



**18th Engineer Brigade
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PRESS RELEASE

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Engineers help make Heidelberg's Warrior Zone fit for Warriors

Story by Master Sgt. Kevin Bardy, 18th Engineer Brigade

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The frigid days of January and February brought to the forefront a challenge for Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade, giving them an opportunity to apply their technical knowledge while improving the exterior of the newly remodeled Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks here.

The Warrior Zone has taken the place of the Arts and Crafts Center on Patton Barracks and is the newest facility to improve the quality of life for Soldiers in the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Wuerttemberg area under the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers programs.

Due to weather, time and construction, the stucco exterior on the patio began to give way. Before the facility could be utilized, repairs needed to be completed to ensure a safe place for Soldiers to socialize and hold barbeque events.

In order to facilitate an atmosphere for activities on the patio prior to the grand opening, Soldiers of the 18th Eng. Bde. and Pete Wilson, the area installation coordinator for USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg, combined efforts to improve the front portion of the facility. After the

initial inspection and research were completed, setup of the scaffolding and repairs began to take shape Feb. 9.

Stucco surfaces are typically applied during the spring and summer months in Germany, as temperatures of at least 40 degrees are necessary to guarantee adhesion with the existing material. This team, however, had the daunting task of increasing the below-freezing temperatures surrounding the building, as the grand opening could not wait on Mother Nature.

Spc. Allan Wall, a technical engineering specialist with the 18th Eng. Bde., and Pvt. 1st Class Endia Moore and Pvt. Rachel Fire, both carpentry and masonry specialists with the 18th Eng. Bde., took the initiative in fashioning a method to enclose the work area to prevent heat loss from the corner of the building. Fuel source heaters couldn't be used due to fumes, so Wilson acquired an electric fan-forced heater to warm the exterior, creating a safe environment for the Soldiers to work in.

Sgt. Justin Weber, a topographic analyst with the 18th Eng. Bde., also assisted in the reconstruction. He said he enjoyed the experience of working outside of his military specialty, and his past civilian experience in carpentry proved useful.

“Often times we find Soldiers’ skills from their previous employment are a value-added bonus to our missions,” said Master Sgt. Kevin Bardy, a construction inspector with the 18th Eng. Bde.

The Warrior Zone is scheduled to open March 5.