

DV The Desert Voice

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



July 23, 2008



CONGRESSIONAL

DELEGATION ...

ROCKS

KUWAIT

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Sens. Jack Reed, Barack Obama and Chuck Hagel receive a brief on military equipment at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 18. For the full story, see page 6.

*Photo by Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice staff writer*

Contact us

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



Managing your money

Military Pay E-Message:

Monthly assignment incentive pay (AIP) payment for post deployment/mobilization respite absence (PDMRA) for reserve component Soldiers who are also federal, state, or local government civilian employees.

The purpose of this message is to implement processing procedures for finance operations for the monthly payment of AIP for PDMRA while on tour, in lieu of awarding administrative absence days.

The unit commander is the determining entity for this type of AIP payment. The commanders will submit a DA Form 4187 to the local finance office with the number of days awarded to the Soldier and the dates for the payment.

The DA Form 4187 must have a copy of all orders and supporting documents, which includes DD 214's for previous deployments, and PDMRA calculator. Supporting documents are then used to calculate PDMRA. Additionally, in block IV on the DA Form 4187, the statement must read

"I am a federal, state, or local government employee who is not permitted to return to my federal, state or local government civilian job during the PDMRA period while in a military status. I elect to receive AIP at the rate of \$200.00 for each day not to exceed \$3000.00 per month of administrative absence that otherwise would have been authorized under the PDMRA program."

The unit commander has the responsibility for tracking leave and AIP payments for the duration of mobilization.

Once the DA Form 4187 for the initial AIP payment has been received, the finance technicians will sign onto the Army G-1 website, <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/AACalc/Auth/Auth.aspx>, to calculate the number of days for payment. Finance technicians must have access to AKO to perform this task.

All subsequent DA Form 4187s for AIP will be sent monthly via transmittal with orders and supporting documents attached and verified prior to payment. If there are any discrepancies, return the DA Form 4187 to the unit on a reject control slip explaining the difference in days for payment.

Input will consist of using "TIN-D02" transaction with a component code of "IT" followed by a "D19" remark with the dates for the AIP payment.

For more information or question concerning this process, please contact DFAS at dfas-in.systems@dfas.mil or call 1-888-332-7411.

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THE POWER OF ENGAGED LEADERSHIP LEADS TO A REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT

The U.S. Army experienced ZERO fatal accidents this past Fourth of July weekend !

That remarkable feat is really something to celebrate. This is the first fatality-free Fourth of July weekend the Active Army has had in 34 years.

This was the result of engaged leaders, battle buddies and Family members assisting their Soldiers in planning and conducting safe off-duty activities.

Keep up the good work. Never leave a fallen comrade.

GENERAL ORDER 1B “ALCOHOL PROHIBITED”

Alcohol in any form or fashion is illegal in the State of Kuwait and by agreement is a prohibited item for all U.S. military and civilian personnel on all U.S. military installations. As a Force Protection measure, the Joint Military Mail Terminal on Camp Arifjan conducts 100% x-ray scans of incoming mail and packages.

A person who knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction thereon, or at any place at which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, anything that section 3015 of title 39 declares to be non-mailable matter shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

A potable beverage is non-mailable if it is of 0.5% or more alcoholic content by weight, which is taxable under Chapter 51, Internal Revenue Service Code. The product may be mailed if it conforms to applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Service and Food and Drug Administration and is not an alcoholic beverage, poisonous, or flammable.

8 USC 1716B provides criminal penalties for mailing anything non-mailable under 39 USC 3014(b), unless the item is excepted under USPS regulations. 18 USC 1716D provides criminal penalties for mailing anything non-mailable under 39 USC 3015(c) and (d).

The range of punishment for these individuals has been debarment from base, loss of position from private companies, and UCMJ action. UCMJ action alone has resulted in extended tours of duty, and loss of pay and rank.





Wayt congratulates a Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, for his work running convoy missions to Iraq.

Ohio Adjutant General visits deployed Soldiers

Story and photos by
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
Desert Voice staff writer

Ohio's Adjutant General and state command sergeant major traveled overseas to Kuwait and Iraq to visit deployed servicemembers, July 16.

Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt and Command Sgt. Maj. William Gilliam journeyed thousands of miles to visit with Soldiers from the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stationed in Kuwait. In Iraq, they visited Ohio Soldiers of Headquarters, 371st Sustainment Brigade, 583rd Law and Order Detachment and several Air National Guardsmen.

"I met with Lt. Gen James Lovelace, commander of U.S. Army Central, and he said he has never seen such professional Soldiers as those of you from the 37th," Wayt said to the Soldiers. "You are a part of a winning team and I could not be more proud of what you are doing here."

During the visit, Wayt and Gilliam

spent most of their time speaking with troops. From eating all three meals a day with Soldiers, to holding town hall meetings at every base they traveled to, they continued to be embedded with the Ohio servicemembers.

At every stop, Soldiers had an opportunity to voice their concerns and questions on many issues including policies, the new G.I. Bill, mobilization process changes and a re-integration program for when they return home from deployment.

In support of the Ohio servicemembers, Gov. Ted Strickland made a video message which was played for the deployed Soldiers.

In the video, he thanked them for their service and assured them they were not forgotten, they are loved, and everyone in Ohio is anticipating their safe return from the Middle East.

Building on the standards of the current Ohio Guard, recruiting is at an all time high for the year.

"Our numbers are high because of the winning culture all of you have set," Wayt said to members of the

37th. "Our success is because of the noncommissioned officers. You have the hardest job in the Army training and shaping Soldiers to the standard that you have. I commend you for that."

As the senior enlisted Soldier in Ohio, Gilliam extended his pride to the Soldiers.

"I am so proud of all that you do. I would hug each and every one of you if I could," Gilliam said with a smile. "But being a command sergeant major, I don't hug Soldiers."

Both men agreed they are proud of the missions the Ohio Soldiers have done and the missions they do every day.

"Do not get complacent over here," warned Gilliam. "Come home safe and we will be waiting on you."

"The bottom line is that we couldn't do what we do around the world without our citizen Soldiers and the dedication you have to the mission of the 37th, to your community, to your state and to your country," Wayt expressed. ^A

164th TAOG conducts change of command ceremony

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
Desert Voice editor

The U.S. Army Air Traffic Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operation Group conducted a transfer of authority for the Udairi Army Airfield and welcomed a new commander July 15 during a change of command ceremony at Camp Buehring.

Col. Jon P. Goodsmith assumed command from Col. Jerry L. Egbert, whose is retiring after 33 years of service.

The 164th TAOG is responsible for improving Army airfields, assisting Army air traffic controllers, and providing general oversight of airfield operations in Kuwait, and Goodsmith was acknowledged by Deputy Commanding General Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Petersen, U.S. Forces Command as a worthy successor continue the job.

“[Goodsmith] is bringing a tremendous amount of command and training experience to the ATSCOM and 164th TAOG,” said Petersen. Preceding assignments for Goodsmith include commander of both Troop C, 5th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea, and Aviation Officer Advanced Course, Fort Rucker,

Alabama. Other assignments include executive officer of 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, Fort Drum, N.Y., deputy commanding general, Combined Arms Training, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and group commander, 164th Air Traffic Services Group, Korea.

Goodsmith attended Northern Arizona University where he received a commission in aviation.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Services Medal with five oak-leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, the Korean Defense Service medal, and his fourth Overseas Service Ribbon.

“He is the right commander to oversee the continued growth and development of these two outstanding brigades,” said Petersen.

As the ATSCOM and 164th TAOG welcomed their new commander, they bid farewell to a commander that Petersen described as “a commander of immense talent, intellect, determination and courage.”

“[Egbert] departs having successfully completed his duties as a commander,” said Petersen, who acknowledged Egbert’s accomplishments in building and activating an operation-capable unit. **A**



Deputy Commanding General Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Petersen, U.S. Forces Command, passes the 164th Theater Airfield Operation Group guidon to incoming commander, Col. Jon P. Goodsmith, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Buehring, July 15.



Outgoing commander, Col. Jerry L. Egbert addresses guests during his change of command ceremony.

U.S. Senators visit Kuwait, establish

Story by
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher and
Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice editor and NCOIC

It was an inspirational day as three U.S. senators visited U.S. military posts throughout Kuwait, July 18.



Photo by Pic. Howard Ketter

Sen. Jack Reed speaks with Master Sgt. James Haggins during a July 18 visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., toured the U.S. military bases in Kuwait, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commanding general, to visit servicemembers deployed to the region.

The visit provided the congressional delegation with the distinctive opportunity to visit with military and government dignitaries and receive an update on operations in country.

“What we want to do is have a chance to meet Soldiers, talk to small unit commanders and noncommissioned officers, and get an impression everywhere we go, both Afghanistan and Iraq, of the situation facing our American forces,” said Reed.

The official party made their first stop at a camp coined “The Rock,” where they were given a tour by Col. Marcia R. Meeks-Eure, 386th Mission Support Group Command, before enjoying lunch with servicemembers.

The meal was followed by an exhibit, which Master Sgt. Charles E. Mann, convoy commander, 424th Mobile Truck Detachment provided the delegates with information on the capabilities of various military vehicles.

The tour continued as the senators were taken to Camp Arifjan, where they explored an exhibit displaying the evolution of the M998 HMMWV. Chief Warrant Officer Eric McKay, quality assurance inspector, 2nd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade and Lt. Col. Mark Kelly, operations commander, 401st Army Field Support Btigrade walked the party through the exhibit.

The entourage made their final stop of the Kuwaiti tour at the fitness center gym, where they were greeted with an eruption of applauded and cheers from the servicemembers awaiting their arrival.

“I am so grateful to all of you for the extraordinary service you do for our country, we are so proud of you,” said Obama, riling up the crowd.



Photo by Sgt. Brooks Fletcher

Obama talks with Airmen during lunch at the Desert Wind Dining Facility.



Sens. Jack Reed, Barack Obama and Chuck Hagel at The Rock, Kuwait.

After a brief speech by Obama, servicemembers were able to come down onto the basketball court for a chance to meet the senators.

“These are men and women dedicated to a cause and purpose much higher than their own self-interest,” said Hagel.

“I think the greatest privilege an American can have is to lead American

h bonds with servicemembers



Photo by Pfc. Alicia Torbush

el study static boards displaying military equip-

Soldiers, and I was fortunate enough to have that privilege,” said Reed, who served as a company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division.

After greeting the large crowd of servicemembers, Obama played a game of “H-O-R-S-E” with Spc. Lakeisha D. Willingham, 311th Sustainment Command.

“Playing basketball with such a humble man of God was a great experience,” said Willingham, a Los Angeles native. “I am over-whelmed with joy.”

Obama closed out the visit by saying, “America is unified in being so proud of the extraordinary, brilliant, dedicated and professional service that is provided by all the members of the Armed Forces.”

Upon leaving the gym, the senators made thier way to the airfield, catching a flight and continuing their tour. **A**



Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton

Sen. Chuck Hagel speaks with Spc. Matthew Bystedt and Capt. Peter Amara during a July 18 visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Photo by Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi

Obama waves goodbye to servicemembers after leaving the gym at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 18.

Kuwait

Bring on the PAIN!



Cpl. Armone G, Washington, redeployment liason, Movement Coordination Center Kuwait, Multi National Force West, prepares to execute knife techniques.



Camp Arifjan

Marine Corps Martial Arts program comes to Kuwait

Story and photos by
Marine Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.
USARCENT Public Affairs

Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructors are a rarity among the relatively few Marines at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. When the opportunity to train with one presented itself, the Marines and Airmen took notice.

With guidance from their black-belt instructor, students twisted, threw and dropped each other's bodies; manipulated joints; strengthened core muscles with exercises; toughened their muscles with body hardening; and persevered through fatigue, resulting from minimal sleep and continuous combat fitness.

Marine Master Sgt. Miguel E. Martinez, strategic mobility chief, Movement Coordination Center Kuwait, Multi National Force – West, currently operated by I Marine Expeditionary Force, brought other MCC-K Marines camps around Kuwait to sustain and improve their martial arts skills.

"Their sole purpose for coming down here was to do MCMAP," said the Elmhurst, N. Y., native.

As a safety precaution, students trained from as early as 4:30 a.m. to as late as 10 p.m. During the day's hottest hours, they went inside the gym. Martinez trained them on the sand-volleyball courts in front of the gym, or on occasion, on the soccer field on the other end of the base.

Each Marine spent anywhere from six to 12 hours a day enhancing their current skills or learning new techniques, which depended on the belt level they were trying to attain.

Throughout the two weeks, Marines and Airmen from MCC-K, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command's

MARCENT Coordination Element Kuwait, and U.S. Central Command's Deployment Distribution Operations Center, earned upgrades to their belt levels in the program.

The two Airmen from CDDOC both earned their tan belts, which is the first belt all Marines earn during entry-level training. The Marines they trained with earned gray belts, an introduction to intermediate fundamentals; green belts, continuing intermediate fundamentals; brown belts, an introduction to advanced fundamentals; and a 1st degree black belt, continuing advanced fundamentals, according to Martinez.

There are five more degrees of black belt and each have their own type of promotion requirements.

"It's an extremely good program to better yourself," said Marine Sgt. Kaitlin B. Duffy, a Fallston, Md., native, who is the MCC-K redeployment noncommissioned officer, and newly-trained 1st degree black belt. "Going through the drills brought everyone together. You get to go out there and see Marines in a different light, not like at work."

Marines accomplish different tasks in a combat or combat-training environment than they do in an office, Duffy clarified, and while going through the MCMAP courses, students show their commitment to persist through the physical and mental challenges of the program.

"It's worth doing if you're motivated," said Duffy.

Martinez plans on conducting another course in November and is willing to schedule time around Marines' work schedules if they set the goal to obtain their next belt before leaving the area.

Editor's note: For information on MCMAP training here, call MCC-K at DSN 430-6391. 

(Left) Washington locks the arm of Sgt. Kaitlin B. Duffy, redeployment noncommissioned officer, MCC-K, in an attempt to make her tap out. Duffy earned her 1st degree black belt and Washington earned his green belt.

Kuwaiti teens visit, socialize with U.S. servicemembers

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
Desert Voice staff writer

More than 60 Kuwaiti teenagers and their teachers visited American troops to learn more about Western culture on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 12.

The students interacted with U.S. servicemembers as part of the U.S.-funded America-Mideast Educational and Training Services which promotes a strong relationship between America and Kuwait through education, socialization, information and

language development programs.

“The main benefit of the visit is not just to help develop their English skills but also learn Western social habits,” said Peter Kitay, an AMIDEAST from Canada. “The benefits are intangible, we get to learn about their culture and they learn about ours.”

To begin their visit Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commanding general, welcomed the students. Some of the students prepared speeches for the general and read them to the entire crowd, thanking the Americans for helping their country and mentioning the good

standing relationship between Kuwait and the U.S.

After the introduction, it was a full day of activities for the students such as interactive first aid and combat lifesaving skills, a military working dog presentation and hands-on American weapons demonstrations. For lunch, the students ate with American troops of all ranks.

One Kuwaiti teenager said he really enjoyed the day and the nice American men and women.

As the teachers followed their students, they saw their work-in-progress everywhere throughout the day.

The visit is important because it gives the students an opportunity to meet Americans and forge their own opinions of what Americans are like, said Theresa McClymont, an AMIDEAST teacher from New Zealand.

“It’s a hope for the future,” McClymont said. “If they only relied on what they read, they wouldn’t gain the positive image they get by personally interacting with the Soldiers.”

The day was a learning experience for all involved.

“It’s very important my young Soldiers see the youth of Kuwait,” said Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Horne, 237th Brigade Support Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio Army National Guard, command sergeant major. “And for them to understand there’s a difference between people. When the war started, young Soldiers only knew it was against the Middle East, not that there are many different countries that make up the Middle East.”

The bond between America and Kuwait is an ongoing, building relationship.

“The children are pro-Americans,” said Rima Khoder, an AMIDEAST teacher from Lebanon. “They love to imitate Americans with their music, clothing, eating and now with their socializing.” ⁴



A Soldier teaches a Kuwaiti teenage student, from America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, first aid procedures and casualty evaluation tactics during their visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 12.



Grains
6 oz. Eat at least 3 oz. of whole-grain cereals, breads, crackers, rice, or pasta every day
1 oz. is about 1 slice of bread, about 1 cup of breakfast cereal, or 1/2 cup of cooked rice, cereal or pasta

Veggies
2.5 cups Eat more dark-green veggies like broccoli, spinach, and other dark leafy greens
Eat more orange vegetables like carrots and sweet potatoes
Eat more dry beans and peas like pinto beans, kidney beans, and lentils

Fruits
2 cups Eat a variety of fruit
Choose fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruit
Go easy on fruit juices

Fats and oils
Limit intake Limit intake of fatty and oily foods

Milk
3 cups Go low-fat or fat-free when you choose milk, yogurt, and other milk products
If you don't or can't consume milk, choose lactose-free products or other calcium sources such as fortified foods and beverages

Meat, fish, eggs and beans
5.5 oz. Choose low-fat or lean meats and poultry
Bake it, broil it, or grill it
Vary your protein routine - choose more fish, beans, peas, nuts, and seeds

Just One Question ...

"What are your thoughts on the senators visiting Kuwait?"



"I think it's great because they took time out of their busy schedule to do this."

Spc. Marcus Robinson
USARCENT G-1
Awards Clerk
Moore, Okla.



"It shows that they are willing to get out of their environment and spend time with troops forward. It shows respect."

Chief Petty Officer Carolyn Campbell
Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait
Supply Chief
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



"I'm glad they got a chance to visit the troops. I wish they could have stayed longer."

Chief Warret Officer Gregory Gay
National Guard Affairs
Property Books Officer
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Why I serve: Army Capt. Joe A. Schwade 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Deputy Cammander Judge Advocate



The Powell, Ohio, native explains why he chose to join the military.

"I felt a call to serve and joined the Marine Corps in 1990. I've felt the call to serve since then."



"I think it is good that the policymakers are spending time with the troops whose lives are affected by their decisions."

Lt. j.g. Jason Wright
Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait
S-1 Health Coordinator
Altamonte Springs, Fla.



"I'm glad they took time out of their schedule to come here. It boosts the morale of service-members."

Sgt. Maj. Rufus Wingfield
HHC, 160th Signal Brigade
Brigade S-3 Sgt. Maj.
Albany, Ga.

What's happening around USARCENT ...

"Say Cheese"

Welcome



Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton

Services chief logisticians pose for a picture during their visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 17. From left, Marine Maj. Gen. Willie J. Williams, Air Force Brig. Gen. Duane A. Jones, Navy Rear Adm. Mark F. Heinrich, Army Brig. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, Army Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey, Navy Vice Adm. Michael K. Loose and Army Lt. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson.

Col. John M. Scheifler, outgoing commander, passes the 160th Signal Brigade guidon to Brig. Gen. James T. Walton, commander, 335th Theater Signal Command, relinquishing the colonel's command as they welcome the new commander, Col. Ronald R. Stimeare.



Photo by Pfc. Howard Ketter

A collage of images celebrating the 90th anniversary of the United States Army Central. The collage includes a soldier in a tank, a command center with multiple monitors, two soldiers in full combat gear, a soldier in a winter jacket, and a Humvee driving on a dirt road. The text "United States Army Central" is prominently displayed in yellow, along with a large blue and red circular logo containing a white letter 'A'. Below the logo, the text "1918-2008" and "Celebrating 90 Years of Service to the Nation" is written in yellow. At the bottom, a sign for the "THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY HEADQUARTERS U.S. ARMY FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND" is visible.

United States Army Central



1918-2008

Celebrating 90 Years of Service to the Nation

THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
U.S. ARMY FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND