

On guard in Iraq

Shooting hoops, not bullets in Baghdad

U.S. soldiers build bridges through sports

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

As coalition forces continued to skirmish with Iraqi resistors in the streets of Baghdad, American soldiers and hometown athletes joined together to build goodwill through sports. At a newly reopened Iraqi Olympic training facility, soccer, basketball, tennis and swimming matches brought the two nations together for a little friendly competition and laid the foundation for future sports events.

"I don't know if I ever thought we'd be playing basketball with Iraqis," said 1st Lt. Lashonia White, a treatment platoon leader with Company C, 501st Forward Support Battalion.

"This is the Iraqi equivalent of Colorado Springs. This is where they train their athletes. It's not an attempt to draw the Olympics to Baghdad," said Dr. (Col.) Gerry Greenfield, an orthopedic surgeon with 628th Forward Surgical Team, a Reserve unit from San Antonio, Texas, attached to the 501st FSB in Baghdad. Greenfield and his crew were on hand to provide emergency medical assistance should the need arise during a basketball match June 25 at the renovated venue.

Joint project

"We sponsored the soccer game and we opened the Olympic Stadium yesterday," said Col. Mike Tucker, commander of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. The joint project came at the request of the chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, he said.

"Mr. Somari came to my office about a week ago and asked if we could help get the Olympic Stadium open, and I said, 'yes we can.' This is another step toward normalcy. I think it helps bring back their identity as an Iraqi people. It's an important step. Tonight we'll lock up 20-30 thieves, robbers and murderers, but today we are giving the Iraqi

people back another piece of their national identity," said Tucker.

"The stadium opened one week before to repair the facilities," said Dr. Abdul-Razzak al-Ta'ai, deputy director of the Interim Committee for Sports in Iraq. "We finished today, but we will continue in the future with the friendly American Army. Next weekend we will play with a volleyball team."

The hoops match was sponsored by 1st Brigade and Friedberg's 501st FSB. Security was tight, with armed U.S. soldiers stationed at the gate and in strategic positions around the complex. About 100 soldiers and a score of Iraqi fans sat in the bleachers to cheer their teams. As the ball was tipped off, the American soldiers were treated to the Iraqi equivalent of the wave — two hardcore Iraqi fans egging their players on in a high sing-song chant that they repeated throughout the course of the game.

The Iraqi team represented the municipality of al-Karkh, a district of the greater Baghdad metropolitan area. A number of

their players are mainstays of the country's national team and they played like seasoned ball handlers.

"I think the popular sport in Iraq is first soccer. Second is equal between basketball and volleyball, and after that wrestling and boxing are very popular," said al-Ta'ai.

The Iraqis took a commanding early lead and never looked back, while the Americans did their best to pull even, but couldn't close the gap. They trailed al-Karkh 46-33 at the half. Soldiers toting M-16s swept the court with brooms to remove the sand that had drifted in through a half opened sliding wall during play.

"The team formed about four or five days ago, so they're young, and it's an international game," said Greenfield. "The key is wider at the baseline and it's more zone-oriented play than individual. If you've only had a couple of days to adjust, it's tough. We just hope that people's innate capabilities will come to the fore."

"It's just a matter of our guys haven't

played ball together, and obviously these other guys have been playing quite a lot together — at least in the last two months," said Maj. Kevin McKenna, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st FSB.

Win, lose or draw the scramble on the court was a welcome relief from more stressful concerns for the Americans.

"We're here supporting the Ready First Combat Team," said Capt. Tom Duncan, surgical team executive officer with the 628th FST as he caught his breath on the bench. "We do resuscitative surgery on casualties. We've only really had one casualty in that category. We've seen a lot of Iraqis who have been shot. It's a bit of a humanitarian effort and our mission's become some of that. The soldiers out patrolling the streets know we're here and if something happens we're going to take care of them."

Health support

"Our whole mission is to provide supply and health support to the Ready First Combat Team so they can keep moving. All the basic support systems are there for the soldiers," said McKenna.

"This morning we had an Iraqi female come in — apparently her home was bombed and her family was killed during the war, and now she's having problems with her legs," said White. "Dr. Greenfield talked with her and looked at her, and then we took her over to the Iraqi hospital to be taken care of. We see also some EPWs [Enemy Prisoners of War] and regular Iraqis that get caught in the crossfire. We have a lot of action late night, around 11 or midnight. That's when they start coming in."

"Everybody just works together here," said 1st Lt. Riley Retaunda, a physician's assistant with the 501st FSB. "People are just grateful for what we're doing. I wish so many of the American people could come here and see the health system they have. They would appreciate our health care system more. People don't wash their hands here. They don't have gloves or medical equipment. ... People were bringing their babies up to me figuring Americans can fix everything."

See Hoops on facing page



Photo by Karl Weisel

U.S. and Iraqi players battle for possession during a friendly game in Baghdad June 25.

Friedberg mechanics power up Iraqi hospital

By Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Two generator mechanics from Friedberg's 501st Forward Support Battalion helped restore much needed power to Iraq's national orthopedic hospital.

Spc. Chris Rich, age 24, from Flint, Mich., and Sgt. Sean Richmond, 30, from Washington, D.C., both mechanics assigned to Company B, volunteered when an Al Wasity Hospital staff member requested help after several attempts from local mechanics and other sources failed.

"They called UNICEF, the International Red Cross, the Iraqi Ministry of Health and none of them could help them," said Dr. (Col.) Gerald Greenfield, 628th Forward Surgical Team. "The hospital director came to our facility to ask for help, and the people at the 501st allocated two of their generator mechanics."

Greenfield said electricity runs everything in the hospital.

"If the generators go down, the hospital fails," he said. "There's nothing you can do if the generators go down. There are no options."

Within hours Rich and Richmond had their tools packed and were ready for their own type of surgical procedures. Upon arriving behind the razor wire and brick wall separating the hospital from the rest of Baghdad, the two mechanics began working with the hospital's generator mechanics to diagnose the problem generator.

That system provides power to run ventilators, operating room equipment and lights. The 50-bed hospital lost power in June to both its primary and secondary generators.

Within hours the American mechanics had replaced the water pump and had the power back on.

After successfully completing their first task, Rich and Richmond moved into the dark corridors of the hospital generator room to begin diagnosing and repairing an ancient

machine.

"It's definitely more difficult working on this equipment, compared to our generators," said Rich. "We have no manuals to know exactly what we are doing."

Unable to figure out how to shut off the 220 volts of electricity to the secondary generator supplied from the primary generator, the two soldiers had to return to the 501st to get electrical tape and tools to protect them against the high voltage.

"We definitely don't want to touch anything that could shock us," Richmond said. "That would be very painful."

After returning the next day, Richmond began the slow task of wrapping all exposed wires with insulation and tape.

"Generators are basically all the same," he said. "We have a basic knowledge on how the system works here. We just have to isolate the problem and fix it. It's a simple concept, but very difficult if you don't know how it works."

On guard in Iraq

Hoops . . .

Continued from facing page

One thing they couldn't fix was the disparity on the court that afternoon. At the final buzzer al-Karkh had chalked up an impressive 74-53 win.

"They've got better skills than I thought they'd have," said Duncan. "I feel really lucky to be in on this. I heard about this team forming so I tried out and I'm happy to be on the team. I'll be 45 in December and I sure hope to get back in time to coach my daughter's high school basketball team in High Island, Texas."

"I think we played a good game," said Dr. (Capt.) Ken Kooser, Company C, 501st FSB. "Take away the first five minutes of the game and we held them even. It was fun."

"I had a good time. They played rougher than I expected, but it was fun," said Spc. Cheval Silva of 628th FST.

"It was a friendly match," said referee Moyed Sami Abbas. "There's a difference in level of teams. The Iraqis are proficient; this is their nature." Abbas has refereed basketball since the mid-1970s and said he hoped there would be more games for him to call.

Building a sense of shared experience came at the cost of losing matches for the Americans, but no one seemed to mind. In the course of the week's events they fell 11-0 in



Photo by Karl Weisel

Coach Capt. Milton Kelly fires up his team during halftime against players from the Iraqi national team. The players faced one another at the Iraqi Olympic training stadium in Baghdad.

soccer and lost almost every match in tennis, but managed to hold their own in the swimming events. "We took all the women's events, because there were no Iraqi women swimming, but we're soldiers, not Navy

guys," said Greenfield.

"This is something our players will never forget — playing the Iraqi national team," said Retaunda. "It also looks good on our resumes — providing medical assistance for

an Olympic national team. We're experiencing things most people won't experience in their entire lives. My son will read about this in the history books."

"You don't get these opportunities many times in your life," said Greenfield, noting his unit is stationed in the Iraqi Police Academy, which has benefits for everyone involved. "The director of the police academy likes it because we're covering his flanks. And as we make repairs and upgrades to their operating infrastructure, they'll benefit from it when we leave."

'I miss Friedberg'

Outside the basketball hall Spc. Eric Laing and Pfc. Amy Ford of Company A, 501st FSB, clung to the shade as they manned a guard position in the intense afternoon heat. Ford ticked off the hurdles to keeping it together in Baghdad. "Little sleep. It's hot. I miss my family. I'm homesick. I miss conveniences, PXs and stuff like that, but it'll be over soon," said the Granbury, Texas, native.

"I never thought I'd say this, but I miss Friedberg," said Laing.

"I miss Grafenwöhr. I will never complain about going to Graf again," said Retaunda. "Let our families know we're OK over here. Tell them we're OK." *(Karl Weisel contributed to this story.)*

Commander's column

There is something special here

By Col. David J. Bender
284th Base Support Battalion commander

The time has come to write my final commander's column. There is not enough room on this page for me to recognize and thank everyone who has made the Giessen-Friedberg community the best, the most special within the U.S. Army Europe. Our military community does not have the newest facilities, all centrally located.

We do not have a large headquarters with senior people living here. We do not receive more funding than any other BSB. This is all obvious to everyone who lives here. But, it is the lack of these that makes the Giessen-Friedberg military community special.

It is special because everyone has learned to pull together and maximize to the fullest what we do have, and that is the skills, the qualities and talents of each other. From members of our tenant units, community staff and supporting agencies from the BSB to AAFES to DeCA to Department of Defense Schools to the health and dental clinics to our social work organizations to the folks who maintain our communications (102nd Signal) to our Army Postal

Offices and Community Mail Rooms to our WIC offices to the military police units to our great volunteer organizations such as the scouts, Red Cross, Hearts and Hands, AWAG, the family readiness groups and all the other clubs, groups and private organizations out there. You have all made the difference. We have been blessed with outstanding host nation neighbors and partners. Our German friends throughout the Giessen and Wetterau area have done so much to support the U.S. community during both good times and bad.

We have truly seen the good and the bad times over the last two years. I want to give special recognition here to our host nation work force who despite the hanging dark cloud of closure (still scheduled for sometime in 2008) have continued to give their all in support of their U.S. community.

Thanks to our U.S. civilian work force who, like your host nation comrades, have truly performed selflessly and magnificently over the trying times we have been through. Each of you have made Giessen-Friedberg, "One Team, One Family, One Community." Sue and I will miss you all. "Excellence In Action."



Webster receives first BSB SORT award

The primary mission of the 284th Base Support Battalion Separate or Recycle Trash program is to encourage housing area residents and community members to participate in the program.

The Environmental Office has decided to praise those who are actively supporting its efforts. To show appreciation to those community members the staff has decided to nominate monthly SORT award winners, who will enter the Recycler Hall of Fame.

The first official SORT award winner is Patti Webster, a resident of Dulles Housing in Giessen.

"I first learned about recycling during my first tour in Germany. I was in the Army and I only recycled paper then. At my last state-side duty station I began recycling," she said.

In the past one and a half years since she has lived in Giessen Webster's neighbors have seen her continued efforts in recycling bottles, cans, plastic and paper.

"It takes little effort to recycle as long as you take the time to clean your bottles and cans to prevent strong odors. Since I separate I don't have to bring trash outside as often," she said.

Webster tries to encourage her neighbors and friends to also recycle. "Some neighbors do recycle. I tell them to at least separate paper and plastics. Everybody can do that,"

she said.

"Most people might think recycling means extra work, but it's not. Actually I don't have to bring as much trash outside as I had to before," she said.

For her efforts Webster also received a \$25 AAFES gift certificate and a Polaroid camera donated by AAFES.

The following facts may help you understand why participating in SORT is so important:

★ Last year the 284th BSB paid \$1.5 million to have trash disposed of. This total is based on weight so remember to keep those trash lids closed because wet garbage weighs more than dry. Also figured into the total is the amount paid for someone to sort our recyclable items that end up in the wrong dumpster or are thrown away with the rest of the trash. ★ The Army has a 40 percent recycle goal. The BSB is at 32 percent. If we buckled down and met or exceeded this goal we would not only save money but save resources as well.

A final note: If we could meet our recycling goal we would save about \$155,000 that could be used for other things in our housing areas such as better playgrounds, modifications to housing units and better landscaping. So keep up the fight and let's crush that 40 percent goal. (Courtesy of the 284th BSB SORT office)

Community spotlight .. Community spotlight

BSB closed for Organizational Day

The 284th Base Support Battalion conducts its annual Organization Day July 18 starting at 9 a.m. Mission essential offices such as fire department and child care services will remain open.

ACS help line

The 28th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service provides a 24-hour service line. Help One can be reached at mil 111 or civ (0641) 402-111.

WIC-O opening hours

The Women, Infants and Children Overseas Program office in Giessen open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-4:30 p.m. The WIC-O office in Friedberg opens Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call Mary Schrank in Giessen at mil 343-7448.

Jammie and Judi in the Morning

Stay tuned to the American Forces Network's Z-98 from 7-9 a.m. every Friday to catch up-to-the minute news about the 284th Base Support Battalion. Join Jammie and Judi in the Morning for the latest happenings in the Butzbach, Friedberg and Giessen communities. Contact them at j&jshow@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information.

SNAP seeks volunteers

The 284th Base Support Battalion Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is looking for volunteers to safeguard the community by actively observing their surroundings. Training is provided, and after completion free classes are offered on personal protection, child safety, first aid and

more. Participants must be at least age 17 and reside in 284th BSB housing areas. Call Tina Gonzales at mil 343-6500.

Fingerprinting, installation pass office

The 284th Base Support Battalion fingerprint office is located in Building 115, Room 111 on the Giessen Depot. Walk-ins are welcome every Wednesday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment for an alternate time call Sean Strate at mil 343-6623. The installation pass office is located in Building 5, Room 109 on the Giessen Depot. For details call Lenard Mason at mil 343-6609.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup is scheduled for July 18. Residents are reminded to place their bulk trash outside the night before the pickup date.

Car service specials

Throughout July the Giessen Auto Skills center staff offers free oil changes to military spouses. Bring own oil and filter. The Friedberg Auto Skills Center offers cooling system inspections. Fees are \$5. For details call mil 343-7050 or mil 324-3218.

Tropical bowling

The Giessen Bowling Center hosts a Tropical Bowl July 16. Patrons wearing their favorite tropical T-shirt receive a 50 percent discount. The lounge bar opens for a tropical paradise of cocktails.

Summer safety day

The safety office, community health nurse and AAFES are conducting a "Cover it up" summer and safety day July 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Giessen PX and the Butzbach

and Bad Nauheim shoppettes.

Strong women, strong families

The Giessen Army Community Service sponsors programs to empower families by providing a series of self-improvement workshops and classes. For details call Deborah Gantt at mil 343-6039.

Volunteers sought

Volunteers are sought for various positions in the 284th BSB. Volunteering is a great opportunity to get valuable work experience and truly makes a difference in the community. For more information call Nancy Clopper at mil 343-7619/6040.

Caregivers, support group sought

The 284th BSB Exceptional Family Member Program seeks respite care providers for children and adults for families with special needs. EFMP seeks individuals interested in starting a new support group for families. The group will focus on important and helpful information for families and address issues pertaining to their needs. For details call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618 or mil 324-3465 in Friedberg.

Caring for new baby

The Butzbach Outreach Center hosts a newborn care class July 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The class teaches all aspects of caring for a baby on the way or a new baby. Lunch will be provided. Interested people who cannot attend the class can receive the same information in a home or office visit. For more information call the New Parent Education and Support program in Giessen at mil 343-9311/8076 and in Friedberg at mil 324-3421/3465.



Children discover flower power

SAS program improves creativity, fine art skills

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

On June 18 a group of 12 children took over the woodshop of Giessen's Arts and Crafts Shop ready to sharpen fine art skills and get in touch with nature by making their own flower arrangements.

The children are participants in this year's School-Age Services Summerific program, which among other activities offers regular visits to the Arts and Craft Shop to enhance their creativity.

After volunteer instructor Rick Cancino gave a short safety briefing and explanation on how to create flower arrangements, the youngsters were able to prove their creativity.

"It's my second time coming here. I wanted to participate in this class because I enjoy working with flowers," said 10-year-old Cortney Staten.

Decorate house

"I already know a little about arranging flowers because sometimes I help my mom decorate the house. I wanted to come here and do my own arrangement," said Kathy Eli Rivera, age 9.

"Now I know how to make an arrangement because he (Cancino) taught us very well," said 8-year-old Bria Cook.



Photo by Alex Heister

Participants at this year's School-Age Services Summerific program turn the woodshop of Giessen's Arts and Crafts Shop into a flower shop. The activity is part of the fine arts program offered this summer.

"I understood everything he said. And if I didn't know what to do Mr. Rick came to help me," said 9-year-old Cearra Robinson.

"Mr. Rick told us not to use the scissors. If we need to cut something we must ask an adult for help. He said this is very important and we must remember that when we work," said 7-year-old Brendon

Buxton.

Once the theoretical part was over 24 little hands reached out for baskets, flowers and other materials and swiftly turned the individual parts into beautiful arrangements.

"I enjoyed picking the flowers for my basket," said Cearra

Robinson.

"The best part about flower arrangements is that you get to be creative," said 10-year-old Michael Hines. "But I also had a lot of fun making Kathy (Rivera) laugh," he added.

"That's why I came here today,



Photos (2) by Alexandra Williams

Arts and Crafts volunteer Rick Cancino helps a girl cut flowers for her arrangement. Children learned during a prior safety briefing that only an adult is authorized to use a knife or scissors. Photo right: Michael Hines finishes his arrangement. Hines said he regrets his deployed mother will not get to see his artwork.



I really enjoy being creative," said Rivera.

"The best part about today was to come here. I like the (wood) shop; it's a lot of fun," said Buxton.

"Picking the flowers was a lot of fun and the purple flowers are my favorites," said Staten.

"My favorite part was meeting my friends and that they helped me with the flowers," said her 7-year-old sister Katherine.

After the casual experience with flowers some children felt prompted to think about flowers and future job opportunities.

"I don't want to be a gardener, that is too much work," said 7-year-old Jennifer Ravago.

"The flowers are so pretty and they smell good. I would like to have my own flower shop one day. I could make nice arrangements," said 8-year-old Darmi Graddle.

"I want to become a gardener when I am older. I think working with flowers and making beautiful flower arrangements is fun," said 6-year-old Sianna Robinson.

"I don't know if I want to be a gardener though. It's a lot of work," said Cearra Robinson.

Whether the class was fun or hard work, most youngsters already knew what to do with their work.

"I will give the flowers to my mom. That will make her happy, and they will cheer her up while dad is not home," said Rivera.

"I think my mom will be proud of me. She'll like the flowers," said Ravago.

"My mom will get the flowers because she is always so nice to me and my sister. She deserves them," said Staten.

"The flowers will cheer her up and she won't be so sad because dad is not here," said her sister, Katherine.

"I'll give my flowers to my mom, too. This will make her happy and cheer her up," said Buxton.

"I might keep my flowers; I don't know yet," said Cook. "I am happy that I learned how to do this now because if I decide to keep my flowers I can make another arrangement for my mom," she said.

"I am giving mom the flowers because she likes flowers," said Sianna Robinson.

"My mom is deployed so I cannot give them to her. Maybe I'll take a photo of them so she can see what I did," said Hines.

"I will keep mine but I'll put them where my mom puts her flowers. Like this we both can enjoy them. I wish I could show my dad what I did today. It was a lot of work," said Cearra Robinson.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Around the community ... Around the community

New commander

Lt. Col. Thomas P. McKenna will assume command of the 39th Finance Battalion from Lt. Col. Jane S. Polcrack in a ceremony at the Pioneer Kaserne parade field July 10 at 3 p.m.

IACS registration

All ID card and installation pass holders must register with the Installation Access Control System office by this fall to continue to access U.S. military installations in Europe. All ID and installation pass holders should register in Building 24 on Pioneer Kaserne from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Staff Sgt. Henson at mil 322-9009 / 8773 to make appointments for large groups or units.

Free coupons

Pick up coupons for reductions on commissary items and exchange services at the Hanau Army Community Service in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8965 or civ (06181) 88-8965 for details.

Sponsorship Training

Help make a fellow soldier's transition an easy one by attending a Sponsorship Training Class at Hanau Army Community Service. Classes are held the first and third Friday of each month from 10-11 a.m. in the Hanau ACS conference room. Call mil 322-8828 to sign up.

Check control

For soldiers required to clear in the 414th Base Support Battalion, the 104th Area Support Group

check control office has moved from Pioneer Kaserne to Hutier Kaserne's Building 1105, Room 207. The operating hours are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call Lon Elliotte at mil 322-9946 for information.

Outdoor Recreation trips

Hanau's Outdoor Recreation offers trips in July to **Berlin** July 12-13, **Centro Mall** July 19, **Black Forest** and **Europa Park** July 26-27, the **Rolling Stones Concert in Prague** July 26-28 and **Chiemsee** July 25-27. Call mil 322-8891 for details.

Family Readiness Group

Hanau's Army Community Service will host a Family Readiness Group networking session July 9 from 6-8 p.m. in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. To sign up call mil 322-8965 or civ (06181) 88-8965.

Jobs available

The 104th Area Support Group has part-time and full-time positions available at all Child Development Centers. For more information call civ (06181) 88-1630 or visit the Civilian Human Resource Management Agency website at www.chrma.hqusaureur.army.mil.

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 call Deana Porrett at civ (06183) 913 050 or Denise Swaine at civ (06181) 364 747.

Swap baby clothes

The Baby Swap Shop offers parents the chance to swap baby items or borrow a few things. The New Parent Education and Support Group is seeking new and used clothes, toys and books to loan 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.

Play mornings

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

Backyard Bible Clubs

The Backyard Bible Clubs have been postponed one week and will run July 28 to Aug. 1. There will be a club on each casern. Call Lynn Stinson at civ (06181) 520 277.

Hanau Cub Scout day camp

Hanau Cub Scout Day Camp is being held from July 8-12 at Campo Pond, on New Argonner Kaserne.

Call Deana at civ (06183) 913 050. Boy Scout Troop 49 meets every Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. at Building 40 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call Mark Porrett at civ (06183) 913 050.

Gymnastics, ballet

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 information contact the Hanau CLEOS office at mil 322-9144.



Summer reading programs

Hanau Child and Youth Services will hold a summer enrichment program through Aug. 22, Monday through Friday, 2-5 p.m. For more information call mil 322-8231 or civ (06181) 88-8231. The Pioneer and Büdingen libraries will also hold summer reading programs through July 31. For more information call the Pioneer Library at mil 322-8942.

Hanau Red Cross babysitting class

The American Red Cross will offer a babysitting class in the CYS training room, Building 3 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne, July 11, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The class costs \$40, including the textbook. Upon completion of this class you'll be Red Cross certified and eligible for the CLEOS

babysitter list. Sign up at the Red Cross office in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne or call Tracy Melancon at mil 322-1760 / 8205 or civ (06181) 88-1760 for details.

Car care

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.

FRG leader class

A "You're in Charge" class July 22 is for anyone in a leadership position. Call Army Family Team Building at mil 322-5308 or come to Room 202 in Building 514 at the Wolfgang Shopping Center.

Awana Club

The Awana Children's Club is on summer break and will return in the fall. They are looking for behind the scenes and club night volunteers. Call Lynn Stinson for more information at civ (06181) 520 277.

Richmond Police recruiting

The Richmond Police Department will be in Hanau July 22-24 to recruit for the December Police Academy class. Interested individuals must apply by July 18. Download an application from www.richmondgov.com/police. Call the Hanau Army Career and Alumni Program at mil 322-8308.

First baby born at Hanau Health Clinic

By Christine Kümpel

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

"We have a well-trained, experienced, professional staff that can react quickly to almost any medical emergency," said Lt. Col. William Humphrey, commander of the Hanau Health Clinic. The following real-life story proves him more than right.

When a pregnant 22-year-old Sgt. Joy Robinson, Battery B, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, came to the Hanau Health

insisted she stay for a pregnancy examination.

The exam revealed that the delivery was imminent and there was not enough time to transfer her to the Hanau Stadtkrankenhaus, which would have been the normal procedure as the health clinic is not accredited for delivery care.

Faced with an unexpected birth that required immediate action, Humphrey rose to the occasion and performed the delivery while

being assisted by a team of medics and nurses. Wendy Hookness, a registered nurse with vast experience in obstetrics, was at the right place at the right time and helped coach the mother through the

final stages of delivery. Forty-five minutes after Robinson entered the clinic, at 8:23 a.m. precisely, little Kevin was born.

Immediately after Sgt. Rasheen Robinson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5-7th ADA, found out his wife was giving birth

to their second child, he rushed to the clinic. But little Kevin beat him by just minutes. Overwhelmed with joy and relieved that everything had gone so smoothly, the new father gave the clinic commander a big hug. Hanau clinic pediatrician Dr. Griselle Sherman, who had been notified as soon as it was obvious that the very pregnant mother would not make it to the Stadtkrankenhaus on time, joined the mother and her baby at the health clinic to provide newborn care. Two German Red Cross ambulances were called to the clinic with a physician on-board to transfer mother and baby to the Stadtkrankenhaus, where they stayed for the next few days to receive post-birth medical care.

"I was not worried that I was going to deliver at the Hanau Health Clinic and not at the Stadtkrankenhaus," said Robinson. "The nurses and the other health clinic staff were very professional and helpful. They were real good in doing what needed to be done."



Photo by Wendy Hookness

Sgt. Joy Robinson holds her new baby, Kevin, the first baby ever born at the Hanau Health Clinic.

While giving credit to his staff and being extremely proud of their professionalism, Humphrey did not want to create a precedent.

"While helping to bring a new life into the world brings us a lot of joy and gratification, we must emphasize that the Hanau Health Clinic is not accredited for labor and delivery care or other emergency care. All members of the community should seek such emergency care by calling for an ambulance or reporting to the Stadtkrankenhaus Emergency Room," he said.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Lt. Col. Amy L. Ehmann (from left), Col. George A. Latham and Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz prepare to pass the battalion colors. Photo right: Latham, 104th ASG commander, hands the colors to Ehmann as Mraz and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Lewis observe.



Ehmann takes command of BSB

Story and photos by Dennis Johnson
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Amy L. Ehmann assumed command of the 414th Base Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz in a ceremony on the Pioneer Kaserne parade field June 26.

The ceremony was hosted by Col. George A. Latham, 104th Area Support Group commander.

The pageantry was supplied by the U.S. Army Europe Band, a color guard and troops of the German Bundeswehr. Hundreds of 414th BSB community members were in attendance, as well as dignitaries from the Hanau city government, representatives of the Bundeswehr and local Polizei.

After short remarks by Latham, Mraz gave a short farewell

speech in which he listed his “top 10 reasons that he was proud to have been a part of the 414th BSB team.” Mraz’ favorite subject made the list at number two — “new trash and recycling systems making Hanau a better-looking, safer, and healthier place to live, the Trashman’s dream come true,” he said.

Ehmann followed Mraz’ speech with remarks about how pleased she was to return to the 414th area. “I am greatly indebted to the staff of the 414th, for the tremendous welcome they provided my family and me. They made our move to Germany and transition into the command virtually effortless. Thanks to all involved sections for your professionalism, specifically Mr. Davis and Capt. Tarr. In particular I must

thank Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz for his tremendous encouragement, assistance and guidance starting already 12 months ago. He has personally prepared me for the challenges of commanding this outstanding base support battalion. More importantly, he and his family have made me feel extraordinarily welcome.

“Jerry, I hope to match your record of achievement during the next two years,” she said, “and I wish you and your family many more years of great success, happiness and good health.

“It’s great to be back in Germany for a second tour. And I’m thrilled to be living and working in the Hanau area,” said Ehmann.

The Trashman cometh and goeth

By Dennis Johnson
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A new trash and recycling system in Fliegerhorst Housing was inaugurated June 17 at a ceremony hosted by Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz, outgoing 414th Base Support Battalion commander, and sometimes known as “the Trashman.”

Preserving the environment through proper recycling, and keeping the 414th BSB community trash free has been one of this commander’s favorite topics, even extending to the name of his Wednesday morning AFN radio show, “Talkin’ Trash.” When Mraz took command two years ago he vowed to rid the BSB of those huge silver garbage containers and he reached his goal just in time, one week and two days before his change of command on June 26.

Trash also made the commander’s personal top 10 list in his farewell speech at the change of command. Coming in at number two in his top 10 reasons that he is proud to



Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz, a.k.a. “the Trashman,” inaugurates a new trash and recycling system on Fliegerhorst Kaserne.



Photos by Christine Kämpel
Old dumpsters will be a thing of the past.

have been a part of the 414th BSB team, “Number two — new trash and recycling systems, making Hanau a better looking, safer and healthier place to live, the Trashman’s dream come true,” said Mraz.

Fliegerhorst Kaserne is the first 414th BSB installation to receive the new trash system. Each of the apartments in the 11

family housing buildings and four officers’ quarters on Fliegerhorst Kaserne is receiving new trash bins for regular household trash. Each bin holds 240 liters and is emptied once a week, which is an additional incentive for the families to separate trash and use the recycling center for their packaging trash, paper and glass. The trash bins sit in a metal locker and each family gets a key to that locker. The bins are locked away to prevent the access of unauthorized people, invasion by animals and to avoid any littering that might ensue if they were left open.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 17, 61 families (out of 174 housing units) signed up and received their locker keys and were rewarded with a piece of cake and sodas. Any garbage was immediately relegated to its new home.

Pioneer Housing and New Argonner Housing are scheduled to follow in the next few months. This modern system will make all the 414th facilities a cleaner and neater place to live and work, officials said.

On guard in Iraq



Photo by Karl Weisel

Members of the 709th Military Police Battalion unload mail at their headquarters in an art museum in Baghdad.

Mail call makes day for 709th MPs

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers of the 709th Military Police Battalion may not get much time to appreciate local art, but they do know what they like best about living in a museum — getting mail from home.

“My wife’s the only person that sends me mail,” said Spc. Jesse Bryant of Giessen’s 527th MP Company. “I’m waiting for two boxes. It’s better now, we’re down to nine to 12 days for getting stuff. I got mail two days in a row, including a Father’s Day card.”

“Because of the mail I think it’s getting better. It’s getting slowly, slowly better,” said Sgt. Minerva Coffey, S-1 for the 709th Military Police Battalion. One of her responsibilities is getting the mail to the Military Police billeted in an art museum in the heart of Baghdad’s monument district.

June 26 was a particularly good day for the soldiers living in the former ground floor exhibition halls. After four days of few incoming letters and packages, a late afternoon delivery prompted a score of soldiers to gleefully line up in a bucket

brigade formation to move the mail into the atrium entranceway to be sorted and passed out to the companies.

Just how long does it take to get a letter from home?

“It varies,” said Coffey. “Mail from the States gets here faster than from Germany. It took a month and a half for mail from my husband to reach me here in Baghdad. Some trucks go to Kuwait — it varies. When you get mail like that for the whole battalion, that’s pretty depressing,” she said, pointing to a two-foot-high pile destined for one of the companies billeted in the museum.

Delivering the goods has moved Coffey to undertake some unusual missions, including a road to trip north to Kirkuk, where her husband is stationed with the 173rd Airborne. Coffey arranged to be the shooter on the truck to get to make the run. “My husband’s about six hours from here. I finally saw him last week, so that makes it bearable. That was a plus. That built my morale up for a couple of weeks.”

For most soldiers that contact with home depends exclusively on letters and packages.

“I don’t really like to read, but I read here. There’s really nothing else to do,” said Bryant.

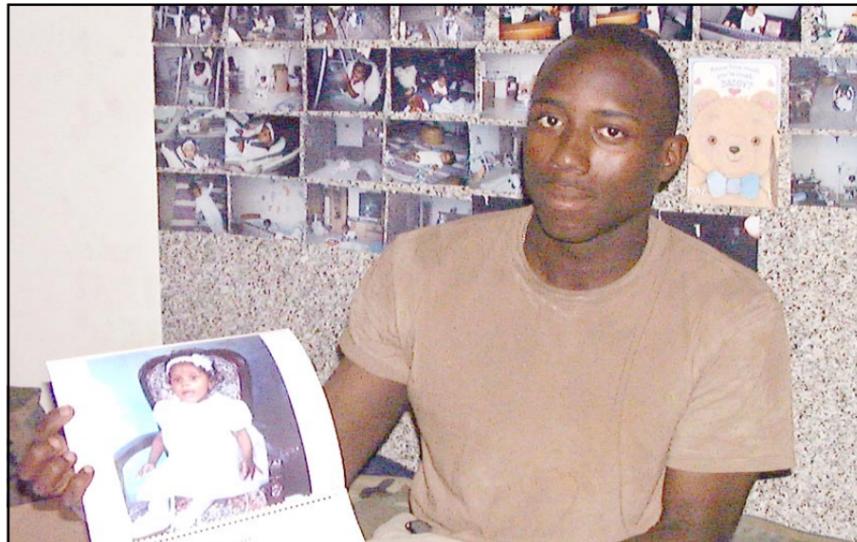
He pointed proudly to a calendar made by his wife Jenell consisting of photographs of their baby daughter Jayla with the date of significant events marked on the days they took place. “I can’t wait to get to see her,” said Bryant.

When the hubbub subsided, soldiers went back to their routines, which include patrolling and security missions seven days a week.

“It’s actually kind of a neat mission,” said Sgt. Leonard Pederson, an Armored Security Vehicle commander with the 527th. “We’re manning Iraqi police stations, issuing them weapons, running patrols. It’s a little bit more hazardous than patrolling the PX. The thing I really like is we’re usually patrolling someone’s nation for someone else. Now we’re helping the Iraqis police themselves.”

What’s the toughest part of working in Baghdad?

“If I complain it wouldn’t be any good,” said Pederson. “The heat. The mail.”



Spc. Jesse Bryant of 527th Military Police Company displays a calendar he received from his wife Jenell consisting of photographs of their daughter Jayla. The wall behind his cot is covered with photographs of the youngster who will turn 1 on Sept. 11 this year. Bryant is expecting another two packages to arrive in the post.

Photo by Karl Weisel