

## Upholding the standards By CSM John Fourhman

In order to continue to make our organization even stronger, there are certain matters I'd like to address.

I want to talk about upholding the standards.

Simply put... everyone knows the standards and must to adhere to them.

When you first begin your Army career, simple standards are embedded into you, and you carry those standards with you throughout your career.

Some of the infractions that are occurring here in U.S. Army Central that need to be addressed are, servicemembers not rendering the proper salute and greeting of the day, this is not limited to enlisted Soldiers either; saluting command vehicles when they pass; walking and talking on cell phones; walking and smoking; improper wear of the military uniform; and Soldiers failing to be in accordance with AR 600-9.

I'm going to take a minute to briefly talk about these issues separately so that we correct them.

One of the most fundamental parts of being a Soldier is knowing how to render a proper salute to an officer. This is something we are all taught in the very beginning stages of basic training and something that never changes. Too often people use excuses of why they didn't salute, whether it be, "it was dark outside" or "I didn't see them." If you are walking around staring at the ground, you are wrong in the first place, and if it's dark and you see an officer pass you, even if you're now only a few feet away, the correct thing to do is salute. This extends to people not saluting command vehicles when they pass. If you are walking and you see a command vehicle pass you, do the right thing and give the proper respect to the officer in that vehicle. All of these instances are clearly defined in U.S. Army Central Standards Book under Chapter 2: Military Customs and Courtesies.

Some of the reasons people may not be paying attention when they are walking on post, is because they are doing other things they shouldn't be doing in the first place. At no time are you to be walking and talking on your cell phone; simply look on page 16 of the USARCENT Standards book to find the information about this being prohibited. If you receive a call, you step to an area where you won't be blocking traffic or in someone's way, then you take the call. Until that call is finished, you stay in that spot. If you are driving, you pull your vehicle to the side of the road, or pass your phone to a passenger, you are not allowed to drive and talk on your phone.

Besides walking and talking on cell phones, I've noticed a lot of people walking and smoking. This goes against common Army standards that we were taught in the beginning stages of our careers. Just because now there aren't Drill Sergeants around, does not mean those standards they imposed on us are now acceptable. On post there are designated areas for people to smoke. They are positioned in different areas for a reason. This includes people smoking right outside of a building when there are clearly signs that indicate you are supposed to be at least 50 meters away from that building. On page 17 of the USARCENT Standards Book it outlines both of these guidelines.

While on the topic of walking around post, I've noticed trash continues to be a problem on our camps. Each section is responsible for certain areas, but more importantly it is the responsibility of everyone stationed within USARCENT to help maintain our camps. If you see trash lying out, pick it up and put it in a trash can, it's that simple... if I can pick up trash, everyone can.

Another topic I want to discuss is the proper wear of the Army uniform. I've noticed an influx of unauthorized rectangular left-shoulder patches on the ACU. In accordance with ALARACT 195\_2008 and 140\_007 the only authorized patches are for MPs, EOD, CID and CBRN (If authorized by the commander).

On page 18 of the USARCENT Standards book it discusses the proper off duty appearance, yet in the barracks, we continue to have problems with people not wearing the appropriate attire as they walk from their room to the bathrooms and laundry rooms. It is clearly stated on numerous posters in the barracks that you will have a t-shirt on, one that is not translucent or one that presents an inappropriate appearance.

If servicemembers are not able to conform to these simple standards their rights to wear civilian attire will be revoked and they will be regulated to wearing their duty uniform of PT uniform.

Since we're talking about PT, as a whole we need to get better at doing it. Using the USARCENT runs as indicators of our physical fitness readiness, we continue to have way too many fallouts for the slow pace we run. I would question the PT test scores of anyone who fell out of the last run. I would also question some of the recorded DA 5500-R's of those same fallouts. Soldiers and leaders need to familiarize themselves with FM 21-20 and AR 600-9 to ensure proper PT is being conducted and that Soldiers are properly being evaluated in their height and weight standards.

Everything that I've discussed can be found in the USARCENT Standards Book, August 2008, 4th Edition, which can be found on the ARCENT website.

All of these things I've mentioned are basic fundamentals of being a Soldier. It is the responsibility of everyone in the organization to take a look at themselves and make the corrections needed so that we can continue to move forward in a positive light.

Patton's Own!