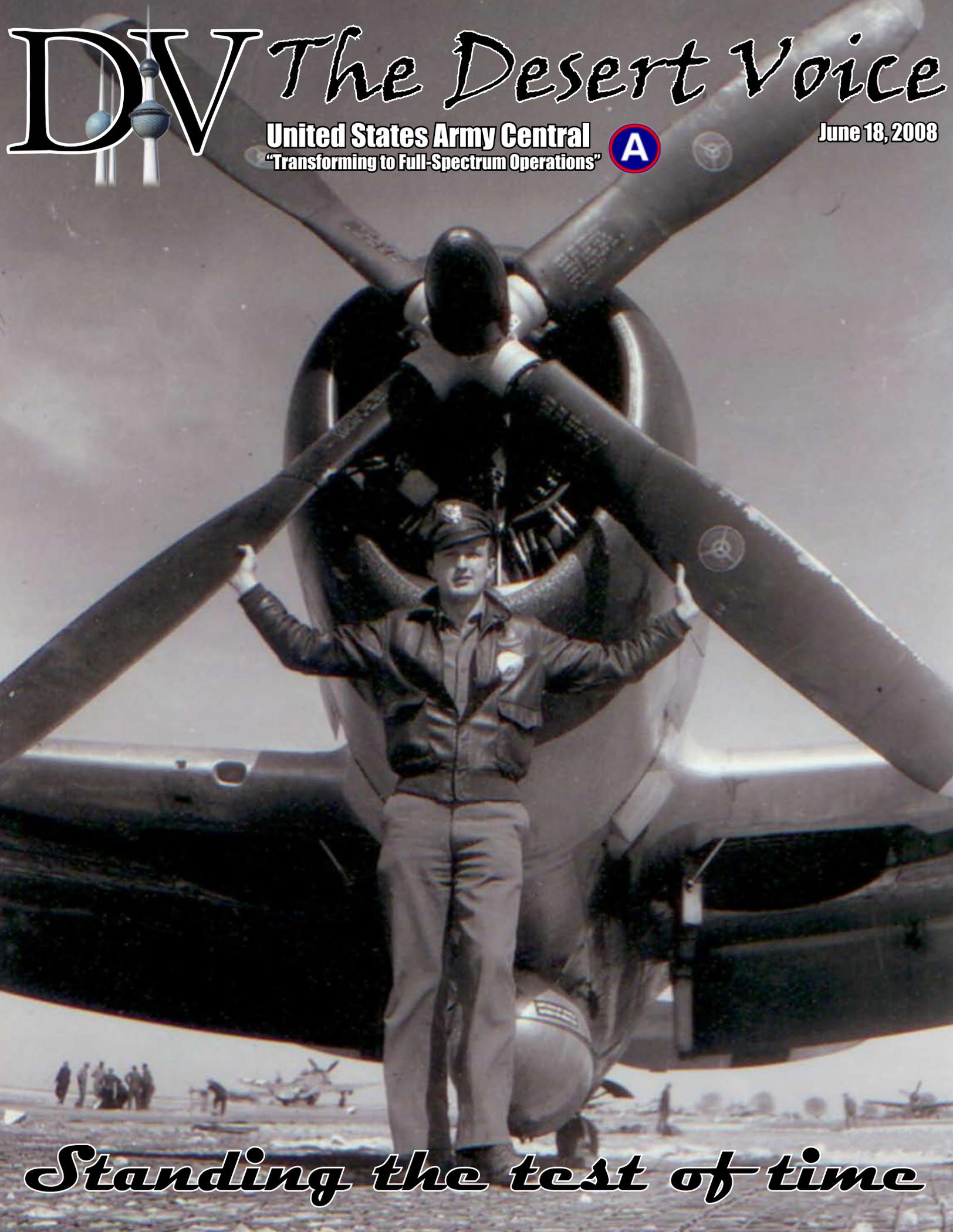


DV The Desert Voice

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



June 18, 2008



Standing the test of time

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On the cover

Former Army Air Corps pilot Burt McIntosh poses with his plane, "The Pink Slipper," in 1945. McIntosh carried a good luck charm on every sortie after a promise he made to his wife. For the full story, see page 6.

Photo courtesy of the McIntosh Family

Contact us

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



2008 Army Birthday Message

Since June 14, 1775, the magnificent Soldiers, Families, and Civilians of America's Army have sacrificed personal comfort and safety so that others can live in freedom. Our sacrifices have preserved our way of life, built a better future for others, and led our Nation to victory over our enemies.

In this, our 233rd year, we find our Nation at war. For six years, our Army has been a leader in this war liberating over 50 million people from tyranny and oppression and giving them hope for the future. Inspired by these efforts, almost 300,000 men and women enlisted or reenlisted just last year in America's Army – Active, National Guard and Reserve. This type of dedication is what makes our Army the Strength of the Nation.

Not everyone recognizes it day-to-day, but we are at war against a global extremist terrorist network seeking to attack and destroy our way of life. This is not a foe that will give up easily. They must be defeated.

Faced with such a long and difficult struggle, and with so much at stake, it is important to remind ourselves that our military exists to field forces for victory just as we did in 1775. Our Warrior Ethos has it right:

- I will always place the mission first.
- I will never accept defeat.
- I will never quit.
- I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Our Army is a hugely resilient, professional, and battle-hardened force. We are the best in the world at what we do, and we are that way because of our values, our ethos, and our people – especially our people.

On this Army Birthday, we have much to celebrate and be proud of. God bless each and every one of you and your Families, and God bless America.



Kenneth O. Preston
Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army



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



Pete Geren
Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

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Desert Voice Editor
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice Staff Writers
Spc. Wes Landrum
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer



Safety Corner: National Safety Month

Story by
Maj. Greg Majewski
335th Signal Command Safety

We live and breathe safety on a daily basis as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

But this month marks a special occasion for safety. June is National Safety Month as designated by the National Safety Council. We all know every member of the Armed Services is a safety officer. So what can we do to help raise awareness?

For assigned unit safety officers, this may be a good time to review your own safety programs and see if there are any areas you can improve. For everyone else, it is a time to ask yourself if you truly understand what it means to be safe.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Safety Center Web site is located at crc.army.mil. It is one of the best sources anywhere to learn anything relating to safety in the military.

It also outlines the specific dangers we all face as members of the Armed Services and how to increase our safety awareness.

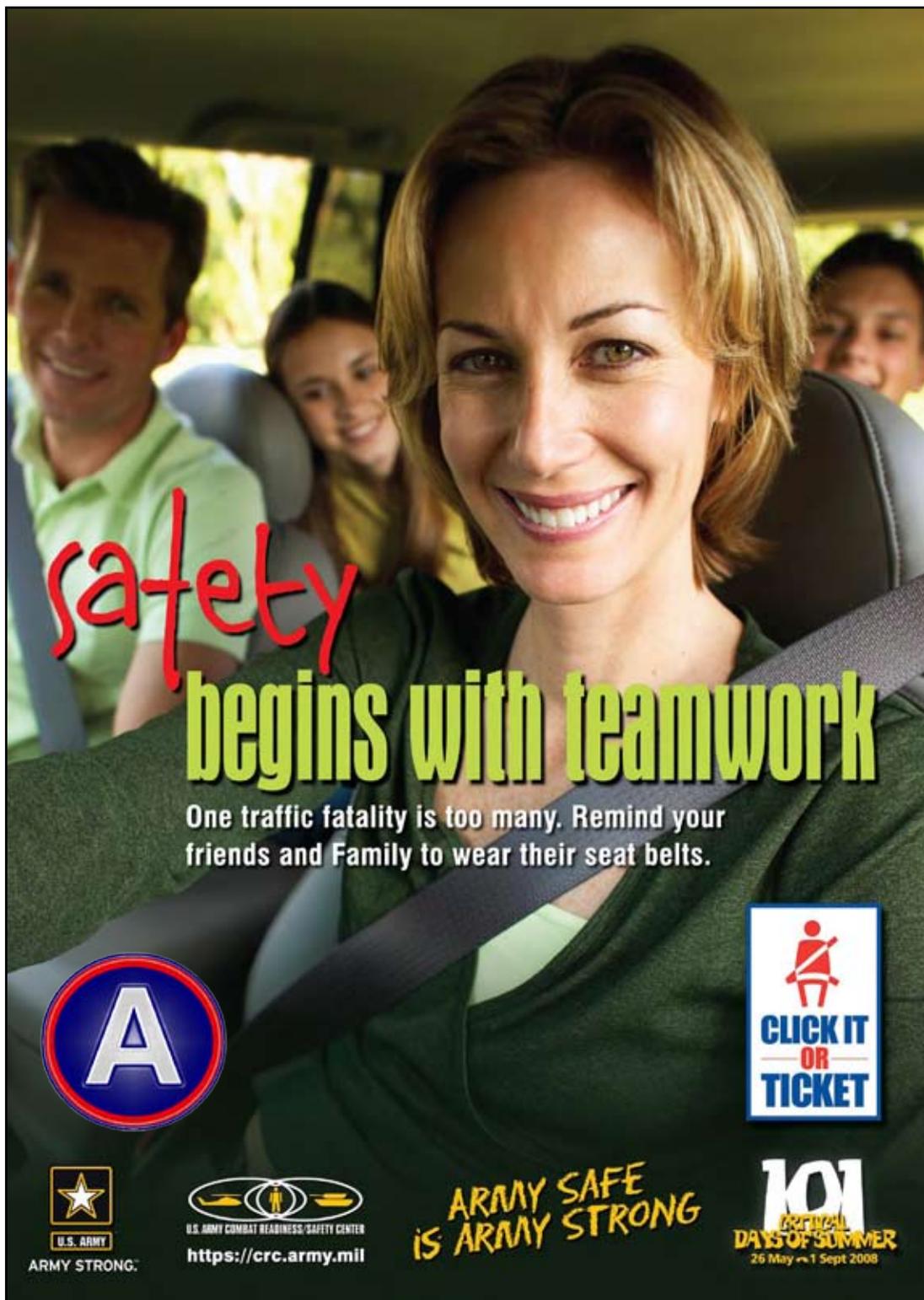
Another great source is the National Safety Council Web site located at www.nsc.org. It offers tools to help get your Family engaged in safety awareness. This is also a great Web site to start a "Safety Tip of the Week"

campaign. From driving dangers to basic emergency preparedness, the NSC Web site contains many of the same safety information you will find on the CRC Web site.

For members of the military, safety is not something we do for a minute, hour, day, month or year. It is a

continuous philosophy to minimize risks and to limit accidents that cause injury or even death.

Use this time to raise your level of safety awareness. Every injury, every accidental death impacts a unit's effectiveness and combat readiness. Do your part and stay Safety Strong! 



safety
begins with teamwork

One traffic fatality is too many. Remind your friends and Family to wear their seat belts.



ARMY STRONG.  U.S. ARMY
U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS SAFETY CENTER
<https://crc.army.mil>
ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG
101 DAYS OF SUMMER
26 May - 1 Sept 2008



Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen participate in the fun run held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in honor of the U.S. Army's 233rd birthday. U.S. Army Central held activities all day long commemorating the Army's birthday.

The strength of the nation

The U.S. Army celebrates its 233rd birthday

By Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer
Desert Voice staff writer

US. Army Central celebrated the Army's 233rd birthday June 14 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, with various events spread throughout the day.

An early morning fun run sponsored by Camp Arifjan's Morale Welfare and Recreation kicked off the celebration. Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines participated in the five kilometer run that started at 6 a.m.

Afterwards, a cake-cutting ceremony was held in the Coalition Operations Information Center at which Maj. Gen. Charles Anderson, the USARCENT deputy commanding general,

spoke. Anderson emphasized the role of the U. S. Army as the strength of the nation since its inception 233 years ago. The cake was cut by the youngest and oldest Soldiers in USARCENT. The oldest Soldier Chaplain (Col.) Sydney Marceaux, Area Support Group-Kuwait chaplain, was joined by the youngest Soldier, Spc. Christopher Buskirk, USARCENT G1, to cut the cake.

That evening a cake decoration competition was held at the Camp Arifjan MWR center. Servicemembers tried their hand at a time-honored tradition in the Army. The winner received a \$50 AAFES gift card. The winner was Marine Sgt. Sara A. Carter with her masterpiece titled "Sailing Home." 

The oldest Soldier in USARCENT, Chaplain (Col.) Sydney Marceaux, (right) Area Support Group-Kuwait chaplain, was joined by the youngest Soldier, Spc. Christopher Buskirk, US-ARCENT G1, to cut the cake during the all day celebration of the Army's 233rd birthday.

Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer



Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Maj. Michael Ngo, USARCENT G2, decorates a cake during a cake-decorating contest at the MWR center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June, 14.

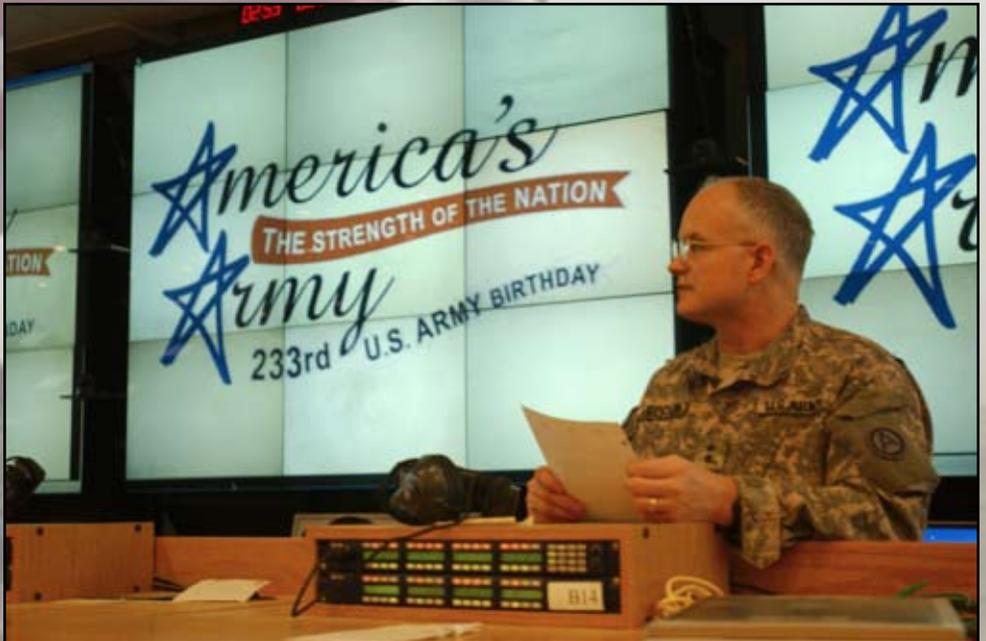


Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, USARCENT deputy commanding general, spoke to the crowd of ARCENT Soldiers gathered in the COIC prior to the cutting of the cake for the Army's 233rd Birthday.

Camp Arifjan



Burt McIntosh stands next to his P-47 Thunderbolt in April 1945.



McIntosh sits in the cockpit of his P-47 for more than 55 missions without injury. A pair of slippers he tucked inside the pocket of his flight suit.

If the Slipper fits

Story by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer

In September 1944, Burt McIntosh was just a young man of 22 when he left home for the military and the perils of World War II. A husband and new father of a baby girl, McIntosh enlisted in the Army's Air Corps and was sent to Europe to fly missions against the German Luftwaffe.

Pilots traditionally carry good luck mementos with them on sorties. Before Burt left for duty, he found a pair of his infant daughter's pink slippers. As a good luck memento from home, he carried one to Europe with him. Now more than 60 years later, a family tradition is continuing in the desert sands of Kuwait.

Commander G. Michael Pettinger, a Navy Reservist from Norfolk, Va., received orders to be involuntarily recalled to active duty in February. He said he knew what the Family's reaction would be.

"My wife, Karin, was understandably upset with this turn of events," Pettinger said.

Then fate intervened.

"Karin happened to find a pair of yellow bootie slippers, hand knit by her grandmother upon the birth of our daughter seven years ago," Pettinger said. "Remembering the stories that Burt, Isabel (grandmother) and Amy

(mother) had cherished, and told to Karin for so many years, my wife lifted the slippers out of the drawer."

Pettinger said his wife came up to him, slippers in hand, and asked him to take one with him. He said he would. When Pettinger left for Kuwait, the slipper was tucked inside his left pocket. It remains there today.

"When my orders came through, my daughter's own pair of slippers were discovered shortly thereafter. Neither

"I think the story of grandpa coming home safely, and the connection to the family tradition just resonated with both of us."

Karin Pettinger

Wife of Cmdr. G. Michael Pettinger

of us could escape the parallels," Pettinger said. "Call it a good luck token, a personal reminder, or the embodi-

ment of a promise, all of these things help me realize I'm here because I need to be and that I will one day return home."

Karin Pettinger said her husband

Cmdr. G. Michael Pettinger, shows off his "good luck charm" – his daughter's slipper that he carries in his blouse pocket.



his fighter plane. He flew more - with his daughter's slipper safe- is flight jacket.



Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

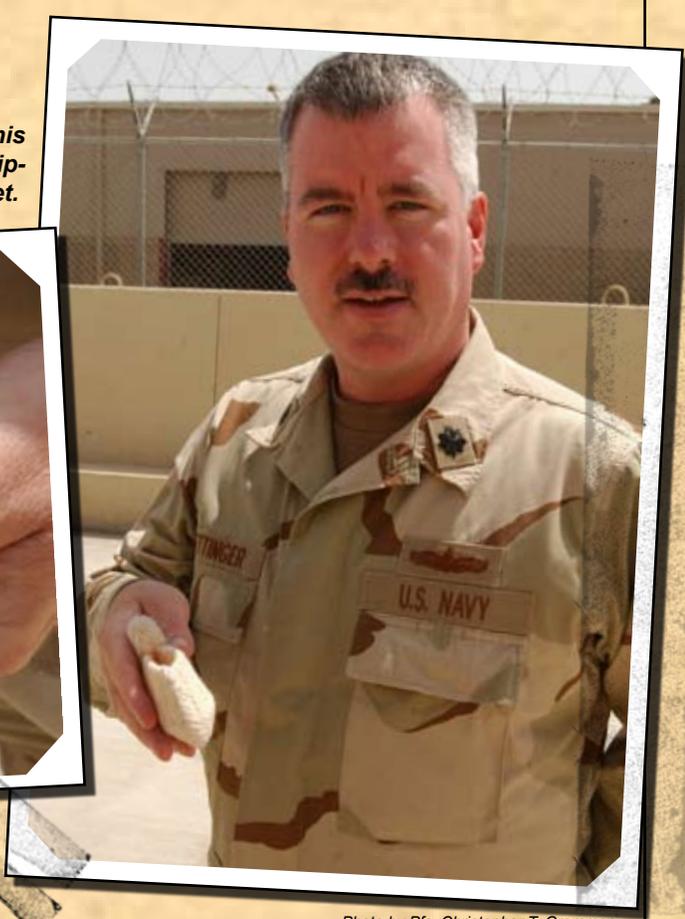


Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

cherished the idea of him carrying the slipper.

"When I came across the slippers and explained the story to Mike about Grandpa's slipper, he was immediately enthusiastic about carrying one of Meg's," Karin said. "I think the story of Grandpa coming home safely and the connection to the family tradition just resonated with both of us."

McIntosh and Pettinger say carrying the slippers shows a bond and a promise that is made between father and child. Pettinger said a broken promise is something that will be remembered for a long time to come.

"It's not possible to be a perfect parent, but it is possible to keep your word to your kids," Pettinger said. "If you can prove to them that integrity is important to you, it will rub off on them."

Karin said carrying the slipper connects the present with the past. Though the battlefield has shifted from the skies of Europe to the sands of the Middle East, the same concerns that resonated in the 1940s continue today.

"Mike is no different than Grandpa was in so many ways – he worries about the Family he leaves behind,

about the milestones his children will pass while he is away from them and about coming home safely to the people he loves," Karin said. "Kuwait, Iraq, Vietnam, Korea, Europe and Japan – no matter where or when we stand and fight, there are always simply just men with Families who want them to come home."

For Isabel McIntosh, continuing the tradition means the servicemember is thinking of Family while deployed. For her, the Family is just as big a part of the military as the servicemember.

"The Family is also a part of the military. It symbolizes that the wives and the children are a part of that too. In this situation, we are talking about four generations of Family and it's all within a military Family," Isabel said. "I was a part of the military Family; Charlotte Amy was as both a child and a wife. [Karin] is too, both a child and a wife, and now Meg and Daniel (Pettinger's children) are a part of that as well. It is very true that for military Families there is a different cohesiveness within the Family. Oftentimes, how your Family holds together is different from Families that do not have

the military connection. The slippers are an example of that. We have four generations that have lived with the military, and that is important too."

McIntosh said his slipper gave him so much luck that he named his P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane "The Pink Slipper" and painted the name on his flight jacket. McIntosh flew 57 sorties without injury, the slipper carefully tucked into the pocket of his flight jacket on every flight.

After the war's end, Burt McIntosh returned home to Isabel and his young Family, keeping a promise that the slipper embodied. More than 60 years later, the slipper is still safely tucked away inside Burt's flight jacket – a sign of his commitment.

Pettinger said he has not given much thought to what will happen to his daughter's slipper once he gets home. However, he said, looking ahead, the slipper will probably still be in the same place it is now.

"At least one of these uniforms will be saved and the slipper will stay inside it," Pettinger said. "Maybe we will put the two [sets of] slippers together and tell other people about the tradition." **A**



Seaman James Wilbur, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, installs a light fixture at the Balbala primary school in Djibouti May 31. NMCB 74 Seabees are repairing the school as part of a Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa project.

JTF-Horn of Africa shines light on education

Story and photos by
Petty Officer 2nd Class John Hulle
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

DJIBOUTI – U.S. servicemembers here gathered an assortment of materials and construction skills to make repairs to the Balbala primary school.

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, based out of Gulfport, Miss., and Soldiers from the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, based out of Columbus, Ohio, replaced light fixtures, hinges and hasps on shutters, fixed doorframes and repaired a water pump and cistern during an ongoing project at the school that is expected to be completed in June. The Soldiers and Sailors are deployed to Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa.

“I enjoy coming out and working on projects like this. I like to get out and help the community,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Bragwell, NMCB 74 crewmember. “Plus, every time we come out here, there’s something different to do.”

This was the first time Army Capt. Sikiru Kafaru, 412th CA BN team

leader, worked side by side with Seabees. Kafaru said this was an “outstanding” experience.

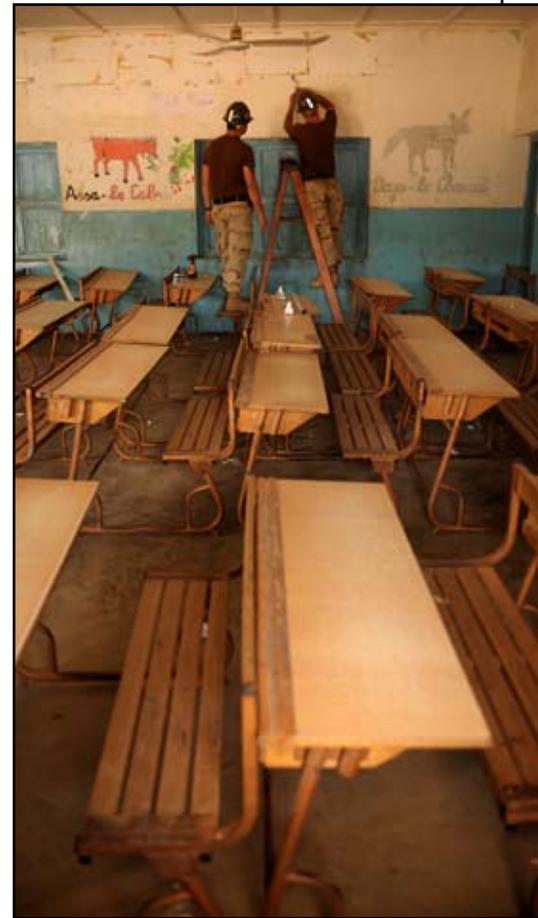
“For us it’s an exciting thing,” he said. “We appreciate the Seabees getting involved.” Without NMCB 74’s involvement, the 412th CA BN would have just donated the materials. Instead, by using the construction force’s building expertise, the crew is able to complete the many small projects and spend more time interacting with the community.

“It’s a good thing,” said Bragwell. “We get good reactions, especially from the children. They are excited to see us.”

Housssin Abdi Ali, a fourth-grade teacher at Balbala, agrees. He said the Soldiers and Seabees having a presence at the school helps build the relationship between Djibouti and the U.S.

Ali also said he hopes the improvements can help the school accommodate the more than 2,000 students it already teaches.

“If you are not educated, you are blind. That’s why this is so important,” Ali said. **A**



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 install light fixtures at the Balbala primary school in Djibouti, May 31.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Johnson, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, repairs a light fixture at the Balbala primary school in Djibouti, May 31.



In his honor – street named for Airman killed in action

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Connor
386th AEW Public Affairs

Approximately 400 service-members gathered at an intersection on an air base in the Persian Gulf Region June 10 to honor a vehicle operator who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq a year ago.

Airman 1st Class Eric Barnes, 20, of Lorain, Ohio, died June 10, 2007, as result of an improvised explosive device attack on an Air Force convoy about 100 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq. He was deployed from the 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

“Eric was one of the brave, one of the courageous, and one of the dedicated Airmen who was committed to making a difference,” said Chief Master Sgt. Carl Hunsinger, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing command chief.

“He came to the theater willing and ready to do what he loved and worked side by side with the Soldiers and Airmen executing this incredibly important mission,” Hunsinger said. “He took on the toughest missions as the lead vehicle driver ... he had a bright and positive disposition ... he was a good man who will truly be missed.”

Airmen from the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, 70th and 424th Medium Truck Detachments, and Soldiers from the Army’s 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), 640th Sustainment Brigade and 1144th Transportation Battalion, descended upon the new intersection to pay tribute to Barnes and his family with the naming of Barnes Road during a street-naming dedication ceremony.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bunce, the guest speaker of the ceremony from Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, was the 424th MTD chief enlisted manager Barnes worked for during their 2007 deployment and provided some emotional words.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Patrick Dixon

Chief Master Sgt. Carl Hunsinger (left), the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bunce, Airman 1st Class Eric Barnes’ supervisor, unveil the street sign during a street dedication ceremony, June 10.

“Back in October, Chief Hunsinger managed to see my detachment off by having all of us in this very place to see where Eric would be honored before we headed home,” Bunce said. “I’m honored to be here today for those 165 Airmen of the 424th MTD in dedicating this road in his name.

“There’s always that one guy out of a group that kind of stands out and it wasn’t hard for Eric because he was about six-foot-five,” said the chief recalling the beginning of their six-month rotation in April 2007.

“We only had one returning combat veteran from this type of mission and it was an airman first class, not a staff, not a tech or a master sergeant, an airman first class, and it was this guy,” Bunce continued. “And he shared everything that he knew with his peers and his non-commissioned officers, and that’s a true leader and a patriot.”

Bunce said Barnes was a great kid, growing up donating his hair to cancer patients and an Eagle Scout.

He was very well loved in his hometown by his family and his friends – just a special, special person, he added.

“It’s a year past Eric Barnes’ passing and the time for grieving is over for many of us, but we will not forget him,” said Col. Robert Swisher, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

“Our hearts and minds go out to his family,” Swisher said. “His passing is a permanent loss for his family, for the U.S. Air Force, and especially for our family here with the 386th AEW. Ceremonies like this help remind each one of us that the cost is not low for what we’re accomplishing.”

Barnes Road intersects with Jacobson Avenue, named in honor of Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Jacobson, who died while on a convoy near Camp Bucca, Iraq, on Sept. 28, 2005, when her vehicle was hit by an IED. She is the first female Airman killed in the line of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. **A**



“Edge of the Bench”

by Maj. Gen. Chuck Anderson
USARCENT deputy commanding general

Good to see the number of people doing physical training at Camp Arifjan. The roads and gyms are packed with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Department of the Army civilians and contractors. Units doing physical training demonstrating the latest exercises focused on strengthening the core, building speed, and agility exemplifies the essence of a Warrior. The sound of motivating cadence and guidons held high is back on the roads at Camp Arifjan! Before the hot sun comes up, the ARCENT team has started the day off right with a heavy dose of physical training.

Rule One for PT is “Show up.” Everyone in uniform should have an organized PT program, regardless of the size of the unit. I fully understand, due to work schedules and assigned missions, it can be difficult to do unit PT. But with some detailed, thoughtful planning, units can schedule small unit PT where someone is in charge who has a plan that is progressive, tailored for the population involved and is variable so as to work total fitness and not lead to boredom. New arrivals should establish with their supervisor some fitness goals. For example one may desire to lose weight, cut seconds off the two

mile run, increase in the bench press or learn to use different protocols such as a spin class, swimming, or the variety of aerobic machines you find in the gyms. We are always driven to leave a job better than we found it ... well fitness is no different, for we should attempt to go home in better physical condition than we arrived.

A good PT program is a safe PT program. Consider your population and their entry fitness level before jumping into a strenuous program that could result in injury. I recommend, units run in ability groups allowing all to experience a training affect and avoiding embarrassing those who enter at a lower fitness level. Exercises that build muscular endurance and strength such as dips, pull-ups, pushups, and the variety of midsection exercises can augment your aerobic portion of your program. Instruction on the food pyramid and the importance of a balanced diet with moderation in the multitude of sweets offered in the DFACs is not a bad idea given the calories you can stack up.

PT is about discipline and an investment in your health and the Soldiers you lead. To be able to endure in tough conditions and to fulfill the tenets of the Warrior Ethos, you must be physically fit. You should not accept anything less. See you on the PT track.

Correction:

In the June 4 issue, Trooper Ben Duncan was misidentified as a member of the Royal Scottish Guard of England, it should have read: “Trooper Ben Duncan of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.”

Why I serve:

Lt. Col. Heber Olguin
U.S. Army Reserve Affairs LNO
Asset visibility



The Los Fresnos, Texas, native explains why he chose to join the military.

“I originally enlisted for the education benefits. After basic, I joined the ROTC and everything kicked in. The feelings of patriotism and all.”

Just One Question ...

“What is the most significant moment in the Army’s history?”



“Today, in the Civil War, World War I and World War II, we read about the history that was made. Today, we’re living history.”

Sgt. 1st Class Tara McLean
USARCENT SGS
Admin NCO
Fayetteville, N.C.



“The Civil War period because it was fought on American soil and it’s what brought the states together.”

Sgt. 1st Class Craig L. Brown
1st Battalion, 138th Infantry Regt.
Infantryman
Milwaukee



“Vietnam. That’s where a lot of the more modern combat evolved from.”

Spc. Timothy Price
1st Battalion, 68th Combined Arms Brigade
Armor crewman
Texarkana, Ark.



“Now. We’re making history now. We’re applying the lessons that we’ve learned over the years to help the people here.”

Staff Sgt. Justin Kohler
12th Combat Aviation Brigade
Aviation material manager
Littleton, Colo.



“World War II. We were able to defeat two enemies on two different fronts.”

Spc. Timothy Leonard
510th Human Resources Command
Personel services clerk
Carlyle, Ill.

What's happening around USARCENT ...

Muddy night

Wes Scantlin, the lead singer for the band Puddle of Mudd, performs for troops at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, June 8.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lee Travis



Check



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen

Spc. Kareem A. House, 546th Transportation Company, conducts a quality assurance and quality control inspection on a heavy equipment transport truck after a mission. The Orlando native is a mechanic in the 546th from Fort Bragg, N.C.



Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class John Hulle

Squeeze

Petty Officer 3rd Class Bryan Silveri, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 armorer, fires a M4 carbine at a familiarization range near Djibouti City, Djibouti, June 4. Silveri is currently on a six-month deployment to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Spike!

Canyon Cemen, a professional volleyball player, meets U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Genaro Garcia, from El Paso, Texas, at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, June 11. Cemen has four career titles and was ranked first in the nation in 2001. He joined three other professional volleyball athletes to include Carrie Dodd, Nancy Mason and Dain Blanton to visit troops in Southwest Asia.



Photo by Dustin Senger