



'Turning something rough into something beautiful'

By Mark Heeter

Note: This is the final article in a three-part series about the Dagger Brigade Combat Team's 15-month deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Volunteers?

One critical word with one question mark on the "Current Efforts" slide of the operations and intelligence briefing about the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 tour.

Operation 7th Veil, one of four major operations during the Dagger Brigade Combat Team's 15-month deployment to Iraq, targeted "complicity and corruption within the ISF (Iraqi Security Forces) and GOI (government of Iraq)," according to the Col. J.B. Burton, Dagger BCT commander.

"We weren't really into these large-scale clearing operations,

because those do more damage than good," Burton said, explaining that the task force focused more on removing specific "bad actors," as he called them.

Operation 7th Veil, which, like Operation Switchblade and Operation Our Town, were derivatives of Operation Marble Arch, according to Burton.

Each with its own goal and purpose.

Each its own piece in the puzzle toward peace that the Dagger Brigade tried to solve in northwest Baghdad.

Volunteers and willing partners from throughout the Iraqi population were keys to the each operation in the puzzle, according to Burton and his deputy, Lt. Col. Steve Miska.

"We have worked, I think, with just about every agency inside of northwest Baghdad, indigenous Iraqi side, multiple

See OPS, page 6



Well, let me tell you...

Kelsey Gunter, 4, lets Santa Claus know exactly what she would like this year at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Ledward barracks Sunday. The ceremony gave children a chance to see the jolly one and get a special treat. (Photo by Mark Heeter)

A holiday message from Force Protection Office

During this holiday season many in our community will be PCSing back to the United States. Others will travel to visit family and friends or to see the sights that Europe has to offer.

The USAG Schweinfurt Force Protection and Anti-terrorism office has collected a few safety tips and pointers to help make your holiday as safe as it is enjoyable.

- Travel in small groups, and avoid predictability (vary routes)
- Make sure your whereabouts and expected arrival time are known

- Be aware of your surroundings, but also be inconspicuous
- Avoid demonstrations and high-risk, high-threat places
- Carry a cell phone, if possible, and know local emergency numbers
- Be sure your vehicle is in good working order and that your fuel tank is at least half full
- Join an auto club, and monitor AFN for road conditions

Many of these pointers will not only

keep you safe from a force protection standpoint, they're also good travel safety tips.

If traveling by car, be sure to keep a winter safety kit in your vehicle, and check road and weather reports frequently. For those planning to drive outside of Germany, be sure to have your international driver's license with you at all times, and check the State Department's travel website, www.travel.state.gov, for information regarding the latest travel advisories.

Next issue of the Dispatch Jan. 3, 2008... Happy Holidays!



News Briefs

B.O.S.S. activities

Participate in Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) events throughout the winter. Call 354-6270 or 0170-725-6464 for more information.

- Tomorrow: Classics Party 5 p.m. Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve celebration in Berlin

Watch ice hockey

Come watch the Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs play rival teams at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt on tomorrow or Dec. 28. Games begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door.

Christmas Eve service

Come to Ledward Chapel Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. for a Christmas Eve service sponsored by the protestant service. The evening will be filled with scripture, music and candle light to bring holiday cheer to everyone. For more information, call 354-1570 or 09721-96-1570.

CMRs open

All three CMR customer service windows in the USAG Schweinfurt will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Christmas Eve in order to accommodate last-minute package pick-ups.

Library events set

Come to Ledward library's Early Bird Internet Monday from 8 a.m. to noon or Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to send off those last-minute holiday email cards. Dec. 27 is national "make cut-out snowflakes day" at Leighton library— come join the fun. Dec. 28, Ledward library hosts Polar Express Night from 6 p.m. to midnight. For more information about library events call, 354-1740 in Schweinfurt or 350-1740 in Wuerzburg. Both libraries will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

See the circus

The Carl Busch Circus is in town at Schweinfurt's Volksfestplatz Dec. 25 through Dec. 31. Performances are week days at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays and holidays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Travel with USO

It's not too late to sign up and travel with USO to Dresden Saturday. The day trip includes taking a historical city tour and visiting Germany's oldest Christmas market dating back to 1434. Bring euro for meals and shopping. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, and USO escort. Cost is 65 euro for adults and 61 euro for children 0-12 years old. Departure is from the Volksfestplatz at 4:15 a.m. with an approximate return at 10 p.m. Sign up today in person at Ledward's USO near Café Rohr.

Last chance to visit Christmas Markets

Come enjoy the Schweinfurt Christmas Market before it closes for the year. Friday and Saturday are the last opportunities to stroll the festive marktplatz from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Friday, the brass band of "Heidenfeld" will perform from 5 to 6 p.m. The Christmas Market in Wuerzburg ends Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Post Offices set consistent hours

Effective Dec. 24, the Post Offices located on Conn and Ledward Barracks will be open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all your outbound mailing needs. For more information, contact your local APO at 354-6784 or 09721-96-8232.

New Year's Eve service

The entire community is invited to attend Watch Night Service at Ledward Chapel Dec. 31 sponsored by the gospel service. Celebrate the blessings of 2007 and welcome the blessings of 2008. Food fellowship begins at 7 p.m. and praise and worship begins at 10 p.m. Enjoy spirit-filled messages from Chaplain Virgil Thomas and Pastor Hassan Wilson.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager
Command Sgt Maj. CSM Keith McMullen
Public Affairs Officer George Ohl
Command Information Officer Mark Heeter
Writer/Editors Kimberly Gearhart
 Elvira Gladwell
 Sandra Wilson
 Miranda McLean

The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 21 DEC --Sign-ups begin for Dec. 28 Parent's Night Out in Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. Call CYS Central Registration at 354-6517 or 350-7762 to sign up.
- 23 DEC --Traditional Protestant Service begins again at Conn Chapel, 11 a.m.
- 25 DEC --Christmas Day, all MWR, AAFES, & Commissary facilities closed except 24 hour Shoppette.
- 26 DEC --2nd Christmas Holiday, German Holiday.
- 27 DEC --"Hello Dolly" performed, Schweinfurt City Theater, 7:30 p.m. Call 09721-510.
- 31 DEC --New Year's Eve party at the Leighton CAC, starts at 6 p.m.
- 7 JAN --Conversational German class begins at Leighton ACS, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 350-7103.
--Free basic computer/Windows XP class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 8 JAN --Free basic Microsoft Word class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 9 JAN --Free Basic Microsoft Excel class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 9-10 JAN --Community theatre casting call for "Bus Stop" at Abrams Center, 6 p.m. Call 0162-296-2776.
- 10 JAN --Dagger Brigade Volunteer Recognition Awards, Conn Club, beginning at 10 a.m.
--B.O.S.S. auto shop safety class, Conn Auto Skills Center, 6-9 p.m. Call 353-8224.
--Free internet & basic web design class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 11 JAN --Birth-N-Babies I, Ledward ACS class, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 14 JAN --Birth-N-Babies II, Ledward ACS class, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 17 JAN --B.O.S.S. bowling (drill a customized ball), Kessler Bowling Center, 8 p.m. Call 354-6332.
- 22 JAN --Free advanced Microsoft Word class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--"Don't sweat the deployment stuff (adults)" class, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room, 6-8 p.m.
- 23 JAN --Dagger Memorial Dedication, Dagger Rose Garden, Conn Barracks, beginning at 10:30 a.m.
--German Language class begins at Ledward ACS, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Free advanced Microsoft Excel class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 24 JAN --B.O.S.S. brake repair class, Conn Auto Skills Center, 6-9 p.m. Call 353-8224.
--Free Microsoft Power Point class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--"Don't sweat the deployment stuff (kids)" class, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room, 5-7 p.m.
- 25 JAN --MWR Winter Fest Finney Fitness Center, beginning at 11 a.m.
--Daddy Basic Training class at Ledward ACS 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Free Microsoft Access class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 25-27 JAN --Fishing license course, Conn Outdoor Recreation. Call 353-8080.
- 27 JAN --Musical "Fame" performed in English, Schweinfurt City Theater, 7:30 p.m. Call 09721-51475 or 09721-510 for tickets.
- 30 JAN --B.O.S.S. create your own stein, Ledward Arts and Crafts Studio, 6-9 p.m. Call 354-6903.
- 31 JAN --Sign up for The Big Read at Ledward and Leighton libraries. Call for info. 354-1740.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



AFN's Bannamon signs off in Wuerzburg

Story and photo by
Sgt. Jonathan McDonald, AFN

For nearly 14 years, Jacques Bannamon entertained AFN Franconia audiences by keeping them up to date on celebrity news, spinning the latest hits, and of course keeping tabs on AFN's own Chicken Man. Bannamon signed off for the last time at AFN Franconia last week, but his military service continues.

Bannamon's career in broadcasting began in 1970 when he was drafted,



Jacques Bannamon signed off for the last time last week after 14 years in Wuerzburg.

but didn't end with his retirement from active duty at AFN Berlin in 1990. In 1994 Bannamon answered the call to start something big in Wuerzburg.

Nuremburg had just closed, Bamberg was building up, and Schweinfurt was becoming a training area, so it was decided that the area needed its very own AFN station.

"My best memory in Wuerzburg was that first week, when they spelled out the mission, I thought, how am I going to get this done?" Bannamon said. A radio station already existed in the area, broadcasting on a long wire, but Bannamon's job was to take it to the next level and add television to the mix.

That first year, AFN Wuerzburg swept the Army's broadcast awards, and set the standards for Army broadcasting for years to come. Bannamon's original graphics for Wuerzburg were adopted Army and AFN-wide.

In 1996, when 3rd Infantry Division left

Wuerzburg and was replaced by 1st Infantry Division, Bannamon was there to report. He noted that they literally lowered the flag as 3rd ID and raised it the next morning as 1st ID.

The radio station changed as well, becoming Big Red Radio, and as the Big Red One morphed and changed, so did AFN Wuerzburg, doubling in size to carry a full 16-man team.

Over the years, Bannamon mentored Army broadcasters who have gone on to share Jacques' gems of wisdom. AFN Wuerzburg's first station commander went on to be the AFN Europe First Sergeant and Sergeant Major. Others have gone on to teach at the Defense Information School, become drill sergeants, and even work at the Army's new Soldier's Media Center.

"I'm going to pack my duffel bag for the last time and fortunately for me, I'm going to get to see some of those Soldiers again," Bannamon said. His new job at Soldier's Radio and Television in Washington, D.C., will afford him that opportunity.

For his last broadcast, Bannamon reverted to the original AFN Wuerzburg sign off: "Remember, no matter what you do or who you do it with, you can't fall off the floor. AFN Wuerzburg, AFN Franconia...goodnight."

Garrison holiday hours

Dec. 24, 25, and Jan. 1 are federal holidays, and all garrison offices will be closed, with few exceptions.

Post shuttle busses will run Dec. 24 from 6 a.m. until noon.

The fitness centers will only be closed on Christmas, operating 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24, 31 and Jan 1; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 26.

Finney Rec will be open Dec. 24 & 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Schweinfurt DRMO will be closed Dec 24-28.

Commissary will be open Dec. 24, 31; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Leighton CAC will be

open Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. for a New Year's Eve celebration.

Closed Dec. 24, 25, Jan. 1

- Outdoor Rec
- Auto Crafts Centers
- Kessler Bowling
- Arts and Crafts Center
- Ledward Tax Relief office
- All CYS and Youth Services
- Schweinfurt Health Clinic
- Wuerzburg Health Clinic

Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26, Jan. 1

- Ledward Library
- Leighton Library
- Leighton Tax Relief
- POV inspection (noon Dec. 24)

CAV sorts, boxes donations



From left, Carmelita Taylor, Christina Hobbs (background), Evelyn Holley, and Nadine Foster sort mounds of clothes donated by the community to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry donation drive. More than 40 boxes have already been shipped downrange to be distributed to Afghans in 1-91 operation areas. Donations will continue to be accepted through Jan. 17 at any of the following locations: 1-91 Squadron HQ, Schweinfurt Middle or Elementary School, Askren Manor Recycling Center, Schweinfurt Commissary, Army Community Service Building, and The Commons. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)



ACS Lunch Bunch: food, friends, fun

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

If you're looking for an affordable, easy way to get out and experience German culture through its food, Army Community Service's (ACS) Lunch Bunch is for you.

Lunch Bunch meets once a month and it is open to the entire community to assist people in exploring local restaurants while dining with friends.

The group began as an off-shoot from the beginning German class held by ACS in the fall of 2006. Monika Goodman, the teacher of the class, and Carol Haager, a participant in the class at the time, thought it would be a good idea to offer a way for people to get out and experience more of the local cuisine.

"I took the German class last year while I was pregnant and then started going to the Lunch Bunch. It gets me out of the house... I go for the restaurants," said Melissa Hilker, explaining how her husband routinely goes to the same restaurants, and the Lunch Bunch provides variety for her.

Goodman and Haager scope out restaurants ahead of time before setting up Lunch Bunch events. Each restaurant chosen meets the criteria they feel is most important to those who attend: budget-priced, kid-friendly, and clean.

"It's amazing how many German restaurants have play areas," said Haager, referring to the kid-friendly corner of this month's restaurant where her daughter was playing. The indoor play areas are suitable during the winter to offer an alternative to the cold. When the weather is nice, many of the restaurants visited have playgrounds next to the outside beer gardens where parents can easily watch.

This month's event also included a visit from St. Nikolaus who came with a bag of goodies for the kids. Each child was given



Mollie Armstrong and Melissa Hilker laugh as they look at pictures taken of their children sitting with St. Nikolaus.

the opportunity to take a picture with him, if they so desired. Over the past year, the Lunch Bunch has visited restaurants with other attractions like a ranch where the kids toured the grounds and could pet the horses. Another Lunch Bunch was hosted at Schweinfurt's wild park where families could stroll around to see all of the animals.

"We want people to feel comfortable going out by themselves," said Haager. For starters, being able to ride with, or follow, someone who knows how to get there and having help translating menu items can be an encouragement to even the most hesitant.

Each Lunch Bunch runs from 11 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. The next one is scheduled for Jan. 24 and participants are invited to carpool from ACS. For directions to the next restaurant or to sign up in advance, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.



Wuerzburg ROTC gathers clothing for Iraqi children

Spc. Giancarlo Bautista, an Army Reserve postal clerk, stands by as junior Army ROTC cadets from Wuerzburg American High School on Leighton Barracks load boxes of donated clothing on to his hand truck.

The cadets gathered and loaded more than 20 boxes with various types of clothing to be sent to Iraqi children that are currently under the care of the United States Air Force's 332nd Expeditionary Military Hospital in Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. John Queen, 69th ADA Brigade Public Affairs)



Put your worries on ICE with a little feedback

By Mark Heeter

Ask and you shall receive. But make sure you let them know how to get hold of you.

"We're looking for all kinds of customer comments," said Britta Steinhanses, from the USAG Schweinfurt plans, analysis and integration office

Whether positive, negative, or in-the-middle, feedback and



Steinhanses

customer comments are an important way for the garrison to evaluate performance, she said.

"If you're having an issue and never bring it up, we have no chance to fix it. Also, everyone appreciates a pat on the back if they did a good job providing the service," Steinhanses said.

The Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE), a web-based customer feedback tool, is available at www.schweinfurt.army.mil. Customer comment cards and feedback cards at the community update forums are two additional opportunities to provide feedback.

"If you are expecting a response, check the request response button (on the web) or provide the contact information (on the card)," Steinhanses said.

This is the critical but frequently missing link in the communication chain, said David Coldwell, USAG Schweinfurt

community recreation division sports and fitness officer. Coldwell received more than 700 comments from customers last fiscal year, many related to the fitness centers, which fall under his operational control.

"If they put their name and email on it, we can answer them back. I want to provide an answer back to the customer. That way, the customer knows why we do what we do," he said.

"It's a good system to recognize customer needs, and it's a good way for us to see what they're requesting," he said.

According to Coldwell, the customer feedback mechanisms allow managers to respond to the customers' concerns or "if not, we can come back with a good reason why we can't accommodate the request."

In addition to providing customers an outlet for performance feedback, the comment cards and ICE system also offer managers a chance to see what



Coldwell

might be missing.

The acquisition of a type of fitness equipment came directly from a request that a customer made through a comment card, according to Coldwell.

"It was something we didn't know they wanted," he said.

Customers just have to ask.

"Your voice will be heard," Steinhanses said.

OPS

levels of government, on both the coalition side, on the Iraqi government side, to reconstruct northwest Baghdad," Burton said of the deep cooperation required for the brigade's successes.

Operation Switchblade was meant to bridge the time gap involved in recruiting, hiring and fielding security forces.

"This was the effort that we put in place to recruit and employ volunteers under coalition forces oversight," Burton said.

The goal was to get Iraqi police in areas that were void of any type of security apparatus and provided Al Qaeda and other extremists easy passage through the area.

Operation Our Town involved coalition forces buying and renting repair equipment required to improve and repair infrastructure, as well as the construction of public works stations.

"That would achieve the linkage of the

security apparatus at the Joint Security Site with a municipal capacity apparatus," Burton said, calling Our Town a ... "very promising enterprise that was just starting to take root as we were leaving."

Operation Marble Arch provided the big picture: stop Shia extremism and defeat Al Qaeda. It was so called to represent something, like marble, that begins rough but turns out beautiful, according to Burton.

All else fit into that effort. And it worked, according to Burton, as evidenced by an 85 percent decrease in violent incidents over the course of the deployment, despite a spike in violence in early 2007.

"This is when the Islamic state of Iraq said, 'We own Ameriya.' And the Dagger Brigade Combat Team said, 'No, you don't.' We went out and we fought for it. And we paid dearly and it's a piece of turf that we won't give up," Burton said, reflecting on the losses, the "ugly side of war."

"We regret the losses, but we're ex-

tremely proud of the sacrifices of our Soldiers. Those Soldiers and their Iraqi Security Forces partners have delivered an opportunity in northwest Baghdad that they can be justifiably proud of," he said.

While every day provided the Dagger Brigade and their Iraqi partners an opportunity to succeed in their quest for peace and stability in northwest Baghdad, Burton credits four factors for the decrease in violence: the integration of the surge of U.S. forces, the joint security stations, the safe neighborhoods, and the volunteers.

Burton reflected on his brigade's mission statement and was clear about where responsibility for lasting change begins.

"The future of Iraq must rest in the hands of the Iraqis. So we have to do everything in a combined fashion," he said.

"How northwest Baghdad goes is how goes Iraq. They refer to the Mansour district as the gates of freedom," he said.



69th ADA holds final ball in Germany

Story by Staff Sgt. John Queen
69th ADA Public Affairs Office

Nearly four hundred Air Defenders of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and their family members raised glasses and toasted the patron Saint of Artillerymen during their Saint Barbara's Day celebration at the former Leighton Community Activities Center in Wuerzburg.

The annual celebration, steeped in



While a guest from the Bundeswehr stirs the "Grog", a Soldier from 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery dressed as a Korean War era Soldier uses a sponge to squeeze another noxious ingredient into the bowl.

military tradition, served as a tribute to the partnership the Army has maintained with the city of Wuerzburg for more than sixty years.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Lt. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, commander of V Corps. A former artilleryman himself, and commander of the 1st Infantry Division when it was headquartered in Wuerzburg, Hunzeker said it was a true honor to be the ball's guest speaker. During his speech,

he spoke of the Army's transformation and how it's turning young leaders into 'Warrior Pentathletes'.

"We are growing a new breed of Army leader – like a pentathlete, who is able to rapidly transition between complex tasks," Hunzeker said.

"As I look around this room, I can see the glint in the eyes and the determination in the faces of the 69th Air Defense Artillery combat team leaders who already are 'Warrior Pentathletes'."

As part of the transformation, the Brigade's headquarters will be relocating from Wuerzburg to Fort Hood, Texas in the summer of 2008. The Brigade's lone battalion, 5th Battalion, 7th ADA, will move to Kaiserslautern and the 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment will be activated in Heidelberg.

"After sixty-two years of being associated with Wuerzburg, this will likely be the last formal celebration the U.S. Army will have here before we transition," he said.

During this year's ball the artillerymen took time to salute the city of Wuerzburg which was nearly destroyed in the final weeks of the Second World War. A six-minute slide show set to Ludwig Von Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" showed images of the devastated city that transitioned to modern Wuerzburg.

While the city has been home at one time or another to the 1st, 3rd and 10th Infantry Divisions, the 69th ADA Brigade has called Wuerzburg, and the surrounding area, home for more than 52 years.

"Wuerzburg brings back many fond memories, and I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that tonight's ceremony is bittersweet," Hunzeker said.

Preparation makes POV shipments a breeze

By Sandra Wilson

After receiving your orders to move to a new duty station, your first stop is the transportation office. If you are entitled the government shipment of a vehicle, then this office will give you all the information needed to prepare your vehicle.

When entitled, the government will ship your vehicle at no charge to the nearest Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) to your next duty station. It is possible to request an alternate shipment location. If your choice is not en route to your duty station, charges may be incurred. Check with your VPC to find out your options.

Before dropping off your vehicle to be shipped, several things must be completed. Your vehicle must be emptied of all possessions except those that are essential to keep with the vehicle like documents, maps, manuals, maintenance tools, spare tire, or child car seats.

The vehicle must be thoroughly vacuumed and cleaned. The United States Department of Agriculture allows no dirt, leaves, or other plant matter to be carried into countries via your vehicle.

Your vehicle must not have any oil or transmission leaks and it's important that the emergency brake works at 100 percent.

Upon drop off, the vehicle must not contain more than one-fourth tank of gas. Vehicles must also have two stickers. The Department of Transportation/matrix label is commonly located in the engine compartment usually by the top left corner of the engine.

The Environmental Protection Agency label can be found in the door frame and it states that the vehicle conforms to all federal safety and anti-theft standards.

In the event that one or both stickers are missing, contact your nearest VPC for information on resolving the problem.

Completing all the above tasks will minimize the possibility of your vehicle being rejected when brought to the processing center. Once the stamp of approval is obtained, your car will be on its way to your next duty station.

Keep in mind that the sponsor on orders or a duly appointed representative with power of attorney must be present to accept the vehicle when it arrives at its destination.