

DV The Desert Voice

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



May 28, 2008



SPECIAL DELIVERY!

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On the cover

Airmen work on retrieving static lines into a C-130 Hercules following the air drop of 300,000 leaflets over southern Iraq. For the full story, see page 6.

Photo by Air Force Col. Gary Goldstone

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



2008 Memorial Day

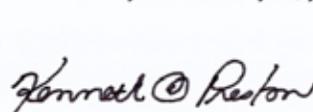
On May 5, 1866, veterans and residents of Waterloo, New York, placed flowers on the graves at each of the town's cemeteries to honor the local Soldiers and Sailors who had fallen during the Civil War. Proposed by a local pharmacist, Henry C. Welles', this act of remembrance centered on his belief that while praising the living veterans of the Civil War, it was equally important to remember the patriotic dead. This tradition has grown for a century and a half – it is Memorial Day.

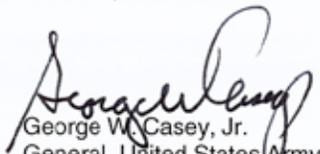
On this Memorial Day, America is at war. Answering the call, America's Army is fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq with courage and honor. Our defense of liberty adds to the rolls of the fallen. We pause on Memorial Day to honor all generations of brave Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that others can live free.

To the Families of the fallen, yours is a difficult burden. Our sorrow and emptiness may linger, but we can celebrate the selfless service of our loved ones and be grateful for the time we had with them. We can comfort ourselves in knowing that many of our fallen were volunteers – doing what they wanted to do – and all of them were doing what their country expected.

While dedicating an allied cemetery, General George S. Patton reminded us that we should thank God that Soldiers have lived, rather than regret that they died. Over the past 233 years, more than one million of our comrades-in-arms have selflessly given their lives for this cause. And today, more than one million of our comrades-in-arms are still fighting. In the true spirit of Henry C. Welles, let this Memorial Day celebrate them all.

May God bless you, your Families, and the United States of America.


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



Volume 29, Issue 58

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DV
The
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Voice

Safety Corner: Water safety

Story by

Robert B. East

ASG – Qatar Safety Manager

According to statistics maintained by the National Safety Council, drowning claims the lives of nearly 3,000 people every year.

Although all age groups are represented, children four years old and younger have the highest death rate due to drowning. The majority of these child drowning deaths, or near-drowning incidents, happen when a child is left alone in a bathtub, or falls unattended into a pool.

Statistics from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., indicate that every year, for the last three years, there have been at least two water-related fatalities during the month of May. In fiscal year 2007, 15 Soldiers lost their lives in water-related accidents.

Sadly, in seven of these accidents, the Soldier ended up accidentally in the water, having fallen overboard from a fishing boat

or similar watercraft.

Unfortunately, none of these Soldiers were wearing a personal flotation device. The remaining eight fatalities were from swimming and scuba diving in rivers, lakes and other open waters.

Whether your favorite water-related activity is swimming, water skiing, jet skiing, canoeing, boating or fishing, here are some general safety tips that will help you have an enjoyable and safe outing:

- Take time to do a good composite risk assessment to identify and mitigate hazards.
- Never underestimate the power of water as even rivers and lakes can have strong undertows.
- Always use and wear an approved personal flotation device. Insist on putting one on when on board any sports or pleasure watercraft. It will save your life.
- Never consume alcohol when operating any type of watercraft.
- Never go in the water (swimming, etc.) after consuming alcohol.
- Never dive into unknown bodies of water. Jump in feet first to avoid possible

head injury. Also, never push or jump on other personnel.

- Never swim or scuba dive alone. Always have a buddy along for protection and emergency response.
- Keep a first aid kit handy and always have emergency phone numbers ready for use.
- If in a group, try to have one member who is CPR-trained.

In summary, water activities can be good for you and are a lot of fun. But, if taken lightly, without preparation and regards to the associated risks, these activities can also be dangerous and cause you serious injury and in extreme cases, death. Have a great time this summer season, but be sure to follow the rules for the events you are undertaking. Particularly with regard to water-related activities, protect yourself from harm and always use the “buddy system.” Here are two good websites to visit to get more information on various recreational activities and safety precautions, www.nsc.org and <https://crc.army.mil>.

Army Safe is Army Strong! 

New Standards Book coming soon to USARCENT

Story by

Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Desert Voice editor

A new Standards Book is on its way to U.S. Army Central servicemembers in late May.

The new version of the old blue book now features an Army Combat Uniform print on the cover. Some changes to the content include changes on wear of certain uniforms as well as an emphasis on safety.

“The Standards Book is a quick reference guide to key standards and issues that impact the personnel assigned to USARCENT,” said Sgt. Maj. Allerick Knight, USARCENT G1 sergeant major. “It’s a hip pocket guide for immediate access for all servicemembers, civilians and contractors that serve USARCENT.”

Knight said the command aims to have the books in the hands of all USARCENT servicemembers by June 2.

“The new Standards Book will be handed out to servicemembers as they come into country and in the USARCENT area of responsibility and shipped to units not in the country – every ARCENT Soldier.

Some of the key changes highlighted are the wear of the

Improved Physical Training Uniform and the wear of reflective belts while in PTs.

“This is the formal notification of the requirement to wear the PT uniform during the common hours of PT,” Knight said.

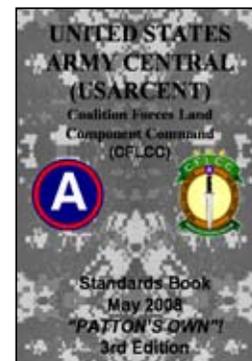
Knight also said safety issues such as the wear of headphones and reflective belts will be addressed in the new book.

“Probably the biggest global change is the total USARCENT focus,” he said. “This one focuses more on servicemembers and bringing civilians and contractors in the fold and the themes that apply to them.”

Although the Standards Book is not an inspectable item yet, Knight said he encourages all servicemembers in the USARCENT theater to have a copy readily accessible.

Servicemembers don’t make on-the-spot corrections because they are not sure of the standards, Knight said.

“We have not specified a policy for carrying it on your person,” he said. “Every Soldier should be familiar with the standards. There are things in there that can provide answers. Leaders will be expected to be able to make corrections based on those standards.” 



Cultural awareness boosts host-nations relations

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

Traveling from The United States to any Arabic country such as Kuwait can cause a major culture shock.

Matters that seem miniscule to the average American may be important to the Muslim people you come into contact with or a gesture may have a completely different meaning than intended.

Americans sometimes find themselves in embarrassing situations due to their lack of understanding of Islamic culture.

Cultural awareness training provided to servicemembers in the U.S. Army Central area of operations is intended to educate them about Islamic culture.

Talal "Tom" Malki, an Arabic linguist for Titan/L3 communications, has been teaching the cultural awareness classes in Kuwait and Iraq for more than three years.

"I used to be afraid to talk in front of so many people," said Malki. "I eventually got over it and loosened up."

Malki was born in Syria and grew up there with his parents who are Muslim.

"I grew up in Syria thinking it is normal that every street has a few armed guards carrying AK-47s," Malki said. "I thought it was normal that the president 'is really forever,' that was the motto always."

Sick of the fear and single candidate elections Malki decided to move to the United States at the age of 20 and lived there for 14 years. He attended college at California State University, Fullerton.

In 2003, Malki responded to the nation's need for Arabic

speaking citizens by volunteering to work with the Special Forces as a linguist. He was interviewed by FBI and counterintelligence agents before heading to Fort Benning, Ga., for training.

Without being told where he was going and why, Malki boarded a plane headed to Iraq. He accompanied the Special Forces into Iraq on various operations.

After finishing his time with the Special Forces, Malki became a

cultural awareness instructor and taught classes to servicemembers, Malki said. His style of teaching, sense of humor and his charisma keep the Soldiers interested and involved in the class.

"They laugh a bit and they learn a bit," Malki said.

Malki's class teaches servicemembers that besides the small differences between Islamic and western cultures, they are very much alike.

Arabs can be liberal, conservative or in-between just like Americans, he said. They have their own movie stars and pop culture icons such as Haifa Wehbe, who Malki compares to Pamela Anderson.

On the news all Americans see is the ugly side of Islamic culture such as terrorist attacks, IEDs and other such violent protests against the presence of Coalition Forces. Arabic countries get all their news from anti-Western news networks, Malki said. With each culture seeing only the negative sides of each other it becomes difficult to see the truths.

"People come up to me after the class and tell me that I have changed their view of Arabs," Malki said.

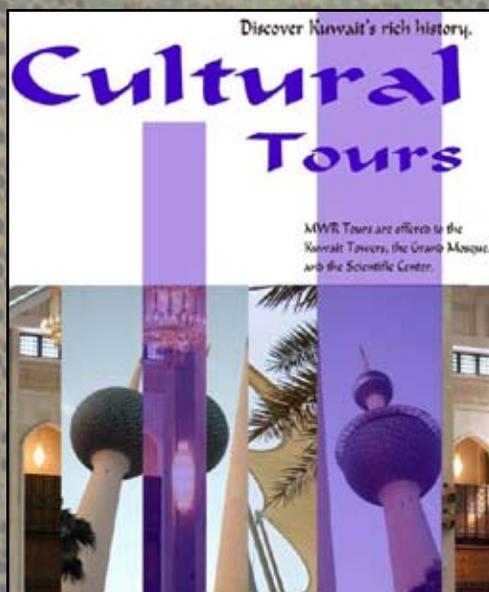
Malki not only teaches U.S. forces but other Coalition forces including Georgians, Bosnians and Croatians.

Being informed about another culture is the first step to understanding it, Malki said. With cultural awareness training servicemembers can be better prepared to interact with Arabs and help improve host-nation relations with the people of Kuwait.

*Editor's note: Servicemembers interested in participating in MWR trips to Kuwait City may call 430-1223 to check for availabilities of group trips. Cultural awareness training at Camp Arifjan is available Fridays, 9 – 11 a.m. at the Zone 1 theater. For more information, call Tom Malki at 976-8210 or 722-6361. **A***



Servicemembers deployed to Kuwait may take MWR-sponsored trips to Kuwait City to better understand the Arab and Islamic culture.



GOING FROM RED TO GREEN

Soldiers from the United Kingdom's 9th /12th Royal Lanc-ers conduct first aid training on a mannequin at the Medi-cal Simulation Training Center at Camp Buehring May 17. Red-dyed water is pumped from a tank into the manne- quins then drained via gutters installed in the floors.



Environmental measures help keep MSTC 'eco-friendly'

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

The crew pulled the floor up with care. The sight before their eyes told the story. Where only sand and dirt had once been, mold and mildew covered the ground – the product of bad cleaning practices.

At once, the decision was made to clean up the Medical Simulation Training Center, said Curt Williams, a senior environmental manager for Area Support Group – Kuwait at Camp Buehring.

The environment for mold growth was excellent – dark areas, cooler temperatures, airflow and moisture, Williams said.

“We’ve had floors that have been in place for two or three years,” he said.

The first thing that had to go was the mold, said Edward Gunter, an instructor at the MSTC.

In the beginning, the plan called for the floors of the MSTC to be completely redone.

“[The blood] was sitting in a shaded area. As soon as it got under the floor, it had air, it had a cool spot and it had space to grow,” Gunter said. “When we opened the floor, we had mold growing on the ground.”

A mixture of chlorine and bleach was used to get rid of the mold. The next step was to insure mold never grew under the floors again.

New material was put in place along with a new gutter and filtration system in the floors that are designed to make sure the red dye and water mixture go into a central collection point to be removed by the cleaning trucks that

frequent the camp.

Another reason for the cleanup is the Soldiers, Gunter said.

“If you’re not containing the mildew and mold, you are harming the health of the Soldiers. If they breathe in the mold, mildew and fungus, they can get an upper respiratory infection,” he said. “What’s going to happen to them if they’re not fit to fight?”

Also included in the conservation is a new 1,000-gallon tank that feeds the inhabitants of the tents, breathing and bleeding mannequins, with their life’s blood. Gunter said doubling the tank’s size was necessary.

“We’ve [increased] instructors and capabilities so, instead of five hundred gallons on one, we have a 1,000 gallons supplying two tents,” he said. Not only are the insides of the tents environmentally safe, the outside of them are too.

“The outside of the building is sprayed with urethane. It keeps it much cooler on the inside,” Williams said. “It requires less fuel to run the generators and we use a lot of fuel throughout Kuwait so this is very energy efficient.”

There are sets of guidelines that are followed for cleaning, however, Williams said the servicemembers of U.S. Army Central have a higher standard that they follow.

“Our mentality is we ‘clean to pristine,’” he said “We practice very different standards. Things like good stewardship – it demonstrates we want to leave the facility in a better condition than when we found it.

As the classes continue and Soldiers go north, both Gunter and Williams realize that time is short and one day the land will be returned back to its original owners.

“It’s not our land. We’re here as a guest staging our operations out of this area,” Gunter said. **A**

Air Force First Lt. Brock Burkhardt, a co-pilot with the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, goes through his pre-flight checklist for a C-130 Hercules at an airbase in Kuwait recently. Burkhardt is deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Connor

Air Force Staff Sgt. [Name] of the 737th Expeditionary [Name] and C-130 Hercules [Name] Master Sgt. John [Name] of the Airborne Division, as soldiers load a paratrooper on-board an Air Force [Name] the 386th Air Expeditionary [Name]



Cleared for takeoff

Airmen drop leaflets over southern Iraq

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

U.S. Airmen and the Australian Defence Force recently teamed up to deliver critical information to Iraqi civilians in southern Iraq.

Flying the C-130 Hercules, the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, working in conjunction with Australians from Overwatch Battle Group (West)-4, conducted two one-day missions to drop 330,000 leaflets designed to solicit the help of Iraqi civilians to not harbor insurgents or bomb manufacturers.

“This is what the war is all about — finding the bad guys targeting U.S., Coalition Forces and innocent civilians,” said Capt. MacArthur Hoglund, aircraft commander for the second leaflet air drop. “This mission was unique in that typically, we’re transporting the Soldiers and Marines to and from the fight. This time, we were soliciting the help of civilians on the ground to help us catch the bad guy out there making the bombs.”

Overwatch Battle Group (West) is a cavalry and mounted infantry battle group and forms part of Operation Catalyst, the Australian Defence Force contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq. The bat-

tle group is comprised of more than 500 personnel based at Ali Air Base, Iraq, where it undertakes a security overwatch role for Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces as part of a larger Coalition Force.

The Airmen from the 737th are deployed to an airbase in Kuwait. Their mission with the OBG (W) coincides with U.S. Army Central’s support mission on the Global War on Terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Working with the Iraqi government, the ADF continues to contribute to Multi-National Force – Iraq efforts to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq, assist national recovery programs and facilitate the transition

Lt. John Columbia, 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron loadmaster, and crew member, Sgt. Zimmer, 82nd Airborne Division, and two Australian soldiers are seen in the cargo hold of a C-130 Hercules aircraft, preparing a pallet of pamphlets for air drop. The aircraft is from the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt Miguel Espinoza



Photo by Air Force Col. Gary Goldstone

Loadmasters with the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, air dropped 300,000 leaflets over an Iraqi province recently. The mission is part of leaflet air drop supporting the Australians from Overwatch Battle Group (West)-4 in southern Iraq.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Connor

(Background) A C-130 Hercules assigned to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing taxis into position for take-off from an airbase in Kuwait recently.

Takeoff

to Iraqi self-government.

Commanding officer of OBG (W) Lt. Col. Chris Websdane thanked the U.S. Air Force for its close cooperation and support for this task. "The Australian forces in southern Iraq appreciate the assistance provided by our American partners," he said.

"These were highly successful airdrops that have helped us pursue our mission, which is to provide overwatch security in Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna provinces," Websdane added.

The C-130 aircrew members were excited about the opportunity to support the Overwatch Battle Group by showcasing one of the many capabilities of the "Herc" which has been supporting ground operations since the latter part of the 1950s.

"It's imperative that everyone is on the same page and instinctively knows what Plan B is for whatever the situation is that might come up during the flight," Hogle said. "Everything we do in preparation is key to getting it right the first time, especially when missions like this only give you one chance to get it right."

The crew spent the better part of two days discussing a variety of "what-ifs" that could come up during flight, Hogle said, such as dust storms, fuel or engine problems, shifting winds, being shot at, an in-flight-emergency or some other equipment failure that might impede the operation, as well as contingency plans and defensive tactics on the way to the pick-up point to pick up the leaflets.

"I've done passenger and cargo

air drops before, but this was my first combat air drop for leaflets," said Staff Sgt. John Columbia, a loadmaster from Ft. Worth, Texas, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "I thought it was a blast. I learned a lot from this experience and from the others on the mission who've done this before."

It felt great to be a part of this mission, not just because it was something new and different, but because it was rewarding to be doing something for the warfighters on the ground, instead of the usual transport of passengers and cargo, Columbia said.

"The overall success of this mission is a demonstration of the cooperation and integration of coalition forces and their ability to execute," said Col. Gary Goldstone, 386th Expeditionary Operations Group commander. **A**

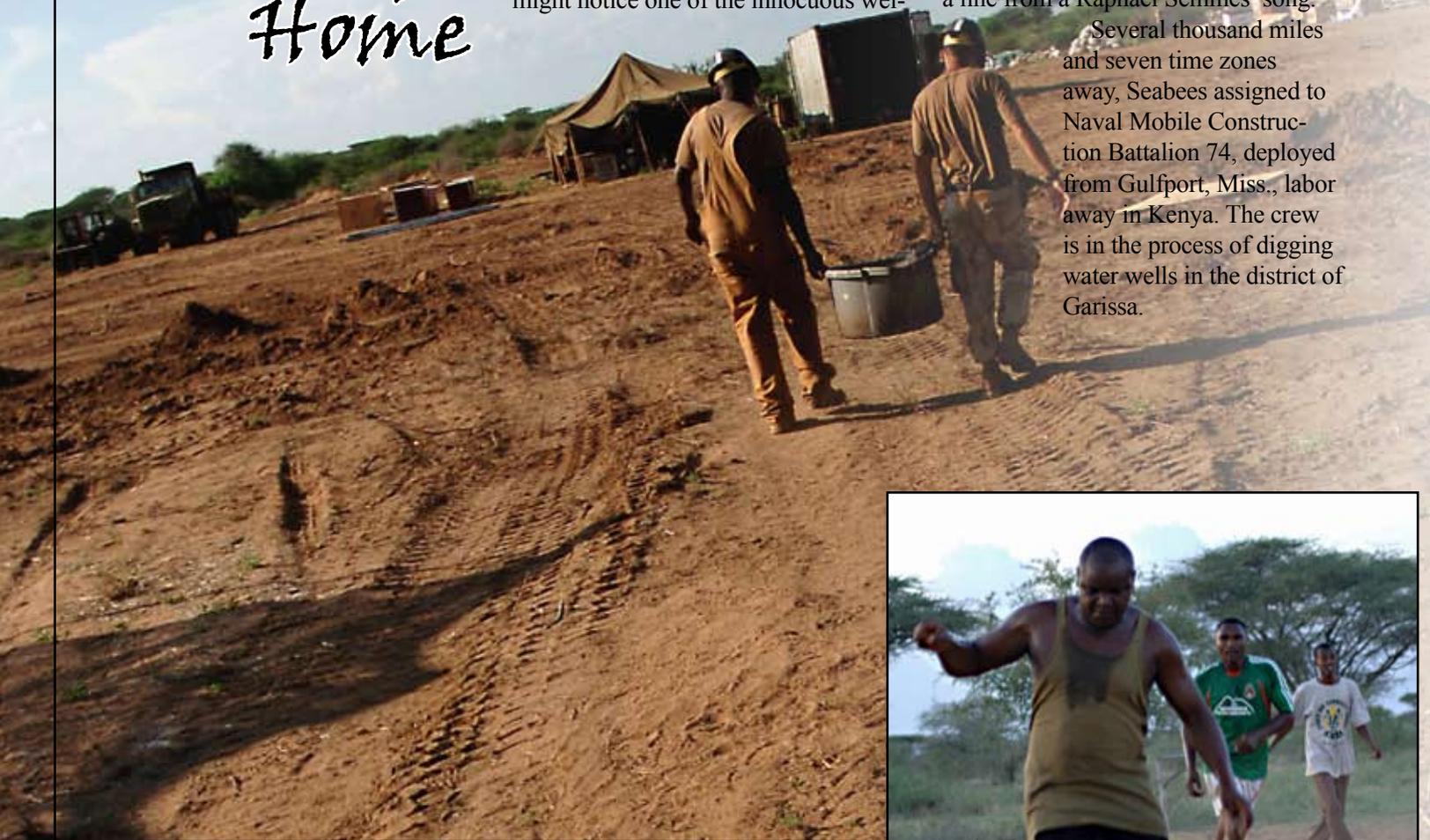
Like Coming Home

Story and photos by
Petty Officer 3rd Class John Hulle
CJTF – Horn of Africa Public Affairs

GARISSA DISTRICT, Kenya – Driving into Mississippi on any one of its major interstate expressways, you might notice one of the innocuous wel-

come signs common on our Nation's road system. "Mississippi... feels like coming home," the sign warmly reads, a line from a Raphael Semmes' song.

Several thousand miles and seven time zones away, Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, deployed from Gulfport, Miss., labor away in Kenya. The crew is in the process of digging water wells in the district of Garissa.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jack Ndaiga, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, stocks the mess tent with water at the Seabee camp in Sankuri, Kenya, April 23. NMCB 74 Seabees are drilling several water wells in the region as part of a Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa project to provide clean drinking water and strengthen ties between the U.S. and Kenya.



Ndaiga, center, plays soccer with villagers in Sankuri, Kenya, April 22. Ndaiga, who lived in Nairobi, Kenya, until he was 21 years old, joined the Navy shortly after moving to the United States. When not conducting camp maintenance, he helps bridge the language gap between the deployed Seabees and the villagers.

This close to the equator – less than one-degree south latitude, the sun beats down ferociously from the sky and scorches the earth. The heat, combined with living in a tent camp while fending off camel spiders, scorpions and the occasional angry camel, makes coming home all that more appealing for many of these sailors.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jack Ndaiga may not know who Raphael Semmes is, or have noticed greetings on the roadway signs, but there is a certain bit of irony in the unofficial state motto based off Semmes' song. Until Ndagia moved to the United States four years ago and settled in Gulfport, he lived only a three-hour drive down the road in Nairobi.

“Actually, my Family is jealous because I get to visit where I am from for two months,” Ndaiga laughs. “When my Family goes back it’s only for a few weeks at a time.”

Ndaiga moved to the United States in 2004 with his mother, father and three brothers. He said since he was a child, he has always had a fascination with the U.S. Navy. Now as a resident in the United States, he said being a Seabee opened up a world of opportunities, least of which was the ability to travel the globe.

“I have had a lot more experiences being in the United States,” Ndaiga said, whose last deployment with NMCB 74 was in Guam. “In Kenya, it’s hard to get a job, to even have your own home. I never thought I would have this chance.”

His fellow Seabees, deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, are helping make a difference for the locals here. They are providing one of the most essential elements for life: clean drinking water. And they’re sharing their drilling expertise with Kenyan Department of Defense water-well drillers, as well.

In the district of Garissa, the closest water source is often the Tara River. The crew is digging

three wells in the area, to give locals a better alternative.

“A lot of people don’t have water and have to walk several miles to get it. This is good for the people,” Ndaiga said.

“The river is primarily only good for livestock. It’s not good drinking water,” said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Peter Welch, a derrick operator assigned to NMCB 74. “For the individuals who do decide to go to the river to get drinking water, there are crocodiles and hippos, which can be very dangerous. We have heard reports of people, especially small children, being killed by crocodiles.”

Welch went on to add, “to give clean drinking water is definitely extremely helpful for them. We are digging the wells in the villages so they won’t have to walk several kilometers.”

Growing up in Kenya, Ndaiga said he knew if he was ever able to leave the country, he wanted to come back to help.

“This is what I was dreaming about. That one day I could come to a place like this and act as a representative,” he said.

As an utilitiesman in the Seabees, Ndaiga’s main job is camp maintenance. With the drilling crew running their rig around-the-clock, camp maintenance is essential for daily routine of the camp.

“I make sure all the air conditioning is running well, help-out with any electrical issues and keeping the camp clean,” he said.

However, being fluent in Swahili and English, Ndaiga takes every chance he can to engage the people he meets, especially during the nightly soccer matches just outside the camp.

From the two decades of his life living in the country, he knows the locals might have concerns with a few dozen camouflage-clad Americans living and working with heavy equipment near their village.

“I like interacting with the locals and helping them understand why we are here,” he said. “It builds a good relationship between Kenya and the U.S., and it stops us from looking like enemy combatants coming to take their land.”

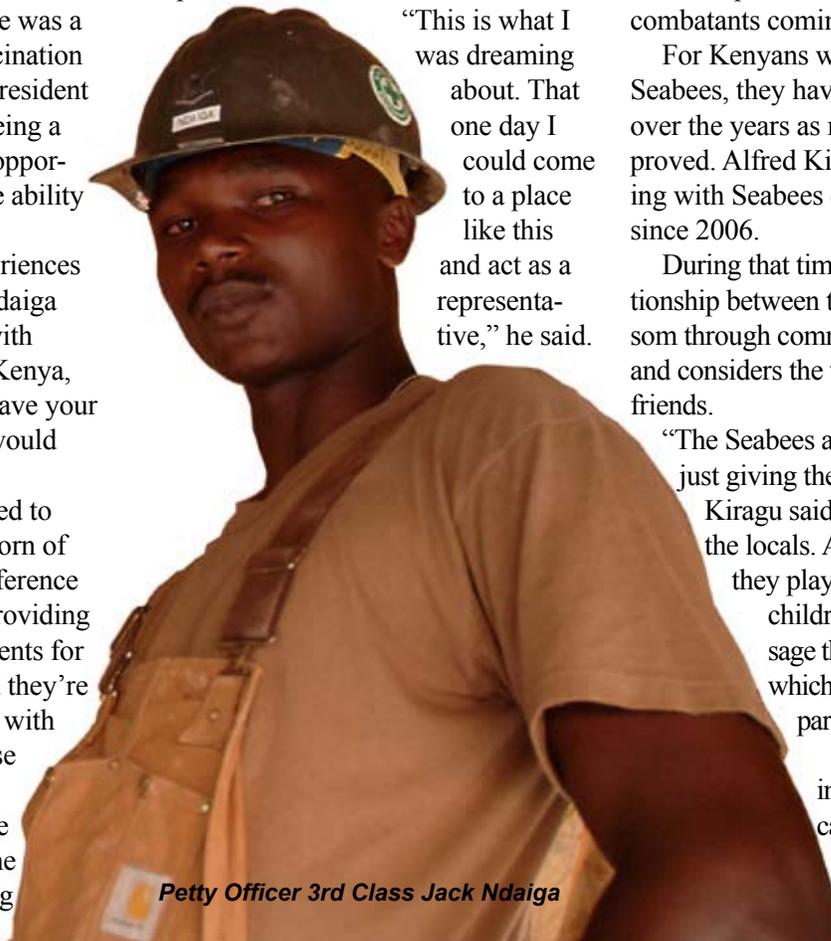
For Kenyans working with the Seabees, they have seen the changes over the years as relationships have improved. Alfred Kiragu has been working with Seabees deployed to Kenya since 2006.

During that time, he has seen the relationship between the two countries blossom through community involvement and considers the water-well members friends.

“The Seabees are doing more than just giving the people water,”

Kiragu said. “They interact with the locals. Almost every evening they play soccer with the children. They drive the message that we are here to help, which they take home to their parents.”

And helping people in the land where Ndaiga came from is something he can take home to his parents. **A**



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jack Ndaiga

Selfless service saves Soldiers' lives

Story and photos by

Spc. John D. Ortiz

4th Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

Airmen and Soldiers assigned to the Joint Logistics Task Force 28, 4th Sustainment Brigade, successfully freed a trapped Soldier and treated another after the HMMWV they were riding in rolled over, April 27.

Returning to Kuwait after the final training mission with their replacements, an M915 truck crew and gun trucks attached to the 70th Medium Truck Detachment from Camp Arifjan, were headed south, when the last vehicle in the convoy ahead of them ran off the road into the median.

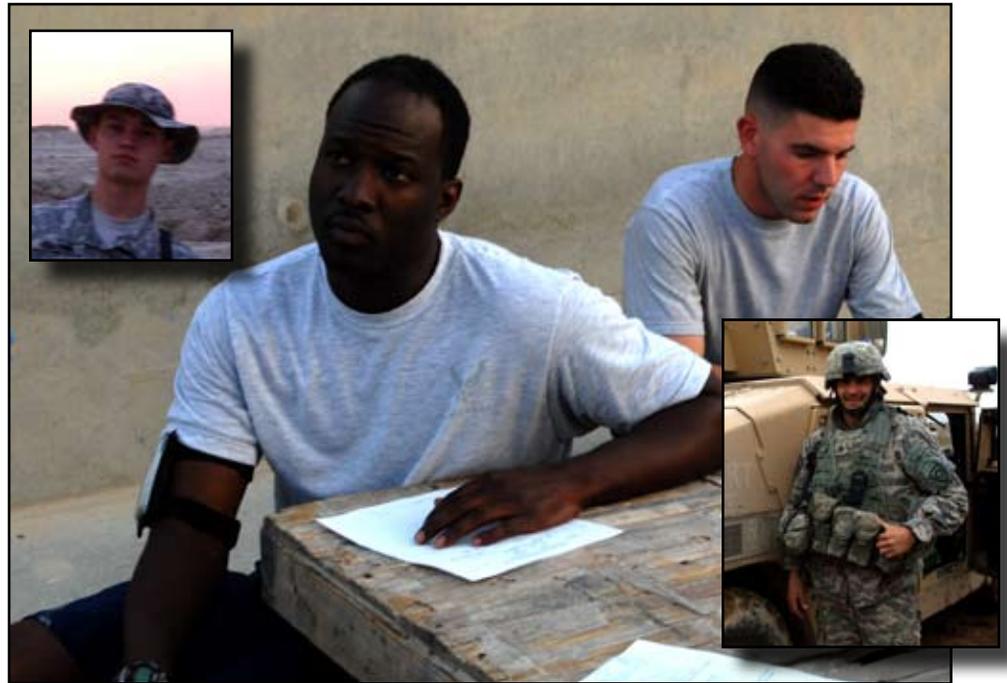
"The dust was settling when my vehicle pulled up," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Schoonover, assigned to Robins Air Force Base, attached to the 70th MTD. "I saw the humvee on its side; the driver was walking around and had blood on his head and leg. The truck commander was out, he didn't have any injuries."

Schoonover said he called the gun trucks to the front and got out of his vehicle to help.

Tech. Sgt. Deron Warren, the convoy commander, attached to the 70th MTD, was in the 10th vehicle in the convoy when the lead vehicle commander said he just witnessed a rollover. "Once I heard that, I called for the second gun truck, carrying the medic, to go and assist."

When he arrived at the scene, Spc. Thomas "Doc" Brown, a medic with C Company, 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment, dismounted the turret, grabbed his aid bag and ran to start evaluating casualties.

The first patient Brown came across had a compound fracture to his left leg. He made sure there were no life-threatening injuries before continuing to the vehicle where he found the gunner pinned underneath.



Tech. Sgt. Deron Warren (left) and Air Force Senior Airman Robert MacPeek, both attached to the 70th Medium Truck Detachment here, sit at a table recounting the events that took place when a HMMWV overturned. Spc. Thomas 'Doc' Brown (inset left) and Army Staff Sgt. Jeff Carlisle (inset right) are also credited with saving two Soldiers' lives.

"I assessed him to see how many life-threatening injuries he had," Brown said. "Things started to flash back from school and I started going through the motions, packaging both patients for medical evacuation."

Warren called the maintenance truck to the front to hook up to the HMMWV and get the vehicle off the casualty.

"I put the rhino up, drove the truck through the barriers and went to work," said Senior Airman Robert MacPeek, a maintenance vehicle operator attached to the 70th MTD.

"It was so violent," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Carlisle, C Co., 1-167th Inf. "It ripped both driver side doors off and slung them into the northbound lane; tore the center piece; ripped the seat out; the whole dashboard was next to the floor board where the driver sat; pieces of the .50 cal were laying everywhere."

"Everybody was doing what they were supposed to do," he added. "I didn't have to tell anyone to pull security, because security was already taken care of. A sergeant

had the wrecker ready to pull the HMMWV off the gunner once the medevac landed."

When the helicopters arrived, Carlisle helped pull the gunner out from underneath the humvee.

"Doc' Brown gave the status and injury report to the flight surgeon who determined it was okay for the humvee to be lifted off," Carlisle said. "We picked him up and took him to the medevac."

The two injured Soldiers sustained broken legs and were flown to a combat support hospital where they survived with a cast and memories of the event.

"It was well organized and showed the training," Carlisle said. "No one had to yell, it was clicking, and good to see everybody coming together and saving a life."

Brown is nominated for an award for his actions in treating the wounded Soldiers involved in the accident.

"Its not very complex," Brown said, "just do what you think is best for the casualty." 



“Edge of the Bench”



by Maj. Gen. Chuck Anderson
USARCENT deputy commanding general

It is interesting that when you talk to a noncommissioned officer, they can, without delay, recall the name of their drill sergeant.

NCOs can vividly describe their first drill sergeant and tell stories and sometimes myths to express their admiration and respect.

Ask any NCO and they can tell you his first and last name. Now consider the officer and I submit to you they can recall, without hesitation, the name of their first platoon sergeant.

To this day, I believe the most important position in the Army is the platoon sergeant. I have always admired the role of the platoon sergeant in training the platoon to include the platoon leader. My first platoon sergeant, trained me, taught me maintenance, supply, would

call cadence when we ran as a platoon, and was the first on the scene when there was an issue.

He took it upon himself to make me a good platoon leader.

I can hear him say that if you see a captain who does not know his or her job, then there is a platoon sergeant somewhere who did not do their job.

To this day, I can walk into a motorpool, training area or even an orderly room and assess the status of the unit based upon the quality of the platoon sergeants.

They truly are the engine of a unit. Often I think back to those days in the 101st at Fort Campbell Kentucky, and Sgt. 1st Class Rufus Allen, Platoon Sergeant, 2nd Platoon, Delta Battery.

He was the best.

Just One Question ...

“As a veteran, what does Memorial Day mean to you?”



“It makes me stop and remember all the servicemembers who have given their lives for the freedoms we have.”

Col. Patrick Reily
USARCENT G-7
Staff Engineer
Atlanta



“Pride. I’m proud to be a United States Soldier who is serving her country. That’s what I came into it to do.”

Maj. Mavis Hutchings
USARCENT Operational Protection
Force Protection Officer
Miller, Mo.



“Recognizing all the veterans of the past and reflecting on their sacrifices.”

Master Sgt. Michael Brown
70th Medium Truck Detachment
Alpha flight sergeant
Augusta, Ga.



“Honoring our fallen comrades and all the sacrifices they made for us.”

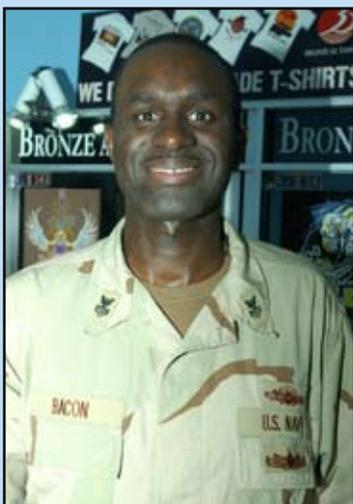
Petty Officer 2nd Class Roel Ladiero
Naval Coastal Warfare
Information system technician
San Diego



“To remember the sacrifices of veterans because they stood up and said ‘I’m proud to be an American.’”

Staff Sgt. Richard Runnels
4th Sustainment Brigade
CSSA office technician
Lufkin, Texas

Why I serve: Petty Officer 1st Class Nhatrang Bacon Maritime Expeditionary Squadron - 4 Security



The Savannah, Ga., native explains why he chose to join the military.

“I did it for college reasons and to get away from Savannah. I saw the military as a way to get out of the humdrum of Savannah and to travel and see the world.”

What's happening around USARCENT ...

All ears



Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commanding general, addresses service-members at a town hall meeting at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 21.

Welcome



Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin

Cpt. Jennie DeForest, 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) mortuary affairs officer, accepts her second shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service from her commander, Brig. Gen. William D. Frink. The unit, headquartered in West Los Angeles, has transitioned through many stages ... going from a logistical support command to a support brigade to corps support all the way to one of the Army's nine deployable ESCs.

Patton's Own!



Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commanding general, leads the formation during the USARCENT run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 20. More than a thousand Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines participated in the 2.2-mile run around Camp Arifjan.

...Always First

DIV United States Army Central 