

# BOSS spreads holiday cheer to Mainz youths

By Chrystal Smith  
U.S. Army Garrison  
Wiesbaden Public  
Affairs Office

During the holiday season the spirit of giving possesses many. The focus of most of the world is on giving the perfect gift to loved ones, friends, teachers and coworkers. But for members of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, it was showing kindness to a group of children in a local Mainz clinic.

Six members of the program visited the University of Mainz Children's Clinic Dec. 18 to deliver cards, candy and stuffed animals to children who were suffering from various severe illnesses.

"I hope to bring a smile to the children's faces. I hope to bring joy during this holiday season," said Sgt. Naymar Hernandez, 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion, just before ar-

iving at the clinic.

During the ride over the Soldier learned more details about the general conditions of the patients they were planning to visit. For some of the patients, this would be their last Christmas, as they were deemed terminal cancer patients. Others were receiving treatment that would perhaps add more days or years to their young lives.

"It's important to reach out to people," said Hernandez, a Tampa, Fla. native who said she has done other types of community service in other locations since serving in the military.

And while gift-giving is customary during the latter part of the year, the gesture extended to the patients of the clinic was not taken for granted.

"It's wonderful to see that other people do care and they share their gifts with us," said Meike Radloff, University of

Mainz Children's Clinic nurse, who explained the patients in the ward were diagnosed with cancer or some other rare diseases, and are receiving chemotherapy, radiation or are in recovery.

"It is wonderful... The kid is happy," said Malvinder Singh, speaking of what the visit from BOSS meant to his 11-year-old daughter who was recovering from an operation she had undergone Dec. 4 to remove a tumor.

The Soldiers were not able to visit each patient because the circumstances of their infirmities dictated otherwise. However, the soldiers left gifts for them all before continuing on to other parts of the clinic to share the remaining gifts with other children during the visit.

"I think you can see the kids really appreciated everything," said Radloff, as she expressed her gratitude to the Soldiers.



Photo by Chrystal Smith

Sgt. Charles Jones Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, presents Kaur Savkirth a teddy bear Dec. 18 during a visit to Mainz University's Childrens Clinic.

"We enjoy bringing happiness and joy to others. ... It's what we do," said Spc. Christine Martinez, BOSS president, who said the group was involved in other community service projects during the holi-

day season that included gift wrapping at the post exchange, participation at the community tree lighting celebration, and a visit to see wounded Soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Better Opportunities

for Single Soldiers holds monthly meetings at the BOSS Center in Building 1062. Single Soldiers interested in joining the program should check the BOSS link at [www.armygermany.com](http://www.armygermany.com) for more information.

## Accommodation guidance available online

By Sara Goodeyon  
U.S. Army Garrison  
Wiesbaden Public Affairs  
Office

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Equal Employment Office has a new reasonable accommodation Standing Operation of Procedure document available on the garrison website.

Reasonable accommodation is for individuals who have a disability and are otherwise qualified or capable of doing the essential duties of the job. It was made possible by Executive Order 13164 that went into effect in July 2000 re-establishing a process for reasonable accommodation for qualified workers.

"The reasonable accommodation is a change in the work environment or in the applica-

tion process that would enable a person with a disability to enjoy equal employment opportunities," said Ron Vitiello, USAG Wiesbaden EEO specialist. "Reasonable accommodation should be considered with regards to purpose and process, the capability to perform the essential functions of the job and enjoy benefits of his or her workplace."

The new SOP provides details on the steps to take for individuals with disabilities who may be in need of a reasonable accommodation. The SOP also includes the forms required for beginning the request process for a reasonable accommodation. It is important to remember that if the condition is not visible, medical documentation supporting the condition must be submit-

ted to the supervisor.

Further information about the types of accommodations is available at the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program website, <http://www.tricare.mil/CAP>.

The website also provides a catalog of various assistive technology devices and other items available for reasonable accommodation requests.

Vitiello said the USAG Wiesbaden EEO will provide reasonable accommodation training for garrison supervi-

sors and special staff to ensure that any request is processed as quickly as possible. "As soon as the employees state to the supervisor that they have a disability and need an accommodation then the process begins," said Vitiello. "It is essential that our managers handle the request in a prompt, fair and efficient manner."

Each reasonable accommodation request is reviewed on its own merits as to whether it can be granted. If a request is

denied, an explanation is provided.

"Reasonable accommodation is not about lowering standards when hiring or working with people with disabilities," said Vitiello. "Reasonable accommodation should be looked at in a broader context as an attempt to create an equal playing field for people with disabilities."

For more information about reasonable accommodation contact Vitiello at mil 337-5616 or civ (0611) 705-5616.

Kellerskopf

# Program helps ready youths for kindergarten

**By Karl Weisel**  
U.S. Army Garrison  
Wiesbaden Public Affairs  
Office

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Child Development Centers introduced a new program Jan. 5 aimed at helping children better prepare for school.

The Installation Management Command-Europe pilot program, "Strong Beginnings Pre-K," focuses on youngsters' social, emotional and physical development while equipping them with the basic academics and "kindergarten etiquette" skills to enhance school readiness, according to Cecilia Kandler, USAG Wiesbaden Child, Youth and School Services coordinator.

Children entering kindergar-



Photo by Karl Weisel

**The new Child, Youth and School Services "Strong Beginnings Pre-K" program is aimed at helping prepare children for their first school experience.**

ten in fall 2009 are eligible for the program.

The Strong Beginnings Pre-K program is offered five days a week.

It is held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Child Development Center, located in Building 1502, and at Hainerberg's CDC, located in Building 7875. Wiesbaden Army Airfield's other CDC, located in Building 5101, features the Strong Beginnings program from 1-4 p.m.

"Strong Beginnings is a five-day program because children attend school five days a week," said Kandler, explaining that the program mirrors the Department of Defense Dependents Schools' school year calendar.

Care, for children of working parents, is provided before and after the Strong Beginnings classes, she added.

With a curriculum based on the Creative Curriculum program, a widely used early development program in the United States, a typical week might include the following academic schedule:

**Monday:** Language/Literacy; **Tuesday:** Mathematics; **Wednesday:** Science and Technology; **Thursday:** Social Studies; **Friday:** Physical Development.

Classrooms feature several learning stations including: math, science/discovery, language/literacy, writing, art, creative expression, sand and water, technology, blocks/construction, music/movement, fine motor, rotated woodworking

and cooking.

"We now have early learning standards," said Cynthia Bommarito, USAG Wiesbaden CYSS training and curriculum specialist, "that say these are skills children must have in order to enter kindergarten."

Bommarito, who attended training in the United States to prepare for the new program, said, "It's designed to prepare children to be ready to go to kindergarten. We're doing more intentional teaching."

USAG Wiesbaden was selected as one of the pilot sites in Europe to offer the new program.

For more information about the "Strong Beginnings Pre-K" program parents should inquire at their local Child Development Center or at the Central Enrollment Office.

**Sushiedo**

**Sachsencar**

**Autohaus Haese**

**Cool Gmbh**



Photo by Karl Weisel

## Help save a life

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club, in association with the Armed Services Blood Bank Center-Europe, sponsors a community-wide blood drive Jan. 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Give blood and enter to win a \$50 gift certificate. Visit [www.militarylifeforce.com](http://www.militarylifeforce.com) for information on donating.

## Rewarding superior service

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden leaders in cooperation with the Defense Commissary Agency and Medical Command awarded the following employees for excellent customer service for the month of December. Awardees received a certificate of appreciation and an on-the-spot cash award:

**Danny Batara**, sales store technician, works in the Wiesbaden Commissary. His consistent attitude and standard of customer service has been noted by both his coworkers and store patrons. Most recently notable was Batara's willingness to help a customer with physical limitations to complete his shopping. "I want to let you know that this employee went out of his way to assist me in my shopping. ... He was just so happy to help me," said the customer.

**Margaret Ann Beck**, a registered nurse who works in the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic, was a standout because of her undying consideration, compassion, work ethic and customer care. "The nominee takes her work seriously, but knows how to make patients smile. ... She knows how to help smooth out their problems and accommodate their needs," said a superior who recommended Beck to the Customer Service Awards Board.

**Kaiserud Din** works in the Directorate Public Works Housing Division where customers have often noted the customer service rendered. He has been deemed a go-to employee by his peers and often works after



**Batara**



**Beck**



**Din**



**Ebert**



**Marquez**



**Price**

hours to thoroughly assist customers. Most notably, Din sacrificed approved leave to accommodate redeployment processing of 1st Armored Division Soldiers.

**Marcus Ebert**, Directorate of Logistics office furnisher manager, has planned and organized moves for all transitioning units, directorates and organizations in the Wiesbaden area of operations. His efforts have saved the garrison labor hours and money. As a result he has received many satisfactory Installation Customer Evaluation comments from several directorates and agencies in the garrison.

**Alberto Marquez**, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security plans specialist, always seeks to find out the customer's needs while going the extra step to ensure

success of the customer. His efforts have led to improvement in internal processes, while simultaneously improving the quality of garrison operations among the directorates and agencies. Recently Marquez reported a record for the number of official taskings received and completed for the garrison.

**Forrest Price** of the Wiesbaden Dining Facility staff, received many favorable ICE feedback program comments from dining facility customers. "His approach to customer service makes dining an enjoyable experience for everyone he comes in contact with. The customer service culture in the dining facility is changing for the better and Forrest is an integral part of this transformation which is an outstanding example of customer service in the USAG Wiesbaden."

**Lucia's**



Photo by Sara Goodeyon

### Seed money

Chaplain (Col.) Bruce Fredrickson, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden assistant staff chaplain, and Michael Mellows with Friends on the Lahn Lodge 860 of Giessen, discuss how to use the lodge's \$250 donation to the Wiesbaden Chapel to begin a single Soldier outreach program. The chapel received other donations during the holiday season. Among them was a \$500 donation from Clyde Barton and members of the American Military Scottish Rite Bodies Orient of NATO Bases.



**Fidus**

# USAG Wiesbaden

## Community notes ... Community notes

### PWOC spring kickoff

The Wiesbaden Protestant Women of the Chapel invite everyone to the spring kickoff of their "Cleaning Out a Space at Jesus' Feet" program Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel. The event will feature Leslie Jarrow, PWOC European prayer coordinator, and lunch will be provided. Child care will be available. Contact [pwoc-wiesbaden@hotmail.com](mailto:pwoc-wiesbaden@hotmail.com).

### MLK Lunch, inauguration event

Two special Equal Opportunity events are slated for January. A **Dr. Martin Luther King luncheon** will be held Jan. 15 at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center at 11:30 a.m. The Wiesbaden High School choir will perform and Paul Brown will present an interpretive dance performance staged to a musical version of Dr. King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech. On Jan. 20 the CAC will be the place to catch a live broadcast of the **Presidential Inauguration**. The event is free with doors opening at 5 p.m. and entertainment by the WHS band starting at 5:30 p.m. The swearing in will occur at 6 p.m. For more information on EO programs and how to become a volunteer contact Master Sgt. Mark Jordan at mil 337-5897.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meet every Thursday at the Hainerberg Chapel activities room. Meetings start at 6 p.m. Help kick off 2009 and join in the camaraderie. Call civ (0151) 5125 3104 or (0152) 07466764 for more information.

### Casualty assistance training

As a casualty notification officer or casualty assistance officer you will have the honor and duty of assisting the family of someone who has paid the ultimate price in defense of the nation. U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden offers **CNO training** Jan. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and **CAO training** Jan. 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Wiesbaden's Flyers Theater on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Call Sean Crady at mil 337-7668

for more information.

### Public speaking workshops

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Equal Opportunity Office features the first of a series of brown bag lunch workshops featuring Jasandra Brown speaking about public speaking Jan. 22 at noon in Building 1023E, Room 220 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

### Emergency care providers needed

Help make a difference in a child's life by becoming an Emergency placement care provider. Caring individuals are sought by the Wiesbaden Family Advocacy Program willing to open their hearts and homes to military children needing a little extra love and attention when their parents or guardians are temporarily unable to care for them. The program is designed to provide short term care for a child needing unconditional love during a difficult time. Call civ (0611) 4080 234 if interesting in helping.

### Retirement and transition briefings

The Wiesbaden Transition Center features various briefings to help Soldiers and their families prepare for transition and/or retirement. **Pre-retirement briefings** are held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 210, Building 1023W on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Upcoming pre-retirement briefings will be held Jan. 21, April 22, July 22 and Oct. 21. Call mil 337-62966638 to reserve a space. Transitioning Soldiers are required to attend a **pre-separation briefing** at least 90 days before their transition date. Briefings are held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Flyers Theater on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Upcoming dates are Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. Soldiers reaching 14 and a half years of active duty service should attend a **Career Status Bonus/REDUX briefing** to learn about all aspects of the new retirement system. CSB/REDUX briefings will be held Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 from

9-10 a.m. in Room 107, Building 1023W on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Call mil 337-6296 or 6638 to reserve a seat.

### Deployment discounts

Don't forget that families of deployed service members are eligible for discounts at Rheinblick Golf Course and the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Bowling Center. Call Mark Smith at mil 336-2791 or Sharon Parker at mil 335-5654 for details.

### Mommy, Daddy 101

The Family Advocacy and New Parent Support Programs feature a Mommy and Daddy 101 class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Army Community Service Conference Room. Call civ (0611) 408 0234 for details.

### Financial Readiness

A Family Readiness Group Leader and Liaison Officer Certification Training class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 10. An FRG Forum/Senior Leader Roundtable will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 11. Classes are held in the Army Community Service Conference Room. Call mil 335-5234.



### Job Readiness

Upcoming Employment Readiness classes include **Dress for Success** Feb. 9, **Employment Orientation** and **Resumix** Feb. 10, **Resume and Cover Letter** Feb. 11 and **Interview Techniques** Feb. 12. Classes are held from 2-3 p.m. in the Army Community Service Conference Room in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (0611) 408 0234.

### WCSC happenings

The Wiesbaden Spouses Club holds a **crystal bingo luncheon** Jan. 28. Interested members can make reservations at [wscs\\_a.l\\_reservations@yahoo.com](mailto:wscs_a.l_reservations@yahoo.com) (for last names A-L) and [wscs\\_m.z\\_reservations@yahoo.com](mailto:wscs_m.z_reservations@yahoo.com) (last names M-Z). Membership is half price starting in January — \$10. Other January WCSC activities include **walking groups**, a **swimming pool trip**, **Cologne cathedral tour**, visit to **Wächtersbach factory**, **Community Information Brief**, **lunch bunch** and more. Email [WCSC\\_EVENTS@yahoo.com](mailto:WCSC_EVENTS@yahoo.com) for more information.

Autohaus Hollmann



Photo by 1st Lt. Jamen Miller

**Capt. Andrew Slack, a Cincinnati native, speaks with girls at the Al-Nahareen Girls Primary School in the Sadr City district of Baghdad Dec. 25.**

# Soldiers provide supplies to school girls

**By 1st Lt. Jamen Miller**  
*Company C, 1-35th Armor Regiment,  
Task Force 1-6*

Imagine a city where education is not valued for the immense impact it has on a child's life — or where attending a school of formal education could mean forfeiting your life.

One did not have to travel far into Sadr City during the governance of the extremists and militants to witness the injustices firsthand. Children did not attend schools, especially girls, mainly because veteran teachers had either fled the city due to violence or simply ceased teaching because of the threat to their safety.

Schools that were not being used by the militia as staging points and hideouts were in such a degraded state that class could not effectively be held.

Now fast-forward to the present day, when children feel safe enough to walk to school alone without their parents escorting them. Neighborhood councils are fighting political battles to ensure schools are resupplied beyond previous levels, and the importance of a formal education at all ages is valued.

With the help of Soldiers from Task Force 1-6 and 3rd Battalion, 42nd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, schools

in Sadr City have not only been reconstructed, but reconstituted with the mission to spread education in an attempt to end illiteracy and ignorance that makes militia groups so prevalent — a subtle way of waging war against special groups.

In this war-torn city, teachers are now armed with the dedication to teach children once again and to attempt to rebuild their city one child at a time.

The 3rd Platoon, which is part of Company C "Warlord," 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, and Task Force Regulars, which is in turn attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, in conjunction with their Iraqi Security Force counterparts from 4th Company, 3rd Battalion, 42nd Brigade, 11th IA Division, conducted an operation to deliver backpacks, food and water to the needy children of the Al-Nahareen Girls Primary school in the Thawra I region of Sadr City. The tokens go a long way to further instill the importance of education in the minds of the developing girls who attend the school.

Many of the children received backpacks already through efforts by the headmistress, Miriam Mohsen, and teachers of the school. However, a group

of students who have suffered the sad-denning loss of their fathers due to violence have not been rewarded for their dedication to education. The girls are at the fourth and fifth levels of their school, are more than deserving of recognition for their sacrifices. Upon the platoon's arrival, the headmistress called the girls from their classes and assembled them in the courtyard.

There were more students occupying the newly renovated school than the platoon imagined. The girls were looking around and giggling at the Warlord Company and 4th Company Soldiers who flanked them on all sides.

"I believe these girls will help to heal the wounds of the fighting that has been caused by the militias — not just figuratively, but also literally," said Spc. Eric Williams, medic with 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1-35th Armor. "So many doctors and nurses have fled the city due to sectarian violence. My hope is that these girls will go to college to become the next generation of doctors and nurses who will help cure the country of suffering."

An Iraqi Army officer, 2nd Lt. Farass, was called forward to help distribute backpacks to the students who were organized in front of the assembly.

Speaking with the headmistress when

the event concluded and hearing her appreciation for 3rd Platoon's efforts made the time spent organizing the logistics and including it into the planning worthwhile for the Soldiers.

"The dedication that American forces have shown (in Sadr City) is amazing. Every day, you show us how much you care for the children. My wish would be that everyone in the city can see your good deeds and help to make sure everything continues to improve, if only for the children," Mohsen said

Soldiers on both sides said they support her view and look forward to the day when education is a right afforded to every child around the country.

Although the scope of the operation was small when looking at the number of children reached, the magnitude of the impact on the community is tremendous. Gaining support for schools, especially schools for girls, from the neighborhoods can help ensure the successes that have been gained in Sadr City are maintained upon the unit's departure.

With more public outpouring of support and the return of teachers to the area to educate, the potential for more opportunities for children in the poverty stricken area of the city can continue in the years and decades to come.

# Community loses valued team member

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs

Nothing has greater emotional impact than when someone close to you passes on. Without question, that was the case for members of the U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder when William G. Childs passed away Dec. 3.

Childs worked for the garrison Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for nine years as a plans and operations specialist dealing mainly with the planning of military events such as deployment, redeployment, reintegration and other installation operations.

"I have known Childs since he began working here in the garrison, and I was resigned to lose this valuable member of my team to another organization in the U.S., but I never thought I would lose him to his untimely death. His loss has been devastating to me and the rest of the staff. We will never forget him," said Bianca Bowen, director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Before his untimely death, Childs was ready to depart for

his next assignment at West Point where he was to work as an emergency planner.

His experience and knowledge of military operations, planning and execution stems from a long career as an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

"He was really a wealth of knowledge when dealing with operations, planning and execution," said Bowen. "He was well respected in the garrison and units by his peers and superiors and will be sadly missed. His sudden death has deprived the military of his vast knowledge and experience," said Bowen.

"William could get more done with one phone call, than most people could do with five memos," said Laney Rich, a member of DPTMS and colleague of Childs. "He was a man

of his word. If William Childs promised you he was going to do something for you, consider it done," said Rich.

Although he interacted extensively with garrison and unit members in the course of his job, Childs was a very private person. He shied away from crowds and

social functions, concentrating mostly on getting his job done. His trademark was his extensive cap collection. He was rarely seen without one, indoors or out. "William didn't make friends easily, but if he considered you his

friend, you had a friend for life," said Rich.

Childs came to Baumholder in 1999 from Hohenfels where he worked as an AAFES employee for a short period after retiring from the U.S. Army.

Childs was a native of



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
A rare moment — William Childs removes his cap for a photo.

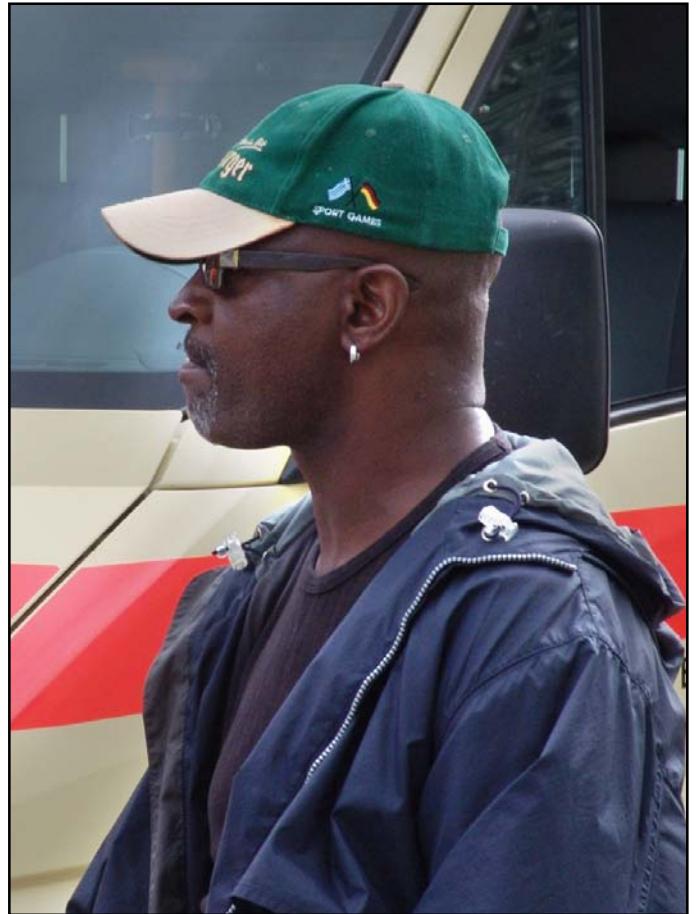


Photo by Rosemarie Rubalcava  
William Childs focuses on the activities of firefighters and medical personnel during a U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder force protection exercise.

Tuscaloosa, Ala. He is survived by his ex-wife Miriam and son Stefano William Childs, 23.

delible among his colleagues in the garrison, the Baumholder community and all who knew him," said Bowen.

## Soldier eulogized as epitome of Army values



Photo by Pfc. Evan Loyd

A traditional Soldier's memorial erected at the Camp Striker Chapel, Victory Base Complex, pays tribute to Staff Sgt. Brandon Augustus on Dec. 17.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Augustus was memorialized by friends and fellow Soldiers during a ceremony at the Camp Striker Chapel on the Victory Base Complex Dec. 17.

Augustus, a combat medic with Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, died Dec. 11 in Baumholder while on Rest and Relaxation leave.

"I remember Staff. Sgt. Augustus after his being named the NCO of the quarter, flushed with pride and with a big smile on his face. It was a good day, a very good day," said Lt. Col. Michel Russell, commander of 47th FSB.

Augustus was born in 1979 and joined the Army in June 1997. After graduating from Basic Combat Training, at Fort

Leonard Wood, Mo., he attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and was awarded the military occupation specialty of combat medic.

Augustus was then assigned to U.S. Army Europe, where he served with the Babenhausen Health Clinic, Würzburg Combat Support Hospital and finally Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder.

"He was a successful, squared away Soldier," said 1st Lt. Gerard Galindo, acting commander of Company C. "I will always remember his smile."

Soldiers who memorialized Augustus remembered him as the epitome of what a Soldier should be, referring to his photograph adorned on the Army values poster in the headquar-

ters of the 47th FSB.

"He was recognized as a true example of a leader living the Army values," said Capt. Charles Lahmon, chaplain. "He lived for others and not himself and did what was right even when no one was looking."

Augustus was also remembered for bringing laughter to Company C and for being a family man.

"He was a great husband, father and friend," said Staff Sgt. Chad Wilson a fellow medic. "I will never forget about you."

Spc. Michael Woywood, a medic who was supervised by Augustus, described him as not the kind of man who talked about himself.

"One of Staff. Sgt. Augustus' replies to any assigned mission was 'I got it.' I am going to miss Augustus," said Woywood.

# Regulars gather to mourn fallen comrade



Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

Sgt. Phillip Scott (center), a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1-6, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, which is currently attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, pauses before going to the podium to speak about Pfc. Coleman Hinkefent during a memorial Dec. 29 for the Oklahoma native at Joint Security Station Old MOD.

Mourners gathered at an outpost in northeastern Baghdad Dec. 29 to pay tribute to a fellow Soldier who died Dec. 20 after a short battle with leukemia.

Pfc. Coleman Hinkefent was an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1-6, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, which is currently attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

He developed leukemia while deployed to Iraq and died after being evacuated to Germany.

The Oklahoma native was remembered for his ability to lighten up nearly every situation and as a man who quickly adapted and earned the respect of those with whom he served.

“He had a resounding effect on the lives of many people he

came in contact with throughout his life,” said Capt. Aaron Newcomer, who serves as the commander of Company A, 1-6th Infantry Regiment.

Hinkefent joined the Army in January 2008 and was assigned to Task Force 1-6 in June as it was in the thick of rebuilding Sadr City.

“He reminds me a lot of myself during my first deployment,” said Sgt. Phillip Scott, who serves with Company A, TF 1-6.

Scott also recalled a good natured “war” they shared that began after the NCO threw a banana at Hinkefent on a hot, summer day.

“One thing I remember about ‘Hinke’ was that no matter what, he would never quit something he started,” Scott said.

Hinkefent is survived by his father, Eric, mother, Belinda, siblings, Emil, Erica and Haley, and fiancée, Jordan.

# Task Force 1-6 memorializes Cpl. Tony Gonzales



Photos by Sgt. Whitney Houston

A traditional display of combat boots, identification tags, an M-4 carbine and an Army combat helmet sits in front of a slide show playing in memory of Cpl. Tony Gonzales, who served with Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, Task Force 1-6, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

By Sgt. Whitney Houston

3rd Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs Office, 4th  
Infantry Division, MND-B

Soldiers gathered at Joint Security Station Old MOD Jan. 5 to memorialize Cpl. Tony Gonzales.

Gonzales was killed by a roadside bomb in Sadr City Dec. 28.

“Cpl. Gonzales epitomized everything that was right in young Soldiers today; he was disciplined, he volunteered for everything and he did not rest until the job was done,” said Lt.



A Soldier sits full of emotion in front of a display for Cpl. Tony Gonzales.

Col. Brian Eifler, commander of 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, which is currently attached to 3rd BCT, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B.

Gonzales’s company commander, Capt. Andrew Slack, spoke of some of the good times of “Gonzo’s” life and his at-the-ready intelligence as a Soldier.

“Just under two years ago, Gonzo started out in our 3rd Platoon as an M1A1 tank driver. Gonzo was tall, skinny and lanky; his voice squeaked sometimes, and when we went to the field he grew the customary field moustache that looked more like something that he got from a Halloween costume rather than something he had grown himself. But at the ripe age of 18 he stood out amongst his peers as a very intelligent and mature Soldier with an inclination to quickly understand and learn things.”

Friend and colleague Staff Sgt. Timothy Cannon continued to speak of Gonzo’s proficiency and good attitude as a versatile Soldier.

“Cpl. Gonzales was just one of those Soldiers that whatever job you put him in, he loved doing it. He who would give 100 percent, from driving a tank, from being the unit armorer, flying his UAV and being a dismount; whatever he did he gave his all.”

Cannon also spoke of Gonzo’s good humor and desire to make people laugh.

“One of my personal memories that I will never forget of Gonzo is when the guys would be playing Call of Duty 4. He would tell everyone what each weapon was and what kind of round it fired while they were trying to play, and all they could do was laugh, cause that was Gonzo. ‘Just trying to help,’ he would say.”

From speaker to speaker throughout the memorial service it was clear that he was an intelligent and proficient Soldier, as well as a family member who would be missed and remembered forever.

Gonzales is survived by his parents Tony and Marlynn Gonzales, as well as his sisters Shaula, Tammy and Megan.