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Herald Union



Vol. X, No. 19

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

June 24, 2003

501st MPs remembered

Friends, relatives share memories, sense of loss

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The deaths of two Military Police soldiers in Iraq last month cast shadows that stretched across the globe.

Pvt. 2 Kenneth A. Nalley and Staff Sgt. Brett J. Petriken of Wiesbaden's 501st Military Police Company were killed while escorting a convoy near As Samawah, Iraq, May 26 when a heavy equipment transporter struck the HMMWV they were traveling in.

At a memorial service attended by over 300 fellow soldiers, friends and community members May 30 at Hainerberg Chapel and in the weeks since, memories of their lives and deaths reverberated in the hearts of those who knew them.

"It was one of those things that you can't believe could happen to someone like that. It shook

up some people more than others, but it affected the whole unit," said Staff Sgt. Waymona McIntee, 501st MP Company rear detachment commander, a colleague and friend of Petriken's, who rendered a memorial tribute to the fallen soldiers.



Staff Sgt. Brett J. Petriken

McIntee knew Petriken from the time they were stationed together at Fort Stewart, Ga., and worked with him again when he moved to his duty station with the 501st. "There was not a person in this unit who didn't like him. He was a happy-go-lucky kind of person, a great NCO, a great husband and the greatest father you're ever likely to meet."

Petriken would have turned 31 on May 27, the day after the fatal
See 501st MPs on page 4



Photo by Pfc. Aimee Olson

Pvt. 2 Kenneth Allen Nalley (left) settles in for a game of chess with his MP buddies during training in Grafenwöhr in January.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Labriel

On patrol in Iraq

Soldiers of Hanau's 502nd Engineer Company, 565th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, patrol the south side of the Tigris River in Trikrit, Iraq. The engineers are among thousands of soldiers from the communities of the 104th Area Support Group who are serving in Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

New USAREUR vision

Command focuses on versatility of Army's expeditionary force in Europe

U.S. Army Europe leaders approved a new mission statement, vision, mission essential task list and logo as part of a plan to focus its role as the Army's expeditionary force in Europe.

The recently released mission statement says "As a forward-based land component, USAREUR demonstrates national resolve and strategic leadership by assuring stability and security, and leading joint and combined forces in support of the combatant commander."

The new logo, with the words "USAREUR, Freedom's Expeditionary Force, An Army Forward, Any Mission, Anywhere" replaces "On Point For The Nation,"



used by USAREUR since the mid-1990s.

"This logo, along with our new mission statement, METL and vision refocuses the command toward new possibilities," said Col. Carl Kropf, chief of USAREUR's Public Affairs Office.

The new missions, Kropf said, are not necessarily in Central Europe. "We're going to operate in entirely new and exciting ways to support combatant commanders

and underscore the relevancy of our units. Ongoing missions in Southwest Asia and new training experiences with many new countries demonstrate our versatility and expeditionary nature."

Although the logo is the most visible outward change, the mission essential task list, or METL, provides the overarching command priorities. The six tasks are:

⇒ Train tailored forces and headquarters for joint and combined operations.

⇒ Rapidly project expeditionary forces prepared for joint and combined operations.

⇒ Ensure force well-being.

⇒ Operate theater sustainment

See USAREUR on page 3

Next issue: An inside look at soldiers serving in Iraq

Commentary

Motorcycle safety critical in USAREUR

Commentary by Gen. B.B. Bell
U.S. Army Europe commander

In my last Safety Alert, I sadly noted the loss of 19 U.S. Army Europe team members this year as a result of fatal off-duty accidents and suicides. One of those fatalities was a soldier killed in a motorcycle accident. This past weekend, just a little over a month after that fatality, we lost another USAREUR soldier in an off-duty motorcycle accident. This is an ominous beginning for our motorcycle-riding season — leaders must step in and take this in hand.



Gen. B.B. Bell

Both of these fatal accidents fit the profile for the most common types of motorcycle accidents: collision with another vehicle, failure to negotiate a corner and head-on collision. The death rate for motorcyclists is more than 16 times the death rate for occupants of other types of vehicles.

Leaders must become personally involved in preventing these fatalities. Commanders will appoint someone to review motorcycle-survival skills with all motorcyclists in their command before the long Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Motorcyclists must also do their part. First, they must wear helmets and protective clothing. Second, they need to follow the six essential motorcycle survival skills. Commanders and leaders can direct their motorcycle riders to the following website: http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safety/newsafety/motorcycle/_private/motorcycle_survival_skills.htm.

USAREUR is also strengthening its motorcycle safety program through more stringent licensing requirements. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation is training motorcycle safety instructors this week. Motorcyclists must attend an MSF course given by a trained instructor. These MSF courses will be added to the current requirements of safety instruction and performance testing for all motorcycle drivers who are licensed to drive.

Ensure this safety alert is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting in on unit bulletin boards. Comply with its requirements. "No Loss Of Life" is our goal.

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Commentary by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Drugs by any other name

Every time I get back to the good old U.S. of A. and catch up on the latest television commercials, I'm struck by the overwhelming presence of pharmaceutical advertising. It seems that as a proud member of the Baby Boomer generation, one of our biggest legacies is that we tend to be interested in all things pharmacological.

No, I don't mean illegal drugs.

I mean the perfectly legitimate "aids" pharmaceutical companies are pushing with massive advertising budgets, products guaranteed to help solve all physical and mental challenges we may face now or in the future.

Watch TV for even a short period of time and one is quickly assured there is a treasure trove of pills, potions and poultices for every orifice; elixirs to calm any condition; medications to soothe the tortured joints and muscles; and a host of other medicinal products promising to make the aging process more like a pleasure cruise on the Aegean Sea than a tricycle ride up Pike's Peak.

There are pills to give us more energy throughout the day, pills to make us sleep soundly, pills to ease the digestion process and pills to help us remember things. On television many of these products are hawked by robust, distinguished-looking elderly models who attest to the fact that there is

Second thoughts

indeed better living through chemistry.

Of course, like cigarettes, which come with a disclaimer about the potentially harmful effects of indulging in tobacco products, most TV ads for pharmaceuticals also have a tag line warning about the possible side effects of even short-term or prolonged use. One is warned not to combine these drugs with other drugs, not to mix drug taking and driving, not to use these products and perform tasks involving heavy machinery.

The ads also encourage potential users to ask their doctors about these products — as if highly trained physicians need a layman's advice on medication. If that is the case then the American medical profession is indeed in sorry shape.

And while some of these product advertisements do recommend they be used in combination with a healthy lifestyle, many simply give the impression they are the cure-alls for whatever is making us feel the way we do — not unlike the appeal of illegal substances when we were young Baby Boomers. We want satisfaction and we want it now.

It seems hypocritical to expect youngsters not to experiment with various substances, when they are raised in a world that pushes drugs non-stop on television.

I understand that the bottom line is making huge profits for the drug companies. But I think the world would be a healthier place if

the pharmaceutical industry would lay off the glitzy drug ads and invest those millions of corporate dollars into scientific and medical research. Imagine how much time and money people would save if indeed they did find a cure for the common cold?

Of course, then the auto industry might actually start building cars that run forever with no maintenance or use "free" alternative fuels such as wind, water or sunlight.

I won't hold my breath.

Lynyrd Skynyrd rule the roost

A big thank-you to the corporate sponsors, American Forces Network and Rhein-Main Services Division for hosting the free Lynyrd Skynyrd concert at Rhein-Main

Airbase June 12. The concert was truly a family affair with thousands of local service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families on hand to enjoy the live, outdoor rock and roll show.

From the live AFN family member greetings to spouses serving in and around Iraq to the beaming smiles of Johnny Van Zant, Gary Rossington and the boys it was obvious people came out for a good time and to celebrate the spirit of Americana. With a huge American flag as a backdrop, the members of Skynyrd delivered patriotic greetings and unadulterated rock and roll (see page 14 for coverage of the concert).

Many of the younger concertgoers on hand may have been surprised to see so many of their teachers and principals rocking hard to the good vibes — and the end of another school year.



Photo by David Ruderman

Community members shake it up to the sounds of Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Did you know?

Soldiers, family members and civilians must use government Commercial Travel Offices when arranging all official travel.

Changes to the Joint Federal Travel Regulation and Joint Travel Regulation require commanders and units to take appropriate disciplinary action when these mandates are violated, whether by soldiers or civilians. This includes commercial travel and car rental.

Commands and units are expected to take disciplinary action for willful action and failure to follow regulations concerning the use of CTOs. Disciplinary action may be in the form of counseling, either oral or written, non-judicial action or another appropriate means. Action must not be taken through refusal to reimburse.

Reimbursement will not be allowed when the traveler does not follow the regulations for foreign flag carriers and directed transoceanic transportation entitlements as stated in the JFTR/JTR.

The revisions stipulating disciplinary action were published in JFTR Change No. 196 and JTR Change No. 450. They came into effect April 1 of this year.

The Department of Defense is making every effort to reprimand violators of the Defense Travel Regulations. All active duty military and DoD civilians should adhere to the new revisions to the JFTR/JTR to avoid punitive actions. (Courtesy of 104th ASG DOL)

Herald Union

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News and features

News flash...News flash

Direct billing

As of June 1 Europe Regional Medical Command hospitals and clinics are billing civilian insurance companies directly for civilian patient outpatient visits directly. Patients are billed the difference for payment to the military treatment facility. Beneficiaries should visit the treasury office of their respective facility to complete necessary documentation authorizing the Army hospitals or clinics to file claims directly with insurance companies. Pay patients should allow 10-15 minutes to visit the treasury office before any appointment. This will enable the staff to verify billing address information, the status of any outstanding claims and also allow the pay patient an opportunity to rectify any disputed claims. The initiative is currently limited to U.S. Army facilities in Europe, Aviano Air Base clinic and the Naval Hospital in Naples. It may be extended to all MTFs in Europe at a later time. (Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office)

Casualties

Pvt. Shawn D. Pahnke, age 25, of Shelbyville, Ind., was shot and killed while on patrol in Baghdad June 16. Pahnke was a member of Friedberg's Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

Sgt. Michael L. Tosto, age 24, of Apex, N.C., died June 17 of a non-combat-related cause at Camp Wolf, Kuwait. Tosto was assigned to Baumholder's Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment.

Pvt. Robert L. Frantz, age 19, of San Antonio, Texas, was killed June 17 in Baghdad in a grenade attack. Frantz was assigned to Friedberg's Company B, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment. (DoD Release)

DoD upgrades civilian personnel database

The Department of Defense is upgrading the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System, a database used to initiate and process personnel actions, to a new web-based interface called Oracle 11i. The change, starting July 18, will result in about two weeks of downtime for U.S. Army Europe users. DoD officials said the system should be available by Aug. 1. The new web-based system will be more user friendly resembling the Army



Knowledge Online website, officials added. Local Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers will conduct training on the new software and the Civilian Human Resource Management Agency website will feature a "Quick Start" guide for managers. Visit www.cpol.army.mil for information on the system. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

New mail service

Delivery Confirmation and Signature Confirmation services will be available for U.S.-bound parcels at all U.S. Army Post Offices in Germany, Holland, Belgium and Italy starting July 1. Delivery Confirmation provides customers with the date, zip code and time the article was delivered. If delivery was attempted senders will get the date and time of attempted delivery. The service is available with Priority Mail for 45 cents and with Space Available Mail for 55 cents. With Signature Confirmation customers can get confirmation of delivery — including date, time and location — and they can request a letter to be faxed or mailed to them with a copy of the recipient's signature. The service is available with Priority Mail and SAM for \$1.80. For more information stop by your local APO or visit the U.S. Postal Service website at www.usps.com/shipping/trackandconfirm.htm. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

Chorus seeks talent

The U.S. Army Europe Soldiers' Chorus seeks male and female vocalists, a keyboard player, electric guitarist, bass guitarist, drummer and audio technician. The chorus performs more than 150 shows a year throughout Europe. For more information about the chorus visit their website at www.1perscom.army.mil/BAND. Soldiers (staff sergeants and below) interested in auditioning can also call mil 379-5034/7834.

Check Control moving

The 104th Area Support Group's Check Control Office (for soldiers clearing in the 414th Base Support Battalion) will be closed July 3-7 while it moves from Building 5 (Room 401) on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne to Building 1105 (Room 207) on Hanau's Hutier Kaserne. Call Lon Elliotte at mil 322-9946 for more information.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Members of local posts serve communities

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

They're all around you — men and women who have or are now serving the United States valiantly during times of armed conflict. Although many have retired from the military, they continue to serve their fellow veterans through community service and the lobbying efforts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"We're fighting right now for mandatory funding of veterans' health care," said Dean White, recently elected VFW Department of Europe commander, from Wiesbaden's Post 27. "The Department of Veterans Affairs gets an annual budget that often does not meet the needs of veterans. We want mandatory funding. ... We're also fighting for concurrent receipt of disability pay and retiree pay."

"Membership in the VFW is our voice in Congress," White said, explaining that with some 1.9 million members, "the VFW is one of the best veterans service organizations on Capital Hill. We maintain an office in Washington, D.C., next to Congress."

"Veterans were promised certain entitlements and we think Congress should maintain those entitlements," said White, a veteran of two tours of Vietnam who has been a member of VFW for two decades and has served in numerous capacities as district and post commanders. "We're for a strong national defense and we think service members should be properly compensated."

Besides lobbying Congress for veterans' rights, members of local VFW posts in Baumholder, Darmstadt, Dexheim, Giessen, Hanau and Wiesbaden continue to contribute to their local communities through support of the Scouts, by providing scholarships and conducting other quality-of-life improvement efforts.

"We support the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, soldiers in need of assistance, local organizations. We



give phone cards to soldiers when they deploy so that they can continue to communicate with their families back home. We have a very vital relief program," said White.

"The heart of our business is serving," he added. "If we're not serving our communities then we're not fulfilling our charter."

Founded around the turn of the last century by veterans of the Spanish-American War, the organization's roots are based on the premise that veterans deserve certain rights and benefits for their military service. Over the years the VFW's efforts have led to the establishment of the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs), the development of the national cemetery system, compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange, care packages for Desert Storm troops and funding for the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.

Among notable veterans who have called themselves members of the VFW are Audie Murphy, poet Carl Sandburg, astronaut John Glenn and eight presidents including Theodore Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford and George Bush.

"We have 7,200 members in Europe," said White. "A member must have an authorized campaign medal or otherwise meet the criteria established by Congress. ... The Defense Department recognizes an

armed conflict or hazardous duty normally with an expeditionary medal."

According to the VFW website, "VFW membership is available to all U.S. service members who have earned an overseas campaign or expeditionary medal and are currently on active duty, in the Reserves or who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces. In addition the service member must be a U.S. citizen. ... A 1995 VFW congressional charter amendment makes eligible all those who have served 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters from June 30, 1949, until the present."

"Unlike other organizations you had to have physically served there," said White. "You had to have come home with the T-shirt." Soldiers serving as part of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom are potential members, he added.

The VFW annually conducts a Voice of Democracy oral contest for high school students and a Patriots Pen essay contest for middle school students aimed at encouraging patriotism and providing scholarships for deserving students. Prizes range from a \$25,000 scholarship at the national level for the Voice of Democracy competition to savings bonds for the Patriots Pen. For details on entry requirements and deadlines visit the VFW website at www.vfw.org.

Other newly elected officers of the VFW's Department of Europe are Dexheim's Steve Ward, senior vice commander; and Vicenza's Peter Luste, junior vice commander. Ray Zisk, VFW national commander, installed the new officers.

"Membership is how people can help the VFW," added White. For more information about the organization visit the VFW website. To get involved with your local chapter send an email to Dean White at dean.white@t-online.de.

"If we're not serving our communities then we're not fulfilling our charter."

USAREUR

Continued from page 1 and execute expeditionary logistics in support of Army, joint and combined forces.

⇒ Ensure regional security, access and stability through presence and security cooperation.

⇒ Provide C2 capabilities in theater and to deployed joint and combined forces to ensure information dominance.

These tasks are directly linked to the USAREUR vision of Freedom's Expeditionary Force:

⇒ Transformed and ready
⇒ Projecting premier full-spectrum joint forces

⇒ Lean and agile, strategically postured

⇒ Guarantors of security, access, and stability — An Army Forward
⇒ Any Mission, Any

where.

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there," Kropf said, quoting a popular saying.

The new logo, along with the METL and the mission and vision statements, is available on the USAREUR homepage at www.hqusareur.army.mil. (Courtesy of USAREUR Public Affairs)

News and features

501st MPs

Continued from page 1

accident, she said. From Flint, Mich., Petriken is survived by his wife Christine, their 8-year-old daughter, Rhiannon, and family in Michigan, North Carolina and Florida.

"The relationship with his daughter was very close. You couldn't ask for more of a father, an NCO or a man," said Spc. Paul Reho, who worked closely with Petriken for a year when Petriken served as the 501st's training NCO.

"Everybody liked him. It's a great loss to the unit and to the Army because he was so dedicated to the Army. He once told me, out in the field one day, we were using the same mirror to shave with, and he told me, 'Reho, I really couldn't see myself doing anything else.' When the deployment came up they moved him back into the squad leader position because that's where he's best. Before he left he said that if anything happened he wanted to be buried at Arlington — because he deserved it," he said.

Nalley, who was 19, from Hamburg, Iowa, joined the Army in July 2002, and his job as a gunner with the 501st was his first assignment as an MP. He left for the Gulf May 1.

"His motive for joining the Army was that he wanted to be a state trooper back here in the States. He loved his job as an MP," said Nalley's brother, David Osborn.

"Yes, we heard from him in Iraq and I think the whole town did too. He never really talked about the war except for being shot at."

"We were on the same team for the six months he was here," said Pfc. Aimee Olson. "He was a crazy kid, I guess you could say: He was always smiling. You know some days you just feel like nothing's going right? Well, I guess he didn't have a lot of those. He was a lot of fun. He would whine with

us once in a while, but he'd always be the one to lighten up and say, 'You know, it's really not that bad.' I think when he was in high school he was a drama student, and I guess that's where he picked up parts of his personality."

"Yes he was a drama student," said Osborn. "There wasn't anything he wouldn't sing or dance to. He was the kind of kid that was actually indescribable. He always had a smile on his face, even when he was upset, or he would just say, 'You just don't understand.'"

"It's kind of like, what did he have to offer that the rest of us didn't. Offer isn't even really the right word. I don't even know how to express it," said Olson. "I know he went to Graf twice. We all stayed in the same tent. He was a blast. He was a lot of fun. Sometimes it's just not fair."

Reho accompanied Nalley's body to Hamburg for the funeral service, which took place June 6 at his former elementary school.

"There was not a person in this town that didn't know Kenny. There are approximately 1,500 people in this town, and over 600 people were at the graveside for the funeral — and a lot couldn't get off work or they would have been there."

"There was not a person in this town that didn't know Kenny," said Osborn. "There are approximately 1,500 people in this town, and over 600 people were at the graveside for the funeral — and a lot couldn't get off work or they would have been there. Most of the businesses locked their doors for the funeral and the owners attended the services."

Nalley is survived by his mother, Roberta L. Brooks, his grandmother, Delores Cavner, his brothers Danny and David Osborn, his sister Diane Osborn and eight nieces and nephews.

Sgt. Marcus Johnson of the 501st accompanied Christine and Rhiannon Petriken to Arlington National Cemetery where the funeral took place June 4.

"There were his parents, his father and his mother, one

brother, one sister, eight of his best friends, his nieces and nephews — about 25 of his family and friends," said Johnson. "Everyone knew, loved or liked Sgt. Petriken. From what they were saying and the way they were talking, there was never anyone who knew him that didn't love him or like him, or that he didn't try to help."

The officiating chaplain, knowing that Petriken was a big Detroit Lions fan, tried to lighten the mood of the mourners with some humorous references to the team, but sorrow held sway. "It was just crying from the time they opened the hearse and brought him out. It was a tear-jerker, you might say," said Johnson.

Petriken's parents turned to Johnson with questions about the accident that killed their son. "It was more of asking did I know — how did it happen. They wanted to be really clear about what happened. By now she's [Christine Petriken] probably gotten a report, I really couldn't tell you." Christine went through a roller-coaster of an emotional experience through the flight to the States and the funeral, said Johnson.

"She's trying to be as strong as she can be," said Reho. "The little girl's just unbelievable, being as strong as she can be. If her mother starts crying she would be comforting her and saying 'Don't cry, Mama, it's going to be all right.'"

The funeral was conducted with full military bearing, said Johnson. "The Old Guard, they're precise. Everything, from carrying him from the hearse to the final resting place, to the bugler — it's all precise. It was an honor. Especially for Sgt. Petriken."

Nalley and Petriken's deaths have taken their toll on the 501st as it continues its difficult and often perilous mission working out of Baghdad, said McIntee. "Morale downrange was low, but it's picking up now. It's like you're in a dream — like you're watching things pass by and waiting for someone to wake you up. But it's OK now; we know it happened. Wake me."

Need more information about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome?
Visit the 104th ASG website at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil and click on SARS at the bottom of the page.

WCSC gives away thousands in scholarships

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Almost \$20,000 was handed out to members of the Wiesbaden community last month in the form of scholarship funds by the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club.

When talking scholarships, many people picture high school seniors scrambling to find money

to help pay for their education, however, these recipients weren't only high school students, several were adults continuing with their education.

"This is a tremendous help. Books alone are incredible," said Manuela Richardson, who was expecting only \$250 but received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Richardson wasn't the only one surprised at the amount. All schol-

arship recipients were only told they would be receiving a scholarship, not the amount. "We want the students to be surprised, so we purposely do not inform them of the amount, just of the fact that they won," said Moira Kearney, WCSC president.

The biggest surprise of the night was the announcement of the Jacob Dixon III Memorial Scholarship recipient, General H.H. Arnold High

School senior, Shelby Levins. Presenting the award was Judy Flacke, a former H.H. Arnold teacher of the award's namesake. A 1974 graduate of Wiesbaden High School, Dixon received a full Air Force scholarship and was later killed in an airplane crash.

"This was a very pleasant surprise, I had no idea it would be this much," said Levins, who will be majoring in communications at Trin-

ity University in San Antonio, Texas, in the fall.

Other scholarship recipients were Kelly Albright, Donna Curtiss, Lyris Johanson, Serena Kerr, Ana Lohmer, Rachel Lucken, Grace McFarland, Emily McRae, Sarah Price, Ryan Price and Amy Vannurden. Jeanette Sirois also received a combined scholarship from both the German American Women's Club and WCSC.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

"Now you'll forever be on H.H. Arnold walls," says Lindsey Levins (right) to Shelby (left) as she and husband Randy look at a commemorative plaque naming their daughter as the recipient of the Jacob Dixon III Memorial Scholarship offered by the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club.