Herald Union

Vol. XI, No. 6 — *Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group* — Dec. 23, 2003

News flash

Still time to donate in 2003 CFC

The Combined Federal Campaign Overseas has been extended through Dec. 31. Soldiers and civilian employees wanting more information about the charity fund-raising effort or wishing to contribute can contact their local Base Support Battalion project officer — Sharon Moseley at mil 337-1500 in the 221st BSB, William Badger at mil 485-8891 in the 222nd BSB, Eleonora Vodopija at mil 343-8621 in the 284th BSB or Ulanda Parker at mil 322-1500 in the 414th BSB.

USAREUR supply excellence winners

Several local units were among U.S. Army Europe winners in the 2004 Supply Excellence Award competition. They include Wiesbaden's 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion, 30th Medical Brigade in the Level II (B) Battalion Without Property Book Category; Hanau's 71st Ordnance Company (Missile Maintenance), 485th Corps Support Battalion, in the Level I (A) Small MTOE, Class IX SSA Category; and Hanau's 26th Quartermaster Supply Company, 485th Corps Support Battalion, in the Level I (B) Small MTOE, Class II, IV and VII SSA Category. Winners will represent USAREUR in the Department of the Army level competition. ***(USAREUR Public Affairs)***

Health care when visiting family in U.S.

If you are traveling to the States for a visit exceeding 60 days contact your Tricare Service Center to request a transfer of your prime enrollment to the region in which you will be staying. When you arrive at your destination you must contact the gaining TSC to ensure your enrollment is transferred. A Tricare representative there will tell you how you can obtain care in the region, where to send your claims and will provide you with information on the local civilian provider network. Once you return to Europe, you must contact your TSC again to ensure your prime enrollment is transferred back. ***(Tricare Europe Public Affairs and Marketing)***

Preparing for homecoming

Soldiers to find $13.3 worth of barracks enhancements upon return from Iraq

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

When Johnny comes marching home again he wants a hot shower, a decent meal and a place to lay his weary head.

Soldiers from 104th Area Support Group-based units will find their barracks spruced up to the tune of $13.3 million dollars when they redeploy between now and next summer, said Directorate of Public Works officials. "That was approved by Installation Management Agency-Europe," said Dan Brueggenjohann, 104th ASG DPW director.

"Since these Soldiers are in Iraq fighting, we're taking the opportunity to paint and clean their barracks before they get home. The issue was that we want to make sure that when they return they can see that we've done something to improve their quality of life," he said.

DPW crews began assessment sweeps of barracks across the 104th ASG this month to determine what repairs need to be made and begin the process of contracting the work.

"It's basically a Col. Latham initiative [Col. George A. Latham II, 104th ASG commander] to spruce things up before the troops return," said Mark Crawford, deputy director, 104th ASG DPW. "We are taking a pretty good look at barracks right now. To date we have awarded six projects at Dexheim with more projects scheduled to be awarded at Wiesbaden, Giessen and in the Hanau community. All of them are being looked at."

Photo by Karl Weisel

Hugh Cowsert (left) of the 104th ASG DPW Master Plans Division and Sgt. 1st Class John Bowers, 414th BSB DPW NCOIC, inspect barracks on Fliegerhorst Kaserne in preparation for renovation work.

The projects will focus on freshening barracks quarters, not conducting major renovations, said officials.

"Most of all it's targeted at bar-

See *Barracks* on page 3

ACSs help ease reunion transition

Training aimed at providing resources for dealing with reintegration stress

By Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

As in past conflicts, Soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom may find themselves disoriented, disconnected or harboring unrealistic expectations. They may also have trouble adjusting to things as simple as the change in environment, financial responsibilities and separation from friends made under life-threatening circumstances, said Army Community Service officials.

"They may be out of practice dealing with the stress of daily life," said Michael Hamm, Büdingen ACS Outreach coordinator. "They have to be very aware of how they are reintegrating into their family and to try not to expect to fit back in the way it used to be before they left. There can be a huge disconnect between expectations and reality. … There's a lot of emotional stress," said Hamm. "A lot of people can't sleep upon returning. They may feel disconnected."

Photo by Karl Weisel

The stress of redeployment from Iraq can be challenging, officials said.

Realizing that the transition can be an extremely challenging time for Soldiers and their families, the Department of the Army has mandated that ACS, in conjunction with local subject matter experts such as chaplains, finance personnel and others, provide vital reintegration and reunion training for all returning service members.

While ACSs throughout the 104th Area Support Group regularly provide a range of classes from Couples Communication to Anger Management, officials are working

See *Reunion* on page 14

Holiday greetings from Baghdad

Commentary by Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey
1st Armored Division commander

Yesterday I met a young corporal serving here in Baghdad. He's 20 years old, married and has two children. One of them is 2. The other is 1. They were born nine months apart.

He loves his family and he misses them. He has strong convictions about what he wants out of life. He wants nothing more than for his children to grow up happy and healthy, go to college, study what they want and be able to make their own choices as they become adults.

This young corporal understands why we're here in Baghdad during this Christmas holiday. This young man understands that he is giving more to his family this Christmas than he has ever given them before. This magnificent young American understands that this year he is giving them the gift of freedom.

I pray for that kind of clarity for all of you this Christmas. This year you really are contributing to peace on earth. This year you really will give more than you receive. This year you will live the spirit of Christmas.

So to every member of this superb task force, and to every family member who supports you, and to all our great military and civilian friends in the United States and in Europe who are helping us through this challenging time, I say Merry Christmas, and I say it with more sincerity and more enthusiasm than I have ever known.

God bless us all this Christmas.

Commentary

Safety key to holiday spirit

By Joel B. Hudson
Office of the Secretary of the Army

The holiday season and new year are rapidly approaching. It is a time for joy, family reunions, gift giving and the beginning of a new year with unlimited possibilities.

It is also a season for travel. Since many Soldiers and civilians will venture on trips during the weeks ahead, special attention must be given to prepare for the potential hazards that may be confronted along the way.

Traffic accidents are always the main cause of death and injury over any holiday period, and driving during the winter holidays will again be particularly challenging.

Accident statistics consistently document the fact that alcohol impairment is a significant factor in traffic deaths and injuries. It is estimated that over 50 percent of all fatal traffic accidents involve alcohol consumption.

Remember that driving under the influence of alcohol remains the number one cause of accidents for our Soldiers and family members. Never drink and drive. Never let a friend or fellow Soldier drink and drive.

This holiday season everyone is urged to take a step back, slow down and take the time to enjoy family, the holidays and their spirit of sharing and joy.

Soldiers and civilians should retain a keen awareness of the tragic consequences of drinking and driving, speeding, fatigue and the failure to use safety belts. Drivers must remain alert to the possible hazards of snow, ice and black ice.

The key to a safe and happy holiday season is planning ahead and practicing excellent defensive driving techniques when on the road. Travel safely, watch out for your fellow Soldiers and enjoy the holidays.

Love overcomes adversity

Commentary by K.C. Bertling
Special to the Herald Union

It has been over two decades since I made the following promises to my new country called America.

* That I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

* That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

* That I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law;

* That I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by law;

* That I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and

* That I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

I have never taken more seriously any of my promises since then. Though I may never bear arms on behalf of the United States, I know that I will perform my duties as an American and respect her citizens, laws and government. What little I can do to make a difference in the lives of others, will only be a small repayment to those who fought on behalf of my freedom in times past and today.

I have always had the greatest admiration for war veterans, especially those who fought in the Korean War. Those who died and lost loved ones in that conflict may never know just how grateful I am to those who gave their all. They are and will always be my heroes for I know freedom is not free.

While life sometimes seems unfair, and evil seems to overtake us, I am convinced that our steadfast love for America and what we believe in will overcome the challenges of today and will conquer that evil.

To those who are deployed during these traditional holiday seasons, may God's grace, courage and comfort fill your hearts, and may the victory be ours.

Thank you all for serving America on behalf of me.

Mail call: Holiday greetings from German neighbors, Tree for the Troops

Dear Soldier,

You do not know us, but we are glad that we can write to you a few lines. And so we will wish you — from [our] whole heart and in a very "unusual place" — a still and peace-loving Merry Christmas and a great and good Happy New Year. We hope that you can celebrate your next Christmas at home with your family. You are not alone this evening; we are thinking on you particularly. Take care of yourself all the time, and we hope that you can go home fast.

We know that you do a great job, a dangerous job, often not easy to do. Often you do not know who is your friend and who is your enemy. We know that your family and a lot of friends are all waiting for you. Have a great and good 2004, the same for your comrades and your friends and family.

God bless all of you,

Wilhelmine and Rudolf Aufmkolk
Gross Gerau

To the editor,

The third annual Tree for the Troops is now open and ready for hanging holiday greetings to Soldiers downrange. I look forward to hanging message hearts and sending some joy to our troops far from home. As always this site is open to the public, requires no registration and is free to use. Each greeting is reviewed for appropriate content before posting.

This site is privately owned and operated. There are no funds for advertising , so thanks to those who help me spread the word each year. Over 6,000 holiday greetings have been posted on the site to our Soldiers, a heart being placed on the tree for each greeting.

To post and read messages point your browser to *www.treeforthetroops.com.*

Please help me spread the word again,

CT Dawson
Tree for the Troops webmaster

Second thoughts

Christmas during wartime

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

I'm heading back to the States this Christmas with my oldest daughter. We're spending the holidays with my parents who are getting up in age and don't travel nearly as easily as they once did. We'll miss my wife and youngest daughter but know we'll be together again soon, and they will be near friends and other family members while we are gone.

Compared to the day-to-day sacrifices and separation experienced by so many 104th Area Support Group families this year, 10 days apart during the holidays is small change.

As we've gone about our business this year — reporting on life and death in Iraq and the struggle of families to try to maintain "normal" lives during extremely trying times — one thing has remained constant. Despite the stress, the nearly constant fear that a friend or loved one could be harmed and the challenges of living apart, most Soldiers and family members have managed to maintain a positive outlook. Whether or not the rest of the world, or even people in the United States, are truly aware of the tremendous sacrifices being made by local military personnel and their families, doesn't really matter — what does count is that those who live and work together in the 104th ASG are fully aware and appreciative.

One might assume that with so many service members — many of them fathers and mothers — absent from local communities, there would be a dearth of holiday cheer. But judging from the turnout for community tree lightings, holiday concerts, school celebrations and various other events, just the opposite is the case. Soldiers and family members have turned out in force to celebrate the spirit of the occasion and to share the collective hope for a peaceful new year.

Whether one celebrates Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hannukah or simply the joy of sharing with others, the ending of one year and the beginning of another is a time to examine where we've been and to ponder how we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of others in the future. While many may find themselves in harm's way this holiday season in a continuing effort to make life better for others, our thoughts and best wishes travel with them.

Looking at the proverbial glass as half full, rather than half empty seems to be a rare gift that many Americans share. It's also something that continues to attract newcomers to America's shores decade after decade.

While some people might consider Americans naive for approaching life with this open-minded, optimistic outlook, this writer wouldn't want it any other way.

May your holidays be full of peace and joy.

Herald Union

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Commander 104th Area Support Group
Col. George A. Latham II
104th ASG Command Sergeant Major
CSM Jose A. Fontanez
104th ASG Public Affairs Officer
Raino Scharck

Newspaper staff

Editor.....**Karl Weisel**
Associate Editor.....**David Ruderman**
221st BSB Reporter.....**Cassandra Kardeke (mil 337-5772)**
222nd BSB Reporter.....**Ignacio Rubalcava (mil 485-6191)**
284th BSB Reporter.....**Alexandra Williams (mil 343-6597)**
414th BSB Reporter.....**Dennis Johnson (mil 322-1600)**

Address: 104th ASG, Herald Union, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001; or, Herald Union, Yorkhof Kaserne, Bldg. 1205, Chemnitzer Str. 2-4, 63452 Hanau. **Telephone:** mil 323-3257, civ (06181) 180-3257. **Email:** *hesherald@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil*. **Home page:** *www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil.* **Fax:** civ (06181) 14029.

News and features

News flash ... News flash

Next issue Jan. 20

The next edition of the *Herald Union* will be published Jan. 20. Submissions for that issue should be made by Jan. 9. During the *Herald Union's* holiday break, check out the *Herald Union Online* on the 104th Area Support Group's home page at *www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil*.

Sexual harassment training online

"Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training" is now available online. Members of the 104th ASG staff can access the training by visiting the 104th ASG website at *www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil* and clicking on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training" under the heading "Useful links" (lower right hand corner). All U.S. civilian personnel (supervisory and non-supervisory), military personnel who supervise U.S. civilian employees and Local National personnel who supervise U.S. civilian employees must take the training every year. Once completed, the program automatically notifies the 104th ASG Equal Employment Opportunity Office staff with your name and score. People should not send a copy of the certificate. Base support battalion personnel must contact their local BSB EEO offices for their training schedule or web link. Call Martin Reyes-Duran at mil 323-2834 for more information.

Correction

We misspelled Pvt. Kurt R. Frosheiser's name in the Dec. 9 edition. Frosheiser, of Baumholder's 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, was killed in Iraq Nov. 8. We regret the error.

Mail to APO addresses

As the holiday season approaches, many people stationed in Germany will order gifts or special items over the Internet or by mail order. However some things may not be mailed to your APO address from countries outside Germany because of customs and tax laws. "For instance, coffee, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages are rationed and highly taxed in Germany and may not be mailed via the APO," said Bill Johnson, U.S. Army Europe Customs Executive Agency Service Branch chief. Although legal to have items such as coffee and cigars sent to your German home address via the German postal system or a commercial parcel service, you are subject to any taxes and import duty. Using the APO to import any item for purposes other than personal use such as for resale, a business or volunteer organization is also banned. Johnson added that people should consult their local postal officer before ordering medication by mail order as the rules governing their importation is complicated. ***(USAREUR Customs Public Affairs Office)***

Gifts from home

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service provides an easy solution to people who wish to send gifts to Soldiers stationed in Iraq, but who don't want to hassle with buying, packaging and mailing the items. AAFES gift certificates are an alternative, AAFES officials said. Those wishing to send a "gift from the home front" can log on to *www.aafes.com* to purchase gift certificates in $10 or $20 denominations. The gift certificates are sent to either the designated service member or distributed to "any service member" through organizations such as the American Red Cross. The certificates can be redeemed at any AAFES facility in the world. ***(AAFES-Europe Public Affairs)***

Bottle alert

Military medical officials advise U.S. Department of Defense personnel in Europe to be alert to possible tampering of plastic beverage bottles including water, juices and milk. Recent reports from Italy indicate that unidentified individuals have indiscriminately injected ammonia, bleach-like or soap-like solutions into plastic beverage bottles using a hyperdermic needle just below the bottle cap. These were subsequently sold in supermarkets and vending machines in Italy. The specific brand names were not released by officials. To date no incidents have been reported at military installations in Europe. However as a safety precaution people purchasing plastic bottled beverages at military or economy stores are advised to invert the bottle and squeeze it to see if the bottle leaks. People should also check for the presence of an abnormal odor. If a bottle is discovered with a pinhole perforation it should be returned to the store where it was purchased. Local Military Police should be contacted if the purchase was made at a military location. ***(Europe Army Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office)***

Holiday dining facility schedule

221st Base Support Battalion

Anderson Barracks in Dexheim	Dec. 24	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wiesbaden Army Airfield	Dec. 24	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

222nd Base Support Battalion

2nd Brigade in Baumholder	Dec. 25	8-11 a.m.
Strassburg in Idar-Oberstein	Dec. 25	8-11 a.m.

284th Base Support Battalion

16th Engineer Battalion in Giessen	Dec. 23	11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1-36th Infantry in Friedberg	Dec. 24	noon to 4 p.m.

414th Base Support Battalion

Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau	Dec. 23	noon to 4 p.m.
Armstrong Barracks in Büdingen	Dec. 25	noon to 2 p.m.

Barracks . . . . . .

Continued from page 1

racks, and as you know some of them are much larger than others. Most of the painting has to be done on the inside. Work has to be done on the inside and the outside. We'll focus on finishing the inside and outside as quickly as we can, but we want to ensure the interiors are ready when the Soldiers get back. We'll be fixing door handles and light fixtures that might be broken. We're also taking a look at furniture, seeing how that is. We call it 'patch and paint,' and a lot of it is basic cleaning," said Crawford.

"That's essentially what we're doing — we're going through the barracks," said Bob Baumgardt, 222nd Base Support Battalion DPW director in Baumholder. His crews are checking showers, toilets, refrigerators and other essential components. "Everything that makes a room a room, we're making sure it all works — and cleaning. We're just systematically going through."

Baumgardt's teams will assess about 70 barracks buildings and another dozen that can serve as barracks. Though not specifically aimed at the redeployment, the BSB is trying to complete a number of other projects before the Soldiers return as well, among them $33 million of work on new motor pools, hard stand work, a facelift for the bowling center and new seats for the movie theater.

"I've got 30 barracks," said Kirk Marek, 414th BSB DPW director. "Not all of those would we go through, but I've started going through a number with my team. It will be very costly, but that's not a surprise. We started out at Hutier, and probably what I will initially do is go through with a tiger team to see what we can do in the way of minor maintenance and repair. We're going to see what we can do."

Photo by Alexandra Williams

BOS painter Rüdiger Storck repairs a cabinet door in a Giessen barracks.

The extent of the repairs will be determined in part by the amount of money available. "That's spread over four BSBs, and if I've got 30 barracks I can eat that money easy and still not hit it all. So you're going to have to stretch those dollars," said Marek.

A variety of ad hoc teams are forming to make the initial assessments.

"For one, we're getting in touch with the rear detachment commanders of the different units. We hope we can get as many rooms renovated and repaired as we can," said Birgit Welter, 284th BSB DPW director. "We'll start with the Giessen barracks in December, and then there are two more in Friedberg once we're done in Giessen."

The barracks review began Dec. 2 in Giessen, she said.

"We're also trying to get rid of the mildew," said Hugh Cowsert of the 104th ASG DPW Master Plans Division. "And it's got to be prioritized. As we get the schedule of people coming back we'll have to shuffle around, decide which gets done first."

"So far the assessment I'm making is of which rooms will require painting, and which hallways," said Sgt. 1st Class John Bowers, 414th BSB DPW noncommissioned officer in charge, as he toured barracks on Fliegerhorst Kaserne Dec. 4 with Cowsert and Staff Sgt. Leonard Clyde, rear detachment NCOIC for 1-501st Aviation. "We'll be having 'tiger teams' of electricians, carpenters and painters come through here and make their assessments."

Bowers said he couldn't give a firm date for when repairs would begin. Assessments will be submitted to each command to decide on funding and execution.

"We'd like to have something for the Soldiers that is better than what they had before they left," said Bowers.

Free flu shots given at medical centers

Vaccinations deemed critical as outbreak continues to peak

By Cynthia Vaughn
Europe Army Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office

This year it is more important than ever that people get their flu shots, said Col. Loren Erickson, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-Europe commander.

"The influenza vaccine is available in Europe free of charge for all military health care beneficiaries including active duty service members and their family members, retirees and their family members, and Department of Defense employees and their families. This year we are also making the vaccine available to host nation employees who work for the U.S. military," he said.

Medical surveillance data indicates this year's influenza virus in the United States and Europe is stronger than any seen in the past five years. At least 10 pediatric cases have been diagnosed at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, and 23 children have died in the United States from the disease.

The free vaccination available at military medical treatment centers provides the best protection possible to prevent infection, and is especially recommended for children and adults with chronic medical conditions such as immune deficiencies, chronic health problems such as asthma and other lung conditions, kidney or heart disease and diabetes, said Erickson. The vaccine is also recommended for people over 65 years old and for children ages 6-23 months.

"The influenza season in Europe occurs routinely between December and May, peaking around January. This year it seems to have started a few weeks earlier than normal," said Col. Allen Kraft, force health protection director for Europe Regional Medical Command and U.S. Army Europe. "We have enough vaccine for everyone, and we're trying to get this vaccine to people at times and places convenient for them."

Community members should call their local military medical treatment center for details and to make a vaccination appointment, said officials.

Photo by Karl Weisel

A Soldier is vaccinated against influenza. Free flu shots are available for Soldiers, civilians, retirees, family members and local national employees.

Stop Loss action speeds up ACAP counseling

Some Soldiers planning to leave the Army may get their preseparation counseling sooner than expected as a result of the Army's recent implementation of the Active Army Unit Stop Loss/Stop Movement program.

Soldiers affected by stop loss/stop movement and assigned to units selected for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan will receive their mandatory preseparation counseling from Army Career and Alumni Program before departure from their home stations, said officials.

Preseparation counseling gives Soldiers an explanation of transition benefits and services. Counseling must take place at least 90 days before a Soldier's separation date, said Jim Hoffman, ACAP program director. While many installations integrate ACAP preseparation counseling into the predeployment process, Soldiers need not wait until then to begin receiving ACAP transition services, he said.

"The effectiveness of ACAP services is directly linked to the time Soldiers spend preparing for their transition from active duty," Hoffman said. As time permits Soldiers should visit local ACAP centers and sign up for the transition and job assistance services that are available to them after initial preseparation counseling, he said.

Early initiation of the ACAP process increases a Soldier's opportunities to receive follow-on ACAP services and possibly attend Transition Assistance Program workshops before deployment. Soldiers may take advantage of ACAP services online while they are deployed, but to access these resources they must have already received preseparation counseling, Hoffman said.

"While we understand that preparing for military operations in a hostile environment is vitally important, making the decision to leave the Army and preparing for that eventuality is also important," he said.

Reserve Component Unit Stop Loss Policy implemented in the fall of 2002 remains in effect. National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who have completed more than 180 days of continuous active duty are eligible for full ACAP services.

The Army recognizes that the vast majority of Guard and Reserve Soldiers may not need ACAP services upon their return, but those services will be available for those who do, Hoffman said.

Separating Soldiers can enroll in the program up to one year in advance of their separation date. Retiring Soldiers can start the process as much as two years in advance of their retirement date. Family members may also take advantage of ACAP services.

For more information visit a local ACAP center or the website at *www.acap.army.mil*.
(Courtesy of the Army News Service)

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lisa M. Zunzanyika

Goooood morning, Baghdad

Comic legend Robin Williams entertains troops during a USO tour stop at Baghdad International Airport Dec. 16.

Finances top AFAP issues

Personal financial concerns topped the list of priorities at the 2003 Army Family Action Plan Conference held in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 17-21.

The top five concerns to Soldiers and their families, as voted by the 103 delegates, were Survivor Benefit Plan offsets, mortgage relief for mobilized Reserve Soldiers, death benefits for stillborn infants, lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized Soldiers, and weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

Delegates working in eight groups arrived at the ranking after working through 24 issues in areas such as family support, force support, logistical support, employment, entitlements and medical/dental.

The AFAP process has forwarded quality of life issue for consideration to senior Army leaders since 1983. This year's conference identified the most valuable services available to Soldiers and family members as medical/dental, the AFAP, Army Community Service and the commissary.

"We find ourselves in the AFAP 20th year, supporting an Army at war," said Gen. George W. Casey Jr., vice chief of staff of the Army.

"At no time in my recent memory has a program like AFAP been more important to the overall success of our Army."
(Courtesy of the Army News Service)

Stopping for a spot of tea at Gen. H.H. Arnold

Students, teachers enjoy herb's great diversity, study aspects of its properties

By Deborah Stafford
Gen. H.H. Arnold High School librarian

Students and teachers at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School gathered for tea recently.

Congregating in the school library Nov. 24-25, students and teachers devoted some study time to the exploration of the world of tea. Throughout the day they could sit down and enjoy a cup.

Teas of a wide variety were available, including those from Russia, China, India and Africa. Participants imbibed a variety of regular, flavored and herbal teas. Vanilla and raspberry teas were particularly favored by several students.

"There were a lot of different kinds of teas and they all tasted good," said Cesar Valdez.

"The green tea is the healthiest. I liked it," said Shawna Mason.

"Red tea actually tastes good," said Blake Faddis.

"Next time, we'd like iced tea," said Chad Kendrick.

"We all got together to drink different teas from all over the world in one room," said Brittny Wallace.

"Mango tea is off the chain. It's so good with a little sugar, like four cubes. It is heavenly, but too much makes you feel funny," said Chad McIntosh.

Students came in for tea with their classes, but could stop by for a cup during lunch or before and after school. A number of classes around the high school focused on tea as part of their curriculum during the event.

Environmental science classes studying the great biomes included a study of the climate conditions necessary for cultivating tea. Other science classes used tea to demonstrate the process of diffusion.

English as a Second Language students prepared presentations on the role of tea in a variety of cultures. They found tea and tea ceremonies are common around the world. Black, green, herbal and Rooibush tea from Africa were displayed.

English classes discussed poetry concerned with tea and nostalgia, and anatomy classes explored tea's impact on health. Students enjoyed the Tea Party and have asked that it be repeated.

Photo by Deborah Stafford

Gen. H.H. Arnold High School students Marquin Carr (left) and Nora El Oueslati join English teacher Barbara Cluver for a cup of tea in the library.

Photo by Karl Weisel

Convoy to Romania

Santa Claus, alias James Federline, prepares to depart for Romania with fellow volunteers from outside the Wiesbaden Kurhaus Dec. 8. Federline, international relations specialist with the U.S. Forces Liaison Office for Hessen, Northern Germany and Thuringia, collected over 24 tons of goods to be delivered to children in the Romanian children's village of Timisoara. Wiesbaden city officials were on hand to send the 12 trucks in the convoy off on their goodwill trip.