



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



Editor

There is some new information about the IACS system in a section at the end of the Striker Statement. Please read this information and pass along to your friends and families.

There is also a great article in the Washington Post that lists some of our soldiers and leaders. Follow this link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A535-2003Nov4.html>

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply drop me a line and I will add you to the distribution list. ted.m.preister@us.army.mil

CPT Ted M. Preister

BCT Rear-D Commander

GHOSTS

Another exciting week for the BRT has passed. We welcome with open arms some new faces, SGT and Beatrice Mungia from Ft. Knox and their 2 kids, Frank and Jacob. It's a privilege to have new fresh blood down here in the Bag. Hopefully his family is adjusting to the wonderful Baumholder weather. Speaking of fresh blood, SSGs Isaacs and Haydenberg and CPT Logan have returned from R & R leave with arms full of new baby pictures and such. Thanks for letting them return ladies.

The results are final from the first annual RC Car Show and Race. PFC Campbell took home honors for best looking car and PFC Gardner won 1st place in a series of grueling races. The winners received an old fashioned "Atta' boy" and a slap on the butt. Kinda like Daytona; just different.

While trying to enjoy the change in the weather for the better, the HQ platoon re-erected the defunct basketball hoop. It promptly lasted one game of "SCOUT", which was lost by the XO in a record two minutes, before it was once again destroyed in a bout of basketball furry a few minutes later. And that's why we can't have nice stuff.

So long from everyone here in Baghdad. And have a "Spook-tacular week!"

CONQUERERS

By:2LT Adam Schulz, Task Force 1-35 Armor, Mortar Platoon Leader

Task Force 1-35 is responsible for the security of a sizable area in central Baghdad. The Task Force employs static forces manning checkpoints, entry control points and fixed sites and mobile forces consisting of patrolling units and quick reaction forces. The Task Force's Mortar Platoon has been a key component of the Task Force's mobile forces. It has been patrolling the neighborhoods of central Baghdad looking for signs of criminal and anti-coalition activity while keeping tabs on important structures such as schools, power stations, embassies and government buildings.

On October 6, 2003 the Mortar Platoon was conducting one of its normal reconnaissance patrols when it was directed to reinforce a Task Force checkpoint. A demonstration was taking place and the platoon was given the tasks of observing the demonstration for signs of violence. While observing the crowd, however, the soldiers heard a loud explosion followed by gunfire immediately north of their position.



Upon receiving the initial report, the Task Force Tactical Operations Center directed the Mortar Platoon to move to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building where an explosion had occurred. The patrol moved to the area to cordon the streets so an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Detachment and other assets could safely move in and examine the site. The patrol initially checked for casualties. Finding no casualties and only cosmetic damage to





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



the structure, the Mortar Platoon established the cordon around the Ministry building. Iraqi Policemen from the Al Salhiya neighborhood also arrived and began to divert traffic from the immediate area. The two elements worked together to keep all bystanders and traffic at a safe distance while EOD Detachment began to determine the cause of the explosion.

During the conduct of the cordon, an argument broke out between Iraqi Policemen and three Iraqi civilians in a passing truck. This argument culminated with an exchange of gunfire between two parties. The assailants shot two of the Iraqi Policemen at close range during the struggle. The Soldiers from the Mortar Platoon heard the shots being fired and then took immediate action as some of the bullets whistled passed their position. The platoon members returned fire and tried to determine what was going on by asking Iraqi Police in their immediate area. The Policemen reported that the assailants who had fired the shots were initially north of their position but had subsequently fled even farther north towards the Al Alawi Bus Station.

The Wolf platoon then moved towards the bus station in order to pursue the individuals. The group stopped at the site of the shooting, however, to render aid to the two policemen who had been injured in the engagement. The Soldiers provided initial medical care to the injured policemen and called for an ambulance. The men responsible for the shootings, however, had already fled the scene. The Iraqi Police then moved to the bus station and conducted a search which proved futile.



The Mortar Platoon continued their cordon of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Concurrent with all this action, the EOD Detachment had determined that the

source of the blast had been a paint can packed with explosives. Additional interviews indicated that a man had walked through the busy gate of the Ministry, placed the paint can in the open area adjacent to the Ministry building and walked out through that same gate. Eventually, the EOD Detachment declared the area as "safe" and the detachment, other investigating agencies and the mortar platoon left the scene.

October 6th 2003 was not a great day in central Baghdad as two Iraqi Policemen had been shot. It was not a catastrophic day either. The improvised explosive device attack had failed and the members of the platoon were alright. As most days in Central Baghdad, this day was somewhere in between. For the members of the Task Force 1-35 Mortar Platoon, it was simply another day in which they had successfully completed the sometimes-dangerous work of patrolling the streets of central Baghdad.

C. Company FRG will be having a **Thanksgiving Dinner** on November 8th at building 8876, Wetzel FRG room. Please contact Sunny Graves, BC 990842, with the dishes you will be bringing.

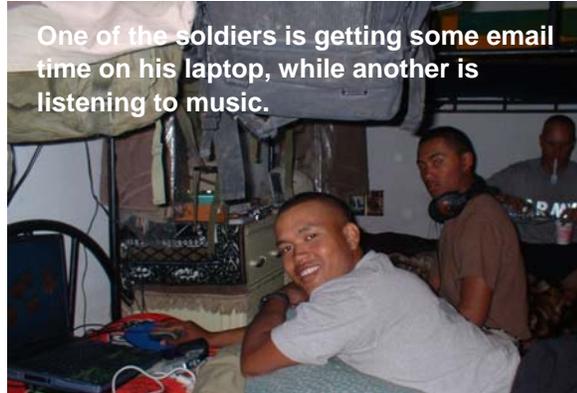
THUNDER

When people use the term, 'a coalition of countries,' they are usually referring to the countries that are augmenting and assisting the American efforts in Iraq. However, 'a coalition of countries' could easily be the motto of the 1st Armored Division's Bravo Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, as it has a mixture of different foreign-born soldiers who proudly serve in the U. S. Army. Many of these soldiers have worked to receive their citizenship paperwork since being deployed to Iraq and all of them have an interesting story.

"Official citizenship is just a piece of paper. Being a true citizen is having the spirit of America. I consider myself a true citizen and I've never felt that spirit more than now," remarked PFC Kosal. My, a cannonneer, was born in Manila, Philippines. His family moved to Seattle, Washington a couple of years after My was born. He has several different ancestry descents: Cambodian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Philippine and speaks three languages.



But, "I consider myself as American as the next guy," he comments. He has worked hard here in Iraq to gain citizenship, officially on paper that is, and looks forward to having the process over and done with.



SPC Alfredo Pacheco was born in the western Mexican city of Costa Rica and moved eleven years later to Yuma, Arizona to receive a better education and live a better life. Except there was one problem: "I didn't speak a word of English when I moved over here." Nevertheless, Pacheco quickly learned all aspects of America, including its language. "I'm very 'Americanized'. I'd like to go back and visit Mexico, but I'll live in America the rest of my life," Pacheco said. However, when Mexico and the United States played soccer in the 2002 World Cup, Pacheco did root for Mexico. "I thought for sure Mexico would win, America never wins in soccer," Pacheco smirked about last year's defeat.

The American presence and mission in Iraq has been because an evil man, Saddam Hussein, ruled this country ruthlessly. Unfortunately, Hussein is not the first man to rule his country with a bloodied iron fist. One of the most notorious dictators ever was Pol Pot, former leader of the Cambodian Khmer Rouge regime. PFC Vanthea Chhim was born in Bangkok, Thailand during his family's exile from Pot in Cambodia. Several years after Chhim was born, he moved to Modesto, California and began his life as an American. He entered the Army largely due to the events of September 11th and says that while he does not totally enjoy the deployment, he does enjoy the ability to help a country oppressed by a horrible

man, much like his own homeland country was by Pol Pot.

SPC Archibald Omic was born in the small town of Jajce, Bosnia. He grew up tough he says, which was a vital necessity in the war torn Balkan region after the aftermath of the Cold War and during the reign of genocide. He was in the Bosnian Army during the war as a Special Forces Soldier and a bodyguard to high-ranking officials. Anyone in Bravo will attest to his toughness and tenacity here in Baghdad, mostly due to his experience in the past conflict. He met his wife, Michelle, while she was serving as a humanitarian aide specialist in Bosnia during the war. They hit it off immediately, and they went to the States to live in Iowa. "I'm full blown American," commented Omic, Bravo Battery Commander's Driver. On November 18th this year, he will be sworn in as American citizen.

Next, there is the fun-loving jokester PFC Oscar Lucero. He grew up in the Mexican city of Chihuahua until he was eleven and then moved to Plainview, Texas. He said he has enjoyed the American way of life immediately but never turned his back on Mexico. "I love America and have adopted its way of life, but I will never forget where I came from. I like to think I have the best of both cultures," Lucero said of his life. While still a way to go on the citizenship process, he characteristically is not stressing it though.



PFC Lucero smiling for the camera.

Finally, PFC Alonso Chavez spent most of his life in Costa Rica, and came to South Carolina looking for a better life with his wife, Johanna. He joined the Army shortly after September 11th and has enjoyed





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



the chance to serve proudly here in Iraq. However, this past June he missed the birth of his daughter. In early October though, he was able to return to Baumholder and be with his bride and daughter. In addition, he got a lot done on his citizenship as well. *"I feel American whether or not I have the official citizenship or not, but it would be nice to get,"* Chavez said about his status.

Yes, it is quite a mix. All of the soldiers in Bravo Battery, including the ones in this article, wear the American flag on the top of their right uniform sleeve. This patch and the flag does not represent the fifty states or the exact legal status of your citizenship, but rather it represents liberty, equality and freedom—the very same principles we are trying to bestow upon the Iraqi citizens in our neighborhood. It is the tie that bonds the soldiers here in Bravo Battery and the current mission it is accomplishing in Baghdad.

SVC BTRY hands off Ministry of Justice

By 1LT Thomas Feusi

For the last three months, Service Battery Stallions of the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, has been providing security for the Iraqi Ministry of Justice building located on one of the busiest in Baghdad, Iraq; Haifa Street. On October 22, 2003, the Stallions transferred responsibility of securing this site back to the Iraqi people.

The Stallions' presence alone improved the security on Haifa Street. There were no attacks while the Stallions were at the Ministry of Justice. The Stallions had a great working relationship with the Iraqi Force Protection Site (FPS) guards they worked side by side with at the Ministry. They worked closely together ensuring that the buildings and the surrounding area were secured. During this time period, there were no reports of theft or vandalism in this area.

The Stallions also took the opportunity to talk with and make friends with many of the people who lived on Haifa Street. This interaction allowed Service Battery soldiers to show the Iraqi people of the surrounding neighborhood what positive contributions Coalition Forces are making in Baghdad.

October 22, 2003 was a great day for both the Stallions and for the Ministry of Justice. It marked giving responsibility back to the community and symbolized another stepping stone for the Iraqi people in taking back control of their country. The FPS guards have taken the trust given to them and have carried on where the Stallions left off.

GATORS

Charlie Company:

Life at Charlie Company, though still far from normal, has settled down into a more or less stable routine. The steady pace of current operations has given the company, along with the rest of the battalion, the opportunity to send soldiers to a variety of military schools and allow a few soldiers to visit home to see their families.

Charlie Company recently sent two soldiers to sniper school at Dogwood base in southern Baghdad. The course is being conducted by the mobile sniper training team and will give the company a greater array of assets on which to draw. The two soldiers specially selected to attend sniper training were SGT Ogle and SPC Smith. These two men will spend the next two weeks at Dogwood and will have their records specially annotated to show they have completed sniper training. This is a great opportunity for these fine soldiers to improve their individual soldiering skills, but more importantly it will give Charlie Company greater flexibility by increasing the number of tools available to accomplish any given task.

In addition to sniper training, Charlie Company is also sending two candidates to Master Gunner School in Fort Benning, GA. The two soldiers selected to attend this school are SSG Haskins and SGT Barker. These two soldiers have been conducting classes at the Second Brigade Headquarters and will return to Germany in the beginning of November to attend a battery classes in preparation for the master gunner course that begins in early January.

The Master Gunner course is an academically and technically intensive school that requires hard work and preparation to pass. Once they have finished the school SSG Haskins and SGT Barker will





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



become an integral part of the company's Bradley gunnery team. Their schooling will be a welcome addition to the knowledge of Charlie Company and will facilitate our success in the future.

The Army leave program is up and running. The Gator Battalion is sending seven soldiers per week home on leave. Charlie Company has managed to send several soldiers on leave and plans to continue rotating soldiers home as long as the battalion remains in Iraq. The soldiers who were given the opportunity to take leave first were those individuals whose spouses had children while they were on deployment or had been stationed with another forward deployed unit just prior to joining the First Armored Division.

The soldiers who have been on leave have said they had a great time and are glad they went. Although returning to Iraq was tough they would not trade the time they had to spend with their loved ones. If a soldier didn't meet the requirements of being pushed to the front of the leave list, then they were put into a lottery and the names were drawn at random. Those soldiers will begin taking leave sometime shortly. Charlie Company appreciates all of the support from the Family Readiness Group and the people back in the United States. We have just past the halfway point on the deployment, so the rest is downhill from here.

1LT Michael Cygan

Bravo:

The Death Dealers continue the fight... During the past week Dealer Company conducted traffic control points at key locations leading into Baghdad, as well as raids two company-sized raids. The raids, led by SFC Copridge and his Reaper Platoon and LT Strand and his Outlaw Platoon, yielded a number of illegal weapons, cash, and the detention of anti-coalition personnel.

Capping off an already busy week, Dealer Company was called into action to lead the second brigade in two battalion-sized level raids. Less than twenty hours after receiving the mission to Karbala, the Death Dealers packed up the company and traveled 140km to Karbala.

Upon reaching the city, the company wasted no time in quickly preparing for the upcoming mission.

The attack was an aggressive raid on buildings spanning multiple city blocks. As they approached the objective, the Dealers dismounted infantrymen and executed a textbook assault on the target buildings while Bradley crews covered their every movement to ensure no one attacked while they were busy inside the buildings. After successfully completing the raid without any U.S. casualties the company lay down for a well deserved rest.

The next morning Bravo Company was notified of an additional mission scheduled for the next day. The new mission required that Dealer act as the primary attack force. Yet again, Bravo Company answered the call and prepared for the mission. Once on the company executed the raid quickly and efficiently. Lt Strand and his two squads led by SSG Harris and SSG Herd, along with a squad of Iraqi Civil Defense soldiers entered the target building and swiftly detained 24 personnel, captured bomb making materials and seized a small cache of weapons.

When this second mission came to a close with no U.S. casualties the Dealers finally laid down for their first good nights rest in 9 days.

1LT Brendon Saguil

2/6 Mortars:

After six months of being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 2-6 Infantry Mortar Platoon has accomplished variety of tasks from daily operations to supporting battalion raids. Four days before the raids, the Mortar Platoon was tasked to set up a traffic checkpoint two hundred meters west of the bridge entering Baghdad. After four days at the checkpoint, the 2-6 Infantry Battalion was called on duty to deploy for combat operations.

The battalion deployed over a hundred tracked and wheeled vehicles for an upcoming mission. During the movement the mortar platoon escorted many of the deploying vehicles and soldiers. After an all night, 140 km movement, all vehicles reached the destination safely and ready for attack. The platoon leader and platoon sergeant prepared the guns and conducted fire mission rehearsal for that night attack. During the attack, the Mortar Platoon occupied an urban firing position to provide indirect-fire to support the rest of the Task Force Gator. Five minutes after the operation began, the mortar platoon was set up





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



and guns were laid on target, ready to accept calls for fire.

During normal, day-to-day, operation the Mortars perform several other missions. For these operations, the platoon is task organized into five HMMWV mounted machine gun sections. These sections escort the battalion staff, conduct reconnaissance patrols, and manage the Facility Protection Services (FPS) sites.

FPS management consumes most of the platoon's efforts. Two mortar sections patrol twenty-three sites manned by Iraqis in the area. These sites include the ammo collection point (ACP), colleges, universities, power plants, propane plants, electric power sub-station, hospitals, a tele-communication office, and banks. These sections ensure that the Iraqi FPS guards are prevent vandalism and theft at the sites

The Mortars conduct combat operations seven days a week. However, they still find the time for training and maintenance. Usually, the platoon gets one morning a week to focus exclusively on preventive maintenance checks and services on their seven HMMWVs and five tracked vehicles. When there are times available, the platoon spends the rest of the day training on squad and individual skills like, prepare a mortar ballistic computer with initialization data, place a mortar ballistic in computer into operation, and compute data for a grid-registration mission using a mortar ballistic computer.

The living quarters and moral, welfare, and recreation (MWR) facilities for the mortar platoon are about average for army forces in Iraq. The platoon has air-conditioners, a television, and DVD player. In addition, there also phones and internet that available at the battalion. Most recently, the platoon has been spending their free time in the new Gator Bite Inn. The Inn offers several recreational activities for the soldiers (food, music, a pool table, ping-pong, video games and more). Also, the battalion ordered additional weight training equipment for the new weight room.

Morale is generally high for the platoon. In the coming weeks, the Mortars will not only continue their daily operations and training but they are also preparing for more out of sector missions. Also, the platoon has started training up for a

MORTEP in January where their skills as indirect fire infantrymen will put to the test during live fire training at the Kherzia Range complex in eastern Iraq.

2Lt Alfredo Miranda

Blackjack:

Over the last week, Blackjack has managed to maintain a constant pace with missions, patrols and everyday tasks. Major improvements to the living conditions at the Yellow Cake Factory, to include windows, doors, and air conditioning, have been made. White platoon has been diligently supervising contractors' efforts to build up the company's living area to meet the needs of Blackjack's soldiers.

Tuwaittha Nuclear Research Facility has been recently handed back over to the Iraqi people, allowing Blackjack to minimize the number of soldiers needed at that location. The troops freed from duty at Tuwaittha are now busy conducting patrols and area assessments. To this end Third Platoon "Bandits" have been busy performing Mosque assessments and patrols in the Jisr Diyala area. Plans are in the works to begin a weekly rotation schedule to allow the platoons have to opportunity to try their hand at different jobs.

When not on a mission, the members of Blackjack are making steady improvements to their quality of life. Unusual innovations with scrap wood and metal futons, shelving systems, and counters. Given the recent trend, by the time the company is ready to come back to Germany, everyone should have an XBOX, a 29 inch personal TV.

Recent additions to the Blackjacks are: 2LT David Gowel, First Platoon Leader, 2LT Anthony Forshier, Second Platoon Leader, and SFC Rolando Acosta, First Platoon Sergeant. We wish them a hearty welcome to the Blackjack family.

1LT Navin Kalicharan

PIONEERS

A/47th Forward Support Battalion

Hello from Baghdad at the International Airport. The Assassins are working hard as we continue to support the 2d Brigade Combat Team with Food, Water, Fuel, Ammunition, Medical Supplies, and Repair Parts. The soldiers are working through some of the toughest conditions that we have seen yet;





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



yesterday it was 134 degrees in the Supply Support Activity. In order to mitigate some of the heat hazards we have adjusted our work schedule so that the soldiers can work at night and in the early morning.

For exceptional performance during Operation Iraqi Freedom the following soldiers have been awarded an Army Achievement Medal: SPC Emily Breitreutz, SPC Jared Odom, SPC Dreylon Broadnax, PV2 Jason Ratliff, SGT Jamila Moody, SFC Carl Hall, CPL James Shraedley, SPC William Lowell, SGT Mark Roberts, SPC Marc Rathell, PV2 Matthew Hernandez, SPC Renee Whitnee, SSG Benjamin (Ebay) Escobar, SGT Gloria Brown, SPC Anthony Phillips, SPC Daryl Wright, SPC Jay Aubrey, PV2 Sara Houf, SPC Nelson Tieku, SPC Jazmin Mondragon, PFC Andrea, Woessner.

Contratulations to all of these OUTSTANDING soldiers for their exemplary performance while deployed.

Congratulations to the following soldiers for promotion from Specialist to SGT: SPC Emily Breitreutz, SPC Kim Cudjoe, SPC Kenneth Speight, SPC William Lowell, SPC Jarred Odom, SPC Ingrid Washington, SPC Nelson Tieku. These are the new leaders of the Army and will epitomize the first line of the NCO creed "No One is More Professional Than I."

I appreciate all the help from the FRG back in the Baumholder for the soldiers of 47th Forward Support Battalion. The soldiers are doing their job, taking care of each other, and exceeding expectations every day. Be proud of them and re-assure them of your love, this is what they miss more than anything. We are proud to be apart of the Striker Team and look forward to coming home when our job is done.

CPT KC Bradford

1SG Willie Shinholster

EVENTS

- Make a picture for Mom/Dad to send downrange, FRG Room Wetzels on Nov 9 from 14:00-16:00.
- FRG Meeting November 18 at 1800 hrs in the Wagon Wheel Theater

REGULARS

- Dessert Night 27 Nov 18:00-19:00 in Conference Room

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Ch. Stevan Horning

President Bush yesterday signed into law a ban on "partial-birth abortions." Polls during the past eight years consistently showed that the vast majority of Americans disapprove that grisly method of infanticide. President Bush said, "The best case against partial-birth abortion is a simple description of what happens and to whom it happens." Most doctors, he noted, regard the practice as medically unnecessary, cruel to the child, harmful to the mother, and a violation of medical ethics. "By acting to prohibit this practice," the president continued, "the elected branches of our government have affirmed the standard of humanity, the duty of the strong to protect the weak."

Of course the ban already is being contested; a Nebraska court issued an injunction yesterday against it. But for those in a Baumholder Bible study yesterday, the ban signified positive keeping of the Sixth Commandment, "*You shall not murder.*" We read further corroboration in Proverbs 24: 11,12: "*Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' will not He Who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He Who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?"*

Now, every Bible text has but one proper interpretation (that is, its meaning determined by context), yet many valid applications. And one application that springs to my mind is this: you dearly beloved Soldiers know that Saddam's regime was oppressing the weak, leading many to death, and creating a root of bitterness. You chose *to rescue those being led away to death* and you continue even now to serve that noble purpose. Your fellow citizens salute you! Your family and friends are praying for you, supporting you, caring about the details of your life. I'm sure that many Iraqi citizens whom you've rescued from the regime also are genuinely supportive. We look forward to seeing you come





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



safely home - so take care! And may the Lord defend you!

On that note, please also remember to pray today for your fellow Soldier who was critically injured in an attack on his tank. The Soldier is at this moment in the University Hospital in Hamburg, Germany. This Soldier's uncle asks us to pray, and adds: "Our God is faithful and will answer the prayers of His people."

Families in the Baumholder Military Community are doing the best they can to support and encourage each other. The Scriptures tell us, *Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.* Compassion is not an option, but the proper response of our hearts. We're trying our best to welcome newcomers and to bid grateful farewells to those who are PCSing or otherwise moving on.

The Gospel Service will hold its quarterly Fellowship Supper on this coming Lord's Day. The Collective Protestant Service will also have an appreciation lunch the same day in honor of pianist Mrs. Lisa Dykstra, who has musically served many gatherings both in worship and for special events and ceremonies. Thanksgiving feasting is being planned in the Brigade Dining Facility; a schedule for each unit has been published.

Striking Scripture

This week let's consider the striking stanzas of PSALM 107. It begins with the words, *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.* Now, that happens to occur also in many other places in Scripture, notably as the refrain in PSALM 136. But then it gets even more interesting.

Verse 2 invites us to say those words in a variety of contexts, which will be described in the course of the Psalm. Verse 2 reads, *Let the redeemed of the LORD say this - those He redeemed from the hand of the foe {get it, fellow Soldiers?}, those He gathered from the lands, from east and west, for north and south.*

Then follows three stanzas each specifying groups of *Some*, one stanza beginning *Others*, and a longer concluding section which cites many examples of how God has delivered his people from distress. *Some* were hungry wanderers, thirsting desperately when they cried out to the Lord and He saved them; *Some* were imprisoned in kinds of darkness, and they cried out to the Lord in their distress, and He led them to freedom; *Some became fools through their rebellious ways*, but when they

cried out for mercy to the LORD, *He sent forth His word and healed them.*

You see the pattern: for each situation of desperate need, God has provided a way of relief. Verse 23 paints a vivid picture of seafarers in danger: *Others went out on the sea in ships and were imperiled by frightful storms; when they cried to the LORD, He stilled the storm to a whisper... they were glad when it grew calm, and He guided them to their desired haven.*

On it goes, describing trouble we get into, troubles we make for ourselves, troubles that simply happen to us in the course of life - in each situation, the finishing touch prompts us to *give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love.* By the way, this thanksgiving is not meant to be strictly a private religion. Verse 32 counsels us, *Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people and praise Him in the council of the elders.*

So back to verse 2: if you've been rescued, say so! Tell somebody what God has done for you. This stirring psalm ends with these words that I leave with you: *Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the LORD.*

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

November

- 10 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 21-23 Holiday Bazaar at Hall of Champions
- 25 Town Hall
- 26 Deployment Support Group LINKS
- 27 Thanksgiving Day
Thanksgiving Meal at 2nd BDE and Strassburg Dining Facilities from 11:00-15:00.
- 28 USAREUR Training Holiday
German Worker Shop Day Off

December

- 5 Community Holiday Tree Lighting
- 7 Sunday Brunch
- 19 Niki Barr MWR Concert
- 24 USAREUR Training Holiday
German Holiday
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 German Holiday
- 30 No Townhall
- 31 USAREUR Training Holiday (No Links)





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



Volunteer Santa's are needed for the holiday season! If you have a jolly disposition, and like milk & cookies please call John Visneski at 485-8779

DoDDS CALENDAR

1st Tuesday of the month SAC Meeting, Baumholder High at 1630

3rd Thursday of the month SAC Meeting, Wetzell Elementary at 1430

6 & 7 Nov All Elementary will have Parent Teacher Conferences

7 Nov Baumholder High School will have Parent Teacher Conferences

17 Nov 1515 IAC Meeting, BSB Conference Room

18 Nov 1430 SAC Meeting, Smith Elementary

27 & 28 No School, Thanksgiving Recess

RHEINLANDER EVENTS

- Indoor Garage Sale 15 Nov, 0900 – 1300.

- Tuesday night Kids' Night with movies, board games, and a \$3.50 per child menu

Internet Access only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!

POC: Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

OUTDOOR REC TOURS

15 Nov Metz Flea Market

15 Nov Centre O Mall

20 Nov Ikea Shopping

22 Nov Frankfurt Zoo

28 Nov Trier Christmas Market

07 - 10 Nov 03, Veterans' Day Ski trip – Kaprun, Austria

26 - 30 Nov 03, Thanksgiving Ski Trip – Kaprun, Austria

POC: Jeffrey Milkes at DSN 485-6352

HOST NATION SPONSORED EVENTS

8Nov Flea market at Homburg/Saar

15&29 Nov Flea market at Metz, France

28Nov Christmas market at Oberstein

29Nov Christmas market at Reichenbach

29Nov Christmas market at Berglangenbach

29Nov Andreas market at Kirn

St. Martin Parades

09 November 2003: Kirn 1800

10 November 2003: Baumholder 1700; Berglangenbach 1800;Leitzweiler 1730; Hahnweiler 1815; Hoppstaedten 1730;

11 November 2003: Heimbach 1730; Rueckweiler 1700; Mettweiler 1800; Birkenfeld 1730

POC: Madeleine Dwoiakowski at DSN 485-1600

BAUMHOLDER HEALTH CLINIC

- Baumholder Health Clinic has a new phone system. 485-8080 is the only working number.
- When you call central appointments, 485-8080, the computer voice will assign you a number. Please hold the line and the clerks will take your calls in order.
- To save time, the system will ask you to punch in your sponsor's SSN. Please have it ready when you call. Rotary and digital phones will have to wait to speak with a clerk, as they cannot be used to input the SSN. They can still be used to get an appointment.
- This new system also comes with elevator music for your listening enjoyment

Youth Sports Physicals will be on 6 and 13 November 2003 from 5:00-7:00pm at the Health Clinic. You must sign your child up ahead of time at any Child Care Center or Youth Services Main Office, Bldg. 8743.

Flu shots are available to all active duty, family members and DoD civilians on M, W, and Th from 1pm until close at the clinic.

Prescription refills MUST be done over the phone. Prescriptions called in before 11:30pm will be available for pick-up after 1:30pm on the next duty day. Please call 485-6879! This system speeds up the line for those filling both new prescriptions and refills alike.





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



Baumholder Health Clinic Physical Therapy is seeing patients with back, neck, shoulder, elbow, hand, hip, knee or ankle pain. You do not need to see your Doctor first! Come straight to us. Bring your records. Call 485-6357/7151 for more information. Active Duty can walk-in to sick call during these hours: Mon, Tue, Fri: 8:00-10:00am or Wed 9:30-11:00am

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

POC: Joanne Hernandez at 485-7198

07 Nov – Dining out Italian in Kusel, Cost: order off the menu
08 Nov – Sadie Hawkins dance at Neubruecke YS, Cost: \$3
22 Nov – Midnight basketball at the HOC, no cost
26 Nov – Thanksgiving dance for 9th - 12th grades at the Teen Café, Cost: \$3

Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, 13 Dec at Neubruecke YS

Time: 1000 – 1200

Cost: \$5 per family including a photo

Parents Night Out – Nov 15 from 18:00-22:00 at Smith. Spaces limited – call now!

YOUTH WINTER SPORTS

Basketball – \$30 for first child, \$27 for second
Cheerleading – \$20 for first child, \$18 for second
Registration ends 5 Dec 03
Minimum 5 years old
Winter sports season: Practice starts in December
Games begin in January

BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

- **Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST)**
03-17 Nov 2003
- **Term 2 College and Adult Education Courses**
27 Oct – 19 December 03
Central Texas College & UMUC courses now available
- **Adult Education**
ESL course Wed/Fri 11:30 – 12:30
- **Effective Military Writing II** 17-21 Nov 03

- **REMINDER:** Army Emergency Relief (AER) Spouse Education Assistance Program
AER will pay up to 50% of an active duty spouse's tuition at local colleges!
- New financial aid forms for 2003-04 now available.

Visit the Education Center in building 8332 or call 485-7557

www.baumholder.army.mil/education

DECA

• Our New Deli/Bakery is offering a Daily Special, Monday – Friday. It includes ½ Rotisserie Chicken, Noodle or Potato Salad & a Brotchen for only \$2.50.
• The Deli is also offering a Daily Sandwich Special, which includes a ¼ Sandwich and a bag of chips, regular price \$3.70 on special for only \$3.20, Monday – Friday.
• And Guess What? The Deli is now taking phone-in orders for sandwiches, Monday – Friday from 1000-1600.

To place an order, please call :

DSN 485-7148/6666.

Civ: 6783-6-7148 or 06783-6-6666

BAUMHOLDER COMMUNITY SPOUSES CLUB

The **Angel Tree** is a tradition that goes back many years. It's a way that we can give to children in our community. The Angel Tree will be located in the old Doner Kebab restaurant next to the PX. It will have angel ornaments decorating it that will list the child's age, gender and a gift that will be under \$20. All you need to do in order to participate is take an ornament, buy the gift and you can even get it wrapped at the gift wrapping table. Bring it back to the tree and BCSC will distribute the gifts. In order for this to be successful, we need your help. **If you know of any child that might benefit from this tradition, please contact your FRL in your unit, or either April Reneau@us.army.mil or BC/185 412 or Tina.Olson@us.army.mil or BC/900 654 by November 25.**





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 25 OIF

6 November 2003



Christmas is Coming!

And that means the famous gift-wrap fund raiser at the PX. Any group that is not a private organization is welcome to participate. Each group will need to contact Gina Cowles for sign-up at ginalyn.cowles@us.army.mil.

We Need YOU!

We're still looking for a few good spouses! The following positions are still open: 2nd VP, Treasurer, and Tours & Activities. If interested contact Melissa Schaffner at melissa.a.schaffner@us.army.mil or BC/990 969

BAUMHOLDER RECREATIONAL EVENTS

- Baumholder Bowling Center has a "Hulk" and "Spiderman" club! Take home a free bowling bowl (6-15 lbs) after the completion of the club.
- The Rolling Hills Golf Club is offering a "Turkey Shoot" on Nov 15 at 10:00. \$25 entry fee for members. Non-members pay green fees. Drawings for a free turkey after the event! The club has several Christmas gift ideas for the golfer!

HOLIDAY MAILING DATES

These are the recommended dates to have Christmas cards, letters, and parcels placed in the mail to ensure proper delivery by Christmas Day.

FROM GERMANY TO CONUS

SAM PARCELS 20 November 2003, Thursday

PAL PARCELS 04 December 2003, Thursday

PRIORITY PARCELS 11 December 2003, Thursday

FIRST CLASS LETTERS AND CARDS 11 December 2003, Thursday

EXPRESS MAIL 18 December 2003, Thursday

FROM GERMANY TO CENTCOM AOR

MPS PARCELS 20 November 2003, Thursday

SAM PARCELS 6 November 2003, Thursday

Mailing Guidance to CENTCOM AOR

While there is no specific limit to number of MPS packages mailed to CENTCOM AOR, patrons should

take into consideration time, space availability, and resources to transport the mail. Helpful hints include:

- ❖ Recommend mailing 5 MPS packages per visit to ensure quicker processing of the mail at the finance windows.
- ❖ Appointments can be made at the local APO between the hours of 0800 - 0900 hours for personnel with more than 5 packages.
- ❖ Smaller parcels generally move quicker due to space availability as opposed to larger parcels, which has more space requirements.

Keep the mailing deadlines in mind when sending packages. Earlier is better.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICES

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR SPOUSES

If your spouse is currently deployed, but has received orders to relocate, then don't delay planning and organizing your move! You can take care of many move-related tasks before your spouse returns to Baumholder. The more you get done now, the less stressful your move will be. And, as an added bonus, you will have more quality time to spend together when the soldier returns from the deployment.

The Baumholder ACS invites all spouses to schedule individualized relocation planning consultations. Whether the service member is currently deployed or in Baumholder, spouses can obtain the same quality assistance as the service member. We will provide you with a comprehensive packet about your new location, as well as information to help you organize a smooth move. Relocation assistance is available whether the move is a PCS move or the service member is retiring or separating from the Army.

Please call ACS at 485-8188 or 06783-68188 for information and to schedule an appointment.

RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS is offering a class on Wednesdays that focuses on issues after the deployment. Free child care is available, and lunch is provided. Please call 485-8188 or 06783-68188 to reserve your seat!





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ACS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

MWR Holiday Bazaar
Tree Lighting Ceremony
ACS
Post Office
Library
Call 485-8188 or 06783-68188 for details!

New Parent Education & Support Program

POC: Melody Tavera & Jean-Marie Williams at 485-6932/6931

Nurturing Parenting: Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers

- 12 two-hour sessions which meet one day a week for 12 weeks
- Every Monday, 1600 – 1800, starting 10 Nov 03
- Classes will take place in Bldg 8222 (formerly the Baumholder USO office)
- Two separate groups: one for parents and one for children which meet concurrently
- Parents & children engage in a 30-minute family nurturing time which includes games, songs, infant & child massage, and a snack.

IACS INFORMATION

It has been a while since the temporary mass registration ended (6 Sep). 8,000 people in Baumholder have been registered. Baumholder is doing great on the Installation Pass side of the house. However, judging from the weekly stats, it appears that there are some family members out there that have not yet registered. **Here is a reminder of a few items:**

1. If you have not registered in IACS, and you have family coming from the U.S. to visit you for a while, you won't be able to obtain an installation pass for them (the system will not allow the issue of an installation pass under the Visitor category if the sponsor (you) is not registered in the IACS).
2. DOD ID card holders: If you have not registered, call 485-7298 for appointment.

Don't wait until the last minute just because IACS is not fielded at the gates. That could happen anytime. Please keep in mind that upon our soldiers' return, they will have priority in getting registered!

3. If you have registered, but have obtained a new ID since the registration, you must re-register again.
4. **Good News:** If you have family that are visiting you, and they have obtained a 222d BSB installation pass, then they may access other BSBs without being signed on PROVIDED they are escorted by a DOD ID card holder!!! (Before a BSB pass issued to Cat 11 and 12 Visitors, was only valid for access to the BSB that issued the pass, and the visitor had to be signed on if he/she went to a different BSB (i.e., K-Town, Wiesbaden, etc)).

Please feel free to contact Bianca Bowen, IACS Program Manager, at 485-7141 if you have additional questions.

