



101st Airborne's Strike Brigade sends Dagger Brigade on its way

Story and photo

**By Sgt. James P. Hunter
2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The 2nd “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, out of Schweinfurt, Germany, handed over responsibility of northwest Baghdad to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), from Fort Campbell, Ky., during a transfer of authority ceremony Saturday at the Camp Liberty Field House.

“...It is with great humility, but with great confidence in the abilities of the Strike Brigade Combat Team, that I relinquish responsibility for Coalition Force efforts in northwest Baghdad,” said Col. J.B. Burton, commander, 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div.

“We have achieved the tasks that you put before us, but we leave knowing that there is still much to do.”

The Dagger Brigade helped



Col. J.B. Burton, commander of the 2nd “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team speaks to Soldiers at a transfer of authority ceremony Saturday in the Camp Liberty Field House in Baghdad. The Dagger Brigade handed over responsibility for the security of northwestern Baghdad to the 2nd “Strike” Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

transition a hostile northwest Baghdad from a heavy, kinetic and costly fight to a secured population, rid of extremists, criminals and terrorists, he said.

Throughout their 15-month de-

ployment, they played a vital role moving Iraqis into the political process and the formal reconstruction of Baghdad and Iraq.

Burton said all Iraqis, regard-

less of sect or religion, received equal municipal services, education, opportunity and a total improved quality of life.

The Dagger Brigade capitalized “on the opportunities provided by the noble efforts and sacrifices of Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and brave Iraqi citizens who have delivered an opening for enduring victory and a future where Iraqis are not measured by religious sect or special group affiliation,” Burton said.

“Our combined efforts have set the conditions necessary for re-integration, reconciliation and reconstruction here,” he said.

“Your efforts in this area, partnered with local Iraqi leaders and citizens, has made a tremendous impact and is receiving a great deal of attention throughout the world,” said Col. William B. Hickman, commander of the 2nd “Strike” BCT, 101st Airborne Division.

Don't send presents through official mail this holiday season

HEIDELBERG, –The holiday season is here, which means many people are shopping for those unique European gifts to send home to family and friends; however, anyone tempted to send personal items through the official mail system should think twice. Only articles pertaining to government business may be sent via official mail.

The potential for abuse –either intentionally or unintentionally –can increase during this time period, said Daniel Medina, official mail program manager for Installation Management Command-Europe.

Consequently, he said garrison official mail managers are stepping up their efforts to prevent possible misuse of official mail service during the holidays.

“It is important for the entire community,” Medina said, “to recognize that Army official mail is paid by appropriated funds and authorized only for U.S. government business.”

Medina noted that stuffing personal items into envelopes and packages sent through official mail channels to avoid paying postage may cost offenders in other

ways, such as administrative sanctions, action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or penalties under other federal law. Examples of personal items include holiday cards, care packages, magazines, gifts, cookies and candy.

Medina added that community Military Postal Services and Army Post Offices are available “to send these personal items to loved ones back home.”





News Briefs

Memorial ceremony scheduled

The memorial ceremony for Capt. David Boris and Sgt. Adrian Hike, both from the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry, will be held at the Ledward Chapel Wednesday at 11 a.m. Limited childcare will be provided by CYS Outreach Services at the Chapel. Individuals in need of care should contact Central Registration to sign up.

IACS office closed

The Installation Access Control System (IACS) office at the MP station in Schweinfurt will be closed due to scheduled cleaning Tuesday. The IACS office in building 40, Conn Barracks, will be open during normal business hours.

Become computer savvy

Want to learn more about Microsoft computer applications? Sign up for an Army Community Service class beginning next week on Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access. Classes can be taken individually and run Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Classes will be held at Finney Gym Digital Training Facility and are open to the community on a first-come, first-served

basis. For more information or to sign up, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

International bazaar

Come to the MWR international bazaar Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kessler Fitness Center on Yorktown Village. Enjoy tax free shopping with stroller friendly aisles and more than 50 vendors. Credit cards are accepted. Only open to U.S. ID card holders.

Retreat for teen girls

USA Girl Scouts Overseas-North Atlantic is sponsoring "Discover your inner beauty," a retreat open to all teen girls, ages 14-17 and will take place at the Teen Center on Ledward from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. Call Sarah Small to register or for more information at 09729-90-7099.

Tie dye class

Join Army Community Service "Parent and Me Tie Dye" at the Arts and Crafts Studio Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. This is part of ACS' Youth & Teen Can Do It, Too Success Series. All materials and instruction are free of charge. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Nutcracker Suite

ACS is providing free transportation to a matinee performance of "The Nutcracker Suite" on Sunday at 1 p.m. Meet at

Leighton Barracks ACS in Wuerzburg. To sign up, call 350-7103 or 09731-889-7103.

Clinic closed for holiday

The Schweinfurt Health Clinic will be closed tomorrow and Friday. In case of an emergency, Leopoldina should be your first option at 09721-7200.

B.O.S.S. events

Explore your creative side Thursday with B.O.S.S. Come to the Arts and Crafts Studio to learn how to make your own beer stein. Class begins at 6 p.m. All materials are provided free of charge. For more information about both events, call 354-6270 or 0170-725-6464.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk trash will be picked up Tuesday in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village and government leased housing. Trash needs to be set out at regular collection points before 7 a.m. Tuesday but no sooner than Monday night.

Wuerzburg residents needing bulk trash removal should call 354-6201.

Parents' night in WBG

Wuerzburg parents, take a night off Nov. 30 from 6:30-11 p.m. CYS is offering Parents' Night Out in Wuerzburg this month. Enrollment is limited. Registration begins today at the CDC on Leighton.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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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.



- 30 NOV --Wuerzburg Christmas Market opens 10 a.m. Runs through Dec. 23 on the Marktplatz.
- B.O.S.S Meet & Greet, Route 66 Party, begins at 5 p.m., Conn Keller Bar. 354-6270 for info.
- Kid Friendly Trip to Wuerzburg Christ Kindl Markt, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., meet at Leighton ACS.
- Teen girls retreat for ages 14-17 through Sunday, Schweinfurt Teen Center. Register by calling Sarah Small at 09729-90-7099.
- Wuerzburg Parents' Night Out, 6:30-11 p.m. Register in person at Leighton CDC.
- 1 DEC --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Bad Wimpfen Christmas Market, free trans. Call 350-6305.
- Ivushka, Russian Christmas review, Stadt Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Call 09721-51475 for tickets. Second showing Dec. 2, 2:30 p.m., same location.
- 2 DEC --Nikolaus Fahrt Strassenbahn, 4-6 p.m., meet at Leighton ACS, bring euros.
- 4 DEC --"I can do it" scrapbooking, 1 p.m., Ledward Arts & Crafts center. Call 354-6933 to register.
- Parcel Air Lift mail deadline for Christmas delivery to the United States.
- 5 DEC --Christmas concert with "Kreuzchor" of Dresden, Stadt Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Call 09721-51475.
- 6 DEC --Nikolaus (Santa Claus) arrives in a carriage and hands out sweets, market square, 3-4 p.m.
- 7 DEC --Leighton Barracks Christmas tree lighting, 4 p.m., Victory Garden.
- 8 DEC --Super Saturday. CYS care facilities open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register in person.
- Youth & Teen "Shop 'till you drop," 1-3 p.m. Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- Free photo shoot with "Saint Nick" on stage at the market square 2:30 - 4 p.m.
- 11 DEC --"Wee can do it" Christmas Candle Shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., meet at Leighton ACS. 350-7103.
- Priority parcels and 1st class mail deadline for Christmas delivery to the United States.
- Santa Claus hands out sweets to children at the market square, 3-4 p.m.
- 12 DEC --Montgomery Gentry and Kellie Pickler free concert, Conn Airfiled, gates open at 5 p.m.
- 13 DEC --B.O.S.S. "This One's for You" program, 3-7 p.m., Finney Fitness Center. Call 354-6270.
- Ledward Lunch Bunch, meet at ACS 11 a.m., or DJK Speisegastaette at 11:30 a.m.
- Santa Claus hands out sweets to children at the market square, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- 14 DEC --CMRs, In/Out processing, and all DHR offices will close at noon.
- Transportation Motor Pool, CIF, and all DOL offices will close at 11:30 a.m.
- 14-16 DEC --Zugspitze Ski trip to Garmisch with Outdoor Rec. Call 353-8080.
- 15 DEC --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Erfurt Christmas Market, free trans. Call 350-6305.
- 16 DEC --Ledward Barracks Christmas tree lighting, 4 p.m., Andrus Garden.
- 20 DEC --Express mail deadline for Christmas delivery to the United States.
- 25 DEC --Christmas Day, all MWR and AAFES facilities except 24 hour Shoppette will be closed.
- 26 DEC --Ledward and Leighton Libraries will be closed.
- 31 DEC --New Year's Eve party at the Leighton CAC, starts at 6 p.m.

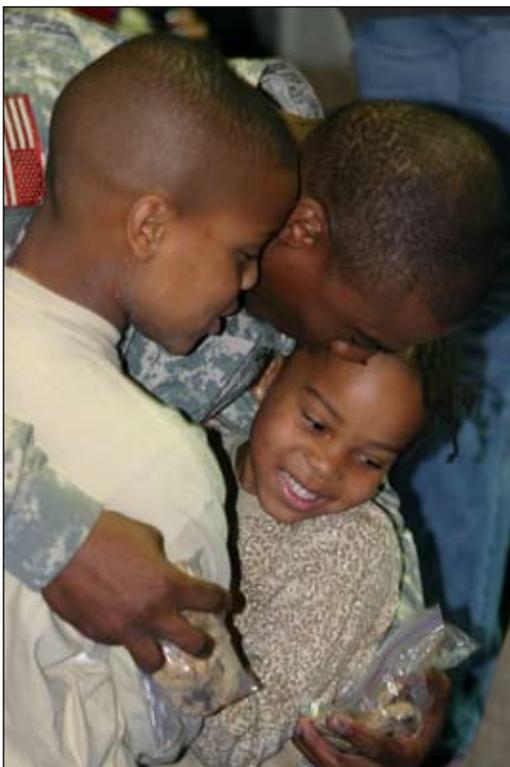


Welcome Home!!!

Scenes from the Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks from the past week, when several hundred Soldiers from throughout the Dagger Brigade returned home, mark the completion of their 15-month deployment to Iraq. (Photos by Mark Heeter)



MORE from Finney....



Next week:

***Commander
reflects
on
deployment***



Worlds apart, together they ran for 173rd

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Worlds apart, together we run. The Schweinfurt community gathered Saturday for an early-morning run. But this wasn't an ordinary fun run.

"It's different because it's in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with runners in Schweinfurt; Bamberg; Vicenza, Italy; and Afghanistan," said Paul Stubbs, director of Kessler Fitness Center.

Each community had people run on the same day in their respective locations. It was thus designed so that a sense of unity would permeate the installations involved in the deployment to Afghanistan.

"We (also) want to provide activities for the families during the deployment," said

Stubbs.

All participants received free snacks, water, and T-shirts. Sixty-five trophies awaited the winners to cross the finish line of the 5-kilometer run. They were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers in all the age categories between 6 to 60 years old. Michael Cahill finished first overall with a time of 19 minutes and 12 seconds.

Reasons for participating varied from supporting the troops to getting a morning of exercise or winning an award.

"It's really a great opportunity to support the guys downrange. And I want a trophy to put on a shelf. I've never gotten one



before," said Crystal Taylor.

"My wife made me get out of bed and run," said Dale Lee of 69th Air Defense Artillery, laughing. "It's something we picked up in the run for cancer. We're always in support of a run when it's for a good cause."

What is YABA bowling?

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Each Saturday brings a morning of bowling for a certain group of kids in Schweinfurt. Young American Bowling Association (YABA) invites kids between 7 and 18 years old to participate in a fun morning of bowling and even welcomes the parents to have breakfast at the bowling alley while watching.



"(They come) to have fun...

Most of them love to bowl and don't get a chance until parents bring them Saturday morning," said Ernest Akridge, coach and president of the Schweinfurt YABA.

Anyone can join the team at any time throughout the season which runs from September through May.

"If you want to do other sports and come later, you can come play mid-season," said Akridge.

Kessler Bowling Alley hosts the games every Saturday. There is a \$5 charge for shoes and three games for each participant which pays in part for the bowling and also for trophies.

"I like bowling... because you can get your name on the wall," said sixth-grader Devonte Lyons, pointing at the winners wall above the lanes. Whoever bowls the high score for the month in their age group gets their name posted for everyone to see.

While there can be a spirit of competitiveness between the boys and girls, the bowling is really just for fun, said Akridge.

"This league is not putting pressure on them to do anything," he said. And he encourages all kids to come out and play.

USO MWR

Montgomery Gentry and Kellie Pickler In Concert

No video or audio recording permitted

Date: 12 Dec 2007 Time: 7 p.m. Place: Conn Airfield

door open 5 p.m. USO Sponsors

AT&T Coca-Cola 7-Eleven DRS CITICORP Disney



Youth groups team up for early turkey day

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

The turkey arrived in Schweinfurt a bit early this year, when the USAG Schweinfurt youth center and Club Beyond joined forces to host their second annual Thanksgiving dinner Saturday at the center on Ledward Barracks.

While the food preparation began Friday, the meat and potatoes of the dinner got hot Saturday morning, several hours before the 6 p.m. start.

“Our youth actually provide all the service and entertainment during the event,” said Donna Hilley, youth center facility manager.

“They also help with cooking, cleaning, set up, decorating, and running the sound system. The event gives youth an opportunity to honor their parents and our community during the season of thanks” she said. For the youth, though, the event had a bit of a different meaning.

“We’re out here helping other people,” said Diante Rigmaiden, who joined his fel-

low Passport to Manhood members at the serving line, dishing out the goods to partygoers.

“We’re just making sure we serve people and be polite,” he said.

Sasha Whitlock, the junior leader with the Smart Girls Club, another mentorship program at the youth center, said that, while they were there to celebrate Thanksgiving, they also wanted to have fun.

“And we just try to help out as much as we can,” she said. “Actually, it’s a lot of fun.”

“I just like volunteering,” said Virginia Browning, Club Beyond member, between serving cups of juice to guests.

“The Club Beyond and CYS (Child and Youth Services) partnership has grown since our original meeting and now CYS helps host their weekly meeting at the Youth Center,” Hilley said.

“It’s a great partnership and we are looking forward to more combined activities in the future,” she said.



Members of Passport to Manhood, a youth center mentorship program, dish out the fixings at the Thanksgiving dinner, hosted by the center and Club Beyond.

Garrison showcases agency assistance on Leighton

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Approximately 300 people ventured out in the cold rain Saturday to pick up information or second-hand appliances during the Leighton Community Showcase.

The event, held indoors next to the movie theater, featured information desks set up by agencies around the community in order to help residents preparing to move as well as those still in the area. Whether it was a list of upcoming ACS classes or information about your child’s school enrollment, experts were on hand to offer advice and information.

Representatives from Tricare were on hand with information regarding the changes in coverage that can accompany moves. Vet clinic information focused on shipping pets.

For those planning to travel with school-age children, the garrison school liaison officer Damon McGibboney was there to help.

“If you have questions about leaving the community, transferring to another school district, or a PCS, I can help,” he said. McGibboney’s resources include a worldwide list of school liaison contacts in both the Army and the Air Force.

Community members also had an opportunity to set up tables at a flea market collocated with the informational displays. Interested browsers could buy clothes, bread machines, transformer and toys.

Some of the 17 people displaying their wares were not above making hard-sale cases for their wares either.

“I’m saving up for a laptop,” said Maeve Shumate, 7, after pitching a Scooby-Doo book to a pair of possible buyers.

Although Scooby-Doo didn’t sell, Shumate’s mother, Marijia, noted that her daughter had already added \$15 dollars to her laptop fund.

For children not interested in building bank account, MWR had bouncy castles set-up in an adjacent room.

If you missed the showcase, you may always contact agencies directly for information and assistance.

“I encourage people to contact the school first, but I am always available to answer questions,” McGibboney said.

Community agency phone numbers can be viewed online at the Schweinfurt homepage, www.schweinfurt.army.mil, by clicking on “Phonebook” at the top of the page.

