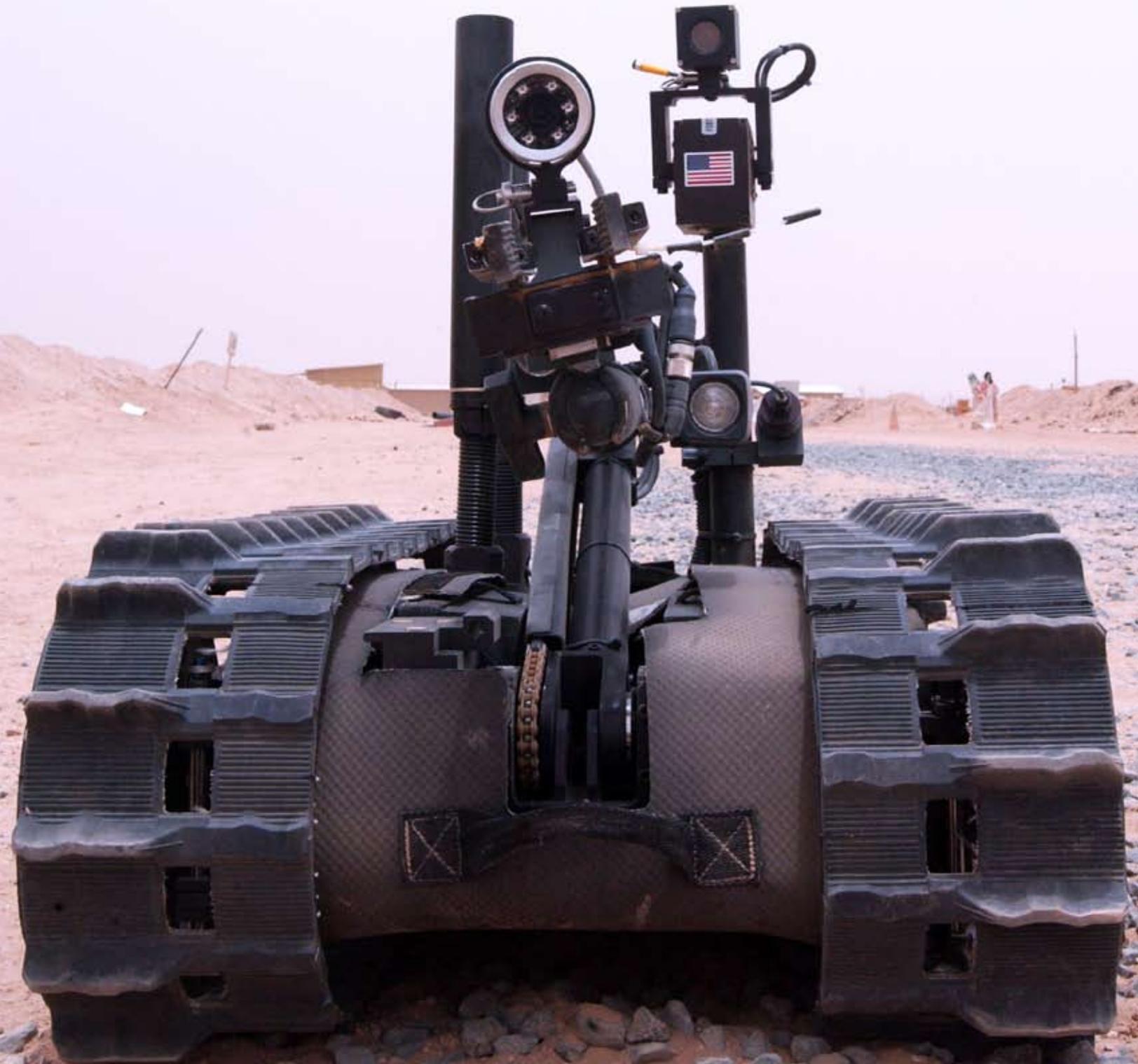


DV *The Desert Voice*

United States Army Central
"Transforming to Full-Spectrum Operations"



June 4, 2008



Pleased to meet you

DV Table of Contents

Page 4

Camp Arifjan celebrates the many contributions of Asian Pacific Americans.

Page 6

Servicemembers honor predecessors during Memorial Day observance.

Page 10

U.S. and Jordanian female servicemembers exchange experiences.

Page 12

U.S. Army Central gets funky with the Legends of Funk tour at Camp Arifjan.

On the cover

A Talon robot participates in a robot refresher training program at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 27. Talon has been praised for its life and time-saving capabilities. For the full story, see page 8.

Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Contact us

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

Volume 29, Issue 53

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office. This magazine is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with USARCENT. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the 50th Public Affairs Detachment.

Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.

DV
The
Desert
Voice



ACEN-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2008 Heat Injury Prevention



MEDICAL ALERT
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND
APO AE 09306

1. With spring in the AOR comes temperatures hotter than most summers elsewhere around the world... and that means **leaders must be vigilant about preventing heat injuries**. Leaders can prevent most heat injuries through proper individual and unit training, hydration, work-rest cycles based upon the heat index, and forceful leadership during high operational risk situations. **It's simply part of doing the mission and protecting the force.**

2. Heat injuries can occur almost anywhere... but they most often occur from activities related to unit and individual PT, physical fitness testing, training exercises, and recreational and physical activities related to unit missions. Leaders must plan and execute accordingly.

3. **I hold leaders responsible for ensuring proper hydration and work-rest cycles based upon sound risk management practices. Consult your medical personnel in planning your activities and making smart decisions, and be familiar with the appropriate references, such as TB MED 507, Heat Stress Control and Heat Casualty Management and the ARCENT Heat Injury and Prevention Campaign Plan.**

4. We are all part of a great team... **all professionals doing the right thing...** this time of year, that includes ensuring all personnel are trained and informed on prevention and management of heat casualties.

5. For more information on heat injuries and how to prevent them contact the ARCENT Surgeon's Force Health Protection Officer at email: kerry.lefrancis@us.army.mil; shelvin.boykin@us.army.mil; DSN 430-6313.

JAMES J. LOVELACE
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

MEDICAL ALERT

USARCENT Commanding General
Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace
USARCENT Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourthman
USARCENT Public Affairs Officer
Col. Thomas Nickerson
USARCENT Deputy PAO (FWD)
Lt. Col. Paula Jones

50th Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Maj. Jeff Pray
50th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Jacob McDonald
Desert Voice Editor
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice Staff Writers
Spc. Wes Landrum
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer



Safety Corner: Summer Safety

Story by Chief Warrant Officer
Marcelo Assumpcao
U.S. Army Safety Center

Every year, the Army loses Soldiers during the summer months to an invisible opponent – heat. Fortunately, these needless losses and other heat-related injuries can be prevented by the application of composite risk management.

The nature of our business requires Soldiers to constantly train and operate in severe weather conditions with extreme temperatures. However, heat injuries can occur even when temperatures are not extreme.

The cumulative effects of strenuous activity over a period of time can result in a Soldier becoming a heat casualty during low-risk conditions. Leaders must remain engaged in order to provide the best protection for our Soldiers, and the best protection is prevention.

There are several control measures that will aid in heat-injury prevention including monitoring wet bulb temperatures, paying closer attention when temperatures rise or when mission oriented protective posture suits are worn. Adjusting work and rest schedules, ensuring Soldiers are acclimated, conducting briefings on heat injury symptoms, taking into account earlier exposure to environmental heat and possible dehydration and using the buddy system can all help mitigate risks. Another control measure several units have implemented is the use of a Soldier tracking system, which is capable of providing real-time tracking of Soldiers.

The Soldiers' movements are monitored and displayed by a system that uses global positioning system position reports provided by the Soldiers' player unit radios and transmitted to a transportable relay radio.

The position reports are then routed through computers to workstations that display the Soldiers' positions on an

aerial overlay of the land navigation area. The system is contained and does not rely on a Web-based interface.

In addition to prevention, it is critical leaders and Soldiers are able to identify and initiate the appropriate treatment measures for the different types of heat injuries. The most severe heat induced illnesses are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If action is not taken to treat heat exhaustion, the illness could progress to heat stroke and possibly death. To help avoid heat related injuries, leaders and Soldiers should:

- Drink plenty of fluids. In hot environments, it's possible for the body to lose one liter of fluids per hour. Thirst is not a good indicator of fluid loss. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink fluids.

- Be aware of the environment. If you work in the heat or around heat sources, take whatever steps are possible to control the heat externally. It's also recommended that ice sheets are readily available during high-risk activities to reduce the severity of a heat injury.

- Take frequent breaks. As the temperature increases, more frequent breaks are needed to stay cool.

- Wear proper clothing. Loose, light-weight fabrics encourage heat release.

- Acclimatize. It takes at least seven to 10 days to get used to working in a hot environment.

- Stay in shape. A healthy heart and good muscle tone work more efficiently and generate less heat.

- Eat light during the workday. Hot, heavy meals add heat to the body and divert blood flow to aid with digestion. Normal dietary intake typically replaces all salt lost during the day, so there is no need to take salt supplements.

- Be aware of special heat stress risks. Caffeine, alcohol, diabetes or medications for high blood pressure and allergies can increase the risk of heat stress.

CRM should be a continuous process applied across the full spectrum of Army training and operations.

Through the engagement of our leaders, we can help ensure Army Safe is Army Strong! **A**



Arifjan shows off 'warrior spirit' a

Story and photos by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer

Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month came to a close at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in a program highlighting contributions by Asians and Pacific Islanders to the United States and the world.

Titled "Leadership, Diversity, Harmony – Gateway to Success," the program covered some of the countless contributions made by Asian Pacific Americans in wide range of areas including the arts, sciences, government, education, sports, business and the military.

Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Vasaga Tilo, Sr., a Ma'tai, or high chief, from the Tilo Family of Aua, American Samoa, said some early Asian Pacific-American immigrants traveled to the U.S. for a number of

reasons – religious freedom, economic prosperity and opportunity. Some, he said however, came to the country looking for an escape from their home islands.

"For some, it was more obvious – war, terrorism, extreme poverty, famine and natural disaster," Tilo said. "Our country is a melting pot of various nationalities and we cannot overlook the contributions that have been made by our other service brothers and sisters."

Asian Pacific-American Heritage observance was started in 1977. In June of that year, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California wrote and introduced a resolution that asked the President of the United States to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Week. A month later, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the U. S. Senate.

In October 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the resolution into law.

In May 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded the week into a month. May was chosen as the month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and to also mark the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. Tilo said his Family's patriotic service in the military goes back a long way.

"My grandfather worked for the U.S. Navy during the occupation of



Seaton K. Tilo performs the Tauluga, the high program at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 29. The outfit when she performed the same dance.

American Samoa by the Department of the U.S. Navy," Tilo said. "My father and his brothers also joined the U.S. military in the early 1940s. I and four brothers also joined the U.S. military and now our sons and daughters have pursued careers in the Family business."

During the program, the attendees tasted a variety of foods popular to the Asian Pacific area. After a hearty meal, it was time to learn more about the different cultures. Various servicemembers performed exhibitions in eskrima and tae kwon do. Eskrima is a Philippine-based martial art style.

After the exhibitions, it was time to dance. Various servicemembers of Asian-Pacific heritage performed dances from around the islands to include the Haka from New Zealand, the Hula dance from Hawaii, the Iaorana from Tahiti and the Tauluga



Staff Sgt. Christopher Hirata performs the Haka during the entertainment portion of the observance, May 29.

Asian Pacific American program



Princess Dance, at the Asian Pacific Islander Observance program she wore for the dance was worn by her great-grandmother

from American Samoa. Kellyann Tilo, Maj. Vasaga Tilo, Jr.'s spouse, said programs like these bring out pride in its people.

"We as a world can have a moment in time where we can celebrate who we are no matter what our walk of life is," Kellyann said.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Hirata, 2nd Heavy Equipment Transporter Company, said the program was special because it gave Asian Pacific Americans a chance to show people what the culture is all about.

"It's amazing that we can bring it out here, to war, and give something of what we are to everyone here," he said. "I want to say a whole month is not enough, but a whole month to honor everyone who's Asian Pacific Islander is like nothing else. It's the best thing. I wish it were every other month."

Sgt. Tuvalu Panapa-Cooley, R-5 Division, 8th Human Resource Sustainment Center, said performing in a program like this brings a little bit of home here to the combat zone and to be able to show off the dances brings them that much closer to home.

"Being in the military, it is pretty much the only thing we have left – our heritage – and dancing is a part of our heritage," Panapa-Cooley said. "This is the only time we get the spotlight the entire year. It's a privilege and we always try to do our best for people."

The elder Tilo told the audience no matter where they go, they will always have the support of the Asian Pacific people.

"So my brothers and sisters, you're not alone," he said. "Our people back home support you and they love you. My hat is off to all of you for the great job you are doing here." **A**



Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Vasaga Tilo Sr., addresses the audience during the Asian Pacific Islander Observance program May 29. Tilo, from American Samoa, is the Ma'tai (high chief) for his family.



Spc. Christina Campos, 8th Human Resource Sustainment Command, dances the Iorana from Tahiti.

Honoring the fallen ...

Deployed servicemembers pay trib

Story by
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
ASG – Kuwait Public Affairs
and Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice editor

All gave some, some gave all. Three simple words that make up one simple sentence, yet these words evoked the spirit and essence of Memorial Day for currently deployed servicemembers during a Memorial Day Observance at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 26.

“We as Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we can live free,” said Col. Richard Curry, the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander. “We can start to pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did and what they stood for.”

A “Never Forgotten” theme rang throughout the day as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines remember those who have died in our nation’s service.

This year, U.S. Army Central and

Base Support Battalion - North celebrated Memorial Day by honoring all who have fallen in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Throughout the day volunteers read the names of all of the fallen since the Global War on Terror began, totaling more than 4,000.

Curry commended those present at the event for their patriotic core and the spirit of remembrance.

“You come here to honor our fallen comrades by your presence,” Curry said to those in attendance. “You understand that on Memorial Day, we honor the ideals and values those Soldiers stood for and died defending.”

Memorial Day originated in the reformative years following the Civil War, with some contention that it started before the end of it. While there are many stories and legends as to the origin of the day, according to Duke University’s Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920, one of the earliest iterations of the day can be traced back to a hymn published in 1867. The hymn titled “Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping” by Nella L. Sweet included a dedication that read, “To the ladies of the South who are decorating the graves of the Confederate dead.”

In 1868, General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed Memorial Day in his General Order 11 and was first observed May 30, 1868. At that observance, flowers were laid down on the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson officially declared Waterloo, N.Y., as the birthplace of Memorial Day. New York was the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1873. By 1890, all of the northern states had recognized the day, however states in the South honored the Confederate dead on a separate day. It was not until after World War I when the holiday was changed from honoring

The United Kingdom’s Trooper Ben Duncan, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, plays Amazing Grace. The front of the stage is adorned by more than 4,000 flags, one for each deceased servicemember.



Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commanding general, addresses the crowd of servicemembers, civilians, Coalition Forces as well as Kuwaiti soldiers during a Memorial Day observance at Camp Buehring.

ute to past heroes

Civil War dead to honoring all Americans who died during any war.

After the National Holiday Act of 1971 was signed, Memorial Day would be celebrated on the last Monday of May.

Curry reminded everyone how small the U.S. military is compared to the honorable past generations of servicemembers.

Curry ended his remarks with a meaningful quote from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The guest speaker, Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, USARCENT commanding general, spoke about the many honors of uniformed servicemembers, past and present.

"This Memorial Day is a day to reconnect ourselves to the thought that our lives are not given in vain," Lovelace said. "This day is because of all who spilled blood to defend their country."

Lovelace said those involved with the military have a different view on Memorial Day.

"Now that you have served, you can never go home the same," Lovelace said. "Your service has changed you forever."

In addition to the personal convictions of all the servicemembers attending the ceremony, honors such as a 21 gun salute, echoed by taps, were revered with a respectful silence. All bowed their heads as the Eulogy for the Fallen was read. A single bagpiper from the Royal Scottish Guard of England performed a solemn rendition of Amazing Grace.

"It is duty, honor and country which inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle," said Curry. "And to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon to do so." 

"...We honor the ideals and values those Soldiers stood for and died defending."

Col. Richard Curry

*37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
commander*

(Background) A Soldier looks through pictures of fallen servicemembers at a Memorial Wall constructed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in commemoration of Memorial Day, May 26. More than 4,000 servicemembers are pictured on the wall which commemorates the sacrifices of those who have fallen during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Photos by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Meet the newest member of the team

Story and photos by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice editor

In recent history there have been famous robots accomplishing amazing feats – the twin Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, their older sister Sojourner, and of course, R2-D2. But there's a new robot in town, a vital member to any route clearance team, Talon.

"The robots have been a huge help and great advancement with the [Improvised Explosive Device] reduction," said 1st Lt. David Vasquez, 370th Sapper Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, a native of Little Rock, Ark. "I'm glad we have them."

Talon serves as an important teammate, ensuring that Soldiers stay alive. Route clearance is a dangerous job for Soldiers, and robots like Talon help ensure Soldiers can dispose of IEDs from a safe distance.

"They are critical to our mission. Without them it would be almost impossible to accomplish the mission without putting troops on the ground," Vasquez said.

Due to a heavy workload, it may

take Explosive Ordnance Disposal team hours to respond to a possible IED. This is where Talon comes in. When a route clearance team comes across a possible IED, it is imperative that the object is quickly investigated, identified and, if required, disposed of.

A route clearance team will deploy Talon and maneuver it closer to the suspected IED. From the safety of their vehicle, combat engineers can "interrogate" the device. Using Talon's multiple cameras, the Soldiers can identify tell-tale signs of the IED. They can spot trigger mechanisms, fuses and explosive material.

Once the assessment determines that the device is indeed an IED, the engineers start the next phase of their mission.

Talon is then recalled and armed with a block of explosive clay with a wiring fuse. It is then sent out once more to place the explosive next to the IED.

"It's definitely valuable. Without the robot you're really stuck," said Sgt. Matthew Seymour, 479th Eng. Bn., a native of Potsdam, N.Y. "You



1st Lt. David Vasquez, 370th Sapper Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, a native of Little Rock, Ark., "interrogates" a possible Improvised Explosive Device. Vasquez uses the Talon's four cameras to look for clues and features that he can use to identify the type of IED used.



need the robot to get down there and look at the IED and place the charge. Anything we can do with the robot allows us to stay within the relative protection of the vehicle."

Using the on-board visual system, the operator can determine where to best place the explosive. After the explosive is set, Talon places the explosive near the target using its robotic arm.

Once Talon is safely out of the IED's blast area, the order is given.

"Fire in the hole, fire in the hole, fire in the hole!"

After the IED is disposed of, Talon's mission is done. It is redeployed back into the vehicle. The route clearance team's mission is accomplished.

The engineer Soldiers said their mission of disposing of IEDs may be new, but with the addition of Talon, they have been able to adapt and accomplish their tasks.

Team – *Talon*



A Talon robot goes in for a closer look at a suspected IED. Robots such as Talon allow combat engineers to clear routes quickly without having to wait for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams to do so.

“I didn’t personally expect to work with robots but we adjusted fairly quickly,” Seymour said. “It’s good fun, it certainly beats walking around out there with explosives in your hand. We’re saving lives and making a difference in terms of mobility.”

Robots are proving themselves to be valuable members of the Army team. Although the robots used today may not be as complicated or advanced as those depicted in movies or used by NASA, science fact is catching up with science fiction. From unmanned aerial vehicles to route clearance, robots work hand-in-hand with Soldiers to accomplish the mission. 



An IED is detonated during a Talon robot refresher training course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Jordanian, American military women exchange knowledge

Story and photos by
Marine Sgt. Sara A. Carter
U.S. Army Central Public Affairs

AMMAN, Jordan – Eleven American servicemembers from U.S. Army Central traveled to Jordan to participate in the 2nd Annual Jordanian Armed Forces Women's Symposium in Amman recently.

Officers and enlisted women from both the American and Jordanian military came together at the Female Training Institute inside the Royal Military Academy to discuss multiple issues associated with creating and participating in a co-ed military.

Brig. Gen. Aisha Bint Al Hussein, director of the Directorate of Military Women's Affairs and a princess in the Jordanian Royal Family, has set a goal of increasing the number of females in the JAF from three percent to six percent by 2015. With the steady change of women's roles in the military come questions on the best ways to integrate

women into new military positions once held by men only.

Each country gave a brief history of women's role in their militaries then they opened the floor for discussion. Some of the many topics discussed were: military as a career for women, non-traditional occupational roles for women in the armed forces, job opportunities, changes that have to occur with a co-ed environment, health issues, and military Family life for both dual and single military.

The U.S. is about 25 years ahead of Jordan in regards to the addition of women in its military. Currently, the main role of women in the Jordanian military is administration and nursing. However, they are slowly beginning to have the opportunity to work in some non-traditional job fields such as being a member of the Royal Guards and the Royal Military Police.

"It empowers them to see us," said Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett, senior enlisted leader, U.S. Central

Command. "We give them confidence. What they are going through now, we went through years ago."

JAF Lt. Col. Sana'a Fadel Ali, assistant of the director of military women's affairs and the head of the training branch at the directorate, said sharing experiences with the U.S. has given the Jordanian women the support to keep on trying. She also said working with the U.S. military has taught them what to do and what not to do while increasing the role of women in the JAF.

There was a variety of experience in the room. Some of the women in the JAF have only been in the military for about two years while others have already served more than 20 years.

Jordanian Armed Forces Sgt. Abeer Abu Sbeh has been in the JAF for more than two years and is a drill sergeant and platoon leader at the Female Training Institute. The 24-year-old said she had a pure desire and determination to be a member of the Jordanian army.

"It is a great honor to be a member



American female servicemembers pose for pictures with their Jordanian counterparts during the 2nd annual Woman's Symposium in Amman recently. The symposium addressed multiple issues dealing with creating and participating in a co-ed military.



Female U.S. servicemembers participate in a meeting with their Jordanian counterparts during the 2nd annual Women's Symposium in Amman, Jordan.

of the army," she said. "I advise other [women] to join because it's honorable to serve your country and nation."

One of the more experienced officers who attended the event was JAF Maj. Ketayeh Hiyasar who has served in the military for 23 years. She explained her whole family was in the army so she also decided to join.

"I am very proud to be in the military," she said. "It is the safest place for women to work."

Although the experience level varied from servicemember to servicemember, all who participated in the event walked away from the event with a new-found knowledge of how the other operates. The U.S. servicemembers left Jordan with a new perspective about everything women in the military, as a whole, go through, Pritchett said.

"We are more alike than we are different," said the sergeant major who has served for more than 30 years and is the

first woman to serve as a command sergeant major in a combat theater. "Life isn't as bad as we think it is."

Fadel Ali agrees with Pritchett saying, "It makes females realize the differences we face are almost the same."

"I believe we all gained a better appreciation for our own fortunate circumstances – the opportunities we have, as women in the U.S. military, to contribute to our national security," said Col. Sheri Tonner, Director, Training, USARCENT G3 (FWD). "The Jordanian women really opened our eyes to the realities for women in other countries."

As the women of the Jordanian Armed Forces continue to show their strength and courage, U.S. Army Central will continue to encourage and support them through this time of transition. According to Pritchett, USARCENT will continue to participate in the symposium in years to come and

hopes to expand the number of days of the event in order to give the American women an opportunity to see more of the Jordanian training. There is also a possibility the symposium will rotate between the U.S. and Jordan to allow everyone the opportunity to see how each trains.

"I felt inspired by the passion of the women in the Jordanian Armed Forces," Tonner said. "They are so passionate about what they are doing and you can see a sense of purpose in their endeavors to increase the roles for women in Jordan's armed forces. They are very enthusiastic and professional – their excitement and optimism about their potential to contribute to the future of their country was inspirational."

Fadel Ali said a lot has changed since last year's symposium and she expects to see doors open up for women in non-traditional units – units that were strictly for men. **A**



Photo by Master Sgt. Lorenzo Nathaniel



What the FUNK!?

Story by
 Lt. Col. Paula Z. Jones
 U.S. Army Central Public Affairs

The Legends of Funk tour electrified thousands for more than two hours in the middle of the desert

as it played soulful sounds from their 1970s and '80s hits, May 27. The temperature was well over 100 degrees at Camp Arifjan, but that didn't slow down the performers or audience.

The Legends of Funk tour consists of three popular R&B groups to include artists with gold and platinum-selling albums, No. 1 hits on the Billboard and R&B charts and Grammy Award winners. Con Funk Shun, the Bar-Kays and the Dazz Band brought the crowd to their feet as they turned the clock back in time and played songs from the past. Members from the three bands played as one venerable

“super-funk” band.

“We wanted to give the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines a break to let them forget their surroundings and simply enjoy the music,” said Michael Cooper lead singer and original Con Funk Shun band member since 1969. “We love everyone here. We felt we received 200 percent appreciation from the audience which was totally unbelievable”.

The live band elated the audience with the melodic sound of a complete brass section, electric and bass guitars, keyboards, percussions for a real “old school” feel. The crowd went wild when favorite tunes such as “FFun,” “Disco Dazz,” “Joystick,” “Straight from the Heart” and more were played.

Seaman Jason Budai, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, arrived two hours early to ensure he had front row seats. He said he and his Navy buddies had a lot of



Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Seaman Jason Budai, second from left, and other Sailors from Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group dance along with the Legends of Funk.

Background photo by Master Sgt. Lorenzo Nathaniel

Camp Arifjan

**Servicemembers
move with the music
during the Legends
of Funk tour at Camp
Arifjan, Kuwait, May
27.**

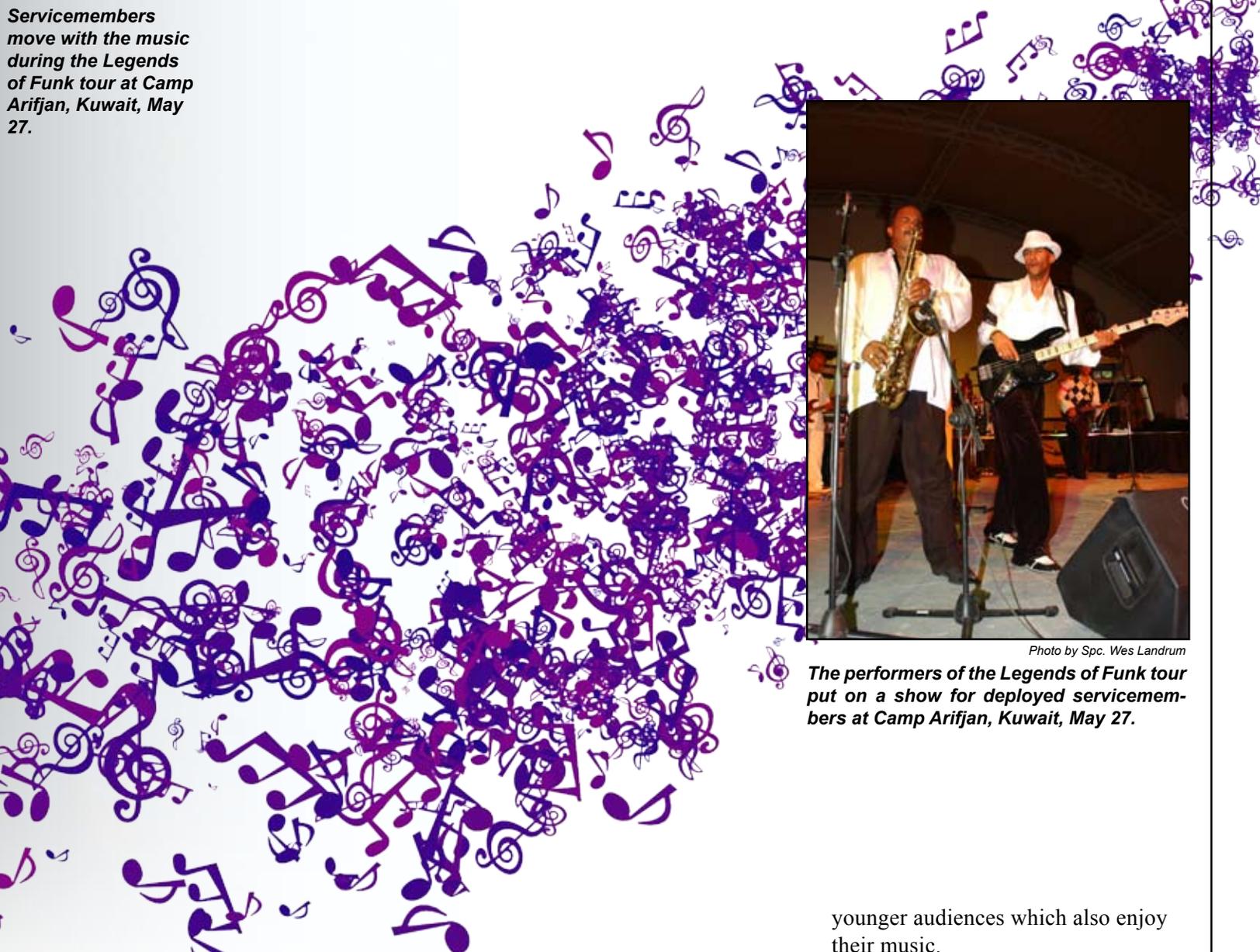


Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

The performers of the Legends of Funk tour put on a show for deployed servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 27.

fun and will not forget this concert. Budai lead his buddies with his dance moves in front of the stage. He and Chief Petty Officer 3rd Class Wendell Shepherd were invited on stage to dance with the band.

“I grew up with this music and [have been disc jockeying] for 10 years,” Sheperd said. “These artists are real, know how to perform and get the audience involved. This music is great and I love the brass section. This music makes you move and I love it.”

Bobby Harris, lead vocalist for the Dazz Band reminded the audience that this tour has more than 110 years of experience. The Bar-Kays have been together for 42 years, Con Funk

Shun for 39 years and the Dazz Band for 32 years.

“Meeting troops and performing in this environment has really been an eye opening experience,” Harris said.

During the show, the band dedicated a few songs to a few ladies in the audience.

“Words can’t describe how I feel about performing for the troops,” said Larry Dotson, Bar-Kays lead vocalist.

He was impressed that the leadership took the time to explain their mission and welcome them to the area. His most touching experience was visiting troops in the hospital.

“It was good to put a smile on their face and made our visit worthwhile,” Dotson said.

The Legends of Funk are reaching

younger audiences which also enjoy their music.

“Our music is sampled by many hip-hop artists, used in television commercials and has also been featured in movies,” Cooper said. “We also know that some of our younger audience listens to their parents’ music and ‘old school’ music on the radio.”

The concert ended with an outstanding rendition of “Let it Whip” which the crowd thoroughly enjoyed.

For a few hours, the Soldiers could get away and relax with great music and entertainment before returning to duty. Legends of Funk will continue its tour with several concerts throughout Iraq. When asked if they would return for another concert, they all replied that it was so much fun, and warned the audience to look out for Legends of Funk II. **A**

USARCENT engages Kyrgyzstan military press service

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Wiley
U.S. Army Central Public Affairs

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan – A free press poses a challenge to any organization, as it can report the good, the bad and the ugly. For a military whose government formerly limited free press, this can be especially difficult.

This is the case for the military of the Kyrgyz Republic, which was formed after the nation gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. To help it meet and overcome this challenge, a team of public affairs practitioners from U.S. Army Central met here with top officials of the military public affairs agencies of Kyrgyzstan, May 12-17.

Press service representatives from Kyrgyzstan's various military agencies including its Ministry of Defense, Border Service, Interior Forces, National Guard and Drug Control Agency – ranging in ranks from colonel to warrant officer – met with the three-Soldier USARCENT team.

“The purpose of the visit was to exchange information, learn what public affairs capabilities they possess and how these capabilities can be shared to help strengthen a military-to-military relationship,” said Lt. Col. David Hylton, the deputy chief of public affairs for USARCENT.

As a territory once controlled by the Soviet Union, the concept of a free press is still relatively new to the country. Before 1991, journalists were employed by the state and reported only what the government allowed.

Hylton said despite this history of heavy government censorship, Kyrgyzstan has taken steps toward freedom.

“The public affairs operations of their military have matured beyond the old Soviet model. Rather than just calling up the media and telling them ‘here is your story, you’re going to run it,’ they have come to grips with



Warrant Officer Abdykazy kyzy Salkyn, a military correspondent with the Kyrgyzstan Border Service, practices her skills doing a stand up interview with the media, as Maj. Tom Alexander Jr., media relations officer for U.S. Army Central Public Affairs, reviews and provides feedback.

the reality that they can't control the press. Their laws governing free press are actually very good,” Hylton said.

“However, they are still in the transitional phase of learning how to operate in a free press environment,” said Maj. Tom Alexander Jr., the media relations officer for USARCENT.

“From the media relations side, it was very interesting to learn about their perception of media management as compared to our perception of media relations,” Alexander said.

Alexander said the event was meant to help their military better understand and deal with the realities of their democratic laws in regards to freedom of the press.

“Now their media is free to present information to the public, so there is a requirement for the press service of the Kyrgyzstan military to answer to the public and provide information about what they are doing. This is part of the democratic process – informing the public through the media, not censoring or hindering information, so the public can make an informed decision about what they are doing,” said Alexander.

Maj. Gulmira Borubaeva, chief of the International Military Cooperation

Directorate of Kyrgyzstan and former editor of the Kyrgyz military newspaper, said events such as this exchange are very helpful in promoting understanding between how the two nations do things.

“I think this kind of communication and cooperation between nations, when officers go to the United States to study and share their experiences and knowledge in some fields and getting knowledge from their American colleagues, is a very good way to develop our cooperation, to understand each other better,” she said.

Borubaeva said in the future she hopes the United States continues to share the experience it has gained in real-world operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan with her nation.

She added that as her nation develops she would like to see it take what is positive from the U.S. model of conducting public affairs activities and adapt it to its own situations.

The next public affairs information exchange between the two nations will take place in July, when members of the Kyrgyz military will travel to the United States along with members of the Tajik military to meet with the USARCENT public affairs team. 



The Inspector General Bulletin



Personally Identifiable Information



"Never let your credit or debit card out of sight!"



Here's what you should know:

Secure your mail and safeguard your social security number. Never leave checks or billing statements in the mailbox overnight!

Destroy private records and statements. Don't leave a paper trail.

CDRS collect only necessary PII and protect as "SENSITIVE"

Know who you are dealing with, become more defensive with your personal information.



Take your name off marketers' lists!!

REFERENCES: DoD Directive 5400.11 AR 530-1 OPSEC AR 388-5 Department of the Army Info Security Program

AR 25-2 Information Assurance ALARACT Message 1 FEB 08 Data-at-Risk protection Strategy

USARCENT MEMO Personally Identifiable Information Protection Policy 18 AUG 07



REMEMBER... learn how to safeguard your Social Security number at <http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/king/financial/privacy/P33718.asp>



IG Contact Numbers

IG Commercial (404) 464-2994
IG SGM (404) 464-1728
IG Assistance (404) 464-4683
IG(FWD) BSN 318-438-6119
IG(FWD) Assistance 318-438-6330
Always give your COC the chance to resolve any issues!!

Just One Question ...

"What is one thing you would improve on-post?"



"More days off."

Spc. Christina Perez
HHC Area Support Group-Kuwait
Admin NCO/ security manager
East Stroudsburg, Pa.



"Closer DFACs to where I am [on Camp Buehring]. The two here are on the opposite side of the camp."

Pfc. Daniel Hargrove
110th Military Police Company
Personal security detail
Cadiz, Ky.



"Better on-post transportation and more shuttles here in [Camp] Buehring. We have to walk quite a ways in the heat."

Tech Sgt. Carlos Torres
586th ESFS
Security forces
Bronx, N.Y.

Why I serve:

Spc. Robin Johnson
HHC Area Support Group – Kuwait
Communications specialist



The Brooklyn, N.Y., native explains why she chose to join the military.

"I did it for college reasons. I also wanted to have a career."



"I would change the 'I can't do it' attitude and everyone would learn how to point people in the right direction to accomplish the mission."

Staff Sgt. Samuel D. Wills
HHC Area Support Group – Kuwait
Command Judge Advocate NCOIC
Anniston, Ala.



"More shuttles and bus stops, and also improve phone service [on Camp Buehring]. The phones go out a lot too."

Spc. Gretchen Finley
2228th Military Police Company
Military police officer
Midland, Texas

What's happening around USARCENT ...

COIC gets funky

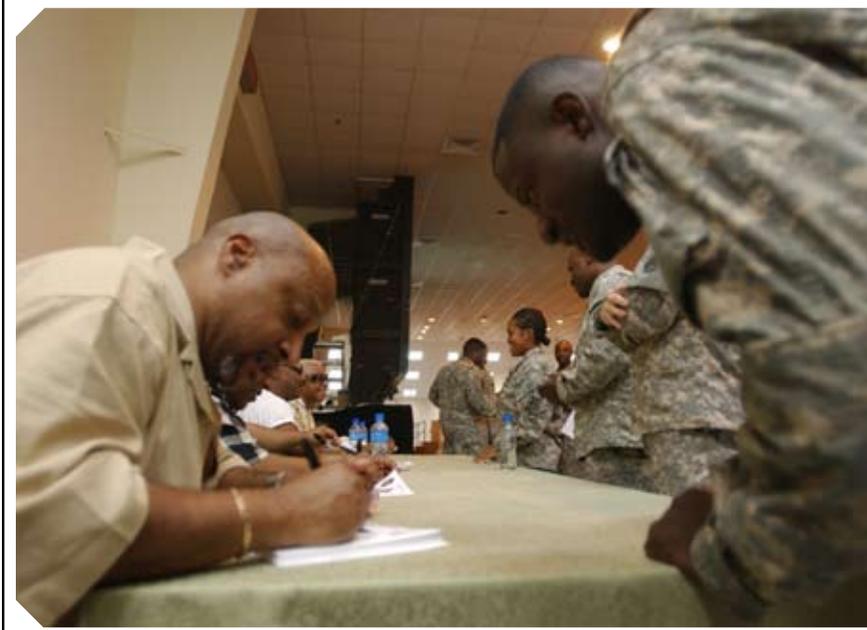


Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Members of the Legends of Funk Tour sign autographs and meet servicemembers inside the Coalition Operations Intelligence Center on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 27.

'Bama bound



Photo by Jim Hinnant

Workers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, clean an M109A6 'Paladin' 155mm self-propelled howitzer, May 28, 2008. Just returning from extended combat duty in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, the system is being prepared for retrograde by the 401st Army Field Support Brigade and will be 'reset' at Anniston Army Depot, Anniston, Ala.

Droppin' jokes



Photo by Air Force Staff Sergeant Patrick Dixon
Comedian Dane Cook entertains Airmen deployed to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing during a comedy show May 26, 2008, at an air base in the Persian Gulf Region. Comedians Al Del Bene, Robert Kelly, and Dane Cook will be visiting deployed troops throughout the area of responsibility during a United Service Organizations sponsored Combat Comedy Tour.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sergeant Patrick Dixon