

DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central
"Transforming to Full-Spectrum Operations"



October 1, 2008

OCTOBER 2008
AIK & OIF
DFAC MENUS
INSIDE!



NAVY TO THE RESCUE

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On the cover

Soldiers from the 41st Field Artillery Brigade conduct training with 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment in preparation for their deployment to Iraq. For the full story, see page 6. (Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton)

Contact us

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



Yellow Ribbon Newsletter

Teamwork is one of our core organizational values and U.S. Army Central is a team that operates together to achieve collective goals and accomplish our assigned mission.

Inclusive in that team are our great Family members who continue to support each other and us day after day, year after year, through thick and thin.

Recently, the Family Readiness Group leaders and the Public Affairs Office combined efforts to reorganize and makeover our long-standing newsletter, *The Yellow Ribbon* to make it more informative and relevant.

Our strength as Soldiers relies heavily on the strength of our Families. Whether stationed in the U.S. or at one of the bases overseas, the importance of a strong Family is extremely important ... Army Families are Army Strong.

The monthly newsletter is aimed at keeping everyone, regardless of location, well informed of the activities and events that are taking place in and around USARCENT. It provides a forum for Soldiers and Family members to come together to support each other.

One of the key focuses of *The Yellow Ribbon* is to welcome our new Soldiers and their Families into the USARCENT Family; it is an extension of our sponsorship program.

We do this by providing them information about USARCENT, which includes:

- Messages from key leaders in the FRG program.

- USARCENT and Army news.

- Volunteer and recreation opportunities

- Civilian career opportunities for



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

spouses.

Phone numbers of FRG leaders in their local area.


Calendar of events; which includes FRG meetings, newcomer's orientations, marriage enrichment retreats and video teleconference's for Family members, living near Fort McPherson, whose

spouse is deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The FRG members, who take the time to write, photograph, publish and participate in *The Yellow Ribbon* newsletter, demonstrate their commitment to our USARCENT Family. To those who contribute to the newsletter, I thank you for making *The Yellow Ribbon* a great publication for our Soldiers and Family members and solicit your suggestions to make it even better.

I encourage everyone in the command to take time and familiarize yourself with *The Yellow Ribbon*, and provide information to your spouses so they can become an involved and informed Family member in our great organization.

The Yellow Ribbon can be found online at <http://www.arcent.army.mil/frg>. You can also be added to the mailing list or receive an electronic copy by sending an e-mail to frg@arcent.army.mil; be sure to include your name and e-mail address again in the text box and indicate in the subject line, "Electronic Yellow Ribbon."

Patton's Own! 

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

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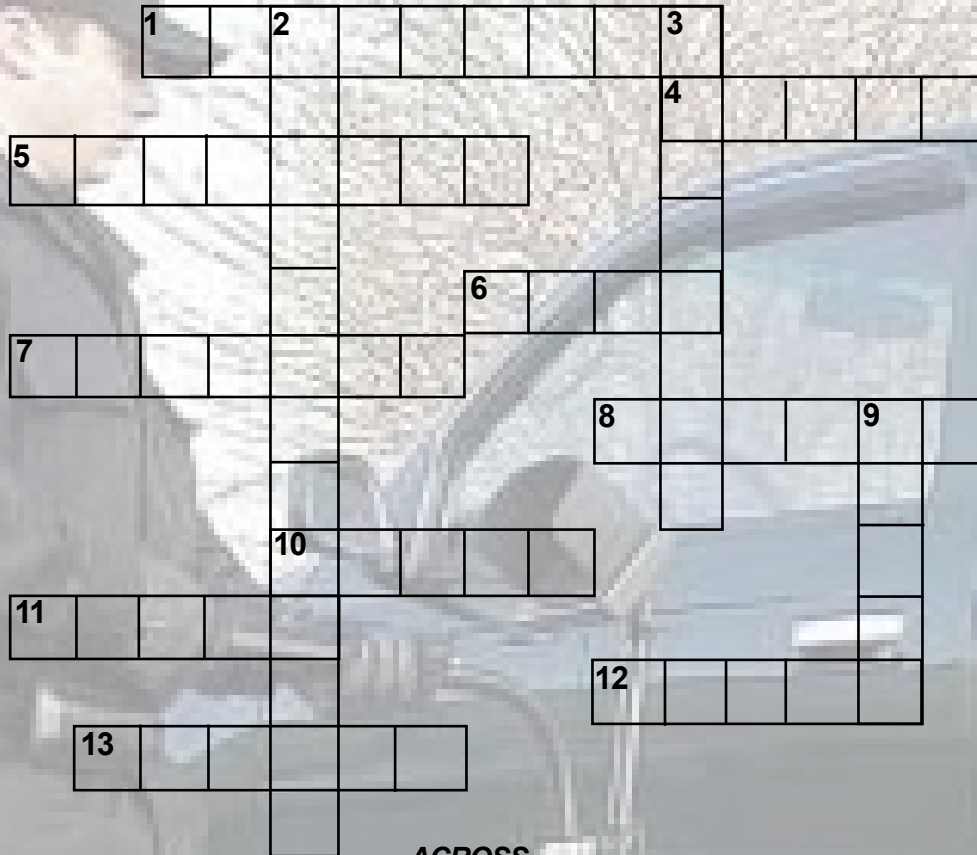
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DV
The Desert Voice



Inspection Safety Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Special storage required for these
- 4. Check for _____ electrical wires
- 5. Adequate _____ is needed to see what you are doing
- 6. Wires, hoses and tools on the floor create this hazard
- 7. Remove any _____ equipment from service
- 8. Tools that are _____ cannot be used
- 10. Check for _____ objects that can cause cuts
- 11. If this accumulates it could cause a fire hazard
- 12. Check that all safety _____ are in place and legible
- 13. If these are missing, equipment is unsafe

DOWN

- 2. _____ must be readily accessible at all times in case of a fire
- 3. Liquid spills create _____ conditions
- 9. Emergency _____ may not be blocked or locked at any time

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

USARCENT Chaplain's life and service celebrated



Servicemembers pay tribute to Chaplain (Col.) Sidney J. Marceaux, U.S. Army Central, during a memorial ceremony held in his honor at the Zone 1 Chapel on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 24.

**Story and photo by
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton
Desert Voice Staff Writer**

Servicemembers and guests paid tribute to Chaplain (Col.) Sidney J. Marceaux, U.S. Army Central, during a memorial ceremony held in his honor at the Zone 1 Chapel on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 24.

Attendees celebrated Marceaux's life and his 42 years as a Soldier in the National Guard, Army Reserve and Regular Army.

"With uncles and cousins who served in World War II, it was not unusual that he too would someday serve," said Col. Craig Wiley, chaplain, USARCENT.

"However, Chaplain Marceaux would add a twist to family history, serving as both a Soldier and priest; a first for a family [with] a long legacy of service."

Those who participated in the ceremony shared memories of Marceaux and his dedication to the spiritual well being of Soldiers and their families.

Maj. William Howerton II, US-

ARCENT, reflected on how he felt Marceaux embodied this dedication.

He spoke of how Marceaux put together a choir, in a week's time, for his parishioners because he believed singing was another form of prayer.

Howerton also shared memories of Marceaux's last mass at Camp Arifjan where the youngest son of the previous commander Army Support Group-Kuwait took part in his first communion. Because Marceaux did not remember his own first communion, he took the extra step to make sure the young man's first was memorable by encouraging everyone to shake his hand and congratulate him.

"Father Marceaux's ministry had a wonderful twist to everything he did," said Howerton. "He loved, he served and he protected his Soldiers; no matter where he was, no matter what he did and no matter what the conditions were."

Upon his graduation from high school, Marceaux joined the Texas National Guard at the age of 17.

While in the Guard, he earned


his Master's degree in Church Management and shortly after was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest of the Diocese of Beaumont.

After eight years of service to the National Guard, Marceaux joined the Army Reserves where he spent 29 years as a chaplain. In 1995, the Chief of Chaplains invited Chaplain Marceaux to come on active duty.

During his time as a Chaplain, Marceaux had many assignments and a hand in developing several religious programs. A few of his undertakings include developing the Fort Bragg, N.C., religious support program and conducting religious services in French, Spanish and Italian while assigned to the 80th Area Support Group in Chievres, Belgium. He also implemented the commander's vision for religious support throughout Japan while assigned to the U.S. Army Japan and 9th Theater Support Command.

During his final deployment at Camp Arifjan, Marceaux served as the only Catholic chaplain in country. He provided religious support at five different chapels located on four different camps, the U.S. Embassy and a confinement facility.

He had a wide range of responsibility in the spiritual guidance of servicemembers in all branches, contractors, civilians, ambassadors and third country nationals.

"After serving 42 years as a Soldier in the National Guard, the Army Reserve and the Regular Army, Chaplain Sidney Marceaux embodies the Chaplain Corps motto: 'Pro Deo Et Patria- For God and Country,'" said Wiley. "He will be missed." 

Acquisition training treks to S.W. Asia

Story and photo by
Jim Hinnant
401st AFSB PAO

Nearly 18 years ago, the U.S. Congress enacted the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, a work of landmark legislation intended to improve the effectiveness of the people who manage and implement defense acquisition programs through education, training and work experience.

For the first time in Southwest Asia, 18 Soldiers, Army civilians and contractors completed the classroom portion of the Intermediate Systems Acquisition Course, Acquisition 201B, one of the most difficult professional certification requirements to obtain in the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics field.

“There are waiting lists in the states for this course,” said Donald Hafner, training manager, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. “For these folks to be able to complete the 201B course here is a real plus.”

“The complexity of the logistics business makes certification more important than ever,” said Hafner. “It’s more than just moving parts or supplies; it involves facilities, budgets, acquisition and more. Today’s logisticians have to be knowledgeable in many areas.”

Students traveled from Afghanistan and Qatar for the training.

“Certification really means something,” said Jeff Patten, a professor of Systems Acquisition Management at the Defense Acquisition University’s South Region Campus, located in Huntsville, Ala. “We have a professional logistics workforce.”

According to Patten, one of the real benefits of the professionalization of the AT&L workforce is the ability to more efficiently get critical technology into the hands of the war-fighter.

“The [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle] program is a great example,” said Patten. “Two years ago, we didn’t have them and we have rolled them out quickly in a combat environment.”

Patten says training like the Intermediate Systems Acquisition

Course has been instrumental in the MRAP and other recent acquisition successes.

“This course is key, we teach students to work in an integrated product team and solve complicated acquisition problems,” Patten added.

One student, who completed the course, says he came to the session looking to develop his logistics skills and prepare for career advancement, but found much more.

“I found the most beneficial part of the course was learning how a defense acquisition strategy plays out, from a need being identified and turned into a concept, to a finished product in the hands of the Soldier in the field,” said Lewis Courtney, Department of the Army civilian, 401st AFSB. “The course opened my eyes to other areas in the acquisition, logistics and technology field.”

Courtney said the course exceeded his expectations.

“The instructors from DAU were great,” said Courtney. “Time flew by and I was never bored.”

“The greatest payoff from the training may be the focus it brings to that ‘other thing’ we do as logisticians,” said Robert Williams, chief of staff and deputy to the brigade commander, 401st AFSB.

“Acquisition is, as are logistics and technology, one of our core competencies,” said Williams. “This is one of the toughest courses to get, and bringing it here gets our folks closer to certification while helping us focus on the ‘A’ of A, L and T.” **A**



Intermediate Systems Acquisition course student David McDougal, assists Chris Fry, a Defense Acquisition University Professor of Systems Acquisition Management, during a classroom discussion, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 15.

2515TH NAAD PROVIDES SEA AND

Story and photos by
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton
Desert Voice Staff Writer

U.S. Army Central's 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment is responsible for providing continuous medical evacuation coverage for southern Iraq, Kuwait and the Northern Arabian Gulf as part of their area of responsibility.

Stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Navy unit is completely out of its element; yet they have managed to carry out their mission in the deserts of the Middle East.

"It's your typical life-flight helicopter you might see back in the States, except we do it here in Kuwait and southern Iraq," said Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Bonnett, a Williamsburg, Va., native.

The 2515th NAAD assumed its mission in 2005 in an effort to help the Army provide pre-emergency hospital care to servicemembers involved in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"The Navy was asked to source this mission to relieve the burden



Soldiers from the 41st Field Artillery Brigade conduct training with 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment members in preparation for their deployment to Iraq.

and rescue medical technicians," said Cmdr. Mike Dowling, 2515th NAAD, East Northport, N.Y., native. "The Army has their way of doing business, the Navy has its way of doing business; but we find ways to work together."

The NAAD includes more than 100 people from 10 different commands.

The group is comprised of 16 pilots, 16 aircrewmembers, 8 search

and rescue medical technicians, and more than 50 maintenance and support personnel. The unit works 12-hour shifts, seven days a week on 6-month deployments.

The unit receives calls that range from urgent, priority or routine.

In order to respond when needed, they maintain two first-up crews, required to launch within 15 minutes, and two second-up crews, which are given a 1-hour launch time, on stand-by.

NAAD members are trained and certified to respond to medical emergencies on both land and sea. They continuously train on various jobs that they are tasked with in the AOR and tasks that they would do at their home station.

"When we're not waiting for calls we're training," said Bonnett.

The training is separated by type and category such as tactics, medicine and rescue, added Bonnett.

Some of the training includes



Petty Officer 2nd Class Kendra Larson, performs a maintenance check on a MH-60S helicopter.

October 2008 Menu

October 5, 2008

Lunch:
Baked Lasagna
Polish Sausage w/ sautéed Onions & Green Pepper
Lyonnais Rice
Italian Roasted Potatoes
Seasoned Peas & Carrots
Stewed Tomatoes
Garlic Breads

Dinner:
Tuna Terazzini
Jamaican Rum Chicken
Garlic Cheese Potatoes
Seasoned Broccoli
Ginger Glazed Carrots
Brown Gravy

October 6, 2008

Lunch:
Braised Liver With Onions
Pasta Toscana
Aztec Rice
Seasoned Mashed Potatoes
Hacienda Corn & Black Beans
Grilled Zucchini
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Creole Pork Chops
Salmon Steak w/ Buttered Lemon Sauce
Paprika Buttered Potatoes
Buttered Fettuccini Noodles
Ratatouille
Buttered Cauliflower
Vegetable Gravy

October 7, 2008

Lunch:
Beef Fajita
Chicken & Bean Burritos
Cheese Enchiladas
Spanish Rice
Refried Beans
Seasoned Sweet Corn
Enchiladas Sauce
Tortilla Bread

Dinner:
Grilled Ham Steak
Beef Prime Ribs
Orange Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Tangy Spinach
Glazed Carrots
Brown Gravy

October 12, 2008

Lunch:
Braised Pork Ribs
Savory Baked Chicken
Rosemary Potato Wedges
Szechwan Spicy Noodles
Corn O'Brien
Club Spinach
Chicken Gravy

Dinner:
Tomato Meat Loaf
Fried Chicken Tender
Mashed Potatoes
Rice Pilaf
Seasoned Kidney Beans
Cauliflower Polonaise
Brown Gravy

October 13, 2008

Lunch:
Grilled Knockwurst
Cottage Pie
Oven Brown Potato
Brown Rice
Calico Cabbage
Succotash
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Honey Glazed Riblets
Baked Trout Fish
Spicy Potato Wedges
Chick Peas Rice
Sweet Peas
Seasoned Butter Beans
Brown Gravy

October 14, 2008

Lunch:
Chicken Fajitas
Beef & Bean Burritos
Cheese Enchiladas
Spanish Rice
Refried Beans
Mexican Corn
Enchiladas Sauce
Tortilla Bread

Dinner:
Cajun Roast Beef
Scalloped Ham & Potatoes
Oven Brown Potatoes
Butter Noodles
Ratatouille
Lyonnais Okra
Brown Gravy

October 19, 2008

Lunch:
Hungarian Goulash
Bombay Chicken
Buttered Egg Noodles
Paprika Mashed Potato
Seasoned Green Beans
Calico Cabbage
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Grilled Bratwurst w/ Sautéed Onions & Peppers
Greek Lemon Turkey Pasta
South Western Rice
Carrots & Celery Amandine
Tangy Spinach
Brown Gravy

October 20, 2008

Lunch:
Chicken Adobo
Sauerbraten
Tri-Colored Pasta
Fried Rice
Peas & Onions
Cauliflower w/ Cheese Sauce
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Braised Pork Chops
Spaghetti w/ Meat Balls
Oven-Glo Potatoes
Italian Style Baked Beans
Hot Spiced Beets
Garlic Bread

October 21, 2008

Lunch:
Beef Fajitas
Chicken & Bean Burritos
Cheese Enchiladas
Mexican Rice
Refried Beans
Mexican Corn
Enchiladas Sauce
Tortilla Bread

Dinner:
Caribbean Chicken
Shrimp Creole
Islander's Rice
Scalloped Potatoes
Calico Cabbage
Lima Beans
Chicken Gravy

October 22, 2008

Lunch:
BBQ Pork Loin
Chicken Pot Pie
Mediterranean Brown Rice
O'Brien Potatoes
Ginger Glazed Baby Carrots
Cut Green Beans
Chicken Gravy

Dinner:
Grilled Steak
Steamed Crab Legs
Fried Shrimps
Toast Green Rice
Baked Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Sweet Corn
Sautéed Onions & Mushrooms
Butter Sauce

October 27, 2008

Lunch:
Baked Lasagna
Chicken Parmesan
Italian Roasted Potatoes
Ratatouille
Corn O'Brien
Brown Gravy
Garlic Toast

Dinner:
Beef Ball Stroganoff
Basil Baked Fish Portion
Steamed Rice
Garlic Lemon Potatoes Wedges
Okra and Tomato Combo
Cauliflower Parmesan

October 28, 2008

Lunch:
Beef Fajitas
Chicken & Bean Burritos
Cheese Enchiladas
Mexican Rice
Refried Beans
Mexican Corn
Enchiladas Sauce
Tortilla Bread

Dinner:
Turkey Nuggets
Sweet & Sour Pork
Orange Rice
Cottage Fried Potatoes
Honey Dejon Vegetables
Carrots & Peas
Turkey Gravy

October 29, 2008

Lunch:
Ground Beef Cordon Bleu
Chicken Chow Mein
Duchesse Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Buttered French Beans
Seasoned Slice Carrots
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Grilled Steak
Baked Lobster w/ Cheese
Fried Scallops
Fried Rice
Baked Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Sweet Corn
Sautéed Onions & Mushrooms
Butter Sauce

October 30, 2008

Lunch:
Fried Catfish
BBQ Chicken
Cheese Macaroni
Candied Yams
Southern Style Greens
Corn on the Cob
Hush Puppies

Dinner:
New England Boiled Dinner
Breaded Fried Pork Chop
Egg Fried Rice
Lyonnais Potatoes
Steamed Cabbage
Seasoned Beans
Brown Gravy

Menu Key

Green: Healthy Choices

Red: Specialty Meals

OIF Dining Facility

October 1, 2008/October 29, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Jagerschnitzel
 Meatloaf (Beef & Turkey)
 Mashed Potatoes
 Noodle Parmesan
 Black-eyed Peas
 Broccoli Cauliflower Medley
 Mushroom Gravy

Dinner:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Cracker
 T-Bone Steak
 Breaded Shrimp
 Onion & Mushrooms
 Red Beans & Rice
 Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Corn on the Cob
 Brown Gravy
 Crab Salad
 Lemon Wedges, Tartar Sauce
 Seafood Cocktail Sauce

(Day 21 of 28)

Pasta Bar

October 2, 2008/October 30, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Ground Beef Yakisoba w/ spaghetti
 Rotisserie Chicken
 Oven Browned Potatoes
 Georgia Rice
 California Blend Vegetables
 Succotash
 Brown Gravy

Dinner:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Nachos
 Beef fajitas
 Enchiladas
 Chicken Fajitas
 Burritos
 Taco Bar
 Chicken Quesadilla
 Oven Browned Potatoes
 Mexican Rice
 Seasoned Mixed Vegetables
 Pinto Beans
 Refried Beans

(Day 22 of 28)

Indian Night Meal

October 3, 2008/October 31, 2008

Lunch:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Crackers
 Chicken Cordon Bleu
 Creole Macaroni
 Baked Macaroni & Cheese
 Mashed Potatoes
 Collard Greens
 Calico Corn
 Brown Gravy

Dinner:
 Bean and Bacon Soup
 Crackers
 BBQ Beef Brisket
 Breaded Pork Chops
 Mashed Potatoes
 Noodle Jefferson
 Brown Gravy
 Broccoli Combo
 Orange Carrot Almandine
 Sautéed Mushrooms & Onions

(Day 23 of 28)

Potatoe Bar
Steak Night

October 4, 2008

Lunch:
 Tomato Soup
 Crackers
 Honey Glazed Cornish Hens
 Roast Beef
 Baked Potato
 Mashed Sweet Potatoes
 Honey Dijon Vegetables
 Cauliflower Parmesan
 Sour Cream
 Horseradish Sauce

Dinner:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Crackers
 Oriental Peppers Steak
 Breaded Scallops
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Steamed Rice
 Brown Gravy
 Japanese Vegetable Stir Fry
 Peas w/ Onions

(Day 24 of 28)

Fajitas Bar

October 8, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Veal Parmesan
 Roast Pork
 Steamed Rice
 Cheese Tortellini
 Fried Cabbage
 Hacienda Corn & Black Beans

Dinner:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 T-Bone steak
 Crab Legs
 Breaded Shrimp
 Baked Potatoes
 Pasta Provincial
 Corn on the Cob
 Green Beans Creole
 Sour Cream

(Day 28 of 28)

Pasta Bar

October 9, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken noodle soup
 Cracker
 Baked Salmon
 Grilled Pork Chops
 Oven Glow Potatoes
 Noodles Jefferson
 Stewed Tomatoes
 California Blend Vegetables
 Onion Gravy
 Apple Sauce
 Lemon Wedges
 Tartar Sauce

Dinner:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Beef Prime Rib
 Chicken Cordon Bleu
 Garlic Roasted Potatoes
 Rice Pilaf
 Steamed Peas
 Seasoned Corn
 Turkey Gravy
 Cranberry Sauce

(Day 1 of 28)

Taco Bar
Chinese Night Meal

October 10, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Pork Adobo
 Salisbury steak
 Steamed Rice
 Mashed Potatoes
 Seasoned Peas & Carrots
 Black-eyed Peas
 Brown Gravy

Dinner:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 BBQ Beef Brisket
 Rotisserie Chicken
 Red Beans Rice
 Spicy Potato Wedges
 Seasoned Carrots
 Herbed Broccoli
 Chicken Gravy

(Day 2 of 28)

Potatoe Bar
Steak Night

October 11, 2008

Lunch:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Crackers
 Crab Cakes
 Cornish Hen
 Cheese Tortellini
 Rice Pilaf
 Calico Corn
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Parmesan Cheese
 Corn Bread

Dinner:
 Bean & Bacon Soup
 Crackers
 Sweet & Sour Pork
 Turkey Cutlets (Baked and Breaded)
 Baked potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Steamed Broccoli
 Succotash
 Sour Cream

(Day 3 of 28)

Fajitas Bar

October 15, 2008

Lunch:
 New England Clam Soup
 Crackers
 Swedish Meatballs
 Baked Ham
 Steamed Rice
 Scalloped Potatoes
 Glazed Carrots
 Spring Blend Vegetables
 Cheese Biscuits
 Pineapple Sauce

Dinner:
 New England Clam Soup
 Crackers
 T-Bone Steak
 Breaded/Baked Catfish
 Onions & Mushrooms
 Steamed Rice
 Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Corn on the Cob
 Brown Gravy
 Crab Salad
 Lemon Wedges, Tartar Sauce

(Day 7 of 28)

Pasta Bar

October 16, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Roast Turkey
 Prime Ribs
 Mashed Potatoes
 Sweet Potatoes
 Steamed Broccoli
 Seasoned Mixed Vegetables
 Seasoned Dressing
 Turkey Gravy
 Au Jus
 Cranberry Sauce
 Hot Rolls

Dinner:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Fried & Lemon Baked Pollock
 Lasagna/Spinach Lasagna/Egg Plant Parmesan
 Garlic Roasted Potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Seasoned Succotash
 Harvard Beets
 Onion Gravy/Parmesan Cheese
 Applesauce

(Day 8 of 28)

Taco Bar
Arabian Night Meal

October 17, 2008

Lunch:
 Bean w/w Bacon Soup
 Nachos
 Beef Fajitas
 Enchiladas
 Chicken Fajitas
 Burritos
 Taco Bar
 Chicken Quesadilla
 Oven Browned Potatoes
 Spanish Rice
 Seasoned Mixed Vegetables
 Pinto Beans
 Refried Beans
 Enchilada Sauce
 Queso Sauce

Dinner:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Salisbury Steak
 Rotisserie Chicken
 Mashed Potatoes
 Seasoned Noodles
 Green Beans
 Seasoned Carrots
 Chicken Gravy

(Day 9 of 28)

Potatoe Bar
Steak Night

October 18, 2008

Lunch:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Crackers
 Trout Fried & Baked
 Beef Pot Roast
 Mashed Potatoes
 Fried Rice
 California Blend Vegetables
 Calico Corn
 Brown Gravy
 Lemon Wedges, Tartar Sauce

Dinner:
 Bean w/ Bacon Soup
 Crackers
 Yakisoba Hamburger w/ Spaghetti
 Grilled Pork Chops
 Cheese Tortellini
 Spicy Potato Wedges
 Seasoned Cauliflower
 Turnip Green
 Brown Gravy

(Day 10 of 28)

Fajitas Bar

October 22, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Egg Rolls
 Gen. Tso Chicken
 Chicken & Broccoli
 Vegetable Lo Mein
 Shrimp Lo Mein
 Asian Style Riblets
 Spicy Potato Wedges
 Steamed/Fried Rice
 Oriental Stir Fry
 Seasoned Mix Vegetables

Seafood Dinner:
 New England Clam Soup
 Crackers
 Lobster
 Breaded Shrimp
 Crab Bites
 Onion & Mushrooms
 Rice Pilaf
 Baked Potatoes w/ Sour Cream
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Corn on the Cob
 Brown Gravy

(Day 14 of 28)

Pasta Bar

October 23, 2008

Lunch:
 Bean w/ Bacon Soup
 Crackers
 Ham Pit Baked
 Swedish Meatballs
 Seasoned Egg Noodles
 Garlic Roasted Potatoes
 Spring Blend Vegetables
 Cauliflower Au Gratin
 Brown Gravy
 Applesauce
 Corned Bread

Dinner:
 Bean w/ Bacon Soup
 Crackers
 Texas Style Corned Beef
 Fried/Baked Pollock
 Baked Macaroni & Cheese
 Steamed Rice
 Succotash
 Vegetable Medley
 Tartar Sauce
 Lemon Wedges
 Seafood Cocktail Sauce
 Cheese Biscuit
 Brown Gravy

(Day 15 of 28)

Taco Bar
Oriental Night Meal

October 24, 2008

Lunch:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Crackers
 Tuna Noodle Casserole
 Chicken Fried Steak
 Cream Country Gravy
 Steamed Rice
 Seasoned Carrots
 Seasoned Broccoli
 Mushroom Gravy

Dinner:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Crackers
 Jambalaya
 Fried/Baked Chicken
 Jambalaya Seasoned Rice
 Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Oriental Stir Fry
 Brown Gravy

(Day 16 of 28)

Potatoe Bar
Steak Night

October 25, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Roast Turkey
 BBQ Ribs
 Savory Bread Dressing (Mix)
 Mashed Potatoes
 Seasoned Mixed Vegetables
 Collard Greens
 Turkey Gravy
 Cranberry Sauce
 Rice Pilaf
 Candied Yams
 Biscuits

Dinner:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Breaded Pork Chops
 Mongolian BBQ Shrimp, Chicken, beef, pork stir fry
 Fried/Steamed Rice
 Garlic Mashed Potatoes
 California Blend Vegetables
 Fried Cabbage
 Brown Gravy
 Applesauce

(Day 17 of 28)

Fajitas Bar

***Menu Subject To Change**

October 2008 Menu

October 5, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken w/ Rice Soup
 Crackers
 Beef Stroganoff
 Grilled Ham Steak
 Seasoned Noodles
 Deviled Oven Fries
 Stewed Tomatoes
 Seasoned Green Peas

Dinner:
 Chicken w/ Rice Soup
 Crackers
 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs
 Pork Ribs & Sauerkraut
 Mashed Potatoes
 Brown Gravy
 Herbed Broccoli
 Mixed Vegetables

Pasta Bar
Mongolian BBQ Night

(Day 25 of 28)

October 6, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Fried & Baked Chicken
 Prime Rib w/Au Jus Sauce
 Mashed Potatoes
 Orange Rice
 Chicken Gravy
 Green Beans Combo
 Mexican Corn

Dinner:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Beef Pot Roast
 Gen. Tso Chicken
 Chicken & Broccoli
 Veg Lo Mein
 Shrimp Lo Mein
 Steamed Rice
 Parsley Seasoned Potatoes
 Fried Cauliflower
 Beets in Orange-Lemon Sauce

Chinese Bar

(Day 26 of 28)

October 7, 2008

Lunch:
 New England Clam Soup
 Crackers
 Chili Macaroni
 Baked Salmon
 Aztec Rice
 Mashed Potatoes
 Brown Gravy
 South of the Border Broccoli
 Peas w/ Onions
 Lemon Slice

Dinner:
 New England Clam Soup
 Crackers
 Roast Turkey
 Stuffed Green Peppers
 Rissole Potatoes
 Italian - Style Baked Beans
 Seasoned Carrot Slices
 Bread Dressing
 Mashed Potatoes
 Turkey Gravy
 Cranberry Sauce

Soul Food Night Meal

(Day 27 of 28)

October 12., 2008

Lunch:
 Tomato Soup
 Crackers
 Roast Beef
 Italian Style Veal
 Mashed Potatoes
 Seasoned Egg Noodles
 Steamed Peas
 Fried Cabbage
 Brown Gravy
 Sautèed Mushrooms & Onions

Dinner:
 Vegetarian Vegetable Soup
 Cracker
 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce
 Fried/Baked/Blackened Trout
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Oven Brown Potatoes
 Corn on the Cob
 Seasoned Carrots
 Collard Greens
 Brown Gravy
 Parmesan Cheese
 Garlic Bread

Pasta Bar
Mongolian BBQ Night

(Day 4 of 28)

October 13, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken w/ Rice Soup
 Crackers
 BBQ Ribs
 Fried/Baked Chicken
 Mashed Potatoes
 Cheese Tortellini
 Blacked Eyed Peas
 Collard Greens
 Chicken Gravy
 Crab Salad
 Cornbread

Dinner:
 Chicken w/ Rice Soup
 Crackers
 Pork Roast
 Braised Beef & Noodles
 Potatoes Au Gratin
 Rice Pilaf
 Harvard Beets
 Seasoned Cauliflower
 Mushroom Gravy
 Applesauce

Chinese Bar

(Day 5 of 28)

October 14, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream w/ Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Baked/Fried Pollock
 Swiss steak w/ M&O
 O'Brien Potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Oriental Stir Fry
 Steamed Broccoli
 Mushroom Gravy
 Apple Sauce
 Tartar Sauce

Dinner:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Jambalaya
 Meat Loaf
 Jambalaya Seasoned Rice
 Mashed Potatoes
 Seasoned Corn
 Seasoned Tomatoes
 Brown Gravy

Soul Food Night Meal

(Day 6 of 28)

October 19, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Roasted Pork Roast
 Chili Mac
 Oven Brown Potatoes
 Corn on Cob
 Peas and Carrots
 Brown Gravy
 Applesauce
 Cornbread

Dinner:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Cornish Hens
 Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes
 Rice Pilaf
 Herbed Broccoli
 Succotash
 Brown Gravy

Pasta Bar
Mongolian BBQ Night

(Day 11 of 28)

October 20, 2008

Lunch:
 Tomato Soup
 Crackers
 Swiss steak w/ Tomato Sauce
 Baked/Fried Pollock
 Macaroni and Cheese
 Deviled Oven Fries
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Glazed Carrots
 Brown Gravy
 Tartar Sauce
 Lemon Wedges

Dinner:
 Tomato Soup
 Cracker
 Pulled Pork BBQ & Buffalo Shredded Chicken
 Turkey Cutlet, Chicken Fried and Baked
 Steamed Rice
 O'Brien Potatoes
 Peas w/ Mushrooms
 Seasoned Corn
 Turkey Gravys

Chinese Bar

(Day 12 of 28)

October 21, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Roast Turkey
 Seafood Newburg
 Mashed Potatoes
 Bread Dressing
 Seasoned Green Peas
 Corn O'Brien
 Mushroom Gravy
 O'Brien Potatoes
 Cranberry Sauce
 Candied Yams

Dinner:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Breaded Pork Chops
 Lasagna/Spinach Lasagna/Eggplant Parmesan
 Garlic Bread
 Parmesan Cheese
 Steamed Rice
 Mashed Potatoes
 Herbed Broccoli
 California Blend Vegetable
 Brown Gravy

Soul Food Night Meal

(Day 13 of 28)

October 26, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Crackers
 Chili Con Carne
 Trout Baked & Fried
 Steamed Rice
 Seasoned Noodles
 Hacienda Corn & Black Beans
 Fried Cauliflower
 Brown Gravy
 Tartar Sauce
 Lemon Wedges
 Seafood Cocktail Sauce

Dinner:
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Crackers
 Crab Cakes w/ Condiments
 Prime Ribs
 Mashed Potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Spring Blend Vegetables
 Pinto Beans
 Brown Gravy
 Horseradish
 Lemon Wedges

Pasta Bar
Mongolian BBQ Night

(Day 18 of 28)

October 27, 2008

Lunch:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Braised Beef Cubes
 Rotisserie Chicken
 Mashed Potatoes
 Seasoned Noodles
 Red Beans & Rice
 Turnip Greens
 Black-eyed Peas
 Chicken Gravy
 Cornbread

Dinner:
 Cream of Broccoli Soup
 Crackers
 Salisbury steak
 BBQ Style Riblets
 Spicy Potato Wedges
 Baked Macaroni & Cheese
 Seasoned Peas
 Seasoned Succotash
 Beef Gravy

Chinese Bar

(Day 19 of 28)

October 28, 2008

Lunch:
 Chicken w/ Rice Soup
 Crackers
 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs
 Roast Pork Loin
 Steamed Rice
 Grilled Potato Cakes
 Seasoned Corn
 Seasoned Green Beans
 Brown Gravy
 Parmesan Cheese
 Garlic Bread
 Applesauce

Dinner:
 Chicken w/ Rice Soup
 Crackers
 Breaded/Baked Catfish
 Pork Chop Suey
 Oven Brown Potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Seasoned Carrots
 Cauliflower Au Gratin
 Brown Gravy

Soul Food Night Meal

(Day 20 of 28)

Menu Key

Green: Healthy Choices

AIK Dining Facility

October 1, 2008

Lunch:
Roast Fresh Ham
Baked Chicken
Buttered Noodles
Oven Gio Potatoes
Grilled Zucchini
Seasoned Succotash
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Grilled Steak
Steamed Crab Legs
Fried Scallops
Tossed Green Rice
Baked Potatoes
Sweet Peas
Sautéed Onions & Mushrooms
Butter Sauce

October 2, 2008

Lunch:
BBQ Chicken
Southern Fried Catfish
Cheese Macaroni
Candied Yams
Southern Style Greens
Parsley Buttered Carrots
Hush Puppies

Dinner:
Baked Turkey Wings
Braised Beef Cubes
Buttered Egg Noodles
Oriental Rice
Seasoned Green Beans
Harvard Beets
Turkey Gravy

October 3, 2008

Lunch:
Herbed Cornish Hens
Honey Glazed Rib Lets
Home Fried Potatoes
Dirty Rice
Seasoned Brussels Sprouts
Beans Combo
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Teriyaki Beef Strips
Blackened Fish
Rice Pilaf
Parsley Potatoes
Seasoned Green Peas
Buttered Cauliflower
Vegetable Gravy

October 4, 2008

Lunch:
Spicy Italian Pork Chops
Chicken Ala King
Buttered Linguini
Steamed Rice
Italina Style Baked Beans
Seasoned Mixed Vegetables

Dinner:
Chicken Kive
Spaghetti w/ Meat Balls
Roasted Pepper Potatoes
Club Spinach
Butter Beans
Chicken Gravy

October 8, 2008

Lunch:
Chili Conquistador
Mambo Pork Roast
Georgia Rice
Rissole Potatoes
Vegetable Stir Fry
Seasoned Brussels Sprouts
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Grilled Steak
Baked Lobster Tails
Fried Shrimps
Tossed Green Rice
Baked Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Sweet Corn
Sautéed Onions & Mushrooms
Butter Sauce

October 9, 2008

Lunch:
BBQ Ribs
Southern Fried Chicken
Dirty Rice
Cheese Macaroni
Candied Yams
Southern Style Greens
Parsley Buttered Carrots
Corn Bread

Dinner:
Shepherd's Pie
Herbed Baked Fish
Wild Rice
Duchess Potatoes
Seasoned Peas & Carrots
Okra & Tomato Gumbo
Brown Gravy

October 10, 2008

Lunch:
Chicken Beagon Bahar
Shrimp Malay Curry
Chicken Biryani
Steamed Rice
Vendi Bhaji (Vegetable Okra)
Gobi Masala (Cauliflower)

Dinner:
BBQ Roast Pork
Pepper Steak
Mashed Potato
Rice Pilaf
Seasoned Mixed Vegetable
Seasoned Butter Beans
Brown Gravy

October 11, 2008

Lunch:
Indonesian Style Beef Over Noodles
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Parsley Potato
Oriental Stir Fry Cabbage
French Style Cut Green Beans
Chicken Gravy

Dinner:
Savory Roast Lamb
Creole Fish Fillets
Islander Rice
Mashed Potato
Mixed Vegetables
Ginger Glazed Carrots
Brown Gravy

October 15, 2008

Lunch:
Hamburger Yakisoba
Chinese Five Spiced Chicken
Egg Fried Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Peas & Mushroom
Mixed Vegetables
Chicken Gravy

Dinner:
Grilled Steak
Crab Legs
Fried Scalloped
Tossed Green Rice
Baked Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Sweet Corn
Sautéed Onions & Mushrooms
Butter Sauce

October 16, 2008

Lunch:
BBQ Ribs
Southern Fried Chicken
Cheese Macaroni
Candied Yams
Southern Style Greens
Parsley Buttered Carrots
Corn Bread

Dinner:
Chicken Parmesan
Chili Mac
Orange Rice
Scalloped Potatoes
Seasoned Green Beans
Stewed Tomato
Chicken Gravy

October 17, 2008

Lunch:
Baked King Fish w/Butter Lemon Sauce
Beef Stroganoff
Seasoned Butter Noodles
White Rice
Peas & Carrots
Broccoli Combo
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Jaeger Schnitzel
Chalupa
Buttered Fettuccini
Loynnaise Potatoes
Seasoned Carrots
Buttered Wax Beans
Brown Gravy

October 18, 2008

Lunch:
Baked Stuffed Pork Chop
Chicken Curry
Steamed Rice
Noodles Jefferson
Southern Style Green Beans
Buttered Sweet Corn
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Shrimp Jambalaya
Swiss Steak w/ Brown Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Cauliflower Au Gratin
Glazed Carrots
Brown Gravy

October 23, 2008

Lunch:
BBQ Ribs
Southern Fried Chicken
Cheese Macaroni
Candied Yams
Southern Style Greens
Parsley Buttered Carrots
Corn Bread

Dinner:
Tamale Pie
Herbed Baked Fish
Orange Rice
Roasted Potatoes
Steamed Rice
French Fried Okra
Peas w/Onions
Brown Gravy

October 24, 2008

Lunch:
Yankee Pot Roast
Honey Ginger Chicken
Steamed Rice
Franconia Potatoes
Green Beans Combo
Buttered Beans
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Tempura Fish
Pork Chopsuey
Noodles Jefferson
Mashed Potatoes
Layonnaise Carrots
Sweet Peas w/ Mushrooms
Vegetable Gravy

October 25, 2008

Lunch:
Beef & Broccoli
Egg Roll
Chicken Teriyaki
Steamed Rice
Szechwan Spicy Noodles
Oriental Cabbage Stir Fry
Szechwan Sauce

Dinner:
Cajun Meat Loaf
Grilled Italian Sausage w/ Pepper
Mashed Potatoes
Hoping John Rice
Seasoned Brussels Sprouts
Seasoned Asparagus
Brown Gravy

October 26, 2008

Lunch:
Cantonese Spare Ribs
Fried Chicken
Veg Chick Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Broccoli Combo
Mixed Vegetables
Brown Gravy

Dinner:
Stuffed Cabbage Rolls
Roast Turkey
Steamed Rice
Potatoes & Herbs
California Blend
Seasoned Spinach
Turkey Gravy

*Menu Subject To Change

LAND AIDE TO SERVICEMEMBERS

international trauma life support; tactical combat casualty care; the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine's Flight Medic Course, out of Fort Rucker, Ala.; and a quarterly search and rescue proficiency flight.


In addition to continuous training, maintenance of the unit's aircraft must always remain up to standard.

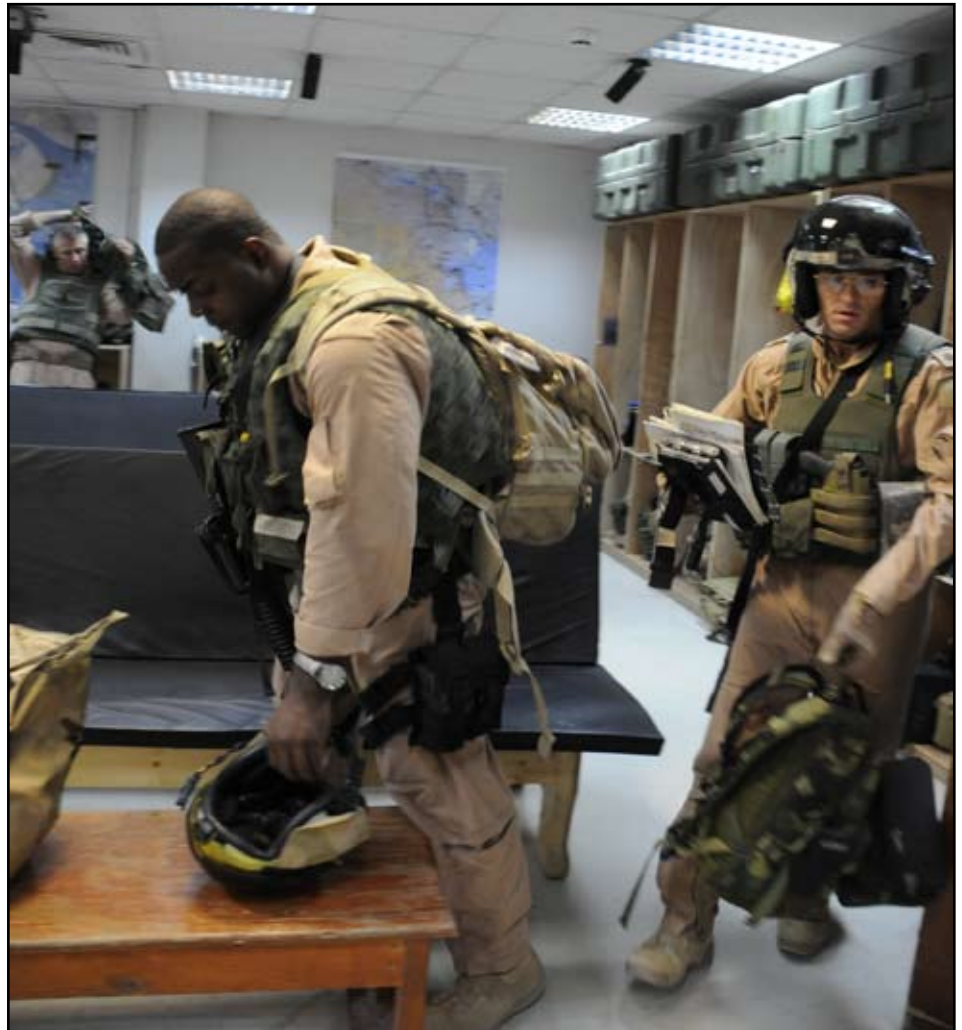
The MH-60S helicopters, which are what the group uses to carry out the mission, receive routine maintenance and inspections by the maintenance group.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joe Jenkins, plane captain, whose primary role is to maintain the helicopters, says it is rare that they have to ground a helicopter for repairs.

"We keep them up pretty good, the only time we have to pull them in is for standard phase inspections," said the Newburn, N.C., native.

Although being stationed with 2515th involves hard work, long hours and working in the desert heat, many of the NAAD personnel welcome the opportunity to serve with their brothers and sisters at arms.

"As Navy folks, they feel that this is closer to really being part of the global war on terrorism instead of being out on the ship," said Dowling. "When you land and they see that we're doing a transport rotation and loading a patient, there's immediate gratification for doing something meaningful. Everybody gets this is a meaningful mission and they're willing to go do it." 



NAAD members prepare to depart on a routine call. Since 2005, the 2515th has flown over 7,000 hours, conducted over 1,000 missions and transported over 1,300 patients.



2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment maintainers, conduct a preflight inspection on a MH-60S Helicopter.

ARCENT uses a new way to communicate

Story and photo by
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice Staff Writer

When there is a mission U.S. Army Central is involved in, communication is a must. That is where the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion comes in.

“Our role is to provide communications for US-ARCENT,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timmy D. Truitt, platoon sergeant, 40th ESB.

“We supply tactical phone and data communications to the war-fighter,” added Sgt. Ralph Miller, joint network node operator, 40th ESB and a Lockhart, Fla., native.

The unit deployed in December 2007 to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 40th ESB was recently tasked to set up communications at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for the Lucky Warrior exercise, an internal evaluation on USARCENT’s continuous movement toward full-spectrum operations capability.

The communication teams arrived before the exercise started to set up on site and to gain satellite time in order to provide services for Lucky Warrior participants, said Sgt Cody L. Brill, data package team chief, 40th ESB, a Lake City, Fla., native.

“We are able to rapidly deploy anywhere, at a moments notice, and set up communications in less than two hours,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Contreras, command post node section sergeant.

The day-to-day operations of the communication teams consist of simulated combat scenarios, explained Contreras, a Hacienda Heights, Calif., native.

This is the first time that USARCENT has used the joint network nodes system, added Truitt. The JNN makes communication highly mobile and is capable of providing services anywhere in the world.

For past missions, USARCENT has used command post nodes, which provide secure and nonsecure internet access as well as voice over internet protocol phone service; but for this mission, the 40th ESB set up two JNNs. The JNNs provide the same services of a CPN, but with better reliability and defense switched network phone service instead of VOIP.


“We’re here to prove that we can do this mission with what we have,” said Truitt, a Meridian, Miss., native. “[The equipment] is the next generation in communication.”

“The JNN brings services that are normally available in [an office setting] to the middle of nowhere,” said Sgt. Kerbian L. Edwards, JNN operator, 40th ESB and a College Park, Ga., native.

The network has been at 95 percent accessibility since setup, said Truitt.

From the original on-site set up, the team was able to adapt and overcome equipment difficulties to provide Lucky Warrior participants with service, said Contreras.

“These guys have grown 110 percent in knowledge and capability since this exercise started,” said 1st Lt. Leticia I. Ortiz, platoon leader, 40th ESB, a Victoria, Texas, native. “I couldn’t be more proud.”

The 40th ESB has been able to successfully carry out its mission on new equipment and give USARCENT the capabilities to communicate world-wide from Camp Buehring. 



Spc. Alexander Beyley, command post node operator, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, replaces a fan on a satellite transportable terminal during the Lucky Warrior training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Sept. 11. The STT uses a satellite receiver to provide communication capabilities to customers located in remote areas of the world.

Camp Buehring

Camp Arifjan celebrates Hispanic heritage

*Story and photos by
Pfc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice Staff Writer*

Servicemembers and civilians at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait celebrated Hispanic heritage in an event hosted by Area Support Group-Kuwait's Equal Opportunity office at the Tactical Activity Center, Sept. 24.

National Hispanic Heritage month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, is an observance that recognizes the contributions and achievements that people of Hispanic origin have done for the U.S.

"It's important to celebrate the Hispanic culture because they have contributed so much to help make America what it is today," said Maj. Ginamaria McCloskey, inspector general office, USARCENT, a native of Peekskill, N.Y.

Servicemembers of all ethnicities and several different Hispanic countries attended the event, which began with a welcoming speech and opening remarks by McCloskey, the master of ceremony, and Lt. Col. Leda M. Rozier, civil affairs officer, 311th Sustainment Command, who repeated McCloskey's speech in Spanish.

An invocation was followed with singing of the national anthem by Spc. Errickay Thomas, 14th Human Resources Sustainment Command out of Fort Bragg, N.C. and Chicago, native.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Ayala, 311th ESC, was the guest speaker for the event. He opened up by asking those in attendance, who were from a list of hispanic influenced countries he called out, to stand and be recognized. Proud servicemembers and civilians

stood and cheered as their country was called.

Ayala addressed servicemembers on how Hispanic culture has a major impact on America.

"The Hispanic community has contributed its rich culture, architecture, food and the names of states to America," said Ayala.

He also included actors, writers, educators, scientists, astronauts, diplomats and several others people of Hispanic origin who have made major contributions to the country.

"Hispanics have always been found loyal and committed in serving the United States military since the Boxer Rebellion," said Ayala.

He spoke about Hispanic servicemembers today who serve with loyalty and how many have achieved high ranking positions in the Armed Forces. Ayala also talked about those who serve in today's war, fighting for the U.S., earning awards such as the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross.

He closed by talking about his own experiences being a Hispanic.

Ayala, whose family came from Mexico, was raised by his parents in America. He talked about how he took living in America, yet practicing Mexican culture within his household, for granted as a young boy.

"It was a blessing," said Ayala. "To bring that spirit out, that Hispanic culture, that rich heritage, what a joy it was to be at home at that time!"

He asked that Hispanics today continue those practices, while serving in the military.

"I'm very proud to be a Hispan-

ic, to be a Latino, to be in the U.S. Army," Ayala added.

Following Ayala's speech, attendees watched demonstrations of different types of Hispanic dances.

Music Support Team D, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., came from Camp Victory, Iraq, and played a variety of Hispanic music for the audience during the event.

A variety of hispanic food was served by Kuwaiti Catering Company, along with an assortment of multi-colored desserts.

"I enjoy celebrating all cultures, learning about them and understanding them to help make me a better person," said McCloskey. **A**



Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Ayala, 311th Sustainment Command, guest speaker for the ceremony, addresses the audience at the Hispanic Heritage Month Observance in Zone 6 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 24.

VA on mission to assist deployed Soldiers

Story and photo by
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Deployed servicemembers cannot simply walk into the nearest voting booths and cast their vote like many Americans will Nov. 4.

For over 2,400 Soldiers in one Ohio National Guard brigade deployed to Kuwait and Iraq, voting can be challenging without the proper information.

But with the help of voting assistance personnel, who educate and help Soldiers see the importance of exercising their right to vote for the U.S.'s next Commander in Chief, the process can be made easier.

"The purpose of the voting assistance officer is to make registration, voting information, materials and assistance readily available to all eligible voters," said Spc. Ryan Johnson, voting assistance officer, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "We educate eligible voters about the importance of voting and provide every opportunity to register and cast a ballot."

So far, more than 2,000 Soldiers in the brigade have registered to vote since April, said Johnson.

The others have either already registered or are not participating, added Johnson.

Reaching each of the eligible voters has been difficult for Johnson and the rest of the VA team because the brigade is spread throughout the countries of Kuwait and Iraq.

"The biggest challenge is reaching Soldiers who are on missions and those on a different base," said Johnson. "Soldiers who work nights require we get in touch with them at their convenience, which is likely on weekends, early mornings, or late nights."

Johnson has learned time management is the greatest skill in overcoming the challenge of reaching each Soldier in the brigade.

"I must meet with every Sol-

"We educate eligible voters about the importance of voting and provide every opportunity to register and to cast a ballot."

Spc. Ryan Johnson
Voting Assistance Officer
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

dier either in person or through briefings to ensure they are aware of their voting rights under the U.S. Constitution," said Johnson. "[The brigade commander] expects nothing less for his Soldiers."

Soldiers who are first time voters require a brief education on the purpose, value and need to vote, said Johnson. This is all done by the VAO in a non-partisan, non-confrontational and helpful manner.

"Soldiers can be assured their information is kept safe and confidential," said the Columbus, Ohio resident.

Johnson said helping people is why he joined the National Guard, but helping fellow Soldiers is a plus.

"I volunteered to help people," said Johnson. "My original intent was to help with natural disasters in Ohio and elsewhere; but as the brigade VAO, I have the exclusive duty and opportunity to protect and ensure the constitutional rights of over 2,400 Soldiers. That's more than I ever expected to do when I signed up."

With the election less than 60 days away, issues directly affecting servicemembers such as pay, health care benefits and the Global War on Terror, are topics of discussion by both candidates.

"Often outcomes of elections are decided by only a few votes," said Johnson. "That is why I must put all [my] effort into making sure there are no problems and every Soldier gets a vote, if they choose."

"Reaching every Soldier is our goal and [the commander] insists upon it," Johnson declared. **A**



Voting assistance personnel assist Soldiers with absentee ballots at the Zone 2 dining facility.

HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUTS

Wednesday, October 1st

Camp Patriot, Kuwait
1000 to 1400 at the Post Exchange and Food Court

Sunday, October 5th

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
1000 to 1630 at the Zone 1 Pavillion by the Pool

Wednesday, October 8th

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
1230 to 1430 Between Buildings 505 and 506

Sunday, October 12th

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
1000 to 1630 at the Zone 1 Pavillion by the Pool

Thursday, October 16th

Camp Buehring, Kuwait
1000 to 1400 at the Food Court

Sunday, October 19th

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
1000 to 1630 at the Zone 1 Pavillion by the Pool

Wednesday, October 22nd

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
1230 to 1430 Between Buildings 505 and 506

Thursday, October 23rd

LSA, Kuwait
1000 to 1400 at the Post Exchange and Food Court

Sunday, October 26th

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
1000 to 1630 at the Zone 1 Pavillion by the Pool

Just One Question ...

“What do you expect to get for re-enlistment?”



“I expect to be given an opportunity to lead, train, support and develop junior Marines.”

Staff Sgt. Demetrius Perry
MARCENT
Strategic Mobility Staff NCOIC
Atlanta, Ga.



“I would probably request to learn a language of my choice, but stay in my current MOS.”

Master Sgt. Jerry Staff
USARCENT Operational Protection
Operations Sergeant Major
Chesterton, Ind.



“I want two things, a bonus would be nice and a chance to further my career if I meet the qualifications.”

PO 2nd Class Donette Morrison
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
Builder
Baltimore, Md.



“I would expect a bonus, a possible MOS change to a vet’s assistant and a duty station of choice.”

Pfc. Stephen Cragg
54th Signal Battalion
Network controller
Parker, Colo.



“I want a bonus and my duty station of choice: Fort Hood, Texas.”

Spc. Gerran Perez
234th Air Defense Artillery
Battery command post operator
LaBelle, Fla.

Why I Serve:

Master Sgt. Levi Kelly
311th ESC Support Operations; Contracting NCOIC



The Shreveport, La., native explains why he chose to join the military.

“I have pride in my country and pride in the Soldiers who serve with me.”

ACROSS 1). CHEMICALS 4). LOOSE 5). LIGHTING 6). TRIP 7). DAMAGED 8). BROKEN 10). SHARP 11). TRASH 12). SIGNS 13). GUARDS DOWN 2). EXTINGUISHERS 3). SLIPPERY 9). EXITS

Kuwait

What's happening around USARCENT



Geren visits Kuwait

Lt. Col. Patty Ryan, manager of the Rapid Fielding Initiative warehouse, gives Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren, a tour of the warehouse that outfits troops with equipment they need after arriving in the Middle East, during his visit to Kuwait, Sept. 18.

Photos by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen



Welcome!

Senior Airmen Jon Boulter, vehicle maintainer, 70th Medium Truck Detachment, discusses flatbed trucks with Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, the new commander of 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) at a static display in the motorpool, Sept. 22.

Did you know ...

In September 1996, Iraq violated United Nation's sanctions by deploying forces north of the 36th Parallel and attacking Kurds in Northern Iraq. Under Operation Desert Strike, U.S. Army Central deployed a heavy brigade task force to Kuwait to deter potential retaliatory attacks on Kuwait. Saddam Hussein soon withdrew his military forces south of the 36th Parallel.

Celebrating 90 Years of Service to "Patton's Own!"