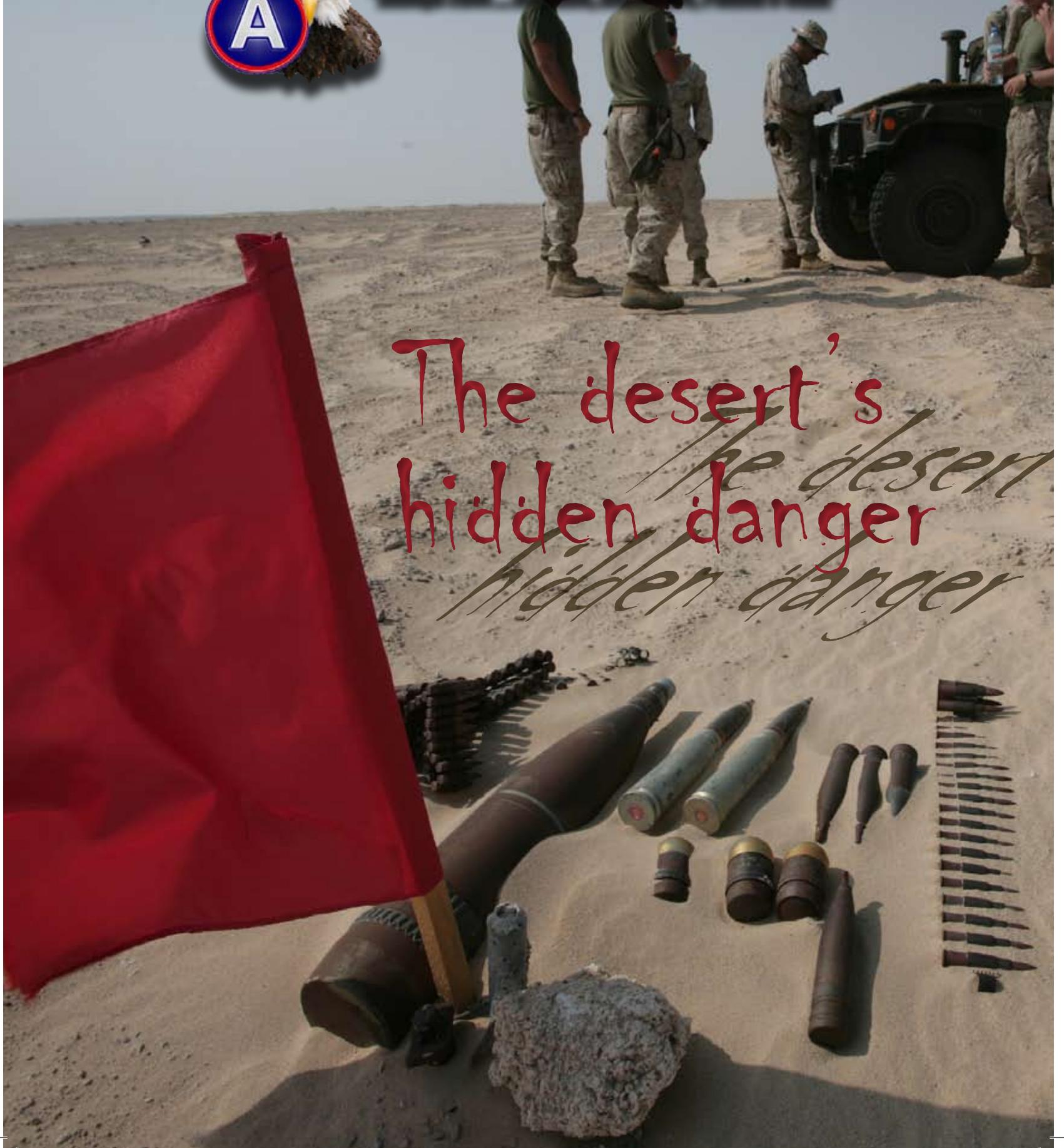


DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central

December 10, 2008

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



The desert's
hidden danger
*The desert
hidden danger*



Guard's 372nd Birthday



COMMANDING GENERAL
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306

Citizen Soldiers,

On behalf of U.S. Army Central, to all the men and women serving in the U.S. Army National Guard, best wishes as you celebrate the Guard's 372nd birthday.

Since December 13, 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered existing militia companies to form into three distinct regiments surrounding the Boston area, the Army National Guard has had a long and distinguished history. Your service continues to expand in scope, from a strategic to operational reserve, yet your commitment remains unified and strong.

The early militia's primary weapon was the crude musket, with one-third of the force carrying only a long pole or pike into combat. Today, the Guard's weapons technology is on par with the active component and unequalled by our enemies.

The Guard has undergone revolutionary transformation over the years and today is being asked to do more to defend the homeland and respond to crisis abroad than ever before... our Citizen Soldiers continue to answer the call to duty with professionalism and resolve.

We fight as ONE TEAM and would not be successful without the enduring contributions of our Minutemen. While we mark this milestone in the Army National Guard history... we congratulate each and every one of you. Your service, dedication, and sacrifice guarantee our ability to fight and win our Nation's wars, today and in the future.

Again, thank you for all that you do. We take great pride in knowing you are Always Ready, Always There. 

Patton's Own!

Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace

James J. Lovelace
Lieutenant General
U.S. Army Central

CSM John D. Fourhman

John D. Fourhman
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army Central

DV

Table of Contents

Page 5

Family donates calling cards for troops

Page 6

Servicemembers take advantage of R&R in Qatar

Page 8

IED survivor tells personal story

Page 9

37th IBCT continues flag detail

On the cover

Red flag markers show where the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's explosive ordnance found piles of unexploded ordnance on a range Middle East, Nov. 18, 2008. For the full story, see page 4. (Photo by Marine Cpl. Jason D. Mills)

Contact us

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

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The Desert Voice

Volume 30, Issue 21

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 20th Public Affairs Detachment.

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

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Reengineering Your Eating Habits #2: Making Small Changes

Is losing weight one of your New Year's resolutions?

The weight loss industry offers a myriad of strategies at a cost of \$ 35 billion a year. Americans spend more on weight loss products than the Gross National Products (GNP) of Iraq, Afghanistan and Bahrain combined.

The best weight loss strategy is free and easy to follow: make small positive changes every day when selecting foods in the DFAC and from your care packages. Consider how the following small changes every day for one year can translate into sizeable results:

Avoiding just three Jolly Rancher fruit chews a day for one year, can decrease your caloric intake by 25,550 total, resulting in a 7.5 pound loss of body fat.



Lt. Col. Danny Jaghab
U.S. Army Central Surgeon's Office

a year.

By making small changes in your daily intake you will be successful at losing weight throughout the year. Next week's reengineering series will compare "Take Two" DFAC items.

Having one less 100 calorie prepackaged snack, often sent in care packages, can save you 10.5 pounds of body fat a year.

Avoiding just one (1.5 ounce) packet of creamy French style dressing on your salad, can decrease your caloric intake by 65,700 calories resulting in a reduction of almost 19 pounds of body fat.

By avoiding a 4 ounce serving spoon of shredded sharp cheese in your morning omelet or on top of your lunch salad, you avoid consuming 160,600 calories and 27 pounds of pure fat. This equates into losing 46 pounds of body fat



WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

Did you know the risk of becoming a fatality in a HMMWV accident is six times greater for those not wearing a seat belt?

94 percent of those who used their seat belt survived a rollover incident.

REMEMBER:
Seat belts plus rollover drills/HEAT training equals walking away from a rollover.



Health & Safety



ARMY STRONG.



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/QUALITY CENTER
<https://crc.army.mil>

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG ³

26th MEU EOD clears UXO, ensuring safety



Sgts. Bill Lightner (left), Brandon Moore and Curtis Long place composite explosives on a pile of unexploded ordnance at a training site in the Middle East, Nov. 17. The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's explosive ordnance disposal team safely cleared hundreds of pounds of UXO found on a firing range.

*Article and photos by
Cpl. Jason D. Mills
26th MUE Public Affairs*

While looking into the vast expanse of the desert, it's hard to fathom anyone spending more than a few minutes out there, let alone working with unexploded ordnance for hours, if not days, on end.

That is what eight explosive ordnance technicians, one radio operator and one Navy corpsman from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit did Nov. 14-17.

For four days straight the team combed the seemingly endless desert in the Middle East for any potentially hazardous UXO.

"This range is huge," commented Gunnery Sgt. Steven Sheals, detachment officer-in-charge, explosive ordnance disposal.

A range sweep was an essential step in ensuring the safety of the range for future exercises.

"We're conducting surface range clearing to ensure there are no UXO range hazards out here for when [the Battalion Landing Team] comes out here for their training," said Sheal. "By removing the UXOs we remove

that hazard to make the range safe."

After four long days of walking up and down the range, the team consolidated all of the UXO they found and safely detonated it.

"This detachment that I have here has a wealth of knowledge; most of the guys have two or more deployments in [the Operation Iraqi Freedom] theater," added Sheals, whose Marines work from sunup till sundown to complete the mission.

According to Sheals they are given a task and a timetable, and if that means they have to work all day for days on end to get the mission done, then that's what they do.

In the end, the entire course of action focused on safety; not only the safety of those detonating the UXO, but ultimately, on the safety of those who would come after the detonations were long extinguished.

"You have to do your best to make sure no one gets hurt during training," said Sgt. Robert Pippin, an EOD technician. "We're trying to make the range a safer place for when the BLT comes out here to do their training tomorrow and for the rest of the week."

The 26th MEU is currently forward deployed aboard the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group in the Arabian Gulf in support of local operations. **A**



Unexploded ordnance is detonated by the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's explosive ordnance disposal Marines

CPFS donates calling cards for the holidays



Soldiers receive calling cards from the non-profit organization, Cell Phones for Soldiers with U.S. Army Central Commanding General, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace and Area Support Group-Kuwait Commander, Col. Christopher K. Hoffman at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 25.

*Article and photo by
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice Staff Writer*

Servicemembers at military bases in Kuwait, and Life Support Area are being given a unique gift this holiday season, a chance to call home for free with a 60-minute calling card donated by the non-profit organization, Cell Phones for Soldiers.

“CPFS has donated about \$150,000 worth of calling cards for servicemembers here,” said Maj. Dennis McCool, director of public works, Area Support Group-Kuwait.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was co-founded in 2004 by teenagers, Brittany and Robbie Bergquist, residents of Norwell, Mass.

The original goal of CPFS was to help one local Soldier from Massachusetts pay his cell phone bill, said Brittany Bergquist in an email interview. She explained that after doing some more research, they learned that more Soldiers were struggling to pay for the high cost of calling home while deployed.

“We knew the importance of keeping in touch with loved ones and wanted to make sure that all military members had a way to call home for free,” said Bergquist.

McCool became involved through his connections with contacts of patriotic organizations. He saw a way for these civilian organizations to support the troops in the Middle East through installation support programs such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation and United Services Organizations.

CPFS takes donated cell phones, recycles them and uses the funds raised to purchase 60-minute calling cards

to give to servicemembers who are deployed or stationed away from their home state.

“We have raised close to \$3 million to buy prepaid phone cards to help troops with their communication needs,” said Bergquist. “We have been able to send over 500,000 phone cards with 1 hour of talk time on them to the Middle East and at bases around the world.”

CPFS has donated 5,500 already this year and 15,000 total cards are expected, for servicemembers to call their families this holiday season, said McCool.

“Our organization has come very far since it began in 2004,” said Bergquist. “We started with \$21 from our piggy banks and now we are a multi-million dollar 501c3 non-profit organization that has made a huge difference in the lives of our American troops and their loved ones.” ^A



Courtesy Photo

Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, Cell Phones for Soldiers, sort and pack donated cellphones. The non-profit organization has raised almost \$2 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to Soldiers serving overseas.



Qatar ... Making the



Article by
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Located within the Arabian Peninsula, on the coast of the Persian Gulf, is a little known retreat called Qatar, where servicemembers can take a few days to rest and relax while deployed to the Middle East.

Qatar is home to Camp As Sayliyah, where troops stay while visiting a country with beaches, shopping, dining, golf and year-round tropical weather.

Even with all the country has to offer the minor inconveniences that come with travel time and the transportation process to get there keeps many servicemembers from going.

“There’s a couple of Soldiers in

my unit who have chosen to take their four day pass [and stay on the forward operating base],” said Sgt. Victor Toldoya, who is currently deployed to Iraq. “I’ve had some bad transportation issues; but once I got [to Qatar], everything I’ve done in the last two days really makes up for the two days inconvenience it took to get here.”

Although getting to Qatar may be a hassle for some, the military offers a rest and recuperation pass program, in conjunction with the United Service Organizations and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, to help make Qatar worth the trip.

According to Toldoya, one of the things he enjoyed most during his first two days was going on one of the several daily trips offered by the R2P2.

Servicemembers have the option of signing up for trips that offer an

opportunity to get off post and experience the culture and scenery that the country has to offer.

Some of the activities include, a trip to Al-Safia Island, where participants can enjoy a variety of water sports such as jet and water skiing.

“The most popular trip is the water sports because [servicemembers] get to ride on the jet skis and swim in the Persian Gulf,” said Spc. Teddy Thelwell, R2P2 assistant, Area Support Group-Qatar.

Those who enjoy activities on both water and land can take advantage of the Inland Sea Picnic, where a caravan of vehicles chauffeur servicemembers to a camp located next to the beach. Once they arrive, they can eat, play sports or rest in one of the furnished Arabian style tents.

“Once you get to the picnic area



most of your R&R



it's awesome," said Toldoya. "There's volleyball, swimming and hookah pipes. It was a good four or five hours spent."

Other trips offered by R2P2 include, a tour of the capital city of Doha, which offers a chance to learn more about the culture, shopping, and a trip to the Doha PGA style golf course or a cruise.

Many of the trips offer an entire day of activities, but for those that do not want to dedicate an entire day off post, there are many options on Camp As Sayliyah.

"I was really stressed out when I came over here and now I am relaxed," said Marine Cpl. Dalton Vaughn, who is currently deployed to Iraq.

According to Vaughn, his first two days in Qatar were spent bowling,

eating at Chili's, watching movies and communicating with family.

The bowling alley and many other activities are all centrally located in the building that houses the "Top Off" area, which offers food and beer in a Bourbon Street-atmosphere. Here you can also find a large open area with pool tables, darts and a large stage where MWR hosts karaoke nights and live performances by popular entertainers.

The R&R building is also the home of a USO, which aims to provide a calm environment.

Everyone must take off their shoes before entering the dimly-lit, carpeted USO lounge where servicemembers can play board games, X-Box 360 and Playstation 3; troops can also visit the comfortably furnished pillow room, where many people go to relax, sleep

or watch a movie.

"We have Soldiers who come in and spend four days in the USO, a lot of times sleeping," said Pamela Russell, duty manager, USO. "There are a lot of great opportunities for Soldiers to get off post and relax and do things, but a lot of what we are offering is just a little bit of home."

The R&R, MWR and USO staff are focused on giving back to servicemembers by working to make their R&R a pleasant experience.

"This is very rewarding," said Laverne C. Haynes, MWR director.

According to Haynes, many servicemembers express that they are thankful for what they do for them, yet she responds with "I am thankful for what you do for us." ^A

IED survivor saved by equipment

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

“A lot of people here who have talked to me today may have noticed I have no thumbs,” said Master Sgt. Richard C. Burnette.

While deployed to Iraq in 2005, Burnette was injured by an improvised explosive device.

He came to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to share his story and to encourage leaders to enforce military standards that keep its servicemembers safe.

“I was assigned to 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion as the operations sergeant for the battalion at Fort Stewart, Ga., in August of 2004,” said Burnette.

Burnette went on to explain that his unit deployed to Kuwait in December of the same year and then moved north into Iraq in January 2005.

“It went pretty well initially,” said Burnette. “Our primary mission was reconstruction. In Baghdad we were responsible for sewage, water and trash, so that’s what our focus was.”

As a part of the overall mission of the BTB in Iraq, it was necessary for Burnette’s team to travel into downtown Baghdad on a regular basis.

“The commander took all the officers out of the Tactical Operations Center and put them in the infrastructure cell to work these projects,” said Burnette. “That left me as the senior person for the TOC.”

Burnette said that he and his battalion executive officer would often rotate who would go out on the missions into the city.

“At least two or three times a week I tried to get out with my Soldiers,” said Burnette. “On the first of May, it was actually his time to go out, but something came up and he couldn’t go,” said Burnette. “He ran into the TOC and said ‘I need you to get your stuff and go.’”

Burnette gathered his equipment and prepared to go out on the mission.

Briefings from the military intelligence section indicated that there had been a lot of activity in the area that they were headed, so security and experience were of the utmost importance.

“As we were going out the gate, I heard my sergeant major call in to the TOC to report that we were leaving the gate and the number of vehicles and personnel,” said Burnette. “The TOC was not answering.”

Burnette explained that because he was in charge of the TOC he got on the radio to try to get a response.

“I took my earplug out of my left ear and set it on top of the radio to make sure I could clearly hear what was being said,” said Burnette.

After a few tries, Burnette was able to contact the TOC, but he never put his earplug back into his left ear.

Several stops into the mission that day, Burnette noticed a different noise while pulling rear security in their convoy.

“I heard a vehicle coming from behind me,” said Burnette. “We were about two feet off the road, so initially, it wasn’t that big of a deal.”

Burnette described hearing the driver of the vehicle gutting the gears as he geared down and seeing the vehicle slow down right beside him.

“I looked at him, he looked at me and I knew that something was about to go down,” said Burnette. “I raised my rifle and turned. When he was about eight feet away, he detonated his vehicle.”

Burnette was thrown back about 30 feet, but remained on his feet; when he heard gunfire he then hit the ground for cover.

At this point Burnette low-crawled to find cover during the firefight.

His sergeant major risked his life to cross an open field during the firefight to drag Burnette to safety.

“He grabbed me by my [personal protective] equipment and dragged me back to my vehicle where my medic was waiting on me,” said Burnette. “A



Improvised explosive device survivor, Master Sgt. Richard Burnette is presented a token of appreciation by Lt. General James J. Lovelace, commanding general, U.S. Army Central, for sharing his story during a safety conference at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Nov. 13.

total of 17 civilians died that day. My driver took shrapnel to both of his legs and my gunner sustained a concussion.”

Burnette sustained several injuries and lost hearing in his left ear, but feels he is alive today because his chain of command insisted on Soldiers wearing their safety equipment, such as their individual ballistic armor, deltoid arm protection, Army combat helmet, eye protection and ear plugs.

“My battalion commander and my sergeant major were relentless in us wearing our safety equipment,” said Burnette.

Today Burnette is a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps instructor at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va., he shares his story to encourage leaders to set the standards of safety for Soldiers to follow. **A**

Ohio National Guard honors the nation

37th IBCT upholds flag duty tradition during deployment



Soldiers of the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team performed flag detail while deployed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

*Article and photos by
Spc. Kimberly Johnson
37th IBCT Public Affairs*

Soldiers of the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team performed flag detail while deployed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"When we began our flag detail, it needed work," said 1st Sgt. David R. Thomas, headquarter's and headquarter company.

The first step in improving the flag duty was to conduct a class on formal procedures.

"The Soldiers learned how to fold the flag correctly, who salutes and when, and where to stand," said Thomas. "My Soldiers want to get it right each and every time. They go the extra

mile to ensure they are in the proper uniform and they look and act professional."

Once the ceremonial procedures were down, it made the duty of hoisting the flag, a 24-7-duty, a lot easier.

Not only did the 37th IBCT fly the U.S. flag, they also flew Ohio state and territory flags as well.

"As of today, we have flown over 310 flags for different servicemembers," Thomas said proudly.

As the work day comes to an end, "Retreat" is played and the colors are retired until the next day.

"The honors for retreat mean quite a lot, not only to me, but for all of my Soldiers," Thomas expressed. "There is a great sense of pride in each of us when we fold the American flag. It reminds us of our past, why we are

here, those who came before us and gave their all."

According to Thomas, if the Soldiers had it their way, the honors to our nation and the fallen would be taken a step further.

"My Soldiers have even asked why taps are not played at night," said Thomas. "That tells me they are not just going through the ceremony day after day with no meaning. This group of Soldiers takes this quite serious."

The 37th left their mark on this program leaving a tradition for their replacements, the 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma National Guard.

"This program is successful because of [the 37th IBCT] Soldiers sense of duty, honor and pride," said Thomas. "I could not be prouder of them. They are what a great unit is made of." **A**

U.S. Army NCO History Pt. 4 Indian Wars & Spanish-American War

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

In the years following the Civil War, the Army found itself involved in numerous engagements across the nation while fighting in the Indian Wars of the 1870's – 1890's.

These battles, unlike the large scale conflicts found in the Civil War, consisted of numerous scattered skirmishes over vast areas, without ever having any decisive battles being fought that signaled the end of the wars.

The noncommissioned officer was heavily looked to during these random engagements for his knowledge, expertise and experience to lead small units into battle.

In the west, besides engaging in random conflicts with the Indians, NCOs and junior Soldiers often had duties requiring them to serve as bakers, blacksmiths or guards, repair bridges and roads, or build and repair fortifications and houses.

With these tedious tasks, constant threat of attacks and very poor pay, desertion was very common in the Army. NCOs were responsible to maintain and improve the quality of life and morale of the troops to reduce the rate of desertion.

By 1870, the Artillery school at Fort Monroe had re-opened along with a new Signal Corps school for training NCOs and officers. Efforts to provide the same training for NCOs in other career fields did not attract the same support, as many believed that experience in the field, not a classroom, is what made a good NCO in combat career fields.

In addition to the stress of their job and constant threat of conflict, in the 1870's, Army regulations came out limiting the amount of enlisted married men in the Army.

Despite the Army's attempt to limit the amount of married enlisted men in its ranks, nature won out and helped

begin the transformation of posts into communities.

The first retirement system for enlisted man was created in 1885, where anyone who had served for 30 years could retire with three-quarters of his active duty pay.

In 1898, the U.S. declared war on Spain beginning the Spanish-American War.

When war was declared, the Army only consisted of 26,000 men. The War Department began asking for volunteers, allowing National Guard units that were already formed to volunteer and serve as a unit. By the conclusion of the war, the U.S. raised 275,000 men to fight against Spain.

Requiring the volunteers to be fully equipped and prepared for combat, NCOs went to work training the troops for battle. The process started off very slowly with some volunteer units never seeing the front line of combat.

The war lasted only four months in which combat occurred in the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico and Cuba. The most immediate threat for NCOs in dealing with these engagements was not the Spanish Soldiers, but instead the threat of disease. Constantly having to brief and maintain the health of their troops, NCOs found themselves fighting against two enemies instead of one. An estimated 3,000 lives were lost during the war, with 90 percent coming from infectious disease.

After the war, Cuba gained its independence, Puerto Rico and Guam ceded to the U.S., and the victorious power purchased the Philippines from Spain for \$20 million.

With the newly gained land, the U.S. was required to station over one-third of the Army overseas to deal with such conflicts as the Philippine Insurrection and Boxer Rebellion. This expansion created a need for additional troops and modernization across the Army.

This modernization had a direct affect on the NCO Corps, as new

technology and new paygrades were born. The Army became forced to fight against the industry for technical workers.

Congress passed a law in 1908 to reward those Soldiers in technical fields, while Soldiers in combat fields remained the same.

An infantry sergeant major made \$25-\$34 a month, while a sergeant in the signal corps made \$34-\$43 and a master electrician would make \$75-\$84 a month.

The NCO instructions provided in Von Steuben's regulations grew to 417 pages in 1909 when the *Noncommissioned Officers Manual* was formally written.

One of the main topics of the manual was discipline and the treatment of junior Soldiers. Its instructions stressed that discipline should be uniform, just and not humiliating.

With new guidelines governing their role in the Army and the conflicts of the Indian Wars and Spanish-America War behind them, the NCO Corps continued forward not realizing it was preparing itself for a war on a scale than it had never participated in before ... World War I. 

Soldier Spotlight

1st Sgt. Forsyth, Thomas
Company M, 4th U.S. Cavalry
Medal of Honor recipient for
actions conducted at Powder
River, Wyo., Nov. 25, 1876

Citation: Though dangerously wounded, he maintained his ground with a small party against a largely superior force after his commanding officer had been shot down during a sudden attack and rescued that officer and a comrade from the enemy.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Only a select few areas can have live Christmas trees. These locations are 24/7 manned public assembly locations that hold 50 or more people and Base Chapels. Due to the high flammability of live Christmas trees; living quarters and office areas are not suitable areas and are prohibited from having live trees; they, however, can use artificial trees as long as they are labeled as fire-retardant.

Unfortunately, live Christmas trees often times already arrive in a dried out state. There are often more needles in the box, than still on the tree. Please think twice before putting up a dried out or semi-dried out natural tree. These are extreme fire hazards and should not be used. A fire resistant artificial tree is by far the better choice for this holiday season.

Electrical decorations and Christmas lights need to be 230 volt, CE rated and listed. Do not use 110 Christmas tree lights or strands. The use of transformers for 110 electrical decorations is prohibited.

If you use Christmas tree lights, please ensure that they are properly rated for indoor use. Lights are either rated for indoor or outdoor use, not both.



Just One Question ...

"What do you miss most about the holidays back home?"



"Being with my family, because I've been married 20 years and this is my first year away."

Spc. Robert Burke
D Company 3-1st Inf.
Fort Riley, Kan.



"I miss the slower paced time that you get to spend with family and the change of seasons."

Chaplain (Capt.) Erick Gramling
Joint Logistical Task Force 28
Johnstown, Pa.



"Being with my kids, mother, wife, and just being home seeing my kids get excited."

Gunnery Sgt. Sheldon Charles
CFLCC G-2
Albany, N.Y.



"I miss Christmas breakfast with my family. We have waffles with chocolate chips. This is my second time away from home during Christmas."

Capt. Sonia Huertas
Mobility Officer, USARCENT
San Juan, Puerto Rico



"Spending time with my family, having dinner and family members visit. I love watching my kids open presents and decorate the Christmas tree."

Spc. Matthew West
4th Sustainment Brigade
Manchester, Tenn.

Why I Serve:

Petty Officer 1st Class Maria Gardea
Forward Supply; Navy Logistical Support Group



The Chicago native explains why she chose to join the military.

"I joined because my family immigrated to this country. What more could I do for a country that has given us the opportunity to succeed?"

What's happening around USARCENT

Curt Schilling Visits Troops



Boston Red Sox pitcher and Cy Young award recipient, Curt Schilling autographs a picture for Spc. Ryan Dereska, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, during a signing held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility in Zone 6 on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 3.

Photo by Army Sgt. Nathan Hutchinson



Basketball Shootout

Left, Petty Officer 1st Class Ferdinand Yao, Petty Officer 3rd Class Kester Verdadero and Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara Mallari, Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait, are awarded medals after winning the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's 3 Person Basketball Shootout competition on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 30.

Photo by Navy Lt. Ronald Deleon

Uniform Code of Military Justice

On Nov. 11, 2008, Lt. Col. Rodney Page pleaded guilty to larceny and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman at a general-court martial at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Page is assigned to U.S. Army Central.

Page was observed stealing a pair of sandals from the Post Exchange at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in May 2008. When confronted by Army and Airforce Exchange Services Security, Page fled and eluded apprehension.

Approximately two months later, Page was observed stealing two American flags from the PX. He fled from apprehension and was tackled by several Soldiers outside the Zone 1 Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility.

The military judge sentenced Page to 60 days confinement, a reprimand, to forfeit \$1,000 pay per month for five months, and to pay a fine of \$5,000. Page was also ordered to serve an additional five months confinement if the fine was not paid.

On Nov. 20, Spc. Thomas Helms was found guilty of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and making a false official statement at a general court-martial at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Helms is assigned to headquarter's and headquarters company, 1-148th Infantry, 4th Sustainment Brigade at Camp Arifjan.

Helms was at the PX in Zone 1 on May 17. with Pvt. Greene, a Soldier in his unit, when Greene was caught stealing. When questioned about the larceny, Helms lied and stated he didn't see anything. Greene was sentenced to 30 days confinement for shoplifting. After Greene was released from confinement, he went to see Helms. During this visit, on Sept. 26, Helms stabbed Greene in the leg causing a three-inch deep cut in Greene's thigh requiring surgery. Helms was found guilty of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for stabbing Greene after a contested trial. Helms was sentenced by the military judge to reduction to E-1, confinement for 8 months, and a bad-conduct discharge.