

# DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central

February 18, 2009

"Always First... Anytime, Anywhere... Patton's Own!"



**Welcome to the Middle East**



# Celebrating the Year

# DV

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**On the cover**

**Soldiers of 50th Signal Battalion and the 518th Signal Company stand in formation during a welcoming ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 6. For the full story see page 7. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Giselle Allen)**

### 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).

The NCO creed begins with the words, "No one is more professional than I, I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers" and ends with the words, "I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget, that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!"



Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace

These are powerful words that express what our NCOs are all about... professionals... leaders of Soldiers.

Our senior Army leadership recently announced that 2009 is the *Year of the Noncommissioned Officer*. This sends a clear message acknowledging those wearing stripes make significant contributions to the success of our Army each and every day.

NCOs... you have provided for the strength and security of the Nation for more than 200 years. You are the source of our success on the battlefield and the reason other nations' armies aspire to be like ours.

You are the *Backbone of the Army*... our standard keepers... training, leading, mentoring and caring for Soldiers in so many ways.

Every officer and every Soldier remembers his first NCO leader... I sure do. Whether a seasoned platoon sergeant or a hard-charging drill sergeant, we remember these leaders because of their wealth of experience, mastery of Soldier skills, and guidance through difficult challenges.

The NCO leaders that fill our ranks make ARCENT a winning team. You are the epitome of what we want our Soldiers to *Be, Know, and Do*.

You live by the NCO Creed and the Warrior Ethos. You are incredibly competent and bring out the best in your subordinates. You have broad shoulders, because

you consistently carry the load.

Last year, when faced with shortages of mid-grade officers, CSM Fourthman and I made a conscious decision to fill 20 of those positions with senior NCOs. We did this because we have the highest degree of confidence in our

NCO Corps.

You have exceeded every expectation... it's a real pleasure to see our NCOs making a difference in this organization.

There continues to be a most noticeable positive change in the culture and bearing of ARCENT Soldiers.

More and more Soldiers are conducting physical training, saluting, and correcting shortcomings. It's because our NCOs and active chains of command are enforcing standards and discipline.

Strong NCOs make things happen each day... you make the organization better... and you make yourselves and everyone around you better. Strong NCOs understand the value of teamwork.

They know what it means to take care of Soldiers and their Families. Strong NCOs strive for and achieve the highest order of leadership.

During the year, the Army will showcase its first-rate NCO Corps and support these great professionals with initiatives in education, fitness, leadership, and pride in service. As we give noncommissioned officers well-deserved recognition... we will also challenge the NCO leadership to continue to make a positive impact on our Soldiers and the mission.

NCOs... we appreciate all you do for our command... you are the key to our success. **A**

### Patton's Own!

# DV

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# of the Noncommissioned Officer

The Army has officially recognized 2009 as the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer.

This recognition is a tribute to our elite NCO Corps and the enormous contributions that it has made in shaping our great nation, and our Army.

During the Year of the NCO, the Army will showcase stories of NCOs, demonstrating their leadership, devotion to duty, knowledgeable experience and sacrifice in making our Army the standard bearer for all other Armies to follow.

Our NCO Corps provides the necessary training to numerous Armies across the world as those Nations continue to build and improve their military forces; demonstrating time and again, it is, and rightfully will always be called, the "Backbone of the Army."

In addition to highlighting the stories of our NCOs, the Year of the NCO has four initiatives that it will focus on this year to enhance and improve our NCO Corps.

I want to discuss these initiatives, as they are four important fundamentals that make us better Soldiers and NCOs, and help enhance our Army.

The first initiative is Education. There are numerous ways that NCOs continue their education while serving in our Army; they enroll into college courses, attend Noncommissioned Officer Education System schools and also take correspondence courses. Some of the key points to the education initiative are the Membership Expansion of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Army Degrees system by 10 new online colleges; expanding and enhancing College of the American Soldier, which enhances leadership and warfighting capabilities, and grows the multi-skilled NCO characteristics; improving Warrior University, whose mission is to synchronize and integrate all infantry training so that the right Soldier receives the right training at the right time, regardless of location; and the creation of Army Career Tracker, which is a web-based career management tool that will integrate training, assignment history, and formal/informal education paths.

Fitness is the second initiative and acknowledges the need to sustain and improve both the physical and mental fitness of our NCOs. It is critical for our NCO Corps to remain at the highest level of readiness, and that starts with taking care of yourself, physically and mentally. This year, the current health screening process going on at the Sergeants Major Academy will be implemented in Warrior Leaders Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course and Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course. In addition, develop and implement Phase I, II and III of Master Fitness Course and Mental Health Courses



Command Sgt. Major John Fourhman U.S. Army Central Command Sergeant Major NCO Corps through acknowledging the NCO's role and importance in our Army.

for the structured self-development system. These programs not only stress the importance of our physical and mental well-being as we continue to serve overseas, but also their importance when we return home.

"All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership, I will provide that leadership." Those words are taken directly from our Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer and are at the very core of what being an NCO is truly about... leading Soldiers. In the third initiative, Leadership, the Army focuses on strengthening the

A new proposed NCO promotion certificate would have both the Army Chief of Staff and the Sergeant Major of the Army signature blocks to demonstrate the important transformation that a Soldier takes when they enter the NCO Corps. An NCO Wall of Fame inside the Pentagon has also been proposed to identify those NCOs who have demonstrated the qualities and values that exhibit our great NCO Corps. Also, by fully implementing the NCO Leadership Skills Inventory, the Army will diligently work to getting the right NCO into the right positions, setting not only them up for success, but the Army as well.

The fourth and final initiative is Pride in Service. This initiative will show the importance of our NCO Corps to the Army. These projects tie into the current fight and the extensive history of the NCO Corps. By learning where we came from as NCOs, we can continue to leave a legacy for others to follow. The NCO Museum, which pays tribute to the men and women who have served before us, is in need of repair and funding has been requested to properly modernize and renovate the museum to appropriately acknowledge and highlight our NCO Corps. In addition, a new NCO video is being created, along with Army Strong videos focusing on the great leadership young men and women will get or how they can aspire to be an NCO leader; both of these videos will also help with the current recruiting market as we continue searching for the future of our NCO Corps.

"I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself." It is so important for every one of us to not only know, but live the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer every day; especially as the Army celebrates our accomplishments during the Year of the NCO.

I am thankful for everything the NCOs in this organization do each day to make our Army and U.S. Army Central Command even better.



In honor of the Year of the NCO, each quarter I will further discuss one of the four initiatives:

- 1st Quarter - Education
- 2nd Quarter - Fitness
- 3rd Quarter - Leadership
- 4th Quarter - Pride in Service



# Heat injury prevention

## Part 4: Hydration: before, during and after activity

**S**taying hydrated to avoid heat injuries before, during and after activities in the heat of the warm months, can be easily done by following this simple guideline:

### Before Activities:

- Drink plenty with meals.
- Ensure that your foods are salted, especially if you sweat a lot.
- Drink 16 oz of water or the beverage of your choice 2 hours before an activity.
- Produce a light colored but not clear urine.
- Fifteen minutes before an activity, drink 8-16 oz
- There is no benefit to hyperhydration, so don't drink excessively.

To easily gauge fluid needs, record your body weight before and after exercise. If your body weight decreased, fluid intake should be increased in future exercise sessions to minimize dehydration. If your body weight increased, over hydration has occurred and less fluid should be consumed in future exercise sessions.

### During Activity - Drink every 15 minutes up to half to 2 quarts per hour:

Most athletes find it helpful to drink every 10 to 20 minutes during a workout. People who sweat heavily can benefit from drinking more often whereas individuals who



Lt. Col. Danny Jaghab  
U.S. Army Central Surgeon's Office

sweat lightly should drink less often.

- Drink enough to minimize loss of body weight, but don't over drink.
- Drink 4 oz every 15 minutes for each or 0.5 quart per hour.
- Drink 8 oz for every 15 minutes for 1 hour or 1 quart per hour.
- Drink 12 oz for every 15 minutes for 1 hour or 1.5 quarts per hour.
- Drink 16 oz for every 15 minutes for 1 hour or 2.0 quarts per hour

The best time to begin replacing the sodium lost in sweat is during exercise. That's one reason a good sports drink is better than plain water. Sodium intake of 1 gram per hour is recommended during prolonged exercise where heavy sweat loss is expected.

### After Activity:

Drink 24 oz per pound of body weight lost during exercise. Remember, weigh yourself before and after exercise. The weight loss during an exercise session is water loss, not fat loss and must be replaced.

Minimum weight loss of less than 1 lb means that you've done a good job at staying hydrated and preventing a heat injury. **A**

# Weapons Safety

Last month, within a three-day period, two Soldiers pointed what they believed to be an unloaded privately owned weapon at their head and pulled the trigger. One of these Soldiers is dead and the other is in a medically induced coma with a best-case prognosis of permanent brain damage.

Since FY 2005, in addition to the Soldier with brain damage, 14 Soldiers have died as a result of improperly handling a privately owned weapon. Nine of the 15 accidents involved alcohol, and six involved a Soldier intentionally pointing an "unloaded" weapon at themselves.

Complacency kills! It is imperative that we consistently enforce safe weapons handling standards while on duty, and also stress the importance of applying these same principles off duty as indicated in LTG Rick Lynch's recently published III Corps Red Hash Message <<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/collaboration/GetDocument.do?doid=14843546>>. This message was based on one of the incidents mention in this message which occurred at Fort Hood, Texas and was published in an effort to prevent further devastating accidents such as these.

The Range & Weapons Safety Toolbox <<https://craapps3.crc.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety/index.aspx>> is a great resource which contains references and materials including posters and videos that provide training and safety information on both military and privately owned weapons. The weapons safety posters found in the toolbox utilize the acronym "THINK" to reinforce safe weapons handling and "Whether the Army Owns it or You Do — Think Weapons Safety," further emphasizes Soldier vigilance with off-duty weapons.

# Lawful use of non-tactical vehicles

Article by

Maj. Kris Murray

**USARCENT Chief, Admin. Law**

The Commanding General will soon be publishing a policy clarifying what constitutes lawful use of non-tactical vehicles. The primary intent of the policy is ensure military, civilians, and contractors abide by federal law and Army regulations. The following are some common questions regarding NTV use:

1. What are considered NTVs? NTVS include all DoD owned or leased sedans, sports utility vehicles, vans, buses, Polaris vehicles, Gator vehicles, and any other motorized vehicles used for non-tactical transportation.
2. How can I use an NTV? NTVs may only be used for official purposes for the completion of a DoD mission or function.
3. What are some examples of NTV authorized use? NTVs may be used for conducting work-related activities such as the delivery of official documents, picking up a section's mail from the mail-room, the transportation of personnel to official meetings, the transportation of personnel from one post to another for official travel reasons, the transportation of personnel to pick-up their RFI-issued uniforms and equipment, and the transportation of an individual to/from an airport when public or private transportation is not available.
4. What about an MWR or FRG activity? NTVs can be used for MWR and FRG activities that are officially sanctioned by the command.
5. Can I use my NTV driving from work to the barracks while I am deployed or from work to my off-post residence when I am deployed? No, you cannot use an NTV for Domicile to Duty transportation unless you have been granted an exception to policy by the CENTCOM Commander routed through your chain-of-command.

6. I have been granted an exception for D-T-D/incidental use by the CENTCOM Commander while deployed. Can I drive the NTV to the PX or the mess hall? Yes, you have been granted D-T-D and incidental use of your NTV. Accordingly, you may stop at the PX/DFAC on your way back home or to work as this would be considered incidental use. You may also use your NTV off-post for incidental uses such as grocery shopping, stopping at hardware store, stopping at a restaurant.

7. If I do not have D-T-D/incidental use exception, can I drive to the PX or mess hall? Generally no, unless you have an official (i.e. an office/work related reason) for being at these locations. However, if you have purchased a large item at the PX and walking or taking the bus is not practical to transport it, then you would be able to utilize the NTV. In the same vein, if you have a mission off-post, you could drive your NTV to mess hall before, during, or after your mission for your health, comfort and safety. These uses would be considered official uses. The key is reasonableness and common sense. These exceptions do not supersede the general rule that prohibits incidental NTV use.

8. I don't have an exception to policy, during periods of extremely hot weather, can I drive from my quarters to work? No, you can either walk or take the bus, which operates on 10-15 minute intervals 24 hours a day.

9. If I am TDY, how can I use my NTV or rental car? In the absence of regularly scheduled bus service, or where the bus service use is impractical, NTVs are authorized to transport military and DoD civilian personnel between locations where their presence is required for official business and their temporary lodging. Further, in the absence of bus service, personnel on TDY status are granted incidental use of their NTV. Thus, you may operate an NTV between places

of business or lodging and eating establishments, barber shops, places of worship, and similar places required for your comfort or health. However, using a NTV to travel to or from commercial entertainment facilities is not authorized. Furthermore, if you are deployed in TDY status for over a month, you must receive authorization from the Commanding General for continued D-T-D/incidental use of the NTV.

10. Why do we have these new rules? These are not new rules. These rules come directly from Army Regulation 58-1, DOD Regulation 4500.36-R and Federal Law 10 U.S.C. 2637.

11. How do I request an exception to policy? Exceptions to policy are to be routed through your chain-of-command to the Chief of Staff, USARCENT for the Commanding General or Deputy Command General, USARCENT decision or endorsement. Certain exceptions to policy (i.e. D-T-D) can only be granted by the CENTCOM Commander.

12. How will this policy be enforced? Commanders and Supervisors will ensure that their personnel, understand and comply with the policy. A ledger documenting each use of the NTV will be maintained in the NTV. The ledger will state the name of the driver, purpose of NTV use, date and time of use, and mileage at the beginning and upon completion of NTV use. Commanders will inspect these ledgers on a monthly basis and report through command channels questionable NTV use. There will be placards to identify vehicles that have been granted DTD/incidental use exception. If individuals are not in compliance, then they can expect a warning. If they are subsequently not in compliance, their Commander/Supervisor will be notified and take action as warranted. For more information contact Maj. Murray at DSN 318-430-6645. 



# NCO INDUCTION IMPORTANT TO MULTINATIONAL COMMUNITY

Article and photos by  
Sgt. Christopher Selmek  
Task Force Sinai Public Affairs

**T**hirty-one Soldiers from Task Force Sinai were inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer's Corps at the Dry Cactus recreation facility on North Camp, Egypt, Jan. 11.

The ceremony symbolized their leap into a leadership role.

These Soldiers represent the American contingent of the Multinational Force and Observers, an 11-nation peacekeeping force on the Sinai Peninsula.

Because they are representing their country among people of other nations who might not otherwise interact with an American, their induction into the NCO corps becomes even more significant.

"In the MFO it's extremely important that noncommissioned officers conduct themselves well," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Sims, Task Force Sinai. "Here we are not just representing our Army and the corps, but we are all ambassadors for our country."

Sims also noted that every nation's

Army has a noncommissioned officer corps. NCOs of the U.S. Army have an important role to play and a profound impact on the mission.

"The commitment and sacrifice the NCO has to make is going to increase," said Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Osweiler, 1st Support Battalion. "They're the ones that actually go out and work with the Soldiers, train the Soldiers, care for the Soldiers and accomplish the mission. I don't see that changing with the future of the Army."

The ceremony represented each Soldier's initiation into a corps with a long history. The event also included candle lighting, signing of names into the NCO roster and a narrative by junior enlisted Soldiers to be well trained.

"It basically signifies that transfer from follower to leader," said Sims. "It also signifies a greater increase in authority and gives that Soldier the ability to lead troops."

Following the ceremony, the newly inducted NCOs shared cake and shook hands with their supporters.

"Today was important to me because it was a step up into the corps of the noncommissioned officer," said



**Task Force Sinai Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Sims performs a candle lighting ceremony during the NCO Induction.**

Sgt. Lucas Scott, 1st Support Battalion. "It's a symbolic act, but at the same time, it means a lot to step into the role where I know I'll be leading, taking instructions and filtering them down to junior enlisted Soldiers and then teach them how to become an NCO as well." **A**



**Thirty-one Soldiers from Task Force Sinai stand ready to be inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer's Corps at the Dry Cactus recreation facility on North Camp, Egypt, Jan. 11.**



*160th Signal Brigade Commander Col. Ronald R. Stimeare and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Thompson greet every Soldier in the 50th Signal Battalion and the 518th Signal Company before they head to their locations throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Giselle Allen)*

## 160th Signal Brigade welcomes new units

Article and photos by  
Rebecca Murga  
160th Signal Brigade PAO

**T**he 160th Signal Brigade hosted a ceremony, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb 5.

The event welcomed over 500 Soldiers from the 50th Signal Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 518th Signal Company out of Fort Gordon, Ga.

Soldiers were met by 160th Signal Brigade Commander, Col. Ronald R. Stimeare, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Thompson. Stimeare took the opportunity to speak to the unit before they were split up and sent to locations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Stimeare talked about the importance of being a Soldier first and stressed the importance of individual Soldiers taking care of basic Soldiering skills. He emphasized maintaining a high level of physical fitness and marksmanship along with striving to be the best.

“Mission success depends on a strong foundation, and our unit’s foundation is you,” said Stimeare, who stressed Soldiering, teamwork and

leadership. “You are a leader no matter what rank you hold.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph W. Givens, 50th Signal Battalion, reassured Stimeare of the unit’s readiness.

“We embrace your challenge Sir,” said Givens. “Look out, 5-0 is on the loose.”

Deployments can be a different experience for all Soldiers.

First Sgt. Raymond Geoghegan, A Company, 50th Signal Battalion, is not new to deployments. Born and raised in New York City, he deployed to Afghanistan twice before and leaves a wife and two children at home.

“They are used to me going on deployments... it’s just business as usual,” Geoghegan said. “I have full confidence in my soldiers ... We are ready to [complete] this mission.”

Pfc. Tabitha Green is a different case altogether. Only eight months in the military, she leaves behind a husband and three children. Originally from Port Arthur, Texas, this is Greens first deployment and she is excited.

“My mom’s a little worried ... but I have great leadership and great Soldiers I’m working with,” said Green.

The Soldiers of 50th Signal Battal-

ion and the 518th Signal Company are motivated to begin the mission after seven months of training at Fort Bragg.

They will be supporting communications for Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and will be located throughout the theater of operation in support of key communication missions. **A**



*Stimeare walks through the formation, inspecting Soldiers during a 160th Signal Brigade welcome ceremony held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 5*

Camp Buehring

# CSSAMO supports comms in theater

Article and photo by  
Pfc. Alicia C. Torbush  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**A**t a remote forward operating base in theater, a Soldier sits down at a workstation, turns on his computer and effortlessly connects to web-based programs that allow him to file reports, order supplies, manage property books for his unit and even connect to medical experts in real time.

With the help of Very Small Aperture Terminals, Troops are provided with a means of communication for camps and FOBs in theater.

Soldiers and civilians at the Combat Service Support Auto-

mation Management Office provide a helpdesk for VSAT users in the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Servicemembers are able to use a secure internet connection, or voice over internet protocol phone service to communicate, as well as track supplies and equipment in theater.

“CSSAMO is the first line of defense in providing logistics [Standard Army Management Information System] support,” said Chief Warrant Officer Ramil

F. Francisco, CSSAMO branch chief, 311th SC.

According to Francisco, the CSSAMO manages and sustains Army STAMIS and the Logistics Automation Network consisting of the Combat Automations Information Systems Interface wireless connectivity and VSAT.

The helpdesk at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, monitors over 300 VSATs on the theater wide network, coordinates with units in theater to provide training for users, and tests software to ensure that it will work in theater.

“If we weren’t here, we wouldn’t be able to coordinate with units when they request support for their system,” said Sgt. Alberto Castaneda, systems analyst, 311th ESC.

CSSAMO provides a vital service to all units in the area responsibility that use VSATs as their way to connect to the world and maintain the supplies and equipment that keep the Army going. **A**

**Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Javier, combat service support management office noncommissioned officer in charge, 311th Theater Support Command, performs a maintenance check on a Very Small Aperture Terminal, which is used for communication in theater.**



Camp Arifjan

# The profession of maintaining arms

Article and by  
Capt. John M. Dickens  
70th Medium Truck Detachment

**T**ucked away quietly in the distance of Joint Logistics Task Force 28's motor pool, lies one of the best kept secrets in the Air Force's effort to support the joint mission.

Members of 70th and 424th Medium Truck Detachments stand ready at the combined arms room to fulfill all weapon related needs for combat convoy crews, to include field level weapons maintenance, hands-on weapons familiarization, and live-firing for purposes of zeroing and sighting in weapons.

Tech. Sgts. John Frey, Phil Harp, and Jay Mruk as well as Staff Sgt. John Werner, are part of a very distinguished group of Air Force combat arms professionals who are crucial to the success of the prestigious Air Force convoy mission.

These individuals are directly responsible for the maintenance, accountability and serviceability of all assigned small arms, night vision equipment and various other sensi-

tive items needed to conduct convoy operations.

They consistently ensure the survival of the Air Force warfighter by assuring their weapon is in perfect operating order and ready, when and if needed.

These services have not just affected the success of the Air Force mission, but have included multiple weapon repairs for the U.S. Army, Area Support Group-Kuwait K-9 personnel and the U.S. Navy.

In addition to continual maintenance, Frey, Harp, Mruk and Werner are responsible for arming hundreds of convoy team missions during their deployment. They have personally provided weapons zeroing at both the Udairi Range Complex and Mubarak Range to more than 300 Air Force members upon their entry into theater.

On numerous occasions, they have lent their instructor talents to the U.S. Army to increase the effectiveness and accuracy of their riflemen as well. The consistency and professionalism these individuals provide is a direct reflection on the USAF's core value of "Excellence in all We Do," guaranteeing the livelihood of its members and their weapon systems. **A**



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Magnuson

**Tech. Sgt. Jay Mruk, 70th Medium Truck Detachment, re-assembles a M4 carbine after completing repairs. He is part of a group directly responsible for the maintenance, accountability and serviceability of all assigned small arms, night vision equipment and various other sensitive items needed to conduct convoy operations in the Middle East.**

# CRC implement "Close Call" Program

Article by  
Pfc. Howard Ketter  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**T**he Army has many programs to help prevent accidents and keep Soldiers safe.

The U.S. Army's Combat Readiness and Safety Center has come out with a new way of reporting "near misses," called the Close Call program.

"The Close Call program is used to keep servicemembers and civilians safe," said Mr. Ricky M. Payne, safety director, 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

There are forms available for Soldiers to fill out and turn into their chain of command.

Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, 1st TSC, said the program is all about taking care of the next man and fixing a problem before someone gets hurt.

"If a Soldier were to trip on a crack in the sidewalk without injury, that situation is considered a 'close call,'" said Rogers. "That Soldier is encouraged to fill out the close call form in order to

prevent someone else from tripping over that same crack and injuring themselves."

"It puts additional eyes out there," said Eva M. Roberts, safety specialist, 1st TSC. "There is a tendency for lower ranking Soldiers to feel that they can't make a difference, and this is their opportunity to make a difference in their community and the Army."

The CRC designed the program to enable every person, who is out in the field, the opportunity to be the safety on site and tell the command what they can work on.

"It's an attempt to get ahead of the power curve," said Payne. "Once someone is injured, it's too late, we've lost the battle."

Payne said there are forms available in every section. Any Soldier can fill one out, anonymously if they wish, and give it to their chain of command. Servicemembers can find more information about the Close Call program at the CRC

website, <https://safety.army.mil/>, or contact their unit safety officer. 

**The Close Call forms are slips of paper with five boxes to fill out. Though there are boxes for name, grade, unit and phone number, it is not mandatory to fill out these sections.**

Close Call: _____	
Name:	Grade:
Unit:	Phone:
Description of Events:	
Personal Information NOT required for voluntary reporting.	
Turn In to Safety Office	



Photo by Sgt. John D. Ortiz

**A military crane sits halfway off the bed of a cargo truck as two military wreckers latch on to the vehicle and attempt to place the crane back on the bed. Soldiers noticed the crane sliding off while driving and conducted a maintenance halt to prevent an accident.**

# Naturalization Ceremony

When:

Feb. 25 @ 1400

Where:

Camp Arifjan,  
Zone 1 Chapel

## Just One Question ...

What one thing from home do you wish was available on base?



**“A cooking class here would be nice since it has been nine months since I have been able to cook.”**

Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Schoenberger  
Force Protection Officer  
Military Sealift Command Office  
Annapolis, Md.



**“A bowling alley here would be cool.”**

Pfc. Jeffery Wallace  
Financial Operations  
18th Financial Management Command  
Newport News, Va.



**“Water polo and racquet ball at Camp Patriot would be nice.”**

PO 1st Class Jon Lorenz  
Command DAPA  
Command Task Grp. 5605  
El Cajon, Calif.



**“A roller skating rink would be good. A movie theater is nice, but you need something else.”**

PO 1st Class Cynthia Lopes  
Yeoman  
USS George H. W. Bush CVN 77  
Washington, D.C.



**“I wouldn't mind playing a round of golf or sightseeing.”**

Maj. Michael Mannes  
Command Judge Advocate  
HHB 45th Fires Brigade  
Oklahoma City

## NCO Spotlight:

Master Sgt. Charles Williams  
18th Financial Management Command



Master Sgt. Charles Williams, financial policy advisor, 18th Financial Management Command, joined the Army 21 years ago after taking the ASVAB test with a friend. He was inspired to become a noncommissioned officer by the NCOs he served with at the 82nd Airborne Division. Williams is currently on his third deployment.

“Listen to those who have been there and done that because there is an easier way.”

# What's happening around USARCENT



## **Rapid Deployment**

Staff Sgt. Jeff G. Stivason, left, Sgt. Marcus L. Clay and Spc. John L. Luna; members of 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Bragg, NC, roll a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter as a part of movement procedures into Afghanistan from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Feb. 6.



Photo by Sgt. Nathan Hutchison

## **Combat Lifesaver Course**

Second Lt. Juan Pastrana of the 90th Human Resource Command out of LSA, prepares Staff Sgt. Richard Goldstein of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), for an intravenous drip. Several military personnel from around Kuwait participated in the three-day combat lifesaver course earlier this month taught by instructors from 4th Sustainment Brigade.



Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin



## **2009 Military Fatherhood Award™**

Sponsored by National Fatherhood Initiative and

**LOCKHEED MARTIN** 

**Sponsored by Lockheed Martin and NFI, the Military Fatherhood Award™ recognizes a military dad who goes above and beyond his duties as both serviceman and dad to make sure he and his family stay connected throughout the stresses of military life.**

**Whether you're a mom, a child, a wife, a family member, colleague, or friend - you can nominate a dad in your life! We've had nominations for dads from all branches, across the country, and stationed internationally!**

**Nominations will be accepted until February 27, 2009. For more information go to the following link: <http://www.fatherhood.org/Gala/MilitaryAward/>**