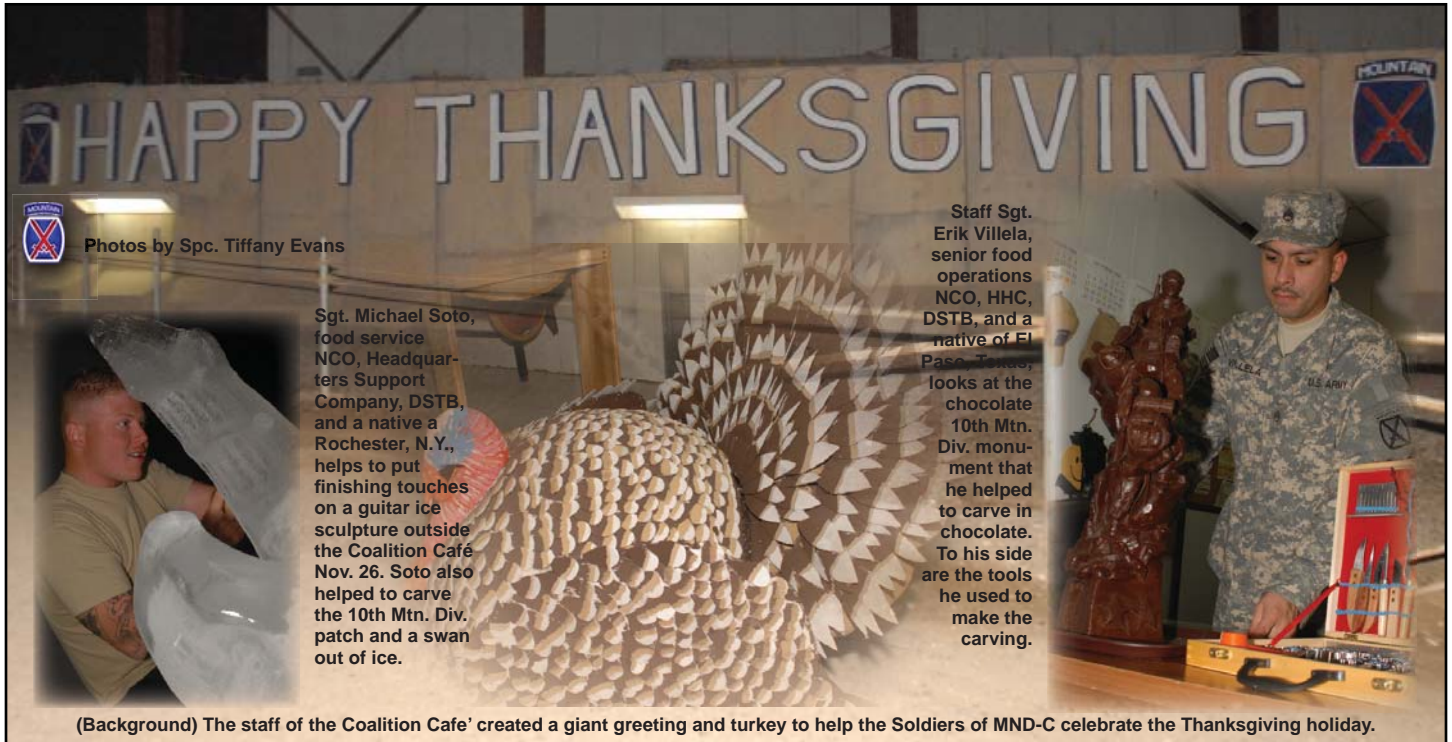




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November 27, 2008



Photos by Spc. Tiffany Evans

Sgt. Michael Soto, food service NCO, Headquarters Support Company, DSTB, and a native of Rochester, N.Y., helps to put finishing touches on a guitar ice sculpture outside the Coalition Café Nov. 26. Soto also helped to carve the 10th Mtn. Div. patch and a swan out of ice.

Staff Sgt. Erik Villela, senior food operations NCO, HHC, DSTB, and a native of El Paso, Texas, looks at the chocolate 10th Mtn. Div. monument that he helped to carve in chocolate. To his side are the tools he used to make the carving.

(Background) The staff of the Coalition Café created a giant greeting and turkey to help the Soldiers of MND-C celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Coalition Café prepares Thanksgiving Day meal

SPC. TIFFANY EVANS  
MND-C



**CAMP VICTORY** – As Thanksgiving Day approaches, the staff at the Coalition Café is hard at work to make it a special day for troops far from home. Every year, whether deployed or at home station, dining facilities put extra work into their Thanksgiving meals.

“This is our biggest and most important meal of the year,” said Staff Sgt. Carlos Figueroa, a native of Newark, N.J. “Not just because of the decorations, but because of the time we put in planning this meal, and the fact that we try to create a family atmosphere for those Soldiers who can’t be home for Thanksgiving.”

Thanksgiving is a non-secular holiday in the U.S. that centers around the

family. Those in the military include those on their left and right as family, said Figueroa a senior food operations noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Special Troops Battalion.

“To not disappoint our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, our planning began in September for this meal,” Figueroa said. “We chose a menu, asked for servers, chose decorations and chose a theme.”

“Harvest in the Desert” is the chosen theme for this year’s meal, said Staff Sgt. Erik Villela, a native of El Paso, Texas. The staff ordered some decorations and made others out of Styrofoam, ice, chocolate and tallow.

“From Styrofoam, we made the 10th Mountain Division Monument and Looney Toons characters. Out of chocolate,

we also made the 10th Mtn. Div. Monument,” said Villela, a senior food operations noncommissioned officer, HHC, DSTB. “Out of tallow, we made swans, a church, an Indian Head and an Eagle.”

Soldiers also carved shrimp boats, an Indian Head, guitar and swans from ice. Other decorations ordered include turkeys and some of the standard Thanksgiving Day items, said Villela.

The menu includes turkey, ham, steamship round, sweet potatoes, collard greens, gravy, candy yams, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce and stuffing. The items chosen intend to make the meal more like home. The meal will start at 11 a.m. and continue till the end of dinner hours. Midnight chow eaters will also be able to eat the Thanksgiving

See CAFE, page 4

# Why turkey at Thanksgiving? A history of traditions

SPC. SOPHIA R. LOPEZ  
MND-C



**CAMP VICTORY**— Thanksgiving has been celebrated intermittently throughout the years, from its Charleston, Mass., proclamation June 20, 1676 until officially becoming a national holiday in 1941. It included Native Americans at times, and it celebrated a victory over them at others.

After years of changing the date and even the reason for the celebration, Thanksgiving has finally settled on the fourth Thursday of November.

Today's Thanksgiving is modeled after the pilgrims' very first celebration in 1621 near Plymouth, Mass., following their first harvest.

At the first Thanksgiving, historians believe turkey and pumpkin, in some form, were indeed a part of the feast, but most likely, the turkey was roasted and not stuffed. At that time, the term "turkey" was also used by the pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl. The feast most likely included fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison and plums.

The feast is described in a firsthand account, presumably written by Edward Winslow, a leader of the colony.

From this account, it is known the feast went on for three days, included 90 Native Americans and had plentiful food. The Native Americans provided venison, and the villagers

hunted enough wild fowl, including ducks, geese, turkeys and swans, to supply the village for a week.

These Thanksgiving traditions were brought to North America by settlers from many parts of the world. Some historians link the American Thanksgiving with the ancient Jewish observance of Sukkot, a holiday held in the fall which expresses thanks to God for the bounty of the earth.

Hundreds of years after first celebrating our thanks in the United States, we continued to add to the traditions.

In 1934, the Detroit Lions of the American National Football League started hosting a game annually on Thanksgiving Day. The only exceptions were during World War II from 1939 to 1944.

The Dallas Cowboys began hosting a Thanksgiving Day game in 1966, missing only 1975 and 1977.

Even before the football tradition began, Macy's employees sponsored the Macy's Christmas Parade in 1924 featuring animals from the Central Park Zoo.

The parade was such a success, it became an annual event, halting only during WWII from 1942-1944. The event now entertains three million people lining the streets of Manhattan, and another 44 million people watch it on the television. Today, well-known parades are also held in Houston, Philadelphia and Detroit.



## Thanksgiving through the years

**1621** – The first Thanksgiving in America was believed to have been celebrated by the pilgrims near Plymouth, Mass., following their first harvest. This celebration was three-days long and never repeated.

**1676** – The governing council of Charlestown, Mass., held a meeting to propose a day of thanks for the good fortune of the community since establishment. By unanimous vote, they proclaimed June 29 as a day of thanksgiving. This day didn't repeat.

**1777** – The 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration in October 1777. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga, N.Y. This was also a one-time affair.

**1789** – George Washington proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving, although some were opposed to it. This was the only national holiday for 64 years.

**1863** – Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine

editor, who wrote editorials in the "Boston Ladies' Magazine" and "Godey's Lady's Book" tried to push the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day. After a 40-year campaign of writing to governors and presidents, Hale's efforts were recognized when former President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

**1941** – Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday the fourth Thursday of November.

## THE Mountain View

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Task Force 49



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# WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING FOR THANKSGIVING IF YOU WERE HOME?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

**"I would be feasting with my family and watching football,"** said Spc. Tristan Fire Cloud, of Lower Brule, S.D., S-6 clerk, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Battle Field Surveillance Brigade.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

**"I would be on the beach with my whole family eating all day,"** said Spc. Kevin Cabrera, of Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, S-6 clerk, 319th MI Bn., 525th Battle Field Surveillance Bde.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

**"Chilling with my mom and my brothers eating real food like deep-fried turkey and watching football,"** said Spc. Arthur Fredrick, of Houston, operations specialist, Company B, 319th MI Bn.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

**"I would be at home watching everyone run around with all of the kids, eating smoked turkey, listening to music and watching football,"** said Spc. Shatoni Royal, of St. Petersburg, Fla., paralegal specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 319th MI Bn.

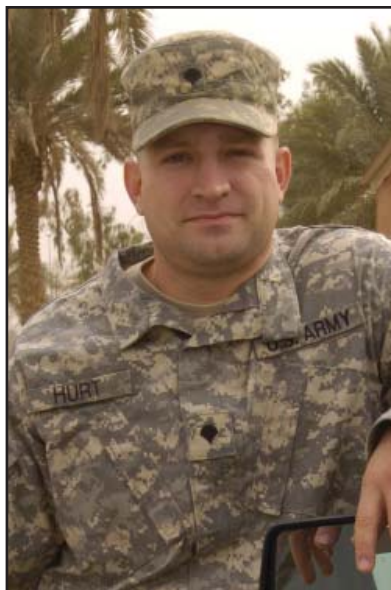


Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

**"I would be with family eating turkey and watching the Dallas Cowboys game and then passing out,"** said Spc. Ryan Hurt, of Norman, Okla., mental health non-commissioned officer-in-charge, 86th Combat Support Hospital, Task Force 44 Medical Command.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

**"I would be sitting at home eating Thanksgiving dinner with my friends and family and playing with my dog,"** said Sgt. Sasha Waldrop, of Tylertown, Miss., paralegal NCOIC, 86th CSH, TF 44 Medical Command.

# CAFÉ

From page 1

fixins.

The military tradition for Thanksgiving changed throughout the years becoming more family orientated.

According to W. Thomas Smith, Jr. in an essay entitled "Special Thanks: A military tradition," Thanksgiving dinner changed focus between World War I and World War II. Fewer service members remained during peacetime, which enabled closer bonds within the ranks. Food preparation and presentation became more elaborate, and officers' families were very involved.

During WWII, major efforts were made to transport hot Thanksgiving dinners to troops on the frontlines and in remote areas. Meal convoys were often under fire as they made their way toward even the most heavily engaged troops on the most dangerous roads and in the worst weather conditions. Soldiers who could be taken off the frontlines were ordered to the rear for the dinner, added Smith.

In Korea in 1950, cooks would visit the most forward positions and served up turkey with all the trimmings on tin trays. During the height of the Vietnam War, the Armed Forces Recipe Service was established, which standardized recipes and helped coordinate food planning and preparatory efforts between all services, wrote Smith.

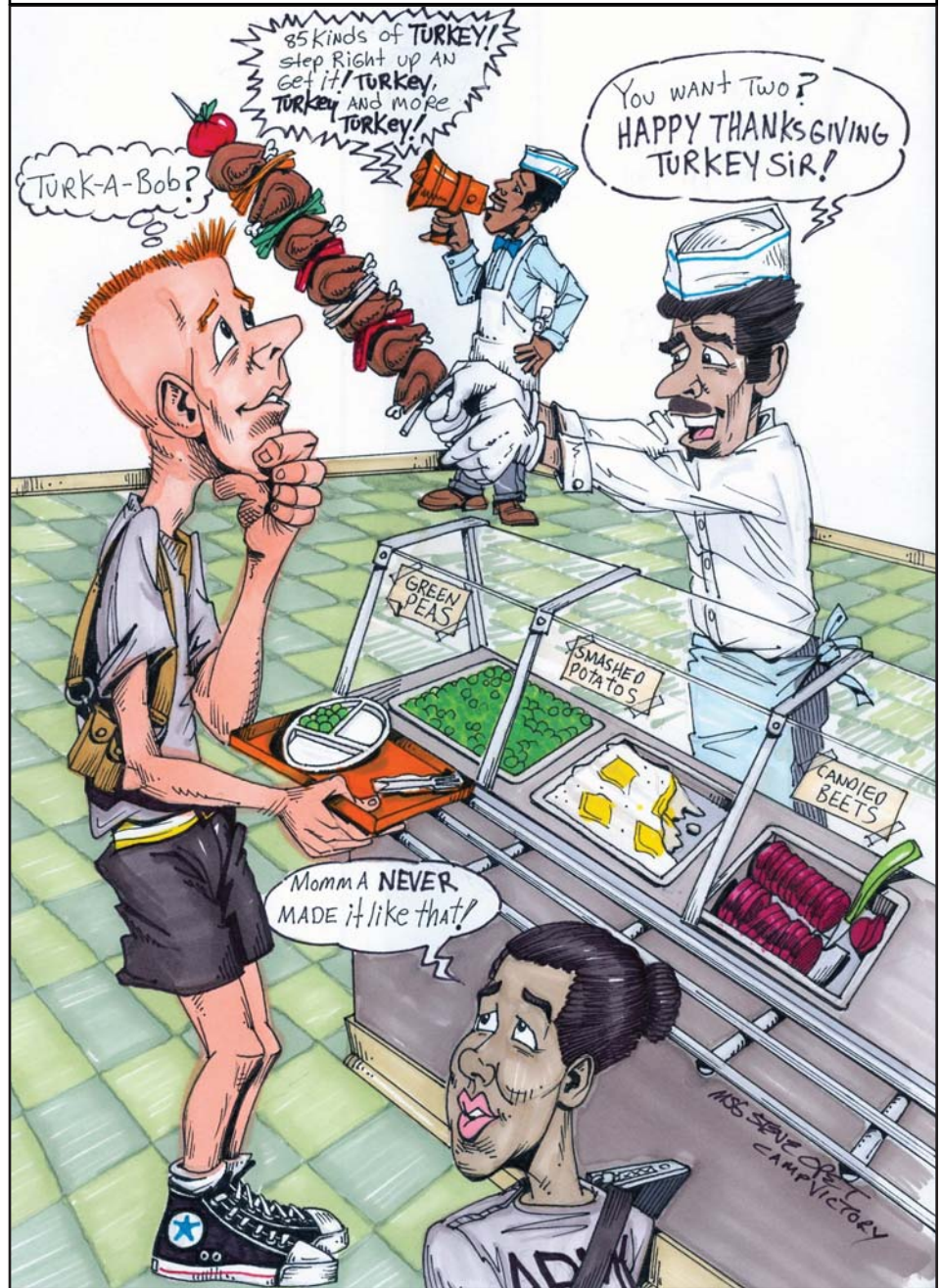
Menus today vary between services and theaters of operation, however, the recipes used to prepare most Thanksgiving Day dishes in the military are the same. In fact, much of the menus have changed little since WWI: turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, gravy and pies-pumpkin being the most prevalent.

A final military tradition on Thanksgiving Day is having senior leaders serve the Soldiers.

"I feel that this is a tradition to show that the senior NCOs and officers show a physical sign of servitude toward their Soldiers," said Maj. Thomas Sutton, a native of Spokane, Wash., MND-C command group. "It's all about tradition and volunteerism."

For those serving in the military, it's also all about family. The time spent in distant lands during holidays and throughout the year, time spent protecting families at home, builds important bonds with a Soldier's military family. During this Thanksgiving holiday, celebrate the family here.

# Opet's Odyssey



# Happy Thanksgiving!



## From our shop to yours!

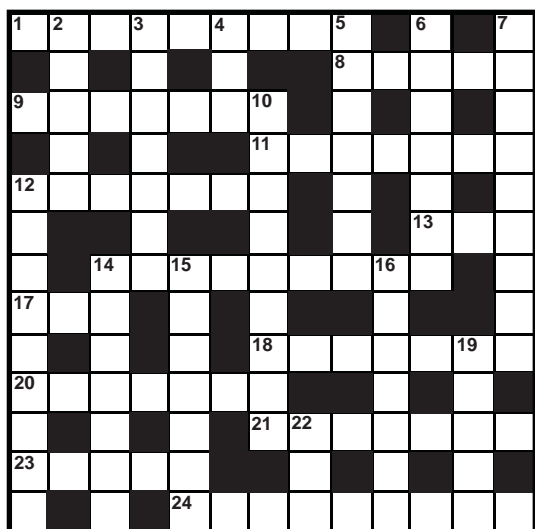
# Word Search



## Thanksgiving

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Autumn          | Harvest     |
| Candied Yams    | Holiday     |
| Celebration     | Mayflower   |
| Cornucopia      | Meal        |
| Cranberry Sauce | Parade      |
| Family          | Pilgrims    |
| Feast           | Pumpkin Pie |
| Friends         | Stuffing    |
| Gathering       | Turkey      |

# Crossword



**ACROSS:**

1. Greenhouse
8. More than enough
9. Unit of Electric Charge
11. Wardrobe
12. Enhance
13. Operate
14. Birthplace of Jesus
17. Prompt
18. Post Mortem
20. Wurlitzer
21. Moral
23. Grovel
24. Star Gazing

**DOWN:**

2. Lessen
3. Alleviate
4. Spirit
5. Extinct Animal
6. Best
7. Technical Data
10. Weapon
12. Card Game
14. English Footballer
15. Raffle
16. Feelings
19. A collection of Bees
22. Bitumen

## Do you have an idea for the Soldier Issue?

The Mountain View staff would like to showcase your photos, drawings, poems, funny stories, favorite quotes and whatever else you'd like to share with our readers.

Send all submissions and ideas to Spc. Sophia Lopez at [sophia.lopez@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:sophia.lopez@iraq.centcom.mil)

For the answer to today's puzzles, go to:



[www.taskforcemountain.com](http://www.taskforcemountain.com)

## HOW DO YOU PLAN ON CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING IN IRAQ?



Photo by Spc. Sophia R. Lopez

"I plan on spending it with my surrogate family, G-1," said Capt. Douglas Ingold, of Pittsburgh, G-1 operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Master Sgt. Stephen Opet

"Hang out with my battle buddies, play some guitar and have a barbeque," said Pvt. Jeremy Meyer, of Macomb Township, Mich., a member of Team Hunter, Task Force Vigilant, 10th Mountain Division.

# Trivia of the Week

What do you call a male turkey? What do you call a female turkey?