

## Engineers make a difference in Iraq

By Patricia Simoes

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Balad-based Forward Engineer Support Team, a group of six Wiesbaden volunteers, is one of 12 groups in Iraq, but they are one of only two working on infrastructure to benefit soldiers as the other 10 teams work on making life better for post war Iraq.

The team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers works in a small office crammed with maps and family photos in an old air force building with wood-covered windows and sandbags by the door.

“We are a team of troubleshooters helping with engineering needs,” said Shawn Pelowitz, a master planner and architect with the team. “We are the onsite advisers, while uniformed engineers are more like doers.” These teams consist of four to seven Corps of Engineers employees with specialties in different areas of engineering and construction. These volunteers deploy for four-month rotations and are mostly Army civilians. “The teams have access to anyone in the Corps of Engineers via VTC (video tele-conference) when experts and capabilities not onsite are needed,” Pelowitz said. “When a request comes in, we reach out and find the experts in the Corps — wherever they may be.”

One of the current projects for the Balad team is dealing with storm drainage as the rainy season in Iraq approaches. “The system at Anaconda (Balad) is broke,” Pelowitz said. “Flash flooding is the concern, mainly for the people living in tents.” The solution could be as simple as digging trenches around the tents. Another option is to bring in trailers to get people out of tents all together as Balad becomes home to more people and a more established base. There are almost 20,000 troops in Balad. “The sad part is that as we leave a lot of the projects are becoming reality,” he said.

But the team is already seeing the results of some of their projects. There was a group of soldiers near Baghdad living in a very austere area. In three days they looked at 30



Photos courtesy of the Forward Engineer Support Team  
Soldiers attempt to cross a canal near Balad. Photo below right: U.S. soldiers and Iraqis test the newly installed bridge.

buildings and came up with a plan for windows, doors, air conditioning and other comforts. There are contractors already making it happen, Pelowitz said. “As we get ready to leave, we will see a lot of our work becoming reality,” said Shawn Keefe, an engineer technician performing CAD support. “There are contracts being awarded everywhere.”

“One of the most rewarding projects so far was a bridge near Balad,” said Jonathan Koch, a civil engineer in the team, “two weeks for assessing the problem and getting it fixed. That bridge is benefiting both the military and the civilians in the area. The local sheik was there for the opening,” he said.

Even though Koch said he is proud of what the team is accomplishing in Iraq, he deployed two months after becoming a father. “I will deploy again for other projects — a month here — a month there — but not for four months, because of

the baby. Otherwise I would do it again.

“This may sound cheesy, but I’m a patriot,” he said. “This (volunteering) was not a career move — but it will also be rewarding in that sense.”

While Keefe’s wife is very supportive, he said, he is not planning to deploy again. “The threat is more than anticipated. The good thing is that there is a lot of air support here, so we are able to fly just about everywhere we need to go.

“The job is challenging — I’m learning a lot,” he said. “We work a lot with buildings with structural damage here.” Keefe normally works projects such as housing and other infrastructure projects for Army Europe.

“I miss home,” said Pelowitz, who’s been in Iraq for three months and has two young children at home.

Pelowitz volunteered to make history and to see history. “I think this war will be a change in foreign policy. I wanted to be part of it,” he said. “And then to be able to visit all the historic sites — biblical or not — is a great opportunity.”

A native of Montana, Pelowitz said he also wanted to see a desert. “This is my first time in a place where there are folks shooting at you,” he added.

He’s volunteered before for projects in Bosnia, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Romania and Poland to name a few. Back in his Wiesbaden office Pelowitz works in the International Engineering Center — an office unique to the Europe District of the Corps of Engineers. The center was formed after the fall of the Iron Curtain to help Eastern Europe.

“The next team will be different as Iraq progresses,” he said. “Also this will soon be the only team focusing on military infrastructure.” Pelowitz’s team is the second in Balad. The first team was based in Kuwait and came to Iraq with the troops when the war started. The Forward Engineer Support Teams are not the only Corps of Engineers employees deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There are about 350 Corps of Engineers employees in Iraq. There are also about 150 in Afghanistan.



## Civilians support Iraqi Freedom troops

By Cassandra Kardeke  
221st Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Everyday we hear about what soldiers are doing and how they are doing while serving in Iraq. But what we don't hear about very often are the civilians who are also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Several Army civilians, contractors, engineers and Army and Air Force Exchange Service personnel work right alongside service members.

"We work on the aircraft," said Tom Williams, a Dyncorp avionics technician assigned to the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. "When the unit got deployed, we had to deploy with the aircraft."

Having spent just over a month at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, Williams said the deployment so far is better than what he expected. "I think the worst part about it is that phones and the Internet aren't as available as often as I'd want, but overall, it hasn't been too bad."

### Improvements

The Dyncorp employees who traveled with the aircraft said they were told in advance what to expect and what conditions they would be living under. "It was worse when we first got here. We really had to clean things up and make it workable," said Bret Bingham, an airplane mechanic with Dyncorp.

With a large hole in the roof, bomb damage in the middle of the hangar and several portions of wall and windows missing, the group got to work right away after their arrival in July to make the hangar operational and worker-friendly.

"We really have to give these guys some credit. They had no excess tools or equipment and had to barter and trade to piece things together around here," said Capt. Todd Kishpaugh, commander of



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Dyncorp avionics electrician Chris Wood repairs an RC-12 aircraft at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.

Headquarters Company B, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion.

"When we first got here, it was really bad—worse than I expected. But we have put in a lot of long hours everyday to get this place livable. It's just now starting to come together and get better," said Jerry Adams, also an aircraft mechanic.

But mechanics aren't the only ones serving alongside local soldiers. A group of six civilian employees from the Corps of Engineers in Wiesbaden also deployed to make life a little easier for soldiers (*see related story on facing page*).

"We're here in support of the military assessing and constructing buildings for the troops," said Shawn Pelowitz, lead civilian engineer for a Forward Engineering Support Team that deployed in July. Pelowitz, along with Shawn Keefe, Jonathan Koch, Fritz Ligday and Tania Smith volunteered for the Field Force Engineering program earlier this year, knowing that as a part of the program they would need to deploy to remote areas.

"At the time we joined the program, we didn't know when or where we could be deployed," said Koch.

needed the most."

Fortunately, he said, he deployed with a group of people he had already worked with in Wiesbaden.

### Contracted out

"We mostly are here to scope out projects such as a hospital, barracks and storage facilities," said Keefe. "We do the assessment and make recommendations, but most of the actual work will be contracted out. We won't really begin seeing things built until just as we are ready to leave," he said.

The group did participate in a local project that included the repair of a bridge used by local Iraqis in Balad and by the U.S. military. "It was a fairly small bridge, but heavily used by locals and was just ruined," said Smith. "We were able to get in there and help get it repaired.

It was really a rewarding feeling seeing the local people happy about their new bridge."

Rewarding is just how Army and Air Force Exchange Service employee Demetreous Lott said he felt regarding his deployment. Having volunteered for a one-year deployment, the Baumholder Power Zone employee now works as a head cashier at the largest post exchange in Iraq on LSA Anaconda. "They [AAFES] put out a letter to all employees asking for volunteers. I had to think about it for a while but finally decided it would be worth it. I'm here supporting our troops and at the same time building a future with the money I'll save for my daughter," he said.

Lott's daughter, Aalayshia, just turned a year old and is living with his parents in Texas while he serves his country (and employer) in Iraq.

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

## Community news notes ... Community news notes

### PWOC event

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite everyone to their Oct. 2 general program at Hainerberg Chapel. The event, which includes guest speaker Gail Marinello talking about "Holding Fast to the Vision," begins at 9 a.m. and continues through a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite casserole. Free child care will be provided. Call civ (0611) 705 1570.

### Hispanic observance

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month during a Hispanic Culture Festival at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. Enjoy free food and live music provided by Hot Molina. For more information call mil 337-6111 or civ (0611) 705-6111.

### Bazaar hours

The Wiesbaden Lamplighter Bazaar is just around the corner. Shop for Polish pottery, wine, jewelry, antiques and more. Hours are Oct. 3 from noon to 8 p.m., Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Thanksgiving tourney

The Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts the sixth annual Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament beginning Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. The tourney is open to both men and women. Cost is \$250 per team which includes a commemorative T-shirt and awards for first, second and third place winners. Call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541 for more information.

### Stress class

Social Work Services and the Family Advocacy Program offer a Stress and Relaxation Class Oct. 16 from 1-2 p.m. at Army Community Service in Building 7790, Hainerberg Housing. For more information or to register call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Instructor classes

Become a certified kickboxing or pilate

instructor with the 221st Base Support Battalion Fitness Centers. Instruction courses will take place Oct. 4 for Turbokick Kickboxing certification, Oct. 5 for PiYo (Pilates Yoga), Oct. 25 for Resist-a-ball Level 1 and Oct. 26 for Resist-a-ball Level 2. Call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541 for more information.

### 'Something Different' at Playhouse

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "Something Different," an evening of short comedies, Oct. 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 or €5 for adults and \$3 or €3 for children. Reservations can be made at mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.



### Financial classes

Wiesbaden Army Community Service offers a wide variety of financial classes. Topics include First Term Financing; Financing Your PCS; Insurance, Investing and TSP; Consumer Rights; Credit Management and Paying Off your Debts; and Banks, Budget and Checkbooks. All classes are free. Call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034 for more information.

### Wrestling invitational

The Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts the 221st Base Support Battalion Wrestling Invitational Oct. 18. Registration is from 8-9:30 a.m. the morning of the event. Awards will be presented to first and second place men and women in each weight class. For more information call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

### Educators needed

Central Texas College seeks instructors to teach courses in criminal justice and early childhood development. The University of

Phoenix, which will be offering master of education and master of business administration graduate degree programs, seeks teaching staff. Minimum requirements are a masters or Ph.D. in these fields of study and at least five years experience. Call the Wiesbaden Education Center at mil 337-5559 or 7435 for details.

### New hours

Several facilities on Wackernheim's McCully Barracks have new hours of operation. The McCully Fitness Center is now open Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. It's also open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on training holidays and is closed on federal holidays. Call mil 334-4737 or 4725 for details. The McCully Library is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's closed for lunch from 2-3 p.m. Call mil 334-4783. The McCully Auto Skills is now open Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call mil 334-4880.

### Free German classes

Dexheim Army Community Service offers free German language classes for beginners every Wednesday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Call Dexheim ACS at civ (06133) 69-716 to register.

### Teaching youth

Wiesbaden Child and Youth Services seeks instructors for ballet, gymnastics, guitar and other performance arts. Call civ (0611) 705-5383 or stop by the Wiesbaden CYS in Building 07790 in Hainerberg Housing.

### Religious services

Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel holds Protestant services at 10 a.m., Gospel services at 12:45 p.m. and Catholic services at 5 p.m. Sunday. Hainerberg Chapel features Catholic services at 9 a.m. and Protestant

services at 11 a.m. Sunday. For information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

### Hearts Apart

Dexheim Army Community Service offers a "Hearts Apart" support group for spouses of deployed soldiers every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Free child care is provided if reserved in advance. Call mil 334-5716 or civ (06133) 69-716 for more information.

### Monthly barbecue

Wiesbaden Youth Services offers a barbecue the first Friday of the month for all registered members after school. This is an opportunity for young newcomers to get to know other children and discover what activities are available through YS.

### Volunteers needed

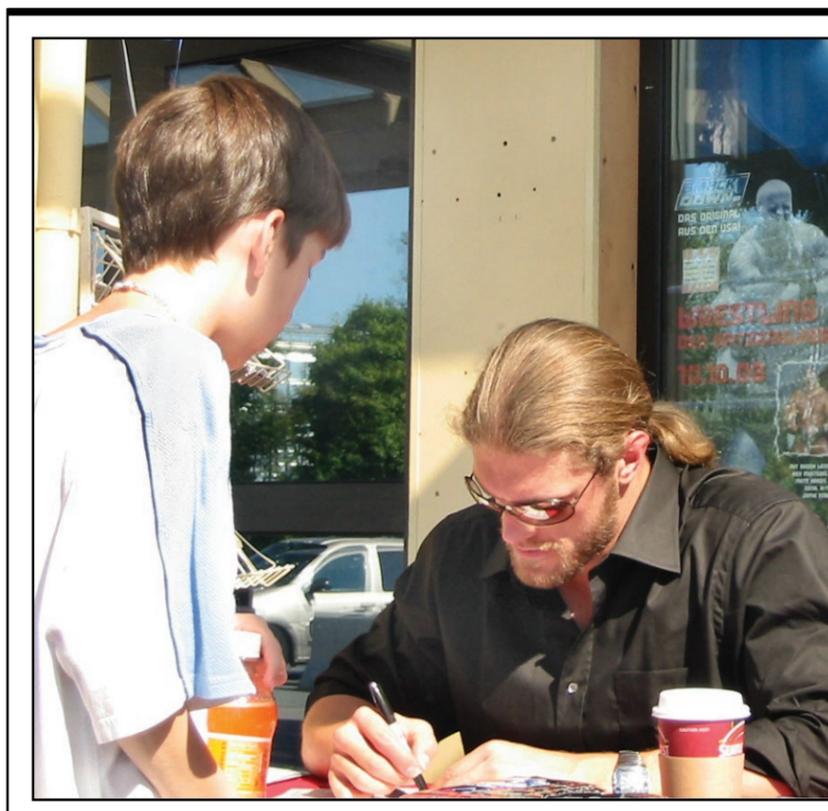
Volunteers make a difference and Team 221st is always looking for more volunteers. Opportunities are endless throughout the community. Call the installation volunteer coordinator at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034 for more information.

### Dealing with deployment

Learn coping strategies during separation from your spouse. Prepare yourself for difficult questions from your child and get ideas for fun family activities. A dealing with deployment class is offered the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. and the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Wiesbaden Army Community Service in Building 07790 in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (0611) 705-5034 for details.

### Unit golf

Rheinblick Golf Course offers unit tournament packages for \$20 per person. Packages include golf cart, range tokens, clubs and lunch. Call mil 336-2816 or civ (0611) 420 675 for more information.



### Getting a piece of the Edge

A young Wiesbaden wrestling fan gets an autograph from World Wrestling Entertainment personality Edge Sept. 14 at the Hainerberg Shopping Center in Wiesbaden. Fans of all ages stopped to meet their favorite wrestling star. Edge was in town to promote the WWE Passport to Pain wrestling extravaganza to be featured at the Cologne Arena in Cologne Oct. 10.

Photo by Donald Seltzer

# Legal advice: *Separation agreement clarifies rights when couples come apart*

By Cathy Pulley-Ballard  
Wiesbaden Legal Center

Separation agreements — what are they really?

Your Legal Assistance Office will counsel you on, and if recommended, prepare a separation agreement for you. However, there are some things a separation agreement is not, and there are some things Legal Assistance can and cannot do.

## What is a separation agreement?

A separation agreement is an agreement between the members of a married couple about the terms of their separation. It is a contract. It is advisable in any contract to include all matters of interest or dispute between the persons involved. Legal Assistance attorneys will strongly recommend that the separation agreement address all matters between the parties, even if those matters are not decided at the time of the agreement.

A separation agreement should say, for example, whether the parties intend to file tax returns jointly or separately, whether the parties reserve the right to seek spousal support (also known as alimony) or whether the parties intend to seek division of retirement pay (a critical issue when spouses have been married for many years).

The attorneys recommend trying to include every issue possible in a separation agreement because, during a later divorce proceeding, a court may decide that you or your spouse “waived” the issue and refuse to address the issue in a divorce proceeding. As in the case of retirement pay, if



of your spouse’s retirement pay. Therefore most Legal Assistance offices will not draft an agreement between you and your spouse that only addresses, for example, the division of your household goods.

## What isn’t a separation agreement?

A separation agreement is not a legal separation. Legal Assistance cannot “legally” separate you and your spouse. Whether you are “legally” separated from your spouse is a matter of state law (or German law, if you live in Germany and decide to pursue a divorce in German courts). Normally to be “legally” separated, a court will have to declare you and your spouse legally separated. In fact whether a court will honor the separation agreement depends on the state (some states do not recognize separation agreements, but may still take the terms of a separation agreement and use it as a basis for a divorce decision).

A separation agreement is not a court document. If you or your spouse violate the terms of a separation agreement

you do not reserve the right to address it later, a court may consider that you no longer have any rights to a portion

(fail to pay child support), the spouse failing to pay is not in contempt of court and will not automatically go to jail. To enforce the agreement, you will have to file a court case, just like any regular court case, and present the separation agreement and then evidence that the spouse did not follow the terms of the agreement.

A separation agreement is not required to send a spouse back to the States. Despite rumors to the contrary, the command cannot require that a soldier and his or her spouse have a separation agreement in order to approve the return of a dependent to the United States. However a command is required to determine the basis for the request by the soldier or spouse for the return. A statement from a chaplain that a separation is warranted, evidence that a party has left the marital home, evidence that the marriage should not continue or a separation agreement can help the command make that determination.

A separation agreement is a contract, and both parties must voluntarily agree to it. If a command requires the agreement, it isn’t really voluntary. In most cases, for those considering a separation, a separation agreement is a good idea. It means that you and your spouse agree to things such as child custody and support.

Talk to your Legal Assistance Office staff about whether a separation agreement will work for you. Remember, your Legal Assistance attorney works for you and not your spouse. Although the Legal Assistance attorney cannot represent you in court, the legal office can advise you on how to hire an attorney if one is needed.

# Full-day kindergarten gets new facility

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

The grand opening of Wetzel Elementary School's new kindergarten building was celebrated Sept. 12. With building contractors, members of the Corps of Engineers and representatives from the Kaiserslautern District Superintendent's Office present, Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, presided over the dedication ceremony, thanking everybody for all their hard work.

Debbie Brooks, Wetzel Elementary School principal, and the kindergarten children then snipped the ceremonial ribbon and opened the building for business.

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools funded the new building together with a full-day kindergarten program. Brooks explained that Wetzel actually instituted full-day kindergarten about three years ago, but it was just recently that the building was completed. "They were supposed to have this kindergarten program at Bad Kreuznach, but they were clos-

ing so they went ahead and gave Wetzel the full day kindergarten," she said.

Construction of new buildings to house the new full-day kindergarten program in the various schools was slated by DoDDS. On certain years certain schools would start instituting the full-day kindergarten program and receive a new building as a package deal. Wetzel however, was able to institute full-day kindergarten before the new building was constructed. "So we've actually had it a couple of years," said Brooks.

Along with full-day kindergarten, Wetzel also instituted the one to 18 teacher ratio in the lower grades. The program provides for fewer children in the classroom. This enables the teachers to spend more time focusing on the individual needs of each student. All of Baumholder's schools are now instituting this program in the lower grades.

During the dedication ceremony, Walter Bau, the building contractor, gave teddy bears to the children.

The kindergartners sang songs and Pam Lehmann, a kindergarten



Photo by Peggy-Hoffman Schmidt

Debbie Brooks, Wetzel Elementary School principal, helps kindergarten students cut the ribbon to officially open the new full-day kindergarten facility.

teacher, recited a poem titled "All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten."

"We also put a plaque up in the

hallway, and on the plaque it says 'On this 12th day of September, 2003, we dedicate our new kindergarten building. May our children's

first year in school be the building blocks for future learning and lead them to become successful citizens in today's world,'" said Brooks.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A customer checks out the merchandise at the Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop.

## Thrift Shop expands service

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop is expanding. They now accept large items such as furniture for their downstairs room.

The Thrift Shop holds a big bag sale Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers can stuff a brown paper bag with merchandise for \$2 while supplies last.

There will also be specials throughout the day.

The Thrift Shop is in Building 8544 across the street from the Baumholder Post Exchange.

Opening hours are Mondays,

Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Consignment hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.

The Thrift Shop also purchases used transformers that are in good condition. Please call first. While at the Thrift Shop, check out their antique corner and handmade crafts corner.

Call Tammy Davis, Thrift Shop manager, at civ (06783) 6-6653 or mil 485-6653 for more information.

## ACS classes

### Get involved, get motivated

Sept. 30, 9-11 a.m.

At one time or another everyone loses the desire to commit to projects, fund-raisers or meetings. This training will help you discover how you are motivated and what it takes to keep you motivated. Also, find out what it takes to motivate others.

### Checkbook management

Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to noon

Class participants will learn how to select a financial institution to meet personal needs, use credit and debit cards, the consequences of bouncing checks, how to maintain and balance a checking account, the appropriate uses of separate and joint accounts, and to understand the advantages and disadvantages of checking accounts.

### Basics of investing

Oct. 22, 9-11 a.m.

The objective of the class is to provide participants with an understanding of investments and show them how to develop a suitable investment program to achieve their

financial goals. Class participants will learn the importance of financial goals, the importance of the time value of money, how to determine personal risk tolerance, how to identify investment risks, the objectives of various investment vehicles, how to match investments with personal goals, investment strategies to reduce risk.

### Thrift Savings Plan

Oct. 14

The objective of this class is to provide participants with a fundamental understanding of the Thrift Savings Plan. Class participants will learn how to enroll in the TSP, the tax advantages of the TSP, the importance of starting to save for retirement early, what types of pay contributions can be taken from the different types of funds available to TSP participants and how to take a loan from their TSP account.

### Successful money management

Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to noon

Class participants will learn how to evaluate their present financial situation, establish personal goals, understand a balance sheet and

income statement, develop a personal spending plan, and understand the importance of involving the entire family in the record keeping and budgeting process.

### Army Family Team Building classes

Army Family Team Building will be offering the following classes during the month of October:

● AFTB Level I, Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

● AFTB Level, Oct. 21-24, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Call civ (06783) 6-8188 or mil 485-8188 to register for these classes.

### Eliminate debt

Oct. 8, 9 a.m. to noon

This class will provide participants with the ability to liquidate their current debt and prevent creating extreme debt in the future. Participants will learn how to control the impulse to use credit, what a credit record consists of, know how to read and obtain a personal credit record, calculate a personal debt ratio, how to eliminate current debt by use of money saving ideas and power payments, about the different types of bankruptcy and their effect on credit.

## Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week 2003 is Oct. 23-31. The campaign's theme is "Unite For a Drug Free World." The campaign runs throughout the 104th Area Support Group. The 104th ASG joins individuals, businesses, schools and community organizations throughout America in saying "no" to drugs, officials said.

Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for people and communities to take a visible stand against drugs and to show their personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the red ribbon, officials added.

The red ribbon campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Agency agent, in 1985. This began the tradition of wearing and displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance toward the use of drugs.

The purpose of the red ribbon campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America. Each individual in the community, especially parents, is encouraged to wear the a red ribbon and participate in red ribbon activities sponsored by the 222nd Base Support Battalion.

## Cooking classes

Army Community Service focuses on chicken preparation during their September and October cooking classes. A German specialty is also planned. The class schedule is:

Sept. 30, chicken parmesan, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Neubrück Youth Services;

Oct. 7, Tortellini ala Panna, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Oct. 14, curry chicken with white rice, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Baumholder's ACS;

Oct. 21, rouladen (stuffed and rolled beef strips), 6-8 p.m. at Baumholder's ACS.

Oct. 28, Chinese Fried Noodles, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Children are not allowed to participate for safety reasons. Call mil 485-8188 to sign up.

## Get a head start

Head start classes are offered again weekly from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays at the Education Center. The classes are open to family members and soldiers and offer students an opportunity to learn some of the German language and participate in a field trip to Trier on Thursdays

## Baumholder launches CFC-O campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas, part of the largest workplace giving campaign in the world, has announced the CFC-O will run from Oct. 1 through Dec. 10. During the campaign season donors can designate contributions to a variety of deserving U.S. and international U.S.-based charities through the CFC-O.

"The CFC raised \$58,849 at Baumholder last year with 18 percent of the population participating," said Bill Badger, this year's CFC project officer for Baumholder.

The official kickoff at Baumholder will be in front of the Post Exchange Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. There will be cake available, donated by the exchange to commemorate the occasion, and CFC information. Unit coordinators will begin contacting their members and provide them

## Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

### Police chief retires

Ingrid Schwerdtner, Baumholder deputy mayor, makes a presentation to Baumholder's retiring police chief, Paul Dupre during a reception at the Rheinlander Club Aug. 29. Dupre elected to hold his retirement ceremony at the club on Smith Barracks, where he was honored by numerous individuals and organizations. Among those honoring the retiring chief were the 222nd Base Support Battalion and Provost Marshal's Office. The interim chief of police for the city of Baumholder is Polizei Hauptkommissar Irich Roob.

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

People interested in attending must register by noon on Friday the week before they wish to attend class by calling Danna Stone at mil 485-7574/7298.

Child care is the responsibility of the parents as it is not provided by course coordinators. Students must complete all classroom work to participate in the field trip to Trier and receive a certificate. Transportation to the Education Center and lunch are also the responsibility of the student.

### SAEDA training

The 222nd Base Support Battalion and 66th Military Intelligence Group will conduct

a briefing on anti-terrorism, force protection awareness, Subversion And Espionage Directed against the Army Oct. 21 at the Wagon Wheel Theater. The English version is from 1-2 p.m. followed by the German version from 2:15-3:15 p.m. This briefing is an annual requirement for all soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, and local national employees. Family members and dependents age 16 or older are highly encouraged to attend. Any unit or element with 10 or more people planning to attend is asked to call to ensure space is available. Direct any questions to the Baumholder MI office at mil 485-7386 or civ (06736)7386.

## Nutritionist job open

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has a full time position in the Baumholder office of the WIC Overseas program for a dietitian, nutritionist or registered nurse. Experience in maternal, child or infant nutrition is required. A registered dietitian is preferred and WIC experience is desirable. Applicants must have a current U.S. Army Europe driver's license and be willing to travel.

Email resumes, cover letter and a copy of applicable licenses to [cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil), [april.parsells@cmtymail.104asg.army.mil](mailto:april.parsells@cmtymail.104asg.army.mil) or fax application to civ (06783)6-8049, (06731)47-9383. Applications may also be delivered to the Baumholder WIC office or the Ramstein WIC office in Building 2118.

## Be a lifeguard

There is an urgent need for persons to work as lifeguards at Baumholder's indoor pool. For more information call the Rec Emporium at mil 485-6156.

## Children need families

Baumholder's Emergency Placement Care, formerly known as Foster Care, is in need of families to provide short-term 24-hour care for eligible children who cannot be cared for by their natural family or legal guardian.

The Exceptional Family Member Program currently needs potential Emergency Placement Care providers. Volunteer hours are earned for time spent in training. Once certified as an Emergency Placement Care provider, volunteer hours are awarded for on-call status and for total time spent caring for children.

The Emergency Placement Care program relies on people in the community who are willing to invest their time and energy to ensure that children are well cared for when they are most vulnerable. Participation by volunteers will make a difference in the community. Individuals interested in becoming providers or who have questions about the program may call Floyd Davison at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

## October luncheon

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club holds a luncheon Oct. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rheinlander. Reservations are required and may be made via email to [cher.lim@us.army.mil](mailto:cher.lim@us.army.mil). For more information call civ (06783)999-2928

## Rheinlander Club mil 485-7507

### Saturday market

The Baumholder Saturday market is like an indoor garage sale. Persons can buy or sell household items, children's items, clothes and much more. Reserve a space for \$5. Tables rent for \$7 and \$10. The next Saturday market is Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rheinlander Ballroom.

### Sunday Brunch

The Rheinlander Club in Baumholder hosts Sunday Brunch Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This event is by reservation only. The menu includes made-to-order omelets, waffles, eggs, bacon, sausage, pasta, potatoes, salad buffet, dessert buffet and more.

The cost is \$12.50 for adults, \$9 for children age 10-15, \$6 for children 6-9 years old and free for children age 5 and under. Contact the Rheinlander to make a reservation or for more information.

### Outdoor Rec

mil 485-7182

### Furniture trip

Are you still looking for just the right accents to make your government quarters feel like home? Let Outdoor Rec take you shopping at Ikea, the Swedish home furnishing store. The cost for transportation is \$24 for adults and \$15 for children. Trips are scheduled for Oct. 2, 16; Nov. 6, 20 and Dec. 4, 18.

### Polish pottery

Get on the express shopping trip to Poland and pick up some Polish pottery. The cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Make reservations one week in advance. Trips are scheduled for Oct. 4-5, Nov. 14-15 and Dec. 12-13.

### Frankfurt Zoo

There is still time for a day trip to the Frankfurt Zoo. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. The next trip is Oct. 1 so reserve your seat today. Additional Frankfurt Zoo dates are Nov. 1, 22 and Jan. 17.

### Flea markets

You can find antiques, furniture and souvenirs galore by joining Outdoor Rec on flea market excursions. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. Trips include the Metz Flea Market Oct. 4, 25; Saarbrücken Flea Market Nov. 8; and Luxembourg Flea Market Nov. 22.

### Mall experience

You can have an American mall experience at CentrO Mall. The cost is \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Reserve your seat for any of these dates — Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and

# MWR update

Dec. 13

### Express shopping

Reserve a seat today for an express shopping trip to Karlovy Vary and the Dragon Flea Market. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$45 for children. Trips are scheduled for: Oct. 24-25, Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 19-20.

### Mini vacation

Enjoy a mini vacation on the slopes. Reserve your seat for a trip to the Swiss Alps and don't forget your skis. The cost for round-trip transportation is \$95 for adults and \$75 for children. Trips are planned for Dec. 19-21, Jan. 2-4, Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, Feb. 20-22 and March 12-14.

### Ski Columbus Day

Get away for the Columbus Day weekend Oct. 10-13 by going skiing in Austria for \$295. Price includes hotel accommodations with breakfast and dinner. Also included is your ski pass and equipment rental, lift pass and round-trip transportation.

### Ski holidays

Spend your holiday weekends on the slopes of Austria. Get an all-inclusive weekend getaway for \$295. The price includes hotel accommodations with breakfast and dinner, ski pass and rental, lift pass and round trip transportation. Reserve your seat for one of these trips — Nov. 7-10 Veterans Day, Nov. 26-30 Thanksgiving, Jan. 16-19 Martin Luther King Day, Feb. 13-16 President's Day, March 11-14 early spring and April 8-11 Easter.

### Christmas markets

It's almost time for the German Christmas so start planning a trip now with Outdoor Recreation. Reserve your seat in advance for the following markets:

- **Trier Christmas Market**  
Nov. 28  
\$35 adults, \$15 children  
depart at 8 a.m.
- **Rothenburg ob der Tauber Christmas Market**  
Dec. 6  
\$55 adults, \$35 children  
depart at 7 a.m.
- **Nürnberg Christmas Market**  
Dec. 13  
\$65 adults, \$45 children  
depart at 6 a.m.

**Auto Skills Center**  
mil 485-6344

### PCS cleaning

If you're getting ready to leave Europe, let the Auto Skills Center help you clean your car before you ship it. For \$45 get your car detailed inside and out.

### Oil change

Get your oil changed at Baumholder Auto Skills Center. The cost is \$19.95 (oil and filter included). For \$39.95 get synthetic oil (filter included). Service is by appointment only Tuesdays through Fridays after 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Ballet classes

Ballet classes begin Oct. 30 at Baumholder Youth Services for children 3-18 years old. The cost is \$30 per month and \$22 per month depending on class length. Classes are held on Tuesdays, Wednes-

days and Thursdays in Building 8879, Wetzel School Age-Services.

- Tuesday classes are 5-5:45 p.m. for 3- to 4-year-olds and 6-7 p.m. for those 7-9 years old.

- Wednesday classes are 10-10:45 a.m. for 3-to 4-year-olds, 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children 7-9 years old and 5 p.m. for children 5-6 years old.

- Thursday classes are from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children 5-6 years old and up and 5-6 p.m. for children 10 years old and up.

The instructor is Viviane Elliot, a professional ballet dancer who has 11 years of intensive classical ballet training. She has three years of teaching experience.

Elliot has performed in principal roles such as "The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty" and other ballets. For more information contact Youth Services Central Registra-

tion at mil 485-7003 or their administration office at mil 485-7276.

### Haunted house

Get ready to be scared stiff as the Rod and Gun Club hosts a haunted house Oct. 20-31 from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$1 per person. The site for a night of fright will be in Building 8167 on Smith Barracks. Call mil 485-6345 for details.

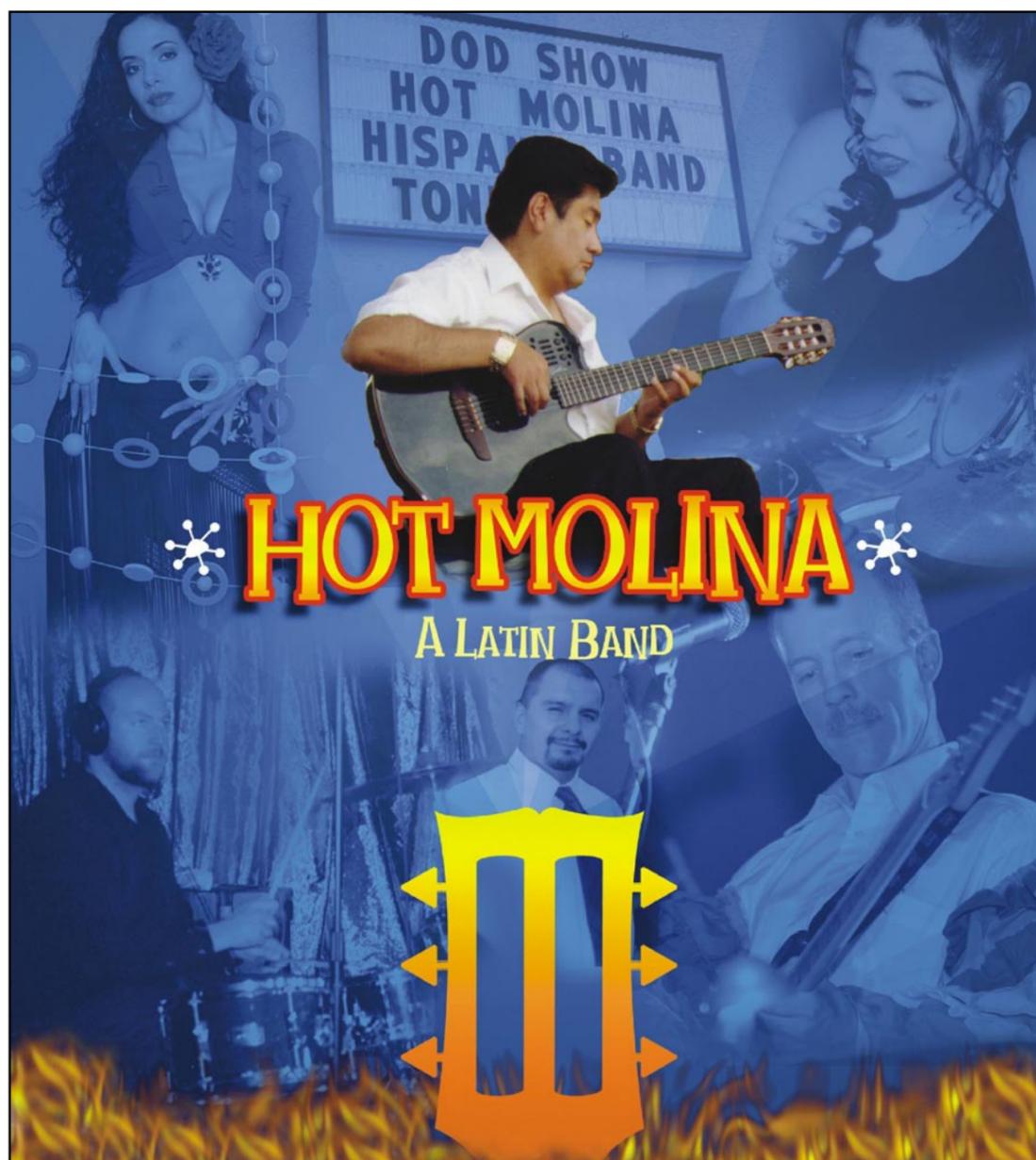
### Halloween party

The Rod and Gun Club is the place to be Oct. 3. That's when the club holds its adult Halloween party starting at 9 p.m. Admission is free, so come out and enjoy food, drinks and a good time. Call mil 485-6345 for details.

### Teachers needed

Central Texas College in Europe is seeking qualified instructors to teach Early Childhood Education, Criminal Justice and Automotive Technologies at the Baumholder Education Center.

Call Debbie Faerber at mil 485-6664 or Jihun Kim at mil 485-6484 for more information.



Contributed graphic

## Hot Molina

The Latin sensation band Hot Molina is coming to Baumholder. The band has spent more than 11 years entertaining Americans overseas. Enjoy a free electrifying salsa performance when the band performs in concert Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Rheinlander.

## A soldier's story: There's no typical day

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

In Baghdad there is no such thing as a typical work day. That's what 1st Lt. Kevin Fromm who has been in Iraq since May of this year reports.

Fromm, a 1st Armored Division Artillery soldier assigned as a platoon leader for the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, said, "I have been in Iraq for four months, of which the first three weeks were spent in Kuwait staging for movement north to Baghdad. A typical eight-hour day doesn't exist here.

"My battery is responsible for the Sheik Junaid neighborhood of Baghdad which is close to the center of Baghdad. The battery is made up of two platoons that rotate every two weeks between the new Iraqi army recruiting station, which is responsible for in-processing and shipping out of new recruits for the new army; and the former Iraqi army pay site, which pays retired and former soldiers a stipend every three months," said Fromm.

The soldiers of Fromm's platoon work in three groups. Each group guards the pay site gate for six hours. At the Iraqi recruiting station they change every two to three hours. "The platoon actually lives down there for two weeks at a time. At both sites we are supported by a special protection and security force and by hired translators who take care of the many little problems such as conducting vehicle and personnel searches.

"Both operations are run by the Civil Provisional Authority, but the soldiers are tasked to provide security so that the employees, contractors and those visiting on business are safe and secure from any crime or attacks," he said.

It comes as no surprise when Fromm says that the days in Baghdad are hot, dry, dusty and windy at times. "Our base has no trees, with the exception of a palm tree grove just over the wall, so shade and cooler temperatures aren't like they are in other areas of Baghdad," he said.

In Iraq Friday is observed as a holy day and activity slows down. So the soldiers get a break and try to take care of their personal needs. "If things aren't too busy we try to get soldiers to the Post Exchange shopping site at the International Airport where they can also take care of any financial needs," said Fromm.

"Gunfire is quite common at night, and we occasionally see tracer rounds from rifles fired into the air.



Soldiers from 1st Armored Division Artillery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, keep a close watch at an entry point in Baghdad.

On most nights it's one or two people randomly shooting their weapons in the air but on some nights, for example when Saddam's sons were killed or when Iraq beat Morocco in football (soccer), there was a great deal of gunfire into the night sky. Thankfully no soldiers have been killed or injured by this senseless shooting, but many Iraqis have become victims of bullets falling from the sky. It's quite sad to think that one man's celebration could turn into another man's injury or death," he said.

Living conditions in Baghdad for soldiers are slowly improving. "We have air conditioners, refrigerators, and a few televisions with satellite receivers. Many soldiers have purchased televisions that can be used with video disk players or video games. There are a few vendors who we are allowed to purchase food or drinks from on the

economy," said Fromm. A case of 24 sodas costs \$6. "The dollar is accepted everywhere as the current stable currency," he said.

Water is the main drink for soldiers in Iraq. They obtain it either in bottles or from a drinking water tank at the airport. "Soldiers usually make good use of powder drink mixes to add a little variety to their drinks. "Non-alcoholic beer, chips, cookies, toiletry items and a small selection of music and movie DVDs can also be purchased at the main post exchange at the International Airport or in our smaller battalion shop which is supplied by the airport shop," said Fromm.

Duty in Iraq is not necessarily a full-pension affair. "We get a hot meal at breakfast and dinner. Soldiers are provided with Meals Ready to Eat for lunch but many resort to food from care packages or snacks if possible. I have not eaten

an MRE in a month and will continue to do so if I can avoid it," said Fromm.

Email access is now available to soldiers, and each soldier in Fromm's battery gets two free 15-minute calls a week to call back home to family or friends. "Regular mail from the States and Germany has improved and seems to be pretty steady now and usually takes between one and two weeks to arrive," he said.

Soldiers are constantly in contact with the Iraqi population. "Usually we use local interpreters to help us communicate, but sometimes we have to work through the language barrier using a few words and sign language because there are only so many interpreters available. Many of the interpreters are very helpful and go out of their way to help us. While they get paid well by Iraqi standards they do take a lot of risks

when working for us," said Fromm.

Dealing with children is always a challenge, regardless of who they are. In Iraq they often approach soldiers asking for candy or money. "While being friendly and open to the 'future of Iraq' is important, soldiers must always be alert and vigilant to danger. Often children will ask for food or sometimes money. Depending on age, as like any child, they can be very nice or annoying," said Fromm. Soldiers will sometimes give children items from their MREs such as candy or cookies or extra food they have from packages from home.

"If a child comes up to me and is friendly and not bothering me I will usually give him or her something if I can. However if they come up asking me for candy or money I will usually say no and tell them to go away," said Fromm.

"The biggest problem with Iraqi contact, apart from the language barrier, is their persistence. This is especially difficult for us at times as we are charged with security at two important sites in Baghdad. People come to our gates asking a variety of questions. The Iraqi way of doing things here is sometimes difficult and frustrating. They believe that if they keep asking us that our response will change or we will give into a request. This does not happen. Even our security guards and interpreters get frustrated with these individuals sometimes.

"Overall though we try to be as friendly and helpful as possible but at the same time we need to maintain a safe stand-off distance and firm security.

"While many Iraqis are happy we are here there is no way to be sure who is friendly and who is hostile so we can not take any chances.

"Iraq and Baghdad are still very dangerous places. The threat of grenade, rocket and mortar attacks is always present. Homemade bombs are also a threat, especially to vehicles moving around the city. Thankfully no one from my battery has been killed or injured from terrorist or guerilla attacks," he said.

When soldiers return to Baumholder they will have a lot of readjusting ahead of them. The dangerous and high intensity environment they have been exposed to will be replaced with a more relaxed garrison environment, family life and a traditionally organized German way of life.

"Many of us may have trouble readjusting to normal driving when we get back, so please be understanding," said Fromm.