



Infantry News



A Bravo Company Publication MAR 2002

On With The Mission!



Soldiers board aircraft headed for Germany

The soldiers of Bravo Company were called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom back in November 2001. The unit began the soldier readiness processing in mid-December. For some soldiers, this was a process that lasted most of the month. On January 4, 2002, Bravo Company transitioned from National Guard status to Active Duty as the federal order took effect. The company departed their home station armory in Elgin, Illinois on January 7, 2002, and arrived at Ft. Stewart, Georgia the same day. Just prior to departing Illinois, however, the company as part of Task Force Sante Fe received a personal send-off from Illinois Governor George Ryan and the state Adjutant General Major General David Harris. Following a pass in review ceremony the Governor and Adjutant General shook each soldier's hand as they boarded the plane for Ft. Stewart.

Task Force Sante Fe, headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany is a consolidation of several units led by the 66th Infantry Brigade. These units include 1/178 Infantry, 1/131 Infantry, 2/

130 Infantry, and 1/149 Infantry.

After arriving in Ft. Stewart the soldiers began a two-week mission specific train up period in Force Protection and Anti-Terrorism. Training topics included vehicle search techniques, explosive ordnance detection, checkpoint operations, patrolling, intelligence reporting, medical evacuation procedures, rifle and pistol marksmanship, and (cough, cough) the gas chamber.

Following a two-day culmination exercise, Bravo Company received mission validation and deployed to Darmstadt, Germany.



Unit troopers are briefed upon arrival at Rhein-Main air base, Frankfurt.

Bravo Company arrived in theatre at Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Frankfurt, Germany on January 22, 2002. From there the company moved to its barracks on Frankenstein Kaserne. (yes, that's its real name) The kaserne, a German military logistics base, is located in the Rhein river valley just a few miles from the Frankenstein Schloss (castle). The German military, it must be noted, welcomed Bravo Company in a hospitable way.

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Soldiers engage targets on ranges down at Ft. Stewart, GA



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"Cold Steel"



The 233rd Base Support Battalion, our parent unit while in Germany, provides the majority of the support for the unit. The 233rd BSB has made every effort to take care of all Bravo company soldiers. They provided some of the best accommodations a soldier could ask for. Each person has his own room, complete with a wardrobe cabinet for clothing, a bed, a sink



SPC Pates collects up his duffel bags upon arrival to Frankenstein Kaserne

with a mirror and some soldiers even got a chair and desk.

The 233rd BSB even set the soldiers up with a day room complete with TV, VCR, DVD and stereo. The installation accommodations are complete with a gym, movie theater, PX,

bowling alley, and one of the area's finer dining facilities. Many other soldiers in other companies on the deployment are not as fortunate to have support of the 233rd or the fine accommodations.

The company began a one-week in country brief from . Following the brief Bravo Company assumed its mission. The other local military units graciously welcomed the company by hosting an evening mixer at the Darmstater Club for our benefit.

Our company is tasked with providing force protection and anti terrorism assets to several military installations in the greater Darmstadt area. Our soldiers, broken down into various shifts, conduct check points, roving patrols, and vehicle searches. Bravo also provides a Quick Reaction Force in the event of an emergency. This force reacts to any hostile situation, any civilian incident, and any situation that the normal forces are not manned to handle.



PFC Mazzone and SPC Santiago pull guard duty at Kelly Barracks

Family and friends of Bravo Company soldiers should be proud. Their soldiers are performing this mission in the true infantry fashion...by leading the way. Bravo Company soldiers have integrated seamlessly with the Army's active

component and receive continuous praise for their performance. Everyone is looking forward to going home yet remaining mission focused.

By 2LT Jason Duey



Military ID Cards

Military ID cards for dependents can be very important during a deployment. Each dependant over age 10 should have received a DD Form 1172 (DEERS). This form is required for you to get a dependant ID card. If by chance, you did not receive a DD Form 1172 via U.S Postal mail, you can e-mail Nicole Akers at nicole.akers@il.ngb.army.mil and request a new one. Send your spouse's name and social security number and a new one will be mailed out to you.

You can get your photo taken and ID issued at any military installation like Great Lakes Naval Training Center (North of Lake Bluff, IL) or you can go to either the of the following locations:

Saturday March 9th at Woodstock, IL
Army National Guard Armory
12:00pm to 8:00pm

Sunday March 10th at Joliet, IL
Army National Guard Armory
12:00pm to 8:00pm

ID cards are useful for entering U.S. Military installations for personal, business and medical reasons. If you live near a military installation this will allow you to use the post facilities like the Post Exchange, Commissary, gyms, etc. In the event that you wish to travel to Germany to see you spouse or parent, you will find traveling on and off post much easier. Individuals without IDs will have to be signed on and off post each time and will not be able to travel unattended while on post.

by CPT Jeff Butte



Dependants and Guests Travel

Hardship deployments are rough on families. That is why families receive a family separation allowance with their pay.

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Fortunately this hardship tour is not like deployments some of us have been on before. Germany is a safe and modern nation with the same conveniences enjoyed in the United States. It is frequently traveled by U.S. Citizens for both business and leisure.

Families and guests may want to take advantage of the deployment to travel to Europe and see the various countries. There are many opportunities to travel within Germany, to other European countries, sample food, relax and spend time with your family.



There are a few things you will have to do to prepare for your trip. Prior to a guest visit, the soldier and visitor must establish a specific date and length of time for the duration of the visit. It would be wise to call a travel agent to begin searching for a flight. You will find great price ranges depending upon the day of arrival and return. This can be done

through a civilian or military travel agent like <http://www.satotravel.com>. The soldier will then advise his command element of an expected inbound visitor, dates of travel, intended length of stay, and (if necessary) request a pass or leave.

Task Force Sante Fe soldiers are deployed to Germany on unaccompanied active duty orders. Therefore, in accordance with Department of Defense regulation 4515.13-R military dependents may not use government space available transportation for travel into Europe. Guests and dependents may, however, travel in country via commercial transportation including SATO reserved flights in order to visit their soldiers in Germany

U.S. citizens arriving in Germany need a passport valid for their duration of stay. US permanent residents need their unexpired I-551 Lawful Permanent Resident card and a passport from their native country also valid for their duration of stay. Visas are not required to enter Germany by either U.S. Citizens or U.S. lawful permanent residents for tourist visits of less than 90 days.

Applications for U.S. passports generally may be obtained at your local post office and take 6 weeks to process. Requirements to obtain a US passport include a completed application form (DS-11), proof of US citizenship (i.e. certified birth certificate, naturalization certificate, etc.), present proof of identity (i.e. government-issued photo ID, driver's license, military ID, etc.), two 2x2 inch full face passport photographs, and applicable fees (\$60.00 for applicants 16 years or older and

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\$40.00 for applicants younger than 16 years). For expedited passport service (two week processing) add \$35.00 and clearly mark the application and envelope with the word "EXPEDITED." For further information please contact your local passport office listed in the government section of the White Pages or on the Internet at <<www.state.gov>>. Non- U.S. citizen dependents may obtain a passport from the Consulate General's office of their country. A listing of the nearest consulate offices may be found in the White Pages.

Frankfurt am Main International Airport serves the local community and is within one-half hour driving distance from Darmstadt. Guests and dependents visiting Germany should consider arriving there. Further information about the airport may be obtained at their website <<www.frankfurt-airport.de>>

Numerous car rental agencies are located on Frankfurt International Airport. US citizens possessing a valid state-issued driver's license for longer than 185 days may operate a vehicle in Germany for up to six (6) months. The US driver, however, must carry their license and a certified translation of that license with them while operating a motor vehicle. Nevertheless, public transportation in Germany is rather efficient and simple to use. Trains from Frankfurt International to Darmstadt run every two hours daily. They are easy to find and one-way fares cost less than •20.00.

The Patriot Inn provides lodging for military in the greater Darmstadt area. Reservations may be made from the US by calling 011-49-6151-60190 or from within Germany by calling 06151-60190. Railgunners Arms provides lodging for those stationed in Babenhausen. Reservations there may be made from the US by calling 011-49-6073-6880400 or from within Germany by calling 06073-6880400.

The checklist provided below will provide a quick reference to use prior to travel into the Federal Republic of Germany.

- a. Apply for passport at least six weeks prior to intended travel.
- b. Specify to soldier your dates of travel and length of stay in Germany.
- c. Sponsoring soldier notifies command of visit dates and requests pass or leave.
- d. Following command approval, purchase airline tickets (at least two weeks prior to visit).
- e. Soldier reserves lodging and rental vehicle (as appropriate)
- f. Receive passport and ensure its validity through the dates of travel.
- g. Travel to Germany.

by 2LT Jason Duey

"Cold Steel"





National Guard soldiers' families cope with USAREUR Deployment

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Hoffman remembers exactly where he was and what he was doing when he found out he was being activated as part of Task Force Santa Fe in late November last year. He was standing on a ladder in the basement of a building where he was working.

Hoffman is a full-time building contractor and a part-time National Guard platoon sergeant with B Co., 1/178 Infantry in Elgin, Illinois. Bravo Co. soldiers have taken over some of the force protection duties in Darmstadt and Babenhausen.

As soon as he heard, he headed home to tell his wife, Valerie.

"Valerie cried," Hoffmann said, "she was sad and concerned. At that time we didn't know a lot of details about where we were going or for how long."

Hoffman says when he got the call he was told that soldiers in B Co. were to "prepare to be deployed to the European theatre" and "it would not be Afghanistan".

Shortly after telling his wife, Hoffman received a call from 1st Lt. Dan Barroso, B Co.'s executive officer. "I have to work tonight," Barroso told Hoffman, "tell Valerie not to call Sharon with the news. I want to sit down with her in the morning and tell her." Sharon, about three months pregnant at the time, is Barroso's wife and Valerie's sister.

"I just couldn't let Sharon find out from someone else," Barroso said. "I was deployed to Kuwait in June 2000 when our son, Cole, was born. Now, I was going to be deployed to somewhere in Europe at the time our second child was due. I knew this was going to be very difficult for Sharon." Valerie was in the delivery room with Sharon when Cole was born July 22, 2000.

The Hoffmans and Barrosos were relieved when they found out Dec. 27 that the unit was going to Germany. It was just a few days later when they had pinpoint orders to the 233rd Base Support Battalion. They arrived in Darmstadt Jan. 23 and began two weeks of inprocessing.

Since the military began downsizing, said Barroso, National Guard units are being activated more frequently as security forces. "Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, employers are more supportive of deployments," he said. "They're very patriotic."

"My company is paying me the difference in what I was earning as a full-time employee and what I'm earning now as a first lieutenant. All employers are different in how they

handle the deployments and are not required to pay their deployed employees anything. They are required, however, to offer the soldiers a job of equal pay and responsibility when they return as they had when they left."

Hoffman, formerly a full-time National Guard recruiter, adds that more frequent deployments may play a big role in retention. "It's going to be difficult to retain National Guard soldiers," he said, "because the deployments are increasing. It's difficult not only for those of us who have families and full-time jobs but also for the young soldiers who are going to college."



National Guardsmen 1st Lt. Dan Barroso, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Ron Hoffman are in Darmstadt to augment force protection at 233rd Base Support Battalion Kasernes as part of Task Force Santa Fe.

Being away for an extended period of time is hard on the entire family, but Hoffman and Barroso both feel they have it the easiest. "It's our wives who are carrying the biggest burden," Barroso says. "We have three meals a day prepared for us and we concentrate on our jobs," Barroso says. "Sharon's hours of operation are a lot longer than mine. She's managing all the household tasks, working full-time, taking care of the cars, taking care of Cole and preparing for the new baby."

This time, Barroso says, his wife is asking for and accepting assistance. Valerie and Sharon see each other every other day. Their mother moved from Arizona to help out and lives with Valerie. Barroso's mom is living with Sharon and his dad lives nearby. Hoffman's dad takes care of household chores for Valerie that Hoffman would normally do. Neighbors are pitching in and shoveling snow.

Hoffman talks to his wife about three times a week. He talked recently to his 3-year-old daughter "Cassie" via an Internet messaging service. "It was very emotional," Hoffman said. "She's too young to understand all about the deployment but says 'Daddy's at the Army with Uncle Dan'."

by Donna K. Dean
Public Affairs Specialist
233rd BSB

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Land Navigation

Training in Germany is cold wet business...just ask the seven soldiers who spent one night with a local German Reserve Unit. Bravo Company soldiers and officers alike participated in a two-day land navigation contest with the local German unit, February 22. "We provided two teams, an officer and enlisted that competed against each other. "Hooah!", said 2nd Platoon Leader Jason Duey with a smile. The two teams



Bravo Company took both second and third place at land navigation. However, only the officer's trophy could be found for the newsletter photo.

competed and carried the flag of their respective corps, officer or enlisted, but only one prevailed. "I knew it would be no sweat beating the officers." Said SSG Gerry Tuzon, "I mean the officers just sit around and drink coffee all day, how could they have won the competition without a GPS?"

The participants on the enlisted team included; SPC Zach Kluson, PFC Joe Wallace, SSG Phil Compean, and SSG Gerry Tuzon. The officer team was spearheaded by CPT Jeff Butte with 2LT Jason Duey and 2LT Matt Garrison pulling up the rear with the gear. There were several phases to the training event which included land navigation, authenticate with a German radio, identify German weapon systems and vehicles, and a general military knowledge test. The Germans were very enthusiastic to train with us and made every effort to make us feel welcome.

The competition started with the first team leaving the start point at 9:30pm and the last team returning that morning around 4:30am. The weather had plenty in store for us, "It was cold, wet and dark. The mud on the trails was very deep" said SSG Phil Compean. Although the rain came down hard for the first two hours of the event, it eventually moved on and so did the enlisted team which finished in 5 hours and 20 minutes. The officer team spent a little more time on the ground orienting themselves to the local terrain, but eventually came back with a 7 hour and 30 minute time.

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Once the competition was complete all soldiers got some much-needed sleep and woke up the next morning to a hot German breakfast. The Saturday morning then finished up with a 12:30 German church service and an awards ceremony. There were six teams in all, a German team took 1st Place, with the NCO team from Bravo company taking 2nd place, and the officer team coming in with a close 3rd place. The ceremony marked the end of the training event and a long night spent in the mud for all the participants. All in all, we had a good time with the Germans and learned quite a bit about how they train.

by 2LT Matt Garrison

Company Promotions



During the deployment many soldiers will find their promotion dates coming up. Those eligible, highly motivated individuals may have the opportunity to have new rank pinned



Second Platoon Leader 2LT Jason Duey promotes PV2 Earl Woods to PFC (Private First Class) effective 08 March 2002

on.

Private Second Class Earl Woods from Second Platoon was promoted to Private First Class (PFC) with an effective date of 08 MAR 2002.

Additionally Private Second Class Richard Mantick from Second Platoon was promoted to Private First Class (PFC) with an effective date of 20 DEC 2001.

The company would like to congratulate these newly promoted soldiers on their accomplishment.

"Cold Steel"





2LT Jason Duey pins PFC rank on newly promoted PFC Richard Mantick

Unit Announcements

Bravo Company would like to express its condolences to the family of SPC Herman Rainey. SPC Rainey's uncle, Major Broughton, passed away on February 24. SPC Rainey was able to take leave to be present with the family for the funeral.



Command Notes



For many soldiers and their families, this is their first deployment. The announcement of the deployment coupled with the war in Afghanistan and the threat world wide of terrorism brought a tremendous amount of stress upon the soldiers and their families. The company leadership has done its best to try to relieve as much of that stress as possible through many methods.

Bravo Company has transitioned well to active duty. The unit is treated here just like any other tenant unit in the European theater of operations. The day to day events for the company are very similar to many other active duty units. Our mission here is to relieve other units from force protection duty so that they may go to the field and catch up on other much needed projects. These same units will relieve us as we go to the field in late May and late July to conduct much needed training. Soldiers conduct physical training, force protection missions, additional duties like Charge of Quarters and Staff Duty, complete lots of paperwork, plan and conduct small unit training.

Care of the soldier does not stop with him. It carries on to his family as well. Upon arrival, the company leadership began an immediate review of soldier's pay to identify and

correct issues. During the entire mission we will continue ensuring each soldier gets his proper amount of pay and allowances.

Bravo Company is proud to boast that they are the best taken care of unit in Germany. Overall we have some of the best housing conditions of the Task Force. The 233rd BSB has ensured that our mission schedule is within our capabilities allowing for soldiers to have the same time off that their soldiers get. Our schedule has us rotating to different locations every few weeks to relieve other units. This helps relieve the boredom that soldiers might get from doing the same mission in the same location too long at one time.

The unit will go to the field at least twice during the rotation. We are an Infantry unit and will need to maintain our proficiency. We will have the opportunity to go to firing ranges, train on combat skills and train our newly promoted leaders.

We will also have many opportunities to travel and sight see. Soldiers will become stressed being away from their families just as much as the family becomes stressed at home. This of course becomes an issue as the soldier carry weapons on duty. The unit has a Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee that is planning several events to entertain, educate and relieve the stress of soldiers. Soldiers are participating in sporting events, recreational biking and bowling, traveling to see castles and will have the opportunity to see historical sites like the Normandy Beaches, the French Maginot Line and battle sites in Belgium and Holland. We are doing our best to take care of the soldiers and accommodate their family visits so that they can enjoy this as well.

If any of the families are experiencing any hardships that the unit may assist with, please contact us through either the family support group or through your soldiers chain of command. The unit has established a FAX number that delivers to us in Germany. In the event that you need to send something to a unit soldier immediately, FAX to 1-815-425-0183. This may assist many of you during tax season.

May your family be blessed during this deployment.

CPT Jeff Butte and 1SG David Walker

Unit Web Site

The unit web site can now be found at:

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/b-1-178/>

New sections will be added within the week. See the unit newsletter, photos and other features about the deployment.



"Cold Steel"