

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Soldiers gone but not forgotten

### Community joins together to support absent friends

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It's grown quieter on Friedberg's Ray Barracks with so many 1st Brigade soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia.

A project by the Friedberg Community Bank's staff is aimed at keeping the soldiers' presence in mind. Six huge yellow cardboard hearts on the bank wall, one for each battalion bearing photos of deployed soldiers and messages written on little felt hearts, symbolize the community's support for the troops.

"We felt we had to do something to support the soldiers and families because they are more than customers — they are our friends," said Judith Brown, Friedberg Community Bank manager.

"At one point everybody comes to the bank. That's when you get to meet them," said Brown. "Many customers are friends with my staff and most of my staff members are married to soldiers. Customers come here talking about their families or friends or joke with the tellers. The bank is something like a community meeting point and we all are like one big family."

"We didn't want to do the yellow ribbons because everybody else is already doing them. So we came up with the heart-shaped message boards," she said.

The staff at Friedberg's Arts and Craft Shop helped by cutting the hearts and providing photos, while the brigade provided unit crests. "My staff made the little felt hearts on which you can write down your message and post it on their battalion's heart," she said.

As the huge hearts draw everybody's attention many customers feel prompted to post a message or even a photo.

"I wrote a message for my dad saying I love him, I miss him and I want him to come home soon," said 10-year-old Aarika Wahlgreen, whose father, Sgt. 1st Class Fred Wahlgreen, serves with Company C, 2-37th Armor. "To me it means a lot to post a message. Others can see that I miss my dad and I can take a look at it when I come back to the bank. I want to show Dad the message when he returns, and I hope that this will be very soon."

"I think the board is really great for the kids. Like this they feel connected with their deployed parent," said Aarika's mother, Christine.

"I think it's nice that other people can see my message to Dad. I wrote that I love and miss him. But my parents never come to this bank; they always go to the German bank downtown. So when my dad comes back home I will have to make them come here to take a look at it," said 10-year-old Lisa Marie Roberts, whose father Sgt. 1st Class Fred Roberts serves with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-37th Armor. "I only forgot to write down that I hope he is feeling better because he hurt himself."

"When I saw the hearts I wanted to post a message for my



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Bonnie Johnson hangs up her wedding photo on her battalion's message board. Family members and friends post messages on the boards in the Friedberg Bank to show support of their deployed loved ones. When the units re-deploy to Germany each battalion will receive their heart to show them that they were not forgotten while they were gone.

Yobo. It keeps us connected while I am here and he's over there," said Yuson Gex, whose husband Sgt. 1st Class Efron Gex is assigned to HHC, 2-37th Armor. "We are very close; we are like one body and one mind. It's the first time in 19 years in the military that we are stationed overseas and it's the first time we are separated. It symbolizes that no matter how long it takes, we will get through this together, and I will do whatever it takes to assure my husband of that. If I could talk to him right now I would tell him that I miss him a lot and so does (our nine-month-old dog) B.B."

"Placing a message on the board keeps us together and the communication open," said teller Lesa Finister, whose husband, Sgt. Marcus Finister is deployed to Iraq with Company A, 1-37th Armor. "It provides a link to our deployed spouses. He was deployed to Kosovo, but that was a vacation compared to this current deployment."

"I placed a message to support my husband," said teller Bonnie Johnson, whose husband Staff Sgt. Demonico Johnson serves with Company B, 1-36th Infantry. "So far I've only received two phone calls from him since he's gone and

two letters. I placed a photo of us on the heart and a message and now I can always look at it."

"We want to give the message boards to each battalion once they come back from Iraq so the soldiers can see that we were thinking about them while they were gone," Brown said.

The bank staff is also supporting deployed soldiers with care packages. The staff regularly brings in needed items, and care packages are sent to be distributed among local soldiers in Iraq. "We are also collecting school supplies for the children in Baghdad," said Brown.

A bulletin board with clippings of newspaper articles featuring local units is also on display at the bank. "This gives families and friends a chance to read what's going on just in case they have missed that particular story," she said.

"All these are symbols to show our customers that we do care and that we are one family," Brown said. "We want our troops to know that we will not forget them. They are in our thoughts every day, and all we want is for them to come back safe."

## ACS programs ... ACS programs ... ACS programs

### EFMP support group

ACS seeks community members interested in starting a support group for the Exceptional Family Member Program. The group will focus on issues important to families with an exceptional family member. It's a chance to learn the myths and facts about the EFMP. For more information call ACS Giessen at mil 343-7618.

### Domestic violence

Do you know someone who is a victim of domestic violence? Are you a victim

yourself? For anyone being victimized by domestic violence help is a phone call away. Call mil 343-7618.

### Employment assistance

The Employment Readiness programs provides job seekers with information and assistance in job listings, points of contact, application and more. ERP offers federal resume classes, interviewing skills training and computer basics classes. For details about the training dates and times call Dan Adams

in Giessen at mil 343-6038 and Tim Fitzgerald in Friedberg at mil 324-3713.

### Re-entry workshop

This "homeward bound" workshop is designed to help families make the transition to the United States as smooth as possible. Topics include the logistical, financial and psychological adjustments that have to be made when relocating. For more information call Patricia Harper in Giessen at mil 343-6910 or Christina Daily in Friedberg at mil 324-3789.

### AFTB program

The Army Family Team Building workshop is an educational program enhancing readiness by empowering families. It helps families and soldiers develop realistic expectations of the unique military lifestyle and its operational hardships to lessen frustration and confusion. This versatile workshop can be tailored to individual needs. AFTB is also offered in Spanish. For details and a class schedule call Nancy Clopper or Maritza Ramirez in Giessen at mil 343-7618.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen



Photo by Gabriele Denhardt



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Stefan Meyer counts the rings on a piece of wood to determine the age of a tree during the library's crafts day. The children learned details about trees and safety rules when working with wood. Photo left: The Book Witch helps children pick up and recycle trash on the Giessen Depot during the library's environmental day. The program is designed to increase the children's environmental awareness.

## Children discover more than books at library

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

You wouldn't usually catch children hammering nails or sawing wood at your local library, but the Giessen Library is not your typical reference center.

Woodworking is one of the many activities offered by the library staff for this year's summer program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. By offering programs involving crafts, the environment and animals, the library is following a trend set by stateside libraries of featuring various programs to attract children to the library.

"It's a way to draw children and adults to the library and at the same time show them the library is more than just books," said Ann Burski, 284th BSB librarian.

"We started introducing different activities (for the summer break) three years ago. We chose activities that are popular with children such as working with wood. The kids just love to work with hammers, saws, nails because it's fun for them," she said.

"Some people might think we are overstepping our boundaries by offering MWR programs, but they have to realize we are the only Morale, Welfare and Recreation service not charging any fees. We are trying to focus on children and giving them hands-on instructions on certain topics because they like to learn by doing," Burski said.

"I was looking forward to the crafts day because I love working with wood. I am building a birdhouse. My dad and I once made one together and I want to show him that I can build one by myself, too," said 10-year-old Stefan Meyer. "I really miss him a lot. We used to work together on projects so coming here reminds me of him. When he

comes back I will tell him about the crafts and he'll say 'good job.'"

"Working with wood is OK. My favorite part is sawing. Today I am making a table and on Earth Day I made a butterfly house," said Brittany Carter, age 9.

"I used to do crafts with my grandpa. He always made everything. Now he is 70 years old and cannot do as much anymore," said 11-year-old Samantha Cipriano.

Lucas Fox, who is 8 years old, said hammering was his favorite craft. "My mom does not want me to hammer at home. I think she's afraid that I'll hurt myself. Now I can show her that I learned how to hammer and how to be safe."

"Working with wood is a lot of fun. Now I can help at home when some hammering needs to be done," said Jennifer Ravago, age 7.

"I am making an American red cross. My dad is a nurse in the Army and he is in Iraq. I am making this cross for him so he can remind himself to be safe. Sometimes he forgets — he is trying to do his best not to run into the bad guys over there and the cross will help him," said 7-year-old Justin Meyer.

"Attendance at the library as well as the check-out has doubled since we introduced the programs for children," said Burski. "Though we are not as easily accessible as other libraries, community members come and check out books and CDs. And having 40-50 children participating in the summer programs is pretty good, especially during a deployment when many families decided to go back home."

The library is located in Building 7 on the Giessen Depot. Friedberg's Library is located in Building 3627 on Ray Barracks. For more information call the Giessen Library at mil 343-1740 or the Friedberg Library at mil 324-1740.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Colin Meyer works on a crafts project for his father who is deployed to Southwest Asia.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight

### Parent's Night Out

A Parent's Night Out is scheduled for July 25 at the Butzbach Child Development Center from 6:30-10:30 p.m. This service is open to CLEOS registered children age 11 and under. Fees are \$5 per child and include dinner. For details call Heather Irwin at mil 343-7028/8216.

### School bus registration

The Giessen School Bus Office is open for summer registration. All returning students must re-register for the new school year. Customer service hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-2 p.m. To schedule an appointment for a different time call the office at civ (06033) 60050.

### Vet Clinic walk-in

The Giessen Veterinary Clinic holds a walk-in clinic July 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment is needed. For more information call mil 343-6539.

### Care providers needed

The 284th Base Support Battalion Exceptional Family Member Program seeks respite care providers for special needs children and adults. Training will be provided. Emergency placement care providers (formerly foster care) are sought for children at risk. Families interested must attend training. For details call Perry Tripp at mil 343-7618.

### Crafts in July

The Giessen Arts and Craft Shop hosts a family crafts **Wind Chimes workshop** July 26 from noon to 2 p.m. Cost is \$7 for one adult and one child and \$3 for any additional child. An **Intermediate Cross Stitch class** will be held July 30 from 3-5 p.m. The Friedberg Arts and Craft Shop hosts **Stained Glass classes** Aug. 7, 12, 19 and 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. Fees are \$20 and include materials. For more information call the Giessen shop at mil 343-6445 or the Friedberg shop at mil 324-3266.

### Outdoor Rec trips

Giessen Outdoor Recreation offers a **trip to the Ludwigsburg Castle** July 26. A **trip to Legoland** takes place Aug. 2. A **Czech Republic crystal shopping tour** will be hosted Aug. 9. For fees and departure times call mil 343-8202.

### Getting in shape

A **step interval class** takes place every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. at the Butzbach Elementary School. The Friedberg Fitness Center hosts **step classes** Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Spin classes** are offered in Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center every Tuesday at 6 p.m. and every Thursday at 6:45 p.m. For more information about group exercises call Miller Hall at mil 343-7201 or the Friedberg Fitness Center at mil 324-3155.

### ACS goes to Heidelberg Castle

The Army Community Service outreach office hosts a trip to the Heidelberg Castle



Photo by Gabriele Denhardt

### Exploring the world of math

Children of the 284th BSB community discover the interesting world of math at Giessen's Math Museum. Visitors of all ages are challenged to test their skills in a variety of interactive exhibits. While one need not to be a math wizard, patience is a prerequisite to solving some of the math puzzles presented. The museum is located at the Liebigstrasse in Giessen, near the train station and opens Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All exhibits are in English and German.

Aug. 4. The bus leaves at 9 a.m. and return is scheduled for 4 p.m. The trip is designed to showcase some of the many pleasures that Germany has to offer to the spouses and children of deployed soldiers. Cost is •6 for adults and •3 for children age 6-12. Children under age 6 travel for free. Reservations and payment must be made by July 31. For more information call Deborah Gantt at mil 343-6039, civ (0641) 402-6039; the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06033) 925 329 or Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3714.

### Merengue class

Giessen ACS outreach program sponsors a free Merengue dance class July 30 from 7-9 p.m. at the Woodland Club. Johanna Rivera, who calls herself the queen of Merengue, will teach the class. Child care will be provided at the Giessen Child Development Center with a minimum of 10 children. Children must be CLEOS enrolled. For more information and to make reservations call Deborah Gantt at mil 343-6039.

### Mail pick up in Bad Nauheim

The 55th Postal Company offers mail pick up service at the Bad Nauheim Commissary. The mail drop box is located between the entrance and exit doors. Community members may place letters and first class mail inside the box during commissary hours. The mail will be picked up every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30 p.m.

### Saturday child care

Super Saturday child care is offered July 26 at the Friedberg Child Development Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Aug. 2 at the Giessen CDC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 9 at the Butzbach CDC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children must be 11 years or younger and CLEOS registered. For more information call the Friedberg CDC at civ (06031) 81-3137, Giessen CDC at civ (0641) 402-6200 or the Butzbach CDC at civ (06033) 67922.

### Volunteers sought

The Hearts and Hands Community Club seeks volunteers for various positions at its thrift stores in Giessen, Butzbach and Friedberg. Contact one of the store managers for details. The Giessen store is open Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. Butzbach's store opens Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and every first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friedberg store is open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for 284th Base Support Battalion communities is Aug. 8.

### Vacation Bible Study

The 284th Base Support Battalion Chaplain's Office hosts a Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure for Vacation Bible School Aug. 4-8 from 9 a.m. to noon at Giessen Elementary School. Participating children must have completed kindergarten through sixth grade. They will experience stations

such as Diver's Dine, Super Slash games and much more. Children learn the Bible at an early age and learn how to cope with everyday life. Participants can register early at the chapel on Sundays after church or at the Post Exchange and Commissary in Giessen July 30-31 from noon to 3 p.m. For more information call mil 343-8020.

### Women's conference

The Giessen Community Chapel hosts a women's conference "Hungry for the Word" at the Giessen Chapel Aug. 8-9 starting Friday at 7:30 a.m. Saturday's registration starts at 8:30 a.m. All women are welcome to come out for a time of Christian fellowship and Biblical study. Child care will be provided for under school age children, but there is limited capacity. For details call the Giessen Chaplain's office at mil 343-8020.

### Mommy and Me Playground Time

The Protestant Women of the Chapel host a Mommy and Me Playground Time this summer every Thursday starting at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and fun. The next dates are July 24 at Giessen's Marshall Housing across from the chapel, July 31 at Butzbach's Roman Way Housing behind Building 6543, Aug. 14 at Butzbach's Roman Way Housing behind Building 6543, Aug. 21 at Giessen's Marshall Housing across from the chapel and Aug. 28 at Giessen's Dulles Housing behind Building 1705 on Lincoln Street. For more information call the Chaplain's Office at mil 343-8020.

## Welcoming new commanders

### Shreve takes reins of 284th BSB

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Bart U. Shreve assumed command of the 284th Base Support Battalion from Col. David J. Bender July 10. Col. George A. Latham II, 104th Area Support Group commander, passed the 284th BSB colors from Bender to Shreve signifying the change of command during the ceremony held on the Giessen Depot.

“Commanding a BSB is one of the most difficult jobs in the Army,” said Latham during remarks bidding Bender well on his way and welcoming the Shreve family to Giessen. “The bottom line is something different happens every day.

“You’ve earned the community’s respect,” Latham said, referring to the tough job Bender accomplished during his tenure at the reins of the 284th BSB. “I’m proud to have served with you. ... You should feel proud you’ve made a difference and have left a legacy in everything you’ve done.”

“There’s something uniquely special about a U.S. Army garrison overseas,” said Bender, explaining that U.S. military community members rely on one another and their local German neighbors, “who have made us feel welcome,” for support. He praised the outstanding jobs performed by his many military and civilian employees, supporting

units and local German officials, naming a host of individuals who he said deserved recognition during the change of command ceremony.

The new 284th BSB commander promised to carry on the close relationship with the German community and apologized for his “Alabama German” before addressing Germans in attendance in their native tongue.

Shreve, who is accompanied by his wife, Kanjana, and two daughters, comes to Giessen after serving as the deputy J3 for the Special Operations Command in Yongsan, Korea.

Bender moves on to an assignment with the Directorate of Public Works in Fort Eustis, Va.

### Mansoor takes over ‘Ready First’ Brigade

By Spc. Christopher Stanis

1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

It proved to be a unique change of command ceremony for 1st Armored Division’s 1st Brigade Combat Team. Col. Michael Tucker relinquished the brigade colors to Col. Peter Mansoor in front of Baghdad’s Martyr’s Monument July 1.

“I could not ask to hand the reins of Ready First over to a greater officer than Col. Pete Mansoor,” Tucker said. “Pete comes to this posting with all the right skill sets and experience.”



Photo by Karl Weisel

Col. David Bender (center) passes the 284th BSB colors to Col. George Latham (left) as incoming commander Lt. Col. Bart Shreve prepares to accept the reins of the 284th BSB.

Maj. Gen. Fred Robinson Jr., 1st AD commanding general, said that under Tucker, 1st Brigade remained trained and ready for missions set before them, including Operation Iraqi Freedom. “Two years ago Col. Tucker laid out a vision for the 1st BCT that addressed the fundamental components that have led to this success,” Robinson said.

Tucker is moving on to be the executive

officer for the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe.

“Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, American soldiers have overthrown oppressive regimes in Panama, Haiti, the Balkans, Afghanistan and most recently Iraq,” said Mansoor. “Soldiers of the Ready First Combat Team, you stand at freedom’s epicenter here in Baghdad, and I am honored to join your ranks today.”

## Red Cross chief headed to Baghdad

### Giessen station manager prepares for his third deployment

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

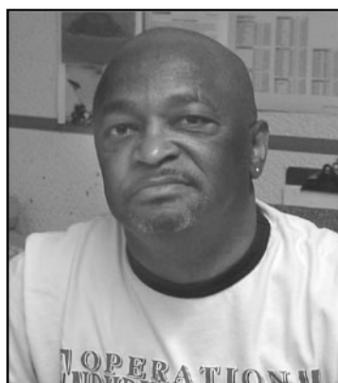
When Ken Joy received orders for deployment to Southwest Asia he packed his bags, ready to join local soldiers in Iraq.

Deployments are becoming a fact of life for the 284th Base Support Battalion American Red Cross station manager. Since his arrival in Giessen three years ago he has deployed to Bhuj, India, to help after an earthquake, he spent six months in Saudi Arabia and now gears up for duty in Baghdad through December.

“This time I am on an ordered deployment to Baghdad to meet the needs of the Red Cross over there and to release the team that currently provides service to the troops,” he said.

Joy will be assigned to the 4th Infantry Division as the Red Cross team leader. “Our team consists of three people. I will be joined by two more Red Cross employees coming who are coming from Quantico, Va., and Fort Bliss, Texas,” he said.

Before heading to Iraq Joy must undergo a briefing at the National Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as combat readiness training; nuclear, biological and chemical weapon training and a familiarization with weapons at Fort Bliss, Texas. “Red Cross staff do not carry weapons because we are non-combat staff but we need to know how to use certain equipment such as gas masks or so if the need arises,” Joy said. It is equipment Joy became familiar with during 27 years and “six days” of active duty. The retired Marine



sergeant major had his share of deployments and said he understands the needs of deployed soldiers. “My active duty time comes into play because it helps me keep the stress level down right now and when I am down-range.”

Joy said he will wait to see what awaits him in Baghdad and has not

contacted the current staff in Iraq. “I could, but I chose not to. If I knew about the things they need over there it would be a burden for me and I would not feel comfortable. I’d rather get over there and start from there,” he said.

Despite the short notice he said he is ready for the mission. “I will do my job and do my best to support the soldiers. There are no reservations,” he said.

His wife Tracy has a different view of things. “She is not too happy about this deployment, but she is a real trooper. She totally supports me and is self-supportive, so I know she will be fine while I am gone,” he said. Knowing that his spouse has the home front under control, he deploys with his mind at ease, he said.

Despite the frequent deployments Joy said he still enjoys the job. “As long as it is still fun I will do it. It still is fun, and sometimes it is a challenge. The day when I no longer enjoy what I am doing will be the day I’ll quit.”

**“I will do my job and do my best to support the soldiers.”**

## Children’s corner

### Movie Day at ACS

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service hosts a Movie Day for Children every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Giessen ACS conference room. This learning activity for children includes songs, stories a short movie and the opportunity to make new friends. A snack will be provided. For more information call Carmen Bastos or Deborah Gantt at mil 343-6039.

### Parent and Me Playtime

Parent and Me Playtime is designed for children under 5 years old and their parents and provides the opportunity to spend quality time together enjoying crafts, games and stories. The program is hosted in Butzbach every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon, in Friedberg every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon and in Giessen every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

For details call Martha Pinion in Friedberg at mil 324-3710, Belinda Sims in Giessen at mil 343-9311 or Tamara Smith in Giessen at mil 343-8076.

### Storymobile schedule

The Giessen Library storymobile is on the road until Aug. 8. Preschoolers are invited to catch the storymobile every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Butzbach’s New York Road in Roman Way Housing, every Wednesday in Giessen at 2:15 p.m. in Marshall Housing, at 2:25 p.m. Wednesday in Dulles Housing and every Friday at 10 a.m. at Bad Nauheim’s Alvin York Village. For more information call the Giessen Library at mil 343-7713.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photo by David Ruderman

## As American as apple pie

Mark Wagner of 5-7th Air Defense Artillery swats one during Fourth of July softball play on Pioneer Kaserne. Photo top right: Children came out in droves for activities organized by Army Community Service. Photo bottom right: Hot dogs, hamburgers and hanging out were part of Independence Day celebrations around the 414th Base Support Battalion.



Photo by Erica Motley



Photo by David Ruderman

## Around the community . . . Around the community

### New commanders

Lt. Col. Thomas P. McKenna assumed command of 39th Finance Battalion from Lt. Col. Jane S. Polcrack in a ceremony on Pioneer Kaserne July 10.

Lt. Col. Carolyn A. Tiffany assumed command of the Hanau Health Clinic July 10 from Lt. Col. William T. Humphrey.

### ACS workshops

The Employment Readiness Group offers a class on creating resumes and finding job opportunities. Participants will explore the Civilian Personnel Office and Civil-

ian Human Resources Management Agency websites focusing on the resume builder and vacancy announcements. The class meets every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. Call Lt. Tom Jenkins or Sandi Horyza at mil 322-9191 for information. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Go slow at gates

All drivers are reminded to reduce their speed to five kilometers per hour when passing through entry control gates. Protect our guards while they protect us.

### AFTB Level II

Army Family Team Building

Level II workshops cultivate leaders for the community. The training stressing management skills will meet Aug. 4-6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call mil 322-5308 to register.

### Bible clubs meet

Backyard Bible Clubs will meet next week, July 28 through Aug. 1, at the Old Argonner gazebo at 1 p.m.; at the Sportsfield tunnel gazebo at 6 p.m.; at the Fliegerhorst gazebo at 11 a.m.; and at the Gelnhausen gazebo at 11 a.m. Pick the time and location that's best for you and come out each day for an hour of stories, games and music. Call Lynn Stinson at civ (06181) 520 277 for details. The clubs are sponsored by the 414th Base Support Battalion Protestant chapels.

### FRG leader information swap

All Family Readiness Group leaders are invited to an information swap July 24 from 5-7 p.m. at the Army Community Service building on Pioneer Kaserne to share information and stories.

### See 'Monsters Inc.' outdoors

Join Army Community Service for an outdoor screening of the Disney movie "Monsters Inc." July 25 at 8:30 p.m. Bring picnic baskets,

lawn chairs, blankets and the children. Call mil 322-8965 or civ (06181) 88-8965 for details.

### Thanks, Scouts

The Hanau Neighborhood Girl Scouts conducted a drive at the Wolfgang PX recently to solicit donations for injured servicemen and women medically evacuated to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They received overwhelming donations of socks, T-shirts, underwear and toiletry items. Monetary donations totaled over \$200.

The Scouts want to thank the Hanau community for their generosity and continuing support. Donations are still being delivered by the Scouts and the Landstuhl Chaplain's Office.



Without the participation of the following troops this fund drive would not have been possible: Brownie Troop 197, Brownie Troop 227, Brownie Troop 594, Junior Troop 136, Junior Troop 142 and Cadette Troop 155. Anyone wanting to join the Girl Scouts can call Tina Greaves at civ (06183) 913-344.

### Email links help

Family Readiness Goup leaders

looking for ways to distribute information can put an email link on their unit website. FRGs with their own websites can also link to a unit's website or its higher headquarters website. FRG leaders interested in adding an email link to their unit's website should contact their FRG liaison or Richard Grinchis, U.S. Army Europe webmaster at civ (06221) 57-6333 or mil 370-6333.

### Thrift Shop closed

The Hanau Thrift Shop on Wolfgang Kaserne will be closed through July. The Hanau Community Spouses Club seeks volunteers to open the shop in August. Call the volunteer coordinator at mil 322-9524 to get involved. To check the status of an item or pick up a check, come in or call the manager at civ (06181) 88-8847.

### Fall sports

Central Registration is registering children for flag football, soccer and cheerleading through July 31. Soccer will be offered for ages 3-15 years (coed), football for ages 10-12 years, and cheerleading for ages 6-15 years. All participants must be registered with CLEOS and have a health assessment valid through Oct 31. Practices will start on or

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Support at heart of 414th's mission

By Lt. Col. Amy L. Ehmann  
414th Base Support Battalion commander

Thank you members of the 414th Base Support Battalion for the wonderful reception you provided for my family and me. I'm thrilled to be back in Germany, particularly Hanau, an area that has so much to offer.

The 414th Base Support Battalion is an outstanding unit. I am amazed everyday at all the great things accomplished by the 414th BSB soldiers and staff in support of the Hanau, Gelnhausen and Büdingen communities. I am truly honored to be a member of such an elite organization



Lt. Col. Amy L. Ehmann

and really look forward to tackling tomorrow's challenges with you all.

The commander's job is to steer the battalion and keep it operating at a healthy pulse to ensure its future vitality. The 414th is a very healthy unit and I promise my absolute best effort to ensure this battalion thrives in the future.

Several priorities will steer our efforts toward success. First, safety and force protection must always be our highest priority. Everyone must stay vigilant against potential acts and threats against our communities. Each of us is an ambassador of the United States. Remember this as you interact with the people of the world, here in Germany or wherever your duty may take you. Be open and friendly as Americans typically are, show others what freedom really means, but also stay aware of possible threats.

As our name implies, we are a "support" battalion.

Providing excellent support services is our bread and butter. We must understand the needs of our mission and our community, and reach out to provide that support wherever it is required. Exceptional customer service for those left behind during deployments is especially crucial. We must take great care of the war fighters and their families, so the war fighters will achieve mission success. We must also take great care of our own work force so they can take great care of the war fighters and their families. Take pride personally and professionally. We all must give our best if we are to be the best.

It's clear to me that the people of the 414th BSB are extraordinarily professional, compassionate and truly dedicated to the mission of serving the Hanau military community. I look forward to working with you during the next two years and I'm privileged to take command of this outstanding organization.

## Around the community . . . Around the community

around Aug. 18. Each activity costs \$20 per child payable in cash, by check, money order or credit card. To sign up stop by Building 20, Room 10, or call mil 322-9144, civ (06181)88-9144.

### German stores open longer

German retailers can now keep their stores open until 8 p.m. on Saturdays; however, not all stay open that late. In downtown Hanau larger stores close at 6 p.m. Larger stores in Frankfurt and the 120 stores in the Hessen Center shopping mall stay open until 8 p.m.

### Classical music in Wilhelmsbad

Enjoy a summer night of classical music at Hanau's Wilhelmsbad Kurpark featuring the New Philharmonic Orchestra of Frankfurt and soloists July 26 at 8:30 p.m. Entrance is free. For information call civ (06181) 997-76-66. For tickets call civ (06181) 258555.

### Children's fest

Enjoy free theater performances, music, arts and more at the fourth annual Wilhelmsbad Children and Family Fest July 27 at 3 p.m. at Hanau's Wilhelmsbad Kurpark. Entry is free. For details call civ (06181)9977666.

### Concert tickets

Tickets for concerts, theater performances and sports events are available at CD Tickets in Hanau's market square. The office is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call civ (06181) 258555 or surf to [www.cd-tickets.de](http://www.cd-tickets.de).

For more information about Frankfurt's three major concert halls — the Alte Oper, Jahrhunderthalle and the Festhalle — point your browser to [www.hanau.army.mil](http://www.hanau.army.mil)

and go to "Performing arts."

### Teachers, aides, monitors sought

Hanau schools have vacancies for the following positions: substitute teachers, GS-04 educational technicians and aides, and GS-02 lunchroom monitors. Applications are available at all Hanau schools.

### SEAP helps spouses learn

The Spouse Education Assistance Program provides up to \$400 per academic term and up to \$2,000 per academic year for Army spouses. Call Army Community Service at mil 322-8965 or Army Emergency Relief at mil 322-8097.

### Büdingen ACS

**Play Day** for infants to school-age children — every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Little Green Thumb for Kids** — every Wednesday from 3-5 p.m.

**Schwimmbad afternoons** — every Thursday at 1 p.m.

**July 23** — Stress management class from 9-11 a.m.

**July 23** — Resumix assistance from 9 a.m. to noon.

**July 25** — Green Thumb Day at 10 a.m.

**July 28** — German class from 9:30-11 a.m.

**July 28** — Exceptional Family Member Program support network from 4-5 p.m.

**July 30** — Scrapbook Night at 6:30 p.m.

### Get out more

For tips about shopping, zoos and parks, museums, swimming pools and other things to do in and around Hanau, Büdingen and Gelnhausen surf to the 414th Base Support Battalion website at [www.hanau.army.mil](http://www.hanau.army.mil) and click on

"Things to do."

### Run needs help

The 104th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office needs volunteers for the Women's Equality Day Fun Run/Walk Aug. 26. Volunteers will help with registration and refreshments. Call Sgt. 1st Class Gayden at mil 322-8012/8021 or Valerie Evans at mil 322-1540 to pitch in.

### Hanau museums

#### Schloss Philippsruhe

The castle that hosts the Grimm

festival is located on the Main River in the Kesselstadt section of Hanau. The grounds are worth a stroll and children can find playground activities along the river pathway just outside the walls. The Schloss houses a museum that traces the history of the town, a collection of locally produced faïence, Dutch paintings from the 17th century, a Grimm Brothers collection, the Hanau Paper Theater Museum and much more. It has a veranda restaurant overlooking the river and an indoor cafe. It is open Tuesday through

Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays feature free admission. For information call civ (06181) 20209.

#### Museum Schloss Steinheim

Located in Steinheim, Hanau's neighbor across the Main River to the south, this castle museum presents exhibits on the early history of the region as well as the local tobacco and printing industries. The museum is located in the Schloßstrasse and is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon and 2-5 p.m. Call civ (06181) 20209 for information.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Sgt. 1st Class Hugo Vives, a communications platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Armored Division Artillery, checks a sling load on an anti-aircraft gun.

## Hanau aviators make skies over Baghdad safer

By **Spc. Christopher Stanis**  
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

First Armored Division soldiers made the skies over Baghdad a little safer on July 9 by collecting anti-aircraft weapons left behind by the former Iraqi Army. The operation, supported by UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, conducted a sling load operation to remove five pieces of air defense artillery from the Iraqi community.

Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Alicea, a Baghdad International Airport force protection noncommissioned officer and a sling load rigger for this operation, said that clearing the weapons is extremely important, especially with the pending reopening of the airport to civilian air traffic. "If the guns are serviceable, (someone) could fix them up and start firing rounds at the airplanes," said Alicea. "That's exactly what we don't want." This was the second sling load operation for the Division Artillery Brigade soldier since arriving in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Hugo Vives, a communications platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, DIVARTY, and the second rigger for the operation, said seeing American forces remove the ADA guns gives members of the community a sense of security.

"They're so happy we're here (removing the guns)," said Vives, "that during the first operation, a couple of Iraqis tried to help us."

Vives, experienced through air assault and pathfinder schools, and Alicea, who spent eight years with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), rigged the loads, but six soldiers from HHB, DIVARTY, actually hooked the weapons to the helicopters. Alicea gave the soldiers a three-hour class on sling loading procedures. "I taught them basic air assault and basic rigging, but I focused on the process of the hook up, since that is what they were doing," said Alicea. When it came down to it, the real thing was just like training. "The class showed us how to do it and it was executed exactly how we were shown," said Pfc. Quillon Soard, HHB, DIVARTY.

The force of the rotor wash from the helicopter made the work difficult, but a team effort got the job done, said Soard. "It was hard to keep your balance, but you had somebody there, holding you up," he said.

Cargo reach pendants were used to attach the loads to the aircraft. Shaped like giant cotton swabs, the reach pendants serve two purposes. The first is to diffuse the static electricity built up by the helicopter's rotor and the second is to give a better reach for the hook up, according to Alicea.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Armored Division Artillery, hook a sling load to a 2-501st Aviation UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Before leaving for the weapon sites, Alicea assembled the sling sets based on what he knew about the guns, but what they expected to find and what they found were two different things.

"I rigged for a specific type of gun," said Alicea. "If (the weapon) is missing parts, we have to readjust according to the gun's gravity, shape and how it is going to travel."

Alicea also stressed the importance of a properly balanced load. "If a load is not properly balanced, it becomes what is called a frustrating load," he said, explaining that

an improper rigging can cause the load to swing and jerk the helicopter around.

While all the hookups went smoothly, the team ran into a slight problem—the ladder was removed from the building offering no access to the roof.

Improvising quickly, they were lifted onto the roof by one of the helicopters. Though there may have been a few obstacles, all in all the mission was a success and everyone gained experience. "We planned on the spot," said Vives. "We had to improvise, and we overcame."



Spc. Nathan Longacre waits to hook a sling load to an approaching UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.