

A welcome home celebration

Stars and Stripes

The first of four welcome home celebrations for 1st Armored Division units got solid reviews in Baumholder, Germany.

"This is not what I expected," said Alan Sims, 17, as he waited in line for a midway ride with friends, including Kaishia Elliott, 16. "I thought it'd be lame, but this is OK!" Sims said, with Elliott nodding her head in agreement.

Spread out through parking lots for the H.D. Smith Barracks cinema/theater, Hall of Champions gymnasium and meandering down to the edge of Minnick Stadium, the center of the festivities includ-

ed a midway of amusement rides for older children and adults, and a midway of rides for small children.

The large crowd was nearly split between young single soldiers and soldiers with families. People crowded a temporary fest tent where a number of acts played including Custom Made, a funk/rap band from Los Angeles, and comedian Chris Titus, with standing-room only for the headliners, Puddle of Mudd, alternative rockers from California.

The next 1st AD welcome home is scheduled for 1st Brigade headquarters at Friedberg on Wednesday, 4th Brigade headquarters at Hanau on Friday, with the final celebration Oct. 7 at division headquarters in Wiesbaden.

Left: Alex Hudnell, 4, enjoyed the colorful train ride on the children's midway.

Below: It was a bumpy ride Friday at the bumper car track, but James Hunter, 8, was happy to have dad Staff Sgt. Virgil Hunter back at the wheel.

Right: With the Stars and Stripes backlit behind him, Custom Made's Jerome Snelling pounded out the beat for a rap number.

PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

