

ADV The Desert Voice

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

July 29, 2009



**Important information
regarding new customs
policy inside!**

DEFEND YOURSELF!



Message from CG and CSM



COMMANDING GENERAL
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
1881 HARDEE AVENUE, SW
FORT MCPHERSON, GA 30330-1064

July 20, 2009

To the Third Army/USARCENT Team,

Our focus as a successful organization must remain on Mission, People and Teamwork. When our people—military or civilian—commit crimes such as the illegal use, possession, or distribution of drugs and alcohol while in the USARCENT Area of Responsibility (AOR), we are failing our mission, failing our people, and failing our teammates.

The wrongful possession or distribution of drugs in the USARCENT AOR is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), host nation law, and US federal law. Pursuant to USCENCOM General Order 1B, the wrongful consumption, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in several countries within the USARCENT AOR. In addition, alcohol consumption, possession, or distribution may also be a violation of host nation law. The UCMJ, federal and host nation law also prohibit sending or receiving alcohol or drugs through the mail. US federal law and the UCMJ also prohibit the possession of illegal drugs for personal use, distribution, or sale. These laws apply to Soldiers, Family members, DoD civilians, and contractors.

The Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA) subjects civilian or contract personnel to prosecution in federal courts for crimes committed while accompanying the Armed Forces overseas, including the USARCENT AOR. The USARCENT Office of the Staff Judge Advocate works closely with USCENCOM and the Department of Justice to coordinate potential prosecutions of civilians under MEJA.

Furthermore, in 2006, Congress extended UCMJ jurisdiction to include not just U.S. servicemembers, but also any person serving with or accompanying an armed force in the field during a time of declared war or contingency operation. As a result, DoD civilians and contractors who are employed with the Third Army/USARCENT overseas during the current contingency operation could be subject to court-martial.

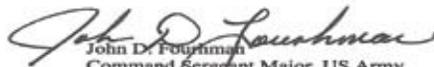
Contract personnel may also be subject to host nation jurisdiction for crimes they commit overseas, including the wrongful possession of drugs. Under existing international agreements, the host nation has primary jurisdiction over civilian contract employees in the nations of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Recently, host nations have demonstrated their desire to prosecute civilian contractors for violations of host nation law.

US CENTCOM General Order 1B promotes the readiness of US personnel and recognizes that local laws or customs may prohibit the use of alcohol by regulating the possession and consumption of alcohol within the USARCENT AOR. General Order 1B prohibits the "introduction, purchase, possession, sale, transfer, and manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage within the countries of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq." Although the consumption of alcohol is legal in Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, USARCENT personnel must continue to comply with local command policies and host nation law. Command policies may regulate the time, locations, and quantities in which alcohol may be purchased or consumed. Moreover, many countries within the USARCENT AOR prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol. Prior to consuming alcohol within the USARCENT AOR, review and understand local command policies. Consumption of alcohol while on duty, or engaging in drunken and disorderly behavior, is never permitted.

The laws on drugs and alcohol promote the health, welfare, good order and discipline of USARCENT personnel. Soldiers who violate laws and policies may face a range of possible adverse actions, to include non-judicial punishment, administrative separation, or even court-martial. As stated above, DoD civilian employees and contractor employees may be barred from entry onto military installations, termination from their employment, and even prosecution in federal or military courts. Contractor employees face the added risk of prosecution under host nation law.

Everyone in Third Army/USARCENT must uphold the standards and the law. It falls on all of us to have the discipline to do what is right, regardless of who is watching.

Patton's Own!


John D. Fourhman
Command Sergeant Major, US Army
Command Sergeant Major


William G. Webster
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding

DV

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On the cover

Soldiers and civilians receive training in various self defense techniques through courses offered on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. For the full story see page 6. (Photo by Rebecca Murga)S

Contact us

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

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Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.

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<http://www.youtube.com/user/dvidshub?blend=2&ob=1>

DV

The
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Sodium in Water



Water is critical to survival. It makes up about 50-60 percent of our body depending on body composition and gender.

Water is involved in nutrient delivery, waste removal, temperature regulation and multiple other processes.

The Adequate Intake recommendation for the average adult in a normal climate is 3.7 liters per day for men and 2.7 liters per day for women.

During a short workout, you need about 12-20 ounces of water, but you can lose 3-4 liters of fluid if you workout for an hour or two, especially in this environment. This increases your daily needs to 6-8 liters a day depending on how much other activity you do and how much time you spend outside in the heat.

If you are a salty sweater, you might need additional electrolytes to replace those lost during workouts. The primary electrolyte of concern is sodium.

Muscle cramping, usually attributed to potassium deficiency, is actually a symptom of inadequate sodium.

Given that the average American consumes 4,000-6,000 mg of sodium a day, which is 2-3 times what you need, you



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

probably do not have to worry about eating more sodium. However, long workouts, hot temperatures and heavy sweating can increase your needs. That being said, it is possible to drink too much water.

Excessive water intake can lead to a rare condition known as hyponatremia, low blood sodium, that can be deadly.

Many people ask me about the sodium content in our bottled water. Aqua Gulf contains only 11 mg of sodium per half liter bottle and the Rawdatain mineral water contains only 5 mg of sodium. Drinking 20 bottles of Aqua Gulf per day containing a total of 220 mg Na would still be less sodium than there is in one slice of American cheese, which is 250 mg.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website, most of the normal drinking water in the U.S. has up to 50 mg of sodium per liter meaning that our bottled water could have less than we drink from our faucet at home.

Please do not restrict your fluid intake or spend money buying water because you think the sodium or mineral content of the bottled water is affecting your health. Hydrate!

ARCENT FATALITY

Three soldiers travelling in a M1151A1 in Iraq collided with a white truck fuel tanker. A multitude of contributing actions on the 45 MPH, two-lane road resulted in the death of one soldier and minor injuries to two soldiers. The vehicle advanced to assist an incapacitated vehicle. The driver slowed down. The fuel tanker moved to the left lane to avoid the M1151A1. The M1151A1 began a u-turn and collided with the fuel tanker, rolled over and ejected the passenger. The intimacy of an operation is reflective of the communicative practices prior to the operation as well as during the operation. The risk analysis is imperative.

- Driver did not clear left rear when conducting U-turn upon which the vehicle rolled 90 degrees left and forced the driver's side passenger door to open after the impact.
- The white truck fuel tank driver followed too closely to safely stop, contrary to the guidance contained in traffic laws and common practice.
- The safety equipment use standards through on-the-spot corrections were not enforced. Casualty did not wear or properly engage seatbelt, IBA, ACH, nor the GRH.
- Convoy Commanders could not effectively provide a convoy safety brief to the white truck drivers due to the various languages of the drivers and the lack of assigned interpreters.

The current accident brought about actions we must all reflect on each time we move our servicemembers, civilians and contractors on a mission. Ensure leaders at all levels are aware of their risk management responsibilities. Impede the cyclic nature of a mission that incites a false sense of refuge from harm.

- Develop training for all vehicle positions on their role and responsibilities as described in AR 600-55 and other local requirements.
- Reinforce PPE standards and policies in adherence to AR 385-10 and TM 9-2320-387-10.
- Ensure the international diction conveys the current TTPs and Convoy Safety briefs.

**Be a leader. Maintain situational awareness.
Know your risks...and responsibilities.
Patton's Own!**



Snipers stay on target during joint training



Courtesy photos

Soldiers from Delta Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, observe Bahrain Defense Force Soldiers as they shoot downrange during joint sniper training exercise in Manama, Bahrain, June 20-25.

Article by
Staff Sgt. Crystal Carpenito
29th IBCT Public Affairs

Selectd Soldiers of Delta Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, put their sniper skills to the test when they traveled to Manama,

Bahrain, to train Bahrain Defense Force Soldiers, June 20-25.

The exercise involved four days of training designed to determine basic sniper skills of Special Forces Counter Terrorists, Army and Ranger participants within the BDF, in order to make recommendations for future

training efforts that would help sustain and improve such skills.

“The Bahraini Defense Force Soldiers were very disciplined and eager to learn,” said 1st Sgt. Beau Tatsumura, Delta Company, 100-422nd IN. “They are committed to improve their skills and reflect a great respect for their country and the advice of the U.S. personnel. However, a more serious approach must be made to improve and sustain the shooting skills of all the snipers.”

Culminating the

exercise, Tatsumura recommended BDF snipers develop and implement a Standard Operating Procedure that, at a minimum, would incorporate M-24 Sniper qualification requirements as well as pre-maintenance inspection programs of weapons and equipment.

Through the duration of the exercise, trainers observed several areas, including team and spotter training, basic marksmanship fundamentals such as trigger squeeze and shooting position, knowledge of equipment and familiarization of its use; and most importantly, safety considerations such as the use of proper hearing and eye protection.

After the observation period, the trainers worked with the snipers to help them reduce their shot groups at 100 meter distances down to the desired one inch radius.

On day one, snipers conducted weapon and equipment inspections, followed by zeroing and firing of their M-24 sniper rifles using alternating shooting positions as standing, kneeling and prone. This exercise gave trainers the opportunity to assess the sniper’s basic marksmanship skills.

Day two involved cold-bore and hold-off shooting at ranges between 100 to 300 meters. The third day involved night shooting, and on the final day, all snipers competed in a shoot-off, which tested their skills learned throughout the four day exercise.

Overall, snipers performed fair to good throughout the training but showed significant improvements from the first to the last day, Tatsumura said.

“Anything less than a full commitment to a sniper program will result in BDF snipers with at most, skill levels of a squad designated marksman,” said Tatsumura.

Follow-up sniper training between U.S. and BDF Soldiers is set to occur sometime next year and will comprise of pre-maintenance inspections, zeroing and M-24 qualification. 



Staff Sgt. Anthony Chung, 100-422nd IN., spots Bahrain Defense Force soldiers during rifle marksmanship training. Chung was part of a group of selected Soldiers who travelled to Bahrain for the joint exercise.

Camp Arifjan QRF team train on local culture

Article and photo by
Pvt. Howard Ketter
20th Public Affairs Detachment

Area Support Group-Kuwait's Host Nations office held an interpretation training initiative with the 61st Chemical Company, from Ft. Lewis, Wash., on Camp Arifjan July 21.

"The intent of this training was to better our relations with the locals and learn more about interacting with them," said 2nd Lt. Marcie Blasingame, officer in charge, Quick Reaction Force team.

ASG-KU sent three interpreters to the unit to give them training on customs and courtesies for the locals.

"We had a briefing on the dos and don'ts and what to expect from the locals when interacting with them," said Blasingame.

The Soldiers were also given a breakdown of the local cultures, how to address locals, their basic values, manners, gestures and how to conduct themselves around the local nationals.

The team also went outside the wire with Khaliq I. Shahzad, interpreter, ASG-KU, to talk with some local camel herders.

"We get a lot of locals who are too close to the perimeter at times and we need to know how to tell them to stay back, but still be respectful to their culture," said Spc. Frank Plasencia, QRF, 61st Chemical Company.

The team, through Shahzad's interpretation, sat, had tea and discussed small things like family life and camel herding with the local group.

"The locals were very hospitable, welcoming and truthful," said Shahzad. "QRF did great for their first time out there, it's an honor going out with them."

Shahzad has gone out with the QRF teams before the 61st Chem. Company, interpreting and teaching them how to better communicate with the locals.

"Mr. Shahzad is one of the best," said Blasingame.

She said the team walked away from this training a little more enlightened about the locals and their lives, as well as letting the locals know what they can expect as far as safety and security of themselves and Camp Arifjan. 



2nd Lt. Marcie Blasingame, officer in charge, Camp Arifjan Quick Reaction Force, shakes hands with Roger, a local camel herder, after conversing over tea through interpreter, Khaliq I. Shazahd, Area Support Group Kuwait. The visit to the locals' shelter was a part of a training initiative to better host nation relations.

Social media: bringing society together

Social media has changed the way society operates. In the world of instant gratification, where a pizza has made it easier to network in

Article by
Rebecca Murga
160th Signal Brigade

Prior to the ubiquity of social media sites, the way we socialized as a society differed from its current state. We used to attend high school, college, different duty stations, and the small circle of friends or acquaintances that we acquired during that brief period of time, usually remained in the past.

Social media sites now make interacting with people from our past not only possible, but common; and has changed social interaction as we knew it.

Facebook, a social networking site, released some overwhelming statistics regarding their website stating that more than 100 million users long onto Facebook at least once each day.

Social Media in Marketing

Corporations are even utilizing social media to ensure high profit margins and customer satisfaction.

Dell provides one case study of how



a company successfully incorporated social media into its marketing strategy.

Around June 2005, a blogger by the name of Jeff Jarvis became frustrated with a recent purchase of a Dell laptop and posted a blog about his experience.

The catchy phrase "Dell Hell" was adopted and thousands of frustrated customers eventually commented on and linked to the blog. The New York Times and Business Week both published articles on the incident within two days of the original posting of the blog.

Prior to social media entering stage right, corporations often had the upper hand when dealing with customer complaints and could respond on their time.

Once Dell decided it was in their economic interest to respond to

bloggers, profit and internet sales went up, as did customer satisfaction with their product.

The Dell case study is just one example of how social media has taken some of the power out of the corporations and has put it back into the hands of the consumer.

Social Media in the News

Social media has also changed the way wars, news, and politics operate.

Journalist have found several advantages in using social media for their research and information gathering.

Facebook's statistics also revealed more than 75 percent of journalists say they use social media to research stories, compared with about 67 percent last year.

In the Iran Elections, restrictions were placed on media outlets restricting information that was coming out of Iran.

Steve Herrmann, an editor of the BBC News website, spoke about why the BBC monitors social media services for the Iran elections:

"Simply put, it's because among the various impediments to reporting, there's a huge ongoing, informed and informative discussion in Iran between people who care deeply about what is happening there and who are themselves monitoring everything they can, then circulating the most useful information and links," Hermann writes.



er, but facing challenges along the way

a is a phone call away and you can read news from around the world in five minutes flat, social media
social circles and in industries.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tyrus Wheeler

With the increasing popularity of social media networks, the military has begun to focus on ways to balance leveraging the use of these tools and managing operational security so that the information that flows through these sites can not be used in ways that can endanger troops or future missions.

Social Media in the Military

It is now easy for information to pass freely through the blogosphere, making it an important topic of discussion regarding its impact on the Military.

At the Worldwide Public Affairs Symposium held in May 2009, the main focus for discussion was on social media and utilizing it to get the message of the Army out, which becomes difficult when trying to delicately balance operational security and cyber security.

“Social Networking provides the ability to quickly assemble a task force of knowledgeable experts, who are able to strike an immediate crescendo of synergy,” said Col. Ronald R. Stimeare, commander, 160th Signal Brigade. “Today...

cyber threats use social networking sites to conduct their [intelligence preparation of the battlefield] in order to gather information, which they can then use in a malicious manner, at a time and place of their choosing.”

No one knows where social media is headed leaving many people to ask ‘What else can it do? How else can it



help society? Can the military leverage it as a tool or will it be a hindrance?”

What we do know, is with its growing popularity, social media is headed full speed, with no signs of stopping and trying to leverage it in the military has become a challenge.

Stimeare goes on to discuss the importance of utilizing these collaborative tool capabilities and features that exist on social media sites in a cyber protected environment.

“The cyber threat to our military mission is real,” said Stimeare. “We will only be successful if we are properly organized, manned, trained and equipped to defeat our adversaries. This is truly a new dimension of warfare. Our soldiers need to be very mindful of the dangerous battle space in which they are maneuvering.” ^A

Things to know when going on R&R

Article by
PFC Melyna Galindo
G1, Third Army/USARCENT

The Rest and Recuperation Leave Program is a benefit offered to all servicemembers and Department Of Defense civilians who will serve a tour of at least 270 days “boots on the ground” in the U.S. Central Command Area of responsibility.

The R&R program pays the full cost of airfare for a participant’s destination in the U.S. or their choice of other locations around the world. With only two types of leave authorized while deployed; emergency leave and R&R Leave, servicemembers are advised to take full advantage of this benefit.

“It’s the only authorized leave in theater funded by CENTCOM where servicemembers can take 15 days of leave anywhere in the world,” said Lt. Col. Eric Olson, chief of policy and programs, G1, U.S. Army Central.

Each year, in concert with about 20 other agencies, the U.S. Army, G1, operations group, provides oversight for the processing of over 300,000 flights to and from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

To prepare R&R participants for their leave, a Deployment Cycle Support brief is given to provide counseling and information on family reintegration.

Travellers are also given briefs on what to expect while traveling, what they can carry on the plane and instructions on leave processing for their departure and return.



Before leaving the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility for rest and recuperation, personnel are separated by destination group through the manifest process, are inspected by customs, and issued itineraries and government funded tickets to and from their destinations.

Servicemembers who plan to travel to a location other than the United States, must first get approval from their unit commander. This is necessary because many of these destinations require additional documentation for country clearances.

“When traveling outside of the U.S. a leave form, military ID, orders, and based upon the destination, a passport or visa might be necessary,” said Olson.

Specific requirements for country clearance, travel restrictions, and required documents may be found on

the internet at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm> or for more information on requirements for OCONUS travel you can visit <https://www.travel.state.gov>.

Regardless of where a traveler choose to go, R&R participants are still required to follow the guidelines of GO-1B until they reach their final destination.

“In accordance with GO-1B travel to and from the R&R destination still applies,” said Olson. “Since the travel is funded by the government, you are still in official duty status.”



Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Larry Fowler, 586th Air Expeditionary Group, Air Force Central, leads servicemembers in a prayer before the group depart from the Navy Customs Facility for their Rest and Relaxation Leave. AFCENT works directly with U.S. Army Central on a daily basis to ensure all servicemembers traveling through the AOR receive a chaplain brief and the opportunity to speak with a chaplain one-on-one if desired.

Photo by MC2 Jorge Saucedo

Lessons in self defense



Sgt. Daniel Totten, self-defense instructor, demonstrates how to defend yourself from an attack from the rear. Totten is certified in Level 4 Combatives and teaches self-defense classes every other Saturday at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photo by Spc. Alicia Torbush)

*Article by
Spc. Alicia Torbush
20th Public Affairs Detachment*

“Opportunity is the deciding factor of when an attacker will attack,” said Sgt. Daniel Totten, self defense instructor, 593rd Sustainment Brigade.

Totten, a Modern Army Combatives Program Level 4 certified instructor, teaches those who want to learn how to defend themselves against an attacker using simple and practical techniques.

“The idea was brought about by the rising number of sexual assaults in the military on both male and female Soldiers,” said Totten.

Although Soldiers are required to be certified in Level 1 MACP, which was recently offered at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 6-10, Totten was approached by his brigade command sergeant major to prepare and instruct a self defense class for Soldiers and civilians, which began July 11 and is now held every other Saturday evening from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

“I researched the most common and effective techniques used to defend against an attacker for this class,” said Totten.

Totten explained that the idea behind what he teaches is that everyone is capable of self defense and that anything solid can be used as a weapon. Prior experience with self-defense is not necessary, but students need to be aware of the what-ifs in the world around them.

“It is important that individuals have self confidence and the believe that they can defend themselves against an attacker,” said Totten. **A**



Photo by Rebecca Murga

Soldiers from 160th Signal Brigade perform various techniques at the Level 1 Combatives course held on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait July 6-10.

Camp Arifjan

New customs policy sets limits on counterfeit items

Information compiled from
Customs Directive Number:
2310-011A

A new customs policy has taken effect that limits the amount of counterfeit items servicemembers are allowed to take with them back to the U.S. on their rest and recuperation leave and during their redeployment.

Under the new policy servicemembers are only allowed to take back with them one article of each type, which must be carried by the person, bearing a counterfeit, confusingly similar, or restricted gray market trademark.

Customs officers shall permit the person to retain only one article of each type, while accompanying the person. Customs officers will check for counterfeit, confusingly similar, or restricted gray market products prior to the servicemember leaving country, and then again upon return to the U.S.

For example, a servicemember who bought 10 bootlegged DVDs will only be authorized to take one of them back to the U.S. This is not one copy per movie, but one bootlegged DVD period.

Another example is, if a servicemember has three purses, whether each bears a different unauthorized trademark or whether all three bear the same unauthorized trademark, the



servicemember will be allowed to only bring one back to the U.S.

Imported items over and above one article are subject to disposition under either 19 CFR 133.21 or 19 CFR 133.24. Counterfeit items, in the absence of permission from the trademark owner, will be seized and forfeited. Gray market or confusingly similar goods are subject to detention; upon detention the goods could be either exported or destroyed under customs supervision, or imported if the mark is removed or obliterated. **A**



Photo by Pvt. Howard Ketter

Under the new customs policy servicemembers are only allowed to take back with them one article of each type, which must be carried by the person, bearing a counterfeit, confusingly similar, or restricted gray market trademark. Imported items over and above one article are subject to disposition under either 19 CFR 133.21 or 19 CFR 133.24. Counterfeit items, in the absence of permission from the trademark owner, will be seized and forfeited.

WLC GRADUATION

The first Warrior Leaders Course in theater will be holding a graduation ceremony on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

When: Monday, August 3rd

Where: Zone 1 Chapel

Time: 1400

All are invited to come and celebrate with the honorees.



Just One Question ...

"What traits do you think a leader should possess?"



"The big one is integrity and along with that is the personal courage to use that integrity. To be courageous enough to do the right thing at all times."

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenton Franklin
115th Fires Brigade
Cheyenne, Wyo.



"A leader possesses integrity, honesty and all the aspects to get followers to follow, and they must be able to pass that to their subordinates."

Master Sgt. John Victor
Bravo Flight Sergeant
586th ELRS
Big Sandy, Tenn.



"Definitely charisma, good communication, personality, patience, discernment and the ability to foresee problems."

PO 1st Class Robin T. Titus
Yeoman
NAVELSG-Juliet/FWD
Dayton, Ohio



"Charisma, a sense of confidence, they must be equal and fair and have a sense of humor; Killing's easy, comedy isn't."

Staff Sgt. Brian J. Anderson
convoy commander
1404th Transportation
Flagstaff, Ariz.



"A leader should display dedication to duty at all times."

Lance Cpl. Janson Cuthrell
Marine Air Ground Task Force Spc.
Marine Coordination Element-Kuwait
Jacksonville, Ala.

NCO Spotlight:

Staff Sgt. Abdullah Salahuddin

Sr. Guntruck commander, 539th Transportation Co.



"I always tell my troops; Remember your basics and you'll return from war."

Staff Sgt. Salahuddin joined the Army in 1999 to be a better person and finish college. During his Army career, Salahuddin has earned an Army Ranger tab, Sapper tab and is also a certified jumpmaster. He said mentoring and training his troops is the most satisfactory part of being a noncommissioned officer. In the 539th Trans. Co. he says he enjoys working with foreign nationals and watching his Soldiers excel.

What's happening around USARCENT

Gen. Petraeus Visit

Gen. David Petraeus paid a visit to servicemembers on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 23, during his visit to several countries and locations in the Middle East.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Taylor

Responsibility Change

Col. Dennis P. Harber, commander, 595th Transportation Terminal Group, gives welcoming remarks to incoming Command Sgt. David C. Jarvis, (left), and a farewell message to outgoing Command Sgt. Major Major Lavon M. Christen, during the change of responsibility ceremony held in the Zone 1 Gym, on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 24.



Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton



Photo by Spc. Alicia C. Torbush

CENTCOM CSM visits

U.S. Central Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, visited with Warrior Leader Course students at the dining facility on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, July 23. Hill opened the floor to the Soldiers to answer any questions they had about their role and responsibilities as noncommissioned officers. WLC is the first course in the NCO education system and trains new NCOs to lead Soldiers.