

# ESC TODAY

Vol. 8, Issue 4

143D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

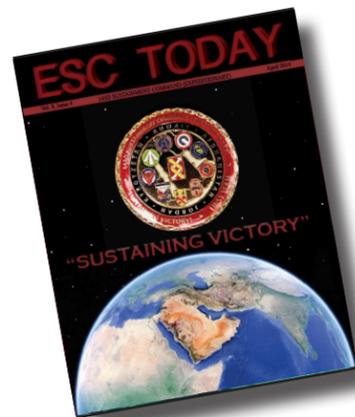
April 2014



**“SUSTAINING VICTORY”**



## << On the Front Cover



The 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s deployment coin signifies the unit's historic mission to the Middle East and Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Designed through a collaboration of 143d ESC Soldiers from various ranks and sections, the coin features the crests of the major Army and Air Force units the 143d ESC directly impacted as its superior or subordinate command. The black ring lists four of the numerous countries that encompass Central Command's Area of Responsibility, while the red ring includes the official motto of the 143d ESC (Sustaining Victory!) and the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), (First Team). Photo Illustration by Spc. Aaron Ellerman, 143d ESC

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## ESCTODAY



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# The Command Post

Greetings! It is truly an honor to be selected to Command this great organization with its long history of outstanding service to our Army and our nation. My thanks to Col. Chris Govekar for his outstanding leadership of the 143d over the last several months. I look forward to working with Chris as my Deputy Commander; I believe that he and I will make a formidable leadership team. My family and I are especially grateful for the warm reception from the entire command and look forward to building on the command's many accomplishments while deployed and throughout our formations back in the states.

All great military organizations like the 143d ESC must continue to grow, improve and evolve in order to meet current and future Army requirements. We must work together to strengthen our weaknesses and build upon our successes. I ask each of you to continue to embrace this approach while prioritizing your efforts as we strive to ensure all of our Soldiers are ready to fight and win on today's modern battlefield.

As I told the staff and leaders during my town hall meeting, my Priorities (Yourself, your Family, your Job and the Army), training and developing our Junior Leaders, and provide a sustained healthy command climate are critical. The basis of my command philosophy is for everyone to live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. We must maintain our readiness and resiliency in all areas. The Army Reserve and the 143d ESC remain an operational force focused on the War on Terror, humanitarian missions, joint exercises and homeland defense. Our Soldiers and their families must be physically, mentally, morally, spiritually, and financially resilient in order to ensure family, Soldier, and mission success. The military has multiple programs designed to support the Army family. A great site to begin your path to resiliency is Army One Source. From there virtually any question you have will be answered by a representative. Their site is: <http://www.myarmyonesource.com/>.

Our total force must be prepared and ready to meet tomorrow's challenges. One challenge facing today's force is Sexual Harassment and Assault. My #1 one focus remains to eradicate this issue from affecting the ranks and getting in the way of achieving our missions. I will focus on Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention (SHARP) across our formations and insist our Soldiers are focused as well. Commanders and leaders will establish and sustain a healthy climate free from sexual assault/harassment through upholding standards, enforcing discipline and encouraging teamwork. Sexual harassment/assault is inconsistent with Army Values and Army Culture. Incorporating the team (peers) approach is fundamental to all solutions. Together, we will eradicate this problem from our ranks. As mentioned in my town hall meeting, we need to treat others as we want others to treat us every day. For more information concerning SHARP, please follow this link <http://www.sexualassault.army.mil/> or contact the 143d ESC SHARP coordinator, Maj. Sandra Gosciniak SHARP Officer in Charge- at [sandra.l.gosciniak.mil@mail.mil](mailto:sandra.l.gosciniak.mil@mail.mil).



**Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Espallat**  
**Commander**  
**143d Sustainment Command**  
**(Expeditionary)**

**SAFETY FIRST!** All of us heard this saying thousands, if not millions of time throughout our lives. It holds true and will continue to remain one of my main focuses while I command the 143d ESC. Too often Soldiers become complacent with their daily tasks and forget the dangers of our profession. I charge you to attack complacency with vigor and instill within your junior leaders the importance of safety. Preventable injuries and sensible loss of life are not an option. Take time and work through your composite risk assessments and keep the 143d ESC Army Strong!

In closing, I want to thank all of you within the 143d ESC family for the outstanding work you do every day supporting Central Command's Area of Operation and throughout the United States. I also want to thank all the families of our Soldiers and civilians for the love and support they provide to our Soldiers throughout their careers. I look forward to working with all of you as the 143d ESC continues to strive to be the best ESC in the Army.

Sustaining Victory!  
Army Strong! 



# THE BOTTOM LINE

As we draw nearer to transitioning back to home station, I want to thank the entire team here and back home for the extraordinary work you have done. We have accomplished so much during this past year. As I sit and reflect on our accomplishments, I am amazed at the level of expertise, determination and professionalism that you have displayed. Your performance is a direct reflection of the entire team, and I am proud to be a member of that team.

Our mission, however, is not done yet. As we make our final push to the finish line, I want to remind everyone that we must remain steadfast to the mission and the team. Together we will finish strong and add to the Army's history as we help bring military operations to a close. We must continue to take care of each other and be mindful that these last

few weeks can be the most difficult. Don't let your guard down and become complacent. If you do, that is when something unwanted, unsafe or uncalled for will likely happen.

NCOs continue to maintain and uphold the standard; and in this you must be unwavering. We all know what is expected of us and we know what right looks like.

The stress produced by redeployment can often lead to mistakes, so implement measures to alleviate this stress. Ensure that your Soldiers are preparing for our redeployment; don't let them wait until the last minute to pack or mail items home. Prevent them from cutting corners or slacking off on their appearance, physical training and customs and courtesies. Remember that following up is not micromanagement, it's part of being a leader. Continue to lead from the



Command Sgt. Maj. Ferdinand Collazo, Jr.  
Command Sergeant Major  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

front so we may finish...  
Army Strong!  
Sustaining Victory!



# What does the SOC Say?

Story and photos by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV  
Public Affairs NCO, 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – Every day, thousands of pieces of information originating from hundreds of sources commute along scores of channels managed by dozens of units that report to the 1st Theater Sustainment Command and the 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The immense influx of data, facts, orders, statistics, announcements and observations would almost certainly overwhelm any individual, small team or automated system. It therefore becomes paramount to develop a 24/7 operation to collect, analyze and disseminate information in an accurate and timely fashion.

That's where the Sustainment Operation Center (SOC) enters the battlespace.

"The SOC synchronizes the flow of information from the downtrace units to higher headquarters and adjacent units," said Maj. Derrick L. Wilhoite, Battle Major, 143rd ESC. "In doing so, we're giving an operational picture as to what is going on."

A native of Chicago, Wilhoite works with his team of officers and noncommissioned officers to keep thousands of service members connected as they conduct various sustainment missions throughout the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

"We oversee units deployed to at least one of the 10 countries that encompass Central Command's area of responsibility (AOR)," said Wilhoite. "We also sync with the 1st TSC Forward in Afghanistan and track for anything in that area that may affect operations [in the AOR]."

The success to a seamless sync hinges on the organizational and analytical skills of 143rd ESC battle NCOs, like Staff Sgt. Andrew B. Shepard.

"We're the worker bees of the SOC," said Shepard, a native of Mount Jackson, Va. "We make sure everything is attended to, and that includes equipment, communications and the health of the section."

To better manage the divergent flow of information, the 1st TSC and the 143rd ESC merged their respective personnel and resources to form a single SOC.

"We turned Maj. Gen. Kurt Stein's (former commander of the 1st TSC) vision into reality," said Wilhoite. "We each had our own ways of doing things, and we lost many contractors who helped us at the SOC. Despite that we set the stage for the units that will replace us to operate as a unified SOC."

According to Shepard, the secret to the SOC's successful unification stems from one of the 1st TSC and the 143rd ESC's greatest strengths: customer service.

"It is incumbent upon as battle staff operators that we are very open and approachable," said Shepard. "We have to be professional because we talk for the commander in everything we do and say. If we don't, then nobody would

want to talk to us and no information would get out."

Although the unified front has further streamlined the information flow, several obstacles stubbornly face this three-shift operation that never locks its doors.

"One major challenge is the upkeep of the Army watercraft," said Wilhoite. "We have to be aware of numerous potential threats at sea and mandatory maintenance programs at port, and we have to develop contingency plans if a vessel will not reach its destination on schedule."

In addition to coordinating shipping schedules between foul weather and essential repairs, the SOC must also contend with individual sections or units that inadvertently or intentionally keep information to themselves.

"It comes down to identifying requirements of the mission and identifying the right people," Shepard added. "A lot of times we don't know the original owner of the information, but over time we've become very good at determining who is responsible for specific pieces of information."

Despite the high stress inherent in their positions, Wilhoite, Shepard and their fellow battle NCOs, battle captains and battle majors find comfort knowing their decisions save the Army time, money, manpower and, in extreme circumstances, the very lives of their fellow service members.

"We get the information to the warfighters who need it most, and some of what we've disseminated may have guaranteed those same warfighters return home safe and sound," Shepard said.



Army Staff Sgt. Andrew B. Shepard, the current operations battle noncommissioned officer, 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), monitors data flowing through the Sustainment Operations Center (SOC) March 13. at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Soldiers assigned to the SOC collect, analyze and disseminate information sent from or requested by the 143rd ESC's sister, subordinate or superior units spread across three continents. Operating on a 24/7 basis, the SOC is ultimately responsible for determining the "so what" factor of every element of information and sending it to the individuals or organizations that need it to conduct their respective missions.

# ENGINES OF EFFICIENCY

## 1107th TASMG repairs, recertifies, reallocates

Story and photos by Sgt. John L. Carkeet iv  
Public Affairs NCO, 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Imagine if you did not clean out your home for 12 years. Chances are that your 15 minutes of fame would come in the form of an appearance on The Learning Channel’s “Hoarding: Buried Alive.” Now enlarge your home to the size of an aircraft hangar, multiply it by three and add a few acres of idle vehicles and full freight containers, and you may have a clearer picture of what awaited the soldiers from the 1107th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

With fewer than 100 soldiers spread throughout Kuwait and Afghanistan, the 1107th TASMG, a National Guard unit headquartered in Springfield, Mo., currently manages an initially insurmountable task of sorting, tagging, testing and shipping thousands of pieces of parts, tools, equipment and machinery that had accumulated throughout the last decade.

“In the last 12 years that [the U.S. military] has been here, we’ve collected a lot of stuff,” said Lt. Col. Leif C.J. Thompson, the detachment commander for the 1107th TASMG element deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. “Units here needed specific equipment to conduct their missions. A lot of equipment came in, but as missions came to an end the redeploying units would leave it behind. Our job is to collect, tag and send that equipment to other locations where it can be put to good use.”

As the unit name suggests, the 1107th TASMG specializes in repair rather than retrograde. As one of only four units in the Army with the tools and expertise to perform major repairs on rotary wing aircraft, the 1107th’s previous deployments differ greatly from its current mission.

“Until now, our primary mission has been depot level maintenance,” said Thompson, a native of Fair Grove, Mo. Back home [in Missouri] we cover a 14-state region in the Central United States. National Guard helicopters that require depot level maintenance are flown or trucked into us so we may repair and return them to their home state.”

“[Kuwait] use to be a big operation for TASGMs,” said

Sgt. 1st Class Wesley B. Buehler, maintenance activity chief, 1107th TASGM. “At one point we had 250 people running 17 shops to include avionics, hydraulics, sheet metal and [rotor] blades. Now we have a few guys working in an engine shop, while the rest are tasked to the retrograde mission.”

Despite the severe shift in mission priorities, Thompson believes the 1107th TASMG has the right people for the job.

“Although our soldiers’ [military occupation specialities] do not involve tagging items, boxing them and shipping them, they are still the subject matter experts because they can identify the items, compile them and send them back as serviceable sets,” said Thompson.

Their expertise has proved invaluable when sorting bench stock.

“Bench stock includes nuts, bolts and washers,” said Buehler as he picked up a handheld test set from a box filled with assorted parts and tools. “A component is made of bench stock. The screws, switches and batteries in this [test set] are considered bench stock.”

“It took five soldiers a week to count more than 73,000 items and sort them in 1,250 types,” said Thompson. “Most of this bench stock is used on aircraft, so our soldiers had little trouble accurately identifying and classifying it.”

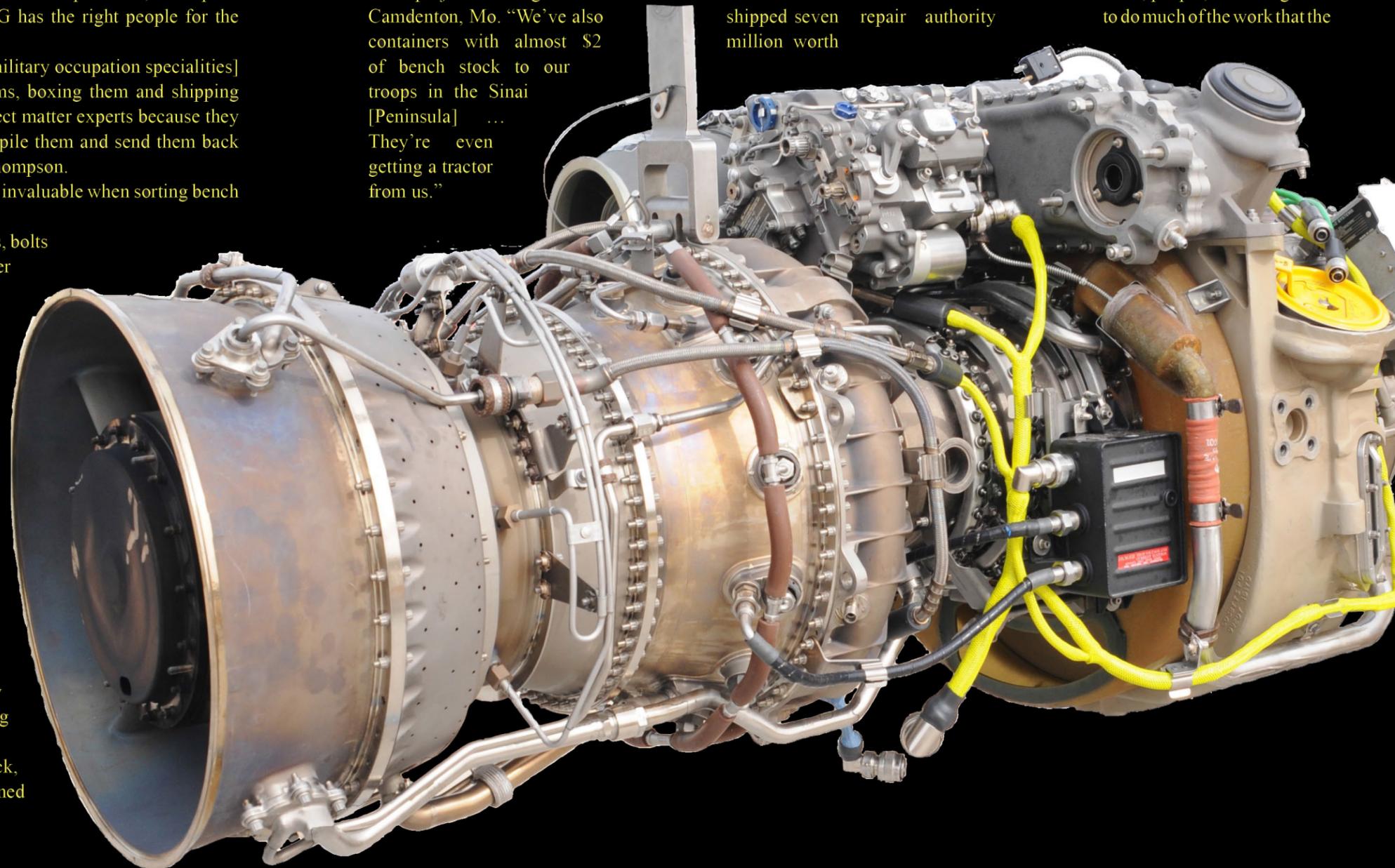
In addition to bench stock, the 1107th has tagged, cleaned

and shipped vehicles and machinery to units that urgently need them.

“Most of what we’re sending is headed for AMCOM (U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command) who has disposition on TPE (Theater Provided Equipment),” said Sgt. Patrick J. McDonald Jr., an 1107th TASMG avionics mechanic and project manager who hails from Camdenton, Mo. “We’ve also shipped seven containers with almost \$2 million worth of bench stock to our troops in the Sinai [Peninsula] ... They’re even getting a tractor from us.”

While McDonald and a majority of the 1107th TASMG’s Kuwait detachment tag, pack and ship literally tons of items, a small handful do what they do best: repairing helicopters.

“Most aviation units cannot do depot level work,” said Buehler, a native of Billings, Mo. “They either have to send parts to depots in the U.S. or have a tenant from the depot come to them. We have in theater the tools, people, knowledge and repair authority to do much of the work that the



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Army Aviation and Missile Command) who has disposition Army Sgt. Patrick J. McDonald, Jr., an avionics mechanic and project manager for the 1107th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), 1st Theater Sustainment Command, checks the identification tag on an air compressor March 17 at Patton Army Airfield in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Since November 2013, the 1107th TASMIG has sorted, tagged, packed and shipped tens of thousands of items that had accumulated in Kuwait since the outset of U.S. military operations in Iraq in 2003. From tools and bench stock to tractors and heavy machinery, the 1107th TASMIG has classified, cleaned and delivered these items to either U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., for redistribution or directly to deployed units that urgently need parts and equipment.

SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

# Take 5

Before Taking Supplements

- The purchase of drugs, supplements or other products that are banned, or the misuse of prescription drugs, may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- Check with your doctor or health care provider before using supplements.
- Thermogenic substances can cause a dramatic and rapid increase to an individual’s body temperature.
- There’s no substitute for a well-balanced diet, good rest and exercise.

Take 5 ... then take action.



ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



# MR. I.T.

Photos and story by Spc. Aaron Ellerman  
Public Affairs Specialist, 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait— The world has been on a technological boom since the discovery of electricity more than 200 years ago with new technologies developing almost daily. One of the most notable advancements is the computer. First designed in the early 19th century, the computer has become a tool that most rely on daily. But just how does computer work? How does information flow through the air? How does something happen over there when one pushes a button here? Spc. Brian Torres found himself asking many questions similar to these years ago.

“I have been hooked on technology ever since my first exposure from playing video games as a child,” said Torres.

Torres, an Orlando, Fla. native, is a signal support system specialist for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Orlando. Torres is currently deployed with the unit to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I joined the military for the camaraderie and the opportunity to serve my country,”

said Torres.

Torres said he chose his military career field based on his love for computers and the opportunity it gave him to work with new military technology.

“Spc. Torres is a top notch Soldier he is innovative and very knowledgeable in his field,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dennis Lindsey a network planner for the 143d ESC.

During this deployment Torres has helped numerous customers solve information technology issues. Torres also provided vital systems support for an important mission in Qatar.

The skills Torres has obtained from the military have directly translated to his civilian life where he works as a technical support engineer for Symantec.

“I love my job at Symantec and look forward to furthering my career with the company,” said Torres.

Torres said he plans on continuing to work with computers and looks forward to keeping up with all the new technology as it develops.

“We are not born with the knowledge regarding how things work, said Torres. “If we rely on technology to complete our everyday tasks we should try to at least get a better understanding regarding how it works,”



Spc. Brian Torres, a signal support systems specialist with the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), replaces a defective laptop screen Sept. 9, 2013 in Doha,

# THE SHARP PROGRAM

By Maj. Sandra L. Gosciniak  
SHARP Officer-in-Charge, 143d ESC

Nationally, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) occurs in April and commits to raising awareness and promoting the prevention of sexual violence through use of special events and public education. SAAM provides an annual opportunity to reinforce our commitment to strengthening the professional climate across the armed forces where the cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, team commitment, and professional values are reinforced to create an environment in which sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not condoned, tolerated or ignored.

During the month of April individuals, businesses, college campuses and other state, territory, tribal and community-based organizations plan events and activities to highlight sexual violence as a public health, human rights and social justice issues and reinforce the need for prevention efforts.

The theme, slogan, resources and materials for the national SAAM campaign are coordinated by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center each year with assistance from anti-sexual assault organizations throughout the United States.

As early as 1976 “Take Back the Night” marches rallied

women in organized protest rape and sexual assault. These marches protested the violence and fear that women encountered walking the streets at night. Over time these events coordinated into a movement across the United States and Europe. Because of this movement, broader activities to raise awareness of violence against women began to occur.

In the late 1980s, the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault informally polled state sexual assault coalitions to determine the preferred date for a national Sexual Assault Awareness Week. A week in April was selected. By the late 1990s, many advocates began coordinating activities and events throughout the month of April, advancing the idea of a nationally recognized month for sexual violence awareness and prevention activities. SAAM was first observed nationally in April 2001.

In 2009 President Obama was the first United States president to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

We all have a role in preventing sexual assault so get involved in Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities in your local community. 🇺🇸



## Sexual Harassment / Assault Response and Prevention



1TSC/143rd ESC (Bldg134/Red Cross)



If you become the victim of a sexual assault, you are not alone. There are Soldiers out there that can help you in your time of need and choices you can make to put you back in control of your life. Help is only a phone call away. You are STRONG.



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Military OneSource • 1-800-342-9647



# AROUND THE ESC



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Members of the Arifjan Eagles rugby team practice a scrum during pre-game warm-ups Mar. 21. The Eagle hosted the Kuwait Scorpions here for a friendly game and meal afterwards.



Photo by Sgt. Alex Nieves 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Food, song and praise filled the Oasis Dining Facility during the National Prayer Luncheon held March 21 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Several Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to include the unit's commander, Brig. Gen. Francisco Espallat, shared in the spiritual experience. Two 143d ESC noncommissioned officers, Sgt. Alex Nieves and Sgt. John L. Cakeet IV (pictured above), proclaimed the scripture readings while Sgt 1st Class Carolyn Blassingame, the 143d ESC's logistics service noncommissioned officer, sang hymns in the Camp Arifjan Gospel Choir.



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman 143d ESC public affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) participated in a 1st Theater Sustainment Command run here March 22. The run was organized to build morale through physical fitness, a key staple of military duty, and strengthen the bonds between units stationed here. Sounding off to various cadences more than 1,200 Soldiers within the 1st TSC followed their unit guidons through the two-mile route.

# AROUND THE ESC



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Master Sgt. Samantha St. Louis, inspector general noncommissioned officer in charge for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), battles for ground during an uphill portion of the Bataan Death March tribute here March 29. St. Louis, a native of Grenada, was the only participant of the 143d headquarters element to partake in the event. More than 250 service members and civilians participated in the 26-mile tribute march.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Shay 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) inducted three new members into the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe March 15 here. In recognition for their contributions to the Ordnance community during their deployment to Kuwait, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roger Londono, Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Matos, and Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Diaz were each awarded a certificate and the medal of the Order from Col. Christopher Govekar, the 143d ESC's deputy commander and senior Ordnance Officer on Camp Arifjan.



Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Compton 143d ESC

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Soldiers, of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and players of the Major League Baseball Atlanta Braves lineup to honor the singing of the national anthem before a spring training game, March 8. The Walt Disney Company and the Braves hosted the 143d ESC on Military Appreciation Day at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.



# AROUND THE ESC



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Two soldiers from the 1107th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), 1st Theater Sustainment Command, conduct the final steps in moving a T700-GE-701D engine from the test bed of a Flexible Engine Diagnostic System (FEDS) March 19, 2014, at Patton Army Airfield in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Serving as FEDS operators, Army Staff Sgt. Michael S. Mullins (left) and Army Spc. Marion A. Williams (right) have spent hundreds of hours testing and troubleshooting helicopter engines for the CH-47 Chinook, UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache. A certified FEDS operator boasts at least 360 hours of formal training.



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman 143d ESC public affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) participated in a group warm up prior to a 1st Theater Sustainment Command run here March 22. The run was organized to build morale through physical fitness, a key staple of military duty, and strengthen the bonds between units stationed here. Sounding off to various cadences more than 1,200 Soldiers within the 1st TSC followed their unit guidons though the two-mile route.



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman 143d ESC

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait — Army Brigadier General Francisco Espallat, commanding general, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Orlando, Fla., hit the ground running by meeting with Kuwait Brig. Gen. Mansour Khaled Al-Mesad, director of operations, Kuwait Navy, Mar. 12 here. The meeting gave both generals the opportunity to discuss current operations and future partnership opportunities. Brig. Gen. Espallat assumed command of the 143d ESC Feb. 15 and arrived in Kuwait Mar. 8.

After meeting with the Kuwaiti general, Brig. Gen. Espallat was given a tour of Army watercraft and met with key watercraft leaders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other exercises within Central Command's area of responsibility. Brig. Gen. Espallat coined multiple Soldiers aboard the vessels, congratulating them on their hard work and service to the nation.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Rossman 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The Honorable Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Technology & Logistics and General Dennis Via, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command visit Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 15. Brig. Gen. Francisco Espallat, commander, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met with Honorable Shyu to discuss current sustainment operations within Central Command's area of responsibility. Shyu and Via are visiting Kuwait in order to ensure that distribution, maintenance and materiel requirements remain on track with strategic and operational plans and national objectives supporting drawdown and transition actions in multiple countries in conjunction with global missions.

# AROUND THE ESC



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Three Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) monitor data flowing through the Sustainment Operations Center (SOC) March 13, 2014, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Soldiers assigned to the SOC collect, analyze and disseminate information sent from or requested by the 143d ESC's sister, subordinate or superior units spread across three continents. Operating on a 24/7 basis, the SOC is ultimately responsible for determining the "so what" factor of every element of information and sending it to the individuals or organizations that need it to conduct their respective missions. From left to right: Staff Sgt. Lance E. Stewart, battle noncommission officer, Maj. Derrick L. Wilhoite, battle major, and Capt. Harry E. Horton, battle captain.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Shay 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) gathered together for an awards ceremony Mar. 8 here. Several Soldiers received awards; one new Staff Sergeant and another Sergeant was welcomed into the NCO corps!

# Church, State and the Army Chaplaincy

From America's beginning we have wrestled with the essentials of our individual beliefs and our government's responsibility regarding those beliefs. Some of our earliest presidents, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in particular, understood the importance of keeping church and state separate. As governor of Virginia in 1779, Jefferson drafted a bill that guaranteed equality for all citizens of all religions, including those of no religion.

In 1786 the Virginia Act for Establishing Religious Freedom became law due in large part to Madison and other supporters. Madison's essay, "Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments," fully supported Jefferson's concerns when he wrote, "the Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every ... man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is, in its nature, an inalienable right."

Jefferson and Madison's efforts paved the way for the First Amendment to our Constitution's Bill of Rights that states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Army Chaplains have been there from the very beginning. The Continental Congress established the Chaplaincy June 29, 1775. They are endorsed by a religious denomination and accession into the Army as officers. Their primary role is to provide religious support for individual units. Commanders are responsible for ensuring that Soldiers

have the opportunity to freely practice their religion in accordance with regulations and mission requirements. The denominationally endorsed chaplains are required to support the beliefs and practices of their faith group. Failing to do so can lead to revocation of their endorsement and discharge from military service. Concurrently, chaplains are required to provide for the religious needs of all Soldiers within their command. Department of Defense Directive 1300.17 "Accommodation of Religious Practices Within the Military Services," states that "the [Department of Defense] places a high value on the rights and members of the Military Services to observe the tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all. It protects the civil liberties of its personnel and the public to the greatest extent possible, consistent with its military requirements."

What this means is that, in addition to remaining faithful to their own individual beliefs, chaplains must also understand the needs and requirements of Soldiers from diverse backgrounds and ensure that they have the opportunity to practice their faith. Today's Soldiers are more religiously diverse than their elders in terms of both nontraditional religions and non-belief. According to the "Religious Diversity in the U.S. Military" issue paper released in June 2010 by the Military Leadership Diversity Commission, more than a quarter of service members ages 18-30 claim no religious preference (NRP). NRP consists of full spectrum of beliefs from no commitment to any faith while accepting all faiths, uncertainty in belief, Humanist, Agnostic, and



Master Sgt. Ward T. Gros  
Master Chaplain Assistant NCO  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

Atheist. NRP is currently the second largest category in the Army at 25.5 percent. Other categories in the double digits include nondenominational Christian (65.8 percent), Catholic (20.1 percent), and Baptist (17.6 percent). According to the report, the military has nearly as many Humanists (i.e., Atheists or Agnostics) as Methodists (3.6 percent compared to 3.7 percent) and more Pagans (1.2 percent) than Episcopalians (0.9 percent). Understanding these percentages provides an insight to the wonder of religious diversity within our ranks as well as a reminder of the need for sensitivity towards all faiths or no faith at all. This is especially important when individuals with strong faith convictions, or no faith convictions, share with one another the significance and meaning of their perspectives. Whatever our faith, let us always hold true to what we believe, and let us always respect the beliefs of our fellow citizens. 🙏

[www.http://flickr.com/photos/143desc/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/143desc/)

7,276 photos and counting

# THE LEGAL CORNER

## From Redeployment to Reemployment

As the 143d ESC heads into the final months of deployment, I want to pass on some reemployment information that may be useful as most of us transition back into our reserve status and our civilian jobs and responsibilities.

Everyone should be thinking about what you are going to do once you are released from active duty. You all should be aware of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). With regard to reemployment, you have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job that you left in order to serve our country. A few caveats apply, however.

First, you must have provided your employer with advance notice of your impending deployment. The notice could have been written or verbal, and must have been reasonable in its advance timing. That is, that you should have given your employer notice well in advance of your departure as we had such notice.

Second, you must have less than five years of cumulative military service with the particular employer with whom you seek to return to work. This means that you cannot have been away from the employer for military duty for more than five years total. Fortunately, as our deployment was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, it is exempted by federal statute, and does not count towards the five year limit of military service with an employer.

Third, you must return to work in a timely manner after release from active duty. The time does not start to run until you have completed all your leave. Check your DD 214 to find the exact

date of release from active duty. As most, if not all, have served on active duty in excess of 180 days, you will have 90 days within which to return to work or serve on your employer an application for reinstatement to your job.

Fourth, you must return to civilian life with a characterization of military service that is Honorable or General (under Honorable Conditions). Any other characterization of service would be less than honorable and a disqualifying characterization.

If you have met all the criteria set out above, then you are entitled to be reemployed. You will be restored to the job, along with all the benefits, that you held prior to leaving for military service. If the job is no longer available due to technology, corporate realignment or other excusable reasons, then you are entitled to be placed in a comparable job or position.

Be aware that reinstatement to your job may not be immediate. The company may have to adjust duties, responsibilities or personnel schedules to accommodate your return. For this reason, your notice of reinstatement to your employer should be made as soon as possible, thereby providing your employer advance notice of your return and time to make any need adjustments or modifications to the work force.

Each military service member is also entitled to any accrued seniority pay, benefits and status. Pension benefits, raises and credit for service time are included in the calculation of seniority benefits. All service members and their family members are also entitled



**Lt. Col. Terence P. Murphy**  
Staff Judge Advocate  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

to reinstatement of health insurance, dental and vision plans without the usual waiting periods.

If you run into any difficulty with your employer in returning to work, you should immediately contact your SJA office. We will provide you will the necessary information and points of contact to assist you in returning to work promptly with all the benefits that you are entitled to under the law.

For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact the United States Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) at 1-866-4-USA-DOL (872-365) or at <http://www.dol.gov/vets>. You can also get information through the online USERRA Advisor at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>.

The Department of Defense Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Office can also provide assistance to a service member who is having difficulty with an employer regarding rights and benefits under USERRA. This office can be contacted at <http://www.esgr.mil>. The site has an online assistance application process. 🇺🇸



# REMEMBER RESPECT HONOR

*Gold Star Wives Day - April 5th 2014*

*We honor Gold Star Wives for representing the service and sacrifice of their Fallen Soldier.*



# PROVING PRINCIPLES

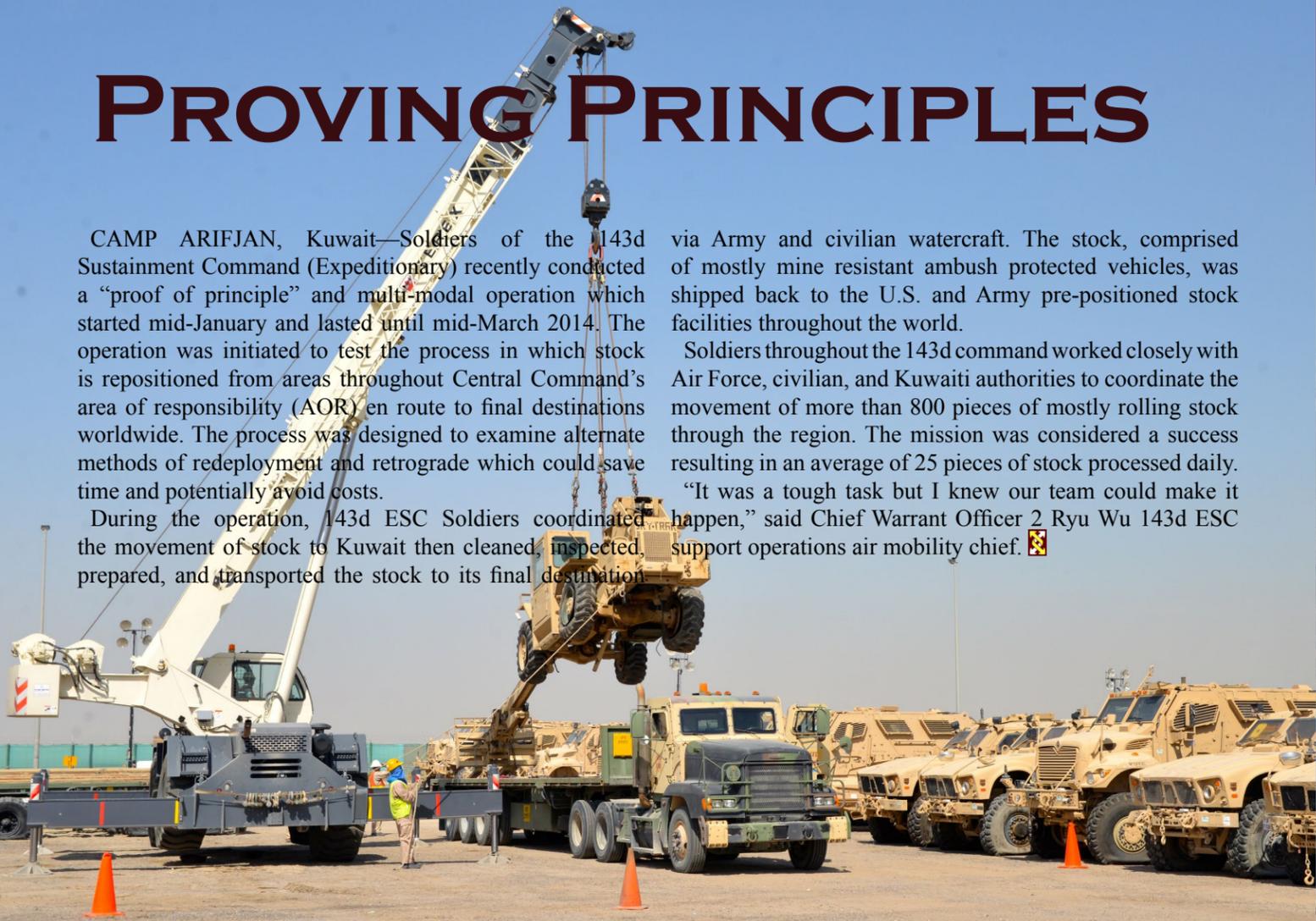
CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—Soldiers of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) recently conducted a “proof of principle” and multi-modal operation which started mid-January and lasted until mid-March 2014. The operation was initiated to test the process in which stock is repositioned from areas throughout Central Command’s area of responsibility (AOR) en route to final destinations worldwide. The process was designed to examine alternate methods of redeployment and retrograde which could save time and potentially avoid costs.

During the operation, 143d ESC Soldiers coordinated the movement of stock to Kuwait then cleaned, inspected, prepared, and transported the stock to its final destination

via Army and civilian watercraft. The stock, comprised of mostly mine resistant ambush protected vehicles, was shipped back to the U.S. and Army pre-positioned stock facilities throughout the world.

Soldiers throughout the 143d command worked closely with Air Force, civilian, and Kuwaiti authorities to coordinate the movement of more than 800 pieces of mostly rolling stock through the region. The mission was considered a success resulting in an average of 25 pieces of stock processed daily.

“It was a tough task but I knew our team could make it happen,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryu Wu 143d ESC support operations air mobility chief. 🇺🇸



# Strengthening Partnerships



# A SAFE REINTEGRATION

By Carl Williams  
642nd RSG Safety Specialist

All leaders are required to mitigate risks by ensuring that every Soldier knows the mitigation factors, how to identify risk, and understand that they are an intracal part of the unit. Effective leaders remain focused of the inherent dangers associated with all we do, not just in our military activities, but also in our off duty activities and life style.

Upon return from a deployment, the unit is required to provide additional safety classes, medical screening and other information to Soldiers and their families. This helps smooth the reunion process and allows participants to establish realistic expectations during their transition back to civilian life. They will learn to spot symptoms of stress, identify sources of assistance and open channels of communication.

Privately owned vehicle safety will be highly emphasized in reintegration training. Leaders are responsible for providing

the training, and individuals are responsible of making good decisions by not accepting unnecessary risk in their personal activities. Remember that, if risk outweighs the rewards, do not engage! The goal is to reset each individual’s risk acceptance threshold.

Scheduled briefings should include universal safety topics such as driving, boating and swimming. Returning personnel may not have driven during the deployment, and the skills needed to successfully navigate the congested U.S. highways are far different from those required developed along desert plains and mountain passes. Driving safety briefings should cover speed limits, rest stops and distracted driving.

A future “welcome home” and “thank you” for all you do for this great nation. It is truly a pleasure to serve alongside you. Enjoy your time off. You deserve it. 🇺🇸



# Lessons on Logistics

Story by P. Antill

The First World War was unlike anything that had gone before it. Not only did the armies initially outstrip their logistic systems (particularly the Germans with their Schlieffen Plan) with the amount of men, equipment and horses moving at a fast pace, but they totally underestimated the ammunition requirements (particularly for artillery).

On average, ammunition was consumed at ten times the pre-war estimates, and the shortage of ammunition became serious, forcing governments to vastly increase ammunition production. In Britain this caused the 'shell scandal' of 1915, but rather than the government of the day being to blame, it was faulty pre-war planning, for a campaign on the mainland of Europe, for which the British were logistically unprepared. Once the war became trench bound, supplies were needed to build fortifications that stretched across the whole of the Western Front. Add to that the scale of the casualties involved, the difficulty in building up for an attack (husbanding supplies) and then sustaining the attack once it had gone in (if any progress was made, supplies had to be carried over the morass of no-man's land). It was no wonder that the war in the west was conducted at a snail's pace, given the logistic problems.

It was not until 1918, that the British, learning the lessons of the last four years, finally showed how an offensive should be carried out, with tanks and motorised gun sleds helping to maintain the pace of the advance, and maintain supply well away from the railheads and ports.

The First World War was a milestone for military logistics. It was no longer true to say that supply was easier when armies kept on the move due to the fact that when they stopped they consumed the food, fuel and fodder needed by the army. From 1914, the reverse applied, because of the huge expenditure of ammunition, and the consequent expansion of transport to lift it forward to the consumers. It was now far more difficult to resupply an army on the move, while the industrial nations could produce huge amounts of war matériel, the difficulty was in keeping the supplies moving forward to the consumer. 📄

Read more at [Military Logistics: A Brief History](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/concepts_logistics.html), [http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/concepts\\_logistics.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/concepts_logistics.html)



# Patching the 108th

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Michael Camacho 108th SB

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers with the 108th Sustainment Brigade from Chicago took part in a combat patching ceremony March 6 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

“Today we witness Soldiers receiving the right to wear the 108th Sustainment Brigade’s patch as the shoulder sleeve insignia for combat service,” said Lt. Col. Dan Williams of Nashville, Tenn., with the 108th Sust. Bde.

Williams said while the patch is a simple piece of cloth, it is a symbol of the commitment to the service members’ call of duty, recent and past, and all those who have served in overseas combat operations.

“You are now a part of a time honored tradition, band of brothers and sisters who will forever be known as ‘combat veterans,’” said Williams.

Spc. Crystal Nuñez of Chicago with the 108th Special Troops Battalion said she will wear her combat patch knowing the meaning of the 108th’s shoulder sleeve insignia and the military heritage it carries as ‘Chicago’s Brigade.’

“I felt pride when the battalion commander patched me and the battalion sergeant major told me “be proud, today is a good day,”” said Nuñez.

While the brigade was established in 2006 it carries a lineage dating back to 1936. The 108th Sust. Bde. shoulder sleeve insignia was approved in November 2006 shortly before the brigade was officially activated a month later. The patch design alludes to the five military branches as it incorporates the 13 stars representing the first American colonies which adorn the wheel of logistics. The ‘Y’ in the center of the patch pays homage to where the North Branch and Chicago Rivers join.

“The brigade carries a long history of supporting overseas

combat operations,” said Col. Drew Dukett of Roodhouse, Ill., commander of the 108th Sust. Bde.

Dukett said this ceremony is yet another mile stone in the unit’s history of supporting the warfighter where ever they may be.

“A combat patch is a sign of overseas service among veterans,” said Col. Drew Dukett of Roodhouse, commander of the 108th Sustainment Brigade. “I know each Soldier will wear it proudly for years to come.”



Maj. Timothy Newman of Mahomet, Ill., the support operations officer of the 108th Sustainment Brigade from Chicago places combat service a patch on the right shoulder of Spc. Erica Pettis of Chicago, assigned the support operation section during a ceremony March 6 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

# PLAY IT SAFE

- Apply sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or greater 30 minutes before sun exposure and then every few hours thereafter
- Be sure to reapply sunscreen frequently, especially after swimming
- Remember children need extra protection from the sun.

LEADERS  
SOLDIERS  
FAMILIES

# USE SUNSCREEN!

