

DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central

March 18, 2009



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



FRIENDSHIP ONE
LIVES UP TO ITS NAME



Sexual Assault Prevention

DV

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Royal Saudi Land Forces Sgt. Nayef Shoraf-Al-Otibi, congratulates Sgt. Chris Benjamin, after his re-enlistment ceremony during Friendship One. For the full story see page 6. (Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton)

Contact us

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

"I will never leave a fallen comrade."

This is the final part of our Warrior Ethos that each one of us lives by everyday while we serve our great Army.

Never leaving a fallen comrade is more than just taking care of those wounded on the battlefield; it extends

to never allowing harm to come to our

fellow brothers and sisters in arms, in the barracks, on or off duty.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are crimes that eat away at the very core of our Army Values and our Warrior Ethos.

Right now, the rate of sexual assaults in the Army is twice the rate of the other services.

The worst part behind that number is that experts estimate on average only one in five sexual assaults ever get reported.

It is the responsibility of everyone in the command to look out for their fellow brothers and sisters. We must create a positive environment where everyone knows that they can count on their fellow Soldiers to do the right thing ... every Soldier is his brother or sister's keeper.

As Soldiers we are bound together by our values, which help us distinguish ourselves from the rest of society. That bond to the outside eye is something some will never comprehend -- such as the sacrifice of one Soldier giving their life for a total stranger simply because they share the same uniform.

The Secretary of the Army, the honorable Pete Geren, spoke at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting and exposition last in October, discussing the Army's continued effort to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault.

He spoke about how the Army will become the model for sexual harassment



Command Sgt. Major John Fourhman
U.S. Army Central Command Sergeant Major

and assault prevention for the Nation, and how we will accomplish this through our Army Values.

"We will create a climate of zero tolerance for gender-based misconduct -- in attitude, word, and deed, and become fully, as our values demand, a band

of brothers and sisters," said Geren, during his

speech.

Stopping sexual assault begins with every Soldier doing the right thing at all times.

Leaders must inform their Soldiers of the importance of a good sexual harassment and assault prevention program and enforce the standards to prevent these heinous acts from occurring.

U.S. Army Central has proposed several steps in bringing awareness and prevention of sexual harassment and assault to the attention of the command.

These steps include, publishing results of Article 15/Court Martial actions, to send a message that these actions will not be tolerated; maximizing media potential to proliferate the field with command messaging on I. A.M. STRONG; implementing roving patrols for high risk areas; and creating an on-line communication access link for individuals with questions about sexual harassment and assault. The on-line system will also allow individuals to report incidents of sexual harassment and assault.

This is a very serious problem in our Army and something the command takes very seriously.

For more information about the I. A.M. STRONG campaign go to the following website, <http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil>.

Patton's Own!

DV

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"Go Green" Meal Plan Criteria



Green Foods Highest Performance Foods

Beverages
Has no added sugar. Milk with less than 3 gm of fat or skimmed milk.

Entrees
Less than 550 calories per serving with less than 30% of these calories from fat.

Side Dishes
Less than 225 calories and/or contain less than 30% of calories from fat.

Desserts
Low calorie and less than 5 grams of fat.

Amber Foods Moderate Performance Foods

Beverages
100% juices and sport drinks because they have a lot of sugar and calories, and beverages that have 3-4 grams of fat per serving.

Entrees
30-40% of their calories from fat, and have greater than 550 calories.

Side Dishes
Greater than 225 calories and/or contain 30-40% calories from fat.

Desserts
Reduced calories and reduced fat with less than 250 calories and less than 8 grams of fat.

Red Foods Performance Limiting Foods

Beverages
Juices with 50% real fruit juice, energy drinks, full sugar beverages, milk with 5 or more grams of fat.

Entrees
Greater than 40% of calories as fat and/or greater than 750 calories.

Side Dishes
Greater than 350 calories and/or more than 40% fat, with simple carbohydrates.

Desserts
Calories are dense or full fat/full calories with minimum nutrient value.



Safety Tips for Pedestrians



Most of us cross streets every day. We take for granted that we can cross without incident, because most of the time we do. But sometimes we aren't so fortunate.

Each year in the United States about 7,000 pedestrians die and 100,000 are injured in traffic accidents. Nearly 45,000 people die in auto accidents each year in the US; of that about 1 in 54 is a bicyclist, that's over 800 people. A pedestrian or bicyclist is killed every 3.5 minutes. While it is easy to blame drivers, they are not always responsible for these accidents. All too often, pedestrians and cyclists are the cause of accidents.

Pedestrian and cyclist injuries and fatalities result in over \$20 billion in societal costs annually. These senseless tragedies don't have to happen. You can avoid potential injuries and death by reviewing the advice for safe street crossing.

Crossing Rules for Pedestrians

Always follow these steps when crossing a street:

- Before crossing, stop at the curb, edge of the road, or corner before proceeding.
- Look left-right-left and, if it's clear, begin crossing, looking over your shoulder for turning vehicles.
- Obey traffic signals, especially "Walk/Don't Walk".
- Remain alert! Don't assume that cars are going to stop.
- Continue to check for traffic while crossing.
- Stay sober. Walking while impaired greatly increases your chances of being struck.
- **Wear reflective clothing when walking at night.**

Behind the Mission: Maintenance Matters

Article by
Public Affairs Office
29th IBCT

No matter how good the training, equipment or personnel in a unit, what is the one thing that can bring everything to a screeching halt? A vehicle that is non-mission capable; a vehicle that is critical to mission success, but isn't available to the unit. One area that is commonly overlooked or forgotten is the value of ensuring that our vehicles are current on maintenance checks and repairs.

The Soldiers of 1-299th Cavalry and 100-442nd Infantry are tasked with providing security for logistical convoys traveling from Kuwait to Iraq. The Convoy Escort Teams roll out in their M1151 Up-Armored HMWWV, determined to complete the mission. The maintenance personnel of both commands strive to work hard behind the scenes in order to keep those vehicles ready and mission capable.

Comprised of 63B, light-wheel vehicle mechanics, and 92A, automated logistical specialists, from different units within the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the maintenance teams work together,

from diagnosing faults to ordering the parts, it takes all the members of the maintenance teams to keep the vehicles on the roads – the place they must be in order to perform their missions.

Initially assembled at Fort Hood, Texas, now stationed at Camps Buehring and Virginia here in Kuwait, the mechanics have worked together establishing their motor pools throughout post-mobilization training at Fort Hood and then as they arrived in Theater. The established motor pools are in charge of maintaining M1151s from all of the Convoy Security Companies within the 1-299th Cav and 100-442nd Inf. Together, the maintenance personnel between the two commands keep nearly 400 pieces of rolling stock rolling – not an easy task.

The heavily armored tactical vehicles roll through rough conditions on the roads of Iraq. Bumps, potholes, debris and constant stops can eventually cause problems to any vehicle, but cause more frequent wearing of suspension and other mechanical components on M1151s due to their extra tonnage of armor as well as extra wear and tear on the tires.

They are replacing shocks and springs on average of five vehicles per week and tires on average of ten per week.

Harsh weather conditions occasionally cause electrical components to fail on and off the road, such as the vehicle's heater, which Soldiers rely on during severely cold temperatures. The M1151 is a very effective vehicle, though high on maintenance requirements.

After returning from a mission, CET leaders make an appointment to have their vehicles checked out by mechanics. Normal repair jobs include suspension, transfer case, electrical components, brake pad replacement and leaks. Whether it is a big job or a series of small ones, the mechanics are efficient in repairing them and usually return the vehicles to the CETs in one to two days.

For some of the maintenance personnel, there are times when they fill a seat on a CET as a gun-truck crewmember. Trained for this additional responsibility during post-mobilization training at Fort Hood, the Soldiers are very capable of performing this secondary mission. However, with the high demand for their maintenance skills in the motor pool, getting them off the road and into the motor pool is the primary goal.

The Brigade's maintenance personnel successes strongly reflect the amount of experience they receive back home as military technicians, civilian mechanics and backyard mechanics. Many of the Soldiers also deployed with the Brigade to Iraq in 2005 as mechanics.

The CETs have been given an important mission but it is the behind the scene work of the maintenance personnel that keeps the CETs on the road. They are the Soldiers behind the mission daily validating that proper maintenance and vehicle inspections really do matter. **A**

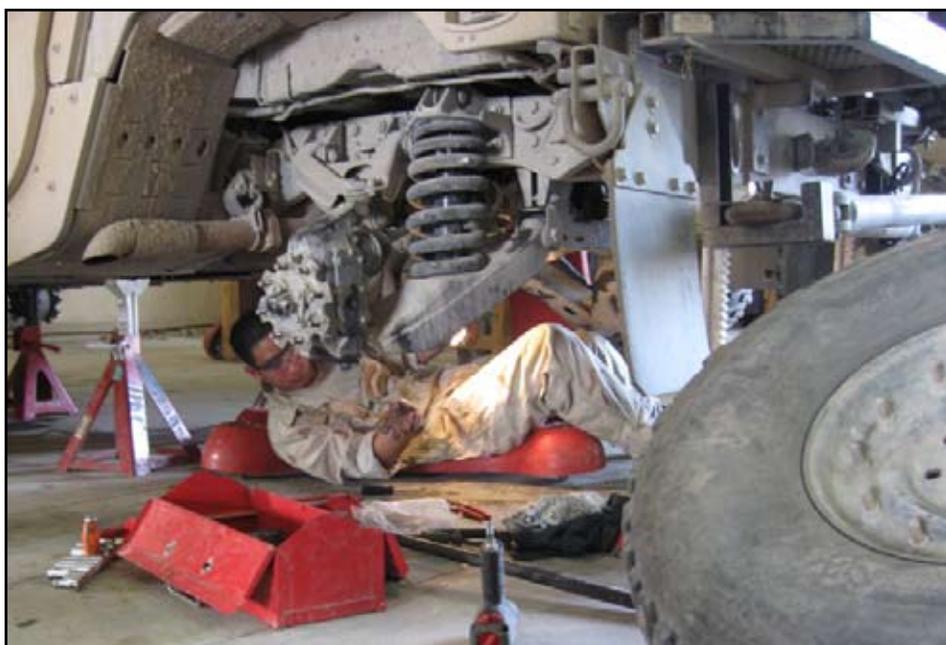


Photo by Maj. Pamela Ellison

Mechanic, Sgt. Addyson Lai, headquarters and headquarters troop, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment works on the undercarriage of an M1151.

Communication: A Key to Reducing EO Problems

Article by

Maj. Belinda May

311th ESC Human Resources

When a Soldier or servicemember has a job-related concern regarding fair treatment or equal opportunity, the first step is to utilize the chain of command to resolve the matter, if possible.

However, when a sufficient resolution to the concern does not occur or the issue is not effectively addressed, Soldiers may seek the assistance of the Equal Opportunity advisor or leader.

According to Sgt. Maj. Patricia Burns, 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) EOA, most of the EO problems in theater stem from “ineffective communication, usually magnified by poor leadership.”

Burns adds, “A large amount of the concerns that are raised to me are not EO matters but leadership matters, which I refer to the [Inspector General]. Effective communication ... would alleviate a lot of the problems Soldiers are having in this environment.”

Unresolved EO issues can be distractors at work, and create morale problems, thus Burns advises that the leadership take these matters seriously. “A lot of Soldiers feel they have been cheated when their leadership does not speak up for them or stand by them when issues arise,” she said.

Some EO problems go unaddressed because Soldiers don’t know how to approach supervisors regarding such matters.

“Soldiers tend to talk among one another, but they do not [always] voice their concerns to the leadership [that] has been empowered to address these matters,” said Burns.

Effective communication between supervisors and subordinates can help reduce EO problems or defuse matters early on, said Burns. Even “if not defused, the Soldier would ... have an [understanding of] where the leadership stood” on these matters, and this could facilitate resolution.

“Soldiers must communicate respectfully when there is a problem,” said Burns. But equally important, she added, is for supervisors to treat their subordinates with respect.

“Soldiers at all levels must understand where they fit in the scheme of things within their unit. Individually, a Soldier must know what [he or she is] responsible for and must be held accountable for that responsibility,” said Burns.

In addition, the leadership needs to be honest with Soldiers, Burns said.

“Soldiers respect honesty ... [But], Soldiers have to accept that honesty, and not run to someone else because the answer was not what was expected,” added Burns.

Burns believes that if supervisors made a greater effort

to communicate with their subordinates on an informal level, this may reduce EO problems.

“[Supervisors] need to talk with their Soldiers and spend quality time with them. [This applies to] squad leaders, section sergeants, platoon leaders, etc,” said Burns. “Informal communication leads to better working relationships.”

“Taking time to get to know who you are working with, their likes and dislikes, their background, culture, upbringing and so on tells Soldiers that you care,” explained Burns. “It does not happen overnight, but when [supervisors] care about Soldiers as human beings, it is amazing how quickly they can bond together.”

If leaders show they care for their Soldiers, Soldiers tend to feel they are being treated fairly.

“But no matter how much EO training we do, there are those that still ... demonstrate biases in their leadership and prejudice,” Burns said. “Soldiers need to make sure they document their concerns once they have attempted to resolve [EO] matters with their leadership.”

This entails getting written statements and writing down dates, times, and what was discussed.

“If Soldiers are documenting when these things happen and it shows a pattern, it can then be addressed,” said Burns.

Soldiers must also be willing to speak up for these matters to be addressed, added Burns.

“Soldiers need to know that the military is committed to providing a workplace or environment free of unlawful discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin and free of offensive behavior,” said Burns.

The EOLs and EOAs are ready to assist Soldiers with these matters.

It takes special skills to be an EOL or EOA. When asked about her EO skills, Burns said you have to have “good communication skills ... and be a good listener.”

Burns said she also gained some of her EO skills while working as a legal assistant, an ordained minister, and as a first sergeant, during her 26 years of Army active and reserve service, as well as through formal military EO courses.

Burns was interviewed and selected for a command EOA position, before receiving EOA training. Equal Opportunity leaders work at battalion and below units, while EOAs serve at brigade or higher levels. “The [EOA] job is a great opportunity,” she said.

“I believe the EO job can be for anyone if [you] want it to be,” she said. “The program teaches you about yourself, the progress our society has made in equal opportunity ... and [provides an awareness of] the improvements our organization still needs to make.” 

SAUDI ARABIA ... BUILDING

Article and Photos by
Spc. Elyseah Woodard-Hinton
20th Public Affairs Detachment

A training exercise between U.S. and Royal Saudi Land Forces, that has been a long time in the making, was finally accomplished in Saudi Arabia through Friendship One 2009.

During the months of February and March, the two nations worked side-by-side in a bilateral training exercise to strengthen military interoperability and relations by working through the necessary steps to get through real war fighting situations.

FS One 09 is a historical exercise for both countries. A large scale deployment of U.S. Forces to Saudi Arabia has not taken place since 1991.

“Our two Armies have joined again for a great success for a second time,” said Commanding Gen. James J. Lovelace, U.S. Army Central. “This is the first time in 18 years, historically, that we have now joined together to train side-by-side in a ground maneuver bilateral, field training



Commanding Gen. James J. Lovelace, U.S. Army Central, exchanges gifts with Royal Saudi Land Force Gen. Saleh Al-Mohaya, during one of the closing ceremonies for Friendship One 2009, March 5.

exercise.”

When events such as a war take place, there are many things that must be accomplished to ensure the war fighters have the support they need. Much of this comes from logistical support, interoperability and ensuring proper coordination with

host nations of the receiving, staging, onward movement and integration of warfighting forces.

Cultural and language barriers can cause some obstacles between countries, in providing this support, which is why it is important for exercises such as this to take place between ally nations.

“We have seen a definite necessity to ensure that we maintain our ties with the Saudis,” said Lt. Col. Tony Carbone, U.S. advisor to the RSLF’s 6th Brigade, U.S. Military Training Mission.

According to Carbone, when Soldiers are able to execute missions on the ground, they will be able to gage where the problems are going to be so they can fix them and be prepared for any future obstacles.

Several of the U.S. and RSLF



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Brown

Capt. Adam Johnson, commander, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 137th Combined Arms Battalion, Kansas National Guard, briefs U.S. and Royal Saudi Land Force Soldiers during a company level combined arms rehearsal for Friendship One 2009 in Saudi Arabia, March 4.

“This is the first time in 18 years, historically, that we have now joined together to train side-by-side in a ground maneuver bilateral, field training exercise.”

Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace
Commanding General
U.S. Army Central

G FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST



Spc. Erick Bulla, headquarters and headquarters company, 2nd Battalion, 137th Combined Arms Battalion, scouts the terrain as M1 Tanks roam the battlefield in the distance.

Soldiers who participated in FS One 09, had an opportunity to engage in two different training battles during the course of the exercise using Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems and simulated live fire.

During the exercise's conclusion, the Royal Saudi Land Force Gen. Saleh Al-Mohaya, spoke of how Friendship One's field training scenarios were a great benefit for both parties and provided many lessons learned.

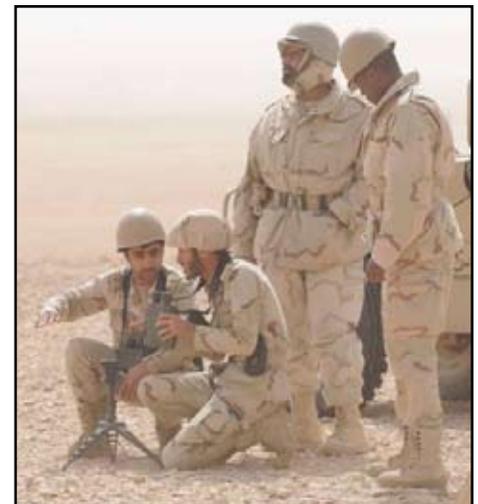
Mohaya also spoke of how he looks forward to seeing other branches of service, get involved in future exercises.

FS One 09 proved to be worth

the wait for many of the exercises participants and has provided the foundation for the next exercise in 2011.

Most importantly, the exercise lived up to its name by granting U.S. and RSLF Soldiers an opportunity to establish friendships and gain insight into each other's cultures.

"I loved working with the Saudis," said Spc. Erick Bulla, infantry, 2nd Battalion, 137th Combined Arms Battalion, Kansas National Guard. "The Soldiers treated us very nicely and I've enjoyed learning the language, and drinking tea and Camel's milk." ^A



Royal Saudi Land Force Soldiers observe the training battle during a field exercise for Friendship One 2009, March 5.

NMBC 11 raises QOL for Coalition Forces

Article by
Petty Officer 1st Class Nicholas Lingo
NMCB 11 Public Affairs Office

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 are currently performing upgrade and renovation projects aboard Iraq's Al Basrah Oil Terminal.

Much of the work being done on ABOT consists primarily of quality of life upgrades to a majority of the installation facilities, including the MWR spaces and the internet café.

The kitchen, also known as the "galley," is being upgraded to allow for more room. The restrooms and sleeping quarters are being renovated to ensure better living conditions aboard the oil terminal.

NMCB 11 is currently deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and throughout Europe, Southwest Asia, SOUTHCOM and Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This is the first deployment for NMCB 11 and this unique project has proven to be very beneficial for this team of Seabees.

Utilitiesman, Petty Officer 1st Class Emily Fowler, work center supervisor, is elated at the way the crew has come together and grown as leaders.

"My Sailors have gotten to the point now that I can send them off on their own and I know they're going to take care of business," said Fowler.

Even when the project required extra help to ensure tasks were completed without a hitch, the Seabees worked seamlessly through the transition.

"Our project team has melded together well," said Fowler. "They're learning and helping each other out a



Photos by Seaman Dillon Parkes

Builder, Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Turner of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, measures out a piece of wood panel to be cut and hung within the containerized living spaces that will house Coalition Forces on Al Basrah Oil Terminal.

lot." There have not been many setbacks on the jobsite with the exception of the weather. Due to the location of the platform, approximately 16 nautical miles from the Iraqi coast, everything has to be shipped in. Heavy winds and rough seas often delay the delivery of materials.

As a whole, this small, cohesive unit of Seabees aboard ABOT continue to press on. NMCB 11 continues to validate one of the unofficial Seabee mottos, "With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once ... the impossible takes a bit longer." 



A tanker refills with oil off the coast of Iraq at the Al Basrah Oil Terminal. Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 are currently renovating facilities on ABOT in order to upgrade quality of life conditions for Coalition Forces serving there.

Seabee Father reunites with son in the desert

Article by
Petty Officer 1st Class
Kelli Roesch
Media Transit Team-Kuwait

Builder Constructionman, Seaman Eric E. Kraninger, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 out of Gulfport, Miss., shrugs and smiles through the constant teasing by his fellow Seabees.

They know his father is the highest ranking enlisted leader of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist, Command Master Chief Mark E. Kraninger out of Port Hueneme, Calif.

“With a name like Kraninger, people make the connection, and if they don’t, they ask,” joked Mark.

Although the Kraningers are in different battalions stationed on opposite sides of the U.S., for a few short days they briefly crossed paths in the Kuwaiti desert. Granted, father and son only had a few spare minutes here and there to see each other, nonetheless they made the best of it.

“Mostly we just hung out and talked,” said Eric.

Mark keeps a respectful distance while in uniform to let his son learn to deal with challenges like any other Seabee.

“I try to keep a hands-off approach,” said Mark. “I stay out of his business, but I listen to him like any dad would in this situation. We’re professionals, so we do our jobs, but when we’re off duty we talk about things.”

Construction is seemingly in the Kraninger’s blood. Eric spent a few summers working for his grandfather who is a general contractor in Nora Springs, Iowa. Still, the idea of becoming a Seabee wasn’t originally part of his plans. In fact it was quite the opposite.

“At first I said I’m never going to join the military, but about half way through my senior year of high school I started to think about it,” said Eric.



Photo Petty Officer 3rd Class Jorge Saucedo

Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist, Command Master Chief Mark E. Kraninger, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, and son, Builder Constructionman, Seaman Eric E. Kraninger, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, pose for a photo in front of the well known “Seabee” logo. The Kraninger family has a history in the construction field and both have applied with the military.

True to form, Mark let his son make his own decision, but gave him the tools to make the best decision for him.

“Eric knew a lot of what I went through with the deployments I made and how tough it can be,” said Mark. “I had a few other Seabees sit down with him and give him their perspectives on each rate in the Seabees so Eric would have other opinions of what he might expect.”

Ultimately, Eric joined the Navy as a builder and as a surprise during “A” school graduation, Mark took off the “Navy” issued ball cap and replaced it with his Navy cover. Eric then joined his new Seabee shipmates in Gulf Port, Miss., and his father returned to his unit in Port Hueneme, Calif.

While spending this past Christmas together, the Kraningers discovered they were both being deployed. Until just a few days ago, they had no idea they would be in the same camp at the same time. Eric was not absolutely sure that his dad was actually coming, so he was doing what many motivated Seabees do in their spare time; Eric was in the gym working out when his

father found him to personally deliver the surprise.

Mark was touring the camp with the Battalion Commanding Officer, when he saw his son. Not missing a beat, the tough Seabee Master Chief demanded to know, “Where’s your [Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist] pin?” The Kraningers shook hands while the young Seabee tried to give his dad the Master Chief a good explanation as to why he had not earned the pin yet.

Mark came to the desert armed with a care package and all of the questions his wife wanted answered. How is he? Does he look good? What does he need? The “fatherly” side of Mark said “Eric was fine,” while the “military” side said “Their son would have to make his own way.”

His advice to his son from the beginning had been simple. “I told him to do what’s asked of you, keep yourself squared away, and know your job,” said Mark.

Mark will transfer to Afghanistan for six months while Eric remains in Kuwait. He’s not sure when he will see his dad again, but knows he’s lucky to see part of his family. **A**

MWR offers connection to family from afar

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

With an almost constant deployment rotation, life in the military can be difficult on servicemembers and their families; but there is something that the Zone 6 Morale Welfare and Recreation Center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait is doing to make it a little easier to stay connected to loved ones back home.

The MWR offers a video message recording system in a sound proof booth to provide privacy for servicemembers to record a message for loved ones who are left behind during deployments.

"Basically, servicemembers can come in and if they want to, they can go in the video messenger booth and record a 30 minute DVD-R for any loved one," said Juliana Wilder, MWR supervisor. "The disk is small and light so they don't have to pay for postage. They can just stick it in an envelope and send it out as free mail."

Word of the video message record-

"You can call home as often as you have the ability to, but there's nothing like something you can have forever."

Juliana Wilder
Supervisor
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

ing booth has been spread by word of mouth mostly during the three years that the MWR Center has had the booth.

According to Wilder, when a new troop rotation starts, during a transfer of authority, the command cell for a unit will tour the MWR facilities offered here. The commanders and first sergeants will then take the information given during the tour back to their units.

The booth is set up to not only give the troops a place to record a message to send home, but give them a comfortable backdrop for their video.

"We kind of set it up so that it doesn't look like you're in a box with a DVD player," said Wilder, a Tampa, Fla., resident. "We've got an American flag in there and if it's a special occa-

sion we try to cheer it up to represent whatever season or holiday we're in."

The booth is for servicemembers who want to send a message home and provides a little extra for their children.

"We have children's books in there with puppets so [servicemembers] can read to their kids," added Wilder.

According to Wilder, the MWR Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During a month, on average 30-35 servicemembers use the video messaging booth and the MWR goes through 420-450 DVD-Rs a year. No limit is placed on the number of messages a servicemember can record.

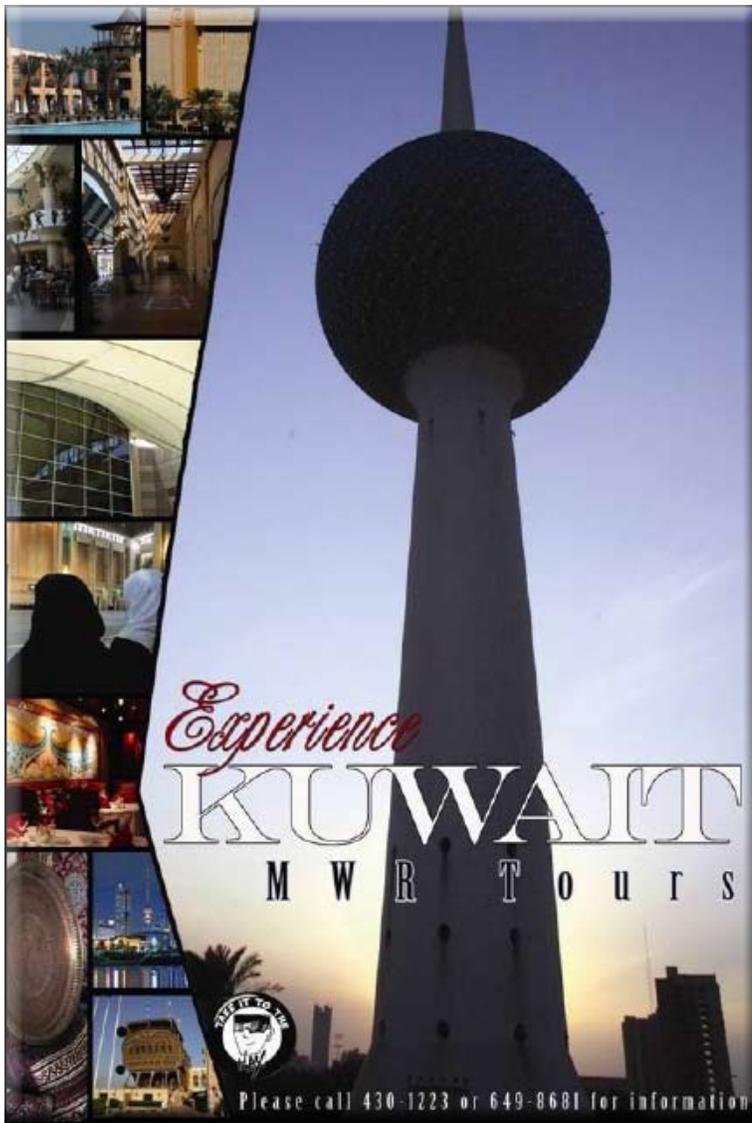
"You can call home as often as you have the ability to, but there's nothing like something you can have forever," she added. "Ten years from now, or even 20 years from now, you'll still have that disk."

Video messaging allows deployed servicemembers a new way to connect with loved ones back home.

"It gives them an opportunity to send that little piece of love back home," said Wilder. **A**



Spc. Erick Neely, truck driver, 1113th Transportation Company, records himself reading a story to send home to his children, Cassidy, William and Ryan, in Yoncalla, Ore.



Just One Question ...

“What entertainers would you like to see come here?”



“I enjoy old school so I would like to see Heart, Cheaptrick and Journey because they put on a good show with great music that appeals to me.”

PO2 Russell Curtis
Equipment Operator
Command Task Group 56.6
San Diego, Calif.



“Country music stars or big names like Robin Williams and Whoopi Goldberg would be great. I think they could reach all age groups.”

Capt. Michelle Ross
Battle Captain
3-22nd D/ROPS
Seattle, Wash.



“Jeff Dunham for my friends and for myself, I would like to see UFC fighters.”

Sgt. Tawny Gilmore
Safety NCO-Zone 6 Command Cell
45th Fires Brig.
Durant, Okla.



“Sports figures like Super Bowl champions because they have high visibility and popularity. It would boost the morale of the troops.”

Capt. Adam Demarco
Staff Weather Officer
ARCENT G2
Pittsburgh, Pa.



“I think they do a pretty good job at who they bring. They have something for everyone.”

Master Sgt. Dustin Whiteley
Operations Chief
MARCENT
Wendell, Idaho

NCO Spotlight:

Staff Sgt. Semiko Powell
Human Resource Specialist, 25th ID LNO



Staff Sgt. Semiko Powell, a resident of Emporia, Va., joined the Army in September 1999 because she felt she did not have the focus to go to college at the time. She now has a bachelor’s degree in human resource management and is on her second deployment. Her husband, an Army sergeant first class, will deploy later this year.

“Take the advice of your leaders because they have walked in your boots before.”

What's happening around USARCENT



Photo by Sgr. Nathan Hutchison

Spike!

Spc. John Luna, 1 st Theater Sustainment Command and Wittier, Calif., native, spikes the ball at fellow 1 st TSC Soldier during an organizational day at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Mar. 3.

Road Renovation

Equipment Operator Constructionman Timothy Cichoski, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, operates an excavator in order to cover up a culvert, commonly known as a drainage pipe. This crew of Seabees at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait is currently involved in a road extension project. The completion of the road will allow Arifjan's Fire Department on Florida Avenue better access to a main road allowing for a faster response time in emergency situations.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Nicholas Lingo



Photo by Rebecca Murga

Signal Field Day

1st Sgt. Terence Woodliff eludes Staff Sgt. Jack Bookout, both with 160th Signal Brigade, during a game of flag football at the HHC Field day held on Mar. 7.