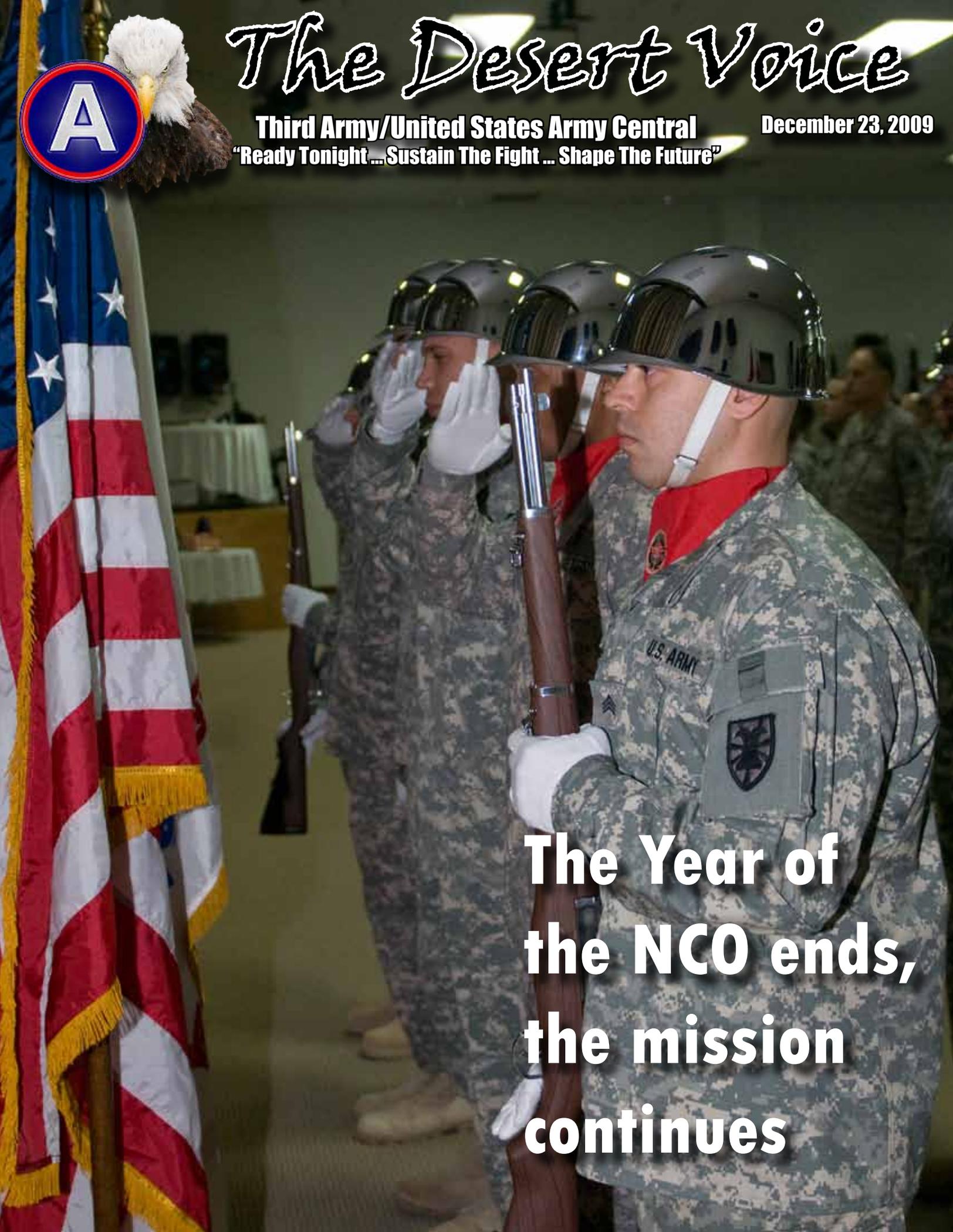


# The Desert Voice

Third Army/United States Army Central

December 23, 2009

"Ready Tonight... Sustain The Fight ... Shape The Future"



**The Year of  
the NCO ends,  
the mission  
continues**

# DV

## Table of Contents

**Page 4**

Gen. Casey Visit

**Page 6**

Sec. of Army visit

**Page 8**

ROC Drill

**Page 10**

Soldiers Medal

**Page 12**

NCO Induction

**Page 14**

Reconstitution

**Page 16**

Manage your money



### On the cover

The color guard salutes the flag during the NCO induction ceremony at Camp Arifjan. (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift)

### Contact us

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

# Holiday Services

## Camp Virginia Chapel

### Catholic

Wednesday, 23 December, 1630

Thursday, 24 December, 1630 - Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday, 26 December, 1630

Friday, 01 January, 1630  
Saturday, 02 January, 1630

### Protestant

Thursday, 24 December, 1900 - Christmas Eve Candle Communion Service

Friday, 25 December, 1000 - Christmas Day Service

## Camp Arifjan (Zone 1 Chapel)

### Catholic

Dec. 24, 1700 - Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 25, 1215 - Christmas Day Mass with CH (BG) Rutherford

### Protestant

Dec. 24, 1900 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Dec. 25, 1000 - Christmas Day Service

Dec. 31, 1900 - Gospel Watch night Service

## Camp Arifjan (Zone 6 Chapel)

### Catholic

Dec. 25, 1700 - Christmas Day Mass with CH (BG) Rutherford

### Protestant

Dec. 24, 1900 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

## Camp Patriot (KNB) Chapel

### Catholic

Dec. 25, 0800 - Christmas Day Mass

### Protestant

Dec. 24, 2000 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service  
Friday, 25 December, 1400 - Christmas Day Service

## AAS/LSA Chapel

### Catholic

Dec. 24, 1730 - Christmas Eve Mass with CH (BG) Rutherford

### Protestant

Thursday, 24 December, 1900 - Christmas Eve "Flashlight" service  
Friday, 25 December, 1000 - Christmas Day Service

## Camp Buehring Chapel

### Catholic & Protestant

Sunday, 20 December, 1500-1630 - Christmas Party & Carols

### Catholic

Wednesday, 23 December, 1130 - Mass

Thursday, 24 December, 2400 - Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Friday, 25 December, 1130 - Christmas Day Mass

Saturday, 26 December, 1900 - Mass

Sunday, 27 December, 1100 - Mass

### Protestant

Wednesday, 23 December, 1900 - Carols & Scripture Service

Thursday, 24 December, 1900 - Candles and Carols Service

Thursday, 24 December, 2100 - Communion & Carols Service

Friday, 25 December, 1300 - Scriptures & Carols Service

Friday, 25 December, 1900 - Scriptures & Carols Service

Volume 31, Issue 13

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office. This magazine is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with USARCENT. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced twice a month by the 203rd Public Affairs Detachment.

Find us online at [www.arcent.army.mil](http://www.arcent.army.mil).

Third Army Commanding General  
Lt. Gen. William G. Webster  
Third Army Command Sgt. Maj.  
Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman  
Third Army Public Affairs Officer  
Col. Gerald O'Hara  
Third Army Public Affairs Sgt. Maj.  
Sgt. Maj. Brian Thomas  
Third Army Deputy PAO (FWD)  
Lt. Col. Jonathan Allen

203rd Public Affairs Detachment Commander  
Capt. Tracey Frink  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment Sergeant  
Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Rothfus  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment  
Third Army PAO (FWD) NCOIC  
Sgt. 1st Class Duane Brown  
Print Team  
Sgt. Daniel Lucas  
Sgt. David Nunn  
Cpl. Brandon Babbitt  
Spc. Monte Swift

# DV

The  
Desert  
Voice



# Go for Green

**M**aking healthy choices in the Dining Hall can be challenging. There are plenty of comfort foods to boost morale like ice cream, mozzarella sticks, and macaroni and cheese. You might have a hard time maintaining or losing weight if these become the basis of your diet. Your blood pressure or cholesterol may start to increase even if your waistline does not.

There are plenty of nutritious foods that can help optimize your performance and long term health. The Go for Green labeling guidelines that are part of the Fit to Fight Campaign were created by the Medical Command and adopted by Third Army. The goal of the guidelines is to help servicemembers, Department of Defense employees and contractors make informed food choices.

The Go for Green guidelines use the “stop light” model. Green represents high performance foods that should be chosen frequently. Amber foods only moderately enhance performance and should be selected less frequently. Red foods are performance limiting and should be limited or avoided.

The foods are identified as one of these colors based on their calories and fat per serving. Side dishes are coded the same way, but with lower calorie and fat allowances. Most of the foods in our Dining Facilities are green. However, if you eat two servings of a green food, it will become a red food since you are doubling the calories and fat. Similarly, choosing too many green foods at one meal could still put you over your calorie limit for the day and cause weight gain. Portion control is important. It is our choice how much we eat.

The sodium, cholesterol and protein content of the foods on the newer labels are listed for your information, but these nutrition facts do not have any relationship to the color of the label. You can use this information if you are watching your sodium intake due to hypertension or trying to lower your cholesterol.

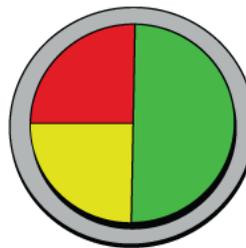
If you are trying to lose weight or improve your cardiovascular health, choose mostly green foods. If you are trying to gain weight, you can choose more red foods. Be aware that your whole plate is not red as you will likely consume too much fat.



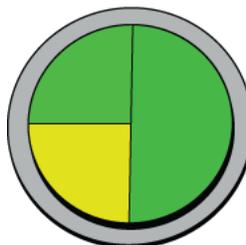
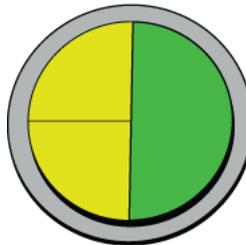
**Capt. Kate Schrumm R.D.**  
**U.S. Army Central Surgeon's Office**

Use the labels in the way that is easiest for you. If you prefer just to look at the colors and “go for green” that is fine. If you are watching your calories or sodium, then look at those values. Just remember to always look

at the serving size to see how many servings you are eating. You can estimate the serving size of food using the plastic plates in the dining facility. The large part is 2 cups and the small parts are 1 cup. Watch your portions, choose wisely and Go for Green! **A**



**High Performance for weight gain**



**High Performance for Weight Maintenance**



# Chaplain's Corner

Article by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Michalke  
Chief, Operations Chaplain  
Third Army

The Christmas story began in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. It was there God fulfilled His Old Testament promise by offering salvation to the world.

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly

afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’ (Luke 2:1-14 NKJV).

The Christmas season provides us the opportunity to gather together and offer thanks to the Giver of all things good. We are called to celebrate the birth of the baby named Jesus. May we leave our fields, whatever they may be, and pause to worship God’s priceless Christmas gift: His Son.

This year’s Christmas celebration provides yet another opportunity to praise God for His infinite love and for His incalculable gifts. We invite you to join us in the various worship services listed as we come together and celebrate God’s gift to mankind. Merry Christmas! 

## Decorating for the holidays

Article by Capt. Michael Phillips  
Third Army Safety Office

It was Christmas Eve around the year 1500 when legend has it Martin Luther walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, which he lighted in honor of Christ’s birth and began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas.

In December 2009, Christmas trees can be found, brightly lit and decorated, on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as service members prepare to celebrate Christmas.

U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 250 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year from 2003-2007. Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, one of every 18 reported fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in death.

Live Christmas trees are not authorized unless approved by the Fire Prevention Office. Unfortunately, live Christmas trees often times already arrive in a dried out state. There are often more needles in the box, than still on the tree. Artificial trees that are certified by the manufacturer as being “Flame Retardant” or “Flame Resistant” are the only authorized

trees to be used.

The only authorized Christmas lights to be used are 220/240 Volt, CE rated and listed. 110 Volt lights are prohibited from use on ASG installations per DPW policy. This includes the use of transformers with 110 Volt light strands. Also, ensure that the lights you use are rated for what you are using them for; outdoor rated - used outdoors, indoor rate – used indoors.

Make sure and check daily that Entry and Exit points are not blocked or locked and remain unobstructed at all times. Chaining, locking, or obstructing Exit doors during periods of occupancy is strictly prohibited. 



# Gen. Casey talks with Soldiers

Article by  
Cpl. Brandon Babbitt  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment



Gen. George G. Casey Jr., U.S. Army Chief of Staff, visits Soldiers at Camp Buehring, a Third Army logistical and training redistribution site in Kuwait on Dec. 18. Casey spoke to hundreds of Third Army and forward deploying servicemembers thanking them for their continued hard work to sustain the fight through the holidays. (Photo by Cpl. Brandon Babbitt, 203 PAD.)

**U.S.** Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., along with Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, spoke to hundreds of servicemembers at Camp Buehring Dec. 18.

The generals thanked the Soldiers for their sacrifices made by them and their families, wishing them happiness and prosperity as 2010 approaches.

“What I have seen is continued progress with respect to our abilities to take care of the drawdown from Iraq,” said Casey. “I have also seen huge progress in the preparation for the movement of forces [for other requirements in U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility].”

Casey also talked about the growth of the Army in recent years, and how this increase will benefit servicemembers and their families in the future.

“We are 30,000 Soldiers bigger,” said Casey. “This will

only increase our dwell time.

Dwell time is the mandatory amount of time between deployments for Soldiers to spend at home with family and refit for future missions.

Casey’s goal for visiting Third Army and forward deploying troops was not only to thank them, but to inform Soldiers about future military goals in the region and boost their morale as the holiday season approaches.

The event concluded with Casey and Webster shaking hands and taking photos with servicemembers around a Christmas tree.

“Everywhere I go, I have seen the same level of pride and commitment in every Soldier and servicemember,” said Casey. “It fills me full of pride as Chief of Staff of the Army to see what a magnificent force this is.” 

# McHugh visits Kuwait

Talks with Third Army about equipment, service

Article by Sgt. Daniel Lucas  
Photos by Spc. Monte Swift  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment



Secretary of the Army John McHugh visited Third Army Soldiers in Kuwait during a military base tour to view the drawdown of forces process first-hand and other sustainment operations on Dec. 17.

On his tour, The 21st Secretary of the Army got a chance to dine with Third Army Soldiers, tour multiple Third Army facilities and drive several MRAP variants.

The start of his tour brought him through the Theater Redistribution Center at Camp Arifjan. It supports Third Army with 24/7 operations sorting and determining what equipment coming from Iraq can be repaired or reused to support other operations.

"I would say about 60 percent of what we receive, we are able to redistribute," said Michael Hamilton, operations manager, TRC. "Everywhere there is something going on. We have nearly 600 shipping containers ready to be unloaded right now."

The center saved the U.S. military more than one billion dollars last year by reducing the amount of new equipment needed.

**"They are doing an incredible job and have an incredible job to do."**

**-John McHugh  
Secretary of the Army**

One of the highlights of McHugh's visit was to the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle sustainment facility. The United States Armed Forces have fielded approximately 11,000 MRAPs through the facility since the vehicle was first introduced into Iraq in 2007.

The MRAP Sustainment Facility has been transforming with the responsible drawdown in Iraq and other sustainment operations. It was originally established to receive materials used in the construction and equipping of MRAPs to meet mission requirements and be sent into Iraq. Now, the facility has grown to receive these vehicles from Iraq and prepare them for the new challenges facing U.S. Forces. He noted the hard work going into preparing MRAPs for deployment throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

“The MRAP is a vehicle that has become critically important to the job keeping our forces safe,” said McHugh. “There has been some 30 variants which makes it an interesting challenge to make sure we are going through the available stock, resetting it, doing in the best possible way and the quickest possible way so that it can be assigned reassigned in the [U.S. CENTCOM area of operations].”

After test driving several variants of the MRAP at the facility, he headed back to Camp Arifjan and dined with Third Army Commander, Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, and a cross section of Soldiers serving with Third Army. The dinner was filled with high spirits as the Soldiers answered McHugh’s questions about why they joined the Army and how they felt about the mission.

After dinner, McHugh shook each Soldier’s hand and thanked them for their service.

“People are out there doing good things, making friends, establishing freedom in some very difficult places,” said McHugh. “As Americans that is something we can all be grateful for.”



Opposite, Above, Below and Left: Secretary of the Army John McHugh visits with Third Army Soldiers from the 443rd Transportation Company, Lincoln, Neb., during a visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17. McHugh focused his attention on Heavy Equipment Transports and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, both of which have played an important role in Third Army’s mission during the Iraq drawdown and the sustainment of other operations.



# ROC Drill lays future of drawdown

## Moving people and equipment out of Iraq on schedule

Article by Maj. Carol McClelland  
1st Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs  
Third Army Public Affairs

A virtual “who’s who” from the world of military logistics converged in Kuwait for a full day to go over the next phase of the responsible drawdown plan to move people and equipment out of Iraq on Dec. 14.

Logistics planners laid out their Dec. 2009 to Aug. 2010 drawdown strategies to senior Department of Defense officials during the Third Army Rehearsal of Concept Drill, or ROC Drill.

The lengthy process included briefings and discussions on a variety of topics ranging from weather predictions, threat trends and customs operations; to the withdrawal timelines of specific units, classified plans for ammunition, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service store closures in Iraq.

Counting at least 26 stars in the ranks of visiting general officers, all agencies that have an interest in the drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq were present. Every

service was represented from agencies such as the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of the Army, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Forces - Iraq, U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, Army Materiel Command, Marine Central Command, Air Force Central Command, Navy Central Command, Defense Logistics Agency, Joint Contracting Command for Iraq/Afghanistan and many more.

“There are lots of organizations involved in this process,” said Col. Steven Elkins, ROC Drill coordinator and supporting operations officer, 1st TSC. “All these organizations came together for the ROC Drill, and they all for the most part, have equipment that needs to come out of Iraq. All of that has to be synchronized.”

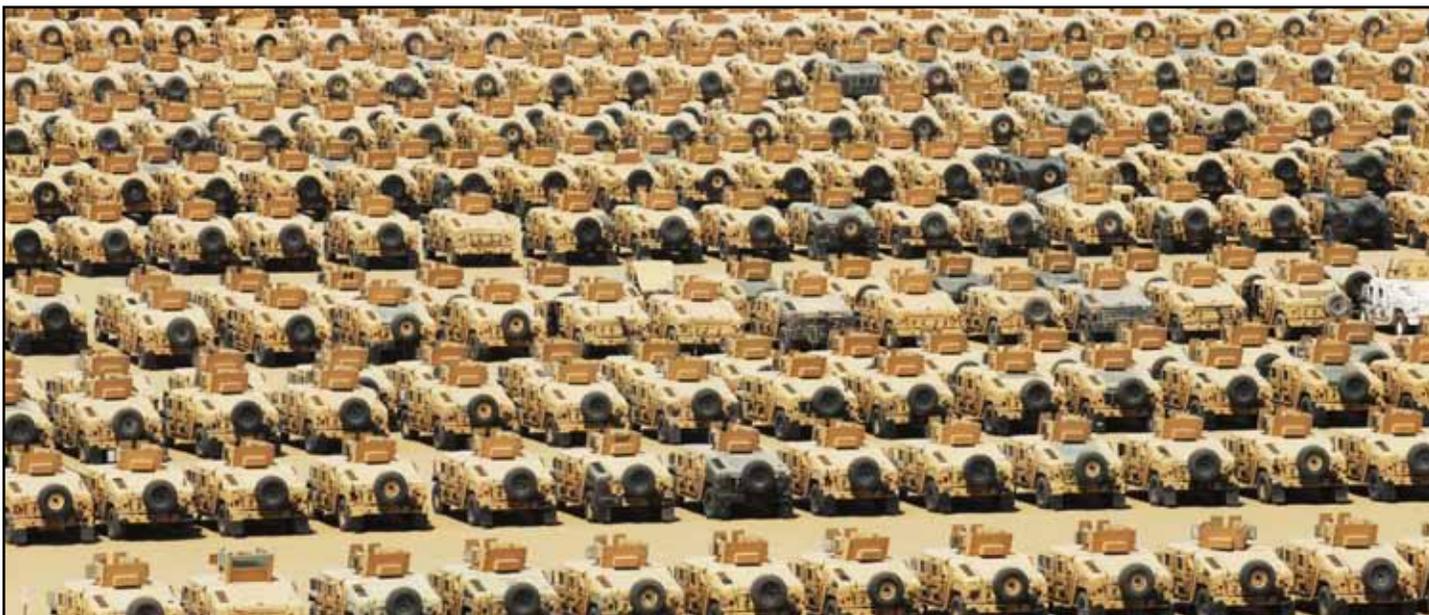
According to Elkins, several others have developed plans that are in support of responsible drawdown. Third Army brought all of these organizations together and talked through the plans and worked the issues.

Third Army Commander Lt. Gen. William G. Webster opened the event by telling participants they were key players in some aspect, large or small.

“It’s important to identify tasks and players to synchro-



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army Commanding General (center-left), listens as Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Materiel Command, comments on the Responsible Retrograde and Redeployment Rehearsal held at Third Army Headquarters at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 14. Webster led the rehearsal which synchronized the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq. (Photo by Cpl. Alejandro Godinez, Third Army PAO)



Humvees are parked in a retrograde property assistance team holding yard at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, pending shipment to their final destination. All of the vehicles are inspected, repaired, refitted in order to be deployed to mission critical areas in Central Command's area of operations. (Photo by Maj. Carol McClelland, 1st TSC)

nize efforts so we don't get surprised down the road," he advised. He also said it was important to identify decision points so logisticians would have enough time to execute decisions.

A 1991 photo showing rows upon rows of parked military vehicles flashed on multiple screens as logisticians reflected on the hurried withdrawal of removing 1.7 million tons of equipment, ammunition and spare parts and more than half a million forces following the U.S. launched attack that drove the Iraqi army from Kuwait 18 years ago.

Today's mission is just as daunting. Even with U.S. military infrastructure improvements, after nearly seven years in Iraq, there's seven years of accumulated scrap that needs to be removed, reminded experts from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service.

"[The drawdown effort] is staggering. We have a lot of capability because we've been doing this for a number of years now. But it's like reversing the faucet," Elkins said.

By August 2010, the Obama administration expects to have less than 50,000 troops in Iraq. All indications from Monday's ROC drill show that drawdown mission will be accomplished.

"We're ahead of schedule for monthly retrograde goals for [vehicles] stock items and containers," said Lt. Col. Eric Reinkober, 1st TSC mobility branch chief. Units are exceeding the objective of moving out 300,000 containers per month, Elkins added.

As the ROC Drill began, all involved were encouraged by the leadership to ask questions to any of the briefers to ensure planners had considered all issues. The subjects of air, rail, ground, and sea transportation drew lively discussions.

"The central question everyone wants to know is 'do we have the transportation capacity to move the requirement,'" Reinkober said. "Do we have enough trucks in theater to move deploying forces and commodities and equipment out of Iraq as part of the Responsible Drawdown?"

We had to decide 'do we or don't we' and if we don't, 'what can we do to increase to meet the requirement?' The answer, he explained, came in the form of contracting out additional trucks to haul back equipment to various ports, something the 1st TSC is doing extensively.

With the ROC Drill answering many questions, Col. Elkins said he got answers to one of his biggest hurdles.

"We're always hungry for more predictability on this end so our challenge is understanding when units are going to be finished with equipment. But remember, they still have a fight. We realize there's still a need for equipment and vehicles as they pull out of bases up there. But as executors of the plan, we want to be able to plan right now for how much maintenance a piece of equipment needs, when to get it back and where it's going etc.," Elkins said.

Book authors William Pagonis and Jeffrey Crikshank of "Moving Mountains: Lessons in Leadership and Logistics from the Gulf War" said, "Logisticians deal with unknowns. They attempt to eliminate unknowns one by one, until they are confident that they have done away with the possibility of paralyzing surprises."

There won't be any "paralyzing surprises" based on the Responsible Drawdown December ROC Drill results. Since the last ROC Drill in May, more than 76,000 equipment items and 10,000 vehicles have been retrograded with more than 30,000 of those items filling other U.S. Central Command requirements. [A](#)

# Soldiers Medal awarded to Third Army Soldier

Article and Photos by  
Sgt. Beth Lake  
Third Army Public Affairs Office

The morning of Feb. 20, 2008, began with a series of events that would forever change Staff Sgt. Christopher Bolden, a Dallas

Texas native and seasoned Army Ranger serving as the Digital Army Liaison Team assistant operations noncommissioned officer at the

Third Army headquarters at Ft. McPherson, Ga.

Bolden, like many other Soldiers in Third Army, lives in one of Atlanta's suburbs that provide a quieter atmosphere from the bustle of city life, yet demand a 30-minute drive to work each day. To ease the burden of the commute, Bolden was a member of a car pool.

In a twist of fate or divine intervention, Bolden missed his car pool that cold winter morning, causing him to make the trip on his own.

"I was on my way to work on my bike going down highway 154 in Newnan," Bolden said. "There was a black car in front of me and she veered off the road and the car flipped over."

Without thinking, he parked his bike and ran to the car to see if there was anyone inside. The sole occupant of the vehicle had been thrown from the car.

"She was badly injured and I took off some of my [army combat uniforms] to help stop the bleeding," Bolden said. "She had a broken leg, a broken collar bone, and she had multiple lacerations."

Seeing other drivers stop at the scene, Bolden quickly took charge.

"I told them to find her bag, find her phone and find something that had her name in it so we could contact her family, and of course, call police," Bolden explained. "I was directing people, and then we waited for the paramedics."

The victim of the accident, Lisa Bennett, herself a paramedic, re-



Third Army Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty, awards Staff Sgt. Christopher Bolden, Third Army Digital Army Liaison Team operations noncommissioned officer, with the Soldiers Medal at Ft. McPherson, Ga. Dec. 7. The Soldiers Medal is the highest award for valor during peacetime.

members very little from the scene of the accident.

“I remember waking up in the ambulance and from the questions the paramedics were asking me, I knew I was badly injured,” she said.

What she didn’t remember were the details she was told after she spent two months in the hospital recovering and undergoing extensive therapy.

“A woman who stopped at the scene described how Chris (Bolden) treated me,” Bennett said.

The woman said Bolden spent the 15 minutes waiting for paramedics to arrive talking to Bennett, consoling her and caring for her wounds.

“I am a paramedic myself, and I see daily what accidents happen and acute trauma and how fast a life can be snuffed out,” Bennett said. “If it wasn’t for Chris, I could have been paralyzed.”

Nearly two years after the accident, Bennett rehabilitated and came to the Third Army headquarters to see Bolden awarded the Soldiers Medal, the highest award for valor during peacetime, at a Dec. 7 ceremony at Fort McPherson. Bolden recently reenlisted to stay in the Army and will head to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to become a Ranger Instructor at the 6th Ranger Training Battalion.

Third Army Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty opened the award ceremony describing the duty a Soldier feels.

“We are in a profession of arms,” Twitty said. “We live by a values-based organization. Those values being the values that we take not only from our home-life, but what the Army--the military--has engrained in us over the years.”

Twitty then described the impact



Lisa Bennett looks at the Soldiers Medal Staff Sgt. Christopher Bolden, Third Army Digital Army Liaison Team operations noncommissioned officer, was awarded at Fort McPherson, Ga., Dec. 7. Using his skills as a trained Army Ranger, Bolden provided medical aid to Bennett, saving her life, after her car veered off the highway in February 2008.

Bolden’s training as a Soldier had on his decision to stop at the scene of the accident.

“We not only take care of ourselves in uniform but we have an obligation and we view that obligation to take care of everyone in this nation,” Twitty said. “We don’t take off this uniform when we get off every day and Staff Sgt. Bolden is an example of that.”

Twitty explained that Bolden, himself, is already a Soldier that stands above his peers.

“Already he stands a cut above,” Twitty paused, “just think about the nine years he has served- five times in Iraq, four times in Afghanistan – airborne ranger. He has met the call of duty, not only in combat, but as you can see today in his civilian life as well.”

For Bolden, his actions were

simply the right thing to do.

“I’m not a hero,” Bolden said after being awarded the medal. “I just did what anyone else would have done. If it had been me, I would have wanted someone to stop and help me.”

Bennett sees his actions differently. In a tearful thank you, she described a scar she has on her face from the accident and says she has been touched by her angel.

“He’s the only person that stopped on that busy morning,” Bennett said. “It’s o.k. for everyone else to say that is what they would have done, but he is the only one who stopped. I don’t know how you thank someone for doing what he did. I want him to know he will forever be in my heart.” <sup>A</sup>

# No one is more professional than I...

Article and Photos by  
By Spc. Jason C. Adolphson  
1st Theater Sustainment Command



More than 40 sergeants stand ready to swear in to the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers while Colors Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Demara Boone, 39th Transportation Battalion, leads the way, Dec. 11. The event marked the final NCO induction ceremony during “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer” at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Senior enlisted leaders at Camp Arifjan welcomed 41 recently promoted noncommissioned officers into the NCO Corps with an NCO Induction Ceremony at the Area Support Group Community Center theater Dec. 11.

The ceremony occurred in the closing month of a year dedicated to NCOs.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren announced in the beginning of the year that 2009 would be “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer,” the second time its been dedicated since 1989.

“I was quite happy to experience this in the final days of the year be-

cause you don’t know when it (Year of the NCO) might happen next,” said Sgt. Xia Thoa, 1st Theater Sustainment Command. “It was such a powerful moment going through the ceremony, because it took a lot of time and service to get where I am today.”

Troops acted out monologues in first person to tell military history and show the roles NCOs should play in the Army during the ceremony,” said Thoa. He was especially impressed by the “boots on ground” approach they used to tell the Soldiers’ story.

“In the battledress, the NCO wears

boots. He always has. Well, almost. Many Soldiers at Valley Forge did not have shoes, much less boots,” called out Staff Sgt. Chadrick George, 39th Transportation Battalion, in the beginning of a five-part act. “They marched and fought with no more than rags that were wrapped around bleeding, frost-bitten feet. Those volunteers literally knew the meaning of a ‘come as you are’ war.”

The troops summed their bits together by calling out “No matter where, or what the mission, an Army NCO was there ... wearing boots.”



More than 40 sergeants raised their right hands to swear in to the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers Dec. 11. The event marked the final NCO induction ceremony during “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer” at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Each NCO inducted into the corps had a sponsor to stand before the hundreds of supporting attendees and vouch on their behalf to the most senior enlisted person in the room, Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie Hopson, 180th Transportation Battalion.

Master Sgt. Mark Hackett, 1st TSC, Thoa’s sponsor, said he was “excited” to sponsor the young sergeant.

“I never got the opportunity to attend a formal induction back in my day, but I got to share this day with him,” said Hackett. “This was good. I was really glad for the opportunity to call out his name.”

Following the recognition of sergeants, the new leaders signed the book of NCOs, marked with signatures of past inductees. Hopson then presented them with the “Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer.” It is a formal doctrine for the NCOs to abide by the corps’ expectations.

“By signing your names on the book, you are now officially welcomed to the Noncommissioned Officer Corps,” said Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Turner, 1st TSC, at the conclusion of Camp Arifjan’s final NCO induction ceremony.

The troops celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony. Five of the Soldiers joined together and cut the first slice with a saber sword.

The NCO sword was adopted by the War Department in 1840. It has been worn by Army sergeants for more than 100 years.

“The NCO sword is a time honored tradition that is pre-

ceded by the tradition 2009 has been dedicated too, said former Third Army Sustainment Troop Battalion Command Sergeant Major Charles A. Holliday. “The NCO, which is and always will be the “Backbone of the Army.” <sup>A</sup>



Maj. Gen. James Rogers, commanding general, 1st TSC and Third Army Soldiers supporting Third Army’s mission to drawdown Iraq and other sustainment operations cut a cake after the ceremony with the traditional NCO sword.

# Drawdown moves supplies, saves money

Article by  
Spc. Monte Swift  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment



A Third Army contractor sorts through medical supplies to see if they are combat ready. If they are not rated for service in the field but are still serviceable, they are used in humanitarian missions throughout CENTCOM's area of operations. (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd PAD)

Third Army's involvement in the drawdown of U.S. troops and equipment in Iraq has served an important role in completing the mission and bringing U.S. servicemembers home.

As Third Army's focus in theater changes, so must the mission of redis-

tributing supplies.

The Theater Redistribution Center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, supports Third Army in both missions. The 24/7 operation sorts and determines what equipment coming from Iraq can be repaired or reused in support of other operations.

"I would say about 60 percent of what we receive, we are able to redistribute," said Michael Hamilton, operations manager, Theater Redistribution Center. "Everywhere there is something going on. We have nearly 600 shipping containers ready to be unloaded right now."

The center saves the U.S. military billions of dollars every year by reducing the amount of new equipment needed.

In the fiscal year 2009, the center processed over 1.5 billion dollars worth of equipment. As many as 35 tractor trailer-sized shipping containers filled with chemical protection suits, radios, computers, medical supplies and even Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle engines and tires are unloaded and sorted every day.

“We do a lot to help with the MRAPs,” said Shawn Kennedy, inspector lead and facility security coordinator, TRC. “When the MRAP stuff comes in, we work hard to get that out as quickly as possible because we know that it will be needed.”

A combination of input from the Standard Army Retail Supply System and subject matter experts help decide what equipment can be reused by the Army before each item is inventoried and documented. The usable equipment is then loaded up and sent to a location where it can be reconstituted to its original working condition.

Some equipment, such as pharmaceuticals and other medical equipment is sent off to support humanitarian assistance missions, while some will go directly back into theater.

The primary objective of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity.

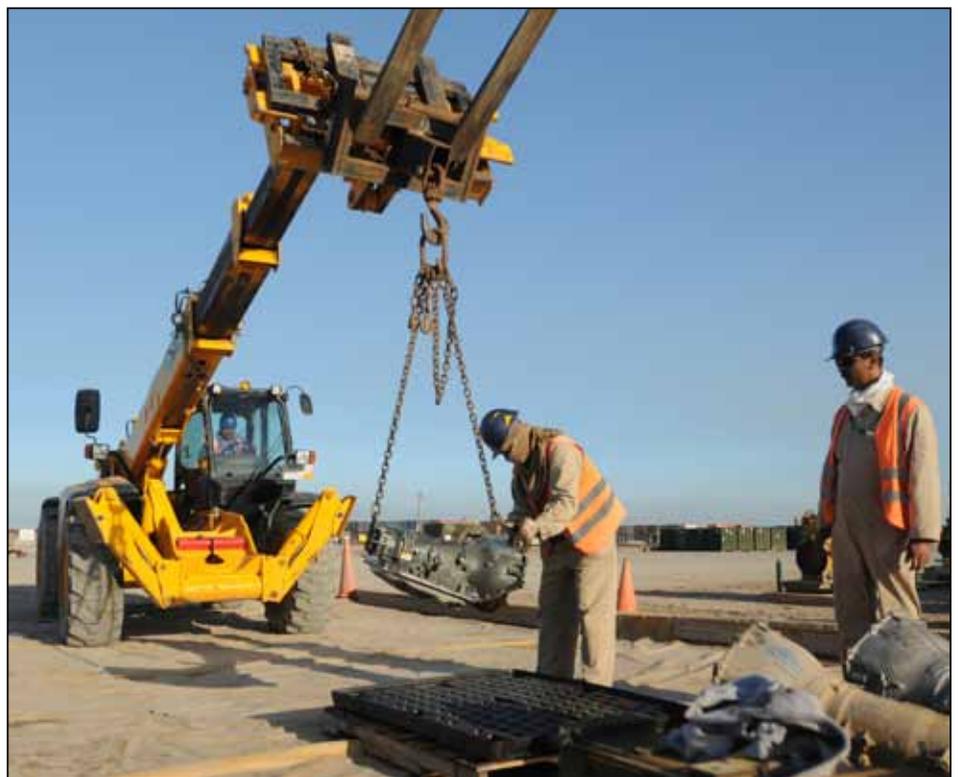
Equipment like pharmaceuticals must be sent away to be evaluated by experts to determine its usability.

“We deal with a lot of medical supplies coming down from Iraq,” said Joe Torres, supervisor for Class A Medical. “In the month of October, we were able to save over 12 million dollars in medical equipment alone.”

“The drawdown has us working through stuff pretty quick, but we are doing a good job at keeping up,” said Hamilton. “We are in direct support of the military and we do anything to meet their needs.”



Contractors offload shipping containers full of equipment and supplies from Iraq. Third Army is responsible for ensuring thousands of 8-by-20 and 8-by-40 steel containers are opened, inventoried and reconstituted to assist in other mission critical sustainment operations in the Central Command area of operations. (Photo by Maj. Carol McClelland, 1st TSC)



Third Army contractors inspect transmissions from a shipping container sent from Iraq to determine if it is serviceable and can be sent to mission critical areas in the Central Command area of operations. (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd PAD)

# Finance cuts costs by reducing cash

Article and Photos by  
Spc. Monte Swift  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

Maintaining cash on the battlefield can be a hassle. It can also be expensive without the proper management steps.

The 376th Finance Management office offers several services from check cashing to savings plans and pay issues for servicemembers and civilians supporting Third Army's mission to build up Afghanistan.

"We know that if a servicemembers pay is correct, they can focus on their job and don't have to worry about financial needs and support back home," said Capt. William Hill, the commander, 376th Financial Management Company.

The finance office is also the place where servicemembers and civilians can get the Eagle Cash Card. The cash card offers a convenient alternative to cash and saves the military hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on costs associated with shipping U.S. currency.

"The cash card is saving taxpayers a lot of money by reducing the amount of currency that needs to be flown to the battlefield," said Hill. "It prevents currency from getting mixed into the local population where it can be used in black-market activity and counterfeiting. It also protects the Soldier from fraud."

The cash card also offers servicemembers several other benefits.

Since it is tied to a bank account and can be loaded with cash through any Eagle Cash Card machine on post, the card works a lot like a debit card. It works at any Army and Air Force Exchange Service, vendor or fast food location on post and eliminates the need to receive and accumulate loose AAFES change.

"The Eagle cash card is a big push. Every servicemember, civilian and contractor should have it," said Hill. "The card is safer because there's no need to carry cash that can be lost. If a cash card is lost, it can be canceled and the remaining balance can be uploaded to a new card."

The finance office can also assist in setting up the Savings Deposit Program which allows servicemembers to put up to \$10,000 into an account and earn 2 ½ percent quarterly, which is more than most banks in the U.S. The program is open to servicemembers deployed at least 30 consecutive days, however the money must be withdrawn within 90 days of returning from the deployment region.

For questions concerning the Eagle Cash Card, Savings Deposit Program or any other pay issue, contact the local finance office on post. The 376th Finance Company is located inside the Post Exchange in Zone 1 at Camp Arifjan. [A](#)



Top: The Eagle Cash Card can be loaded with cash from a bank account. If they are lost or stolen, they can be replaced and the balance on the card can be transferred to the new one. Above: Eagle Cash Card machines are easily found by their red banner behind the kiosk. The machines can be loaded like a debit card and are accepted at all AAFES and vendor on post.

# Earlier training gets Soldiers home faster

## Domestic customs training speeds Soldiers' redeployment process

Article by

Capt. Ellis Gales

Third Army Public Affairs

**T**hird Army is improving the redeployment process from Iraq and Afghanistan by training Soldiers on how to inspect equipment coming home from theater before they deploy.

Third Army, responsible for customs inspections throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, developed a program in October to send customs border protection agents and U.S. Department of Agriculture agents to military installations to provide two days of training prior to deployments.

The program helped increase the number of customs inspectors from less than 100 in July to its current level of more than 900. Instructional blocks include training on agriculture, infectious species, contraband and classified material.

“In the past, customs agents were trained in theater,” said Maj. Misty Heath, customs program manager, Third Army. “We realized in July of this year with the drawdown of equipment and troops that we would not be able to keep up.”

One hundred percent of all people, equipment and cargo gets inspected before redeploying. The increased number of customs inspectors allows equipment to flow faster during final inspections at the port before being loaded on cargo ships to return to the U.S.

Improving the redeployment process is another way Third Army seeks to improve logistics and personnel support for U.S. forces serving in CENTCOM's area of responsibility. [A](#)



Sgt. 1st Class Travis Huggard (right), from Kodiak Island, Alaska, assigned to Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Div., explains bag inspection procedures during a customs class at Hope Chapel on Camp Victory. Soldiers who graduated the class became certified customs border clearance agents who will take part in redeployment operations. (Photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner, MND-B PAO)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Court Martial

A military judge tried Pvt. Michael L. Valverde of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Third Army, at a Special Court-Martial at Fort Benning, Georgia on Nov. 24 2009. In accordance with his pleas, the military judge found Valverde guilty of multiple specifications of absence without leave (failure to go to appointed place of duty) in violation of Article 86, Uniform Code of Military Justice; multiple specifications of insubordinate conduct toward a non-commissioned officer in violation of Article 91, UCMJ; wrongful use of a controlled substance in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ; and, three specifications of larceny in violation of Article 121, UCMJ.

The underlying misconduct occurred at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; Fort Gillem, Georgia and Fort McPherson, Georgia, between July and Sept. 2009. Private Valverde repeatedly failed to report to his prescribed place of duty at the prescribed time, repeatedly engaged in insubordinate behavior before his superior non-commissioned officers, failed to obey the lawful orders of superior non-commissioned officers, wrongfully used marijuana; stole a laptop computer from AAFES; stole two laptops from his unit's supply area; and stole his executive officer's laptop docking station.

Consequently, the military judge sentenced Valverde to be reduced to the grade of private (E-1), to be confined for six months, and to be discharged from the U.S. Army with a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

## Senate Dems to close deal on health overhaul

Outnumbered Republicans are pledging to delay passage of historic health care legislation as long as possible after jubilant Democrats locked in Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson as the 60th and decisive vote.

Nelson's backing puts President Barack Obama's signature issue firmly on a path for Christmas Eve passage. Democrats will need to show 60 votes on two additional occasions, with the next -- and most critical -- test vote set for about 1 a.m. Monday.

"This bill is a legislative train wreck of historic proportions," the Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said at a Saturday news conference. He pointed to cuts to Medicare that the Congressional Budget Office said totaled more than \$470 billion over a decade, with reduc-

tions in planned payments to home health care agencies and hospices. He also said the bill includes "massive tax increases" at a time of double-digit unemployment.

Vice President Joe Biden wrote in *The New York Times* Sunday that senators should support the bill because "it represents the culmination of a struggle begun by Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago" to improve health care.

"I would vote yes for this bill certain that it includes the fundamental, essential change that opponents of reform have resisted for generations," he wrote.

## DOD releases 2010 housing rates

The Department of Defense today released the 2010 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates. Military members will receive an average housing allowance increase of 2.5 percent when the new rates take effect, Jan. 1, 2010.

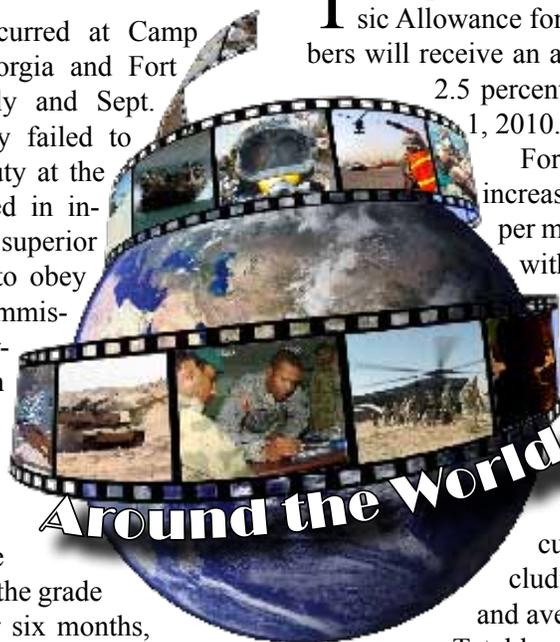
For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$37 per month. A typical junior enlisted member with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$25 per month higher than last year, while a senior non-commissioned officer with dependents will receive about \$42 more than last year.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent, average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer); and average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$19 billion will be paid to nearly one million servicemembers in 2010.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will not see his/her BAH rate decrease. This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

The continued improvement in housing allowances represents the Department's commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with a suitable and secure standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force in the future.



# HEROES

## Girl, 6, hailed for saving mother after car accident

Hannah Hubbell doesn't like to brag, but without her level-headed response following a car accident Sunday, her mother might not be alive today.

Despite being scared, Hannah kept her cool, got help and saw to it that her mother's life-threatening injuries were promptly treated.

Not bad for a 6-year-old.

The ordeal started Sunday afternoon when Hannah's mother, Holly Hubbell, left their Odessa home to drive Hannah's friend back to her family. The friend lives in Sayre and the plan was to meet halfway in Van Etten.

Hannah and her friend, Summer Eldridge, 6, were in car booster seats in the back seat as Holly Hubbell drove south on state Route 224 in Cayuta in Schuyler County.

But the road turned unexpectedly icy, and before she could react, Holly lost control of the car, which slid over an embankment.

What happened next was a surprise even to veteran law enforcement officials.

"They slid off the roadway and over an embankment, and struck a tree with the driver side of the vehicle. That pinned her mother in the vehicle," said Schuyler County Sheriff William Yessman, whose son, Andrew Yessman, was the first deputy on the scene.

"Hannah was able to climb out through a broken rear window. You couldn't see the vehicle from the road," William Yessman said. "She went up to the road and flagged down cars. Someone stopped in a pickup truck. They ran to a house to call 911.

"Hannah went back to the car and helped her friend get out. They both went back and flagged down more cars," he said.

"It's just amazing that a 6-year-old would have the mindset to do that and

not want to stay with mom, who was pinned in the car," the sheriff said.

The sheriff made a special visit Thursday to B.C. Cate Elementary School in Montour Falls, where Hannah is a first-grader, to present her with a certificate in recognition of her heroic actions.

Holly Hubbell suffered 10 broken ribs, a punctured lung and a ruptured spleen, according to her husband, Robert. She was taken to Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, where she spent several days in the intensive care unit before being transferred to a private room Wednesday.

## Kansas Girl Says 'Superman' Lifted Vehicle off Her

A Kansas mother is praising a neighbor as a "Superman" after her 6-year-old daughter told her he somehow found the strength to lift a car off her.

Kristen Hough said Friday that her

daughter Ashlyn was treated for minor injuries afterward.

Hough's 32-year-old neighbor Nick Harris says he saw a vehicle back out of a driveway and over Ashlyn. He says he doesn't know how he managed to lift the Mercury sedan off the child.

There were no witnesses to confirm the incident last week. But Ottawa police say Ashlyn told them it happened. Lt. Adam Weingartner says he didn't have anything to dispute the account.

Weingartner says it appeared Ashlyn wasn't pinned under the car long enough to be seriously hurt.

Ottawa is 50 miles southwest of Kansas City, Mo. 

## O.N.E



Staff Sgt. Mark Bennett

# Camp Arifjan Holiday Party



Don't feel like waiting to get your present?  
Find your picture with Santa on NIPR at...

\\Arifjan\USERSHARE\ARCENT\CFLCC PAO Photos Movies\Quebec Products\SSG Taylor\091219-A-5009T - 19Dec09 - Third Army Holiday Party

and  
\\Arifjan\USERSHARE\ARCENT\CFLCC PAO Photos Movies\Quebec Products\Christmas Party pics

