

Desert Voice



You Want Some of This?

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still contribute to OIF ...page 5

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Inspiration

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

-- Dale Carnegie.

Yeah, keep movin', pal ...



U.S. Air Force photo
Airman Michael Holder stands guard as a herd of camels cross the road. Animals such as these camels can and have carried improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and security forces airmen must treat them as hazards.

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**E-mail them to us at the above e-mail
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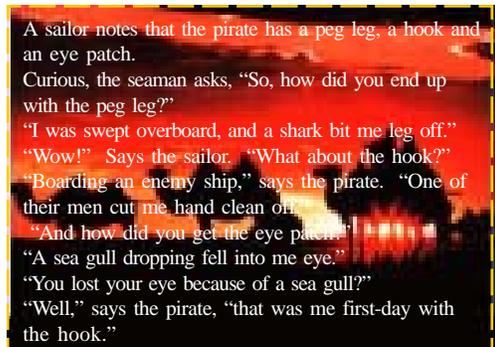
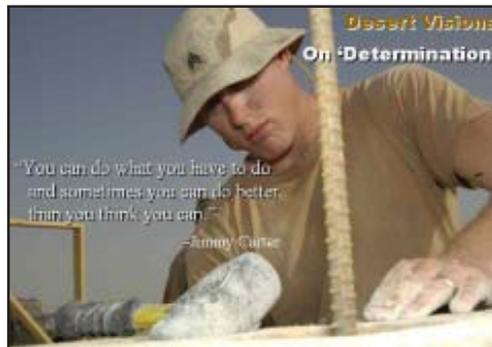


Photo by Spc. Karima L. Mares, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Security officer Mike Faint pulls security at Camp Doha's Gate 3. Aside from providing security for Camp Doha, these former military personnel also enforce Camp Doha's laws.

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Volume 25, Number 15

Dental hygiene important while deployed

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Eric Brown
13th Public Affairs Detachment

Light blue smocks, white facial germ protectors, dental drills, anesthesia and gritty toothpaste—some of the terms that make most servicemembers cringe. But no need to fear, the gentle hands of the dental practitioners and anesthesiologists at Camp Doha's dental facility will ensure servicemembers' pearly whites are properly monitored, but it's up to the individual for daily maintenance.

But if the servicemember doesn't properly take care of their teeth—like brushing three times a day, flossing and staying away from sugary foods and drinks, the trip to the dentist will be one of repair, not refulgent.

"One of the biggest things we see is

people who drink a lot of soda and eat sweets," said Camp Doha's dental clinic commander, Lt. Col. James Walmann, a native of Kansas City, Missouri. He added that if people are going to drink soda, try not to constantly drink it

“You don't have to brush and floss all your teeth, just the ones you want to keep.”

through the whole day, because soda contains an abundance of sugar which may add to the amount of lactic acid in the mouth.

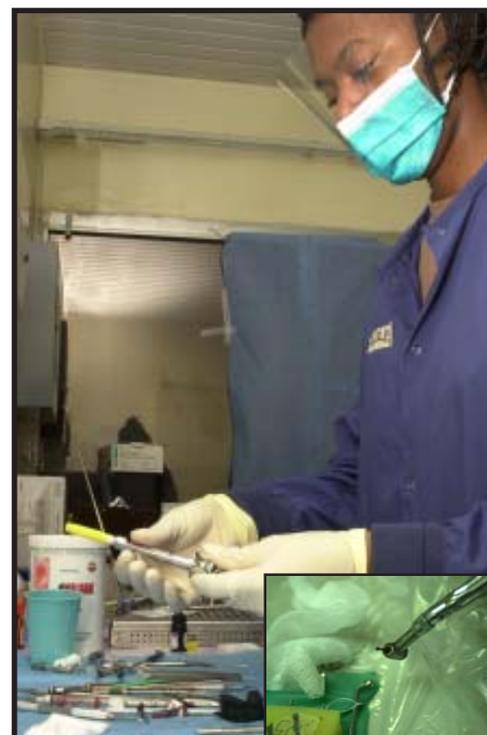
Maintaining a constant amount of sugar on teeth by drinking or eating foods with good doses of the substance all day long as opposed to short snacks may cause tooth decay, said Walmann, a 20-year dentistry veteran.

According to Walmann, everyone has bacteria in their mouths feeding off of the sugars they eat. When the bacteria are not properly brushed off three times a day and after meals, they may harm the tooth's protective coating.

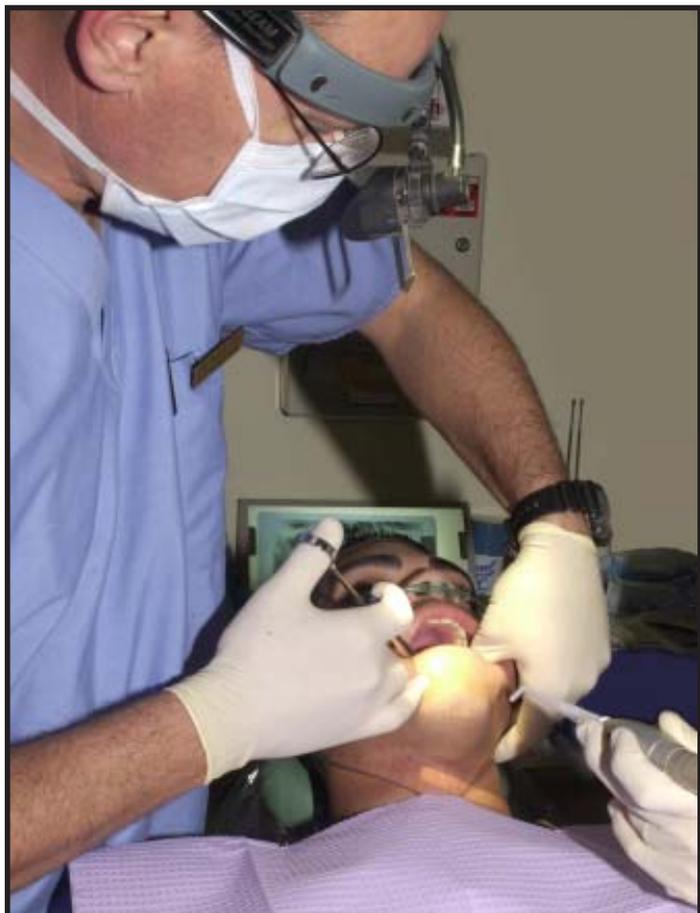
"If someone drinks a lot of soda with sugar in it, the bacteria will produce lactic acid that will eventually start to demineralize the outer layer of the tooth, call the enamel," said Walmann. Once the acid passes through the enamel, the 'cavity' can spread very quickly.

You need to have the right toothbrush to fit the size of your teeth and mouth and have good dental floss to partner up with it or brushing will not reach its desired effect.

"You need to have



Spc. Brandy Hudley, Camp Doha's dental clinic, cleans and maintains the dental instruments after being using them for a patient who received a root canal.



Oral surgery is one option patients may enjoy at Camp Doha's dental clinic. This servicemember is being cared for by the experienced hands of Lt. Col. Robert Hale, 801st Combat Support Hospital out of Fort Sheridan, Ill.

the right instrument to clean teeth, not just a tooth brush," said Lt. Col. Jerome Cureton, a dentist at the clinic and a native of Indianapolis, where he works a private dental practice in his civilian career.

Cureton added that if the tooth only receives brushing in the same place every day, the person isn't really doing himself any good because the area not being brushed tends to build up debris. So creating good brushing habit at an early age is absolutely essential. "The key to healthy brushing habits is frequency and location," he said.

The dental clinic is open 7 days a week for routine care for permanent party servicemembers and select Department of Defense civilians and emergency care for servicemembers deployed. There are plans in the works to provide care "across the board" for all servicemembers, but the timeframe is still up in the air, due to the requirement for additional dentist staff members and the proper facility to accommodate them.

You don't have to brush and floss all your teeth, just the ones you want to keep, is a lasting bit of advice the dental practitioners gave to all servicemembers to remember. 

Third Army Soldiers to lend ‘A’ helping hand

Story and photos by Spc. Marc Loi
13th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMPWOLVERINE— After a New Year’s celebration, they packed up and got ready to head to the airport where the journey began.

Across the Atlantic Ocean and more than 15,000 miles later, they land in Kuwait – their new home.

More than 100 members of Third Army Atlanta arrived Jan. 5 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Assigned to various forward support camps in Kuwait, the servicemembers’ mission is to support the thousands of troops coming through the Kuwait Theater of Operations later this month and lasting through as late as May.

The biggest movement of troops since World War II, the surge will involve all but two U.S. Army combat divisions.

The support they offer include reuniting servicemembers with friends and family at home, though they themselves are far away from loved ones.

Many have been here before and can remain strong because they’ve experienced being away from loved ones, others are here just for the first time.

Pfc. Matthew Davis is a newly wed – he got married over the weekend prior to leaving, and instead of going on a honeymoon, he came to Kuwait and later to part of the forward support element at Camp Udairi.

“Yeah, I just got married and now I am here

in Kuwait,” Davis, sitting on his duffel bag at the reception station here, said as he stared out into the vast campground that consists only of troop tents and porto potties.

But someone has to defend America, and he is just as good a person for the job than anyone.

“I am very excited about coming here,” said Davis, “but I am also looking forward to returning to my wife.”

Being away from a significant other may be hard, but being away from a child may be even harder.

Spc. Rosalina Taylor, of Auburndale, Fla., is here for the third time. Taylor and her husband have a 3-year-old son.

Taylor said her son asks where she is every day.

She lets him know through letters.

Her husband, too, has taken on a different role. In the military, it’s usually the other way around. In fact, he reads letters from mommy to their son whenever he receives them, and he also makes videos of their son to send to her.

Playing a different role is tough – but of not the Taylors, then who?

“It doesn’t really matter to me,” said Taylor of the role-change from a traditional military family. “If we don’t do it, who else is going to do it?”

Staff Sgt. Edward Martin, of Elizabethtown, Ky., is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command S-3; he was the one responsible for the coordination of bringing servicemembers here.



Pfc. Matthew Davis, a brand new husband, sits at reception on Camp Wolverine while awaiting a ride to Camp Udairi, Kuwait. Davis is one of about 150 Soldiers who arrived Jan. 5.

Martin said servicemembers assigned to CFLCC in Kuwait are just as an integral part of OIF as are servicemembers in Iraq.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re C-1, C-2, Reserves Affairs or anything else, we’re one team. Whether you’re in Doha, Qatar or Iraq, we’re all one team.”

Being on one team, however, does not mean sharing the same situation.

Martin said challenges are different for both active duty component servicemembers and reservists.

Martin himself, for example, works at the NCO Club on Fort Knox, Ky. He said employers usually have to make adjustment to the needs of employees who serve in the Reserves and National Guard. This affects everyone.

For active duty servicemembers, the strain isn’t on the employers, but on the family – this is especially true for those who come in on rotation, spending two or three months here at a time.

Part of this is because families must adjust to servicemembers coming in and out of their lives.

“It’s hard, but everyone is making sacrifices,” he said.

The sacrifices are many, and so is the pride. Whether an employer, friend, husband, child, newly-wed bride or servicemember deployed in support of OIF, all have sacrificed for and contributed to the war on terrorism.



Newly-arrived Soldiers give one another a helping hand with carrying military and personal equipment to awaiting buses heading to the forward support element camps they’re assigned.

Former military personnel provide security as civilians

Story by. Spc. Marc Loi
13th Public Affairs Detachment

They're no longer in the military, but the security personnel from the Combat Support Agency are still just as a part of the military just as when they were – their mission is to protect the civilian and military personnel on camps Arifjan and Doha.

Harrison R. Kennedy, for example, has been at Camp Doha for 11 years.

“When I got here, there was no housing areas,” said the Honolulu native and former Marine Corps gunnery sergeant. “I’ve seen Doha grow to a big base.”

Much like Kennedy, Jacqueline D. Butler is also a former servicemember. Butler retired as an Army master sergeant and said she wanted to do something different, so she pursued a job with the CSA.

As a supply personnel in the Army, Butler never got a chance to spend time doing “hooah” missions, she said, so she jumped at the chance.

In fact, more than 50 percent of the CSA members are former military personnel.

Emanuel Nelson, for example, spent most of his 21 years in the military as in infantryman. Nelson said his experience has helped him, because the work done by CSA is similar to that of the military police.

Even though they might have been well respected as military personnel, Kennedy said sometimes they are treated with less respect and professionalism they deserve here. But



Abdullah Daas, security officer, answers his radio during a night patrol Friday. Daas grew up in Kuwait and is fluent in Arabic, which helps with the language barrier.

just as Soldiers are supposed to keep their composure at all times, so do the members of CSA.

“I’ve worked with so many people from different societies that it’s easy for me to adjust, adapt and continue,” Kennedy said. “It’s about being able to keep calm and just let things go over your head.”

It isn’t just with American civilians and servicemembers that CSA officers may run into problems with. Locals and third country nationals can also present them with problems - - this is because of difference in culture and language.

Fortunately for the CSA here, one of their officers, Abdullah Daas, is fluent in Arabic and can help resolve situations a lot

of times.

Daas grew up in Kuwait prior to moving to the U.S., and he said

he understands the culture and language -- which can help.

The differences in cultures, for example, can be as subtle as speaking to local women or doing a car search. According to Middle Eastern culture, women aren’t supposed to be spoken to, and often, it makes a situation uncomfortable for the people in the cars being searched, Daas said.

For the CSA, language also presents a problem. Many TCNs in Kuwait come from many nations and often times do not speak the same languages.

A person may approach a checkpoint and can’t understand Arabic or English, may not know to stop when asked to. This can pose a threat to security personnel.

Overall, Daas said it’s easier to deal with civilians and military personnel coming to and from Camp Doha, because unlike their military police counterparts, CSA are civilians and those who may choose to try to “pull rank” on an MP cannot do so to civilian security officers.

Just as with difficult people and the cultural barrier, there have also been cooperative people. There have been general officers who have stopped to talk to him,

Kennedy said.

There have also been people who make it a point to stop by to bring them food, Butler said.

Just as families at home have worries about their families, the families of CSA security officers also have worries about them.

“Everytime there’s an explosion, my mom thinks I am in the middle of it,” Daas said.

There have been times, he said, when he would receive phone calls in the middle of the night from his mother, to make sure he’s okay.

“I would get a phone call from her and she would say something like ‘are you in the hospital? Because it sounds like you’re in the hospital.’”

This is because they’re also put in danger – they’re the ones protecting everyone else.

For them, nothing has changed. Though long gone from the military, they’re still a part of the military as those in uniform.

Daas said he still feels as though he is still in the military -- because he is still contributing to a cause.

“My job here is to make sure that everyone on Camp Doha is safe,” Daas said.

“Even though I am a civilian - - I am still doing my part.”



Indiana National Guard Soldiers co

Story by
Spc. Karima L. Mares
13th Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by
1st Lt. Kelly Dugger
152nd Infantry Battalion

It's Wednesday morning, and the rain is pouring down on more than 90 Soldiers waiting to depart to Iraq.

For most, an impending trip into the previously war-torn country would be nerve-racking, but for the Soldiers of Indiana's National Guard, Company C, 152nd Infantry



Curious Iraqi children approach a soldier who is guarding a KBR contractor while on a mission in Iraq. The soldiers are trained to handle any situation that they may incur

Battalion, a trip to Iraq has been a daily occurrence since June.

The Soldiers have been assigned to pull security for the contracting company, Kellogg, Brown and Root, (KBR).

Originally, the Soldiers were briefed that they would be deployed for six weeks, but have since been deployed for nearly one year.

"We've been in-country since Feb. 15," said Spc. John Edge, a native of Hawesville, Ky. "We were at Camp Wolf for force protection, and then in early June, our mission was changed to work with KBR, pulling security in South Iraq."

"Everyday, seven days a week almost 90 (Soldiers) out of a



Being fired upon while on duty is a very real possibility for the Soldiers.

company of 126 soldiers are sent up to Iraq," said 1st Lieutenant Kelly Dugger.

Typically, the Soldiers of C Co., 152nd Inf. Btn. work a 12-14 hour day.

Rain or shine, the Soldiers wake at approximately 4:30 a.m., shower, have chow and get back to the bay before the 5:30 a.m. morning formation to draw their weapons

and gear prior to leaving Camp Doha at 5:40 a.m.

The Soldiers then head out on a one hour and 15 minute commute to NAVSTAR where the two-man teams, called shooters, by their charges, are assigned to the different contractors for the day.

From 7 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m., the Soldiers pull security for the contractors.

"Any time you're in Iraq, it's good to be alert all the time, that's our job," Edge said.

Around 2 p.m. the Soldiers and contractors begin packing up their gear to come back across the border and by 4 p.m. everyone will be across the boarder, and begin the long commute back to Camp Doha.

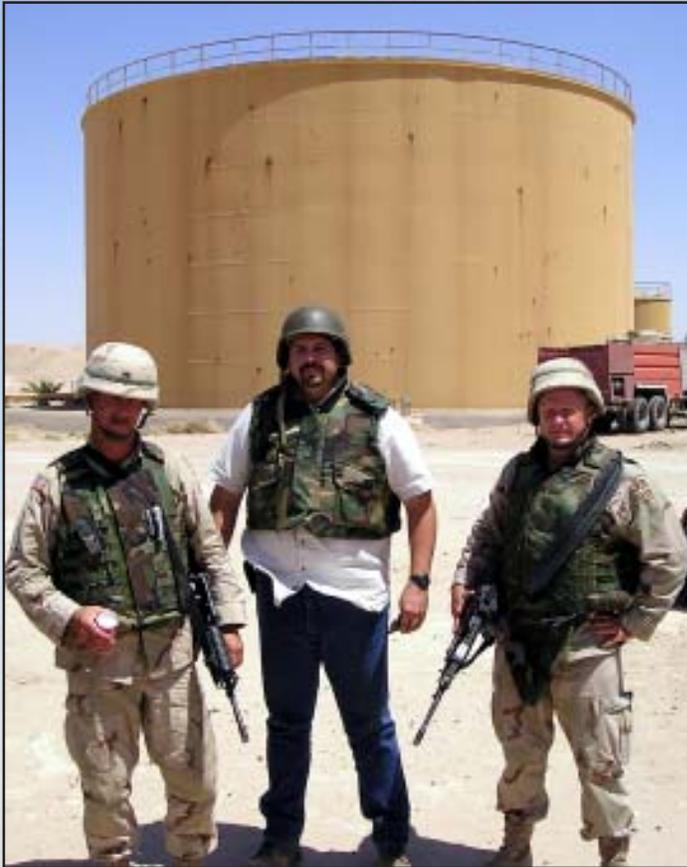
Although the Soldiers have carried out this mission for more than seven months, they realize the seriousness of their job and the situation they go into each day.

"I've been scared the whole time I've been here," Edge said. "You don't really know what's going to happen from day to day there, once we are in Iraq; we



Soldiers stop to access the possible dangers on a road during an escort into Iraq.

Commute to Iraq, protect contractors



Two Soldiers stand with one of the KBR contractors they were assigned to protect while on one of many missions to Iraq.

travel the outskirts of Basrah and they haven't always been a very friendly town."

One Soldier, Spc. Frank Wierzbicki of South Bend, Ind. recalls some of the incidents he's witnessed while on duty.

"I got to see a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) fly over a water plant during what we consider the tribal wars," he said. "And I also gave medical assistance to some Iraqi's who were seriously injured in a vehicle and equipment accident," Wierzbicki said. "There was also a riot and one of my B-Team saw gunners got hit in the head with a rock that someone threw through the windshield."

The contractors who are guarded by the Soldiers realize the position the Soldiers put themselves into and say they allow them to fulfill their job requirements.

"They've done good, anytime we've needed them for anything, they've been there," said J.D. Larwood, instrument specialist and electrician for

KBR. "We can't We can't cross from Kuwait into Iraq without them, and we really wouldn't want to. They are, most definitely a necessary asset to us."



A DOD civilian discusses the day's events with a KBR contractor.



A team of shooters takes refuge under a tree for shade during the hot summer months in Iraq. It has been know to reach temperatures as hot as 130 degrees fahrenheit.



Although these villagers are only curious about the Americans, the shooters must be aware of their surroundings at all times and expect the unexpected to protect the contractors.

Facility Hours

Camp Arifjan

Zone 1

Red Cross

24 Hours

Post Office

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

AAFES Post Exchange and shops

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Food concessions

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Green Beans

7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Club Mirage

10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Laundry

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Closed Friday)

Gym

24 hours

Pool

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Zone 2

Dry cleaner

9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Food concessions

9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Hol-N-One

7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Recreation Center

24 hours

Arcade

9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

AAFES car sales

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed Fridays)

Internet Café

24 hours

AAFES Post Exchange

8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Finance

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (closed Sundays)

Community Center

10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Theater

6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Camp Doha

AAFES concessions

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

Food Court

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

Multi-Media center

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

DFAC

Breakfast 5:30 to 8 a.m.

Lunch 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Midnight to 2 a.m.

Barber shop

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

Finance

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday

Red Cross

24-hours

Self Help

9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Saturday

12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Personnel Services

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday to Friday

1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday

Post Office

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DOIM CPC

8 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday

8 to 11:45 a.m. 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday

CAMP DOHA MOVIES

Wednesday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Terminator 3 Under Word Gothika
Thursday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	The Order Kill Bill In the Cut
Friday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star Time Line The Good Boy
Saturday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Mystic River Beyond Borders Haunted Masion
Sunday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Last Samurai Brother Bear Scary Movie III
Monday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	TBD The Run Down Texas Chainsaw Massacre
Tuesday	2 p.m. 5 :30 p.m. 8 p.m.	TBD Radio Brother Be



AAFES
Army & Air Force Exchange Service

CAMP ARIFJAN MOVIES

Wednesday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Mission Impossible Mission Impossible II
Thursday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Dick The Full Monty
Friday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	The Blues Brothers The Blues Brothers Marathon
Saturday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	The Next Best Thing Glory
Sunday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Naked Gun Interview With a Vampire
Monday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Father of the Bride Father of the Bride II
Tuesday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Black Sheep Basic Instinct



PX

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Education Center

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday to Thursday

MWR Movie Checkouts

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

TMC

Sick call 8 - 10 a.m.

1 - 3:30 p.m. (appointments only)

Salon

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday - Thursday

Travel Office

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday - Thursday

Dental Clinic

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Uncle Frosty's

2 p.m. - Midnight

Salsation
LATIN DANCE NIGHT

Frosty's Jan 31 1900 hrs

Call 438-5847 For Additional Info

Camp Doha happenings

Wednesday

House Night, 7 p.m., Frosty's

Thursday

Flag football tournament sign-ups begin

Friday

Foosball double

tournament, 7 p.m., Frosty's

Saturday

Martin Luther King Jr. display at MWR Library

Sunday

AFC and NFC championship games, 9 p.m., Frosty's

Monday

5K Run, 6 a.m., flagpoles

Camp Arifjan

Wednesday

Country Night, 7 p.m., Community Center

Thursday

Table Tennis League commences, 6 p.m., gym

Saturday

Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m., Community Center

Sunday

NFL playoffs, kick-off TBD

Monday

MLK Jr. celebration and display

Tuesday

Volleyball, 6 p.m.

Personal Courage

Personal courage – whether physical, moral or a combination of the two, may be manifested in a variety of ways, both on and off the battlefield. On March 16, 1968, Chief Warrant Officer Hugh C. Thompson Jr. and his two-man crew were on a reconnaissance mission over the village of My Lai, Vietnam.

Thompson watched in horror as he saw an American Soldier shoot an injured Vietnamese child. Minutes later, he observed American Soldiers advancing on a number of civilians in a ditch. Thompson landed his helicopter and questioned a young officer about what was happening on the ground. Told that the ground action of none of his business, Thompson took off and continued to circle the area.

When it became apparent that American Soldiers were now firing on civilians, Thompson landed his helicopter between the Soldiers and a group of 10 villagers who were headed for a homemade bomb shelter. He ordered his gunner to train his weapon on the approaching American Soldiers and fire if necessary.

Then he personally coaxed the civilians sheltered and airlifted them to safety. Thompson's radioed reports of what was happening were instrumental in bringing about a cease-order fire that saved the lives of more civilians. His willingness to place himself in physical danger in order to do the morally right thing is a sterling example of personal courage. (Editor's Note: This story was taken out of FM 22-100: Know, Be, Do.)

Reference numbers

Camp Doha

Fire, ambulance or police
438-5911

Kuwait City Ambulance
472-2000

Telephone Problems
438-5233

DOIM

438-5031

DPW Work Order

438-5743

Official Travel

438-5803

Self-Help

438-5115

Legal Assistance

438-5244

CFLCC Post Office

438-5244

ARCENT Post Office

438-5009

Army Health Clinic 438-5208

Camp Arifjan

Military Police

825-5911

Troop Medical Clinic

825-6510

AAFES

825-1250

Community Center

825-4470

Fire Department

825-4247

Red Cross

825-4444

Gym

825-4157

**Thank you to the Camp Udairi's DFAC personnel!
Thanks for all your hard work!**



Reserve Component officers now eligible for promotions, says DoD

Story by Joe Burlas
Army News

WASHINGTON – Mobilized reserve-component officers who have been selected for promotion now have a chance to pin their new rank on about the same time their counterparts at home do.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Reginald J. Brown signed a memorandum Dec. 17 that changes the requirement for Army Reserve and National Guard promotion-selectee officers to first be in position of higher grade before pinning that higher rank on.

Under the new policy, Reserve and National Guard personnel managers may match mobilized officers who have been selected for promotion and project them into higher-grade vacancies in units near the officers' home stations and then authorize those officers to pin their new rank on while serving in their current positions.

While the old policy en-

sured the Army Reserve and National Guard did not exceed their Congressional authorized grade-strength ceilings, mobilized officers have been put at a disadvantage in being unable to fill the higher grade slots due to being deployed, personnel officials said.

Under the old policy, officers who had been selected by a promotion board and not mobilized had the advantage, as they could seek, apply for and take higher-grade positions soon after being selected for promotion.

The Reserve-Component Stop Loss announced earlier this year requires all Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, including promotion-selectee officers, to remain with their unit through deployment and an additional three months. That means mobilized officers might have to wait up to 18 months before being able to fill a higher-grade position.

The new policy is about equity, leveling the playing field, for all RC officers, said one official who help formulate the new policy.

Deployed officers who are projected against a current higher-grade vacancy now will be able to pin on the new rank and get paid for that higher grade while deployed.

Those officers have up to six months after being demobilized to take the new position or find and take a position of equal rank.

Those who do not will be transferred into the Individual Ready Reserve at the higher grade. Reserve and National Guard personnel managers are currently working on how each will implement the new policy.

All Reserve unit vacancies can be viewed by rank via the Army Knowledge Online portal through the Human Resources Command – St. Louis homepage.

For other Reserve questions on the new policy, contact Steve Stromvall or Col. Geoffrey Jones, (404) 464-8492, or e-mail, Steven.Stromvall@usarcemh2.army.mil, Geoffrey.Jones@usarcemh2.army.mil.

National Guard officers with questions should contact their State Adjutant General Office.



Thailand

The 443 Thai soldiers deployed in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Aug. 5, 2003.

They will spend approximately 12 months in Iraq, helping with the reconstruction of the worn-torn country.

The soldiers involved will be divided into two groups, each spending about six months in Iraq. They were drawn from many different units, including the Army engineers, the Thai army medical corps and the Thai civilian affairs division.

Though not in Iraq for the purpose of war, but humanitarian, Thai soldiers have also given their lives in support of OIF.

Two Thai soldiers were killed Dec. 27 when a car bomb exploded in Karbala, Iraq. The soldiers' deaths were the first Thai casualty on foreign land since the Vietnam War, said Thai military officials said.

Shortly after the attack, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Thailand will send for combat troops into Iraq, to protect the support personnel currently there.



Bringin' a little taste of 'country'

Country star newcomer Jolie Edwards and veteran star Craig Morgan came to perform at Frosty's Jan. 2.

Edwards and Morgan were part of the Armed Forces Entertainment tour, which entertained troops in Iraq and Kuwait. Edwards, a mother of two, said though visiting servicemembers meant leaving her children at home, she believed doing so will allow them to understand the concept of making sacrifices and leaving loved ones behind to serve for a greater cause. Morgan, a former paratrooper and an Army reservist, said he understood what it was like to be deployed. He was one of the paratroopers who jumped during Operation Just Cause.



Becoming citizen easier for U.S. foreign-born servicemembers

Story by Maj. William Blackston

Non-citizen soldiers deployed to Kuwait and Iraq are taking advantage of a presidential order making it easier to become a U.S. citizen. The order provides for “expedited naturalization” of non-citizen soldiers serving on active duty since September 11, 2001.

The initiative benefits a surprising number of troops. According to the Department of Defense, more than 60,000 immigrants serve on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. The reserves and National Guard contain another estimated 40,000 non-U.S. citizens. Immigrants make up approximately 5% of all enlisted personnel in the U.S. armed forces.

Immigrants have historically made significant contributions to the Nation’s defense:

More than 20 percent of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor in U.S. wars have been immigrants, a total of 716 of the 3,406 Medal of Honor recipients have been immigrants.

143,000 non-citizen soldiers who participated in World Wars I and II later became naturalized American citizens. Another 31,000 members of the U.S. military who fought during the Korean War subsequently became citizens.

The Camp Arifjan Staff Judge Advocate office has set up an immigration clinic to assist soldiers with the citizenship application process. The clinic provides the forms and guidance necessary to successfully obtain citizenship. Once the paperwork is completed soldiers are escorted to the U.S. Embassy for fingerprinting and to submit their application.

MAJ Matt Blackston, the judge advocate

immigration coordinator, encourages soldiers to take advantage of the program, “I think it’s great. If you have somebody defending your country, he should have all the rights as a citizen.”

According to Blackston the clinic helps soldiers prepare the application, reviews everything for completeness and coordinates with the Embassy. So far, over 90 soldiers have applied for citizenship through the clinic.

The program has been so popular that the Embassy has designated its own military immigration officer, Arshad Ibrahim.

Ibrahim, himself a citizen of Pakistan, has processed soldiers from countries as diverse as Morocco, Poland, Philippines and Venezuela. Brigadier General Michael Diamond, 377th Theater Support Commander, recently recognized Ibrahim’s efforts by presenting him with a certificate of appreciation.

After a soldier’s paperwork reaches the Immigration and Naturalization Service, it usually takes about eight months for the soldier to receive citizenship.

Like other citizen applicants, soldiers must still undergo an INS interview. Soldiers are not exempt from the requirement that applicants be of good moral character, know English and have knowledge of civics.

For the time being, the interview and the actual swearing in as a citizen still must occur in the United States.

This will change. Blackston states, “under the recent Defense Authorization Bill signed in to law embassies and overseas military installations will begin conducting the interviews and swearing soldiers in Oct. 1

Citizenship pop-quiz

To become American citizens, anyone applying for citizenship must go through a series of testing, including tests on American history and government. Here’s a short version of the 100-question test. Can you pass? The answers are below.

- 1) Who said, “Give me liberty or give me death?”
- 2) How many terms can a president serve?
- 3) What country did America fight during the Revolutionary War?
- 4) How many amendments are there to the Constitution?
- 5) How many representatives are there in Congress?
- 6) Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?
- 7) Who becomes president if both the president and vice-president die?
- 8) What are the three branches of the government?
- 9) Can you name of the 13 original colonies?
- 10) Can you sing the Nation Anthem?

Answers

1) Patrick Henry 2) Two terms 3) England 4) 27 5) 435 6) A civil rights leader in the ‘60s 7) The Speaker of the House 8) Legislative, Executive and Judiciary 9) Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Rhode Island and Maryland. 10) Well, can you?

Birds provide servicemembers bliss, harmony in Kuwaiti desert

Story by Lt. Col. Robert Johnson

When birds of a feather flock together, the engineers at the Directorate of Public Works for Camp Arifjan just put out more feed. What started out as a hobby for one Soldier, has become a fascination for several members of the 416th Engineer Group and a surprise boast to environment at Camp Arifjan.

The hobby is the feeding and watching of the local white pigeons at the DPW office. Master Sgt. Tim Brown first brought in the birds back in April of last year. Local contractors noted his fasci-

nation with animals and they presented him with a pair of white pigeons, said Staff Sgt. Donald Chadwick.

But that first pair were not long for Arifjan and quickly flew away.

Four more birds were brought in and kept in a coop for a few weeks until they become accustomed with their new surroundings.

When the second group of birds was released, they stayed in the area and are still here today, said Chadwick.

Soon the area where the birds stay became a hobby for the engineers here at DPW, said Chadwick.

“We added some sod, bushes

and made it a small park for the birds.

“We put out water for the pigeons and locals donated cracked corn for feed.”

And then the friends of the feather started to show up.

Soon there were more different kinds of birds in our small park. We had sparrows, egrets and other birds that weren’t here before the pigeons came.

The other birds come and go, but the pigeons are always here, said Chadwick.

“We don’t mind them at all,” said Chadwick. “It’s better to spend time in the evening watching the

birds than it is just to go back to your bunk.”

A surprise feature is that some of the birds the pigeons have attracted eat flies and mosquitoes.

Since the birds have been here, there seems to be less flying insects in the area around the office, added Chadwick. They’re a natural pesticide.

With the birds and plants, the Engineers of DPW may have the smallest bird sanctuary in the world.

“The only thing lacking is a pond with fish, and it wouldn’t surprise me if that showed up as well,” mused Chadwick.

Operation Iraqi Freedom



USMC photo
Marines from 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) does their part during Operation Iraqi Freedom to help liberate the people of Iraq.



U.S. Army photo
Soldiers fire a M109A6 Paladin howitzer during a section certification and live-fire exercise near the Abu Ghraib section of Baghdad, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo
Soldiers from Headquarters and Bravo Company, 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) prepare to hook a humvee to a UH-47 Chinook.



U.S. Air Force photo
Chaplain (U.S. Air Force Lt. Col.) Gary Garvey from the 506th Air Expeditionary Group gets his thumb held by a curious infant during a visit to a local village near Kirkuk, Iraq.



U.S. Navy photo
Specially trained boarding team members from the guided missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) board and take control of one of two wooden dhows officials are investigating possible connections to Al-Qaida and the use of drug money for funding of terrorist operations worldwide.