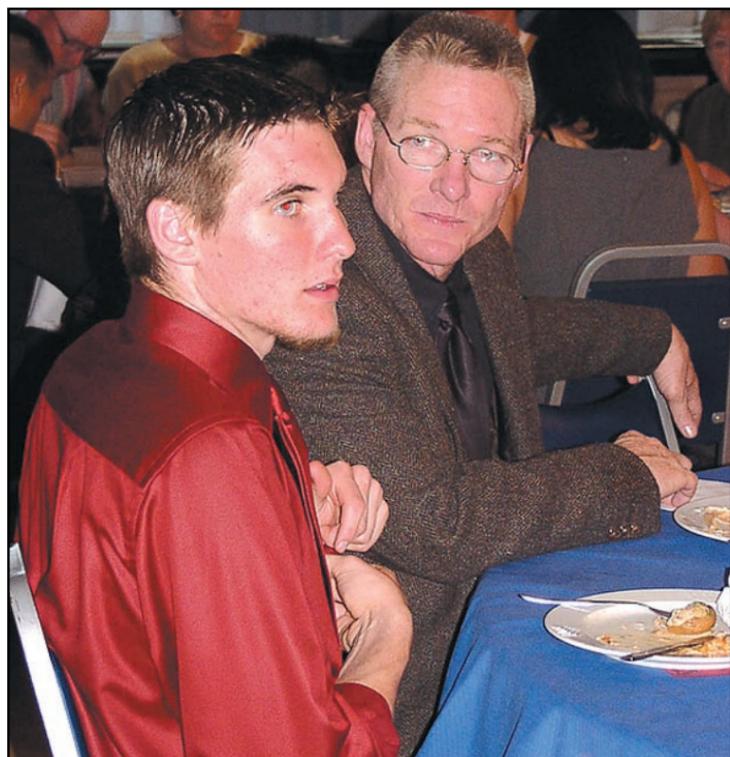


Photo by Alexandra Williams

Senior Greg Reilly and his father, Lt. Col. Greg Reilly, enjoy some quality time during the "Dad and I" graduation dinner.

just worked out perfectly how everything fell into place."

"Carl's graduation is the most important day for me and my family. Missing the actual graduation is hard, but this evening just for us means a lot to me," said Sgt. 1st Class Bill Pilcher of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor.

"Bill spoke about Carl's graduation ever since he was a baby. I am so happy we have this ceremony. I know it means a lot to him," said his wife, Carleen.

"I am happy that her dad gets to see Aiana in her gown," said Precy Garin.

"It's great to see her in this special ceremony tonight. It's almost like seeing her at her graduation, and it's my last chance to see her before she goes to college. I am so proud of Aiana," said Sgt. Romeo Garin of HHC, 1-36th Infantry.

"It means a lot to me that my father gets to see me in my gown.

It's almost like he will be with us that night though he is not here. I always thought he would walk me off to college, and now he won't be here for the graduation. At least we have the memories of this evening," said their daughter Aiana.

"This ceremony means a whole lot to me because Shannon is our first child to graduate," said Staff Sgt. James Prosser of HHC, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor. "I will think about this moment all of the time, but there will be a very special thought of her on the 6th when she actually graduates," he said.

"It's great that the school went to the extra effort and organized this evening for us. It shows that they not only care about the students but the parents as well," said his wife, Amanda.

"I am a little disappointed that he won't be here for the graduation, but I am glad we were able to set this evening up," said Shannon.

"The graduation means that my

daughter is growing up, and she'll move on to more important things in life. It's an important day for the entire family. I will miss the actual graduation but I'll have fond memories of tonight and I will know how she is going to look on the 6th," said Capt. Greg Thayer of HHC, 1st Brigade.

"Greg is going to miss so many things while he's deployed; not only our daughter's graduation but also our son's first day of school. With him deploying and Kalia leaving for college this summer, half of my family will be gone. It's very important to me that we had this special evening together," said his wife, Karla.

"I am happy with how the evening went," said Kalia. "I think most of us had mixed emotions about tonight. You are excited but also sad, and I think everybody would feel this way. It's comforting to know that our fathers saw us walking up. I am sure a lot of people will go home happy tonight."

## Army Community Service classes ... Army Community Service classes

### ACS opening hours adjusted

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service has converted into a Family Assistance Center and extended its regular opening hours. The ACS centers in Giessen, Butzbach and Friedberg are open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For details call Giessen at mil 343-7618, Butzbach at civ (06033) 925 329 or Friedberg at mil 324-3465.

### Stress and Anger Management

A Stress Management class takes place June 9 from 1-3 p.m. at Giessen ACS. An Anger Management class is held June 2 from 10 a.m. to noon in Giessen. For more information call Nancy Clopper at mil 343-8076.

### AFTB class

An Army Family Team Building level 1 training "Surviving Army Life" is scheduled for June 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Butzbach.

AFTB classes are also offered in Spanish. For details call Kelly Peterson at mil 343-6040.

### Employment readiness

**Federal Resume** classes are held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Giessen. Friedberg ACS hosts a class June 6 from 10 a.m. to noon and Butzbach has scheduled a class for June 25 from 8:30-11 a.m. **Interviewing skills** can be enhanced the first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon in

Giessen. **Computer Basics** classes take place in Giessen every Tuesday from 2-4:30 p.m. The classes focus on simple word processing in preparing MS Word and resume builder versions of the federal resume. Assistance is given in setting up email and Federal Answer accounts and general Internet usage for employment purposes. Advance sign up is required. For more information call Dan Adams in Giessen at mil 343-6038 or Tim Fitzgerald in Friedberg at mil 324-3713.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight

### Photography finalist

Congratulations to Michelle McCann of Giessen Youth Services for being named one of eight Army finalists in the Overseas Region Army ImageMakers Photography contest. Her photo "Through the Looking Glass" has been forwarded to compete at the national level contest in Atlanta, Ga.

### Asian-Pacific Heritage bash

Everyone in the 284th Base Support Battalion is invited to take part in the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month celebration May 30 from noon to 4 p.m. in Giessen's Marshall Housing (look for the canopies). The fest will feature a martial arts demonstration by the Panther Martial Arts Club, activities for children, door prizes and culinary treats. The event will be held at the Alpine Catering Center on the Giessen Depot in case of bad weather.

### Celebrate volunteers

This year's annual volunteer recognition ceremony takes place June 11 from 6-8 p.m. at the Alpine Catering Center on the Giessen Depot. Free child care will be available from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for all CLEOS-registered children.

### Thank you from BOSS

The 284th Base Support Battalion's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program thanks the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5122 and the Friends of the Lahn Lodge 860 for their monetary contribution to the BOSS trip to Rudesheim May 3. Their contribution helped defray some of the costs to pay for transportation.

### CYS sports and school physicals

The Friedberg Health Clinic hosts Child and Youth Services sports and school physicals June 4 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the office of the school nurse of the Bad Nauheim Elementary School. Parents need to accompany their children and must bring the CYS physicals form and shot record. For details call 2nd Lt. Swandal at mil 324-3128.

### Registered nurse sought

The Friedberg Health Clinic has an immediate opening for a registered health nurse. Applicants must have at least one year of experience as a registered nurse and BCLS certification. For details call Maj. Vikki Leefer at mil 324-3230/3204 or your local civilian personnel office.

### Shopping at Ikea

The Army Community Service Outreach Center in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing has scheduled a shopping trip to Ikea in Hanau June 6. Everybody is invited to attend. Make reservations by June 1. Participants must bring money and Value Added Tax forms. For details call ACS in Butzbach at civ (06033) 926 396 or ACS in Friedberg at civ (06031) 81-3465, mil 324-3465.

### Shows at the Keller Theater

The Keller Theater in Giessen presents "The Taming of the Shrew," a comedy by William Shakespeare, June 6-7, 12-14 and 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. The "Stars of the Keller Theater" perform a free show June 15, 22 and 29 starting at 7 p.m. For more information call mil 343-6515.

### Trip to Saalburg

Friedberg Army Community Service hosts a trip to the reconstructed Roman Saalburg fortress in the Taunus Mountains near Frankfurt June 20. An English-speaking tour guide and round-trip transportation is included in the cost of \$2.50. Children age 6 and under travel free. Make reservations by June 13 by calling the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06033) 925 329 or Friedberg ACS at civ (06031) 81-3708.

### Outdoor Rec on the go

Giessen Outdoor Recreation hosts a trip to the Warner



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Queen of hearts

Butzbach Elementary School third-grader Devin Robinson declares his mother Angela Robinson queen of his heart during a Mother's Day lunch the class of Alyce Smith held for their mothers. The students made crowns and scepters and wrote poems for their mothers to let them now how important they are in their lives and how much they love them.

Brothers Movie World June 7. The trip costs \$49 for adults and \$39 for children age 4-11 including bus transportation and the park entrance. A Rhine River Cruise is scheduled for June 14. For details on costs and time of departure call Outdoor Rec at mil 343-8202.

### Weekend child care

Every Saturday a different Child Development Center in the 284th Base Support Battalion offers Super Saturday Child Care from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The program starts May 31 at the Giessen CDC with the program being offered June 7 at the Butzbach CDC and June 14 at the Bad Nauheim CDC. Children must be 11 years or younger and CLEOS registered. Respite card for E-4s and below will be accepted. Register by noon on the Thursday before the Saturday opening. For reservations call the Giessen CDC at civ (0641) 402-6200, the Butzbach CDC at civ (06033) 67922, Bad Nauheim at civ (06032) 83536 or Friedberg at civ (06031) 81-3137.

### Parents Night Out

The 284th Base Support Battalion Child and Youth Services hosts a Parents Night Out June 6 from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in Giessen and June 20 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. in Butzbach. Cost is \$5 per child including dinner and a snack. Children must be CLEOS registered. The reservation and payment deadline for Giessen is May 30 and June 13 for Butzbach. The Parents Advisory Council meets June 10 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Giessen CDC. The theme is "Supporting Those at Home" and a basket of self-care items will be given away as a door prize. For details call Central Registration in Giessen at civ (0641) 402-8216.

### Library summer program for children

Registrations for this year's library summer reading program, "Join the Winner's Circle," will be held June 16-22. The program is open to children age kindergarten through sixth-grade. Special activities take place every Wednesday from June 25 to Aug. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Giessen Library. Preschoolers are welcome to catch the Storymobile between June 24 and Aug. 8 every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Butzbach's New York Road in Roman Way Housing, in Giessen every

Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. in Marshall Housing and 2:45 p.m. in Dulles Housing, and every Friday at 10 a.m. in Alvin York Village in Bad Nauheim. For details call mil 343-7713.

### Hearts Apart lunch

Army Community Service hosts Hearts Apart lunches in Giessen, Butzbach and Friedberg. Everyone is invited to join the group for a light lunch, conversation and information sharing. Hearts Apart will be held in Friedberg every fourth Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m., in Giessen every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. and in Butzbach every first Tuesday of the month. For more information call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618, in Friedberg at mil 324-3465 and in Butzbach at civ (06033) 925 329.

### Mail call in Butzbach

Residents of Butzbach's Roman Way Housing may now have their mail delivered to the Butzbach Outreach Center every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 2-2:30 p.m. Accountable mail cannot be delivered. To arrange for mail delivery call your community mailroom no later than noon of the day you want your mail delivered. The CMR 452 in Giessen can be reached at mil 343-6558 and CMR 453 in Friedberg can be reached at mil 324-2107.

### Return SAC ballots

The Giessen Elementary School Advisory Committee reminds all parents that the ballots for the next school year have to be returned to the school no later than May 30. The next SAC meeting will be held June 5 at 3 p.m. at the GES.

### Schiffenberg Castle Run/Walk

The Giessen Sports Office hosts a seven-and-a-half-kilometer run and a three-K family fun walk May 31 at the Schiffenberg Castle. The Family Fun Walk is free of costs and participants receive certificates. The run costs \$10 without a T-shirt and \$15 with a T-shirt. The top three finishers in each category receive medals and trophies. For details call mil 343-6384.

### Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for communities in the 284th Base Support Battalion is June 6.

## BSB receives \$4 million for renovation projects

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Despite the scheduled closure of all military installations in the 284th Base Support Battalion, the Directorate of Public Works received about \$4 million for various renovation projects.

“Just because we are scheduled for closure in a couple of years we do not stop to do our best to improve the quality of life for our soldiers and their families,” said Jutta Williams, chief of Housing for the 284th Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Works.

“The largest portion of the money we received, \$2.4 million, goes to our Super Vacant Quarters Maintenance program,” said Williams.

Initiated two years ago, the program enables DPW to renovate and beautify empty apartments.

“Recently we completed the Roman Way Housing project that included the renovation of six vacant buildings in Butzbach. The funds we now received will not be used to renovate entire buildings but 90 apartments in various locations throughout the 284th BSB,” Williams said. “These apartments are currently empty because they are in a very bad condition and are very old. To keep them in a habitable condition these apartments will receive new kitchens and bathrooms.”

“We also received funds to paint some of the stairwells in various locations within the 284th BSB,” Williams said. “We often get complaints about the condition of the stairwells, but usually the maintenance of the buildings and apartments has top priority and we can only paint the stairwells if there are funds left. Now funds were allocated just for the stairwell painting.”

Funds were also made available for the completion of the playground renovation program, she said.

“About \$374,000 are allocated to replace the old playground equipment on the remaining nine ‘old’ playgrounds throughout the BSB to meet the safety standards and regulations,” she said.

Further renovation projects include the repair and insulation of leaky roofs on five buildings in Giessen’s Marshall Housing, the repair of the ventilation grills in Roman Way Housing, new fire hydrants and the repair and insulation of leaky basement walls in Bad Nauheim’s Alvin York Housing.

“Repairing the (leaky) roofs is essential because due to the faulty roofs and the lack of exterior insulation the water running down the building causes the paint to chip off making the building look bad,” she said. “The same applies to the ventilation grills. We often get complaints about the broken grills because they are dirty, non-functional and birds are nesting in them which causes more dirt and noise.”

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service underwent a major renovation project aimed at enhancing the quality of life in the Giessen and Friedberg military communities.

“The project started in April of last year and was completed in January of this year,” said Scott Maynard, AAFES store manager in Giessen. We did a total renovation and upgrading of the interior of the PX,” he said. “This project enabled AAFES to also expand and enlarge current categories of merchandise and bring in new departments. In addition to the Giessen PX the Military Clothing Sales Store and the Shoppette were also renovated.”

Further renovations are currently not planned, he said.

2003  
Construction  
update



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Contractor Volker Emmerich works on the fences in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing. The project was started last year and is just about completed.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Interesting science

Butzbach Elementary School second-graders Valerie Valdovinos and Shelby Wood take a look at a science project display by a fellow student. The display was part of a science week the school held May 12-15.

### Safety a priority all year round

By Benjamin P. Sugui

284th Base Support Battalion Safety Office

The warmer weather brings changes in lifestyles and activities. Spring and summer are a time for lawn mowing, gardening, barbecuing and outdoor sports activities.

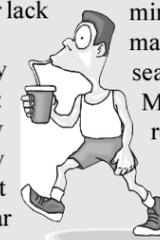
All of these activities entail elements of risk, but accidents are preventable, especially those caused by carelessness or lack of knowledge.

The following are important safety rules to keep in mind when gardening:  
 • Turn off the power before doing any work on a lawn mower.  
 • Constantly watch the lawn mower cord so as to not to entangle it in the blade.  
 • Wear sturdy shoes.  
 • Rake the area before cutting the grass and ensure that bystanders are a safe distance away from the mower which could throw objects.  
 • Spring gardening may constitute an increased use of insecticides, pesticides, weed killers and fertilizers. For environmental reasons, the use of those items should be reduced to a minimum or avoided at all. Hazardous substances must be used in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. Remember that all hazardous/toxic materials must be kept out of the reach of children.

When grilling keep the following safety tips in mind:  
 • Barbecue grills can cause painful burn injuries. The use of gasoline instead of charcoal lighter fluid is the main reason for these burns. Never re-apply charcoal lighter fluid after the fire has

started; hot charcoal can ignite the vapors of the fluid and cause an explosion.  
 • Never use barbecue grills in confined spaces or areas that are not properly ventilated. Inhalation of smoke and gases is dangerous. The setup of grills must be at least 15 feet away from buildings and structures.

To enjoy traveling and recreational activities keep the following safety tips in mind:  
 • Spring is travel season for many families. While driving, the seatbelt must be worn at all times.  
 • Make sure child safety seats are correctly installed.  
 • Never drive drunk or impaired.  
 • During long trips frequent rest breaks help fight fatigue.  
 • As temperatures rise remember to stay well hydrated.



• Drink plenty of water, fruit juice and sports drinks.  
 • Avoid alcoholic beverages as they impair your judgment and provide little hydration.  
 • When working, playing or exercising in the heat take regular breaks in the shade or indoors.  
 • Children and old people are especially vulnerable to heat related illnesses; take special care to ensure they do not get overheated.  
 • Head injuries from bicycling, motorcycling and skating are common and often severe. Protect yourself and your children by wearing properly fitted helmets and other protective gear as required by regulations.

For more information on springtime safety call the 284th Base Support Battalion Safety Office at mil 343-1670.

## World War II vet brings history to life

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

“The company commander took out his revolver, held it right up against a soldier’s stomach and said, ‘You do it now or I’ll shoot you.’”

It may sound like an Iraqi enforcement squad threatening soldiers with death for running from battle. The truth is that it was an American infantry company commander enforcing discipline after a day in hell for soldiers of Company I, 94th Infantry Division, U.S. 3rd Army, who had crossed the Saar River and breached the Siegfried Line earlier that morning.

“And he meant it,” said Dudley Strasburg, a retired veteran and longtime Wiesbaden resident to a rapt group of Argonner Elementary School fifth-graders. Strasburg knows because he was there and he survived. He was at Argonner to share his firsthand recollections of World War II and the Holocaust with students who were studying the period in class.

The soldier crawled forward on his stomach toward a farmhouse held by German soldiers. Some 30 meters from his objective he was shot and killed. The date was Feb. 22, 1945. Strasburg was 19 years old. The 12 survivors in his company of 175 were advancing through the village of Serrig when they encountered stiff resistance from German forces. There was nothing to do but go forward.

“We got into that fifth house and I went into the back door, hid myself and looked around to see what was going on. It was filled with German soldiers,” said Strasburg. From his vantage point he saw a German soldier crawl out of the sixth farmhouse and head toward the Americans.

“I could see clearly that he was holding hand grenades in each hand and grenade belts around his neck. So I did something. I’m not proud of it. I hid behind the door, focused my rifle on the man’s forehead and did what I was taught to do — focus on his forehead and pull the trigger very slowly. I’m not happy about it. I killed him,” he said.

A student asked if his shot drew attention to him.

Yes, said Strasburg, in killing the German he had exposed his position and moved out from behind the protection of the heavy wooden door. “Within 10 or 12 seconds I was shot in the stomach. I remember I was hit up in the air about a meter and fell back about a meter. I fell back on my radio and my cartridge belt was on fire. I knew when that happened I was going to die. We knew that if you were hit in the stomach with a bullet, you almost never lived.”

Strasburg’s buddies laid him out on the one piece of furniture in the farmhouse, a large wooden table, and sprinkled sulfa powder over his wound. He lay there through the afternoon, working the company’s radio to direct artillery fire on the sixth house. Toward evening he felt the need to use a toilet. “A

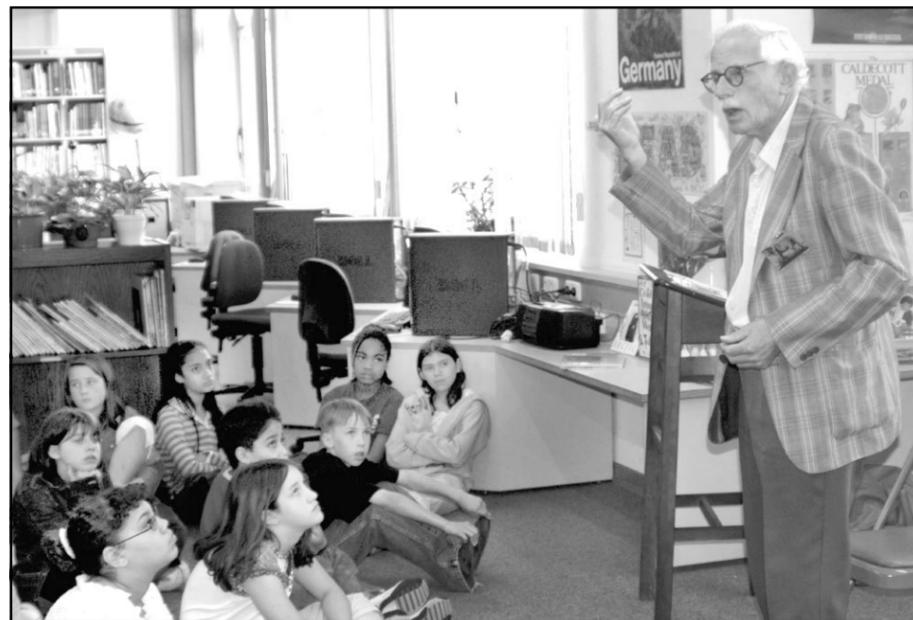


Photo by Karl Weisel

World War II veteran Dudley Strasburg relates his personal experiences to Argonner Elementary School fifth-graders.

couple of guys helped me down to the basement. It was winter. We were wearing seven layers of clothing. I opened up all seven layers and there was a bullet hole through all seven layers. When I looked at the wound for the first time, there was no hole. The bullet had hit me hard and bruised me, but not gone into me. That was when I realized I wasn’t going to die.”

### K-ration saves life

Somehow the bullet had lodged in a tin of corned pork loaf in the K-rations tucked inside his clothing. “In the can I saw the bullet had made a jagged hole. You could cut your hand on it. In the meat I found half the jagged bullet. I never found the other half. I said to myself, ‘Dud, you’re not going to die.’ About nine o’clock that night the rescuers arrived.”

The medics puzzled over Strasburg’s wound, telling him they’d never seen anything like it before.

The Argonner students listened silently to the soft spoken, silver haired gentleman, occasionally raising their hands to ask a question.

Pulled back from the front and reinforced with fresh troops, Company I moved north to the Ruhr region. On April 13 they entered Solingen as the occupying force behind frontline troops and set up headquarters in the suburb of Ohlig. As the radio operator Strasburg got to live with the commander and the first sergeant, which meant he got to sleep on a bed.

He recounted how an elderly man came to the company headquarters and motioned to Strasburg to follow him. Repeating “komm, komm,” he insisted that Strasburg accompany him, which he did after checking with his first sergeant. They walked slowly through the town and the surrounding fields. “It was a warm, sunny day. I mentioned to you that the previous winter had been one of the coldest on record. Well that spring was one

of the finest springs in the first 50 years of the 20th century.” Fearing an ambush he kept his rifle at the ready as they entered the woods.

“It was completely quiet. The sun was streaming through the leaves of the trees. It was beautiful. Suddenly in the middle of the woods he stops. He gets down before me on his hands and his knees.” Strasburg was baffled until the man began clearing out what he came to recognize as a trench in the ground.

“A trench which was a mass grave with the bodies of 71 men all lying on their backs. That’s what I saw. I could hardly believe it — each man had his wrist tied with wire to the wrist of the man next to him. When I went closer to examine them I turned the heads of the dead men and saw that each man had been shot with one bullet in the back of the neck right about here; 71 of them,” he said.

Subsequent investigation determined that the murdered men had been prisoners taken from Wuppertal April 12 as the Germans retreated. Of the 71, 13 had been common criminals, but the rest had been imprisoned, and murdered, for being against the Nazi regime, said Strasburg.

“This is what the Germans did throughout their country. When they retreated from a town the Nazi SS murdered all the prisoners. These people were killers, and most of them were volunteer killers. They did it throughout Europe. The whole 3rd Army got involved after that,” said Strasburg.

“For the days that followed we rounded up a group of about 20-25 lead males in the city of Solingen-Ohlig. They were all Nazis. This 20-year-old kid [meaning himself] was in charge of taking these Nazis back to that trench.” There they were made to disinter the bodies and load them on Army trucks.

“The next day we brought together, by law, around 5,000 local men and women in the garden in front of the town hall of Solingen-Ohlig.” A Protestant minister and a Catholic priest from the town and a Jewish U.S. Army chaplain conducted a joint service for the murdered prisoners.

“And there the 25 Nazis dug new graves, single graves for each of the 71 men,” said Strasburg. He went on to tell the children how

he returned to Solingen-Ohlig in July 2001 as a guest of the municipality to attend a memorial service. “What I found out among other things, the trench had been made in 1986 into a German national monument.” It remains to this day the site of annual memorial ceremonies. He has spoken to school classes in all the local schools in the Solingen area, he said.

After a two-hour presentation Strasburg still had stories to tell, and an ad hoc decision was made to continue after a break for lunch.

What did the students find interesting about the guest speaker’s talk?

“It was the war stories,” said Ryan Dover, “like the mines shaped like beets, and how his general yelled at him and Mr. Strasburg took his foot back so he didn’t get blown up.”

“When he talked about how he found all the bodies lying there, and that now the whole thing is a monument,” said Kimberly Sunderman. “And that how he felt sorry, how he felt bad for killing all those people. We’ve been studying it in school and it’s exciting — he’s a war survivor.”

“That he actually didn’t get killed by the bullet,” said Janelle Dickey.

“That had to be a record — two and a half hours the kids sat there,” said fifth-grade teacher Katherine Rohe.

“They’re turned on to this, the personal stories. They’re excited to the point where on their own they’ll do research,” said fellow fifth-grade teacher Amy Rochowiak.

Because the children grew up around the military, they can relate personally to the history, Rohe said.

For his part Strasburg, who usually speaks to middle and high school students, was impressed with the Argonner children and their responses. “They had many questions,” he said as he got ready to leave for an afternoon round of tennis. “This was quite a group of kids. It must be because of their teachers — they’re modeling their approach of having an open mind and asking questions. Their hands were up; they were listening.”

### Darkness and beauty

Retired for many years, Strasburg continues talking to soldiers and school groups. To put the gentler side of humanity in context he also talks frankly about the darker side of human nature. “I talk about that, about human creativity and how unique it is, but I also talk about the aggressiveness, the brutality in human lives.”

Having fought in World War II and raised a family through the Cold War, Strasburg had mixed feelings about the most recent of America’s wars, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I felt we could have done it without war. ... On the other hand I do believe Hussein was a tyrant and a vicious man, maybe the second to Hitler in these days, responsible for the murder of hundreds of thousands of lives. I’m happy the war was short and for the relatively small number of casualties.”

Strasburg had very positive comments about today’s Army commanders, describing them as warmer and more humanistic than their peers when he was in uniform.

“Things have changed — and I’m so glad they have changed,” he said.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## DPW garners more funds for upgrades

### Sustainment, Revitalization and Maintenance projects continue at full pace

By David Ruderman  
104th ASG Public Affairs Office

Whether you live in family housing or drive around Army installations in the 414th Base Support Battalion, it's hard to miss Directorate of Public Works projects improving the quality of life. Scaffolding and plastic mesh cover housing units across the 414th BSB, and smooth blacktop paving is replacing the bouncy cobblestones on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne.

Sustainment, Revitalization and Maintenance projects as they are known in DPW circles are unfolding at an increased pace across the BSB, said Kirk Marek, director of the 414th BSB DPW. Funding from a windfall \$7 million U.S. Army Europe allocation made possible the painting of "just about every Army Family Housing building from here to Büdingen to Gelnhausen," said Marek. "That included everything from painting building exteriors to sidewalk repairs to building individual trash containers."

Main stairwell doors have also been replaced and mailboxes moved outside the stairwells so mail can be delivered through outside drop boxes. After their removal stairwells were also painted, said Marek.

In the past 12 months the BSB designed, awarded and completed a total of over \$13.1 million in projects, said Robert Martinek, director of the Engineering, Plans and Services division. The total did not include projects awarded or completed around the BSB by the Corps of Engineers or the 104th ASG.

Buildings 20 and 21 on Pioneer



Photo by Karl Weisel

Workers dig out cobblestone streets on Pioneer Kaserne before laying new asphalt.

were renovated from rundown warehouses into the BSB's main welcome and in-processing center at a cost of \$2.1 million. The Pioneer Chapel underwent a complete overhaul at a cost of \$396,000.

More than \$2.8 million has been expended on seven force protection projects, including completed gate upgrades to Pioneer and Wolfgang Kasernes, and similar work at Hutier and Grossauheim Kaserne and the truck gate at Wolfgang, which are under construction. A secure parking area and force protection entrance were completed at Gelnhausen Elementary School, as was a fence and gate project around Buildings 1801-1803 at Gelnhausen Housing.

A total of 22 AFH projects across the BSB were finished at a cost of almost \$2.5 million. Three barracks projects upgraded toilet and shower facilities in Buildings 2202-2204 on Büdingen's Armstrong Barracks at a cost of \$380,000.

"The largest single building project is the \$1.12 million project to repair the motor pool in Building 1348 [on Fliegerhorst Kaserne]," said Martinek. "The building was inadequate and not conforming to mission requirements. When completed soldiers will have new lighting, a vehicles exhaust system, new heating, repaired doors, a new roof and refurbished exterior."

Marek said other recently concluded and ongoing projects across

the 414th BSB include hard stands under way behind Building 52 on Pioneer Kaserne, a completed rainwater retention basin and hard stands at the motor park and gas station in Büdingen.

Other pending projects include runway renovations at Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The design for the \$1.6 million

job is in the design phase and should get under way later this year, said Marek. Related hangar and warehouse renovation projects are also in the design phase.

On Pioneer Kaserne the Central Issue Facility is about to be com-

pletely remodeled. The design of a renovated home for the CIF in Building 19 is in the design phase. Work won't begin for another year, said Marek. Once it is completed the present CIF, Building 15, will be torn down. A barracks upgrade to Building 8 is at the award stage, but authorization has not been received to put the contract out to bid, he said.

The funds to make all the projects possible were the result of significant awards to the BSB, said Robert Kalantari, chief of DPW's Engineer Resources Management Division. The BSB received \$9.7 million for Operations Maintenance Army projects and \$7.9 million for AFH projects, he said.

"These were significant annual funds in fiscal year 2002 for SRM activities and projects. In previous years we used to receive less than 20 percent of that funding. We are now waiting for fiscal year 2003 funds in order to execute our top priority projects," said Kalantari.

The top priority for this year's Master Integrated Priority List, project requests forwarded to USAREUR for funding, is the renovation of Building 5 on Pioneer Kaserne, which is home to important administrative offices and the Pioneer Library. Decisions on MIPL funding are expected over the next three months, said Kalantari.

The BSB got about 33 percent of its requests funded last year, said Marek. "We're trying to stretch every dollar," he said.

2003  
Construction  
update



Photos by David Ruderman

### What they're wearing in Hanau

Photo right: Karin Winter models custom creations of designer Ulrike Kohlwes during an afternoon showing of fashions. About 30 area spouses met at the Paradise Club May 17 to enjoy an afternoon presentation of designs for full-figured women. Photo above: Kohlwes (right), who custom cuts clothes from her collection to order, considers what would go best for a customer. Another presentation is being considered for the fall.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Around the community . . . Around the community

### Tax Center closes

The Tax Center will close at the end of business hours June 16. In order to provide services for soldiers or families affected by deployment, tax assistance will be available by appointment only Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Legal Center. Appointments may be made by calling mil 322-8993.

### Vacation Bible School

Volunteers are needed to help run this summer's Vacation Bible School Aug. 11-15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If interested, contact Deana Porrett at civ (06183) 913 050 or Denise Swaine at (06181) 364 747.

### Health assessments offered

The Hanau Health Clinic will provide health assessments May 28 and 29 from 1-4:30 p.m. Those individuals who need assessments for employment, child care or sports should come to the medical clinic May 29. Individuals desiring health assessments should bring their forms May 28. To sign up for an exam call central appointments at civ (06181) 500-6600 or 500-6601.

### Dental care for retirees

The Hanau Dental Clinic will conduct its annual Retiree Dental Health Day June 12. All military retirees and their family members are welcome to participate. Examinations will be provided on a walk-in basis starting at 7:30 a.m. with appointments for routine care being offered throughout the day. Dental services available will include cleanings, fillings, extractions and limited specialty care. Call mil 328-6520, 322-6522, civ (06181) 500-6520 or 500-6522 for more information.

### Swap baby clothes

The Baby Swap Shop offers parents the opportunity to swap baby items with other parents or borrow a few things. The New Parent Education and Support Group is looking for new and used clothes, toys and books to loan out and give away to new parents. The Swap Shop is open Thursdays from 2-5 p.m. and by appointment. Call mil 322-9636 or civ (06181) 88-9645 for details.

### Free classes offered

Hanau Army Community Service offers free monthly classes including English as a Second Language, resume writing, conflict resolution and sponsorship training. For a complete schedule, contact the Hanau ACS office at mil 322-8963 or civ (06181) 88-8963.

### Summer camps open

Summer day camps begin June 16 at Child and Youth Services. Families may pay for one week or the entire summer, but space is limited. To learn more about day camps, camp programs or to register your child call mil 322-8231, civ (06181) 88-8231 in Hanau or mil 321-4793, civ (06042) 80-793 in Büdingen.

### Make Father's Day cards at ACS

Hanau military community spouses and children are invited to Army Community Service (Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne) May 28



Photo by Mercedes Acuna

### Dance to a different drum

Dancers Gescille Acuna and K. Arce perform the Salakot, a dance from the Philippines, for Hanau Middle School May 15. They will perform again at the Asian-Pacific Heritage Fest at the Pioneer Fitness Center May 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will enjoy dancers, food sampling, tae kwon do demonstrations and door prizes.

from 2-7 p.m. to make Father's Day cards. Parents are asked to bring small photos of each individual child to place in the cards. Call mil 322-9276 for details.

### Masters degrees offered

The Education Center at Building 11 Pioneer Kaserne will host the University of Phoe-

nix online from 1:30-5 p.m. June 9 to meet with interested students and answer questions concerning their Master of Business Administration and Master of Education degree programs. An additional public information meeting will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. the same day. For more information call mil 322-9595 or civ (06181) 88-3535.

### Feeling crafty?

Enroll in any of the June classes with the American Sampler Craft Shop: Quilting Orientation, June 4; Plantation Herb Basket, June 1 and 8; Japanese Bookbinding, June 5; Sewing Lab, June 7 and 21; Primitive Wall Quilt (two-part class), June 7 and 14; Jelly Jar Quilt (three-part class), June 11, 18, and 25; Make a Wreath with Nancy, June 12; Gallery Glass Workshop, June 14. Call mil 322-8082 or civ (06181) 88-8082 to register.

### Toddlers play mornings

Join in Play Mornings every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. at Büdingen Army Community Service and at the Wolfgang Outreach Center every Wednesday from 10-11:15 a.m. Play Mornings offer an interactive playgroup that can help improve a child's social, cognitive and motor skills. For more information call Büdingen ACS at mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786.

### Summer reading programs

Hanau Child and Youth Services will hold a summer enrichment program to continue educational development during the summer. The program will be held June 16 to Aug.

22, Monday through Friday from 2-5 p.m. For more information call mil 322-8231 or civ (06181) 88-8231. The Pioneer and Büdingen libraries will also hold their summer reading program June 27 through July 31. For more information contact the Pioneer Library at mil 322-8942.

### Limber up and dance

Gymnastics classes are available for children ages 2-12 every Tuesday and Wednesday at Cardwell Youth Services. Ballet classes are offered for children ages 3-15 years old. Children will be placed in classes based on their skill level. For monthly fees and enrollment contact the Hanau CLEOS office at mil 322-9144.

### All service car care

Keep your car in tip-top condition. Hanau Auto Skills Center offers towing service, auto detailing packages, while-you-wait oil change service and basic car care classes. For more information visit Hanau Auto Skills Center in Building 625 on Grossauheim Kaserne or call mil 322-8247, -8625.

### Traveling with Outdoor Rec

Hanau Outdoor Recreation offers family trips throughout the summer. Visit Movie World or the Karlovy Vary and Czech flea market June 7, take a shopping trip to Poland June 13-15, experience Phantasialand amusement park June 14, buy direct from the Birkenstock Shoe Factory June 21 or tour Bavaria's castles June 28. For prices and registration call mil 322-8891 or civ (06181) 88-8891.



Photos by Melody Joy Fields

### Memorial flag raised over Hanau schools

Student council members from Argonner Elementary School fold a memorial flag sent to Europe by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Junior ROTC cadets (photo right) raised the same flag over Hanau High School. The flag was raised and lowered over the Pentagon Aug. 30, 2002, in honor of those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. "We remember them as heroes," wrote Rumsfeld. "They died because of how they lived — as free men and women, proud of their country's cause — the cause of human freedom. We must remember the fallen as they would have wanted to be remembered — living in freedom as Americans." DoD schools throughout Europe are playing host to the memorial flag.

