



The Desert Voice

Third Army/United States Army Central September 9, 2009
"Ready Tonight... Sustain The Fight... Shape the Future"



DECK K LANDING QUALIFICATION



CG 9/11 Message

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On the cover

A HS-15 Seahorse Navy helicopter lands alongside an Army Black Hawk helicopter during a deck landing qualification, Aug 26. For the full story see page 6. (Photo by Pvt. Howard Ketter)

Contact us

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



COMMANDING GENERAL
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306

September 11, 2009

To the Third Army/USARCENT Team,

Today is the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC. On this day eight years ago, 19 Al Qaeda terrorists hijacked and crashed four commercial aircraft, killing nearly 3,000 innocent people on United States soil: the largest domestic attack since the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

The events of 9/11 were not simply an attack on the United States, though. Among the day's dead were people from 80 different countries, highlighting that this was not just an attack on the United States, but an attack on freedom and prosperity everywhere.

Despite the pain of our losses, we Americans, our national leadership, and our international partners have hardened our resolve to defeat these enemies of freedom, democracy, and progress. We have gained strength in the face of the extremist threat, and we have seen remarkable progress in the world: democratic elections in Iraq and Afghanistan, the governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia asserting their control over hotbeds of extremism, and growing partnerships worldwide. We have continued to make friends and improve lives while our enemies have continued to show how evil they truly are.

As we reduce our presence in Iraq and build up our capabilities in Afghanistan, we must remember this date for its importance to our *Mission* of combating violent extremism and bringing peace and stability to a region plagued by persistent conflict. Our Team has been instrumental in bolstering our friendships and partnerships with all the other nations in our Area of Responsibility. Our *Soldiers*, joint and multinational partners, DA Civilians and contractors play a vital role, ensuring support to the fights in Iraq and Afghanistan, and maintaining a stabilizing presence elsewhere throughout the theater.

We will continue to demonstrate the kind of *Teamwork* that allows us to prevail over our enemies: people who began the Twenty-first Century with an act of mass murder that changed the world and our role within it. Remember September eleventh and the reason you are here. Continue your outstanding efforts in this great struggle, and watch out for your Teammates. The years behind us have not been easy, nor will the years ahead, but we will win as a Team. Thank you for what you are doing for our Nation and for the world.

Patton's Own!

William G. Webster
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding General

Volume 30, Issue 60

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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
Desert
Voice



MyPyramid.com

If you are interested in improving your nutrition, check out www.mypyramid.gov. Click on “MyPyramid Plan” on the left side.

Enter your personal information and create a profile for free. The site will give you an estimate of the calories you need to maintain or lose weight. It will also break down these calories into food groups.

Instead of counting calories you can determine if you are getting adequate nutrition from the right number of servings from each type of food. Each food group lists suggestions on how to incorporate these foods into your diet. The site will also give you your “discretionary” calorie allowance to use on less nutritious foods like added sugars and fats in desserts or fried foods.

If you are trying to lose weight, these should be the first foods to go – not the grains, dairy or other nutrient-dense foods. Once you have a profile, select “Assess Your Food Intake.” Start by searching for a food then enter the portion



Capt. Kate Schrumm R.D.

U.S. Army Central Surgeon's Office

size and number of servings. The site will analyze your intake and show a comparison of the nutrients you are eating versus what you need for optimal health.

To help remind you of your daily goals, print out a “Meal Tracker Worksheet” and record how many servings of each food group you actually consume during the day. \

Select “Assess Your Physical Activity” to search for a particular type of exercise and see how many calories you burn during a workout. By clicking on the “Energy Balance” page, you can see if your caloric intake and output are in balance.

Even if you only use this site once a month, it is a good place to check your intake and see if you are getting adequate and optimal nutrition while staying within your calorie goals. It also provides links to other good websites for nutrition and long-term health. 

Emergency Numbers

Effective July 1, 2009, the State of Kuwait has changed its emergency number from 777 to 112. Both numbers are in use at the moment. Starting Jan. 1, the number 777 will be disconnected.

Camp Arifjan

DSN 430-3160/ Arifjan Cell 6682-2120

Camp Buerhing

DSN 438-3224 Buerhing Cell 9720-5396

Camp Virginia

DSN 832-2559 /Virginia Cell 6705-9470

LSA

DSN 442-0189/ LSA Cell 6682-2467

K-Crossing

DSN 823-1327/ K-Crossing Cell 682-0095

KCIA/APOD-SPOD

Cell 6706-0165-DSN 825-1314 /SPOD Cell 9720-5982

KNB

DSN 839-1334/ KNB Cell 6691-4967



Ready Tonight
Sustain the Fight
Shape the Future
Third Army/U.S. Army Central

Marines conduct female search team training



Cpl. Marie Hendrix, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit and native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, practices personnel identification and searching with a female role player at a training area near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 25. The 22nd MEU is ashore in Kuwait conducting sustainment training while serving as the theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command.

*Article and photo by
Marine Staff Sgt. Matt Epright
20th Public Affairs Detachment*

At forward operating bases and on patrols throughout Iraq and Afghanistan it is becoming more common to see long hair peeking out from under the edges of Kevlar helmets as more female Marines are sent out for direct interaction with local communities.

To help bolster readiness and flexibility, female Marines and sailors from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit learned how to protect entry control points and conduct personnel searches of Middle Eastern female civilians at a training area near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 25.

In Middle Eastern countries, where the majority of the civilians are friendly and where cultural norms restrict contact between unrelated males and females, using respect and consideration in interactions with those civilians is vital to maintaining good relations with the local populace.

"It's a cultural awareness thing for Iraq and Afghanistan," said Guy Mortati, the civilian instructor contracted by the U.S. Army to teach the lessons to units participating in the training. "Being a Muslim culture, only females can touch females."

The women warriors went through three stages for the training, starting with classroom instruction on the proper ways to conduct female searches, then moving through

practical application on ECP operations and culminating with a live-fire escalation-of-force training shoot.

"I think this would be good training for any Marine in general," said Cpl. Cassandra Hoffman, a military police noncommissioned officer with the 22nd MEU's Logistics Combat Element, Combat Logistics Battalion 22.

Hoffman, who deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, last year and served as part of a Marine Female Search Team, or FST, said the training got the key points across without being complicated.

"For Marines who need to have a basic understanding of searches, this is a good place to come," she said.

The 22nd MEU, led by Col. Gareth F. Brandl, is a scalable, multi-purpose force of more than 2,200 Marines and Sailors. The unit is composed of its Ground Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment; Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263; Logistics Combat Element, CLB-22 and its Command Element. **A**

"I think this would be good training for any Marine in general. For Marines who need to have a basic understanding of searches, this is a good place to come."

Marine Cpl. Cassandra Hoffman
Military Police
22nd MEU's Logistics Combat Element

Senior NCOs halt retirement for one last mission

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

When the chance to train Soldiers in theater came up, two senior noncommissioned officers jumped on the chance for one last mission.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis W. Martinson, commandant, Third Army NCO Academy, and Sgt. Maj. Bobby King, deputy commandant, Third Army NCOA, both delayed retirement to do what they love.

Martinson and King have almost 60 years of combined experience in the Army and both put off their retirement orders when Martinson got a phone call from Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Caffie, the highest enlisted Soldier in the Army Reserves.

Caffie asked Martinson to stay in for while longer to take the position of commandant for the first NCO Academy in theater.

“It’s something that I talked about doing a few years ago with my Soldiers,” said Martinson.

Martinson then called King who was also preparing for retirement.

“They called Sergeant Major Martinson and he told them he wanted to bring me with him,” said King.

The planning started in May and the academy stood up in the beginning of July to become the first Department of the Army-approved NCOA in theater, during the Year of the NCO.

“Soldiers come over here to train in the Warrior Leader Course and get back in the field with a little better knowledge of leadership,” said King.

Martinson has served 11 years

working in positions from instructor to commandant of NCO Academies. King has served in multiple leadership positions from instructor to platoon sergeant to company first sergeant before becoming a deputy commandant of an NCO Academy. He and Martinson have worked together for many years at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell NCO Academy, Fort McCoy, Wis.

“They gave me the opportunity to come over here and train Soldiers,” said King. “I think it’s a very important mission.”

Both Soldiers agree that it takes hard work and a lot of dedication to get to where they are today, but it has all been worth it.

“I love the military,” said King. “I like training Soldiers; I like taking care of Soldiers and their Families.” **A**



Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis W. Martinson, commandant, Third Army NCO Academy, and Sgt. Maj. Bobby King, deputy commandant, Third Army NCOA, both put off retirement in order to take part in Third Army’s Noncommissioned Officer’s Academy Warrior Leader Course held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

USS Ponce hosts Army Deck Training



An Army Black Hawk helicopter lands alongside one of the 2515th Navy Air Ambulance Detachment HS-15 Seahorse Navy helicopters during training for pilots of the 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment deck landing qualifications ordered by Third Army, on the USS Ponce landing transport dock, Aug 26.

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

The USS Ponce floated in the Arabian Gulf as Sailors moved to their positions with chock blocks to brace the incoming UH-60 Black Hawk and Navy HS-15 Seahorse helicopters Aug. 23.

First Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment pilots, alongside the 2515th Navy Air Ambulance Detachment pilots, performed deck landing qualifications in order to keep their training up to date.

“The mission is to train Army pilots and aircrews on DLQ proficiency on USS ships,” said Navy Lt. Bruce Lefferts, air boss, USS Ponce.

There were two teams of pilots and crew members who flew around the Landing Transport Dock and landed while the flight operations crew ran out to brace the aircraft to the ship’s LTD after each landing.

“Our unit was tasked by [Third Army] to get everyone shipboard operations qualified,” said Chief Warrant Officer

James Landry, Black Hawk pilot, 1/58th Aviation Reg.

The training started out with a swim test for the majority of the unit. The Army unit also sent certain Soldiers to Fort Rucker, Ala. for training, that was immediately followed by ground based training presented by Navy personnel, field deck landing practices on land and several air training sessions in Kuwait.

“The ship is a more dynamic environment,” said Lefferts, “It has pitch and roll, variable wind speeds and [of course] it’s moving.”

Aircraft land on the USS Ponce almost daily for reasons such as currency, training, operations, missions, etc. Therefore, the training of Army helicopters to land on ships is necessary to Third Army’s mission to “Sustain the Fight,” making Army personnel more adaptable to different situations.

“I think the training’s necessary just to show the joint operations together and to improve the concept of Army aircraft landing on U.S. ships to increase operational capabilities,” said Lefferts. 



Third Army assists in Responsible Drawdown



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Taylor

1133rd Transportation Company, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, depart the Redistribution Property Assistance Team yard, Victory Base Complex, Iraq en route to Camp Arifjan as part of Third Army's support to the Responsible Drawdown, Aug. 13.

Article by
Spc. Alicia Torbush
20th Public Affairs Detachment

Third Army has stood up a specialized element to assist in the responsible drawdown of equipment out of Iraq.

Third Army, as the main logistical hub in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, is providing assistance to Multi National Corps-Iraq with the redistribution of equipment coming out of Iraq.

“Third Army’s role in all aspects of operations, is to do plans, policies, guidance and programs,” said Lt. Col. James Flanders, deputy mobility chief, Third Army. “In that capacity, Third Army is providing oversight of the responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq.”

Third Army conducted parallel planning with MNC-I, and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command to synchronize the responsible draw down process.

Third Army stood up the U.S. Army Central Support Element-Iraq, that is co-located with MNC-I, in order to coordinate and direct execution of responsible drawdown from the Iraqi theater of operations in order to meet Department of Defense combatant command deadlines and the service requirements of the Iraqi Security Agreement.

“They’re identifying retrograde and non-mission essential materials, generating disposition guidance and synchronizing the retrograde efforts,” said Flanders. “The ASE-I is playing a critical role in the expedition of

disposition of equipment coming out of Iraq so as to streamline the process of the [responsible] drawdown.”

The equipment disposition process is a multi-step process that requires input from individual units, MNC-I and ASE-I. When a unit declares equipment non-essential, MNC-I checks the requirements of the unit, the requirements of incoming units and Advisory Assistance Brigades; then ASE-I checks the requirements of the remainder of the Central Command area of operations before the equipment is transported to its destination. ASE-I is currently working to fill 7,000 lines of requirements in Afghanistan.

If the equipment or supplies are not needed in theater, they are then moved into Kuwait to be sterilized, repaired and moved onto ships to be transported to their final destination.

“Part of what ASE-I has been able to accomplish is to reduce the times within the process of getting equipment out of Iraq,” said Flanders. “ASE-I has been able to leverage their capabilities to improve those processes and reduce the timeline by 20 days.”

Flanders explained that adjustments can be made in transportation equipment and movement control facilities based on the requirements and progress that is made in the drawdown process.

“ASE-I will continue to monitor the drawdown against the plan that was developed in conjunction with MNC-I and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command and try to adjust theater support to that plan,” said Flanders. 

22nd MEU Marines graduate Corporal's Course

Article by
Cpl. Justin M. Martinez
22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit

Marines from various elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit graduated a twelve-day Corporal's Course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 21.

The course is designed to teach Marine corporals valuable tools to educate them on subjects as diverse as squad attacks and defensive operations, close-order drill and leadership skills.

"I learned to better understand my Marines by teaching them and listening to them," said Cpl. Jonathan Rodriguez, mortar forward observer, Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 22nd MEU, and native of Belleville, N.J. "I'm ready to step forward with what I've learned."

The course taught many subjects to the noncommissioned officers, but

they gained one asset they can't get from a book.

"One thing I liked about the course is getting to know and see the faces of all the NCO's throughout the battalion," said Cpl. Andrew Rodriguez, fire-team leader, Lima Company, BLT 3/2 and a native of Margate, Fla.

As these corporal warriors mature into well-rounded leathernecks of the future, the course they went through gave them a stepping stone for growth and development.

Many leadership problems at the corporal level can be attributed to a lack of confidence, said 1st Sgt. Jeffrey A. Young, BLT 3/2's Headquarters and Support Company, a Baltimore the native.

"The course was designed to give these Marines the basic fundamental knowledge that will allow them to be successful," said Young.

The Marines who attended the class have an advantage over others

as chevrons and rockers get added to their collars.

"As they progress through the rank structure, some of the basic information that they learned as noncommissioned officers will help them guide and mentor those coming up behind them," said Young.

Young added that classes like this set a foundation for success throughout the entire Marine Corps.

The 22nd MEU, led by Col. Gareth F. Brandl, is a scalable, multi-purpose force of more than 2,200 Marines and Sailors. The unit is composed of its Ground Combat Element, BLT 3/2, commanded by Lt. Col. Robert C. Fulford; Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 (Reinforced), commanded by Lt. Col. Paul P. Ryan; Logistics Combat Element, Combat Logistics Battalion 22, commanded by Lt. Col. Gary F. Keim; and its Command Element. **A**



22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit Marines, in the Corporal's Course class 01-09, practice drill movements at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 18. The 22nd MEU is ashore in Kuwait to conduct sustainment training while serving as the theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IV TRAINING SUSPENDED FROM LIFESAVER COURSE

Intravenous training, which comprises 70 percent of the Combat Lifesaver Course required for all Soldiers, was suspended, effective Tuesday.

Medical evidence and operational lessons learned suggest that instead of the heavy emphasis on intravenous skills, Soldiers should be learning how to control hemorrhage and tactical casualty movement, the Army Training and Doctrine Command announced in a news release.

The Army began training combat lifesavers — front-line soldiers with a secondary mission to restore breathing, stop bleeding and start intravenous, or IV, treatment for wounded troops — in 1986. A fragmentary order to suspend IV training in the CLS course effective Sept. 1 was handed down Aug. 25.

On Aug. 6, the Defense Health Board published a memorandum recommending additional emphasis in training on hemorrhage control, the release said.

TRADOC will assess the medical evidence and operational lessons and revise the CLS curriculum, the release said. The Army anticipates that the revised curriculum will be in effect in January 2010.

HELMET SENSORS PROVIDING DATA THAT DECREASE BRAIN INJURY

For the past year, almost 7,000 sensors mounted on Soldiers helmets in Iraq and Afghanistan have collected data on blast trauma from improvised explosive devices.

The sensors were fielded by the Program Executive Office Soldier so that the Army could gather critical information needed to characterize exposures to impact trauma and blast incidents.

The information gathered has the potential to save troops from battlefield head injuries by improving prevention and mitigation strategies, PEO Soldier officials said.

The information stored in the sensor is downloaded onto a computer during monthly collection cycles or when a Soldier is involved in an incident or attack event. Ultimately the information is uploaded into an Army-managed database, while ensuring each Soldiers' privacy, PEO-Soldier officials said.

The data collected in the sensors will help determine what constitutes an injury-causing impact to the Soldier and will give the Army insights into future helmet design, said Lt. Col. Jon Rickey, product manager, Soldier Protective

Equipment at PEO Soldier.

"The sensors provide the Army with the ability to capture blast pressure data in order to better understand the forces acting on the helmet and the forces translated to the Soldier's head," Rickey said.

Mike Leggieri, director of the Department of Defense Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office at Fort Detrick, Md., said he expects the sensor data, when properly interpreted, to provide statistics on the nature, intensity, and frequency of "head traumatic loading," or the impact a Soldier's head absorbs. "We expect the helmet sensor data to provide a much-needed understanding of the nature and frequency of head trauma loads facing our deployed war fighters."

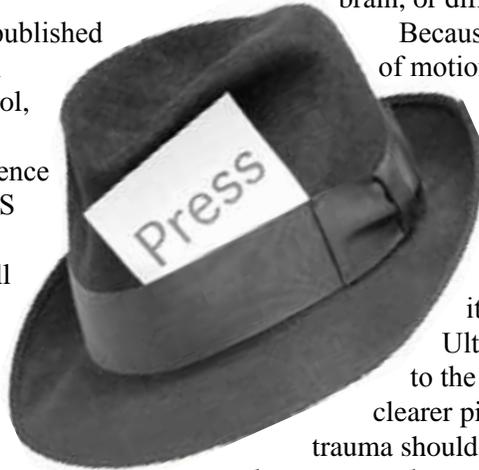
Traumatic brain injury occurs when a sudden physical impact causes damage.

The damage can be local, confined to one area of the brain, or diffuse, affecting multiple areas.

Because the ACH is subjected to a wide range of motion on the battlefield, the sensor data must be carefully sorted and calibrated now that the first generation of sensors has been collected from the Soldiers who wore them, officials said.

The data obtained from the helmet sensors will have value long after it is collected in theater, Fuller said.

Ultimately, the data gathered on impacts to the helmet may give TBI researchers a clearer picture of what levels and kinds of head trauma should be studied, to gain information with the greatest relevance to servicemembers on the battlefield.



DOD REQUIRES H1N1 FLU VACCINES FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL

Starting this fall, all active-duty personnel will be required to get vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus, Defense Department officials announced this week.

Health care workers, deploying troops, those serving on ships and submarines, and enlistees are among those who will get the vaccination first, said Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Wayne Hachey, director of preventive medicine for Defense Department health affairs.

Hachey said he expects DOD to begin administering the vaccine in the first half of October. The department has purchased 2.7 million doses, according to Hachey.

Military commands in Europe could not say Thursday when they expected to have the vaccine in hand.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe will start vaccinating its troops for H1N1 once supplies arrive, USAFE officials said Thursday, noting the program will likely occur at the same time as seasonal flu vaccinations. **A**

HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUTS

2009

Holiday Greetings Schedule

September 10-12

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

September 14-15

Camp Buehring, Kuwait

September 17

Camp Patriot, Kuwait

September 19

Camp Virginia, Kuwait

September 21-22

LSA, Kuwait

MWR Stage

For more information contact:

430-5931/7017

Just One Question ...

“Which NFL team would you like to see at the Super Bowl this season?”



“Arizona Cardinals because they lost last season.”

Staff Sgt. AJ Sirmans
Civil Engineer Electrician
387th ESPTS/CE
Avondale, Az.



“Green Bay Packers—my dad is from Wisconsin so I’ve always followed them.”

Staff Sgt. Mike Coffers
Truck Driver
1404th Transportation Company
Las Vegas, Nev.



“Carolina Panthers because that’s my home team.”

Staff Sgt. James Sales
Aviation Supply Chief
22nd MEU
Mount Airy, N.C.



“Tennessee Titans because that’s my favorite team.”

PO 1st Class Krystal Trotter
Yeoman
Warrior Return Unit
Meridian, Miss.



“San Francisco 49ers because they’re my team—my all time favorite team.”

Staff Sgt. James Eddings
Truck Driver
1404th Transportation Company
Sacramento, Calif.

NCO Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Ike R. Sims II

Comms Services NCOIC, 335th Signal



“Make sure you take care of your battle buddy as well as your leadership.”

The Austell, Ga. native joined the Army nine years ago because he felt like he wanted to be bigger than just an office job. He says he loves the tactical techniques and training that the Army gives and enjoys being able to be both tactical and corporate in the Army. Sims became and NCO in June 2005 and enjoys taking care of Soldiers and plans to put at least 25 years into the Army. He says he enjoys helping junior Soldiers and officers alike.

What's happening around Third Army

CTG 56.5 Security

U.S. Coast Guard and Navy Sailors of the Combined Task Group 56.5, boat detachment 55, provide security for the Army 2018 Landing Craft Utility, Five Forks as it transfers equipment with Royal Fleet Auxiliary Cardigan Bay in the Arabian Gulf, Sept. 4.



Photo by Pvt. Howard Ketter

Black Hawk Maintenance

Spc. Shawn Keepers, A Company, 2/238th General Support Aviation Battalion, conducts maintenance on a Black Hawk Helicopter. Keepers is a native of Riverside Calif. who is attached to A Company 7/158th Aviation in his home town. The 2/238th GSAB is stationed at Camp Beuhring in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The 2/238th contributes to the responsible drawdown by supporting air lift operations.



Photo by MC2 Kim Harris

COURT MARTIAL



On Aug 17, Pfc. Christopher P. Segura, 593rd Special Troops Battalion, was tried by a military judge at a special court-martial at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In accordance with his pleas, Segura was found guilty of making a false official statement in violation of Article 107, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and larceny, in violation of Article 121. The incidents occurred while PFC Segura was assigned to Life Support Area, Kuwait, in the Financial Management Company from February through May 2009, and involved stealing money from other Soldiers. The military judge sentenced Segura to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for three months, and to be discharged from the U.S. Army with a Bad Conduct Discharge.