



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



Editor

The last note in this weeks statement is the text from GEN Bell's note on COLA, if you still have not heard about it contact your Rear Detachment to find out if you have been overpaid for COLA.

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

REGULARS

1/6 News Notes

11 August 2003

War has been described as being, "hours and hours of boredom punctuated by moments of pure terror." Fortunately for the men of 1/6 the moments of terror have been few and far between. Likewise there is little time for boredom. Though much of their time is spent on patrolling their sectors, each day seems to contain excitement and challenges new and different.

Around 2:00 AM, the morning of August 1st, an outside intelligence source informed Alpha company commander, CPT Michael McBride, that they had intercepted a satellite phone call from the extremist group, Ansar Al-Islam, in Alpha's Zone. The group was planning attacks against US and coalition forces. CPT McBride and his men were given one hour to plan and gear up for the attack. 1LT David Devin's 2nd Platoon moved out at 3:00 AM using trucks instead of their Bradley Fighting Vehicles so that the noise would not warn the suspected terrorists of their arrival. During their early morning raid, 2nd Platoon seized thousands of American Dollars and Iraqi Dinars, two satellite phones, and six individuals. Later the men discovered that these people were high-ranking members of the Ansar Al-Islam and that they had planned coordinated attacks against our troops.

Bravo Company's primary mission for the week was to continue supporting the Iraqi Military pay site. In an effort to help the local populace and stimulate the economy, the "Warriors" and the other units they were working with had responsibility to issue back pay to an average of 10,000 former Iraqi soldiers and their widows. Most of the infantry soldiers never dreamed, as they were training for combat at Fort Benning, that they would have to act as bank tellers. SGT Jerriande Wheeler commented, "I've never felt so challenged at performing my duties and have

never been in a position to make such a positive impact on so many people." To their credit, the soldiers executed their duties with dedication and professionalism in spite of the 115+ degree heat.

The three platoons in Charlie Company seemed to be competing with each other this week as all three were involved with raids. 1st Platoon aided their fellow soldiers in 4-27 in capturing suspected paramilitary leaders, scaling a wall in order to reach the front door. SSG James Nausadis' squad led the way for 2nd Platoon in the securing of a nine-story building. The squad charged up the stairs and searched five apartments in a raid that began at 4:00AM. Their labors yielded the capture of several weapons, Ba'ath Party books, and a site used for mortar attacks. 3rd Platoon became the first responders when a HMMWV from a sister unit was attacked by a booby trap. In the ensuing rescue effort the platoon medic, PFC David Fernandez, saved a fellow soldier's life when he administered aid to a heat stroke victim.

The primary mission for HHC is to perform the many varied tasks required to support the ground pounders. Every so often an opportunity arises for the support personnel to act in a more direct manner to help the local population. This week, during a regular patrol, a UH-60 helicopter spotted a distress sign on the roof of a building in 1-6 sector. The details were given to the battalion Civil Affairs (CA) team, and CPT Casey Randall, CPT Tom Monaghan and their team rushed to the scene. When the CA team arrived, they found a family of ten who were unemployed and living off the generosity of their neighbors. The team provided immediate relief by giving the family three cases of MRE's and is working toward helping the father find work so he can provide for his family.

While the streets of Baghdad are still far from safe, the soldiers of 1-6 continue to labor above and beyond the call of duty to aid the people of Iraq. Whether it is patrolling a crowded neighborhood, distributing pensions, or helping a starving family find a way to provide for themselves, the men of 1-6 carry out their duties with competence and professionalism second to none. **"Regulars ... by God!"**



"2nd BCT NEWSLETTER" For Previous editions go to
http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker_newsletter.htm

THE STRIKER STATEMENT



Above: The families of 1-6 IN prepare decorated frames to send downrange.



Left: Dylan, Connor, & Mason McHugh draw picture to send to their daddy downrange.

Below: Carla Federovich, Alex, Shania, & Jill Norris bear the heat while they create their masterpieces!

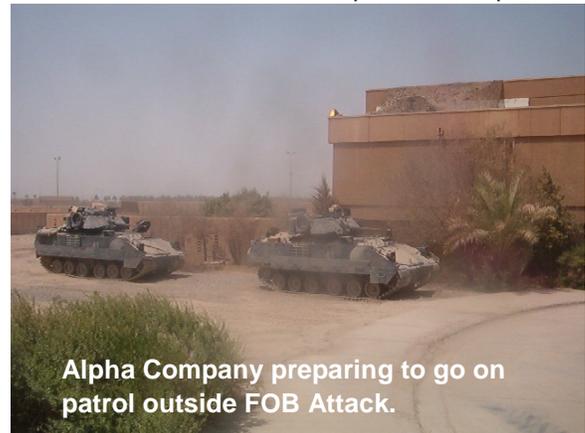


18 August 2003

The first of August has come and gone. The Iraqi translators promise that in a couple of weeks temperatures will start getting more bearable. But,

with daily highs still climbing well above the 120-degree mark, you can't prove it to the soldiers of Task Force 1/6. And, to make matters worse, the only thing darkening the sky is dust, unless it is smoke from one of the fires started by the Iraqi welders helping our boys improve the security in their the camp.

It has been said that war is a dirty business. Our troops experienced this is several ways this week in the course of their duties, none of which the original author had in mind when the phrase was penned.



Alpha Company preparing to go on patrol outside FOB Attack.

This week the "Raiders" of Alpha Company continued their mission of clearing buildings in sector. However, this time there was an interesting twist to the word "clearing." The Raiders are making ready to move out of their current Forward Operating Base (FOB) and join their sister companies if FOB Regular. Though most soldiers would rather do almost anything other than clean house, there are several advantages to joining the rest of the battalion. Their new dwellings will have lower force protection requirements, more living space for each soldier, and even a pool!

Bravo Company also experienced new meaning to the phrase "war is a dirty business." Theirs had to do with plumbing rather than house cleaning. While they were patrolling the Al-Riyadh Neighborhood this week, the city sewage system failed and some of the pipes were damaged. This resulted in a lake of sewage forming on some of the main streets where the patrols operate. As is often the case, the depth of the water was deceiving. The company commander, CPT Mark Federovich, and the crew of





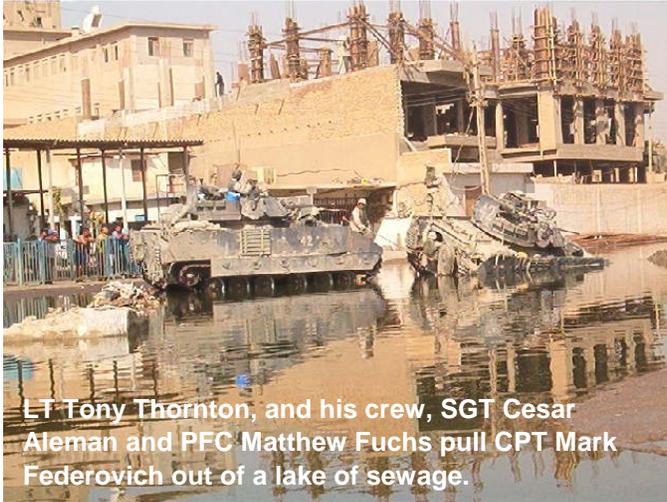
THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



his Bradley Fighting Vehicle got stuck while trying to assess the damage. The Third Platoon Leader, Tony Thornton, and his crew, SGT Cesar Aleman and PFC Matthew Fuchs had an opportunity to practice their recovery skills as they pulled their leader to safety. SPC Philip Root commented on the adventure; "I've never enjoyed a shower so much in all my life."



LT Tony Thornton, and his crew, SGT Cesar Aleman and PFC Matthew Fuchs pull CPT Mark Federovich out of a lake of sewage.

Not all the messes our boys had to clean up were so benign. SFC James Carroll and a section of First Platoon's Bradleys responded to a report of armed men on one of the bridges crossing the Tigris River. Upon their arrival a lookout fired warning shots, which allowed the three men armed with AK-47's and RPG's to escape. Two days later an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was discovered on the same bridge. 2LT Dominique Shaw's 2nd Platoon secured the area until EOD could come check out the device. They discovered a 155mm artillery shell left over from the war that was in the process of being rigged with a remote controlled detonator. These quick and decisive responses to the threats posed allowed the Commandos to prevent fellow coalition forces from being attacked.

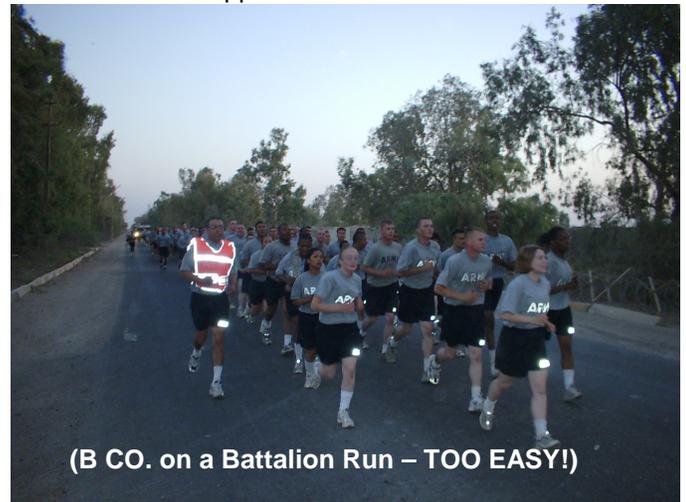
Captain Thomas Bessler and the S-2 staff are some of the unsung heroes of our operations here in Baghdad. They have the unenviable task of gathering information from higher, interviewing local informants, collecting info from the daily patrols and keeping their fingers on the pulse of the media. Once this info is collected they have to analyze it and come up with a consistent picture of what they think

the enemy is about to do. Information gathered by the intelligence cell has been used to capture terrorists & former leaders in Saddam's government, to screen prospective workers for our base camp and to uncover explosives and other traps set for our men in Desert Tan.

The news often talks of "mopping up operations." Whether it is uncovering IED's and unexploded munitions of mopping floors in preparation for a move, the Regulars execute their duties with professionalism and efficiency. As they pray for a little rain to settle the dust and discourage the foliage catching fire, they count the days till this mission will be complete and they can return to their families and loved ones. But for now, the streets of Baghdad are dirty, and it is our duty to "clean" them up. We are **"Regulars...By God!"**

PIONEERS

B/47th Forward Support Battalion



(B CO. on a Battalion Run – TOO EASY!)

11-17 AUG 03

A week in the life of a Bulldog:

As usual, we have been extremely busy supporting the 2BCT as well as 15 additional units here at the airport. This week we have already sent our gun trucks on 18 security missions to far-flung places across Baghdad, as well as the palaces at 1-6IN and 1-35AR. This was also our hottest week yet, with temperatures into the 140s on our maintenance blacktop. It did not get below 116 in our barracks at night – UGH! We are in the process of moving into



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“newly renovated” barracks. They are not as sandy or crumbling as our old barracks, but “newly renovated” really means “the bombed out mess has been cleaned up and windows put in”. These new barracks do have AC in them, FINALLY! This is a major morale booster for us. Local Iraqis have started coming to our compound every Sunday to set up a bazaar to provide soldiers the opportunity to purchase many hard to get items here in Iraq, such as DVDs, jewelry, televisions, pictures, stamps, and Iraqi currency just to name a few. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to interact with the Iraqis and put money back into their community. On 17 AUG 03 we started getting food prepared by Brown and Root, so no more T-rations! Although, we still have MREs for lunch. On the 18th we are having an award ceremony to reward soldiers for all of the hard work they have done for the past six months. Getting our equipment ready to deploy and traveling over 300 miles for 36 hours in the extremely hot desert was not an easy task. These hard working soldiers also managed to leave no equipment behind. I would like to thank all of the remarkable families of B Company for all the sacrifices they make, day in and day out. Keep up the morale back there (and the care packages ☺)! Remember, there is a light at the end of the tunnel – we are almost 1/3 of the way through with our deployment!

GO BULLDOGS!



(SSG Moore, SPC Cruz, SPC Santana, and PFC Garcia on an equipment recovery)

CPT Elizabeth Sweeney **BULLDOG 6**

GATORS

The 2-6 Infantry S3 Lady Gators got together on August 18 for our monthly Boxing Party at the Battalion Yellow Ribbon Room. This month we made 20 care packages for our shop's single soldiers! With our very efficient assembly line we were done in just 30 minutes and decided to go get a bite to eat. Below is a picture of us at the Rod and Gun Club. We are very proud of our husbands and the soldiers that they work with. We miss you guys, stay safe!



Top Row: Tina Olson and Charlene Hormann
Bottom Row: Gloria Devos, Simone Egetenmeir and Nathalie Carrillo

AWARDS

The Gator Battalion took some time this week to recognize those soldiers who will be leaving us to either change duty stations or leave the Army all together. All of the soldiers have been with the Gator Battalion for approximately 3 years and have done outstanding jobs, both on this deployment and back in Germany. A variety of awards were rewarded to these soldiers to include the Army Achievement Medal (AAM), Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM), Bronze Star, and the Combat Medical Badge (CMB).





C Daniel Gimenez, Charlie Company Sniper, receives CIB and the Bronze Star his outstanding service



SSG Robison, Gator Medic is congratulated by BN CDR, LTC Williams on receiving the Combat Medical Badge



Gator Battalion Chain of Command. Front row CO CDR's, BN XO, CDR, CSM, S3. Second Row CO 1SG's, XO's. Third Row CO PL's. Fourth and Fifth Rows CO PSG's. Last row BN Staff and Flag Bearer's

HHC Soldier's and Awards:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| SPC Gram, Jason | AAM |
| SPC Luker, Robert | CIB |
| SPC Reed, Kenneth | ARCOM |
| PVT Morgan, Adam | AAM |
| SSG Robison, Michael | CMB |
| CPT Rankin, Jason | CIB |

Bravo Company Soldier's and Awards:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| SGT Garrison, Micah | CIB |
| SSG Moses, Brad | CIB |
| SPC Eddy, Eugene | CIB |
| SPC Bosque, Luys | CIB |

Charlie Company Soldier's and Awards:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| SPC McGeary, John | CIB |
| SPC Johnson, William | CIB |
| SPC Porter, Nathan | ARCOM, CIB |
| SPC Gimenez, Daniel | Bronze Star, CIB |
| SPC Balasinkam, Sachita | CIB |
| SSG Lawler, Carl | CIB |
| SPC Gordon, Jason | CIB |
| SPC Hunter, Allen | CIB |

After the awards were presented to the soldiers in front of their companies, LTC Williams, BN CDR addressed them. Each time he spoke, he focused on the job at hand here in Iraq and the importance to our nation and our way of life. "I really believe that the success of our job here in Iraq is vital to America's way of life. We must succeed in standing up this country to protect our freedoms and beliefs."

THUNDER

BRAVO BATTERY "BEARS"

By CPT Ryan Wood

Hello to all of our loved ones! It has been too long since our last newsletter and many changes have occurred. In June, the battery moved neighborhoods. We are now in the oldest neighborhood in Baghdad with many of the building structures dating more than 200 years. Of course, next to the oldest facilities the old regime built some newer high-rise apartments and shopping districts (which are not in service!) We provide security for an extremely busy Pension Payment Facility, servicing over 7,000 Iraqi citizens on busy days, and the infamously looted Iraqi National Museum. Our mission is obviously 24-hours a day and 7 days a week however, the leadership is helping to provide an environment allowing soldiers the opportunity to relax and "blow-off steam." We are conducting monthly sporting events, July was Basketball and August is volleyball. The life support in the FOB is getting better everyday. Air-conditioning, constant electricity, two hot meals a day, and a more





predictable work schedule have helped the soldiers to define a state of "normalcy." Some creature comforts that are vital still in the works are more and better communication with our loved ones. Communications is priority number one for the command! Besides the changes in the neighborhood and comforts, the face of the battery is changing. It is with a sad heart that we farewell the Sneed and Oliver family. The Sneeds are moving to Fort Sill, Oklahoma while the Oliver's are PCSing to Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico. Unfortunately, more of the Bear family are expected to move onto other assignments and I would like to take this opportunity to thank of our soldiers and families for making the Bear family such a close-knit and rewarding organization to be a member. On a brighter note, I would like to welcome the Jackson family, the Andersen family, and the DeJesus family. First Sergeant Jackson (from Charlie Battery), 1LT Andersen (from HHB), and Staff Sergeant DeJesus (from Alpha Battery) arrived to the battery on 01 July. Continue to show your support and love for our soldiers. You are our daily motivation to execute our mission safely! **Bears!!!**

CHARLIE BATTERY "COBRAS"

By CPT James Hickman

Friends and family of the Cobras, in addition to the bi-monthly *Cobra Times Newsletter*, we will also publish news from Charlie Battery in the Thunder Newsletter. We are continuing to provide perimeter and local security for the New Iraqi Army Recruiting Station. The first class of basic training recruits left today August 4, 2003 in order to commence training.

Your husbands, fathers and sons were part of this important moment in history. Also, it looks like we will take control of the military payroll site within the next few days. This facility is located just down the street from our recruiting station, and is actually



CPT James Hickman and 1SG Taylor Poindexter congratulate the first ever recruit of the New Iraqi Army

within our "Charlie Gate." Our Headquarters Platoon and FDCs are busy conducting patrols in zone, gathering and disseminating information, keeping our vehicles mission capable, ordering equipment to help our guys accomplish the mission, and really enabling the Battery to function on a daily basis. All of these missions are incredibly important to the rebuilding efforts in Iraq. Your soldiers are making a significant difference for the people of this once oppressed nation. I could not be more proud of the hard work and dedication these fine young men have displayed. If you are not bragging about these guys everyday, you should be.

The quality of life here on FOB Thunder continues to improve daily. We are all eating two hot meals a day, living in air conditioned quarters, and can actually take a shower after a long day in the blistering sun. The best morale booster in the unit, however, continues to be your letters and care packages. So on behalf of your soldiers, keep them coming. All of your soldiers are doing well, especially considering the situation we find ourselves in. We are continuing to take all the precautionary steps to ensure your soldiers return safely. As previously





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



stated, 1SG Poindexter and I are committed to mission accomplishment and bringing your men home safely. Thank you for your undying support, and enduring the hardship that comes with this profession. We appreciate you more than we could ever express.

CPT Jim Hickman "Cobra 6"

CHAPLAIN CORNER

European leaders this week finally awoke to the real nature of our enemy. Two events - the suspenseful return of tourists held hostage in Mali and carnage at the UN center in Baghdad - displayed the motives and methods of anti-civilization fanatics. Rebels against the rulers of Algeria had kidnapped European tourists last winter and had scattered small groups of them among various cells of allegedly Islamic extremists. They demanded millions in ransom money, clearly intending to finance their attempts to set up an Iran-style government based on religious manipulation. Someone paid the ransom, yet attempts to redeem the hostages dragged on fruitlessly for months. Finally Chancellor Schroeder showed exasperation at the unreasonableness of our common foes. He in Berlin, Defense Minister Peter Struck in Afghanistan, as well as Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (for years an SDS-type radical himself), who flew to Mali, acknowledged that hateful criminals who were killing German citizens must be stopped. We don't put salt in their wounds by saying, "I told you so." We nod quietly and press on with our missions both in Baghdad and in Baumholder. And we pray to the Sovereign over heaven and earth to grant us reasonable success in our worthwhile mission, and safe return home of all our loved ones.

While Iron Brigade soldiers in Iraq press on with the assigned missions, their counterparts and families in Baumholder faithfully keep their hearts and homes ready for reunion. Since PCSing has resumed now, we're starting the first of regular Reunion or re-integration briefings for families. Families who have experienced the return of their soldiers during the past month, or who expect that within the next month, should plan to participate in this very useful training. For further information, please call the Chapel at 485-1570 or ACS, 485-8188.

As I visit families in the context of FRG meetings, I'm deeply impressed with the steady devotion of

families to their "soldiers serving downrange." Spouses and children listen wide-eyed and "all ears" to reports, which usually include slide-shows and eye-witnesses who now are PCSing. They're very eager to help and seize at every suggestion about treats that can be MPSeD to soldiers from Baumholder. A plan is in the works to assemble CARE packages on a larger scale than ever before - more about that soon. I also learned that our compassionate soldiers want to help needy Iraqis. The 47th FSB, for example, now "sponsors" to some extent a nearby orphanage. Outgoing XO Major McCurry reported they would welcome contributions of clothing - for girls especially, including things like hair ribbons, but also for the smiling "no-pants boy" and his many friends. One of the Chapel congregations expressed interest in including that orphanage in its schedule for designated offerings this fall.

Chapel worship services are seeing more in attendance now, a trend we expect to continue as families re-settle for the school year. Our Bundeswehr friends also have discovered a warm welcome in those services. About a dozen German soldiers attended the Gospel Service last week, and were provided copies of a German catechism (Heidelberger Katechismus) and a bi-lingual New Testament. A new Bible Class or Sunday School season will start for most congregations on September 7. Youth can look forward to regular weekly programs also on Tuesday evenings. For teenagers, a special leadership seminar will be held at the popular Hambachtal resort on Friday and Saturday, September 19-20. No fee will be charged for this special event. For more information on that event, call Chaplain Horning at 485-7295.

Striking Scripture

As we continue to extract core-samples from the rich deposit called the Book of Nehemiah, we discover the principle of "justice on the homefront battlefield". We've learned already that indeed "Governor Nehemiah drove us up the wall" successfully; the protective wall around Jerusalem, broken down by the Babylonian invaders, was restored in only 52 days. In order to accomplish that feat, Nehemiah and his team needed to fend off enemies on the perimeter. Last week we saw how he prayed against those who threw insults in the faces of the builders. But now let's look at Chapter 5. Here we discover





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



trouble erupting within the perimeter. Some unscrupulous Israelites were exacting usury, charging such high interest on loans to their poorer countrymen that many of these were as good as enslaved. There arose a howling outcry. Nehemiah carefully listened, thought things through, and then turned indignantly against the exploiters. Listen to part of his speech: "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop! Give them back immediately {everything you've taken from them}." Our conclusions? Nehemiah did not wink at sin. He knew the LORD loves justice and mercy (Micah 6:8), and he reasoned that his perilous mission required God's favor. So for the honor of God and the good of His people, he put a stop to injustice.

How very importantly that applies also to our missions! Can you examine your workplace, your home, your area of operations for "outcries against injustice"? Be alert to hypocrisy. Like Nehemiah, set an example with your own men and your own family, because you know both God and outsiders are watching to see what you will do.

Community Announcements

School Registration

-- All DODDS schools are open for registration now. Getting children registered early helps to ensure that classes stay smaller as the administrators can forecast teachers for funding and hiring.
 -- The Baumholder Clinic will have a Student preparation walk in day on the 27th of August. Families can walk in that day and they clinic will ensure they have the appropriate immunizations etc.. prior to the beginning of classes.

ASACS

The High School has just started a new program called Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service (ASACS). The program has 4 main elements.

- Life-Skill building groups for at-risk adolescents
- Workshops and in-service training for other professionals
- Printed materials on the prevention of adolescent alcohol and other drug abuse

- Classroom presentations

For more information call Mr. Kerry Wilenski at 485-8772 or email at kerry.d.wilensky@saic.com

Commissary Hours

EARLY BIRD SHOPPING DISCONTINUED!

Effective Aug 4, 2003, The Baumholder Commissary will discontinue "Early Bird" Shopping. Hours will be:
Baumholder Commissary
 Mon-Fri: 1000-2000 Hours
 Sat.: 1000-1800 Hours
 Sun: 1100-1800 Hours

Due to construction, the store hours for the Baumholder Commissary beginning Sep 1, 2003:
 TUES-SUN: 0900-2000 HOURS
 CLOSED ON MONDAYS!

Oil Change

Baumholder Auto Skills Center is now offering oil change services after hours! On Tues-Fri after 5 pm and on the weekends from 10 am – 5 pm, you can get your oil changed! Standard oil change is \$19.95, synthetic is \$39.95 and both include oil and filters! To make your appointment call DSN 485-6344.

New Curfew Enforcement

It is not a new policy, enforcement has just been stepped up lately. In accordance with the BSB policy letter #7-16 and HQ USAREUR Memo of 7 Aug 2002 The Baumholder Cerfew policy is as follow:

Children 13 or younger will be in someone's quarters between 2100 and 0600. They may be outside in the company of a family member or guardian over 18 years of age.

Children 14-17 will be inside between 2300 and 0530 unless with the same 18 year old supervision. Exceptions exist.

For further information consult the policy letter or call ACS Family Advocacy at 485-8188 or 6468

Personal Trainer

Want to make sure your workout is the best way to get results? Consult the Baumholder Personal Trainer! She will walk you thru the correct way to do the moves and what will work best for the results you wish to achieve! For more information call 06783-186426.





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



NEW AEROBICS CLASSES

Baumholder Sports and Fitness will be offering NEW aerobic classes on Smith, Neubruecke and Wetzel Kasernes. Classes are 12 for \$25 and all fees must be paid to the instructor. The class schedule is as follows:

Strassburg Gym MWF 0900
Mountaineer Gym TWTH 1145
Hall of Champions MWF 1645
Neubruecke Gym TTH 1800 SAT 0900

Water Aerobics

Dates: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 1800 – 1900
Location: Rec Emporium

Youth Services Trips

30 Aug – Holiday Park in Hassloch Cost: \$30 plus spending money
05 Sep – Dining-Out Korean in Kaiserslautern Cost: Order off the menu
12 Sep – Back to School Dance at the Underground Cost: \$3.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members
20 Sep – High School Dance at the Teen Cafe Cost: \$3.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members
Signed permission slips and fees due 1 week before event. Events without minimum sign-up will be canceled.

Steve Ferguson at DSN 485-8249

CYS

Art Smart Weeks, 11 – 22 Aug
Photo Scavenger Hunt – Idar-Oberstien, 12 & 14 Aug
Heidelberg Zoo, 19 & 21 Aug
Transition Week, 25 – 29 Aug Prepare for end of summer vacation. Children entering first grade will be introduced to SAS.
Carlotta James at DSN 485-6852

Labor Day “Beat the Pro” Tournament

Rolling Hills Golf Course “Beat the Pro” Tournament will be held on Aug. 30! Come out and try to beat the Pro’s score. It will be a stroke format, all players will receive 100% handicap. Entry fee is \$25, non-members pay green fees. Sign up by Aug 18. Tee

time is 9 am on Aug 30. For more information, please call DSN 485-7299.

Outdoor Rec Tours

Six Flags Belgium Aug 23
Whitewater Kayaking Aug 24
Austrian Adventure Aug 28–Sept 1
Introduction to Paragliding Aug 2-3, Aug 30-31
Werner Graf at DSN 485-7182

Rheinlander Events

Monday Night Movie Night
Tuesday night kids’ night with
– kids’ movies in the restaurant
Wednesday Night Buffet
Saturday Night Schnitzel Night
Sunday Brunch with family and friends on Sept 7
Saturday Market on Sept 20
Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

August events

26 Town Hall, 4pm
27 LINKS, 10am
29 USAREUR Training Holiday Briefing for new high school students, 1:00pm at Baumholder High School.

September events

1 Labor Day
2 School Begins
7 Effective this day, old installation passes AE 190-13a & AE 190-13c will no longer be accepted.
Sunday Brunch, 10am-1:30pm
24 LINKS
30 Town Hall Meeting

Community Level Basketball

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for a few good men and women! If you are 18 years of age or older, no longer in high school, and would like to be a proud member of the Baumholder Bears or Lady Bears basketball teams, call DSN 485-7176 for more information.





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



Host Nation Sponsored Events

29-31 Aug 03 Schlefferfest at Idar
 31 Aug 03 Open Crosstriathlon at Altenglan
 1 Sep 03 Market at Kirn
 5-7 Sep 03 Saarland Days at St. Wendel
 5-9 Sep 03 Kusel Fall Fair
 5-9 Sep 03 Praemienmarkt at Birkenfeld
 6 Sep 03 Fleamarket at Homburg/Saar
 12-16 Sep 03 Bad Duerckheimer Wurstmart
 14 Sep 03 Farmers & Art Market at Berglangenbach
 20-22 Sep 03 Baumholder City Fair Market on
 Monday (22)
 26-28 Sep 03 City Fest at Oberstein
Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 485-1600

Baumholder Education Center

August brings in a variety of educational opportunities for the *Baumholder* community.

Adult Ed class dates August 18, through October 10, 2003

Conversational German I \$40
 Monday & Wednesday **0900-1100**
 Or Monday & Wednesday **1800-2000**

English as a Second Language **NO CHARGE**
 Wednesday & Friday **1130-1230**

Sign Language \$40
 Tuesday & Thursday **1800-2000**

UMUC and Central Texas College (CTC) begin registration for Term I August 1, 2003
 Now offering classes in Criminal Justice, Automotive Technology, and Early Childhood Education
 Education Center is open from 0800-1700 HRS.
 Financial aid applications are available for the 2003-2004 school year. For more information, call 485-7557.

International Spouses' Club & Foreign Born Spouses Support Group

August 19 1030 a.m. -12:00 noon
 The International Spouses' Club will meet on Tuesday, August 5 and Tuesday, August 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the ACS Lounge.
 Children are welcome.

The International Spouses' Club invites all foreign-born spouses as well as American-born spouses who would like to learn about other cultures and countries to an hour and a half of fellowship, support, and exchange of information. The Foreign-Born Spouses Support Group meets at the same time as the International Spouses' Club.

Topics this month will include: support services for expecting mothers and special issues arising for the expecting foreign-born spouses; the German day care and school systems.

Please call ACS at 06783-68188 for details.

Join military spouses of all cultures and ethnic backgrounds. Talk about military life overseas, share your culture, plan fun events, and meet new people. Spouses of all nationalities are welcome.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM 2003-04

For information concerning applications for the **FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM**, please contact Army Community Service (ACS), Bldg 8746 at DSN 485-8188 or CIV 06783-6-8188. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1700, with the shortest waiting times between 0800 and 1200.

This year you **will be required** to show proof of income (latest end of the month LES/pay stubs for spouse's income), kindergeld amounts, child support, **any** additional income, etc. **THEREFORE, ALL EXTRA DEPLOYMENT INCOME WILL BE COUNTED.** We will, **also**, need to see concurrent travel orders to the Baumholder community (showing the student's name) in order for us to determine eligibility. Only one application per family is required. For questions or for more information contact: Donna Vielma, Financial Readiness Specialist at 06783-6-8188

Employment Orientation Class August 19 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

This class includes valuable insights as to the employment opportunities in the Baumholder community and its surrounding area. Participants will receive information concerning Military Spouse Preference (MSP), federal and private sector opportunities, application procedures, basic Resumix start-up information, and volunteer opportunities.





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



German Bills Made Easy August 19th 0900

This class will give information on various German bills including: phone bills, electric bills, gas bills, water bills. Topics covered will include when and how to pay various German bills, the Utility Tax Avoidance Program (UTAP), how to start a Recurring Payment Option, and common terms used on German bills

Budgeting for Baby August 19th 0900-1130

This class will discuss the various costs associated with having a baby and how to plan for them. We will also discuss life insurance, living on one income, childcare expenses, and saving for college. This class is valuable to expectant individuals as well as those that plan on starting a family in the future.

Parent & Tot Play Group August 18,22,25,29 10:00- 11:30

Do you have a toddler or baby ages 2 months to 4 years old? Do you need something fun and educational to do together? Come to our play group where you will discover an environment of fun and fulfillment for both you and your child. Here at your New Parent Support Program (NPSP) we offer free play group activities 2 times per week on Monday's and Friday's from 10-11:30am in the Iron Kids Playground (Bldg. 8222). Please call the NPSP at 485-6931/6932 if you have any questions, or would like further information regarding this wonderful program.

This class is an interactive play group designed to teach parents developmentally appropriate play and to help children improve their social, cognitive, and motor skills.

Basics of Investing August 27 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The objective of the class is to provide participants with a fundamental 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.

International Cooking Class

August 28 11:00-1:00 p.m. (ACS kitchen)

Rouladen We will learn how to cook the typical German dish of "Rouladen", thin slices of beef with a delicious filling. Typical side dishes will be discussed, as well. The class will explain German cooking methods, include tips for shopping on the economy, and provide detailed recipes and translation aides. Classes are limited to 15 adults. Classes will take place in the ACS Lounge/Kitchen. Reservations are required please call ACS at 06783-6-8188

What Every Woman Should Know about Personal Finance and Investing August 26th 0900-1100

This class will give women the information they need to ensure their financial security and help them to reach their financial goals. This class will be helpful to women working with a few dollars a week or with hundreds of dollars. Topics covered in this class include: getting control of your spending, reducing you debt, investing to reach your goals, information on teaching your children about money and other basic personal finance concepts.

Relocation Assistance for Spouses

If your spouse is currently deployed but has received orders to relocate, 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: an added bonus, the more quality time your family gets 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.





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 14 OIF

21 August 2003



Resume Writing Class August 28 9:00 – 11:00

a.m.

ACS now offers a class in Resume Writing. This class will assist job seekers on how to prepare and write a Winning Resume, Cover Letter, Thank You Letter and Follow-up Letter. This class will be offered the last Friday of each month from 0900-1100.

FORCE PROTECTION

Recently there have been reports of U.S ID cards, U.S. passports, and USAREUR license plates ON SALE at German Flea Markets. This presents a very serious concern that, for little as 10 Euros, terrorist organizations will come in possession of the tools essential to gain access on post.

Request everyone's assistance in helping identifying where these type of sales are being conducted. Flea markets are normally held on Saturdays and Sundays. If you happen to go to a German (or even French) flea market, and you see that U.S. ID cards, U.S. passports, or USAREUR license plates are on sale, contact the Baumholder MP Desk immediately, 06783-6-7546 or 7547, with the location and description of the salesperson. The salesperson normally has a vehicle next to his/her goods. Annotate the make of the vehicle, but most importantly, the license plate, so that the MPs may be able to track him/her, should he/she leave before the arrival of the authorities.

Don't alert or attempt to question the salesperson, just report it to the nearest Law Enforcement desk. If unsure, call the Baumholder MP Desk and they will take the appropriate action.

Security awareness

Recently there has been a rash of violations of security around the Baumholder Community. Please remember that your awareness helps us stay safe. Report suspicious activities to your BN or to the BSB S2 at 485-7141. Remember to lock you home and car when not in use and never leave your ID in the car or unsecured anywhere. Finally it is not only the right thing to do but a regulation, that children not be left unattended in cars anywhere, shoppette, Mail room etc..

COLA

The USAREUR Commanding General, GEN B. B. Bell, has sent the following message about dependant COLA:

Processing COLA Entitlements for Deployed

Soldiers

1. Thousands of dedicated USAREUR soldiers are currently deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Liberia, and elsewhere. The family members of most of these soldiers have remained in USAREUR to await their return. Some, however, have chosen to return to the continental United States (CONUS) for extended periods. This affects the soldier's cost of living allowance (COLA) entitlement.
2. Deployed soldiers continue to collect their full COLA entitlements unless one or more of their family members return to CONUS for more than 30 consecutive days. If some of a soldier's family members are in CONUS for more than 30 consecutive days, the soldier's COLA entitlement must be reduced proportionally on the 31st day. If all of a soldier's family members are in CONUS for more than 30 consecutive days, the soldier's COLA entitlement must be reduced to the "without dependents" rate on the 31 st day.
3. Whenever a soldier's family members return to CONUS for more than 30 consecutive days, commanders must submit DA Form 4187 to reduce the soldier's COLA entitlements to authorized levels. Similarly, when family members return from CONUS, the COLA should be adjusted back to original levels. Commanders are required to establish procedures to ensure that the unit processes the DA Form 4187 as required.
4. Commanders and leaders have a legal and ethical duty to take care of deployed soldiers and their family members. This duty includes following applicable regulations governing COLA entitlements and adjusting those entitlements when required. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will eventually recoup improper COLA payments-often when the soldier is least prepared to handle a sudden loss of pay. This ultimately hurts rather than helps the soldier. We can avoid this by ensuring that our deployed soldiers are paid correctly. It's a command responsibility.

