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Desert Voice Magazine
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

January 23, 2008



Fun in the mud

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Learn safe SUV-driving habits to make sure you arrive alive at your destination.

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On the cover

Soldiers change out a tire during the Logistics Task Force 10 Battalion's truck rodeo competition at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 11. For the full story, turn to page 6.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Anishka Calder

Contact us

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



Statistics show that when Soldiers return from deployment, their risky behaviors follow them back home and the risk of them being involved in an accident is high.

Research, specifically examining post-deployment motor vehicle and personal injury accidents, has shown that 186 Soldiers died within one year of returning from deployment.

In fact, almost 30 percent (50) of these Soldiers died within the first 30 days post-deployment and 63 percent (118) died within 180 days of return.

While there are several contributing factors that lead to fatal acci-

dents upon the return of your loved one, Family involvement can make a huge difference in their decisions. We want our Soldiers and their Families to remain safe and enjoy the many freedoms for which they sacrificed.

Families can seek help to make sure their Soldiers are safe and practice safe habits.

For more information on the Family Engagement Kit, contact Dr. Patricia Le Duc, chief of Human Task Force, at (334) 255-2233 or e-mail her at Patricia.LeDuc@crc.army.mil.

Army Safe is Army Strong.

DV
Desert Voice
Magazine

Volume 29, Issue 34

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Third Army Public Affairs Office. This newspaper is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with Third Army. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the 50th Public Affairs Detachment. Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.

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Drive to survive – understand rollover crashes before they happen

Story and photo by
Col. Will G. Merrill III
Third Army/USARCENT safety director

The growing prevalence and popularity of sport utility vehicles have seen an increase in rollover accidents. There are many factors that attribute to these type of accidents.

Knowing what they are and how to reduce these risks can help prevent rollovers.

Reducing rollover risk

Keep your vehicle in good condition and drive carefully. Remember that four of every five rollovers involve no other vehicle besides the one that rolls over, so as a driver you alone are in control. We all think we are good drivers, but refresh your memory:

Don't drive too fast – The posted speed limit is an upper limit, not a lower limit. The faster you drive, the less time you have to react to any emergency that suddenly arises in the road ahead of you, which means you will probably end up steering more sharply and/or braking harder, both of which compromise your ability to safely control your vehicle.

Steering – Many rollovers occur when drivers overcorrect their steering in response to unexpected situations, such as encountering a stopped vehicle in their lane or accidentally driving off of the pavement. Sudden steering maneuvers at high speeds or on soft surfaces can lead to rollovers. If your vehicle leaves the paved road surface, slow down gradually, don't stomp on the brakes. Then, when it's safe to do so, ease the vehicle back onto the roadway. Don't suddenly jerk the steering wheel to get the vehicle back on the pavement.

Be extra careful on rural roads – Rollovers are more likely to occur on

rural roads and highways, particularly undivided, two-way roads or divided roads with no barriers. When a vehicle leaves the pavement, it can be tripped by roadside objects or soft surfaces or it can roll down a slope. Nearly 75 percent of all rollover crashes occur in rural areas, so be extra careful when driving on rural roads.

Tires – Improperly inflated and/or worn tires can be especially dangerous, because they inhibit your ability to maintain vehicle control. Monitor your tire pressure regularly – use a tire pressure gauge, not your eyeball. Temperature changes cause your tire pressure to decrease significantly, but you can't always tell that by just looking at the tires.

Vehicle loads – Consult your vehicle's owner's manual to determine the maximum safe load for your vehicle, as well as proper load distribution. Passengers and baggage in vans and SUVs will raise the vehicle's center of gravity, increasing the vehicle's likelihood of rolling over.

Seatbelts and the safety cage

You can substantially reduce your risk of injury by wearing your seatbelt. About three quarters of people killed in rollovers across the U.S. were not wearing their seatbelts, and almost two thirds of them were thrown out of their vehicles during the rollovers. Buckling up keeps you inside the vehicle and protected by the passenger compartment's "safety cage."

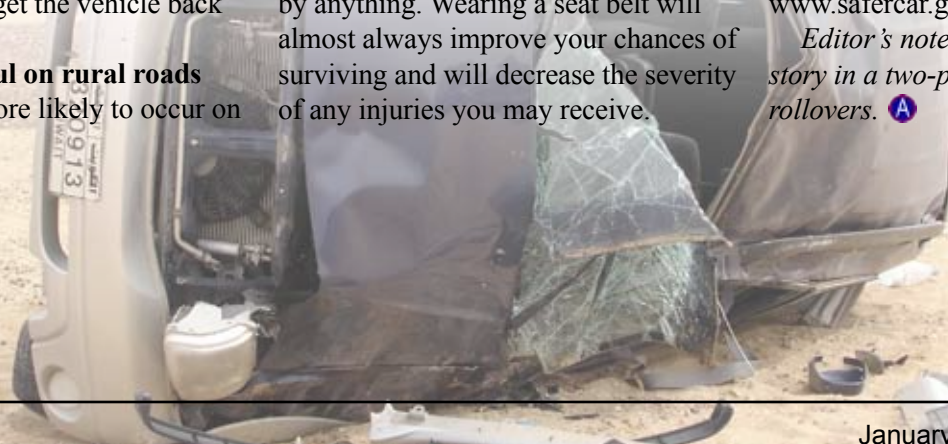
Vehicle safety standards have made the passenger compartment the safest place to be during an accident. Passengers thrown from the vehicle during a rollover are not protected by anything. Wearing a seat belt will almost always improve your chances of surviving and will decrease the severity of any injuries you may receive.

If you are buying a vehicle: Think carefully about what type of vehicle you want to buy, and why. Will you be driving off road a lot? Will you be hauling cargo? Will you be carrying many passengers? Are you an experienced truck or van driver? If you didn't answer "yes" to any of these, a passenger car or sedan is a sensible choice – and most ordinary passenger cars are considerably less likely to roll over than most pickup trucks, vans or SUVs. If you find yourself driving a van, pickup truck or SUV for the first time, it is extremely important to realize that its ride and handling characteristics are different from those of ordinary passenger cars, and driving one of these vehicles requires extreme care, especially if you are not accustomed to it.

Also, consider buying a vehicle with electronic stability control. Studies from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety have found ESC to dramatically reduce the involvement of equipped vehicles in single vehicle crashes involving injury or death. ESC is designed to keep the vehicle "on track," preventing it from under-steering (the front tires lose traction and the vehicle turns less than you intend) or over-steering (the rear tires lose traction and the vehicle turns more than you intend). ESC will not always prevent a rollover, but it has been proven to increase control during maneuvers which may otherwise contribute to rollover crashes.

Check your car against the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Rollover Ratings, available at their Web site at <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Editor's note: This is the second story in a two-part series about vehicle rollovers. 



New contract training implemented, Soldiers praised

Story and photo by
Chuck Sprague
401st AFSB Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) put their contracting officer representative training to work saving the Army thousands of dollars while curbing fraud, waste and abuse.

Keeping pace with the mission, two new contracting experts, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith, from Alliance, Neb., assigned to 1st TSC information technology, and Sgt. 1st Class William Perkins, from Corpus Christi, Texas, assigned to the 164th Quartermaster Group at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, were recently awarded their COR credentials by Army Contracting Command – Kuwait.

The Army Contracting Command – Kuwait, initiated an intensive COR management program last summer to identify, train, appoint and manage CORs in an effort to improve and enhance contract oversight.

Since then, nearly 200 CORs have been trained and appointed to oversee a myriad of contracts supporting Army combat operations. Their mission: identify opportunities for the Army to save money and ensure the Army receives the goods and services it's paying for.

"With the increase in contractor support to our deployed forces, the COR performs a vital role in the support of the war effort. Sergeants Smith and Perkins are just two of the many CORs in Kuwait who are true stewards of the taxpayers' money and integral to the mission," said Brig. Gen. James Hodge, the supply and logistics chief for Third Army/U. S. Army Central and commanding general (forward) of Army Materiel Command.

Working as the COR for a copier leasing contract, Smith has already conducted an analysis of copier requirements that demonstrated a potential annual savings to the Army of more than \$100,000. His research



Contracting officer representatives (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class William Perkins, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith and Lt. Col. Doug Kiser were recognized by Brig. Gen. James Hodge, the supply and logistics chief for Third Army/U.S. Army Central and commanding general (forward) of Army Materiel Command. The Soldiers recently completed COR training, which helped save the Army more than \$200,000 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

revealed that more efficient copier placements could improve productivity and save money. Smith's recommendations to consolidate under-utilized copiers, eliminate machines, replace over-utilized machines with new larger capacity models and exchange several copiers in favor of less expensive models improved service while reducing operating costs.

"The course wasn't difficult and was great as an overview. I was surprised at the recognition. I just fixed something that needed to be fixed," Smith said.

Perkins is COR for a critical fuel storage contract. He received specialized training on identifying and investigating possible discrepancies in a contractor's fuel storage records and challenged the contractor's explanation of the shortages. Perkins' sharp eye on bookkeeping and operations led to significant changes to the contractor's staffing and operating procedures and potential savings to the Army of more than \$100,000.

"It was nothing more than basic accounting," said Perkins "Two and two wasn't adding up . . . it came up in the monthly audit. The contractor put the brakes on the subcontractor and

changed standard operating procedures so this won't happen again," Perkins said.

CORs in Kuwait receive intensive training and are certified and appointed by the contracting officer to assist in the technical monitoring and administration of contracts with civilian providers. Although CORs can be employed on all types of contracts, they are extremely useful in the more complex service contracts, said Lt. Col. Doug Kiser, commander of the Army Contracting Command – Kuwait.

"Training online and in a classroom prepares them for their duties to serve as the 'eyes and ears' of the contracting command," he said.

Like Smith and Perkins, hundreds of Soldiers and civil servants trained in contract management are serving in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, working diligently and with little fanfare to ensure our troops have the means to succeed, Hodge said.

"This mission is critical to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Their work ensures the Army receives required supplies and services at the right time, in the right place and at the right price," he said. 

Remembering his dream, making it reality

Story and photos by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice editor

Nobody would guess that the middle child of a Southern preacher would have a lasting legacy. Nobody would guess that one man would influence a whole nation. That one man was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Area Support Group – Kuwait Equal Opportunity Office hosted an observance commemorating King's 79th birthday, Jan. 16, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, one day after his birthday. This year's theme was "Moving on with the Dream." The speeches and presentations reflected upon King's life and legacy.

The turnout at the observance consisted of people of different races, a fact that was not lost on Chief Warrant Officer Samuel Stidwell III.

"I feel as though (King) is proud and he is smiling in heaven," said Stidwell, the 1st Sustainment Command's (Theater) Deployment Movement Center chief.

Stidwell, a native of Chicago, sang with the "Sons of Arifjan" men's choir during the observance. He felt singing at the observance was a great way to show that King's legacy is alive and his dream is still moving forward.

"The music shows that we can all sing together in harmony," he said.



Capt. Crystal Scott, Third Army/U.S. Army Central Supply and Service, reads a poem about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during an observance

The highlight of the observance was the re-enactment of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march took place in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963. It would be the largest protest at the National Mall with more than 250,000 protesters. The march highlighted issues such as civil and voting rights and minimum wage. It was there that King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

During the observance, protestors marched toward the front of the chapel holding up signs that read "we demand equal rights now."

The importance of the march and why it was re-enacted was to remind those in attendance of one of the landmark events in the Civil Rights movement, said Sgt. Yvonne Brooks, a chaplain's assistant with Logistics Task Force 10 Transportation Battalion.

"The march stood for freedom and jobs," said the native of Norfolk, Va. "It wasn't just for Black people it was for all races."

Brooks volunteered to participate in the presentation. She played the part of King's wife, Coretta Scott. She said seeing the audience, which was made up of different ethnic groups felt validating.

"That is the reason I felt so passionate about doing this," she said. "I wanted people to know we are together."

At the end of the presentation, the awards for the MLK poster winners were announced. One of the runner ups was Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian Lundy, Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 40.



Servicemembers re-enact the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom during a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., observance at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 16.

Lundy said he entered in the contest to represent his unit in a special cause.

"Representing myself and my command in this event, which has so much personal history and meaning to so many different people, was the compelling factor for me to enter," said the native of Gramsville, N.Y.

Lundy, a mass communications specialist, said he learned a great deal from his work during the poster contest and after attending the observance.

"The main thing I took away overall was that King's dream is not finished, humanity has a lot of work to do in the realm of understanding and acceptance of each other. We as people should always try to learn about one another's cultures, histories and ideas. There has been progress made since he led a march on Washington," he said. "It seems to me that King wanted Americans, from every background, to be able to exist with one another on an equal and positive level."

"If that day does come we should celebrate his birthday as tribute to a man who drop-kicked that movement into high gear. Until that day comes, we should celebrate it to remind ourselves we still need to reach that higher level of existence." 

...AND THEY CALL THE THING RODEO

Competition builds teamwork enhances driving skills

*Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Anishka Calder
1st TSC Public Affairs*

When one hears the word “rodeo,” men on horseback usually comes to mind, but Soldiers from the Logistics

Task Force 10 Battalion out of Fort Eustis, Va., held a rodeo at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 11 and 12, that had nothing to do with horses.

The Soldiers competed in a truck rodeo in conjunction with their organization day to promote morale, esprit de corps and professionalism among the Soldiers within the battalion. Competitors showed off their road-warrior know-how and the driving skills they use on a daily basis.

“It’s more of a refresher of the Soldiers’ skills and I hope that they enjoy themselves while having some friendly competition between the companies of the battalion,” said 1st Lt. Angela M. Anderson, the executive officer for the 546th Transportation Company

and the officer-in-charge of the truck rodeo event.

Prizes went to the top three winners in each event. The prizes included Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, four-day passes to Qatar, gift certificates, plaques and coins from the brigade and battalion command sergeants major.

The winning team for the Heavy Equipment Transporter competition came from the 546th Trans. Co. The 7th Chemical Company came ahead of the pack in the gun truck competition, while 2nd Transportation Company walked away with first place in the maintenance wrecker competition.

The event, consisted of three timed events, broken down into 10 two-man heavy equipment transporter teams, 10 two-man wrecker teams and 20 three-man gun truck teams.



Participants in the HET competition were graded on their ability to maneuver through a serpentine course. They also had to straight-line back the M1070/M1000 HET system, conduct proper tie-down procedures with a Bradley fighting vehicle on the trailer and do preventative maintenance checks and services on the HET, Anderson said.

The gun truck competition required each team to go through a serpentine course in an up-armored gun truck. Each team had to assemble a crew-served weapon and mount it on top of the vehicle, then dismount the weapon and disassemble the weapon. They had to properly change a tire in the shortest time possible and use a TriMax fire extinguisher effectively on a simulated burning tire.

The final event was the maintenance wrecker competition in which each team used a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck to maneuver through a serpentine course, then hook up the entire HET system to the wrecker and pull it through another serpentine

course. Finally, the participants had to change out an alternator in the shortest amount of time, Anderson added.

"The competition was harder than it looked," said Sgt. Timothy M. Porter, a heavy equipment transport operator and a native of Peru, Iowa. "With the rain and everything else, it got kind of slick and it was pretty tricky. It looked different at the starting line than it does when you go through the barrels and maneuver the corners."

The truck rodeo displayed what the Logistics Task Force 10 brings to the fight in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"It turned out to be a good day even though we had some hiccups," Anderson said. "I didn't think that the Soldiers would be as excited as they are now, seeing their counterparts out there doing the course and cheering for them. It was a pretty good turn out."

The Soldiers agreed that even though the rain posed a bit of a challenge for the competition, it was good, clean fun and a chance to train as they fight.

"It was good idea and I hope we get to do this again before we leave because it was a lot of fun," Porter said. A

Soldiers mount an assembled crew-served weapon on an up-armored vehicle during the Logistics Task Force 10 Battalion's truck rodeo competition at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 11. The Soldiers competed in one of the three timed events. In this event, crews had to assemble a crew-served weapon, mount it on the vehicle, remove it and then disassemble the weapon.



(Background) A Soldier maneuvers a Heavy Equipment Transporter through a serpentine during the Logistics Task Force 10 Battalion's truck rodeo competition. The Soldiers who competed in the HET competition had to go through the serpentine course in the fastest time possible without hitting the cones, and straight-line back the HET.

Running low on ammo? Who you gonna call?

Story by
Staff Sgt. Anishka Calder
1st TSC Public Affairs

Soldiers fighting on the battlefield require the logistics support of various individual organizations in order to succeed. They need adequate supplies of food, water, clothing and hygiene items. Most importantly, they need ammunition.

The munitions section of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), gets ammunition to troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 1st TSC supports U.S. Army Central's logistical mission. USARCENT is a forward deployed warfighting headquarters.

"Soldiers need ammunition in order to fight the war on terrorism, and defend the freedom and democracy of Iraq and Afghanistan," said Sgt. Maj. Golden Giddings, the munitions branch sergeant major for the 1st TSC.

Without ammunition, the Soldiers will not be able to accomplish their mission and they could put their lives in danger, said the Alexandria, Va., native.

Ensuring Soldiers receive ammunition in a timely manner is a collaborative effort of the munitions branch and the various elements that support them.

The process is done through a series of steps to ensure every piece of ammunition is accounted for and each unit receives their order.

A "call forward," which is an ammunition request to ship ammunition to a specific unit, is sent to the munitions section by phone or through e-mail.

Once the request is received, the munitions section checks the stock status at the Theater Storage Area to see if the ammunition is on hand and checks the munitions report for the unit's expenditures, said Master Sgt. David L. Jackson, senior noncommissioned officer from the munitions section.

He said if they have the ammunition requested, shipping directives are cut using the Standard Army Ammunition System Modernizations, which tracks



Photo by Tech. Sgt. William Greer

Spc. Shane Becker prepares charges for the M777 Light Weight 155mm Howitzer prior to a fire mission at Camp Taji, Iraq, Jan. 2. Becker is assigned to 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 11th Field Artillery Regiment. Without ammunition, vital fire missions would not succeed.

all ammunition. Once it is programmed into the SAAS, the munitions section sends the request to the TSA, who sends a copy of a "lateral transfer directive" to the requesting unit, letting them know the ammunition is on the way.

A "build sheet" is generated at the TSA, listing the items and where they are going. This is then sent back to the munitions section to let them know that the ammunition is ready for transportation. A transportation request is sent, outlining when the ammunition will be moved.

Ammunition is packed one of two ways, depending on their mode of travel to the final destination and the urgency of the request.

"If the unit has a critical issue, and they need to go forward by flight, they are put on pallets and are tracked by radio frequency identification tags which are placed on each pallet," said Jackson, a native of Leary, Ga. "If they are going forward on a convoy, the 'Blackjack Express,' then they are put in containers, which are also tracked by RFID tags, and secured with a security seal."

Aside from "call forwards," the

munitions section also report daily different types of critical ammunition and their expenditures, Jackson said. They also process ammunition requests for initial basic load ammunition and force protection arms for various units. The munitions section tracks retrograde ammunition from outlying units in Iraq and Afghanistan. The section coordinates all transportation for ammunition shipments from the U.S.

The role the munitions section plays in supporting the troops who are fighting in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom is instrumental in ensuring the success of these Soldiers' mission throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Sgt. 1st Class James Robinson, Sr., the operations NCO for the munitions section, summed it up best.

"You can survive a few days on the battlefield without food and water, but you cannot survive a second without bullets to protect you or your buddy," said the Clinton, N.C., native. "We are here to ensure that no Soldier loses his life on the battle field because of the lack of ammunition." 

Camp Buehring turns up the **HEAT**

Story and photos by
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer
Desert Voice staff writer

Perched atop the humvee, the gunner stays alert, protecting his vehicle and the rest of the convoy. The gunner occupies the most dangerous seat on the vehicle in the event of an attack or vehicle rollover.

At Camp Buehring, Kuwait, servicemembers attend lifesaving training using the U.S. Army Central's Humvee Egress Assistance Trainers. This training is intended to teach servicemembers how to react to a vehicle rollover in an up-armored HMWWV, with an emphasis on protecting the gunner.

"The gunner is the main responsibility of everybody in that vehicle," said Oxon Hill, Md., native Pfc. Bryan Wright, a HEAT instructor with 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

Out of all the HMWWV rollover fatalities since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 81 percent occupied the gunner position.

The HEAT trainer simulates a rollover by turning over repeatedly and finally resting on its top, forcing

the servicemembers inside to exit upside down.

Prior to the vehicle rollover, the five occupants of the vehicle are given a vocal warning by the instructor which the gunner repeats to the rest of the persons inside.

Once the HMWWV starts to turn the gunner drops into the vehicle and braces himself using the gunners harness and the assistance of the two rear passengers.

"It's all about teamwork," said Staff Sgt. Charles Lowe of Greenville, Miss., a HEAT instructor with 1st TSC. "You're protecting yourself as well as keeping the gunner safe."

The HEAT training helps save the lives of servicemembers traveling the roads up north, which can be extremely dangerous at times, especially in the event of an Improvised Explosive Device attack, Lowe said.

In the beginning of OIF, HMWWV rollover casualties were much more common. Servicemembers did not know how to react when the vehicle they were in ended belly up, Lowe said.

The biggest problem servicemembers have is getting out of the vehicle



A HEAT trainer spins, simulating a vehicle rollover. Camp Buehring's training village has six of these systems to train servicemembers on how to react to a vehicle rollover.

once it has flipped over, said Lowe. The doors weigh 250 pounds and aren't designed to be opened upside down.

This training, which is mandatory for most servicemembers heading north into Iraq, is available to all coalition forces as well, said Wright.

The training of America's allies helps keep their forces safe and ready to assist our troops in operations up north, Wright said.

More than 200 servicemembers and coalition forces participate in the training daily. Each class consists of about 40 to 50 persons per class.

Servicemembers who have attended the training in the past are generally satisfied with it, said Lowe.

"People call from up north and let us know about their Soldier who used the training and how it helped save their lives," Lowe said. 



Georgian army soldiers exit a Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer after it flipped over during HEAT training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 17.

Tax center provides servicemembers reliable service

Story by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice editor

The W-2s are out, next comes the important decision. File for taxes now or later?

The Camp Arifjan Tax Center will open next Monday. The tax center will have professionals to help servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians file for taxes during the tax season.

Servicemembers and DoD civilians in combat zones may have a 180-day extension upon redeploying, however they are encouraged to have taxes filed while in theater, said Mary Kay Marlowe, Tax Center chief of client services.

"You have a 180-day extension from the time you return to the U.S. to file your federal taxes," Marlowe said. "The benefit of getting your taxes done now as opposed to waiting until returning stateside is that if you are due a refund, you can get the money now and not have to wait.

Also, not all states follow the 180-day filing extension."

The tax preparers at the tax center have all completed the IRS-required training. Prior to preparing tax returns, the staff members receive IRS certification at the basic, intermediate and military level. Some of the staff has also received international certification which allows them to prepare taxes for retirees who are now working as contractors.

Another benefit of having taxes filed in theater is the cost, Marlowe said.

"I encourage servicemembers to get their taxes prepared now so they don't forget to file when they return to the U.S.," she said. "Also, our service is provided free of charge."

Those interested in filing taxes should bring the following: military ID, social security numbers of all individuals listed on the return, W-2s, banking information (routing and

account numbers), original power of attorney if married and filing jointly for a stateside spouse, 1099s, child care provider's identification number, and amounts of other income.

The Tax Center is located on Camp Arifjan in Building 1490, Zone 6 (the same building as the post office). The phone number is DSN 430-5258. The Tax Center is open Jan. 28 through April 20. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Sunday is by appointment only. To be sure they have preparers with international certification available, retirees currently working as contractors should schedule an appointment to have their taxes prepared. **A**

Need a lift?



Photo by Marine Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti

Reconnaissance Marines signal to the waiting CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter that they are ready for a ride. Seconds later the Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, were flying over the sands of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 13. The training was a refresher in special purpose insertion/extraction. For the full story check out next week's issue of the Desert Voice.

Super Bowl XLII



Wish your favorite team good luck and send a shout out, Jan. 28-31
For more information, call Maj. Jeff Pray at 430-6282

Why I serve:

Senior Chief Robert Kevin Williams
Provost Marshal's Office
Machinist mate



The Godwin, N.C.-native explains why he joined the military.

“At the time, in the early 80s, it was about doing something bigger than yourself.”

Just One Question...

“What will you do with your tax refund?”



“I am going to buy myself a Harley, because I got the green light from my wife.”

Chief Warrant Officer Frank Ernst
1st Armored Division
Supply and logistics
Titusville, Fla.



“Pay off all my bills.”

Sgt. 1st Class Araceli Suarez
1st Sustainment Command (Theater)
Deputy order manager
Killeen, Texas



“Saving it up.”

Spc. Michael Stewart
3-116th BCT, 29th Inf. Div.
Nuclear, biological and chemical specialist
Dumfries, Va.



“That is up to my wife.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony Irazarry
Navy Mobile Construction Bn. 14
Steel worker
Winter Springs, Fla.



“I plan on saving it for a rainy day.”

Sgt. Jason Morris
1st Cavalry Division
Radar operator
Marshfield, Mo.

What's happening around Kuwait ...

100 for 100



One hundred servicemembers await to be re-enlisted during the Army Reserve's 100th birthday anniversary at the Al Faw palace at Camp Victory, Iraq, Jan. 18. Soldiers deployed to Iraq and Kuwait participated in the event. For the full story, check out next week's issue of the Desert Voice.

Photo by Master Sgt. Dennis Beebe



Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Kuwaiti servicemembers conduct room-clearing training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 17.

Freebird!



Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

The Navy Rock and Roll Band from Naples, Italy, performs for servicemembers at the Zone 1 Community Center Mirage Room on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 15.

Go Bears

Marine Cpl. Edward Wisniewski receives a Chicago Bears t-shirt from Brig. Gen. James L. Hodge, commanding general of Army Material Command Forward Southwest Asia/U.S. Army Central, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 19. Wisniewski is one of the servicemembers at the Warrior Return Unit rehabilitating from injuries. The WRU received a special care package from the Chicago Bears football team.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob A. McDonald