



GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE

1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment Family Readiness Group Newsletter

OCTOBER 2004

1-1 FRG Leadership

BN FRG Leader

Laura Moore
09819-722-283 (Home)
09802-832-808 (Work)
0160-9835-1530 (Mobile)
davidandlauramoore@t-online.de

BN FRG Advisor

Diane Alpetter
09872-805-385
alpetter@t-online.de

BN FRG Advisor

Heidi Lumley
09872-805-574
heidi.lumley@us.army.mil

BN FRG Treasurer

Kerri Burton
09827-927-250
kerri_burton@eu.odedodea.edu

BN FRG Newsletter/ HHC FRG Leader

Frannie Schneider
09875-978-402 (Home)
09802-832-064/883 (Work)
0175-513-3723 (Mobile)
frannie.schneider@us.army.mil

A Co. FRG Leader

Elizabeth Randall
09825-923-163 (Home)
09802-833-012 (Work)
elizabeth.randall1@us.army.mil

B Co. FRG Leader

LaSandra Wise
09827-928-749
la_sandrawise@hotmail.com

C Co. FRG Leader

Heather Scott
09875-978-649
heather.d.scott@us.army.mil

D Co. FRG Leader

Alison Thompson
09875-978-439 (Home)
0160-983-59420 (Mobile)
edlasalle@hotmail.com

A Message From Gun 6



Wow. Where did September go? Time flies (no pun intended) when you're "shakin' and movin'." Here's what's been happening the past month:

- The mighty C Co./D Co./HHC team from Balad is moving to Speicher at the end of September; it'll be awesome to have the battalion together!
- October's R & R Slots are in and look very healthy. We expect November slots to be equally favorable.
- Our Apache readiness rates are soaring, often leading all Divisional airframes.
- Vehicle maintenance is *immer hoch, natuerlich*. Translation: Always high, naturally. I'm limbering up my German. . . .
- The new Brigade Chapel is operational, and the battalion's Allannah Harper Community Center is now reconfigured to serve our needs (meetings, Gunfighter Café, dominos, promotion/soldier boards, etc.).
- The staff is excited with its move into the battalion's new Tactical Operations Center. Big thanks to **MSG Bruce Gernt's** superb design and foremanship, **CW3 Brian McCrary's** accoutrement craftsmanship, and everyone else's hard work.
- The weather is cooling off nicely, though we had an "Indian Summer" as temps rose back up to 108-ish.
- Our operational missions are going very well, with solid planning, safe and effective execution, and satisfied and protected ground forces.

And October? I predict that it'll be another great month:

- There's October 11, our next Gunfighter Day, "I-Roc-Toberfest" (a little bit of Germany at FOB Speicher; sorry, nonalcoholic beer only).
- We'll conduct redeployment training—a good sign!
- Following a high-level transportation conference, we'll have refined relief-in-place and redeployment timelines. (Despite lots of rumors/theories/

"A Message from Gun 6" is continued on the next page.

Rear-Detachment Numbers

Staff Duty Office (24 hours)

09802-832-815/783

Commander

CPT Peter Schneider
09802-832-815/783/545 (Work)
09875-978-402 (Home)
0171-337-4147 (Mobile)
peter.schneider@cmtymail.98asg.
army.mil

NCOIC

SFC Ernest Blakemore
ernest.blakemore@cmtymail.98asg
army.mil

Family Readiness Liaison

SGT Ronald Harding

0175-662-7398 (Mobile)

ronald.harding@cmtymail.98asg.
army.mil

Family Readiness Admin. Asst.

Elizabeth Randall
09802-833-012 (Work)
elizabeth.randall@cmtymail.98asg.
army.mil

Katterbach Chapel

09802-832-785

1-1 Web Site

www.1-1avnbn.ansbach.army.mil/

Newsletter Web Site

www.spilmanconsulting.com/gg

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A Message from Gun 7

Contributed by CSM James Martin, Gun 7

Soldiers and NCOs are "gunfighting" like true professionals! We're another month into our deployment, and another month closer to our goal—mission complete and everyone home! This fact will not distract us from the mission, but rather, it motivates us to stay alert, focused, and safe. And as always, it's NCOs that lead the way, but soldiers make it happen! HOOAH!

A Message from Gun 6

Continued from page 1.

courses of action, there are still no official or locked-in timetables for redeployment. Thanks for being patient.)

- The weather will be even cooler!
- And we'll be one month closer to mission complete! (Yes!)

Finally, I've had the honor of writing the battalion's nomination for the Ellis D. Parker Award for best FY04 Combat Aviation Unit in the Army and our submission for the Valorous Unit Award for OIF II. It's awe-inspiring to document all of the Gunfighters' extraordinary accomplishments—it reminds me of all the talent and support we are blessed with everyday. Keep up the great work!



LTC David R. Moore
Commander, 1-1 AVN Regiment, 4th BDE, 1ID

Viking Update

Contributed by CPT Scott Thompson, Viking 6

I know many of you have quickly flipped pages to reach the eagerly awaited thoughts from Viking 6. But this month's column is going to be a little different. No stories of vile foods, foolish antics, or narrowly avoided accidents. I know, I know. I can hear your collective sigh of discontent even as I write this. This change in subject matter has nothing to do with the looming deadline for my column submission or my struggle with what I am told in the industry is called "writer's block." OK, it may have a little to do with all that. But I have had a lot of things on my mind recently, and after a bit of introspection, realized many of you may have some of the same things on yours. And what is the topic that weighs on my mind so heavily? Redeployment. And since I happen to be writing while listening to the musings of a famous rock band of the eighties. . .

Right now is a very difficult part of this deployment. **Right now** we want to know how close we are to being done and when we can be back with those we love. **Right now** families want to know if they can make plans to travel next spring or if it will have to wait for summer. **Right now** we all want to know not only when redeployment is scheduled, but also how we are redeploying.

Do I have all of the answers you want? Unfortunately, no. And if I did, well, I would write a book, and call it *The Answers*. (Look for it soon on Amazon.com.) But **right now**, no one person has all the answers we want. But that doesn't mean that we're not working on it.

Right now general officers are at our seaport of debarkation and are working to coordinate the hundreds of moving pieces necessary to allow our aircraft and equipment to ship. **Right now** the division planners are wargaming courses of action to ensure they have considered every contingency and that we accomplish every mission before we get home. And this battalion is doing the same. **Right now** LTC Moore is calling and sending e-mail messages to these planners across the division to ensure they account for the special requirements of aviation assets. **Right now** leaders from the division and from CENTCOM are meeting to develop the actual redeployment timeline. And we are having very open discussions about all of these issues. We are not sitting idle, waiting for a plan to fall in our laps. We are working hard to ensure we are prepared for every contingency.

Now what can you do in the meantime, while waiting for all this planning to come together? Some will try to fill what they perceive as a void with rumors or half-truths. Oh sure, they will all be attributed to someone who really *knows* what is going on, who for whatever reason feels compelled to share. And all these people feel they are doing some sort of service by sharing this disinformation, because, well, everyone needs to know. I would be all for sharing them if they did indeed possess the

"Viking Update" is continued on page 4.

Hammer Update

Contributed by CPT Levi Dunton, Hammer 6

Forward Operating Base Speicher is in a time warp. I know this, because this is my second attempt at writing this letter, and a mild sense of déjà vu doesn't compare to the bewildered angst of watching the computer swallow an hour—all right, ten minutes, anyway—of creative frenzy. For one endless moment after another, it seems like time has stopped, and we've been here in the desert forever. But then a glance at the calendar reminds me that it was just one year ago that HHC set forth on a nautical expedition to the wilds of western Germany.

Has it truly been a whole year already? Surely twelve full months haven't passed since we braved the stau-stricken Autobahn for the bus ride to cruise the Rhine. It seems like only yesterday we were gazing upon quaint Teutonic villages and ancient castles from the deck of the riverboat, strolling on cobblestones while sampling the confectionary delicacies of the Chocolateria or the Gelateria, admiring the view of vineyard-clad hillsides rising above the river while sipping Chablis on the balcony of a moss-covered fortress, or ducking through a narrow medieval doorway to sample some foamy brew and bratwurst in a centuries-old brauhaus.

It's even harder to believe that it was so long ago that the Hammers gathered in droves for the once-in-a-lifetime (truly!) opportunity to honor their leaders and each other with a tasty—and costly—pie in the kisser. *That* experience is still fresh in my memory. To this day my dreams are haunted with images of Men in Black, ketchup cream pies, and Super Soakers that leave me quaking long after the sun has risen. Yes, for some things, once is enough. But the memories of that river cruise and the auction that made it possible will last a lifetime!

So the time warp continues, making events of a year ago seem recent, while the Iraqi summer lasts forever, or at least ten months. It

makes it easy to forget that elsewhere, the leaves are changing color, the air turning chilly, the kids making their daily sojourn with lunchboxes in hand, those first-day-of-school nerves already a fading memory and the homecoming dance right around the corner.

But we have our own way of marking the turn of the seasons here in Iraq. While those of you back in the old country are stuck with the prospect of spending your weekend imbibing suds by the liter with a couple hundred thousand of your closest German pals, those of us in Iraq are going to commemorate that noblest of carbonated spirits right here in the land where it was born. That's right—we're living smack in the backyard of ancient Sumeria, that earliest of civilizations that graced us with hangovers and beer bellies. Yet another gift of the Fertile Crescent—and just because the native teetotalers have forgotten their ancestry doesn't mean that we're not going to pay homage to that humble concoction of barley, hops, yeast, and water in proper fashion: Speichtoberfest. Bring on the near-beer!

What? You're not excited about the idea of all of us swilling gallons of luke-warm semi-flat booze-substitute? Is it the name? What's not to like about the concept of a bunch of sweaty dudes dressed in knee-highs and leather knickers singing along to accordion music and bloating themselves on non-alcoholic brew? You're obviously missing the spirit of the thing. We're talking Oktoberfest here, people! It's the epitome of party! Come on! We're living in the birthplace of beer, they're celebrating the stuff like it's a religious observance back in Germany. . .we're stationed in Germany. . .but beer came from Iraq. . .but there isn't any real beer here now. . . . Okay, I admit it's a tenuous link, but don't think that's going to stop the extravaganza. We're going to celebrate, even if it leaves us bloated and sober, and



Team Ghost rider will surely appreciate the rock-star lifestyle currently enjoyed by those stationed at FOB Speicher.

everyone is going to guzzle flat near-beer until I'm convinced that they're enjoying themselves. Got it? Good.

Now that we've cleared that up, and I've lost control of this letter, I suppose a timely change of subject is overdue. Here goes: While our high-school family members are good-naturedly pummeling each other on the football field, we'll be celebrating a homecoming of another kind here at FOB Speicher: the return of Team Ghost rider (nice transition, eh? You barely even noticed it, didn't you? Really? I'll do better next time; I promise). Yes, for the past seven months the intrepid warriors of Team Ghost rider—including our own stalwart fuel and ammunition handlers, mechanics, flight operations personnel, intelligence analysts, and communications gurus—have endured separation anxiety and the grueling conditions of life at an installation being overrun by the Air Force. But at long last, the time has come for the Hammers to bring them home. By the time you read this, we should all be exchanging high fives and giving the new arrivals the celebrity treatment. Granted, it may be rough at first, since they've been living like feral children raised by wolves for half of a year, scrabbling for every last iota of life support they've needed to keep the Ghost riders reeking havoc on the bad guys in industrial quantities, but I think my tales of the rock-star lifestyle all of us at Speicher currently enjoy will bring them around in no time.

In the meantime, we remain indebted to you for keeping the faith, wrapping us in prayer, and sending the positive vibes—it makes the time warp bearable and reminds us why being here matters. Thank you.

Ghostrider Update

Contributed by CPT Lee Fennema, Ghost 6

By the time you receive this, we will have moved up to FOB Speicher and established ourselves in our new surroundings. I realize that last month I wrote that I would update you on the second half of the alphabet, but I think that it is more appropriate to reflect on the past seven months during our stay in Ghostdorf here in LSA Anaconda. Next month I will complete the list and update you on our new living area.

Here are the highlights:

- ▶ We arrived here in LSA Anaconda on leap-year day with only four of our aircraft as two took the scenic route by stopping at the Babylon Ruins after enjoying the company's first kill: an Al Qaeda bird to the rotor blades.
- ▶ We began our stay in Iraq by conducting joint missions with the 4th Infantry Division in the Baqubah area as they prepared to head back to Fort Hood. All of this was accomplished while tearing down the lovely living area they left us as we began the establishment of Ghostdorf from the ground up.
- ▶ During the months of March and April, we continued to conduct missions around the cities of Baqubah, Samarra, and Tikrit, mostly supporting the 2nd and 3rd Brigades of the 1st Infantry Division.
- ▶ In late spring we began supporting our island friends of the 25th Infantry Division in and around Kirkuk. This gave us the opportunity to see the northern, more rolling portion of the country.
- ▶ The Ghostriders were then called upon to head down to the south to enable the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment to go back to Fort Polk, LA. These missions were conducted around the city of An Najaf and the Babylon Ruins.
- ▶ In the middle of July, a few of us flew down to Baghdad International to pick up two aircraft that the 1st

Armored Division graciously left us.

- ▶ As the Marine Corps ships pulled into port, so did their aircraft. We were relieved by AH-1 Cobras, UH-1 Hueys, and CH-46 Frogs. Many of us conducted joint operations as we showed Marine Corps pilots around An Najaf and Al Kut.
- ▶ The months of August and September have consisted of many missions in support of the 25th Infantry Division in and around Kirkuk. On Labor Day, we paused and held a BBQ in honor of our six-month mark in LSA Anaconda. A lot of people said we wouldn't last a month; your Ghostriders proved them all wrong.
- ▶ At the end of September we shifted gears and focused on packing up and moving.

The above are the most significant missions and actions we have conducted, though there are many more. To date, we have flown more than 300 combat missions amassing nearly 2,000 flight hours. Needless to say, all of this flying doesn't just happen magically. We have asked the maintainers and pilots to do the impossible here in LSA Anaconda, and they have risen to the occasion, exceeding all of my expectations.

Congratulations are in order to **CW4 David Lumley** for his selection for promotion to CW5, and to **CW2 Brent Cole** and **CW2 David Lewandowsky** for their selection for promotion to CW3. All three have promised extravagant parties upon our return.

Congratulations to **CW2 Sean "Puff Daddy" Richards**—our newest pilot-in-command.

Happy birthday wishes are in order for **Gavin Mitchell** on October 13 and **1LT Shane Scott** on October 16.

Happy anniversary wishes are extended to **CW2 Joseph and Brandi Ladd** on October 17.

Viking Update

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truth. But the very fact that the "information" comes from a "source" makes it suspect in my mind. So what is one to do when supplied with this, uh, gossip? I recommend you ignore these people. Even the few who do mean well still do more to obfuscate the truth than anything. Solid facts will be supplied through command channels.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I can tell you this: I am committed to keeping soldiers and family members informed. As soon as we have **facts**, and they are releasable, I will ensure they are made available to the entire Viking family. I know that Gun 6 shares this commitment. I know these are not the answers we all want right now (watch for my book!), but they are the facts as they are currently available. That's all for **right now**.



Above: Charlie Company poses for a photo while still stationed at LSA Anaconda.
Left: CW2 Rolando Sanchez and CW2 Brent Cole enjoy a summer barbecue.

Wolfpack Update

Contributed by CW2 Angie Nixon

Marcus Aurelius once said, "When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love." Now that we're seven months into this deployment, it's easy to become frustrated with the small things and not take the time to consider a different perspective or the bigger picture. In other words, we can't see the forest for the trees. In an attempt to pull my fellow soldiers away from the trees, I put out a questionnaire to make them step back—or at least to the side.

What is one valuable lesson you've learned from this deployment, personal or professional?

SPC Angel Barreras: Patience equals sanity.

SFC Jason Bryant: The vested interest in teamwork and camaraderie amongst the enlisted, through the good times and the bad.

CW2 Jason Callegari: Never believe Air Warrior engineers.

CW2 Al Davison: Beer is important.

CW2 Mylon Gladden: If at all possible, I would like to avoid a third trip to this country.

CW3 Jim Holtz: If you want cold water to drink, put a bottle of ice in the aircraft.

SPC Michael Johnson: No matter what, you can't get away with everything.

2LT John Landers: A dumb idea can have a burst radius of 50 meters. A smart idea may only have a burst radius of 1 meter, no matter how good it is.

SPC Rudolph Laumbach: Without someone to confide in, I wouldn't make it through this deployment.

CW2 Scott Mansfield: Never leave your wingman.

SPC Patrick Montgomery: The Internet has anything and everything you want. Always get enough daily pork intake. Next time pack more Faygo.

PFC Shawn Noel: Stay out of the heat.

SPC Laura Pinckney: What a real adrenaline rush feels like.

SGT Stephen Renner: Travel to more fests.

SGT Theodore Rodgers: I learned a lot. The biggest thing was how close we are as a company, compared to other companies.

1LT Mike Snowden: No matter what, you can't *always* ignore SFC Bryant.

SFC Michael Tebaldi: I've learned that the path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men.

SPC Joshua Whitmer: What SFC T. said. . .

CPT Malcolm Wise: You can't do everything by yourself. Use all available resources to accomplish the mission.

What is one thing you've gained a more sincere appreciation of while on this deployment?

SPC Barreras: The weekends.

SFC Bryant: The touch of a woman.

CW2 Callegari: Personal time.

CW2 Davison: Beer.

CW3 Holtz: My aircraft.

CW2 Gladden: Time with the family should never be taken for granted. Your kids only grow up once.

SPC Johnson: Family time.

CW2 Johnson: Beer, but I've always had a great appreciation for suds.

2LT Landers: Time with my family, especially my kids.

SPC Laumbach: The love that my wife and children show me every day.

CW2 Mansfield: A good telephone and Internet connection is worth its weight in gold.

SPC Montgomery: Fresh milk, the gentle touch of a loving wife, Faygo, being able to go on a long bike ride, running up hills and through the woods to Taco Bell, cow tipping, and a decent mattress.

CW2 Moseley: The distance from my bed to the bathroom and shower.

PFC Noel: My wife's cooking.

SPC Pinckney: Cold weather.

SGT Renner: Doners, home cooking, fresh milk, driving on the Autobahn and a good BBQ cookout.

SGT Rodgers: Clouds, rain, flowers, and temperatures under 140 degrees.

1LT Snowden: My hair.

SFC Tebaldi: Fruit loops and nuclear fission.

SPC Whitmer: My wife and children.

CPT Wise: As I listen to my two sons on the telephone or see them on the computer, it brings a joy to my heart to see how much they've grown and developed. The one person I've gained a more sincere appreciation for is my wife. I thank her for all she has done for me and our family. Her loving support and commitment allows me to be able to focus on the mission at hand. Thanks LaSandra, and I love you dearly.

Where's the first place you want to go out to eat when you get back to Germany?

SPC Barreras: The Kern.

SFC Bryant: Sinky's or my father-in-law's, for his special home-cooked German feast.

CW2 Callegari: New Orleans.

CW2 Davison: One that serves beer.

CW3 Holtz: Gasthaus Zum Hirschen.

CW2 Gladden: I would rather stay home, so my wife and I can cook dinner together.

SPC Johnson: My mother-in-law's restaurant.

CW2 Johnson: Mexico.

2LT Landers: I want to sit down at our kitchen table and enjoy my wife's cooking.

SPC Laumbach: My wife and I love the doner place in the Brucken Center.

CW2 Maine: A small Italian restaurant in Wolframs-Eschenbach.

CW2 Mansfield: I'm not telling

"Wolfpack" is continued on page 6.

Taz Devil Update

Contributed by 1LT Mike Ferlazzo, Taz 16

September is over, and once again we can say that we are one month closer to our return. You may be surprised to hear that the eighth month of this deployment was actually very similar to the seventh, sixth, fifth, fourth. . .well, you get the point. I would be lying if I told you that I had much new to report. Everyone here continues to serve in good health and carries out their job in a professional manner, thus enabling us to give continuous support to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. I want you to know that your soldiers are having a large impact on combat operations here in Iraq. The men and women on the ground are extremely grateful of our support. I truly feel that our presence alongside convoys and along the main routes of supply is saving lives on a daily basis. All this work makes for some long and tiring days, but the soldiers of this company complete the mission with a great sense of pride. I may have said this in my last update, but I will say it again: My sanity would have been lost long ago if I were serving with a different group of individuals.

The company was sad to see **LT Aaron Morris** leave Speicher for an assignment down the road acting as our Aviation Liaison Officer to 2nd Brigade. The news was easier to handle when we heard that his packages full of food and movies would continue to come here and not to him. Just kidding pal, we miss having you around.

As always, Speicher is continuing to improve. This past month they opened up a Pizza Hut, Burger King, and Subway food court over by our PX. Americans are easy to please. Give us a greasy burger or an overstuffed sandwich made-to-order, and we might just forget that we are in the desert for a few minutes. Once again, it is the little things that help morale when we are at the point in the deployment where we miss you the most. I want to take this opportunity again to thank all of you for everything that you continue to do for us. Your unwavering strength and support get us through the long ones and make us dream of our reunion in the future.

Congratulations are in order for **SFC Larry Hood**, who reenlisted indefinitely this past month. Our country would not be the place that it is without the service like that of the Hood family. The Taz Devils also wish a happy birthday to the following October babies: **CW2 Russ Motes** and **Elizabeth Randall** on October 6, **CW2 Chris Tamburello** on October 7, **SPC Robert McDowell** on October 14, **SGT Jason Combs** on October 16, and **CW2 Mac McAuley** on October 19.

We love and miss you all. Thank you again for all that you do!

Wolf Update

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because I don't want to see you guys there!

SPC Montgomery: The couch. Hamburger Helper with mac and cheese, frozen pizza, and my wife's apple pie.

CW2 Moseley: Weinstube Leidel in Lichtenau. It's all about the Heffe.

SPC Pinckney: Mayflower.

SGT Renner: The doner stand.

SGT Rodgers: I want to go to the China Wok with my wife.

1LT Snowden: What Mr. Davison said.

SFC Tebaldi: The Delphi in Bad Windsheim.

SPC Whitmer: Home.

CPT Wise: Anywhere with my wife and kids! However, if there were a Wendy's restaurant in Germany, I would want to go there to order a quarter-pound single with cheese, Biggie Fries, and the largest Frosty that they can make.

Happy birthday wishes are extended to the following: **LaSandra Wise** on October 3, **CW2 Jim Holtz** on October 5, **Sara Bryant** on October 9, **SFC Michael Tebaldi** on October 11, **SPC Thaddeus Ogg** on October 12, **Karen Mansfield** on October 14, **1SG Doug Greene** on October 19, **Vivian Tomczyk** on October 22, and **Angel Francisco** on October 30.



The A Co. Taz Devils show their teeth over Iraq.



Above: B Co. celebrates SGT Stephen Renner's midnight promotion. From left to right: SFC Jason Bryant, CPT Malcolm Wise, SGT Stephen Renner, 1SG Doug Greene, and SFC Michael Tebaldi. **Right:** Pirate CW2 Al Davison tells us that we've been here too long.



Gunfighter Happenings on the Home Front

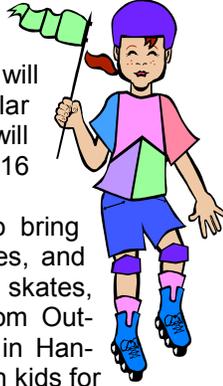
Gunfighter Gatherings

1-1 AVN Skate Night

Back by popular demand, 1-1 AVN Family Readiness Group will again be hosting its ever-popular skate night. This month's event will take place on Saturday, October 16 from 1700-1900 in Hangar 5.

Family members are asked to bring their own roller skates, inline skates, and strollers. If you don't own your own skates, don't fret! You can rent skates from Outdoor Recreation, which is located in Hangar 2. A parent must be present with kids for safety reasons. We are also requesting a donation of one bag of candy per family; we will be distributing candy as prizes throughout the evening. Hot dogs and sodas will be for sale throughout the evening.

Wear your Halloween costume if you wish!



Reunion and Reintegration Briefing

We have tentatively scheduled our first reunion/reintegration training. On Thursday, November 18 at 1100 and Friday, November 19 at 1800, the 235th BSB Chaplain and ACS will offer a special reunion and reintegration briefing for 1-1 AVN families. The Task Force Gunfighter commander, CPT Peter Schneider, will also provide the most up-to-date information on the unit's return from Iraq. Watch the November issue of the *Gunfighter Gazette* for more information on this important briefing.

Breakfast with Santa

It's never too early to start thinking about the holidays! Join the 1-1 AVN Family Readiness Group for a special breakfast and photos with Santa at the Katterbach DFAC. This event will take place Saturday, December 4 from 0900-1100. Cost for breakfast will be \$3.25 for E4 and below dependents and \$3.75 for E5 and above dependents.

Holiday Mailing Deadlines

- **November 13:** Parcel post addressed to military addresses worldwide.
- **November 27:** Mail shipped on military aircraft when space is available.
- **December 4:** Military parcel airlift mail.
- **December 6:** First-class letters and priority mail packages with ZIP codes beginning with "093."
- **December 11:** First-class letters and priority mail for all other military ZIP codes.

School Bus Safety Tips

For twenty million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip to the school bus. The greatest risk for these students is not actually the bus ride, but approaching and leaving the bus. It is essential that adults and children know traffic safety. Let's keep all of our Gunfighters safe this year—whether in Iraq, Germany, or the States.

Drivers

- ▶ When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or biking to school.
- ▶ Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating at bus stops.
- ▶ Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- ▶ Learn and obey the school bus laws of your installation and host nation. Learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions. An amendment to the German Traffic Ordinance recently went into effect. Here are the new changes:

- ◆ When bus drivers approach certain bus stops, they must turn on their warning lights or flashers. Buses approaching a bus stop with flashers on may no longer be passed—even if there are two lanes of traffic in that direction.
- ◆ Once a bus with flashers on has come to a stop to let people on or off, traffic may pass at walking speed only—if the road is clear. Walking speed is between four and seven kilometers per hour. Caution: Pedestrians have the right-of-way even though there is no crosswalk. If people are crossing the street from or to the bus, motorists must stop.
- ◆ Drivers approaching a bus with flashers in the opposite direction may only pass the bus at walking speed.

Students

- ▶ Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- ▶ Stand at least three giant steps away from the curb when waiting for the bus and be sure to line up away from the street.
- ▶ Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before boarding the bus.
- ▶ When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with snaps don't get caught in the doors.
- ▶ Never walk behind the bus.
- ▶ If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

Around the Community

Are you looking for ways to fill your time now that your spouse is deployed? The good news is that there's a lot going on within the Ansbach community. Besides the activities that will be sponsored by the FRG throughout the deployment, the 235th BSB is increasing the number of programs available for spouses and family members. In each newsletter, we'll highlight just a few of the community activities targeted toward family members. For more information on any of the programs listed here, contact Heidi Lumley or your company FRG leader.

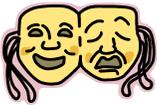
October Events



One Day Wanders for October are here! Friday, October 1 will take you to the **Nurnberg Children's Museum**. At the Nurnberg Children's Museum, the motto is "hands on." By trying things out and experimenting on their own, youngsters of all ages can figure out how things work and fit together. Buses will depart at 0900 and return at 1400. Bring euros for food and souvenirs.

On Friday, October 22, we'll take a **tour of Fulda**. Strolling through the old part of town, you can discover the remains of the medieval town fortification, half-timbered houses, and picturesque inner courtyards. In the Baroque Quarter, you can see famous buildings, including the Cathedral, the residence castle, and more. Cost is free. Buses will depart at 0900 and return at 1400. Call Outdoor Recreation at 09802-833-225 to reserve your spot.

Army Community Service is offering **point of contact training** for FRG POCs on Friday, October 5 from 1000-1200. Unit POCs provide accurate information and reduce stressful fears of family members. They can also help control rumors. If you are interested in becoming a unit POC or if you haven't been able to attend this training before, this class is for you. Please stop by ACS or call 09802-832-883/846 to reserve your seat.



The Terrace Playhouse proudly presents **An Evening of One-Act Plays**. Enjoy this evening of entertainment on October 1, 2, 15, 16, and 17. Call 0981-183-636 for more information and to reserve your seat.

Operation Holiday is once again hosting **International Pottery Bingo**. This year's event will take place on Thursday, October 7, in the Ansbach Middle/High School Cafeteria. The doors open at 1815. Bingo play begins at 1900. One card of bingo is \$12, two cards cost \$20, three cards cost \$30, etc. Cards are good for all twelve games of bingo to be played. Food will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the event benefit Operation Holiday. You must be eighteen to attend. On-site child care will be available at no cost. Call ACS at 09802-832-883/846 for more information. Don't miss this incredibly popular annual event; you may walk away with pottery from Italy, Poland, or Hungary! **BONUS:** Bring a gift to support Operation Holiday's Angel Tree program and play an extra game of bingo for free!



What is your love language? Enrich your relationship and build your communication skills at **The Art of Couples Communication** on Thursday, October 7 at the Katterbach Yellow Ribbon Room from 0900-1100. You'll learn to understand your partner better. This is one couples workshop worth every second of your time. Sign up by calling the Family Advocacy Program at 09802-832-516.

2-1 AVN is hosting three **community skate nights** this month. These weekly events will be held in the 2-1 AVN Hangar 4 on October 8, 15, and 22 from 1800-2100. Please bring your own roller skates or roller blades and a helmet. Helmet use is mandatory to skate. Cost is \$1 per person to skate for the entire evening. Refreshments will be available. Contact Becky Culver with questions at 09875-978-435.



The Illesheim Jump Club is hosting the **last tandem skydiving trip** of the season. Join us for the best view of Germany you'll ever experience. The cost of the trip includes transportation from Illesheim, all equipment, aircraft ride, jump, and lunch. The event will be held October 9 at Skydive Saulgau in Bad Saulgau. Guests and non-jumpers may follow the bus. Cost is 175 euros per person. Contact SPC Avalos at 0160-662-1981. Slots must be reserved in advance.

Army Community Service is offering **reunion training** on October 19 from 1000-1200 at ACS. This training will prepare you for the challenges of reunion, so that problems can be minimized and positive aspects of reunion can be

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Around the Community

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maximized. Your soldiers will receive similar training in their theater of operations. The purpose of this workshop is to help smooth the adjustments of reunion for both you and your soldier. Call ACS at 09802-832-883/846 for more details. (See page 7 of this issue of the *Gunfighter Gazette* for 1-1 AVN-specific reunion training.)

The Ansbach Spouses' and Civilians' Club October event is a **Bowling Night Out** and will be held Thursday, October 21 at 1830 at the Katterbach Bowling Alley. Free child care will be available. The ASCC board will provide desserts. Food and drinks will be available at cost at the Bowling Alley. If you are not a member and would like to join, please contact Maria Martinez at asccmembership@yahoo.com.



Make a difference in our community on Saturday, October 23. **Make a Difference Day** is the largest national day of volunteering in the U.S. *USA Weekend Magazine* will donate \$10,000 to the top-ten projects nationally. Here's a chance to really impact our community! Adopt a project for your organization, or join one already in the works. There will be a kick-off breakfast at 0800 for all Make a Difference Day volunteers at the Katterbach Chapel Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Christine Duer, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator, at 09802-832-883/846.

Your community libraries will be hosting **Halloween craft events** on October 28 from 1530-1630. Call 0981-183-740 for more information.



MWR is sponsoring a **door-decorating contest** to take place the weekend of October 29-31. Participants may choose a Halloween or harvest theme. The door to be decorated may be at the workplace or home (military housing only). All areas that are part of the Ansbach community are encouraged to participate. Register for the contest at Bleidorn or Illesheim Library by filling out a registration form (available at both libraries). The cutoff for registration is 1800 on Wednesday, October 27. Judging will be based on overall effect, originality, and construction. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded in both the Halloween category and harvest category with a grand prize going to "best of show." Judging of office doors will take place Friday, October 29 between 1200-1600, and judging of home doors will take place Saturday, October 30 between 1200-1600.

6-52 ADA is once again hosting **Haunted Shipton and the Halloween Harvest House**, which will be held Friday, October 29 from 1800-2100. The cost is \$5 per car at the Shipton entrance gate. The parade will begin at 1815, and the doors for the Harvest House will open at 1830. The costume contest will be held from 1900-2030. Candy bags will be handed out at each haunted location.



Youth Services Halloween Costume Dance will be held October 29 from 1800-2000 at the Katterbach Teen/Middle School Center. This is a community event. Transportation for youth from Illesheim will be provided. This event is in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week, a national say-no-to-drugs program. For more information, call 09802-832-395.

The fall **Aerobathon** is almost here! The Katterbach Fitness Center will sponsor this event on October 30 from 0930-1300. Registration will take place from 0930-1000, and the event is free. The first thirty participants will receive free T-shirts. The program includes step aerobics; team step; high/low impact; kickboxing; hips, butts, and guts; and awesome abs. Call 09802-832-810 for more information.



Enjoy Tours is sponsoring a **8/9 pin no tap tournament** on Saturday, October 30 at 2000 at Illesheim Apache Lanes. First prize is one overnight trip and second prize is one express tour, both courtesy of Enjoy Tours. For more information, call Apache Lanes at 09841-83-530.

The American Red Cross is offering a **babysitting course** Saturday, October 30 from 0900-1600. The cost is \$30 and includes book, babysitters bag, certification in babysitting, and infant and child CPR. This is a great chance for youth in our community to learn responsibility—and a little extra money. For information and to sign up, call 09802-832-136.



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Around the Community

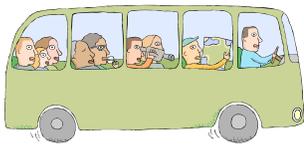
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November Events



The Ansbach Spouses' and Civilians' Club, in conjunction with MWR, is proud to present **Holidays in Bavaria**. The 2004 holiday bazaar will be held November 5-7 in the 2-1 AVN Hangar 4 on Katterbach Kaserne. Hours are as follows: Friday, November 5 from 1600-2000; Saturday, November 6 from 1000-1900; and Sunday, November 7 from 1200-1700. The event will feature vendors from across Europe. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. The raffle drawing will be held Sunday, November 7 at 1400.

The Family Life Center is offering a **Family Wellness Workshop** from November 5-7 at Edelweiss Lodge Retreat Center. This retreat is open to the first twenty-four persons who sign up. If you would like to attend, please contact the Family Life Center at 09802-832-235.



November One Day Wanders include the following: On November 10, we'll travel to the Wurzburg **IMAX Theater** for *Into the Deep*. Bring euro for the entrance fee. Enjoy Ansbach on November 31 with the **Ansbach city tour**. The tour will point out interesting sites and provide you with fascinating information about the city. Bring euro for souvenirs and food. Call 09802-833-225 for more information and to sign up for either of these trips.

Are you a teen with talent? The **Army Europe Teen Battle of the Bands and Stars of Tomorrow Contest** is coming! It all happens on Saturday, November 13 at the Great Escape in Hohenfels. The event is open to CYS registered youth only. They must be between the ages of twelve and eighteen and be current on their registration. Youth must registered through Katterbach YS. Contestants must turn in their registration packets to the Teen Center by November 5, along with their parents' permission slip and registration fee of \$15 per person. Competition day will include a full schedule of events, starting with early sound checks, lunch, competition, guest performers, supper, awards ceremony, and karaoke dance. Beat the rush, as spaces are limited. Remember, this event is open to all U.S. military teams throughout Europe. For more information, call the Katterbach Teen/Middle School Center at 09802-832-595.



6-52 ADA and the Katterbach Movie Theater have combined to sponsor the **Mommy's Matinee** program. The first showing will be November 17 at 1030. (Future shows will be the third Wednesday of each month.) Cost is \$1.75 per person. A kids snack pack will be available for \$2, which includes soda and popcorn. Bring your kids if they're happy or sad because you won't make anyone mad. All caregivers and non-caregivers are welcome.

Prepare Your Car for Winter

AAFES Car Care Centers, U.S. Forces Vehicle Inspection Stations, and all auto repair shops on the economy will provide free inspections during October in support of the International Motor Vehicle Lighting campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage motor vehicle owners to have their vehicles inspected prior to the onset of the winter weather.

The campaign is conducted each year during October to correct deficiencies prior to the more hazardous with driving season. This is the time when hours of darkness increase and winter road and weather conditions begin. German garages, AAFES Car Care Center, and most U.S. Forces Vehicle Inspection Stations will

be conducting free inspections to check vehicle lighting systems to include headlights, taillights, fog lights, and turn signals.

In addition to the lighting inspection, AAFES Car Care Centers will also inspect windshield wipers, exhaust systems, and ties. Those AAFES Car Care Centers equipped with a brake analyzer will test brake systems. Any repair work to correct deficiencies is, of course, chargeable to the vehicle owner. Upon successful completion of the lighting system inspection, a safety sticker will be affixed to the windshield showing that that vehicle has successfully passed the inspection.

Prepare your car for the winter wither!

News from the Big Red One

Cooking *Dangerously*

Contributed by Cindy Risch and Sid Hall

As the gallant soldiers of the Big Red One (1st Infantry Division) and supporting elements continue their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, enterprising spouses are embarking on a task of their own. The Leighton Barracks Family Readiness Group Advisors' Forum invites you to share your favorite recipes for a fundraiser cookbook: *Cooking Dangerously*.

The purpose of the cookbook is threefold: First, the cookbook serves as a keepsake—a memento of this challenging and rewarding year. It will also serve as a reminder of the wonderful friends we have made and the incredible community spirit shared throughout this deployment. Secondly, spread across ten communities throughout Bavaria, the cookbook will further link division units and supporting elements through this shared endeavor. Most importantly, proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will be donated to a memorial fund for our fallen soldiers.

We hope that you will share in the spirit in which this cookbook is envisioned. Recipe submission forms are available from all 1-1 AVN Family Readiness Group leaders. Or simply send the following information to Cookbook1id@yahoo.com: category of recipe (appetizer or beverage, main dish, soup or salad, bread, vegetable, dessert, miscellaneous, or other), the recipe title, the ingredients, the method, your name, and your relationship (spouse of, mother of, etc.). You may submit your recipes by hard or soft copy (see contacts listed below if you still have question). Please double-check your recipes for accuracy. Recipes are due by October 15.

Our goal is to have the first batch of cookbooks available for purchase by the first of the year. Of course, we hope that you will order a cookbook for yourself and a few for gifts. More information on purchasing *Cooking Dangerously* will follow in upcoming newsletters.

For more information, please contact either of the cookbook chairpersons via e-mail: Cindy Risch at cindy.risch@us.army.mil or Sid Hall at sid.hall@us.army.mil.

Thank you for your help!



While You Were Deployed

Contributed by Richard Henrickson

The purpose of the first-ever Big Red One creative writing contest—appropriately entitled “While You Were Deployed”—is to bring together the 1st Infantry Division as a family. There will be two contests, fall and winter, each with separate categories.

The fall contest will be offered to 1ID Family Readiness Groups and rear detachments in Germany. Entries for this contest will be accepted through October 30. The winter contest will be offered to 1ID Family Readiness Groups and rear detachments worldwide. More information on the winter contest will follow in an upcoming issue. Guidelines for the contest are as follows:

- Fall contest entries must be 500 words or less and may be in essay or newspaper article format. All entries will be judged on content, topical interest, and writing quality, in that order. The intent is to eventually publish winning essays and articles in command information newspapers (*The Point*, *Training Times*, etc.) and media. To facilitate the publication process, all submissions should adhere to the *Associated Press Stylebook*.
- Newspaper article submissions should include at least one photo with caption and (for example) may describe an FRG or rear-detachment event that occurred while a loved one was deployed.
- Essays may be freestyle, but should still conform to AP Style. Essays should focus on something that happened to the writer because of the deployment.

Task Force Victory command group will select the winners. All decisions are final. Fall 2004 contest submissions should be sent to Richard.Henrickson@1ID.army.mil no later than October 30. Entrants who do not have e-mail access may call Mr. Henrickson at 0931-889-7241.

All entries should include full name, age (at the time of writing), 1ID unit affiliation, title/rank (if applicable), daytime and evening phone, and e-mail or postal address. All contestants should also submit a pen name. Age groups are as follows: any age up to twelve years old, thirteen to seventeen, and eighteen and older. First and second prizes will be awarded for each age group. First prize recipients will each receive \$500; second prize recipients will each receive \$330. Happy writing!



It's Your Future. Vote for It.

November 2, 2004

On the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, millions of U.S. citizens will go to their local voting booths to elect, among other officials, the next president and vice president of the United States. Their votes will be recorded and counted, and winners will be declared. But you're stuck in Germany (or Iraq) and are wondering how to let your voice be heard. On the next few pages, we provide you with helpful information on voting.

Frequently Asked Questions on Voting

I ordered an absentee ballot but have not received it yet. What if I don't receive it in time for the general election?

Don't worry. Ballots are currently on their way. If you do not receive your absentee ballot by October 11, contact the 1-1 voting assistance officers to receive the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (or access it at www.fvap.gov/services/fwab.html). All ballots must be mailed by October 15.

Where can I find information on the issues and positions of candidates?

In addition to reading U.S. news magazines and newspapers, both Democrats and Republicans maintain Web sites chock-full of information. For the Democratic Web site, log on to www.democrats.org. For the Republican perspective, check out www.rnc.org.

Do I have to pay postage when I mail in my absentee ballot?

Generally, all election-related materials are mailed postage paid from any APO or FPO mail facility. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility. At present, there are no provisions to allow for submission of your ballot through the Internet.

Is it possible to fax my vote?

There are some states that allow electronic transmission of election materials. Please check the listing for each state in the 2004-2005 Voting Assistance Guide, which can be accessed at www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html.

I have moved around a lot, how can I figure out which state I should claim for voting purposes?

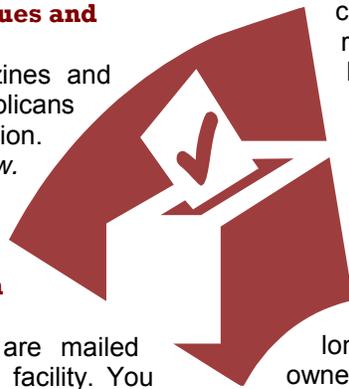
For voting purposes, your "legal state of residence" can be the state or territory where you last resided prior to entering military service or the state or territory that you have since claimed as your legal residence. To claim a new legal residence, you must have simultaneous physical presence and the intent to reside at that location as your primary residence. Military and family members may change their legal residence every time they

change permanent duty stations or they may retain their legal residence without change. A legal officer should be consulted before legal residence is changed because there are usually other factors which should be considered besides voting. Be sure to enter the complete address of your legal residence, including street or rural route and number, when completing the residence section of the Federal Voter Assistance Postcard. Even though you may no

longer maintain formal ties such as property ownership to that residence, the address is needed to place you in a proper voting district, ward, precinct, or parish.

I still have questions. Where do I go for help?

Each unit is required to appoint, in writing, a Unit Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). For soldiers downrange, the 1-1 AVN VAO is CW2 Eric Whitehead. For soldiers on rear detachment and family members residing in Germany, contact CPT Peter Schneider with questions at 09802-832-815.



Vote Smart: Useful Web Sites

Project Vote Smart: A Web site designed to educate the electorate. Includes helpful links and information on choosing your candidate. www.vote-smart.org

Federal Voting Assistance Program: Provides information to U.S. citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Includes links to state election Web sites and provides helpful phone numbers. www.fvap.gov

Army Voting Assistance Program: Voting information for soldiers, commanders, and family members.

<https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm>

Democrats and Republicans Abroad: Both major political parties have organizations and Web sites designed specifically for party members living overseas. www.democratsabroad.org or www.republicansabroad.org

How to Judge a Candidate

Elections present voters with important choices. Whether it is a local race that will affect your community or a national race that could change the direction of the country, it is time to consider the issues that you care about and decide which candidate to support. Here, we outline seven steps that are designed to help you judge the candidate and cast your vote.

Step 1: Decide what you are looking for in a candidate. Candidates can be judged in two ways: the positions they take on issues and the leadership qualities and experience they would bring to office. Your first step in picking a candidate is to decide the issues you care about and the qualities you want in a leader. When you consider issues, think about community or national problems that you want people in government to address. For example, you may be interested in the threat of nuclear war, government funding for student loans, or teenage unemployment. Those are issues. When you consider effective leadership qualities, think about the characteristics you want in an effective leader. Do you look for intelligence, honesty, and an ability to communicate?

Step 2: Find out about the candidates. Find out which candidates are running in the race by doing research on the Web. (See previous page for helpful Web links.) *Stars and Stripes* is another source of information.

Step 3: Gather materials about the candidates. Put together a "library" of information about the candidates. Collect any information you can find on the candidates. Call campaign headquarters and watch the press. Sources of information include campaign literature, including Web sites; nonpartisan online voter information Web sites; press reports; candidate speeches; and candidate debates. In a local race, interviews with candidates can be helpful. For incumbents, look at their voting records on issues that you have listed as important. This can tell you the candidates' positions on those issues.

Step 4: Learn about the candidates' stance on issues. As you read the material, keep a record. Do the materials give you an overall impression of the candidates? What specific conclusions can you draw about the candidates' stand on issues?

Step 5: Learn about the candidates' leadership abilities. Look at the candidates' background and their experiences. How well prepared are they for the job? Observe the candidates' campaigns. Do they accept speaking engagements before different groups—even those that might not be sympathetic? Do they accept invitations to debate?

Step 6: Learn how other people view the candidate. Now that you have accumulated information on campaigns and other sources, you will want to learn what other people think about the candidates. Their opinions can help you clarify your own views, but do not discount your own judgments. You may be the most careful observer of all!

Step 7: Sorting it all out. Review the information you have compiled and compare all the candidates. Ask yourself these final questions: Which candidates' view on the issues do you agree with the most? Who ran the fairest campaign? Which candidate demonstrated the most knowledge on the issues? Which candidate has the leadership qualities you are looking for? Is the choice clear? If so, you are ready to pick a candidate.

For more information on voting, log on to www.smartvoter.com, a nonpartisan site by the League of Women Voters.

Life in the White House

More than forty presidents have lived in the White House. How much do you know about this famous house?

1. What "animal" holds up the White House piano?

- Buffalo
- Bear
- Lion
- Eagle

2. What White House room served as Thomas Jefferson's office. Today it is used to entertain.

- East Room
- Blue Room
- State Dining Room
- Green Room

3. What did President Theodore Roosevelt use to decorate the walls of the State Dining Room in 1902?

- Candlesticks
- Lamps
- Moose heads
- Painting of Benjamin Franklin

4. What color was the Red Room when First Lady Dolley Madison lived in the White House?

- Green
- Red
- Blue
- Yellow

1. Eagles hold up the White House Steinway piano. The legs of the piano are carved eagles.
 2. President Thomas Jefferson, the second president to live in the White House, placed his office in the room known today as the State Dining Room.
 3. President Theodore Roosevelt arranged for stuffed moose and elk heads to be placed on the walls of the State Dining Room.
 4. When Dolley Madison lived in the White House, the Red Room was known as her parlor, which she decorated in "sunflower yellow."

Have a Healthy Halloween

Halloween is a great time to teach children the “trick” to balancing the gooey sweets they love with healthy foods. Whether you choose to give out tricks or treats, your children will most likely receive a multitude of candy or sweets this Halloween. Here are some tips to make this Halloween a healthy Halloween.

Serve a balanced meal before the festivities begin, so children are not tempted to eat their candy before they get home.

Offer trick-or-treat candy as a substitute for dessert or after lunch or dinner, along with a healthy snack.

Be a role model to your children by showing restraint when dipping into the candy yourself.

Remember that dessert can be part of a healthy meal plan. Being overly restrictive may make candy even more desirable to your children.

Make Halloween candy last for several weeks.

Consider handing out healthy alternatives to your neighborhood children. Examples include single serving

boxes of cereal; packaged fruit snacks; mini boxes of raisins; individual bags of pretzels, ginger snaps, graham crackers, or vanilla wafers; juice boxes with 100 percent fruit juice; or packs of sugar-free gum. Non-food items, such as coloring books and stickers, also make great Halloween giveaways.

There are alternatives to sending your kids trick or treating. Consider hosting a party for your little ones and distributing healthy snacks, stickers, and toys instead of candy. Or let your kids dress up in their costumes and take them to a movie instead of trick or treating.

When your children arrive home, sort through their treats. Throw away any spoiled, unwrapped, or suspicious items.

For more healthy eating tips, contact Beth Calkins at the Ansbach WIC office at 0981-183-739.



Frannie Schneider
CMR 454 Box 3542
APO AE 09250

MPS



GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE