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Used DoD ladder trucks to keep children safe in Romania

By Jeff Landenberger

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Fire Department recently turned in two used ladder trucks to DLA Disposition Services at Grafenwoehr. The U.S. Agency for International Development then requested and donated the vehicles to the global aid organization ChildsLife International.

ChildsLife, which offers practical help to children in their home environs, identified a Romanian city with an urgent need for modern firefighting equipment. ChildsLife provided the two former DoD vehicles to help protect children and their families in Barlad, a city of approximately 100,000.

“Although the equipment is 24 years old, it is far more technical than they currently use in Romania today,” said Florian Ivan, a regional director for the organization. Barlad firefighters were thrilled with the capabilities the new equipment has to offer, he said.

DLA’s Grafenwoehr disposition site hosted training for the firemen from Romania. The one-day class was taught by one of the trucks’ former operators, fire chief Johann Rodler of the installation’s fire department. Rodler went over the proper operation and maintenance of the two 1998 IVECO ladder fire trucks with the recipients.

The next day, the Romanian firefighters returned to the site to take possession of the two trucks. Most of their day was spent working with German authorities obtaining permits and documentation to allow them to cross the border legally.

Peter Steinbrunner, a DLA reutilization specialist at Grafenwoehr, took time to help the Romanians with vehicle registrations, technical inspection requirements and the vehicle insurance needed for the 1,200 mile drive back to Barlad.

The DoD acquisition value of the two trucks was \$900,000.



One of the two 1998 IVECO ladder fire trucks that were transferred from the US Army to Barlad, Romania thanks to DLA Disposition Services at Grafenwoehr. Courtesy photo.



DLA Disposition Services at Grafenwoehr hosted a training class for Romanian firefighters who took possession of two 1998 IVECO ladder fire trucks donated from the U.S. Army to fire companies in Barlad, Romania, via USAID. Courtesy photo.