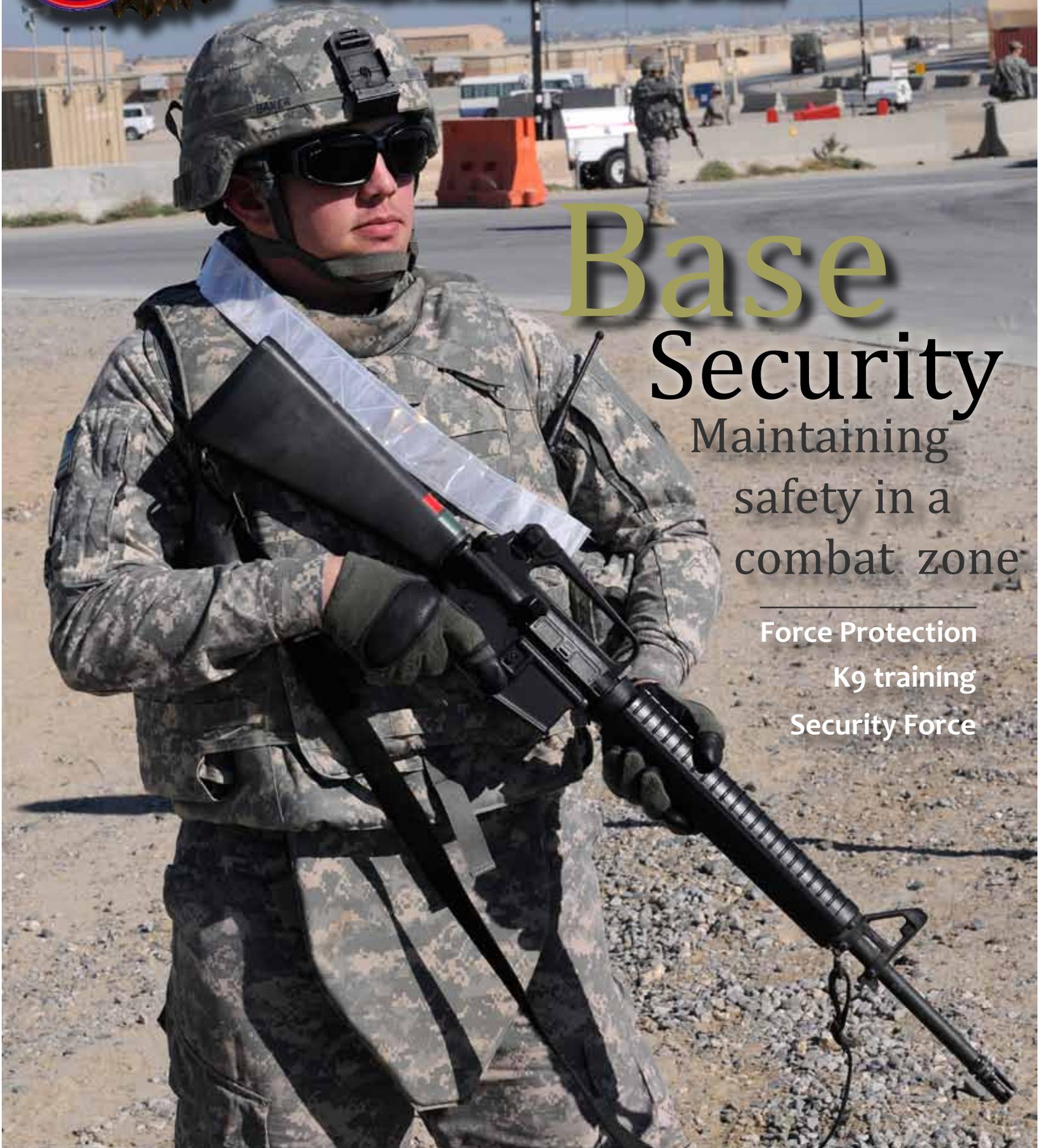




The Desert Voice

Third Army/United States Army Central
"Ready Tonight ... Sustain The Fight ... Shape The Future"

January 20, 2010



Base Security

Maintaining
safety in a
combat zone

Force Protection

K9 training

Security Force

DV

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Pfc. Chad Baker, 115th Fires Brigade, pulls guard while directing traffic during a Force Protection Training Exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 8. (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.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ACEN-CG

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THIRD ARMY
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JAN 02 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Dr. Martin Luther King Day

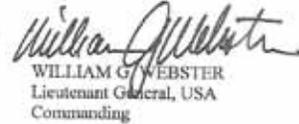
1. On 18 January 2010, Third Army/USARCENT will honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme for this year's commemorative service is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On; Not A Day Off!!" This day commemorates the life and work of a great American: a man of great vision and moral purpose.

2. Dr. King's dream lives on in every American. We encourage Soldiers, civilians and Family members to use this holiday to make a difference in the lives of others. Let us make this year's observance a renewed commitment to improving our communities, strengthening diverse relationships, and increasing our awareness that each of us is unique. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sacrificed much for our nation. His dream, vision, convictions and commitment now rest on our shoulders. We have made great advances in civil rights and equality, yet much more remains to be done in our effort to ensure equality in America.

3. We encourage all of you to take this day to reflect and renew your individual commitment to the values and dignity of one of our nation's great heroes - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

4. Thank you for continued focus on our *Mission* and for taking care of our *Soldiers* and their *Families*. Maintaining the outstanding *Teamwork* for which Third Army/USARCENT is known requires respect and mutual understanding; virtues Dr. King devoted his life to promoting. Let us remember this together as we celebrate Dr. King's life and work.


JOHN D. FOURHMAN
Command Sergeant Major, USA
Command Sergeant Major


WILLIAM G. WEBSTER
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DV

The
Desert
Voice

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Force protection training keeps base safe from threats

Story and photos by
Spc. Monte Swift
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

A force protection exercise involving Third Army Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians was held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 8

The training scenario tested Soldiers and civilians in their ability to provide a quick, base-wide response to a bomb attack in the truck staging area outside the entry control point.

“The object of the exercise was to get major subordinate commands on Camp Arifjan familiar with force protection conditions, battle drills and areas of responsibility,” said Capt. Edgar Garcia, force protection officer, Camp Arifjan.

The quarterly event began with an Explosive Ordnance Disposal controlled blast signifying a bomb attack outside the base. Medical responders, quick reaction forces and Military Police were the first to respond to the location and treated the incident as a real-life situation.

Soldiers inside the base responded to the scenario with full combat gear and weapons. They then manned the towers normally operated by Force Protection Officers, proceeding to scan their sectors and reporting suspicious activity to the Quick Reaction Force.

“This exercise helps make the base safer by emphasizing installation and unit-level force protection mea-



Capt. Brian Dudley (Right) and 1st Sgt. JD Coberley (Left) of the 363rd Ordnance Company, open packages of C4 explosives that will be used to start a Force Protection Exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 8. The scenario tested Soldiers serving under Third Army in their ability to respond quickly to a bomb attack, requiring the lock-down of the base, traffic control, Quick Reaction Force and medical responders.

asures, and quickening reaction times for incidents,” said Garcia.

Areas of the base, including zone 6 and areas of zone 1, were closed off and traffic control points were established to control the flow of vehicles into areas considered dangerous.

“The TCP stops potential threats who aren’t suppose to be in this area from coming in and hitting our main points,” said Spc. Timothy Clayton, 115th Fires Brigade.

The exercise lasted for approximately 90 minutes, and servicemembers on post were encouraged to participate.

“This exercise is a great starting point for refinement of force protection plans and battle drills,” said Garcia. “It’s an excellent building block for more complex exercises in the future.”

Security training exercises help to ensure that servicemembers and DOD civilians alike are ready to respond to attacks in combat zones.

“Servicemembers can keep themselves and the base safer by being aware of their unit level battle drills, standard operating procedures and reporting any possible force protection concerns,” said Garcia. “This will improve the overall readiness of the installation as a whole.”^A



A Soldier directs traffic during a force protection exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 8. The hour-long scenario tested Soldiers serving under Third Army in their ability to respond quickly to a bomb attack by locking down the base, directing traffic and sending medical and quick reaction force response.



(Above, Right) Luther, a K-9 working dog training with the Area Support Group – Kuwait K-9 unit, chases down Sgt. Maj. Ron Cabrera, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Dec. 29. Third Army supports and promotes various units training together to familiarize them with a variety of military jobs. Military working dogs are located at every military installation in Kuwait, supporting efforts to protect U.S. interests in the region.

K-9s show military skills

Working dogs protect, provide security

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Brandon Babbitt
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

It was a “dog day afternoon” for members of the Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot as they got the opportunity to take part in a joint training exercise with K-9s at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 30.

Members of the AVCRAD joined with Air Force and Navy dog handlers from Area Support Group - Kuwait to get familiar with what military working dogs do to support servicemembers protecting U.S. interests in Kuwait.

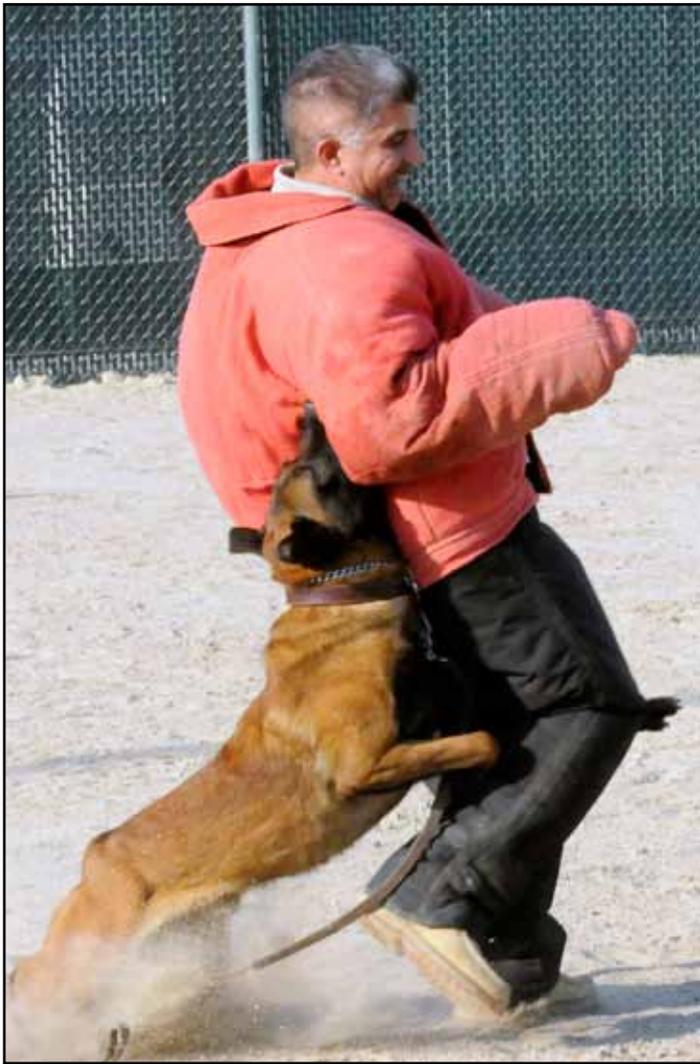
The dogs not only provide force protection, but

also do perimeter patrols, vehicle searches and can even detect drugs.

“They definitely play a role as a psychological deterrent as they are intimidating to potential threats,” said Chief Ronnie Holland, kennel supervisor, ASG-Kuwait K-9 unit.

The afternoon’s events began with a safety brief given by Holland to members of AVCRAD willing to put on a protective suit and be chased by the dogs.

After the brief, the handlers took their respective dogs out into a fenced-in lot and demonstrated the animal’s strength as the dogs ran down their participants as part of a training exercise.



(Top, Bottom) A handler shows his partner's discipline at a K-9 training session at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 29. Military dogs serve from two to five years, and try to maintain the same handler throughout their career.



“ They definitely play a role as a psychological deterrent.”

Chief Ronnie Holland, kennel supervisor, ASG Kuwait K9 unit

“I liked taking part in today’s exercise because it was a change of pace from our everyday duties at the airfield,” said Sgt. Francisco Martinez, mechanic, AV-CRAD. “I have a newfound respect for working dogs and got a chance to see first-hand how they can benefit protecting vital military sites.”

The dogs typically remain in service for two to five years, and the Army tries to keep their handlers with the K-9s for the entire tour.

“Once a dog gets comfortable with their handler, it is beneficial to keep them together,” said Holland. “It tends to form a bond and reinforces the fact that dogs are “man’s best friend.”

These K-9s play an integral part in supporting Third Army’s sustained operations. ^A



Fuli, a military working dog, attacks Army Sgt. 1st Class Javier Diaz-Payno, noncommissioned officer in charge, Classification Repair Activity Depot, during a training session at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 29. Military dogs work at all military installations in Kuwait providing force protection.

Civilians toe to line

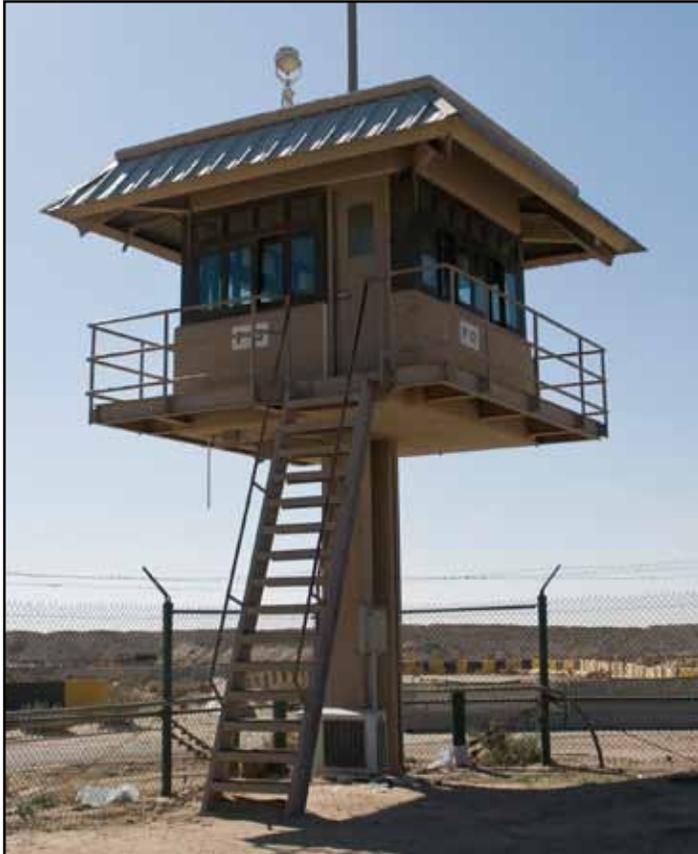
Security Force helps keep bases safe from threats

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

Providing security on a military base in a combat zone requires a large number of personnel specifically trained to identify threats and respond accordingly, to ensure the safety of those inside.

At a time when servicemembers are needed in other areas of theater, the task of ensuring base security is entrusted to the trained professionals of the Combat Support Associates.

The CSA is made up of former police officers, corrections officers and military personnel with years of security experience. The support they provide bases allows joint servicemembers to focus more on sustaining Third Army operations in theater.



Guard towers manned by civilian Force Protection Officers surround Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, providing 24 hour security over the base and its residents. The FPO's, many who are former military, are responsible for providing 24-hour security all over Camp Arifjan and other camps within Kuwait. (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs)

“We protect the protectors. When they come back from doing their mission and lay their heads down, they don't have to worry because they are protected by us.”

1st Lt. Roderick Moore, shift supervisor

“There was a time when this [base] was all secured by military personnel,” said 1st Lt. Roderick Moore, shift supervisor and retired U.S. Army Soldier. “That meant those were Soldiers they didn't have in the north, securing the base here.”

Over 900 force protection officers in Kuwait guard airfields, perform random vehicle searches, protective service details, identification checks and bag inspections, man guard towers and control entry control points.

“On an average day, we thoroughly inspect around 3,000 vehicles coming through the entry control point,” said Sgt. William Lesane, staging lot operating team noncommissioned officer in charge and former Army sergeant major. “Our guys do a good job; we haven't missed a threat yet.”

Military and civilians who the base must process through multiple points of force protection security before getting onto the base. The checks from several FPOs provide a thorough inspection, eliminating threats while keeping servicemembers away from danger.

Following a terrorist threat to Camp Arifjan in August 2009, the security force was responsible for moving ECP 1 farther from the camp; a task they completed in just three days.

Civilians working at the ECPs receive random drills that test their skills in determining threats.

“Last month we were seven for seven,” said Moore. “Our guys on the lanes are focused and they will not miss an Improvised Explosive Device.”

Not limited to ECP security, members of the Random Anti-Terrorism Team use random vehicle security



inspections as another means to reduce threats.

“Because we do searches randomly, people don’t expect it,” said FPO Jason Beasley, former Marine and Iraq veteran. “Some people who are here for years know the procedures, so we throw random checks in and it throws them off.”

“My military training definitely helps me do my job better,” he added. “After being in Iraq, I’m more aware of situations that I can get into.”

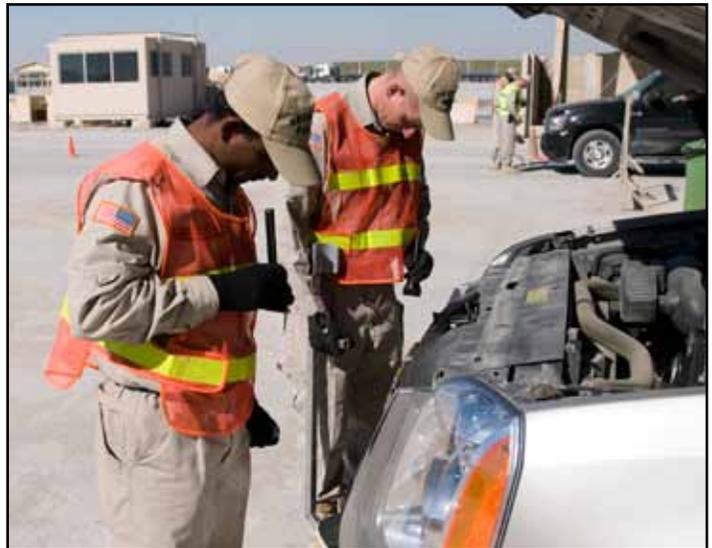
The security force rules and regulations are based off the military standards model. Personnel must adhere to strict uniform, fitness and discipline standards, and are even subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice actions.

“I love this work,” said FPO Scott Howell, former Navy and U.S. Army servicemember. “I like dealing with the technical aspects and camaraderie of dealing with a small unit on a daily basis.”

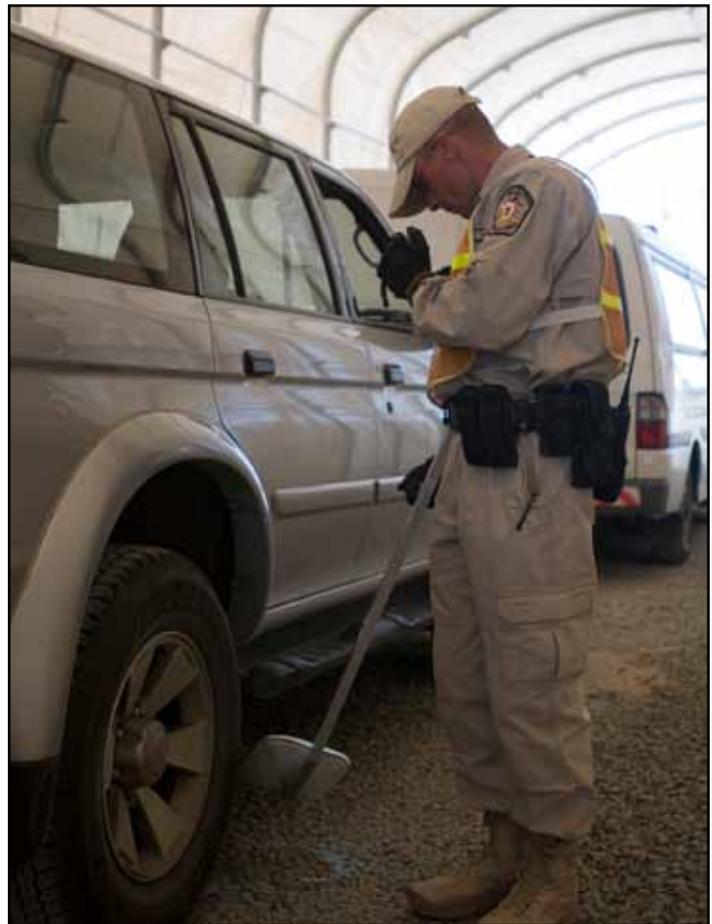
“We protect the protectors,” said Moore. “When they come back from doing their mission and lay their heads down, they don’t have to worry because they are protected by us.” ^A



Perry Becks, a Force Protection Officer at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, performs a mandatory bag inspection to reduce the loss of sensitive items. The FPO’S, many who are former military, provide 24-hour security in areas such as high-profile buildings, entry and exit points, guard towers and the airfield. The large number of civilian security forces reduces the amount of military needed for the job, allowing for more troops on the ground in theater.



(Above, top left) Force Protection Officers perform a top to bottom search of vehicles entering Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 9. The four-person teams consist of two easterners and two westerners, both of which are equally trained to identify threats.



Force Protection Officer James Vansandt uses a mirror and flashlight to check a vehicle entering Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 9. The FPO’s, many who are former military, are responsible for providing 24-hour security all over Camp Arifjan and other camps within Kuwait. The large number of civilian security forces reduces the number of military needed for the job, allowing for more troops on the ground in theater.

First Iraqi bank opens on U.S. installation

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Ryan Twist
139th Public Affairs Detachment

Contractors and Iraqi entrepreneurs throughout Joint Base Balad, Iraq, now have access to the Al Warka Bank, after opening a branch at the Iraqi Free Zone, Dec. 17.

The Al Warka Bank, established in 1999, is one of the largest financial institutions in Iraq, with 120 branches and 350 ATMs located throughout the country. It's also considered by the Central Bank of Iraq to be the first private bank in Iraq.

"The importance of today can't be understated," said Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Fort Hood, Texas. "This is the first Iraqi bank to be opened on an American base. We're thrilled that they've chosen Joint Base Balad to open another branch."

The bank opening is an important symbol for the independence and sovereignty of Iraq, and the growth and stability of the institution.

"It feels good to finally get the bank done," said Foster, a native of Newport Beach, Calif. "The process has taken almost two years."

"We are so glad to open another branch here at JBB, because we are going to have all the contractors and local nationals invest at the bank to make it easy for them,"



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Hood, Texas, Brig. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commanding general of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and Said Saleh Mohammed, regional manager of Al Warka Bank for the Salah ad Din Province, cut the ribbons during the opening ceremony of the Al Warka Bank Dec. 17, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

said Said Saleh Mohammed, regional manager of AWB for the Salah ad Din Province. "It's a good way for Iraq to begin replacing American currency with Iraqi money."

The ATM allows contractors and local nationals easier access to their money. The debit card the bank provides can be used throughout Iraq and helps business.

The Iraqi Bazaar will start accepting the card as well. The Iraqi bank will also help the local economy by providing jobs.

The banks offer services such as foreign currency exchange, money wiring, letters of credit, electronic funds transfers, and savings and

checking accounts.

"The bank provides services to Iraqis working at JBB who may not have access to them in local communities and give them the opportunity to learn banking services Al Warka provides," said Foster.

"Bank administrators plan to open another bank in Tikrit," said Said Saleh Mohammed. "The process should go smoother this time, using JBB as a model."

"It's been a long journey to be here today," said Foster. "With the help of various Army, Air Force and state department organizations, we're able to overcome obstacles." 

University of Maryland

helps servicemembers attend school

Story by 1st Lt. Benjamin Smith
Photo by Spc. Robert Motzer

As the days pass for Bravo Battery, 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion “Cobra Strike”, so grows the list of accomplishments for its Soldiers. Awards, promotions and valuable experience continue to pile up for Soldiers like Spc. Leonel Perez, a Tactical Control Assistant with Bravo Battery. In addition to these accomplishments Spc. Perez has elected to add another: college.

Thanks to the partnership between Al Udeid Airbase and the University of Maryland-University College, the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the Cobra Strike Battalion are getting the opportunity to take selected college classes. Originally thought to be impossible for most personnel due to the need for 24-hour operations required at site, a solution was created for Soldiers to attend class: bring the class to the Soldiers.

Starting in July, instructors from the University of Maryland-University College have taught classes several times a week at the battery tactical site. Adapting their classes to allow for Soldiers and NCOs to take part, even while on shift, has allowed Spc. Perez, and many others, an opportunity that most don’t even get back in garrison.

“The civilian job market is as competitive as ever now, and just having military experience isn’t enough to get a good job nowadays,” said Perez. “I know I will need college experience as well as military to support my family once my time in the Army is done.”

Perez is not alone. Bravo had almost twenty personnel at-

tend Spanish courses on site. Almost as soon as that class was completed, a mathematics course began and attracted Soldiers from Charlie Battery as well. More classes are planned for the coming months, from foreign languages to the sciences.

Spc. Joseph Ledford, an Orderly Room clerk with Bravo Battery, looks forward to taking more classes as they become available.

“Every class I can take out here is one less I have to take at home, when I can spend more time with my family instead of in a classroom,” said Ledford.

Headquarters Platoon Leader 2nd Lt. Corey Anderson, a West Point graduate who is currently working on his MBA, is glad to see his Soldiers improving their education.

“I’ve tried to impart a sense of how important higher education is, both in and out of the military,” said Anderson. “It’s good to see so many of our people taking this opportunity to get ahead.” **A**



Spc. Brianna Netzinger prepares for an upcoming exam in Math 103. Spc. Netzinger is one of many Soldiers of Bravo Battery taking college courses with the University of Maryland-University College.

U.S. FORCES CONDUCT SNIPER TRAINING WITH KUWAITI TROOPS



1st Lt. Oliver Gooden and 1st Lt. Fahad Al Ouwish do a buddy carry as part of joint sniper training between U.S. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, 115th Fires Brigade, and Kuwait Soldiers from the 68th platoon, 25th Commando Brigade. The two-week advanced training exercise was held at a range near Camp Megavier, Kuwait, Jan. 7.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Katie Gray
115th Fires Brigade

At the base of a ridge in Kuwait, a barely visible target is seen standing against the wind. Five hundred meters away, a man shields his face from blowing sand and lines up the target in the crosshairs of his scope, draws a breath, pauses and fires, then pauses again to hear the ‘plink’ of the bullet on the metal target.

This was one of several long-range shots fired on the final day of joint training between Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, 115th Fires

“ I’d absolutely go to war with these guys. They’re great Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Zachary Miller, 300th Field Artillery Brigade

Brigade, and Kuwait Soldiers from the 68th platoon, 25th Commando Brigade during a two-week advanced marksmanship training course on Jan. 7, near Camp Megavier, Kuwait.

The training focused on hitting targets with an urban terrain environment.

The day began with a block of classroom instruction and then shifted to application in the field.

The nine 300th FA Soldiers were handpicked to lead the joint training because of their previous achievements. The instructors were prior active duty with either designated marksmanship training or sniper school experience which qualified them to instruct the participants on both close quarters and long distance marksmanship with M9 pistols, M4 rifles and .308 caliber sniper rifles.

Staff Sgt. Zachary S. Miller, noncommissioned officer in charge of the training from 300 FA, explained this training was tailored to suit the changing scenery of warfare.

“Now the fight is urban. It’s not going to be in the desert or the jungle or wherever we’re used to fighting,” explained Miller, who spent four years in the active Army and is a qualified Bravo Force sniper. “They’ve been doing very well.”

1st Lt. Fahad Al Ouwish, the Sniper Squad Leader of the 68th platoon, said his men are considered Kuwait’s Special Operations Forces and that most of his



Members of the 2-300th Field Artillery Brigade, Advanced Marksmanship Team, work with Kuwaiti snipers from the 68th Platoon, 25th Commando Brigade, during a two-week joint training exercise which began Jan. 7. The Soldiers focused on close-quarter and long distance marksmanship.

men go through Kuwait Ranger School before being selected for the 68th.

The U.S. Soldiers were quite fond of what they experienced with their Kuwaiti counterparts during the training.

“Every unit has a set of Soldiers that are definitely motivated to do training in infantry tactics,” said 1st Lt. Oliver Gooden, operations officer, 300th FA and native of Rock Springs, Wyo. “These guys were squared away. They’re motivated to be out here and were happy to come out every day with us to get dirty, nasty and shoot bullets downrange.”

On the last day of training, U.S. Soldiers challenged the Kuwaitis physically with a ‘stress shoot’.

Both forces donned 30-35 pound rucksacks and ran up and down the hill that served as a backdrop for most of their shooting. When they returned, each two-man team performed 200 pushups and 200 sit-ups. They then had three minutes to set up their rifle and engage their target.

The exercise didn’t dissuade them and everyone was able to complete the shoot albeit a few moans and painful laughs.

In the end, Miller had good things to say about the 68th platoon.

“I’d absolutely go to war with these guys,” said Miller. “They’re great Soldiers...they’re a tier above everyone else that I’ve worked with.”^A



1st Lt. Oliver Gooden and 1st Lt. Fahad Al Ouwish lead a hill run with 30 lb. rucksacks as part of a two-week joint sniper training between the U.S. Military and Kuwaiti forces.



The newest addition to Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan's Motor pool, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected –All Terrain Vehicle, arrived Nov. 16, 2009, at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The new vehicle provides crew members more survivability than its predecessor, the Humvee.

New MRAP tackles tough terrain for Marines

Story and photos by
Marine Cpl. Michael Curvin
2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

A tougher, more rugged vehicle can now be seen on the roads in the Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan's area of operations.

The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected – All Terrain Vehicle arrived Nov. 16, offering the same protection as larger MRAP's, but also the capabilities of performing missions traditionally carried out by smaller humvees.

Designed for small unit combat operations, the M-ATV features a V-shaped hull that helps deflect roadside-bomb explosions away from its crew.

The vehicle's design also delivers more comfort to the crew, as well as safety from different blast angles. Sporting an extended wheel base, the M-ATV keeps its crew a safe distance away from pressure plate improvised explosive devices, many of which are designed to detonate when tires roll over them.

The M-ATV is not only mine,

ballistic and IED resistant, it can roll through the desert without all the bumps encountered with the humvee.

"The M-ATV is coming equipped with an independent suspension," said Ramsey. "Having independent suspension gives much better terrain negotiation."

Each wheel is able to move freely, regardless of the axle to which it's attached, allowing the M-ATV to easily navigate rocky terrain.

"It will allow Marines to get into more restrictive terrain," said Ramsey. "We think it's going to be a huge benefit for the Marines."

Most Marines will welcome the comfort, but many will also be excited about the power. Sporting a 7.2-liter diesel engine, the M-ATV can reach 30 miles per hour in less than 11 seconds, despite weighing more than 25,000 pounds.

The vehicle also tackles terrain at speeds the humvee could not, even when going up steep inclines.

"Going up hills is nothing for the M-ATV," said Lance Cpl. Mario Rivera, a motor transportation operator with Brigade Headquarters Group, MEB-Afghanistan. "Other vehicles take forever to go up. Not this one."

The brigade expects to receive more than 500 of the new vehicles in the coming weeks. The M-ATVs already there will be used to train future operators. **A**



The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected-All Terrain Vehicle (Right) offers more protection from roadside bombs as opposed to its predecessor, the humvee. The M-ATV's V-Shaped hull is designed to redirect blasts away from its crew. (Photo by Marine Cpl. Michael Curvin, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade)

IF YOU BUILD IT...

Story and photos by
Sgt. Daniel Lucas
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

From barrier arms to washing machine knobs, the fabrication shop arm of the Field Maintenance Support – Arifjan works behind the scenes, seven days a week, to maintain, support and repair the many different types of vehicles and equipment found in Third Army's area of responsibility which support the drawdown of Iraq and other sustainment operations.

The fabrication shop has received all types of requests from the small washing machine knobs to the large barrier gates that are seen at every military gate in the country.

"We can fix, repair, build and create," said John R. Wikus, body shop lead, FMS – A. "If you want it, we can make it."

The fabrication shop consists of a welding and a machine shop along with engineers and inspectors. The team is comprised of U.S. civilians and Third Country Nationals that have been working together for more than 10 years.

"We are a close knit family," said Travis Burch, branch manager, Allied Trades. "There are

A contractor working for Allied Trades, Field Maintenance Support - Arifjan welds a portion of a barrier arm at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 13. The fabrication shop crafts more than 150 barrier arms to help maintain a safe and secure environment for all base entrances and exits in Third Army's area of responsibility. (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment)



four U.S. civilians and 10 TCNs that have been here over 10 years. They are the leaders of the shops and instill a sense of pride and quality of standards in all the contractors."

"We have supplied 90 percent of the barrier gates since 2002," said Burch. "Currently, they are working on building another 150 for use within the theater."

Each project is built according to the job order. However, safety plays an important role on the order and in the workplace.

"We are very safety conscious, so we over engineer projects," said Burch.

Due to safety considerations, another contract was put together for the fabrication shop to put in stairs for the guard towers so the people manning them could enter and exit more safely.

Tucked away in the back of the shop is where some of the real fabrication magic happens. Gun mounts, turret locking mechanisms, fittings, brackets and an

assortment of other components are redesigned and specially built to support each unit's unique needs or overcome obstacles that arise from unusually aggressive wear and tear.

"During the surge, we made a lot of gun mounts," said Burch. "We tear them apart to their basic pieces and re-engineer them to fit the needs of the [Soldiers]. We have a lot of skilled individuals that like what they do, and they do a lot of cool stuff."

Many of the U.S. contractors have prior military experience. Even though they have retired from wearing the uniform, they are still proud to serve their country and help those currently serving with Third Army.

"I love what I do and my people do too," said prior Army warrant officer Tyrone Leacock, department manager, field maintenance support, Camp Arifjan. I understand what needs to be done to support military Soldiers in this region. I enjoy taking care of soldiers and that is our focus." **A**



New ACP brings command post to field

Story and photos by
Sgt. Daniel Lucas
203rd Public Affairs

Smaller, Faster, Better. Third Army set up its newest command and control element at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 10.

The Assault Command Post will provide Third Army a command and control element in a smaller, more flexible package anywhere in Third Army's area of responsibility.

"[Third Army] has to be ready to deploy anywhere [within Third Army's area of responsibility] within a moment's notice," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Twitty, chief of staff, Third Army. "We have to have the flexibility to get into hot spots and provide command and control."

The ACP travels with four vehicles and essential equipment to transmit necessary information back to headquarters. This allows the ACP to deploy with less than 96 hours notice to anywhere in Third Army's AOR. Once it has arrived, it can be setup and transmitting information back to headquarters in a matter of hours.

"The [ACP] is a smaller package and requires less



Master Sgt. Brian Bland, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Assault Command Post inspects the instrumentation on a generator with Sgt. Micah Nixon, HHC, Third Army at Camp Arifjan Kuwait, Jan. 09. The ACP consists of four vehicles and less than 40 personnel and is able to provide command and control to "hot spots" anywhere in Third Army's area of responsibility within 96 hours. (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas, 203rd Public Affairs)

planning and contracting to move into position," said Master Sgt. Brian Bland, noncommissioned officer in charge of the ACP, current operations, Third Army. "It can also maintain flexibility on the battlefield."

The basic package contains two humvees, a light medium tactical vehicle, essential equipment to transport a satellite dish and two Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelters.

According to DHS Technologies, the DRASH is a quick-erect shelter system that integrates shelter, mobility, lighting, heating, cooling and power in one package.

All the necessary equipment can fit into a C-17 to be transported straight to its strategic destination.

The ACP is manned by a team of less than 40 people representing a slice of Third Army's essential command and control elements.

Since October, the ACP has been picking up speed and has been prepared with the same haste as it's intended use.

"In these last few months, it has grown from a piece of paper to what you see today," said Capt. Anthony Polczynski, plans officer, current operations, Third Army. "[The ACP] is gaining momentum and motivation and its going well." 



The Assault Command Post consists of a small slice of Third Army's necessary staff consisting of four vehicles and less than 40 personnel that can all fit easily inside a C-17. This allows the ACP to deploy faster and with less support than the larger Contingency Command Post and provide more flexible command and control to anywhere in Third Army's area of responsibility. (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment)

Safety

Know your surroundings

Airborne Sand & Dust

Risk:

Sand, wind and dust cause health problems, particularly to skin, eyes, throat and lungs. High winds create flying object hazards which may not be visible in blowing sand or dust.

Prevention:

- »» Shield your face with cloth materials to protect from blowing dust and sand.
- »» Wear proper eye protection.
- »» Wash daily, especially body areas that collect dust and sand.
- »» Protect lips with lip balm and use moisturizing skin lotion on your hands to prevent cracked, chapped fingers.

Diseases from Animal Contact

Risk:

- »» Rabies: Any animal bite/scratch should be evaluated by medical personnel for risk of rabies.
- »» Q fever: fever, severe headache, malaise, sore throat, chills, sweats, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, nonproductive cough, and chest pain.

Prevention:

- »» Avoid all contact with animals and animal hides, including rodents, cats, dogs and livestock.
- »» Clean your hands afterwards if contact is unavoidable.
- »» If scratched or bitten, seek medical attention immediately.
- »» Keep living areas free of trash and food.

Hazardous Animals

Risk:

Many hazardous animals including snakes, scorpions, spiders, centipedes, millipedes and solifugids (camel spiders) are found in Afghanistan.

- »» Seek medical attention if bitten/stung
- »» Shake or brush insects off clothing/skin.

Prevention:

- »» Never walk barefoot.
- »» Do not handle snakes, lizards, insects or spiders.
- »» Shake out boots, bedding and clothing prior to use.
- »» Use caution when entering abandoned buildings or bunkers.



Camp Arifjan tax center opens January 26

The Camp Arifjan tax center will be open for federal income tax return filing, Jan. 26, at 1400, and will remain open during business hours through April 16, 2010. All servicemembers, DA civilians and retirees are welcome by appointment. The tax center will be traveling on Mondays to Camp Buehring, Camp Virginia and LSA.

What to bring: **Hours--**
Mon-Sat. 0900-1630

- W-2s
- 1099 (If applicable)
- Last years tax return (If possible)
- POA from spouse
(If married or filing jointly)

Chaplain's Corner



Article by Chaplain Jonathan Landon
Third Army Operations Chaplain

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”

Actress and talk-show host Oprah Winfrey is very fond of speaking about the “Aha! moment.” That’s the moment when you suddenly understand a complex or vexing problem that has given you difficulties. ...Or maybe it’s the moment when you finally see a solution that you have been looking for and had a hard time finding.

Very early in Christian history, Christians began to observe a feast on the sixth of January, in remembrance of a special Aha! moment, when the wise men from the East who came to honor the young child, Jesus. Eastern Christians call that observance the “Theophany.” Western Christians use the term “Epiphany.” Both terms come from the Greek and mean “the appearance or manifestation of a god.” Epiphany has also come to mean a sudden, intuitive insight, a burst of understanding or enlightenment.

We don’t know how many wise men there were only that there are three kinds of gifts mentioned: gold, frankincense and myrrh. We don’t know that they came to the stable on the night when Jesus was born—in fact he was certainly over week old and may have been as much as two years old when they arrived. They are often called “the three kings,” but in fact they probably were not kings.

However, from history and from Scriptures we do know something of the effect they had when they arrived. First, they most likely came from the Parthian Empire, representing enemies that Herod had driven out of Judea on behalf of the Romans, to seize the kingdom over which Rome had appointed Herod to rule. Second, the throne of the Parthian Empire was unoccupied at the time, and the wise men of Parthia—also called “magi”—constituted a sort of Senate, which appointed the Emperor from among the eligible candidates. Third, they came looking for someone who was “born to be King of the Jews”. More than anything else, Herod feared and hated anyone who might be a threat to his crown.

What an amazing contrast. The wise men were driven by an event they saw as so important and powerful and joyful that they went far from their home, to a land ruled by an

enemy. They brought gifts that were precious and rare, to bow down before an infant (or maybe a toddler) who they believed would bring wonderful and amazing changes to the world. They expected to find the child in a royal palace, but when they found him in very different circumstances they still welcomed and honored him.

On the other hand, Herod hated and feared this child, whom he had never met but whose birth he should have welcomed. Herod knew the prophecies of an eternal King from the House of David, and presumably—as a convert to Judaism—he should have welcomed the signs of this King’s coming. Instead, Herod ordered the murder of all the children in Bethlehem two years old or younger. Eventually, he was struck down by a disease, which the Bible links to his pride and his arrogance.

We each have a mental and emotional image of what it means for us to encounter God in our lives. Whatever our expectations, history shows us some important things about encountering God.

First, encounters with God happen at times and places and in ways that we do not expect. We have to be open-minded and have some humility about what we think we know, or we are likely to fail to recognize those encounters. We’ll go to the wrong place, look for the wrong signs, and miss the wonderful and amazing changes and growth we might have received with joy.

Second, we have a choice about how we will respond. If we value the status quo, safety, security and stability more than we value God himself, we might respond with anxiety or anger, hostility and even destructiveness. On the other hand, if we value God for his own sake, and want to know him as he is—instead of as we think he should be—we have an opportunity to receive a joyful and transformative enlightenment that will bring new meaning and understanding to every part of our lives.

Third, having experienced an encounter with God, we can allow it to change our future paths and attitude—like the wise men who went home “by another way”, or we can continue the way we were going without God—like Herod who grew worse and worse to his own eventual destruction. The encounter with God, the burst of insight, the Epiphany, happens in God’s own way, in God’s own time. However, whether we recognize it...what we make of it...what our lives become afterward, these things are largely up to us.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES IN JANUARY

Jan. 20 - Mary, Mother of God-Catholic Christian

Jan. 24 – Triodion Begins- Orthodox Christian

Jan. 25- Conversion of St. Paul- Christian

Jan. 30-Feb. 1- Mahayana New Year- Buddhist
-Tu B’shvat- Jewish



Breakfast

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It “breaks the fast” since dinner, gets your metabolism going for the day and refuels your body after a morning workout. Breakfast foods are great sources of nutrition if you choose the right ones. A balanced breakfast should ideally include a whole grain, fruit and a source of protein if desired. Skipping breakfast or eating too little can cause overeating later in the day.

Not hungry in the morning? Try having something small like a piece of fruit to get your body used to it. Eventually you will get used to eating more often. Think of breakfast and



every other meal as putting gas in your car. You can’t expect it to run without fuel. You can’t expect your body and mind to function optimally if they are running on empty. Can’t make it to breakfast? Plan ahead and take some instant oat-

meal, fruit or cereal to go to eat at work.

A breakfast of mostly animal foods like sausage, bacon and eggs is too high in sodium, fat, and cholesterol. For example, 5 slices of bacon, two-thirds cup of scrambled eggs and 3 sausage patties contains 804 calories, 889 mg cholesterol, 1885 mg sodium and 66 g of fat. Seventy-four percent of the calories in this meal are coming from fat. A better way to choose your breakfast and still get to

eat these foods is to choose only ONE of these foods per day in a small portion. Choosing egg whites will also save you some fat and calories. Two boiled eggs contain 149 calories, 12 g protein and 371 mg cholesterol whereas just the whites have 34 calories, 7 g protein and 0 mg cholesterol.



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

Choose a whole grain to get more fiber, vitamins and minerals. Examples of a whole grain include whole grain cereal, whole wheat bread and oatmeal. Grits, biscuits, French toast, bagels and pancakes are not whole grain, but are fine to eat occasionally as long as you are getting adequate whole grains and fiber during the rest of the day.

Fresh fruit is a great addition to any meal or as a snack because it is high in fiber, potassium, folate and Vitamin C. Have 1-2 servings with breakfast and take another for a snack. Watch your portion size of fruit juice, dried fruit and canned fruit products like blueberry sauce since these are higher in calories. For example, one-half cup of raisins has 217 calories.

Start your day off with a healthy breakfast. You’ll feel better, work more efficiently and probably eat better the rest of the day. Need some new ideas? Try these:

Foods	Calories
Peanut Butter, Honey and Banana Sandwich – 2 slices whole wheat bread, 1 small banana, 1 packet of peanut butter, 1 packet of honey	460
Yogurt Parfait – 1 container Granola cereal, 1 yogurt, 1 cup sliced strawberries	445
Cinnamon, Raisin and Apple oatmeal – 1 packet plain oatmeal, 1 packet Cinnamon & Spice oatmeal, 1 apple sliced, 1 Tablespoon raisins	367
Veggie Scramble sandwich – 1 English Muffin, 1 cup egg whites, tomatoes, mushrooms, peppers, ¼ cup shredded cheese	350





NEWS IN BRIEF



Imposter Lawyer Tries to Visit Hasan

An unarmed man tried to visit the army psychiatrist charged in a deadly shooting spree at Fort Hood, Texas on Wednesday by posing as his lawyer, officials said. When that ruse didn't work, the man told hospital security that he was Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan's doctor.

The man was escorted from the building and the hospital was briefly locked down as a precaution, hospital spokesperson Dewey Mitchell said.

The man was not arrested, though he did speak to San Antonio law enforcement after he left the hospital.

"I don't think he was any kind of immediate threat or he would have been arrested," Mitchell told AFP. Mitchell declined to release the identity of the man who approached security at 9 a.m. and asked for an escort to Hasan's room.

Hasan, who is paralyzed from the chest down, is being held pending trial at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Hasan is being investigated for links to Islamic extremism, including his contacts with a radical cleric who blessed the killing spree.

He faces 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in connection with the November 5 shooting attack at the Texas military facility.

Twelve Soldiers and one civilian were killed in the attack.

Another 42 people were wounded. Military officials on Wednesday named the three-person sanity board that will determine Hasan's competence to stand trial. The board is expected to reach a conclusion the end of February.

Yemen limits U.S. military presence

As Yemen becomes the new front in the war on terror, its leaders want this to be clear: It does not intend to become another Iraq or Afghanistan with thousands of U.S. troops on the ground.

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi drew some red lines yesterday in its burgeoning alliance with Washington against al-Qaida, telling The Associated Press that Yemen welcomes U.S. and foreign troops for training, intelligence and logistical support.

"But not in any other capacity," he said, adding that "there is a lot of sensitivity" among Yemenis about foreign combat troops. He underlined that Yemeni forces would remain

under Yemeni command, without any joint authority with the Americans.

His comments came as Yemeni security forces carried out a hunt for Mohammed Ahmed al-Hanaq, the suspected leader of an al-Qaida cell believed to be plotting attacks on the U.S. Embassy or other consulates in Yemen. While troops searched in the mountainous region of Arhab northeast of San'a where he was hiding, officials were negotiating with local tribal sheiks, demanding Mr. Hanaq's surrender.

Washington and San'a are still feeling out how far they can go in their newly intensified partnership against al-Qaida, whose fighters have dug roots into the mountains of this impoverished Arab nation and now, the Obama administration says, present a global threat.

Obama: More Air Security, Intel Sharing

Hundreds of law enforcement officers are being trained as federal air marshals to ramp up security as the Obama administration tries to prevent a repeat of the near-catastrophic attempt to blow up an airliner bound for Detroit on Christmas Day.

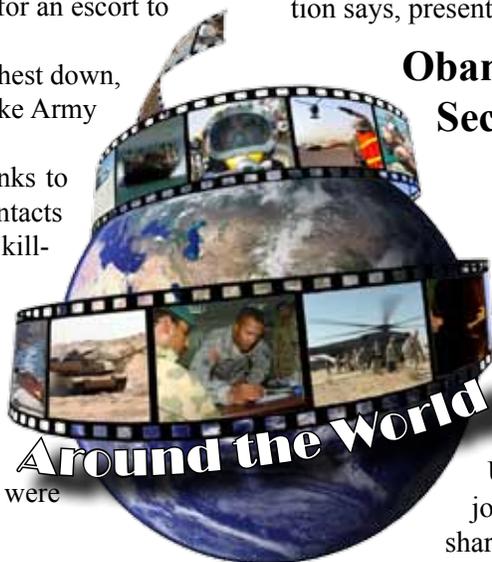
President Barack Obama ordered the U.S. intelligence agencies to do a better job of recognizing serious terror threats and sharing information with those who can disrupt a plot as quickly as possible.

The White House on Thursday released a declassified summary of a two-week review that began when a 23-year-old Nigerian man allegedly tried to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit with an explosive hidden in his underwear.

Officials received fragments of information as early as October about an alleged terror recruit they later learned was Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

Although intelligence officials knew that an al-Qaida operative in Yemen posed a threat to U.S. security, they did not increase their focus on that threat and did not pull together fragments of data needed to foil the scheme, the review found.

Obama announced about a dozen changes designed to fix that, including new terror watch list guidelines, wider and quicker distribution of intelligence reports, stronger analysis of those reports, international partnerships and an interagency effort to develop next-generation airport screening technologies. ^A



Around the World

Military Tech

AF's New Aircraft Arrives at Bagram

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Jung

The newest aircraft to the Air Force's inventory arrived to Bagram Airfield. The MC-12 aircraft was the first of an undisclosed number of aircraft for the new 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron here.

Following the MC-12's arrival, the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron was activated to carry out MC-12 operations in the Afghan theater of operations.

Col. Patrick McKenzie, the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander, presided over the brief ceremony attended by approximately one hundred Airmen and Soldiers.

"The MC-12 is much more than just a fleet of aircraft, its pilots and maintainers. It also consists of equipment and personnel that collect and broadcast full-motion video and signals intelligence, as well as crews that process, exploit and disseminate the information," said McKenzie. "In addition, the MC-12 encompasses a host of communications experts that support and maintain the added capability that the aircraft brings to the warfighter."

Taking the reins of the 4th ERS was Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"As a boy growing up in the Air Force, I could only imagine this day and for this opportunity to come along - [serving] in combat is why we raise our right hand to begin with," said Lee. "Knowledge is power and that is what we provide. This knowledge will help protect Afghans, provide security and protect Coalition lives. All of these things directly contribute to the combined effort that secures the battlespace and helps the Afghan people to defeat the insurgency."

As the demand for Air Force Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance increases assets, the MC-12 is positioned to meet that demand.

The first of its kind for the Air Force in Afghanistan, the MC-12 provides real-

time ISR in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The aircraft bring another capability to Operation Enduring Freedom because the MC-12 is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system of Airmen committed to securing Afghanistan and protecting Afghan and coalition lives.

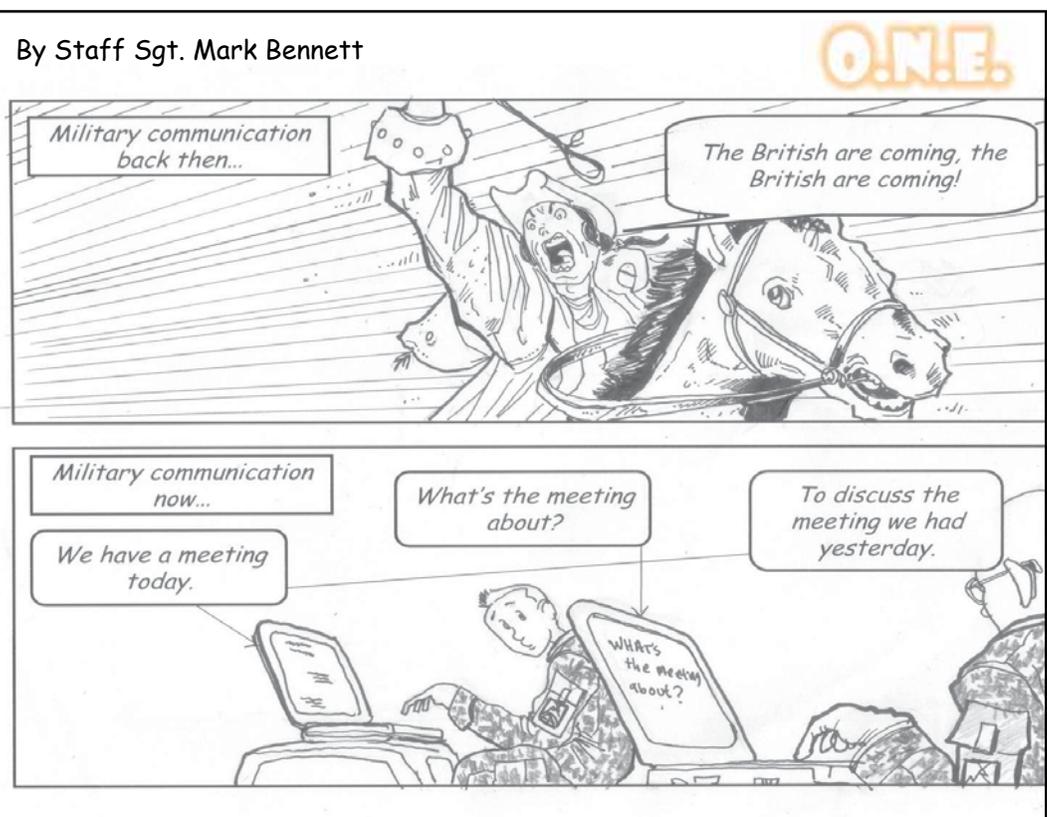
Eighteen months ago, 'Project Liberty' was on the drawing board. Today, the aircraft and its crews and maintainers supporting the 4th ERS are operational and ready to go at Bagram Airfield.

"We are not the first to provide ISR, but we hope to enhance the joint effort through synergy with our sister services," Colonel Lee said.

Overall, the MC-12 will augment information gathered by other ISR assets already operating in Afghanistan and complement existing capability. The platform will enhance how Air Force ISR complements the total intelligence 'picture' in the respective commander's scheme of maneuver in the battlespace.

With a unique mission to execute, members of the 4th ERS are eager to "look for trouble," as their squadron motto states, but hope to see it first so U.S. and coalition ground forces can avoid it. **A**

By Staff Sgt. Mark Bennett





Information Management



Information management instructor Spc. Kevin Presley explains the importance of computer security to a group of 1st Theater Sustainment Command Soldiers. The Soldiers were chosen by their staff sections to become information management officers.

Sniper Training



Members of Third Army and the Virginia Army National Guard trained the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) at Roumieh Ranger Base, Lebanon, Jan. 12. The seminar included an introductory brief on urban operations and practical exercises (without ammunition) focusing on reflexive fire techniques, muzzle awareness, safety manipulation and weapon presentation. U.S. Army personnel also utilized several drills to reinforce the lessons and focused on the "train the trainer" concept by supplying LAF troops with simple training ideas.

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