The Desert Voice

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

September 10, 2008

Remembering 9/11

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Courtesy Photo

Contact us

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

Election Time Reminders

Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 dictates the limitations on servicemembers and federal civilian employee participation in political activities and use of DoD resources during campaign years. Absolutely none of these rules are intended to discourage you or other from voting. In fact, servicemembers and civilians may register, vote, and express opinions on political candidates and issues, as long as they are not representing the Armed Forces and the views are only in their personal capacity.

Rules for servicemembers: Servicemembers can attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings or rallies as spectators, they just can't be in uniform. Servicemembers may sign a petition for legislative action or to place a candidate's name on the ballot, so long as they are doing so in their personal capacity.

However, servicemembers may not use their official authority or influence for soliciting votes for a particular candidate or issue, or for soliciting political contributions from others. Servicemembers also may not participate in partisan political management, campaigns, or conventions; or serve in any capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club. It should also go without saying that contemptuous words against the president, vice president, congress, the secretaries of the military departments, defense, or transportation, and the governors or legislatures of any state or territory where the servicemembers is on duty violates policy.

Finally, engaging in fund-raising activities for partisan political causes on any military installation is also prohibited.

Rules for civilians: Federal Government Employees activities in politics are governed by the Hatch Act amendment in 5 United States Code Section 7321. While off-duty, civilians may register and vote as they choose, assist in voter registration drives, express opinions about candidates and issues, contribute money to political organizations, attend political fundraising functions, campaign for or against candidates in partisan political elections, make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections, and distribute campaign literature in partisan elections. However, similar to Soldiers, civilian employees are prohibited from using their official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election. Civilians may not run for the nomination or as a candidate for election to a partisan political office or knowingly solicit, accept, or receive a political contribution from a subordinate. Finally, while on duty, they may not engage in any political activity.

Get out and vote or send your absentee ballot to your polling place with confidence you are participating in this very important process legally. If you have any questions regarding political activities, contact Major Kris Murray at the USARCENT Staff Judge Advocate's Office at: 404-464-1883 or kristian.murray@arcent.army.mil (Camp Arifjan DSN 430-6645).

The Desert Voice

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Back Safety Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Get _____ when lifting or carrying heavy or bulk objects
3. Objects should be carried _____ to your body
5. A _____ mattress can help keep your body in a neutral position while sleeping
8. _____ before lifting can help prevent back injuries
10. Use your _____ when lifting , not your back

DOWN

2. Frequently _____ to help your back stay healthy
4. Avoid _____ movements when carrying or lifting
6. Strengthening your _____ muscles can help prevent back injuries
7. Reaching above your _____ should be avoided
9. When lifting or carrying, you should never _____ at the waist

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

Kuwait

MFO PROTECTS SINAI REGION

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice Detachment Sgt.

Multinational Force and Observer's mission is to supervise the security provisions of the Egypt-Israel Treaty of Peace signed in August 1981.

The mission is conducted in four security zones, three in the Sinai peninsula of Egypt, and one in Israel, through security checkpoints, reconnaissance patrols and observation points along the international border.

MFO is also responsible for monitoring the deployment of border guards along the Egyptian side of the border between Egypt and Gaza. The mission includes keeping track of stipulated numbers, characteristics and location of personnel, weapons, equipment and infrastructure of the Border Guard Force.

Servicemembers assigned to MFO come from many different nations and a sense of universal camaraderie is evident throughout the bases. The camaraderie is best exemplified on North Camp, where a memorial sits honoring fallen servicemembers from Canada and France who were involved in an aircraft accident.

Photo by Army Sgt. Christopher Selmek

Soldiers stand in front of the headquarters building in South Camp, which flys the flags of all participating contingents.

The memorial on North Camp honoring the fallen servicemembers from Canada and France.

To honor this tragic event, a year afterward, the Family members of the fallen servicemembers were flown in from Canada and France to witness a ceremony involving the 11 contingent countries comprising MFO, honoring their fallen comrades.

"Driving was very difficult at first... back home we drive on the other side of the road..."

Chief Warrant Officer Nick G. Grace
Training Advisory Team
New Zealand Contingent

When working together daily, it takes time to adjust to different languages and styles of military philosophy and structure.

"It was hard at first, to work with the different contingents," said Army Staff Sgt. Eric M. Dolash, 209th Medical Company. "We had to use a free online translator to speak Spanish with some of the other [servicemembers] in the clinic."

Although it took some adjusting, being able to work with the different contingents is a great benefit of the job and something that is very rewarding, added the Des Moines, Iowa native.

Servicemembers from other nations had to adjust to life on MFO bases in their own unique ways as well.

"Driving was very difficult at first," said Chief Warrant Officer. Nick G. Grace, New Zealand Training Advisory Team. "Back home we drive on the other side of the road and our steering wheel is on the other side of the vehicle."

During down time, servicemembers assigned to MFO can take advantage of Duty Trips that take travelers to numerous areas in the region.

"I've been able to see the pyramids," said Army Pfc. Kristina Sosa Wilken, 1st Support Battalion, and Marion, Iowa native. "If I wasn't assigned here, I would probably never have gotten a chance to see them."

"Being able to go to the Holy Land in Isreal was very cool," added Staff Sgt. John A. Curtis, 1st Support Battalion, also a Des Moines, Iowa native.

The countries with servicemembers assigned to the MFO are: Australia, Canada, Columbia, France, Figi, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, United States and Uruguay.

Charged with the mission of supervising peace in the Sinai region between Egypt and Israel, all servicemembers show off their commitment by wearing the MFO crest: a white dove and olive branch, representing peace, superimposed on top of an orange circle on their uniforms.

USARCENT customs procedures

Story and photo by
Maj. Antoine Williams
Operational Protection-Customs

Since 2004, U.S. Army Central has served as the Central Command lead for overseeing all U.S. Customs operations in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

The agents inspect thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines annually. In the month of July, over 25,000 servicemembers, 55,435 bags and 2,918 containers were inspected in Kuwait alone.

Inspection by customs is more than just waiting in a long line. Customs is the first line of defense in protecting the nation's agriculture and stopping the flow of contraband into the U.S.

USARCENT oversees the Military Pre-clearance Customs Program, which involves customs inspections of all military equipment and personnel leaving Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The U.S. Customs Service in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for certifying every pre-clearance site the military establishes.

Both agencies conduct training for military personnel selected to perform customs missions.

Military Customs Agents designated to perform inspections in theater are certified as customs border clearance agents. In order to qualify for the program, servicemembers must not have a record of misconduct, a minimum rank of E-4 and be approved by customs border patrol prior to attending the training.

Once CBCAs are trained, they will inspect equipment, cargo and personnel at designated pre-clearance locations throughout the theater. These inspections are crucial to intercepting illegal narcotics as well as ensuring equipment and cargo is 100 percent free of soil.

Soil is the number one threat to U.S. agriculture and the U.S.D.A. has zero tolerance for the entry of soil into the U.S.

Soil can contain several different pests that may cause harm to U.S. crops. Also, soil carries pathogens and a variety of insects. An estimated 50 percent of U.S. crop damage per year is due to foreign insect introduction.

One example of a foreign pest being introduced to the U.S. is the Giant African Snail, which in one year did over $400 million in crop damage.

The CBCAs mission is vital to the nation's agricultural economy and USARCENT's role in managing the program is crucial to the success of protecting the U.S.

For more information on U.S. Customs, visit our website at http://mcp.arcent.army.smil.mil, where you can find the regulations covering customs: DOD Reg 4500.9-R (Part V) and CENTCOM Regulation 600-10.

Do your part to help keep servicemembers and our nation's agriculture safe.

U.S. Navy Customs Agents inspects U.S Air Force personnel redeploying from Iraq.

Kuwait

A nation brought clo

9

Courtesy Photos

Servicemembers salute during the Pentagon Remembrance Ceremony held on Sept. 11, 2002

Story by
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
Desert Voice Editor

Shock, grief, anger and determination. Those are just a few of the feelings that cultivated and spread throughout the U.S. like an epidemic after the terrorist attacks the morning of Sept. 11. After that morning the world would never be the same.

The days, weeks, months and years that followed will forever be ingrained in U.S. history.

From small rural towns to large metropolitan cities, 9/11 affected populaces of all geographic and demographic types.

"The resolve of our great nation is being tested. But make no mistake, we will show the world that we will pass the test."

George W. Bush
President
United State of America

"Have you forgotten how it felt that day?
To see your homeland under fire,
And her people blown away.
Have you forgotten when those towers fell? ...

I've been there with the Soldiers,
Who've gone away to war.
And you can bet that they remember,
Just what they're fighting for! ...

Have you forgotten?"

Darryl Worley
"Have You Forgotten"

Soldiers and firefighters drape the U.S. flag over the Pentagon.

For a nation known for its autonomy and individualism; agreement and compliance were the key ingredients for unity among our nation, and the catalyst of our country's enduring fortitude.

Sept. 11 is not only a day to commemorate and honor those who have fallen from those terrorist attacks, but one that celebrates our nation's undying vigilance to unite, putting all differences aside, and to overcome with a common purpose; ensuring our nation endures the test of its strength and validity as the "land of the free and the

United States of Amercia

ser through chaos

/11 ... seven years later

home of the brave."

Whether they were firefighters, police officers, civil servants, military personnel or your average blue collar, middleclass citizen, remember to honor those who have fallen from events surrounding Sept. 11.

Those who have sacrificed their blood, sweat, tears and in many cases, their lives, have paid the price to earn reverence and respect.

Many would agree it was unfortunate that it took such a tragic event to bring our nation closer together. However, this does not go without saying, this is the United States of America, a nation built on continually unifying itself and a history of withstanding tests like Sept. 11.

President George W. Bush in an address to the nation, the night of Sept. 11, 2001, declared, "This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world."

This Sept. 11, ensure that you take time out to reflect on freedoms provided to us in this great country and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in preserving those freedoms.

"This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we the democracies of this world are going to have to come together and fight it together." -- Sept. 11, 2001.

Tony Bliar
Prime Minister
Great Britian

Firefighters raise the U.S. flag at Ground Zero at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Sept. 14, 2003, Marines from Baker Company, Iraq, pay tribute to all those who were affected during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

United States of America

8th HRC organizational day hosts WRU

Story by
Maj. Carol McClelland
1st TSC PAO

The 8th Human Resource Sustainment Center held an organizational day at Camp Arifjan, Sept. 1. The "Wounded Warriors" from the Warrior Return Unit attended as their honored guests.

Approximately 15 recovering patients and staff attended the Labor Day event that included hula dancers, grilled hot dogs and an officer verses enlisted flag football game.

Navy Lt. Colleen Mahon, division officer, WRU, said most patients have orthopedic injuries or are recovering from general surgery, like appendicitis or hernia repairs, while others need internal medicine consultations.

The WRU usually has between 40 to 50 wounded warriors who stay an average of eight to 10 days in their care. Mahon, proudly stated their return to duty rate is 78 percent with servicemembers typically returning to Iraq, Afghanistan or back to their unit in Kuwait.

Army National Guard Sgt. Michael Blair, Task Force 151, was one of the patients who attended the festivities. He had a bandaged left knee that he said was injured during combat training. The Jasper, Ind., native said he has been here rehabilitating nearly a month and is about to return to his unit.

Photos by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin

Sgt. Silia Sefo (right), dances alongside Staff Sgt. Jade P. Kaaihue, 54th Signal Battalion, during an evening of entertainment for servicemembers of the Warrior Return Unit.

Marine Sgt. Eric Breese, is also rehabilitating at the WRU with a left knee injury. Assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 in Iraq, the 28-year-old helicopter mechanic said he is on his third deployment, and is anxious to return to his unit in a couple of weeks.

The Roseville, Mich., native said he appreciated the invitation to attend the event and said he "became good friends with two Army guys while there."

Good natured trash talk was at a premium before the football game.

"It's a shame the enlisted worked so hard to put this on because they're going to lose," said Lt. Col. John Sena, 8th HRSC.

"We're going to win of course, because we're the backbone of the [military]," said Army Sgt. Bobby "Booshey" Martinez.

A few moments later he ran on the field too early only to quickly return to chants of "Bobby, Bobby, Bobby" and laughter. He redeemed himself later when he ripped the flag off an officer's waist and the crowd chanted his name again.

Martinez's prediction of who would win came true; however, it wasn't his predicted score of 18-0. The enlisted servicemembers, sporting black tee-shirts, won 33-14 against the gray shirted officers.

"It was more than just a football game, Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey David put a lot of work into it," said Tiemann of his fellow plans and operations co-worker. "It was a well coordinated logistics effort that brought our unit closer together."

Referees watch the players, as officers try to grab a flag from an enlisted servicemember during an evening of entertainment for the Warrior Return Unit.

Camp Arifjan

Soccer buffs present "DIY Futbol"

Maj. Karl Boggs, right, affixes a donated soccer net to a goal with some help from Spc. Paul Heaverly.

Story by
Maj. Carol McClelland
1st TSC PAO

It started with two things, an idea and a rocky patch of dirt.

It was finalized when servicemembers put in time and energy to create a soccer field to share their love of the sport with others stationed with them.

Chief Warrant Officer Gerardo Ledesma, 109th Transportation Company and a group of soccer enthusiasts decided that the lone dirt field on post, located in Zone 1, should not be the only place to play their beloved game.

With help and approval from camp leadership, they began to work on constructing a new field in Zone 6.

They drove a forklift with part of a chain-link fence dragging behind it, to clear rocks and level the field. The group also welded scrap parts together and attached thick, green scrap windscreen netting, normally used to limit dust in motor pools, to create goals.

With daytime temperatures reaching triple-digits, most outdoor sports are played at night. The group received help in obtaining generators and lights so they could play when the sun goes down.

To attract other players, the group put up flyers around Zone 6 designating the days and times of their "pick up" games.

Quickly, the group corralled fellow soccer enthusiasts, not only from all the U.S. branches of service, but also from the international contingents assigned and deployed to Camp Arifjan.

Each "pick up" game was different based on the amount of people who were able to play. Some nights only six people showed up, so they adjusted the game to play 3-on-3, while other nights both teams fielded full 11-man teams.

Maj. Karl Boggs, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, sent a monthly newsletter back home to Suffolk, Va., telling the story of their do-it-yourself soccer field.

Laura Massie, a government civilian employee at U.S. Joint Forces Command, came across the newsletter and decided to help.

Massie, who is the president of the Tidwater Women's Soccer League in Virginia, sent a care package to the servicemembers who created the soccer field.

"[She] went above and beyond, by sending us soccer balls, a net and pump," said Boggs.

After receiving the new equipment, the group went to work on updating the field.

Boggs, used a pocket knife to cut the regulation size net, sent by Massie, into two pieces to replace the windscreen netting on both goals.

"I'm happy someone embraced this effort and helped us make improvements," added Ledesma, who played for the All-Army Soccer Team in 2000.

With some hard work and support from fellow soccer lovers, a group of servicemembers were able to create their own soccer field to continue playing the game they love, no matter where their military careers take them.

"Pick up" games are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m. behind the Zone 6 Softball Field.

Camp Arifjan

C8 to upgrade FM systems in theater

Story by
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton
Desert Voice staff writer

The mission of U.S. Army Central's financial management group, also known as C8, acts as the single point of entry for Army Financial Management operations in theater to include both Resource Management and Financial Operations.

C8 has been working on several projects, in line with its mission, to help add simplicity and improve fiscal stewardship to theater operations.

"ARCENT spends $25 billion a year," said Brig. Gen. Phillip E. McGhee, from Manchester, Tennessee, ARCENT Director of Resource Management. "That is the Army's single largest program."

According to McGhee, the financial systems that many units are accustomed to working with at their home stations are currently unavailable in theater. One of the major projects ARCENT C8 is currently working is a Theater Financial Management surge, consisting of revised FM doctrine, and deployment of new systems and processes that will enable financial managers to provide robust full spectrum operational support across the theater.

Under the FM surge, which McGhee is spearheading, ARCENT C8 will soon be able to employ Army standard FM systems in theater such as Wide Area Work Flow, an FM system used to pay vendors, and Defense Travel Systems, an electronic system used to pay travel vouchers, to reduce some of the costs that go into theater operations.

Putting these electronic systems in place will eliminate the costs accrued from making manual payments, which is the current process used in theater.

According to McGhee, making a manual payment can cost approximately $30 to $40 a voucher, but by putting these new systems in place, it will reduce these costs to around $3 per transaction.

"These are long term systems that will allow the Army to save money," said McGhee. "This isn't like we are going to come in tomorrow, then goes away with the next rotation. These systems are here to stay.

Another benefit of the FM surge is ARCENT C8's plan to eliminate the use of cash as a method of payment when compensating Iraqi and Afghani vendors where practical. The new method of payment will be electronic funds transfers.

Bringing in mobile banking as the preferred method of payment, will in turn help the local economy and can also help in the fight against terrorism. A cash based economy without banking services only multiplies economic benefit times two. "Funds on deposit in a bank through EFTs have an economic benefit times seven."

When the money is in local banks, those banks can then loan to communities, businesses and individuals. An additional benefit is that you track EFTs, added McGhee.

By having the ability to track EFTs, it can make it easier to research the flow of the funds.

According to McGhee, once C8 begins to implement the changes, they should be transparent to the warfighter. The system conversion, that is scheduled to begin in October, is expected to take approximately three months to complete from start to finish.

The end result, once the systems are running in theater, is that the Army benefits as a whole. The money that will be saved from using the new FM systems and processes can go toward other operational requirements, added McGhee.

9/11 Rememberance Services

Camp Arifjan
Zone 1 Dining Facility @ 0600
LTC (Chaplin) Herring

Camp Buehring
Post Chapel @ 1700
CPT (Chaplin) Shaffer

Why I Serve:
Sgt. Adam Palmisano
513th MID; Operations NCO

The St. Petersburg, Fla., native explains why he chose to join the military.

"I joined for my kids; to give them a better life."

Just One Question ...
"Where were you during 9/11?"

"I was sleeping when I got a call; we were told to stay home because the base was locked down and we couldn't get on."

Petty Officer 1st Class Nohemi Tagle
MITT Team
Corpsman
San Diego, Calif.

"I was in math class in eighth grade. They stopped class, brought in some TVs, and we spent the whole day watching the news."

Pfc. Nick Wahab
988th Military Police Co.
Driver
New Orleans, La.

"I was on an exercise with the Canadian Air Operations Headquarters; we switched from exercise operations to real world operations."

Col. Jeffery Turner
USARCENT
Director of Protection
Poughkipsie, N.Y.

"I was in Port Townsend, Wash., getting ready for work when my roommate started banging on my door yelling 'We're at war!'."

Sgt. Ryan Keelty
109th Transportation Co.
Guntruck Commander
Port Townsend, Wash.

"I was in the dorm at Chichester College. I remember that it was my friend's birthday and his parents forgot because of all that was happening."

SAC Charlie Ford
1419 Flight
Aircraft Engineer
Benson, Oxfordshire

ACROSS 1). HELP 3). CLOSE 5). FIRM 8). STRETCHING 10). LEGS
DOWN 2). EXERCISE 4). SUDDEN 6). STOMACH 7). SHOULDER 9). TWIST

What's happening around USARCENT ...

Spoken Word

Participants in the Aug. 17 Spoken Word Showcase receive a 100-minute calling card from Lawrence Bryant, Army & Air Force Exchange Service. The showcase is a medium for servicemembers and civilians to share their poetic and singing talents with others. The showcase is held at the Camp Arifjan Starbucks every Sunday at 6 p.m.

Photos by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton

B-Day Bash

Soldiers file into the Camp Arifjan Zone 1 movie theater during the Army & Air Force Exchange Service Birthday Bash, Aug. 21. The Birthday Bash is an AAFES sponsored event held on the third Thursday of each month for servicemembers whose birthday falls in that month. The Birthday Bash guests had cake and watched a movie to celebrate.

Did you know ...

On December 3, 1982, a special ceremony was held at Fort McPherson to mark the return to Active Army status of Headquarters, Third U.S. Army under the command of Lt. Gen. M. Collier Ross.

1918 - 2008
Celebrating 90 Years of Service to the Nation

"Third ... Always First"