

DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central

December 3, 2008

"Always First...Anytime, Anywhere, Patton's Own!"



Afghanistan ...



Building an Army



Sexual Assault Prevention

DV

Table of Contents

Page 4

**Camp Buehring
USO reopens**

Page 5

**92nd Chemical
Company trains
Kuwait troops**

Page 8

**Thanksgiving day
celebrated around
Kuwait**

Page 10

**History of the NCO
during the Civil War**

On the cover

Master Sgt. Ghulam Nabi, company sergeant, Afghan National Army, instructs his soldiers during the 82mm Mortar demonstration at the Kabul Military Training Center, Afghanistan, Nov. 17-19. For the full story, see page 6. (Photo by Sgt. Brooks Fletcher)

Contact us

Comments, questions, suggestions story ideas? Call the Desert Voice editor at 430-6334 or e-mail at desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.

“I will never leave a fallen comrade.” This is the final part of our Warrior Ethos that each one of us lives by everyday while we serve our great Army.



Never leaving a fallen comrade is more than just taking care of those wounded on the battlefield; it extends

to never allowing harm to come to our fellow brothers and sisters in arms, in the barracks, on or off duty.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are crimes that eat away at the very core of our Army Values and our Warrior Ethos.

Right now, the rate of sexual assaults in the Army is twice the rate of the other services.

The worst part behind that number is that experts estimate on average only one in five sexual assaults ever get reported.

It is the responsibility of everyone in the command to look out for their fellow brothers and sisters. We must create a positive environment where everyone knows that they can count on their fellow Soldiers to do the right thing . . . every Soldier is his brother or sister’s keeper.

As Soldiers we are bound together by our values, which help us distinguish ourselves from the rest of society. That bond to the outside eye is something some will never comprehend -- such as the sacrifice of one Soldier giving their life for a total stranger simply because they share the same uniform.

The Secretary of the Army, the honorable Pete Geren, spoke at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting and exposition last in October, discussing the Army’s continued effort to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault.

He spoke about how the Army will become the model for sexual harassment

and assault prevention for the Nation, and how we will accomplish this through our Army Values.

“We will create a climate of zero tolerance for gender-based misconduct – in attitude, word, and deed, and become fully, as our values demand, a band of brothers and sisters,” said Geren, during his speech.

Stopping sexual assault begins with every Soldier doing the right thing at all times.

Leaders must inform their Soldiers of the importance of a good sexual harassment and assault prevention program and enforce the standards to prevent these heinous acts from occurring.

U.S. Army Central has proposed several steps in bringing awareness and prevention of sexual harassment and assault to the attention of the command.

These steps include, publishing results of Article 15/Court Martial actions, to send a message that these actions will not be tolerated; maximizing media potential to proliferate the field with command messaging on I. A.M. STRONG; implementing roving patrols for high risk areas; and creating an on-line communication access link for individuals with questions about sexual harassment and assault. The on-line system will also allow individuals to report incidents of sexual harassment and assault.

This is a very serious problem in our Army and something the command takes very seriously.

For more information about the I. A.M. STRONG campaign go to the following website, <http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil>.

Patton’s Own!

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Re-engineering Your Eating Habits

Did you eat lunch with a friend today? Studies show that if you did, you were likely to eat 35 percent more food than you normally would have eaten alone. In fact, eating with a group of seven or more influenced people to eat nearly twice as much or 96 percent more.

Friends can easily influence how fast and how much we eat. Developing these three simple strategies before eating at the dining facility with friends can help you overcome this type of behavior:

Be the last person at the table. Take your time and make wise food choices using your DFAC “Fit to Fight – Go Green” color coding program. Coming to the table last will leave less time to be

tempted by your friends who might be eating desserts.

Set the pace. Be the slowest eater at the table. Take your time, relish your foods and enjoy the conversations at the table. Remember eating slowly makes you feel fuller with less food consumed. If you are normally a fast eater, sit next to the slowest eater at the table and make sure you finish last.

No seconds or additions. Once you sit down with your food, don't go back for seconds. Avoid the temptations of looking to see what your friends have selected and changing your mind about the type or quantity of foods you desire.

Next week's reengineering series will discuss the importance of making small changes in your daily diet. **A**



Have the Courage to Help a Buddy

“One suicide is one too many.”

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

**Talk to your Chaplain or a
Behavioral Health Professional or
call Military OneSource**

1-800-342-9647

USARCENT **A**

December 3, 2008 *The Desert Voice*

USO reopens at Camp Buehring, Kuwait

Article and photos by
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Servicemembers at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, celebrated the reopening of a new state-of-the-art United Services Organizations facility.

The ceremony began with the entrance of the official party, posting of the colors and playing of both the Kuwaiti and U.S. national anthems. The invocation was given by Air Force Maj. Stuart A. King, post chaplain.

Sarah McConnell, USO director, Camp Buehring, welcomed guests and presented tokens of appreciation to those who helped make the new USO possible.

The guest speaker was Maj. Gen. Charles Anderson, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Central. Remarks were given by Kevin Meade, vice president of operations, Southwest Asia, and Lt. Col. Edward Amato, commander, Base Support Battalion-North.

"Today we will cut the ribbon and open the doors to one of the largest centers in the USO inventory, and definitely the largest USO in Southwest Asia," said Meade.

The USO is a private non-profit organization that supports U.S. servicemembers around the world. For more than 60 years the USO has supported troops by providing



(From left) Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman, U.S. Army Central, Ms. Sarah McConnell, director, United Services Organization, Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Maj. Gen. Charles Anderson, deputy commanding general, USARCENT, Command Sgt. Maj. Roy D. James, Base Support Battalion-North, and Lt. Col. Edward Amato, commander, BSB-N, cut the ribbon at the reopening of the new state-of-the-art facility at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 24.

morale, welfare and recreation services to servicemembers. The USO at Camp Buehring first opened in July 2006.

"We are so proud of what the USO has accomplished here," said Amato. "Our goal is to try to bring a state-of-the-art, brighter, warmer, homier type of environment for our troops to come to because this center is a home to approximately 144,000 troops per year."

Camp Buehring serves as a training and staging camp for troops moving into Iraq or Afghanistan.

The staff at the USO does their part to give the troops the comforts of home while they are in Kuwait.

The ribbon cutting was completed by the official party and closing remarks were given by McConnell.

All attendees were invited to tour the new facility that includes a bistro, gaming center, internet café, music room, three big screen televisions, sound-proof movie theater and two United Through Reading rooms, where servicemembers can record themselves reading a story to their children to send home.

"No matter who you are, you are going to stop sometime in your lifetime and ask yourself what was my investment in others," said Anderson. "The people in the USO don't have that problem. They are always there investing in others." ^A



Spc. Lonnie Rayfield, convoy security, 56th Brigade Combat Team, plays drums, 1st Lt. Jeff Minks, physicians assistant, 287th Sustainment Battalion, on vocals, and 1st Lt. David Paul, medical operations, 287th SB, plays guitar, try out the new Guitar Hero-game room during the reopening of the USO.

Camp Buehring

92nd teaches Kuwaitis tricks of the trade

Article and photos by
Spc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice Staff Writer

The 92nd Chemical Company held a two-part training exercise with the Kuwaiti National Guard at Camp Fahreer, Kuwait, Nov. 25-26.

The host nation National Guardsmen were trained on how to respond in case of a chemical attack.

The 92nd were assisted by Airmen from the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

The exercise began with classes on day one. Platoon leaders and sergeants explained what roles leadership should take in case of a chemical emergency or attack.

“The briefings were very thorough, using the U.S. Chemical Doctrine,” said Capt. Rodney Norris, commander, 92nd Chemical Company.

Many of the Kuwaiti servicemembers did not understand English, so throughout the classes a translator in breaking the communication barrier.



Spc. Michael A. Williams, 92nd Chemical Company and Sgt. Hamad, Kuwaiti National Guard, use a decontamination hose during the demonstration.



1st Lt. Jennifer L. Green, 92nd Chemical Company, explains her role as a chemical platoon leader during the classroom portion of the Kuwaiti Soldier's training at Camp Fahreer, Kuwait, Nov. 25

On day two, additional members of the 92nd attended the event to give the host nation servicemembers a hands-on lesson on the equipment and classes taught on the first day.

“This is a great opportunity for our junior Soldiers to demonstrate their knowledge as chemical subject matter experts,” said Norris.

The 92nd gave the Kuwaiti a demonstrations on the Falcon decontamination system, Toxic Industrial Chemical Protection and Detection Equipment and the Fox M93 vehicle.

Soldiers gave classes on the reconnaissance of a hazardous area and the procedures for a man-down situation. They also demonstrated the procedures for detecting chemicals with the Fox vehicle.

Kuwaiti servicemembers got a chance to look at static displays of all the equipment that the 92nd Chemical Company uses as they discussed different scenarios and addressed questions about the equipment.

“We definitely enjoyed the Kuwaiti soldiers' participation,” said Norris, as he discussed how well the classes went with Kuwaiti Lt. Ahamd Misfr Alajmi, one of the leaders in the group.

At the end of the demonstrations, the Kuwaiti servicemembers showed 92nd their appreciation of the comradery by applauding, shaking hands and trading smiles. According to Norris, not only is this type of joint training helpful to the Kuwaiti military, but it is also helping build host nation relations. **A**



Capt. Rodney A. Norris, commander, 92nd Chemical Company, greets Kuwaiti National Guard leaders during the 92nd Chemical training exercise.

Afghan National Army



A noncommissioned officer leads a group of Afghan National Army recruits during drill and ceremony rehearsal.

*Article and photos by
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
Desert Voice Editor*

With the initial fall of the Taliban regime and a nation left in ruin, Afghanistan began the process of building an army.

It was only within the last two years that the Afghan National Army began focusing on and strengthening that which matters most in any army ... the backbone.

The ANA hosted its 4th semi-annual Sergeants Major of the Army Seminar at the Kabul Military Training Center in Afghanistan, Nov. 17-19.

“The focus of this event is to assist our Afghan brothers as they continue to develop their army,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

The CSTC-A sponsored event is

a continuing effort to strengthen and build the army’s Bridmal, the ANA’s noncommissioned officers corps and improve its overall training; the U.S. Army and coalition forces are ensuring the ANA is prepared for the future.

“The U.S. and its allies are here to support the ANA and are building an army to help Afghanistan after we leave,” said Maj. Gen. Robert Cone, commanding general, CSTC-A.

The seminar served as a catalyst for command sergeants major, sergeants major and senior leadership from different U.S. Army commands and coalition forces to continue improving the effort to support and assist the ANA and its NCO Corps.

Among the groups of distinguished guests where the two most-senior NCO for both the U.S. Army and ANA, Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston and Roshan Safi, respectively.

“Seasoned, senior NCOs, it is up to

us to teach from a position of experience,” said Preston. “Mastering the fundamentals is key, teaching the ‘be, know, and do’ will make you a success.”

Safi added that building a strong NCO Corps and ensuring that the standards are set and enforced is key.

“In turn, the senior NCOs will be able to make sure their Soldiers are trained and tactically and technically proficient,” said Coleman. “We owe the Afghans the best training we possibly can.”

Along with key leader addresses, small group discussions and developmental training; the seminar gave the ANA’s Bridmal, which means “battle buddy” in Pashtu, the opportunity to showcase the soldiers and conduct various demonstrations on weapon systems and equipment – a reflection of the relationship between Afghanistan and coalition forces.

“Over four years I have watched the

strengthens its WCOs



Master Sgt. Wahidullah (left) assist Sgt. 1st Class Mohammad Shafiq assemble the .50 cal. machine gun.

ANA grow and [Safi] come through as a student at the Sergeants Major Academy,” said Preston. “It is incredible seeing how much they have grown.”

But, what may seem like an uphill battle, growing an army while engaged in conflict, Afghanistan and its army continue to make progress.

“The Afghanistan people have high esteem because the ANA is from the people, for the people,” said Safi. “The ANA represents everything Afghanistan is. The soldiers and citizens of Afghanistan know what we are doing for the country and they are very proud of that.”

According to Preston, the U.S. Army set the standard for the U.S. and believes the ANA can do the same for Afghanistan.

“Although we have a ways to go, progress is being made every day by the Afghan army to take the lead in securing the role of total security for its country and citizens,” said Preston. ^A

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, addresses attendees during the ANA 4th semi-annual Sergeant Major of the Army Seminar held at Kabul Military training Center in Afghanistan, Nov. 17.



USARCENT celebrates Thanksgiving



Compiled by
U.S. Army Central PAO

Servicemembers in Kuwait might be far from friends and family back home this holiday, but they still celebrated Thanksgiving in very traditional ways.

Catholic servicemembers from camps in Kuwait gathered for a trip to the Holy Family Catholic Cathedral in Kuwait City for Thanksgiving Mass, Nov. 26.

After Mass, servicemembers enjoyed a meal at the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel.

On Thanksgiving Day, servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, ran the Turkey Trot, a five kilometer fun-run, to celebrate Thanksgiving.

A church service was held at the Zone 1 Chapel following the run. The service was an opportunity for servicemembers to get together and give thanks for their many blessings.

U.S. Army Central's Commanding Gen-



Photo by Spc. Howard Ketter

Servicemembers who placed in the Thanksgiving morning "Turkey Trot" run, posed with their medals at the Zone 1 Fitness Center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 27.

Thanksgiving around Kuwait



eral, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace and Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman, presented Camp Arifjan dining facility personnel coins for their hard work and spoke to servicemembers who enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Servicemembers from installations around Kuwait gathered in Kuwait City to celebrate the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Event at the Hilton Resort where they were able to enjoy a day of relaxation and fun, courtesy of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and other sponsors.

Some events included a treasure hunt, kayaking, swimming, fishing, banana boat rides, Bingo and various sports.

The Thanksgiving meal was served in an Arabian tent and included a wide array of foods.

Even in a foreign country, servicemembers were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with their military family and friends. 



Photo by Pfc. Alicia Torbush

Servicemembers take a moment to pray after receiving communion during Thanksgiving Mass at the Holy Family Catholic Cathedral in Kuwait City, Nov. 26.

U.S. Army NCO History Pt. 3: American Civil War

Compiled by
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice Detachment Sgt.

After the Mexican-American War, noncommissioned officers found themselves leading small units into the new frontier to defend settlements against Indian raids and set up in the newly gained land out west.

In 1849, a young man named Percival Lowe enlisted into the U.S. Army's elite Dragoon unit. Lowe use his knowledge of the land and equestrian skills to immediately make an impact in his unit. Lowe would achieve the rank of first sergeant in just over two years.

In 1853, Lowe, along with other NCOs in his company, established the "company court martial." It was not yet recognized by the Army, but this was the first time that NCOs could enforce discipline in their Soldiers for breaking regulations without dealing with lengthy proceedings.

During the 1850s, changes in the chevron and epaulet continued to occur. After declaring in 1847 that the chevron would be worn in the inverted "V" position, it was changed to point down, where it remained until the regulations of 1902. The epaulet became acceptable to wear in dress

Soldier Spotlight

Cpl. Miles James
Company B, 36th U.S. Colored
Troops

Medal of Honor recipient for
actions conducted at Chapins
Farm, Va., Sept. 30, 1864.

Citation: Having had his arm
mutilated, making immediate
amputation necessary, he loaded
and discharged his piece with
one hand and urged his men
forward; this within 30 yards of
the enemy's works.

uniform but was not permitted with the normal duty uniform.

Major changes to U.S. weaponry occurred in the 1850s that added greatly to the fire power and accuracy of the weapons being used by Soldiers.

The Sharps Carbine and Joslyn Rifle, which both used breech loading, added a new dimension of training for Soldiers. NCOs again took the lead ensuring that all Soldiers in the unit were trained and capable to fire the weapons quickly and accurately.

In April 1861, the leadership skills learned from fighting in the Mexican-American War and defending the new frontier from Indian attacks, along with training new Soldiers in advanced weapons and equestrian skills, came full circle for NCOs as cannons under confederate flags opened fire on Fort Sumter, S.C., officially beginning the Civil War.

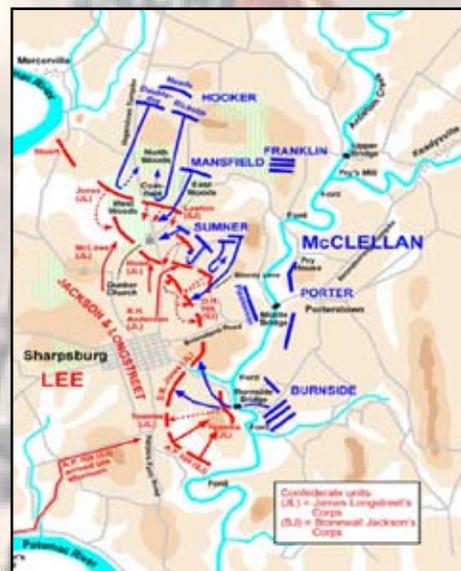
NCOs would be called on not only to lead the lines of skirmishers, but also carry the flags and regimental colors of their units. In order for commanders to define the locations of their units on the field, NCOs were charged with this dangerous and deadly task to ensure the units proper placement and direction.

As the war progressed, new tactical and organizational changes occurred along with developing technology in the form of railroads, telegraph communications, steam ships and other innovations that would affect the ranks of the NCO.

Technical jobs, in the form of ordnance, sappers and hospital stewards, would now receive a higher pay, even if they were not of the same rank, than those who were in tactical jobs.

The use of more open battlefield formations further enhanced the tactical combat leadership for of the NCO. The NCO took on multiple tasks on the battlefield at a higher rate than in any previous war.

In mid September 1862, the tactical proficiency of the NCO was pushed



A map depicting the Battle at Antietam, which was the bloodiest day in American Military History with an estimated 23,000 men losing their lives.

to the limit as the Battle at Antietam raged in Maryland. An entire day of attack and counterattacks from both the Union and Confederate Armies resulted in the single bloodiest day in American Military history, with an estimated 23,000 men losing their lives.

The Civil War continued to incorporate different racial and ethnic groups into the Army, not as individuals but entire units. After the war, ethnic units discontinued but the trend of racial units would continue into the Indian Wars, most famous being the "Buffalo Soldiers" of the Cavalry Regiments.

Four years after the war broke out in South Carolina, 600,000 American's paid the ultimate price for freedom, the war ended in April 1865 with Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendering his army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia.

With the Civil War behind, the NCO again looked for opportunities to further training and education across the Army.

The NCO would have to do this while battling constant engagements with Native Americans during the Indian Wars of the 1870s-1890s leading into the Spanish-American War in 1898. **A**

America's Army

The Strength of the Nation



Army Family Covenant

We recognize ...
 ...The commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.
 ...The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

We are committed to ...
 ...Providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.
 ...Providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.
 ...Building a partnership with Army Families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by ...
 *Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services.
 *Increasing accessibility and quality of health care
 *Improving Soldier and Family housing.
 *Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care.
 *Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.

Just One Question ...

"What is your favorite freedom/ part of the constitution?"



"The freedom to vote, because it gives me an opportunity to give a little part in deciding the future and destiny of our country."

Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Morrison
 C Company, 1-114th Inf.
 Neptune, N.J.



"The freedom of speech, because I can say what my heart desires and the right to bear arms for self-defense."

Sgt. William Signorelli
 MCE-K
 Brooklyn, N.Y.



"The bill of rights, because that's what makes Americans unique."

Lt. Kristen Bentson
 Navy Customs
 Metropolis, Ill.

Why I Serve:

Sgt. 1st Class Hector Negron
 Mobility; 1st Theater Sustainment Command



The Carolina, Puerto Rico native explains why he chose to join the military.

"I joined the Army to provide a better life for my family and to defend the country I love."



"The right to bear arms, because I have a lot of guns and I like to hunt."

Senior Airman Dustin Brown
 70th Medium Truck Detachment
 Mountain Grove, Mo.



"I like the freedom of speech, because I'm an artist who likes to express myself and voice my opinion."

Pvt. 1st Class Marcease Hunt
 1-148th Inf.
 Columbus, Ohio

United States Army Central



“Always First ...

Anytime,

Anywhere,

Patton's Own!”