

DV The Desert Voice

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



April 9, 2008

*Hundreds of MRAPs and
Up-Armored HMMWVs
arrive in Kuwait*

ORDER UP!



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On the cover

Hundreds of Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles roll off the USNS Mendonca at a port in Kuwait in late March. For more pictures, turn to page 6.

Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Contact us

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



On Leadership: NCO Leadership in USARCENT

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of eight articles on leadership.

By their nature, noncommissioned officers are leaders, and the two basic responsibilities of any NCO are accomplishing the mission and the welfare of Soldiers.

For the individual NCO that varies from leader to leader and from mission to mission. However, you can group taking care of Soldiers into two categories: training Soldiers and taking care of their professional needs.

Traditionally we talk about individual and crew training as the NCOs primary responsibility – everything from teaching a Soldier how to wear a uniform to the crew and battle drills. Because we are deployed you have to make time and look for opportunities to do individual training.

U.S. Army Central is a little different so everyone also has to learn how they fit into the headquarters. With our push to transform to a Full-Spectrum Operations capable headquarters, Soldiers have different skills they have to learn and it is the NCOs responsibility to train them.

Most NCOs will have a steep learning curve of their own. In many cases NCOs have come out of the tactical level of the squad, platoon or company, where they were executing missions on the ground, and now must start thinking at an operational level or in some cases a strategic level which can be foreign to them. NCOs really have to get back to the books and do their homework. Leaders should know what is expected of them and their Soldiers.

NCOs need to motivate and mentor Soldiers to accomplish the mission and



**Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman
USARCENT command sergeant major**

develop the leaders of tomorrow. It's critical for us to share our knowledge and skills with younger Soldiers. There's an obligation for all NCOs to help those coming up through the ranks to develop professionally.

Training Soldiers is only half of the job. NCOs have a key role in making the mission

happen. They really are the backbone of the Army. They are knowledgeable in their mission and in what needs to happen. Education, empowerment and accountability for actions define their role.

Overall I have been impressed with the caliber of the NCOs I have met in USARCENT.

Leaders, as we go about our daily missions, continue to do the right thing and take care of Soldiers. Safety is the number one thing NCOs can affect. Know and understand safety practices and communicate the importance to your Soldiers. Leaders need to understand and apply composite risk management practices daily and understand how their actions impact the mission.

NCOs are the standard bearers. I need them out there setting the example. They should know, practice and enforce the standards, not only in their workplace, but everywhere. NCOs and Soldiers should hold their heads up, be proud of who they are and this unit. Pay attention to what is going on around you. Practice customs and courtesies. Give that snappy salute when you pass an officer in the morning. Give the greeting of the day, "Always First," and expect a reply of "Patton's Own."

It's an exciting time to be part of U.S. Army Central.

Patton's Own!

Volume 29, Issue 45

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DV
The
Desert
Voice

Making a difference with Army Family Action Program

Story by
Chap. (Lt. Col.) *Scottie Lloyd*
USARCENT chaplain's section

Your input can make a difference. This was demonstrated recently as U.S. Army Central Soldiers and their Families participated in the Army Family Action Program.

AFAP is a grassroots suggestion program where Soldiers and Families recommend changes to improve life in the Army. Issues are submitted at the unit levels and eventually progress through reviews at the installation, major command, and Department of the Army levels.

"In its 22-year history, the Army Family Action Plan has brought over 600 issues to the attention of top Army leadership," said Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, commanding general of USARCENT. "It lets Soldiers and Families say what's working, what isn't, and what they think will fix it."

Though no longer a part of U.S. Army Forces Command, USARCENT submitted 15 issues to the recent FORSCOM AFAP Conference in Atlanta, four of which were chosen to be included in the 12 issues FORSCOM will forward to the Department of the Army. These were:

- Recommending not charging Rest

and Recuperation leave to deployed Soldiers in the war zone to allow Soldiers more time with their Families during redeployment.

- Recommending all deployed Soldiers who depart the theater on emergency leave not be charged leave during their absence. It is felt that charging leave in times of duress only increases stress on Soldiers and Families.

- Recommending a change to the criteria for Basic Allowance for Housing to include the number of dependents in a Family and to authorize installations to determine military housing area mileage radius used in BAH rate calculation. This means more money for Soldiers with larger Families and who live farther than 20 miles from their military installation.

- Recommending a change in the posthumous immigration benefits for alien spouses, children or parents. Currently, alien spouses, children, or parents may be deported in the event of the death of the active duty sponsor. The recommendation is to provide the same posthumous immigration benefits to alien spouses, children or parents of servicemembers (U.S. citizen/non U.S. citizen) who die in the line of duty as those afforded to the Family members (U.S. citizen) of servicemembers who die in combat.

Capt. Tina Hill and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Theus represented USARCENT at the conference and Karen Lloyd, a Family member, also served as a volunteer. Hill and Theus noted that it was satisfying to see Soldiers' and Families' recommendations taken seriously, cutting through red tape and getting the Army's attention for action.

Gail Lovelace, head of the USARCENT Family Readiness Group, also attended the conference.

"I was really impressed by the quality of our USARCENT delegates and the issues they brought to the conference," Gail said. "We were well represented in both the delegate and volunteer arenas, and I think that shows the commitment of our USARCENT team to the AFAP process."

Let your input make a difference and let your voice be heard by participating in AFAP.

USARCENT will host its own AFAP conference June 9-14, with the final issues being forwarded directly to Department of the Army for consideration at the DA AFAP conference scheduled for November.

Issue papers have been mailed to the USARCENT community and more information will be forthcoming on the USARCENT FRG Web site at www.arcent.army.mil/frg.

Safety Corner: Heat kills

By Lt. Gen. *Jim Lovelace*
USARCENT commander

With spring in the area of responsibility 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.

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.

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 Technical Bulletin Medical 507, Heat Stress Control and Heat Casualty Management and the U.S. Army Central Heat Injury and Prevention Campaign Plan.

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.

For more information on heat injuries and how to prevent them contact the USARCENT Surgeon's Force Health Protection officer at kerry.lefrancis@us.army.mil, shelving.boykin@us.army.mil or call 430-6313.

Sustainment mission changes

Story and photos by
Spc. John Ortiz

4th Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

The 4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, took charge of supplying the combat forces in Iraq from the 640th Sustainment Bde., headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., in a transfer of authority ceremony.

The 4th Sustainment Bde., under the command of Col. Terence Hermans, assumed the task as the supplier of combat equipment and personnel to the U.S. Army Central and Multi-National Corps-Iraq area of operations.

This is the first time a modularized sustainment brigade has performed the theater distribution mission from Kuwait. This is the second deployment after previously being the first fully modular sustainment brigade supporting the Multi-National Division-Baghdad AO, two years ago.

"This ceremony is a first for a brigade-size element," said Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, the commanding general for the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater). "It used to be

when the new guy came onboard, the old unit would say 'I'm so glad you're here, I'm gone,' but this is a deliberate three-week process because individuals have to think about why they are here, and the strategic importance of Kuwait and [the 4th Sustainment Bde.] is going to take over the strategic mission."

During the ceremony, Leonard took time to thank the outgoing unit.

"The best thing for this ceremony is to provide a venue to thank those involved for doing a successful mission," Leonard said. "There really is a debt owed to each and every one of you that can never be paid, as one Soldier to another, thank you for your service and for being a part of the 'First Team.'"

"The 640th Sustainment Brigade leaves a great legacy from a collective effort," he said, "[the unit] moved more gallons of fuel each day than the famed Red Ball Express did in over a month, and accomplished the mission in which every convoy was a movement to contact, with some missions lasting in excess of 21 days."

The 640th Sustainment Bde., has accomplished amazing things given the time frame of their deployment, Leonard said.

"The support given to the war effort has been the real measure of success with no mission ever being stopped or even paused due to logistics," he said.

The outgoing brigade commander, Col. Brett Nila, had a few pointers for the 640th Sustainment Bde. Soldiers.

"Be flexible, things change at a moment's notice, ask a lot of questions, never take anything for granted, and take care of the individuals who are doing the hard work," Nila said.

As the ceremony ended, Hermans

(Left) 4th Sustainment Brigade commander Col. Terence Hermans and Sgt. Maj. Rodney Felder, 4th Sustainment Brigade acting sergeant major, uncased the brigade colors during their transfer of authority ceremony.



Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) commanding general, makes his opening remarks during the transfer of authority ceremony between the 640th and the 4th Sustainment Brigades.

"... thank you for your service and for being part of the 'First Team.'"

Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard
1st Sustainment Command (Theater)
commanding general



Camp Arifjan

hands



Command
giving re-
between

made a promise that the 4th Sustainment Bde. intends to keep.

“As we take the reins today, we will build on their success and work,” Hermans said. “We will endeavor to take the operation to the next level

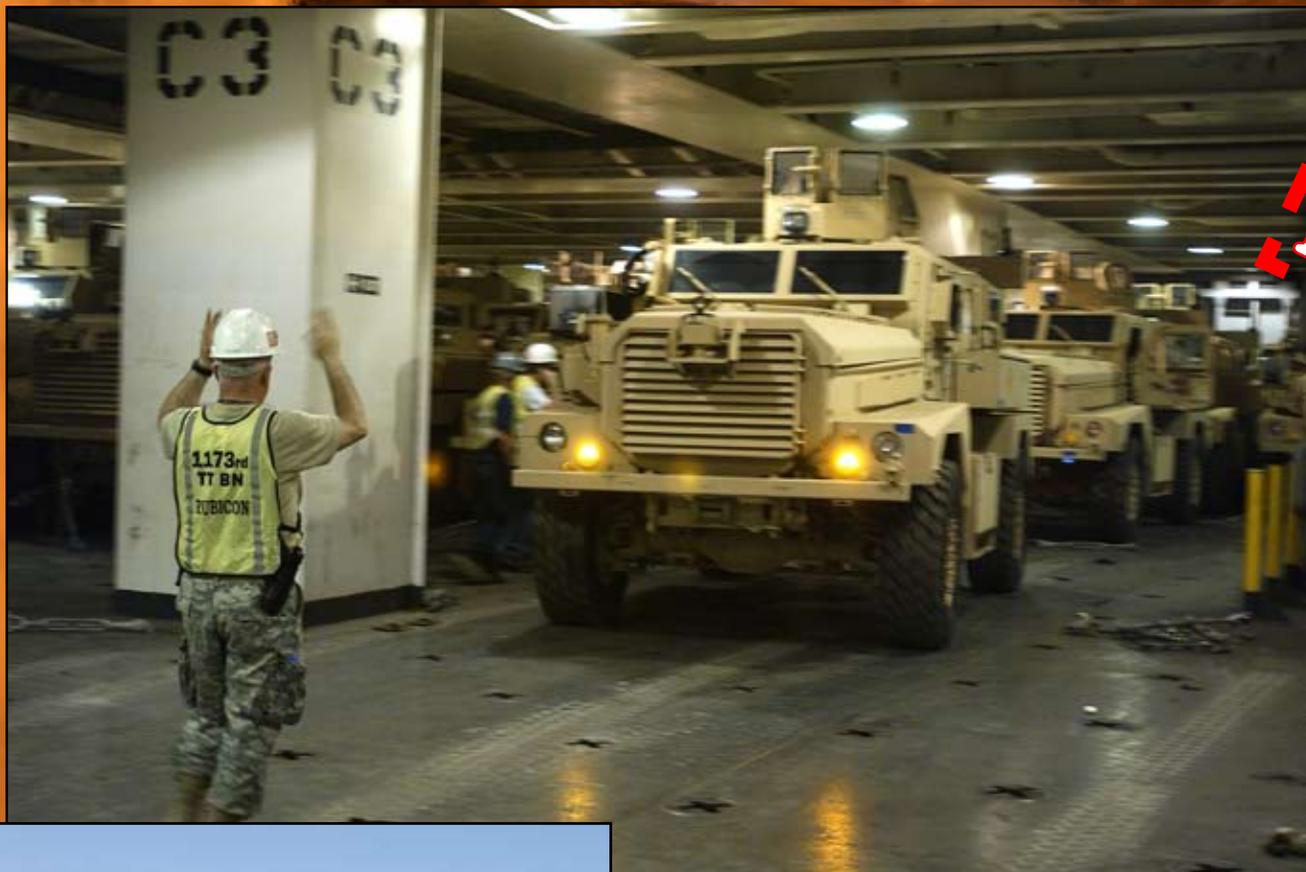
of excellence and look forward to a legacy that builds on what the 640th Sustainment Bde., has done and beginning a new chapter in the Kuwait area of operations and joining the ‘First Team.’” **A**



(Inset) Lt. Col. Kevin Stevens, Brigade Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade commander, calls his battalion to attention during the his brigade’s transfer of authority ceremony.

(Background) Soldiers of the 4th Sustainment Brigade look on during a transfer of authority ceremony between the outgoing 640th Sustainment Brigade and the incoming 4th Sustainment Brigade at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 28.

Camp Arifjan



DESERT VOICE



(Above) A Soldier with the 1173rd Transportation Battalion guides one of the more than 500 MRAPs off the USNS Mendonca. This shipment is the largest shipment of MRAPs to date.

“The bottom line is that these vehicles save lives.”

*Jay Morales
Liaison officer
Joint Program Office*

A mine resistant ambush protected vehicle rolls down the ramp of the USNS Mendonca in Kuwait, in late March. The USNS Mendonca transported more than 500 MRAPs which are bound for Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



**SPECIAL
DELIVERY**

More than 500 MRAPs arrive in Kuwait

*Photos by
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer
Desert Voice staff writer*

A shipment of more than 500 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles arrived in Kuwait late March. This shipment is the largest of its kind to date and is meant to increase the presence of the vehicles in theater thus better protecting servicemembers from Improvised Explosive Devices.

The MRAP is a heavily armored military vehicle meant to defeat IEDs which are frequently used against U.S. and coalition troops involved in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

“The bottom line is that these vehicles save lives,” said Jay Morales, the liaison officer for the Joint Program Office. [A](#)

Deployed service

Congratulations to the new



Soldiers recite the Oath of Allegiance during their naturalization ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 5. 60 deployed servicemembers took the oath officially making them American citizens.

Pfc. Abadura, Ahmedetijani, B Comp
Spc. Abdullahi, Fuad, A Co., 1-16
Spc. Alegre, Rolly, B Co., 1-16
Spc. Alonzo, Larsen, C Battery, 1-16
Spc. Altimeemy, Ali, MN
Spc. Angeles, Ryan, C Btry., 1-16
Petty Officer 2nd Class Arroliga, Reynaldo
Spc. Batucan, Desiderio, A Co., 1-16
Spc. Cabrera-Diaz, Julio, D Co.,
Cpl. Castillo-Flores, Marcelo, C Co.,
Spc. Castillo-Sierra, Miguel, C Btry.
Spc. Chittangtrong, Watcharakorn, B Co.
Spc. Cordero-Sanchez, Amauri, B Co.
Spc. Corpuz, Ryan, D Co., 1-16
Spc. Cross, Phillip, B Co., 1-16
Spc. Dalrymple, Aubrey, 485th Chem
Spc. Delos-Santos, Michael, A Co.,
Pfc. Diaz-Davila, Gilbert, D Co., 1-16
Sgt. Douglas, Errick, HHC, 1-16
Spc. Duran, Heriberto, C Btry., 1-16
Spc. Flores, Jeremiah, B Co., 1-16
Petty Officer 1st Class Gallagher, Paul
Spc. Garcia-Lemus, Boris, HHC, 1-16
Spc. Gasaiwai, Jeremiah, C Co.
Staff Sgt. Gordon, Inja, 8th Ordn
Spc. Guasso, Jose, HHC, 1-16
Spc. Heaven, Suzette,
Spc. Hernandez, Jose, HHC, 1-16
Spc. Hernandez, Roberto, 329th
Spc. Hummel, Yong, HHD, L
Spc. Hussein, Hisham, MN
Spc. Kassem, Anthony, C Btry.,
Cpl. Lara, Aldo, A Co., 1-160
Spc. Laris, Linda, 314th CS
Spc. Lohja, Guxim, 7th Chem
Spc. Lokboj, Lee, HHC, 1-160th
Sgt. Lopez-Velazquez, Maria, 51
Petty Officer 3rd Class Luna, Francisco,
Spc. Moreno, Enrique, C Co., 1-16
Pfc. Mowatt, Nashyra, 1179th D
Spc. Negron, Esteisy, B Det., 9th
Sgt. Noveron, Humberto, 109th T
Cpl. Ortega, Arturo, HHD,
Spc. Pacheco-Rosales, Pedro, HHC
Pfc. Padilla, Victor, 7th Chem
Spc. Pan, Guang, B Co., 1-16
Spc. Park, Min, C Btry., 1-14
Sgt. Parker, Omar, HHD, L
Spc. Ramirez-Fonseca, Denis, 1113th
Pfc. Reece, Andre, 74th Engineer T
Sgt. Reyes, Alejandro, 2nd Trans. C
Spc. Rivera, Liza, Task Force
Pfc. Romero-Gonzalez, Martha, 2nd
Pfc. Romero-Roel, Abraham, 2nd
Sgt. Sabir, Rim, 1108th AVC
Sgt. Sakri, Dhafer, 927th CSSB,
Spc. San Agustin, Diobanjo, A Co.,
Spc. Ventura, Boris, C Co., 1-160
Spc. Yi, Jason, HHD LT
Staff Sgt. Zavalza, Victor, A Co.,

Servicemembers become newest American citizens

st American citizens

ny, 1-175th Inf., Ethiopia
 175th Inf., Ethiopia
 0th Inf., Philippines
 143rd FA, Guatemala
 C-Iraq, Iraq
 43rd FA, Philippines
 0, Navy MCB 14, Nicaragua
 1-160th Inf., Philippines
 1-160th Inf., Mexico
 1-160th Inf., El Salvador
 1-143rd FA, Mexico
 Co., 1-160th Inf., Thailand
 ry, 1-143rd FA, Mexico
 0th Inf., Philippines
 75th Inf., Jamaica
 nical Battalion, Guyana
 1-160th Inf., Philippines
 60th Inf., Guatemala
 175th Inf., Jamaica
 -143rd FA, Mexico
 60th Inf., Philippines
 CHAPGRU 3, Ireland
 -160th Inf., Guatemala
 , 1-160th Inf., Fiji
 nance Co., Korea
 60th Inf., Mexico
 Jamaica
 -160th Inf., Mexico
 ch MCT, Mexico
 TF-10, Thailand
 C-Iraq, Egypt
 143rd FA, Canada
 th Inf., Nicaragua
 55B, Mexico
 n. Co., Albania
 Inf., Marshall Islands
 0th HRC, Mexico
 Navy MCB 14, Ecuador
 -160th Inf., Mexico
 55B, Costa Rica
 Finance Bn., Mexico
 Trans. Co., Mexico
 LTF-10, Peru
 C, 1-160th Inf., Mexico
 n. Co., Mexico
 60th Inf., China
 3rd FA, Korea
 TF-10, Jamaica
 Trans. Co., Nicaragua
 Team (Dive), Jamaica
 o., Dominican Republic
 189, Philippines
 d Trans. Co., Mexico
 Trans. Co., Mexico
 RAD, Pakistan
 131st Armor, Algeria
 1-160th Inf., Philippines
 0th Inf., El Salvador
 F-10, Korea
 1-160th Inf., Mexico

Story and photos by
 Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer
 Desert Voice staff writer

A naturalization ceremony was held for 60 servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 5.

“I feel blessed for being naturalized,” said Spc. Linda Laris, an automated logistical specialist from Las Vegas, originally from Mexico, with the 314th Combined Service Support Battalion. “There are many people who I believe do come to America for freedom and opportunity and I can honestly say I am proud to be a part of this group of people.”

Those being naturalized came from many nations such as Ireland, Mexico, Egypt and Iraq among others.

The ceremony started with the posting of the colors followed by a few words from Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, United States Army Central commanding general.

Lovelace pointed out the efforts and sacrifices made by those receiving citizenship as well as the commitment they had already made to defend their new home country.

After the speech by Lovelace and Sonny Busa, the Consular Chief of Section at the U.S. Embassy, the servicemembers being naturalized stood and recited the Oath of Allegiance in unison.

As Joseph Hackbarth, a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services immigration officer, read the oath out loud, the servicemembers raised their right hands with pride.

“You are now American citizens,” Hackbarth finally said. Those words marked the end of their transformation into citizens of the United States of America.

“I am proud to become an American citizen and I look forward to performing my civic duties such as voting and participating

in local and regional events as a citizen,” said Spc. Anthony Kassem, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, and a cavalry scout from Alameda, Calif., originally from Canada.

Following the oath, the servicemembers proceeded to the stage in file, recited their name and country of origin, and received their certificates of naturalization.

Many reactions were seen on the faces of the new Americans as they returned to their seats with the papers that proved their citizenship. Some sat rigid and proud while others openly shed tears and held the papers in their shaking hands.

The naturalized citizens then held their hands over their hearts as they recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A video was then shown containing words of congratulations by President George W. Bush who welcomed the servicemembers into citizenship.

At the end of the ceremony the servicemembers left the building not only as members of the U.S. Armed Forces, but as proud citizens of the United States.

Editor’s note: For more information about attaining U.S. citizenship, contact your personnel action office or legal assistance. A

“There are many people who I believe do come to America for freedom and opportunity ... I am proud to be a part of this group of people.”

Spc. Linda Laris

314th Combined Service Support Battalion



Soldiers cheer a fellow servicemember during a naturalization ceremony at Camp Arifjan.

Camp Arifjan

Arifjan rocks the vote with voter registration

Story by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer

Spc. Kevin Lomen, 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment, sat intently at the table filling out the form on the clipboard. Looking up from the clipboard, the Lyma, Ohio, native ran his finger down a page in a guide until he found his town and hurriedly jotted down the information.

Lomen was one of 65 people who registered to vote during a voter registration drive held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 29.

Lt. Col. Michael Griffin, Multinational Corps-Kuwait Redeployment Cell officer-in-charge, said more than 600 servicemembers registered to vote during the two-month drive. He said a modest goal was set, but once the drive started, the group had to reassess things.

"We have a goal of 600. Originally, when we started, our goal was to get 200," Griffin said while helping a servicemember register. "Because we

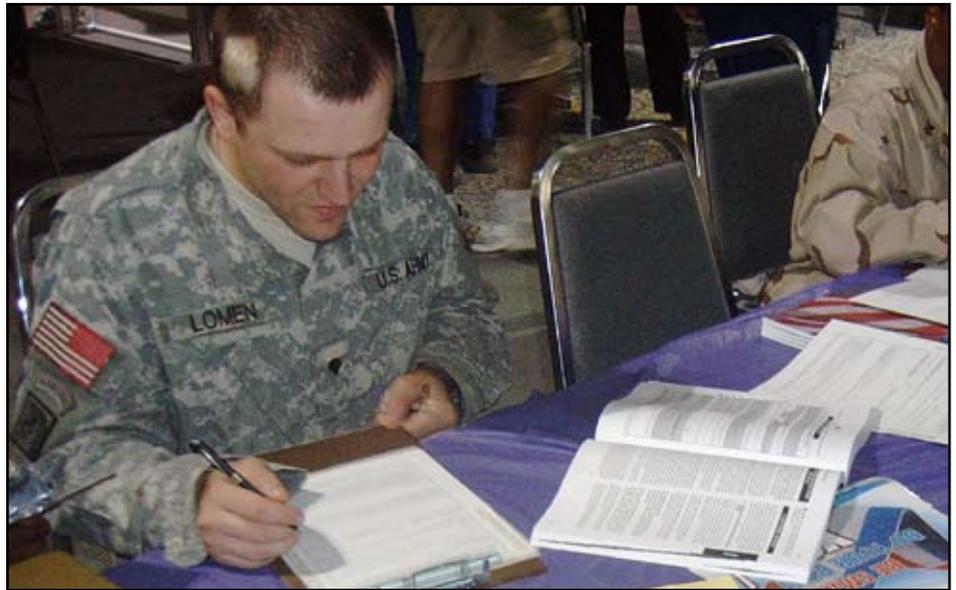


Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Spc. Kevin Lomen fills out his voter registration information during a drive at Camp Arifjan March 29. More than 600 people registered during the two-month drive.

were so successful, we raised the goal and set it at 600."

Griffin said the voter registration drive was sponsored by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Founded in 1911, the fraternity picked voter registration as a national project for the year.

Griffin said, with the presidential election coming up in November, the timing could not have been better. Not only will Americans vote on a new president, but also 33 senators, 453 representatives and thousands of state and local officials will be up for election.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Jones sat down later in the evening and registered.

"I appreciate the group taking the time to let the servicemembers' voice be heard by registering us to vote," said Jones, a native of Canton, Miss.

Jones said Americans wield a lot of power this election year. He said the person that is placed in the White House will, make a decision that will affect the lives of millions of Americans and the world's population.

"Just to have a voice to elect an official with that much power is a blessing," Jones said.

Griffin said the two-month drive has been a huge success. With more than 600 people registered, he said the fraternity did their part to ensure Americans exercised their rights and voted, albeit, through absentee ballots.

"It's a civil right," Griffin said. "The exciting part is there a lot of young Soldiers that have never registered to vote. This way, we can get them to register."

"It's great just seeing the Soldiers come out and ask questions," he continued. "It shows that, because a big decision is going to be made in the upcoming year, they're interested. If we can get them interested, they'll vote."

After completing the form, Lomen stood up from the table and handed over his form to the attendant. With a smile on his face, he shook Griffin's hand and walked away. The young specialist said voting is one of those civil liberties that people neglect.

"If you don't vote, you have no right to complain," Lomen said.

Editor's note: For more information about voter registration contact your unit's voting assistance officer. 

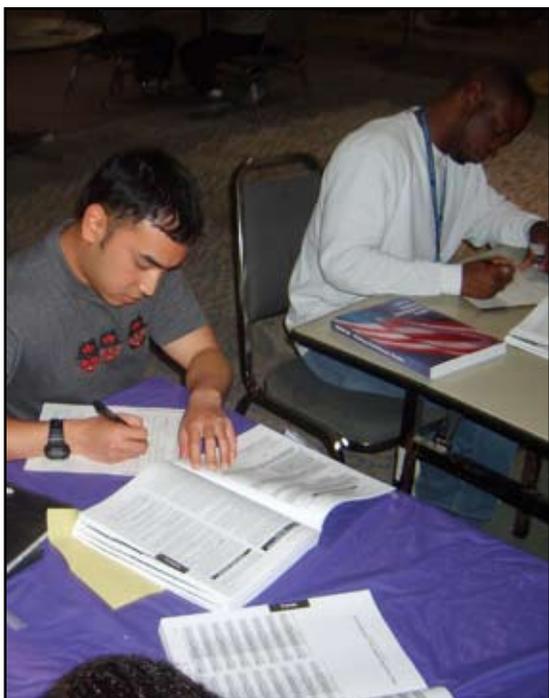


Photo by Lt. Col. Michael Griffin

Servicemembers fill out their voter registration forms. More than 200 voters registered in February and more than 400 registered in March.

Prevent Sexual Assault: The bystander Ask! Act! Intervene!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

A bystander is someone in a crowd who sees a potentially dangerous situation and does nothing. A bystander does not protect the values of safety, trust and honor that are central to our community.

Researchers conducted an experiment in which a student pretended to have a seizure. The experimenters recorded how often others stopped to help. When only one bystander was watching the scene, the student was helped 85 percent of the time. However, if there were five bystanders, the student was only helped 31 percent of the time. Does this make sense? Shouldn't having more people present increase the chances that someone will get help? Amazingly, this is not the case. We all take cues from those around us about how to act in different situations.

In emergency situations, many things prohibit bystanders from intervening:

- If no one else is acting, it is hard to go against the crowd.

- People may feel that they are risking embarrassment. (What if I'm wrong and they don't need help?)

- They may think there is someone else in the group who is more qualified to help.

- They may think that the situation does not call for help since no one else is doing anything

Avoid being a bystander! Intervene regardless of what others are doing and don't be worried about being wrong; it is better to be wrong than to have done nothing at all.

Sexual assault can be prevented by individuals, both male and female, who remain aware of potentially dangerous situations and elect to intervene before a sexual assault takes place.

Stopping sexual assault in the military community requires every servicemember's involvement. Ask your friends if they need help, act when they do, and intervene when you see trouble.

Be a leader, not a bystander!

Just One Question ...

"Why are you proud to be an American citizen?"



"We have a lot of freedom. More than any other country."

Staff Sgt. Shawn Pernell
109th Transportation Company
Guntruck crewmember
Gainesville, Fla.



"We live in a country that has greater opportunity for human rights and freedom."

Maj. John Routzahn
HHC, USARCENT
Chaplain
Frederick, Md.



"Because we're a part of the greatest society on Earth."

Chief Petty Officer Steve Koch
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14
Construction
Charleston, S.C.



"It allows me great freedom. I can strive to be the best or I can sit at home and do nothing."

Spc. Philip Long
USARCENT G-1
Awards liaison
Indiana, Pa.



"Because America is a beacon of hope and every American contributes to that."

Maj. David Spess
USARCENT C-4
Deputy multinational logistician
Vienna, Ohio

Why I serve: Air Force Staff Sgt. Tacara Hanna 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Fleet manager



The Savannah, Ga., native explains why she chose to join the military.

"Education. I did not know what I wanted to do in high school. I was in JROTC for four years and thought the military was best for me."

What's happening around USARCENT ...



Huddle up

Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Nothing Personal team members huddle up during an Operation Gridiron tournament at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 5. For the full story, check out next week's issue of the Desert Voice.

Pipe dreams

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class John Hulle



Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Barczak and Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Witt, both assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, move a draw pipe for a water well in Ali Faren, Djibouti, March 24. The Gulfport, Miss., based Seabees are repairing the well's water pump as part of a Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa community relation project.

Catch me if you can



Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Spc. John Whitted, Defense Satellite Communication Systems, runs down the sidelines during the 54th Battalion, 160th Signal Brigade's Organization Day, April 5. The DSCS team beat the 581st Signal Company, 13-12.