

DV The Desert Voice

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



April 16, 2008



*Deputy commanding
general hangs up
Stetson and spurs*

HIT THE SADDLE AND RIDE

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On the cover

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, the outgoing U.S. Army Central deputy commanding general, receives a U.S. flag at his retirement ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 8. The flag was flown at Camp Arifjan recently and was presented to Hardy for his 36 years of service. For the full story turn to page 6.

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.



On Leadership: Officer Development

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles on leadership by the Commanding General and the Command Sergeant Major.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution on how to develop professionally as an officer ... on how to experience your career ... and truly there never has been. **Training, education, and experience ... accompanied by you bringing the Warrior Ethos to every job and every facet of your development, is as close to a formula for success as there is.** Officers are still their own best career counselors, and while the factors that define success are many and varied, much will also depend on one's own personal, subjective view ... how *you* —personally and professionally— define success.

We demand of our officers nowadays an amazing breadth and depth of skills and capabilities. Officers must be competent along a spectrum of operations that range from high-intensity conflict to counter-insurgency operations ... and they must possess a depth of expertise in their particular specialties. They achieve this through training, education, and experience.

Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management (DA PAM 600-3) is still a good mentoring tool for leaders at all levels — and is an important personnel management guide for assignment officers. But it does not claim to prescribe the path of assignments or educational requirements that will guarantee success ... it can't and it shouldn't. **DA PAM 600-3 is not "etched in stone" ... nor should it be.** Previously accepted conventions regarding personnel management and "branch qualification" no longer apply. Not all officers will be afforded opportunities to perform *all* types of duty ... and that's okay.

Each assignment, now more than ever, represents a unique opportunity to excel and develop. The outdated philosophy of "checking the block" in certain positions at every grade no longer holds.

I'll mention again that we live in a complex era of persistent conflict ... simply a reality of the early 21st Century leader. And, as the Army continues to adjust to meet the demands of



Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace
USARCENT commander

this constantly-evolving paradigm, we are not as command-centric as we used to be. Officers want command ... they are hungry for opportunities to excel ... to lead. Opportunities to excel are necessarily based on moments in time, however ... and those moments may not always and necessarily afford command opportunities. Our top leadership knows this ... and nowadays, **there are opportunities to the top that transcend the command-centric model.** Again, it comes down to training, experience, and education, tempered with the Warrior Ethos.

Our officer education remains invaluable, but there is an important difference between education and training. Training is not education ... and education is not training. Education is generally measured by tenure: you spent several months in Intermediate Level Education or four years in college. Training, on the other hand, is measured by what you can do when you've completed it. We educate for uncertainty ... we train for certainty. Training is doing. Training improves performance. Education, valuable in its own right, doesn't train.

Regardless of branch or functional area, **officers must use challenging assignments at all levels to help them hone – through experience – what they have learned through their formal education and their training about leading and training Soldiers.** Operational factors (the constraints of time, Army requirements, positions available, and readiness) all influence the amount of time an officer can develop in any one position ... but the point is that each assignment, each position, represents a unique opportunity to grow and develop. Success will depend not on the number or type of positions held, but rather the totality of how one performs in each and every assignment.

No matter what job you have in USARCENT, you are an essential part of this winning team ... and being an integral part of a winning Army team in this 21st Century era of persistent conflict is probably the most prudent and noble thing you *can* do ... for Soldiers ... for your unit ... and, in the end, for your own development and career.

Patton's Own!

Volume 29, Issue 46

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.

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DV
The
Desert
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Safety Corner: Responsibility Matters

Story by
Col. Will Merrill
USARCENT safety officer

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Why does that matter in Kuwait where alcohol is illegal and the mere possession of alcohol is a crime punishable by imprisonment?

Every year, the Army loses Soldiers to accidents involving alcohol. About half of them are either on R&R leave or have recently redeployed from combat tours where alcohol was prohibited. Most seem to lose sight of the fact that activities involving

weapons, motor vehicles, boating, backyard barbecues and simple get-togethers with friends become more dangerous when mixed with alcohol.

A number of Soldiers become victims of their own indiscipline – after trying to make up for a year without alcohol by overindulging upon their return.

Most often, the result is a severe hangover or minor injuries which go unreported. But in several cases each year our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilian employees are fatally injured or permanently disabled because of irresponsible

behavior involving alcohol. Sometimes they are victims of others who are impaired and were merely nearby.

The time to prepare for our return stateside is now. Once we get on the plane, it's too late to prepare our Soldiers for the dangers they face at home.

Anything we tell them at this point sounds like Charlie Brown's teacher. Remember her speech pattern from the cartoons:

"Waaah-wha-whaaaaw-waw-waaaa-wah-wah?"

Talk about it now. Reminding people to be responsible is the key step. Prohibition, last minute safety briefings before redeploying and threats don't work. We need merely to remind folks that alcohol impairs judgment and coordination, and that they need to be aware of others who may be engaging in risk prone activity while under the influence.

Responsibility means planning for a sober driver and avoiding risky behaviors when alcohol is involved. ^A

**COMMON
SENSE**

THINK!

**PLAN
AHEAD**

**RISKY
BEHAVIOR**

To Our Soldiers and Families

Today, President Bush announced his decision to return to twelve-month deployments in the CENTCOM theater for active Army units. The President's decision reflects the improved security situation in Iraq – one made possible by your unwavering commitment and willingness to sacrifice – as well as the recognition of the impact of extended deployments on Army Families and our readiness. Today's policy changes will help reduce that strain as we continue to grow the Army and restore balance.

The Army will reduce "Boots On the Ground" time to no more than twelve months for all active component Soldiers deploying to the CENTCOM area of operations after 1 August 2008. Soldiers deploying prior to 1 August will complete their scheduled deployments.

The return to twelve-month deployments does not change the Army's dwell time policy. This policy is intended to give units time to properly reset and allow Soldiers, Families, and friends to reconnect.

You have chosen a most noble profession. With your Families standing with you in support, you have borne the increased stress and burden of this war for our Army and our Nation. A grateful Army and Nation thank you.

Sincerely,


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army



Capt. Dana Geise selects a club before teeing off. Geise won the Women's longest drive competition during the tournament and was awarded a trophy and plaque acknowledging her accomplishment.



One of the servicemembers playing in the tournament hits a long drive from the fairway during the second annual Four Man Scramble Golf Tournament held at the Sahara Golf Club in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

"When I first heard about it I couldn't believe it. How are they going to host a golf tournament in Kuwait?"

Maj. Jerry Bloomquist
USARCENT C8
assistant budget officer



Servicemembers were able to relax and play a game of golf April 6 during the second annual Four Man Scramble Golf Tournament. The tournament was held at the Sahara Golf Club, Kuwait's only grass course.

e eagles dare

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

Eagles and birdies belong in an aviary, unless of course you're playing a game of golf.

Servicemembers got a chance to take a break from the daily grind and play a game of golf at Kuwait's only grass course during the second annual Four Man Scramble Golf Tournament held April 6.

"When I first heard about it I couldn't believe it. How are they going to host a golf tournament in Kuwait?" said Marine Maj. Jerry Bloomquist, the assistant budget officer with U.S. Army Central C8.

The players were split up into four-person teams, with each team member attacking the hole. The team decides which player was closest to the hole and everyone played from that same spot.

Prizes were awarded for first through third place as well as prizes for women's and men's longest drive, closest to the pin and most challenged team.

To make things interesting, hole four had a prize of a brand new Saab if anyone were to get a hole-in-one.

All the teams participating performed admirably, however only one team could take first place. The players on the team that took first place boasting a net score of 54.50 were Gen. (retired) Buck Kernan, Col. James Gray, Bloomquist and Lt. Col. Lorenzo Miranda.

"We ended up finishing eight under par," said Bloomquist. "Going into the last hole was really exciting, we knew we wanted to capitalize on the last birdie."

Bloomquist and the rest of his



Servicemembers attend a luncheon after the tournament and await the final results to be tallied and the winners to be announced.

team acquired three birdies on the front nine and five birdies on the back nine to add up to their eight under par. The birdie they attained on the last hole ended up being the one that gave them the lead.

In second place with a net score of 54.75 were Lt. John Harding, Staff Sgt. Cameron Mitchell, Staff Sgt. Patrick Gonzalez and Bill Sterling.

Third place went to Maj. Jeff Allen, Lt. Col. John McHugh, Lt. Col.

Jerry Egbert and John Larty who claimed a net score of 56.

The "illustrious" title of most challenged team went to Sgt. 1st Class Carl Reynolds, Staff Sgt. Jimmie Newsome, Spc. Mario Baez, and Nancy Charles-Parker.

The women's and men's longest drive went to Capt. Dana Geise, Maj. Jeff Allen and Petty Officer 2nd Class Lee Begy.

The prize for men's nearest the pin went to Lt. Col. Eddie Hammonds and Mike Seals while the women's nearest the pin went unclaimed.

After the tournament was concluded the teams returned to the Sahara Golf Club where a luncheon was held as the prizes were awarded accordingly. Along with the trophies the winners were awarded with prizes such as digital cameras and portable DVD players.

After the awards were given a raffle was held for door prizes including everything from Sony PSPs to remote controlled cars.

"Something like this tournament doesn't just happen, it took a lot of effort, planning and coordination from the people who put it together and the sponsors were just wonderful," Bloomquist said. 



Prizes were awarded for first through third place, most challenged team, women's and men's longest drive and closest to the pin.

USARCENT says goodbye to retiring general

Story by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer

Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, U.S. Army Central deputy commanding general, retired from the Army in a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 8.

Hardy, who served for 36 years, told the hundreds of servicemembers, friends and associates in attendance that he was not retiring, but merely changing missions.

“If I’ve got 36 years behind me, I must have 36 years left ahead of me for outstanding service,” he said. “It’s been a wonderful journey here.”

Hardy began his career in 1972 as a second lieutenant in the armor branch stationed in Germany. During his three-plus-decade career, he commanded at every level from a platoon leader through division commander. His commands include the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., and commanding general of Task Force Falcon, Multi-National Brigade

(East) in Kosovo during Operation Joint Guardian. Other commands have included the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, USARCENT commanding general, said Hardy’s story and career of has been a remarkable journey.

“His story is of exceptional service to our country, of distinguished performance of duty,” Lovelace said. “His accomplishments tell the story of a leader, who in the total of his career, has touched millions of young men and women.”

Lovelace said Hardy has touched hundreds of thousands of Soldiers’ lives this year alone. He has done so by supporting the troops while they were in transit through USARCENT’s area of operations.

Looking back on Hardy’s career, Lovelace reflected on the times back in 1972. Richard Nixon had been re-elected as president, the Godfather won the Oscar for best picture and UCLA, led by future Hall of Famer

Bill Walton, won the national championship in college basketball. Lovelace said while Walton was a hall of famer in the making back then, USARCENT was losing theirs today.

“We have our own Hall of Famer right here in Dennis Hardy,” he said.

Hardy said this is not only his retirement, but also his Family’s retirement.

“If anybody kept me in uniform at a couple of times when there were forks in the road, it wasn’t just the Soldiers and leaders I’ve rucked with, it’s been my bride of 37 years, Diane,” Hardy said.

Hardy said change is constant in the military and has affected him throughout his career. He told the audience the military has changed from World War II through the Cold War, then through the collapse of the Soviet Union and into the 21st century with the Global War on Terrorism.

“I leave the military in comfortable hands because I know you can deal with change,” Hardy told the servicemembers standing in formation.

As he closed his comments to the



Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commanding general, pins the Distinguished Service Medal on Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy at his retirement ceremony at Camp Arifjan.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, the outgoing U.S. Army Central deputy commanding general, gives his final remarks in front of fellow servicemembers and friends at his retirement ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 8. Hardy served 36 years in the Army and will return home to Spokane, Wash., with his wife Diane.

Photos by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

“If I’ve got 36 years behind me, I must have 36 years left ahead of me ...”

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
U.S. Army Central
Deputy commanding general

crowd, Hardy said he had no clue what the future holds for him and his family, however, he’s ready to tackle what lies ahead.

“I’m certain there are great adventures out there,” he said. “But I’m looking forward to the great adventures.”

Hardy’s retirement is effective June 1. He plans to return home to spend retirement with his wife Diane in Spokane, Wash. 

*‘Hall of famer’
bids farewell
after 36 years with Army team*

It's "Nothing Personal" ...

1st TSC sacks USARCENT during Opera

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

Time was running out. 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) had the lead. U.S. Army Central quarterback Jeffrey Simpson quickly stepped up to the line and yelled "Hike!" He took the snap and rolled out then lofted the pass high into the air. Just when it looked like the pass would be caught, it was knocked to the ground.

Operation Gridiron 2008 concluded with the championship game of the flag football tournament at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 6. The championship pitted U.S. Army Central's Gladiators against the 1st TSC "Nothing Personal."

Operation Gridiron paired military teams with former players and coaches from the professional ranks. For Gridiron, former NFL players such as Bobby Bell and Bobby Wilson coached the teams during the three-day tournament.

Coming into the game,

Lt. Col. Chris Fry, Sr., coach of the USARCENT team "Gladiators," said his team had played some very close games to get here. He said the defense had played stellar and now it was the offense's turn to shine.

"We wanted to utilize ball-control," Fry said. "Our offense is a spread offense so we wanted to make them defend the whole field."

Nothing Personal began the game on the offensive. Their opening drive took more than seven minutes to complete. Facing a goal-to-goal situation, Nothing Personal quarterback Michael Brim found Arthur Hawkins in the endzone for a touchdown. The point-after-touchdown, PAT, was no good and Nothing Personal led 6-0.

They made it 12-0 on their next drive as Michael McKie-Smith scored on a run midway through the first half. The PAT was no good once again

and Nothing Personal pulled away to 12-0.

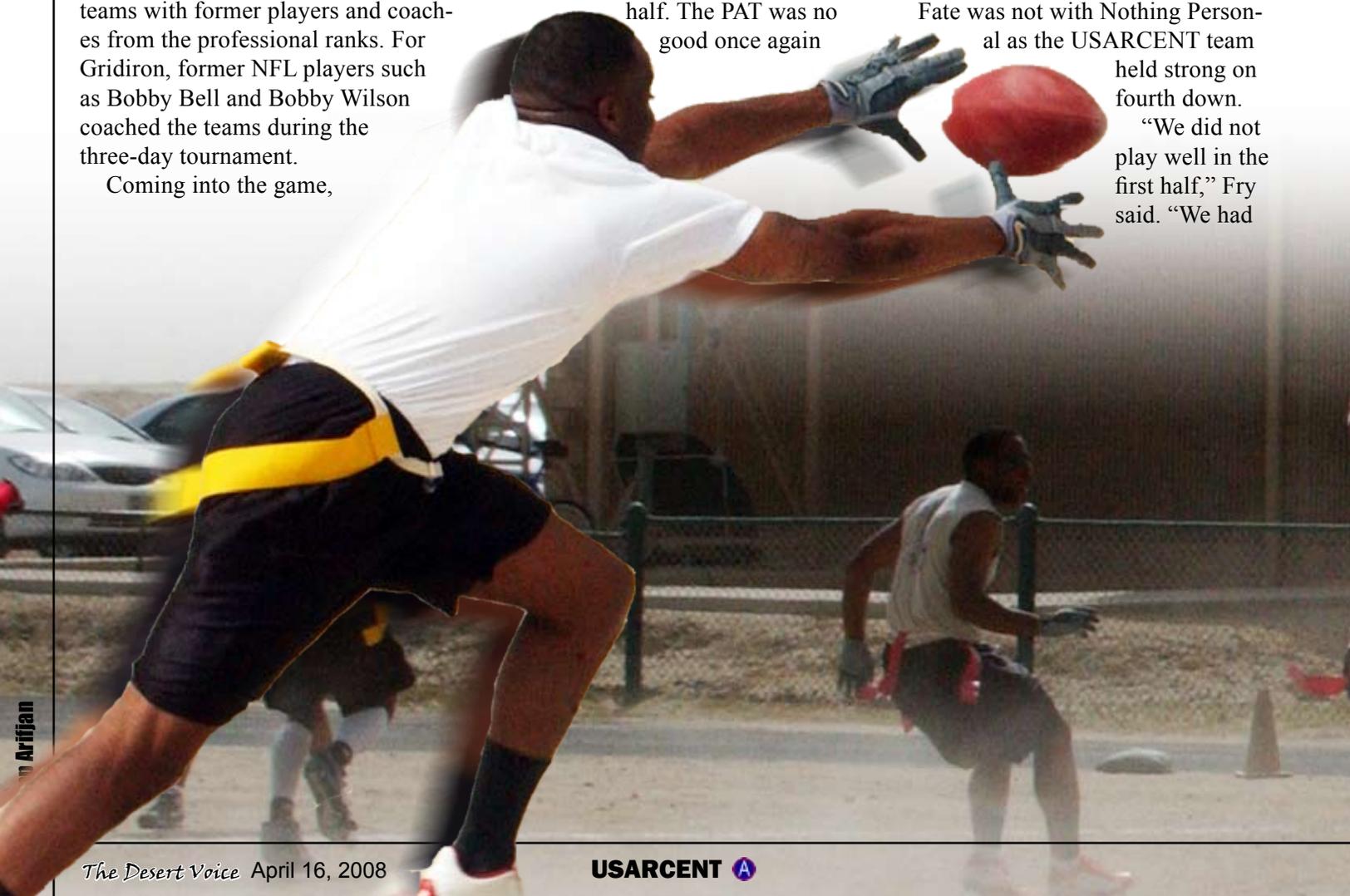
The Gladiators got the ball and on the ensuing drive made it to within yards of the endzone. There, however, the Nothing Personal defense stiffened up, and on fourth down and goal, forced USARCENT to turn the ball over on downs.

Late in the first half, Nothing Personal was once again on the attack. Stopped on three downs, and one yard away, Nothing Personal decided to go for a touchdown on fourth down. Master Sgt. Samuel L. Jones, coach for Nothing Personal, said the whole objective was to not punt in the whole tournament.

"We go for it on fourth down," he said. "We are a confident team and have a potent offense. Why not go for it?"

Fate was not with Nothing Personal as the USARCENT team held strong on fourth down.

"We did not play well in the first half," Fry said. "We had



ation Gridiron

to come out and make a statement on that first drive in the second half.”

USARCENT took the opening drive and, once again, made it to with in a few yards of scoring. Two plays later, Simpson threw an interception in the endzone killing the scoring opportunity.

The Gladiators got the ball back however after they intercepted a pass bound for the endzone, which then led to touchdown reception by John Tulifua. The PAT was no good but USARCENT cut the lead in half at 12-6.

Midway through the second half, Nothing Personal made it 18-6 when Michael Brim scored on a quarterback keeper. This time the PAT was good and Nothing Personal led 19-6. USARCENT, in one final desperation drive, moved to within 20 yards of the goaline but the drive stalled and the Gladiators turned the ball over on downs. Nothing Personal ran out the clock to win the game and the title.

“You have to give them credit,” Fry said. “We knew they had a talented team. It showed today.”

Jones said the team played hard



Nothing Personal quarterback Michael Brim throws a pass to an open receiver during the championship game of Operation Gridiron. Nothing Personal won the game 19-6.

and earned the championship.

“I’m proud of these guys,” Jones said. “They could have given up [Saturday night] when we were down by double digits in the semifinals. They did not quit and now we’re champs.”

Former Washington Redskin Bobby Wilson, honorary coach for Nothing Personal, said the team relied on quickness and speed to win.

“We just get to the flags and find

the quarterback,” Wilson said.

Wilson said the tournament was a great chance to spend time with the servicemembers.

“I was blessed to be here,” he said.

Bobby Bell, a former New York Jets and Chicago Bears player and defensive coach for USARCENT, said time just ran out on them.

“Give us a few more quarters and we [could have] beat them,” Bell said. 



Nothing Personal quarterback Michael Brim charges against two defenders during the Operation Gridiron championship game, at Camp Arifjan, April 6.

Retired chief of staff, command sergeant major visit Kuwait

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jacob A. McDonald
Desert Voice staff writer

With more than 60 years of combined military experience to back them up, a former Army chief of staff and a retired command sergeant major shared their knowledge with Soldiers during a visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 5.

Gen. (Ret.) Gordon R. Sullivan and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Jimmie Spencer spent the afternoon with noncommissioned and commissioned officers sharing their experiences and views of how to become better leaders.

"I want you to know that I know the Army is different today," Spencer said. "Things are different. This war is different, the equipment is different and the training you get is different. What I want to talk to you about are some things that do not change and that is leadership. All the things you are going through, folks have gone through it many times before."

Spencer spoke to the noncommissioned officers about the history of the NCO corps and some of the ways it has changed from when he enlisted during Vietnam to today's Army. He said today's Army is in really great shape, and the only way you can know that is to look back and see where it came from. Spencer added that the high operations tempo and level of work could not have happened with the draft Army he came into.

Spencer also spoke about the roles of NCOs in making missions happen and building effective teams.

"The only way you can get [something] done correctly is by building teams," Spencer said. He added that whenever he started in a new assignment he would ask himself three questions: who is on my team, who is not on my team and who should be on the team.

"If you are going to succeed as a noncommissioned officer you have to build teams."

Spencer also talked about leading and training Soldiers and identifying and developing leadership potential in Soldiers. He encouraged the leaders in attendance to discuss the Army Values with their Soldiers and make sure they understand what those values mean.

"I am not suggesting to you that you don't know what they are, but I am suggesting to you that the fact we have them hanging around our neck does not mean we have internalized these things," Spencer said. "Don't assume for a minute that Soldiers understand [the Army Values] completely."

He also encouraged Soldiers to read professional journals and learn as well as write and pass on their knowledge and experience. He concluded his presentation with three points for Soldiers to remember. He invited them

to trust in their peers and leaders, think about their legacy and to remember the long term pain of regret versus the temporary pain of discipline.

For the officer professional development, Sullivan also spoke about where the Army has been and where

it is going, focusing on changes in tactical and technical practices. Throughout his

message to the officers, Sullivan emphasized repeatedly the importance of people. He said that people are the key. It takes people to make anything happen and ultimately it should be about the Soldiers under a leader and the people in a leader's area of responsibility.

Spencer and Sullivan each have more than 30 years of active duty service. Despite retirement, they both continue to support Soldiers through involvement in programs and associations aimed at improving benefits and services for servicemembers and their Families. **A**

"Today's Army is in really great shape, and the only way you can know is to look back and see where it came from."

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Jimmie Spencer
NCOPD Guest speaker



Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Jimmie Spencer speaks to noncommissioned officers about leadership at a professional development seminar on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 5.

**Prevent Sexual Assault: Alcohol
Sex Offender's Weapon of Choice**
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Studies show that the weapon most often used to commit a sexual assault is not a gun or a knife. Offenders use alcohol and other incapacitating substances much more frequently to coerce and incapacitate victims in acts of sexual violence. Research demonstrates that offenders often travel in the same social circles as their victims. In fact, some make a point of getting to know or even date their victim before they commit a criminal offense.

Eighty percent of sexual assaults happen during some form of social interaction, usually on a date. A rape is also more likely to occur at a party or bar, rather than at the victim's home. Most people find it difficult to believe that a rapist might be someone they know or have dated.

Another commonly used technique is to overpower someone with alcohol or incapacitating drugs. Some perpetrators employ alcohol to completely incapacitate a target, embarrass the victim, and ultimately hide the crime. Offenders may also use alcohol during the commission of the crime or hide behind their use of alcohol in an attempt to exonerate themselves.

The best defense against these kinds of perpetrators is to watch out for potentially dangerous situations:

- Limit your drinking to a drink an hour with no more than three drinks total.
- Designate a non-drinking friend to help with safety and good decision making.
- Avoid leaving your drink unattended and do not accept drinks that you did not order.
- Avoid drinking in unfamiliar environments and around unfamiliar people.

Many of the risks presented by sex offenders who use alcohol and other substances as weapons can be managed by looking out for friends and co-workers. You can get more information from your installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or www.sapr.mil.

Prevent Sexual Assault: Ask! Act! Intervene!

Just One Question ...

**"What is one accomplishment
your unit is proud of?"**



"When we recruited for our customs mission, we had 100 percent volunteers. We did not have to mobilize anyone for customs."

Lt. Kristen Buntson
NAVELSG
Battle watch captain
Metropolis, Ill.



"The hard work that we put into it at Fort Hood [Texas] preparing for mobilization over here and the quick transition once we got here."

Pfc. Danielle Hill
HHC, 37th IBCT
Tech monitor
Dayton, Ohio



"100 percent accountability for pay issues to all service-members deployed here."

Sgt. David Mack
9th Financial Management Co.
Information management officer
Severn, Md.



"So far, the progress we've made is transforming to full-spectrum operations."

Capt. Millicent Preyer
USARCENT
C-1 individual augmentee manager
Albertville, Ala.



"We have a 100 percent delivery rate so far in terms of delivering ammunition and supplies to units in Afghanistan."

Staff Sgt. James Rivera
101st Airborne Division
Transportation expediter
San Juan, P.R.

Why I serve: Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Freeman
Provost Marshal's Office
Military police



The Tulsa, Okla., native explains why he chose to join the military.

"9-11. I've been in law enforcement for 18 years and I felt it was a more diverse way to fight the Global War on Terrorism."

What's happening around USARCENT ...

Motor pool of the month



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer M. Shawn Pearce

March's Motorpool of the Month winners is the 1175th Transportation Company. Col. Darlette Stowers, Zone 6 commander (far left), and Mike Baldauf, Zone 6 environmental coordinator (far right), presented the trophy to the winning team. For more information about the Motor Pool of the Month, contact Chief Warrant Officer M. Shawn Pearce at 430-7188.



Photo by Capt. Walter Lewis

Down in the bayou

Blues singer Janiva Megness performs for servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, during Bluzapalooza, April 3.

One last look



Photo by Marine Sgt. Sara Carter

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (right), the outgoing U.S. Army Central deputy commanding general, and Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace (center) USARCENT commander, lead U.S. Army Central servicemembers running in formation during Hardy's retirement run at Camp Arifjan, April 8.

LFS is coming ...



... check out next week's DV.