

DV The Desert Voice

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



November 19, 2008

FIRST CLASS, MARINE CORPS STYLE





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On the cover

Gunnery Sgt. Joshua J. Hillbrand, Marine Security Guard Detachment commander, and U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, Deborah K. Jones, host the Marine Corps' 233rd birthday ball at the U.S. Embassy Kuwait. (Photo by Marine Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.)

Contact us

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

"Army Strong" campaign

The U.S. Army has extended its "Army Strong" campaign with four new national advertising spots that started rolling out on Veterans Day.

The new advertising will further define the unique personal development opportunities gained from serving our Nation as a Soldier under the "Strength Like No Other" theme.

"These new ads underscore what the Army does for an individual in helping them to find strength like no other," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, commanding general of U.S. Army Accessions Command.

"Our approach allows potential recruits to visualize their aspirations - working with our newest technology, advancing their education, finding challenging training, being on a winning team - things they will use throughout their career.

We want them to see that your Army provides opportunities like no other company, school, team or shop."

"These new ads convey that there is no other place in the world that offers the experiences you will gain through public service in the Army," said Ed Walters, chief marketing officer for the U.S. Army. "Whether a young person decides to stay in the Army for a full career or decides to pursue another career after the Army, they receive the skills that the American public values and employers desire. The Army develops these skills through high tech training, leadership experiences, and educational opportunities at prestigious civilian and military institutions."

The four spots, which began airing Nov. 11, each feature a different aspect of the benefits of serving as an Army Soldier

- teamwork, personal development, leadership and job skills training.

Each ad begins with an activity that could occur in the civilian world and ends by revealing how that same activity is unique to a Soldier doing the same action in the Army.

"Team" underscores the benefits of being on a team in the Army made up of heroes like no other.

"Shop" demonstrates what it would be like to work in a shop that teaches a Soldier everything from technology of robotics to working on jet engines.

"School" illustrates the only classroom in the world where Soldiers can learn technology, strength, and leadership skills all in one day.

"Company" alludes to the many business leaders who began their careers in the Army and following their service to our Nation moved into a world filled with career opportunities and respect.

Each TV spot will drive people to the goarmy.com Web site. The site is enhanced with web films featuring Soldiers sharing their unique experiences going through basic training, living on an Army installation or deployed overseas.

"The Army recognizes that young men and women spend a significant amount of time online and are socially connected to their peers," said Walters. "These unique ads are designed to spark attention and encourage interested people to visit goarmy.com to experience the Army through real Soldiers who are their potential peers."

Army Soldiers were used in the new round of advertising and lend an authentic feel to the spots.

For more information and to see the ads go to www.arcent.army.mil



ARMY STRONG.



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Don't "Waist" Food in the DFAC!

Is weight gain affecting how comfortable you feel in your class A uniform or how HOOAH you appear in your DA photo? Is your waist measurement more than half of your height?

If so, you might be suffering from central obesity.

Central obesity is the build up of fat stores

between your organs and your torso and is more dangerous because the fat stores are closer to the heart. Its main causes are overeating and a sedentary lifestyle. It is easily identified as having an "apple-shaped" accumulation of body fat, opposed to a "pear-shaped" build up.

Central obesity is associated with a statistically higher risk of heart disease, metabolic

syndrome, hypertension, insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus and even dementia, later in life.

Abdominal fat secretes hormones called adipokines, which may impair glucose tolerance, creating a pre-diabetic state in an obese person.

Central obesity is diagnosed by measuring the Waist to Hip Ratio (WHR). When this exceeds 1.0 in men or 0.9 in women, the diagnosis can be made.

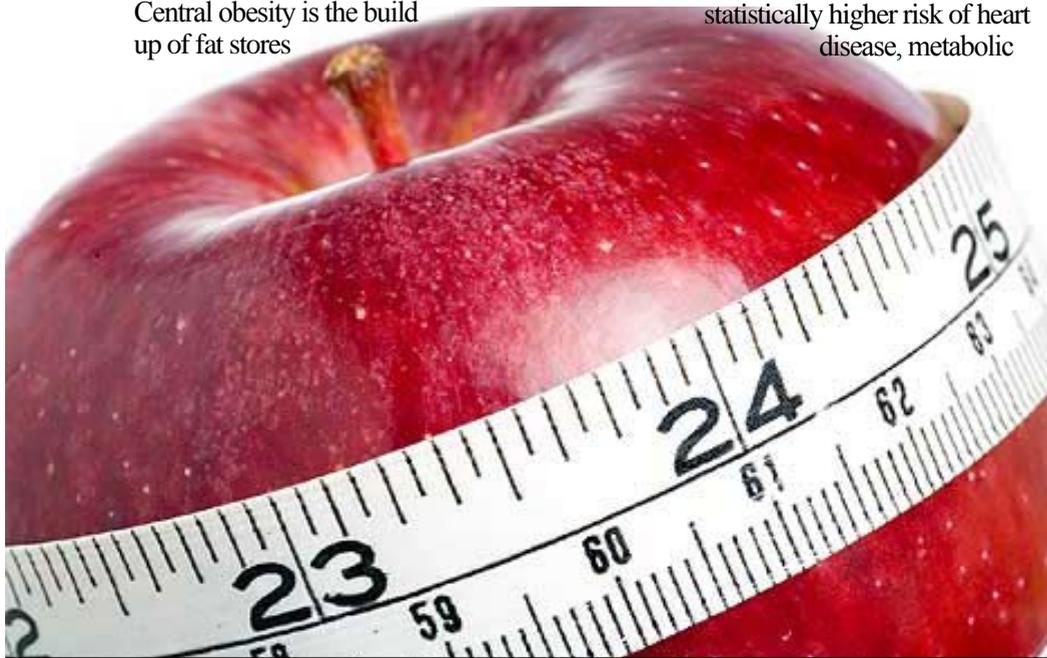
To figure your WHR measure the smallest section of your waist and the widest area around your hips. Divide your waist by your hips.

To see a morphing of what gaining less than 1 pound a month for 10 years looks like, go to: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/11226105&inline=true>

You must be logged on to Army Knowledge Online to do this.

Being more active, eating healthier, less fatty foods, "going for the green" and controlling your portion sizes will prevent central obesity.

Remember, it is always better to waste food than add it to your waist. **A**



muzzle AWARENESS

ALWAYS KEEP YOUR MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION!



American Indian Heritage celebrated

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

Equal opportunity leaders hosted a National American Indian Heritage Month observance, paying tribute to Native Americans, in the Zone 1 Chapel on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 4.

The contributions of Native American Indians were remembered through historical information, games and a speech by a servicemember of American Indian descent.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Duplesse, 160th Signal Brigade, hosted the event and welcomed attendees by giving a brief overview of the purpose of the observance.

"I am delighted to be here with you today to celebrate the National American Indian Heritage Month," said Duplesse. "What began at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose."

Following the opening remarks, a video was shown illustrating the history of American Indians.

The audience was then quizzed on their knowledge of what they learned from the video. Participants who answered correctly received a prize.

A presentation was given by 10 servicemembers who

were chosen to represent 10 tribes of the American Indian Nations.

Each servicemember explained the cultural structure and role of the tribe they represented.

An account of the life and history of the Comanche tribe was presented by the guest speaker, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Chebahtah, Area Support Group-Kuwait.

Chebahtah holds American Indian heritage close to his heart. He is a registered member of the Delaware tribe, and can also trace his ethnicity back to the Comanche.

"The Comanche tribe, as a whole, and the Comanche people, as individuals, have gone through some very difficult times," said Chebahtah. "But we are survivors."

The Comanche have been recognized for their contributions to WWII, in which 17 young men, known as the code talkers, helped the U.S. Army send sensitive information that could not be deciphered by the Germans.

Chebahtah also spoke of the contributions his grandfather, father and sons have made to the military.

Sgt. Javier Andrade, recent graduating class leader of the equal opportunity leaders course, played a part in setting up the day's event and encourages others who have an opportunity to learn about another culture to do so.

"We are in a workforce that has a lot of diversity," said Andrade. "It's a neat thing to go out there and actually learn about other people's cultures." 



37th IBCT broadens communication horizons

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

The Ohio Army National Guard is making a difference in three areas of the Global War on Terrorism; Kuwait, Iraq and now Afghanistan.

Soldiers from the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are answering the dire need for critical Joint Node Network communications in Afghanistan.

“The 37th IBCT was chosen for the JNN mission, Task Force Dragon Blade, due to the fact that we have the equipment here in theater,” said Col. Richard T. Curry, commander, 37th IBCT. “We were identified as the only unit that had all the needed assets available.”

The JNN system is going to provide the infrastructure for the entire Afghanistan theater with regular internet, secure phones, secure internet and voice teleconferencing capabilities, which has never been done before in Afghanistan.

“There is a communications gap up there,” said Curry. “The biggest part of what we will be able to do is fill in that gap. I absolutely believe we will be able to save lives in that theater of operations.”

“It comes down to the Army having a need. When there’s a need, our

Soldiers answer,” said Capt. Walter Work, Task Force Dragon Blade commander.

The brigade commander has confidence in the leaders and Soldiers headed to Afghanistan.

“It’s a very important, high priority mission,” said Curry. “The Soldiers who were selected, were selected because of their unique skill set and the training they have accomplished over the last year. They were picked because they have the total package of skills and met all the requirements.”

The Soldiers are well equipped for mission success in Afghanistan, explained Curry.

Because of the group’s critical skill sets, they will be very well protected.

The group understands their duty to their families, their country and to the Global War on Terrorism.

“It all goes back to, we raised our right hand, ‘I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitu-



Task Force Dragon Blade Soldiers are led onto a range by 1st Sgt. David R. Thomas, headquarters and headquarters Company, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as they prepare for the Afghanistan signal mission.

tion of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic,” said Work.

Curry added some insight to just what it means to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army.

“Duty is an important word in our military language and aptly describes a Soldier’s responsibilities,” he said. “Our men and women of the 37th IBCT are doing their duty in all things.”



A Soldier with the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team aims downrange toward his target during qualification day at the range in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Right, an example of a Joint Node Network system mounted on an ECV HMMWV.

Marine Corps celebra



ates 233rd birthday



Marines improve 26th MEU comms system

Article and photos by
Cpl. Aaron J. Rock
26th MEU Public Affairs

Communication is essential for modern warfare, especially for a Marine Air Ground Task Force like the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which integrates command, aviation, ground combat and logistics assets into one complete unit.

Only through accurate and timely communication can a dynamic unit like a MEU coordinate its assets effectively with higher and adjacent units.

This communication is housed in the Marine Corps Joint Task Force Enabler, which is the hub that connects many of the MEU's electronic communication capabilities.

Secure and unsecure internet, telephone and satellite connections all flow from this instrument in the MEU Command Element's communication section.

But an information relay system this diverse presents its own set of problems to which 26th MEU Marines improvised a unique answer.

Enabling all of these communications capabilities requires a great deal of heavy, cumbersome equipment, and therein lies the problem for the Marines, who as part of a MEU, have to be lightning-fast in their ability to respond, move and set up when needed.

"When I first saw the JTF-E, it was spread out over five Humvees, and could barely move from parking lot to parking lot," said Capt. Jonathan J. Pfuntner, assistant communications officer, 26th MEU.

Pfuntner, who is currently deployed for his second tour with the MEU, said mobility was immediately identified as a problem. Since the vehicles were packed with equipment, they couldn't fit the Marines who would operate it.

After returning from his first MEU deployment, Pfuntner immediately began looking for a solution.

Since there was no ready-made option, Pfuntner and his Marines took available parts and pieces of Marine Corps gear and came up with an answer, an M23,

7-ton flatbed truck with a "mech-shelter" attached to the back.

"It's nothing fancy," said Master Sgt. Gary A. Paquin, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, JTF-E. "We kind of modified stuff and pieced it together."

When fully assembled and running, the JTF-E looks like a monster truck crossed with a camper.

The olive-drab sides of the container fold down and provide space inside for Marines and equipment. Flashing lights blink on banks of computers to the constant hum of cooling fans.

Temperature, climate control and ease-of-setup were factors in the decision to move from multiple Humvees to a 7-ton based platform, according to Paquin.

"Because everything is stored and stays in the container, there's a lot less movement of gear," said Paquin. "It saves on wear and tear as well as remains cooler."

According to Paquin, the new equipment has increased capabilities, increased equipment life, reduced the overall footprint of the JTF-E and increased the expeditionary nature of the system.

"Essentially, we are totally mobile," said Paquin. "We do not have to rely on another Humvee coming with a piece of equipment we need that may be on another [Landing Craft Air Cushioned], and once we get there, it is pre-wired and ready to go."

The system has proven successful throughout the six-month predeployment training period and through the deployment so far. 



The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Joint Task Force Enabler expands to provide space for Marines. The Enabler was assembled for operations in conjunction with the Command Operations Center in the Middle East Oct. 27, where The 26th MEU was conducting bilateral training exercises.

Transport missions synchronized



A Soldier with the 299th Forward Support Battalion unloads equipment during the download stage of the operation that precedes a unit's move into theater. Cargo ships are used to transport equipment from a port in the U.S. to the Middle East.

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

When a new unit moves into theater, the process of moving equipment takes months of preparation and involves coordination between the deploying unit and the units that move the equipment into theater.

One of the first steps for arriving personnel and equipment is Kuwait, where a unit is staged before it pushes north.

When the equipment arrives it must be downloaded from the ship that transported it and moved into staging areas.

"We have port detail with 600 plus pieces of equipment, tracks and containers arriving from Fort Riley, Kan.," said Army Master Sgt. Dwayne Wooten, motor sergeant, 299th Forward Support Battalion.

Wooten was in charge of overseeing the equipment download and making

sure the equipment got to where it was supposed to go.

"We have to get all of the equipment downloaded from the ship, segregate depending on final destination and stage it in a staging yard a few miles from here," added Wooten, a Medina, Ohio resident. "We have several pieces being moved to be up-armored before being pushed into Iraq."

After the upgrades are made on the equipment, transportation units take over to move the equipment into Iraq.

This is where U.S. Air Force Central, Central Command service component, comes in.

USAFCENT's Medium Truck Detachments support the U.S. Army in line-haul convoy movements into and out of Iraq and Kuwait

According to Air Force Lt. Col. Carlos E. Camarillo, commander, 586th Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron, the original mission of the Air Force detachments was to man

the gun trucks in a convoy; now they perform the actual line haul mission.

In a convoy, the line haul trucks move the equipment from one location to another, while a gun truck provides security for the convoy.

Airmen serve in support of what was originally an Army mission, which creates an "in lieu of" status. "We receive a movement request from units entering country. A transportation detachment takes that mission and moves the equipment into Iraq," said Camarillo, a Midland, Texas resident.

The 70th and 424th MTDs, two transportation units which fall under the 586th ELRS, perform 50 percent of the convoy missions into Iraq from Kuwait, explained Camarillo.

"Since 2005, we have had a total of 992 missions," added Camarillo.

With new units rotating in and out of theater, the transportation that these Army and Air Force MTDs provide is vital to the sustainment of theater operations in Iraq. **A**

U.S. Army NCO History

Pt. 1: American Revolutionary War

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

The history of the U.S. Army noncommissioned officer dates back to 1775 with the birth of the Continental Army.

Like the Army itself, the NCO Corps did not copy the fundamental roles of just the British Army; instead it blended traditions of the British, French and Prussian armies to create its own unique institution.

As the American political system progressed over the years, the NCO Corps continually distinguished itself from its European counterparts as well.

In 1778, at Valley Forge, Inspector General Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian-German Army Officer, standardized NCO duties and responsibilities for the Continental Army NCO Corps.

Before this, there was very little standardization in what the true role of the NCO was in the new Continental Army.

In his publication, *“Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States,”* commonly called the “Blue Book,” Von Steuben set forth the duties and responsibilities of the NCO ranks at that time.

There were five NCO ranks: corporal, sergeant, first sergeant, quartermaster sergeant and sergeant major. When Von Steuben wrote his publication, which was printed in 1779, it



The Badge of Military Merit was the predecessor to both the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart.

became the primary regulation for the Army for the next 30 years.

Von Steuben was the first to refer to the NCO Corps as the “backbone” of the Army and his regulation established the centerpiece for NCO duties and responsibilities from 1778 to the present.

The development of the NCO Corps helped sustain the Continental Army through severe hardship towards finally achieving independence in 1783.

It was customary during battles that NCOs were to “fire rapidly and true”, while also close gaps created by casualties.

NCOs were also responsible for keeping men silent during night missions, while leading them through the terrain.

This was a key factor during the Battle of Stony Point, where the bayonet training received from Von Steuben played a critical role in the charge to capture the fort from the British.

NCOs wore an epaulet, a French word meaning “little shoulder,” to signify their rank.

Sergeants wore red epaulets while corporals wore green. It was in 1779 that sergeants began to wear two epaulets while corporals retained their single epaulet.

It was not uncommon that a Soldier would often spend their entire career within the same regiment.

If a Soldier were to change regiments, he would not take his rank with him; the stripes remained with the regiment.

At that time, all promotions that a Soldier received came directly from the regimental commander.

No NCO could transfer in grade from one regiment to the other without the permission of the General in Chief of the Army, who was the Commanding General of the U.S. Army, which was rarely done.

During the American Revolutionary War, historians indicate that only three Soldiers were awarded the Badge of Military Merit for their acts of

Soldier Spotlight

Sgt. Daniel Bissell
Born: Dec. 30, 1754
Enlisted in the Army: July 7, 1775
Awarded Badge of Military Merit: June 10, 1783

Bissell was directed by Gen. George Washington to pose as a deserter in the city of New York. For 13 months he acted as a Soldier in the British Infantry Corps, gathering information about enemy strength, equipment, movement and supply lines for Washington.

After making his way back to friendly lines, Bissell was placed under arrest until Washington verified his story.

Bissell was the last of only three men to be awarded the Badge of Military Merit by Washington.

heroism. All of them were NCOs and received the award from Gen. George Washington himself.

The Badge of Military Merit was a purple heart with a floral border and the word “merit” inscribed across the center. The badge is the predecessor to both the Medal of Honor, which was first awarded during the Civil War, and the Purple Heart, which was first awarded in 1927. After the American Revolutionary War, the award faded from use, though it was never abolished. The award of the badge was not recommended again until after World War I.

In the years following the American Revolution, many changes and additions were made to the NCO ranks leading up to the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War in 1846. ^A

Kuwait Appreciation Day Soccer Game



Kuwaiti men's soccer team



311th ESC

**Nov. 22 at 1630hrs
Camp Arifjan Zone 1
Soccer Field and Pavilion**

Just One Question ...

"What does Veteran's Day mean to you?"



"I think it's a day to recognize everybody's hard work for freedom."

Airman 1st Class Joseph Brown
70th Medium Truck Detachment
Killeen, Texas



"Veteran's Day is a formal way to acknowledge those who sacrificed and risked it all without the want for acknowledgement."

Ensign Sean E. Wilder
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4
Los Angeles, Calif.



"I think Veteran's Day recognizes those who paved the way for us today; my father is a veteran."

Sgt. Chauncey Davis
Logistics Command
Greenville, Miss.



"It's a day that civilians get to honor those who protect the nation for them."

Staff Sgt. Raymond Davis
129th Transportation Company
Houston, Texas



"I appreciate the fact that the American people take out the time to recognize the people who sacrifice their time and lives for them."

Staff Sgt. Albert Masten
129th Transportation Company
Dodge City, Kan.

Why I Serve:

Cpl. Rebecca Nielsen
1st Marine Expeditionary Force; Air Cell NCO



The Pensacola, Fla., native explains why she chose to join the military.

"In a society that is losing faith in the government, police and politicians, the people still look to us and trust us. I serve because I am proud to be an American."

What's happening around USARCENT

Veteran's Day

Capt. Cynthia Henderson, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area Support Group-Kuwait, reads a scripture during an ASG-KU sponsored Veteran's Day Prayer Breakfast at the Zone 1 dining facility on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 11.



Photo by Pfc. Alicia C. Torbush



Photo by Tommy Anderson

Vehicle Extraction

Firefighters tear apart a car during vehicle extraction training at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office yard, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 10.



November has been designated as Warrior Care Month.
To find out additional information about this month's observance and Warrior Care visit:
www.WarriorCare.mil