



NEWS RELEASE

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30th MEDCOM(DS) Soldiers aid couple with burning vehicle on the Autobahn

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Soldiers of the 30th Medical Command (Deployment Support), a multi-component unit, assisted two German civilians whose car was engulfed in smoke and fire on the side of the Autobahn 6, Nov. 21.

“We were planning to stop and assist the people as soon as we saw the burning vehicle. Not just because of the German “Good Samaritan” law, but because it the right thing to do,” said Spc. Rogelio Rosa-Bozar, a logistics specialist and native of Puerto Rico.

The convoy of Soldiers was en route from Heidelberg to a medical readiness processing station in Kaiserslautern when they spotted the burning vehicle two kilometers from the Viernheimer exit. The Soldiers stopped and quickly took charge of the situation and secured the scene with warning triangles to alert and slow down oncoming traffic.

“I was surprised the two civilians did not immediately move away from their burning car,” said Spc. Ron Sampson, a supply specialist from California. “It was important we were able to assist the individuals and get them away from their burning vehicle until the fire department and police arrived.”

Reserve Soldiers in the 30th MEDCOM (DS) are not only trained in their military occupational specialties, but also contribute valuable expertise from their civilian jobs. Spc. Derrick Chapman, an Army Reserve food service specialist and native of Wisconsin, used his proficiency in German and his civilian skills as an emergency medical technician in Berlin to provide initial first aid and reassure the civilians.

Meanwhile, Spc. Marc Stelter, an Army Reserve finance specialist and native of Heidelberg, Germany who also speaks fluent German, immediately called the German fire department, which arrived quickly on the scene.

The rapid responses led to the safe evacuation of the elderly owners of the vehicle. Their actions on the autobahn reflected the Soldiers ability to always live the Army Values, and demonstrated the effects of regular training within the unit, where the Soldiers receive annual safety classes that cover hazardous driving and fire safety.

“We learn how to call the German fire department during emergencies, as well as how to use fire extinguishers,” said Rosa-Bozar. “We are trained in the Army to always help your battle buddy. The person you help today just might be the one to help you out in the future.”

Story by Lt. Col. Carol Fontanese, 30th MEDCOM (DS) Public Affairs Officer. Photos by LTC Terry Owens, 30th MEDCOM (DS) G1. For more information please contact the Public Affairs Officer at the email address or phone number listed above.

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CUTLINES:

OperationBurningCarRescue_SRP_001

Active and Reserve Soldiers from the 30th MEDCOM (DS) rush to aid German civilians to move away from their burning car on Autobahn 6 on their way to a medical readiness processing station in Kaiserslautern Nov. 21.

OperationBurningCarRescue_SRP_002

Active and Reserve Soldiers from the 30th MEDCOM (DS) provide assistance to two German civilians to call the fire department, place the warning triangles on the road, and move the civilians away from their burning car on Autobahn 6 on their way to a medical readiness processing station in Kaiserslautern Nov. 21.

OperationBurningCarRescue_SRP_003

Active and Reserve Soldiers from the 30th MEDCOM (DS) provide assistance to two German civilians to call the fire department, place the warning triangles on the road, and move the civilians away from their burning car on Autobahn 6 on their way to a medical readiness processing station in Kaiserslautern Nov. 21.

OperationBurningCarRescue_SRP_004

Spc Jessica Clinton, an Army Reserve Soldier from the 30th MEDCOM (DS) provides reassurance and assistance to the German civilian to help move him away from his burning vehicle on Autobahn 6, while on her way to a medical readiness processing station in Kaiserslautern Nov. 21.