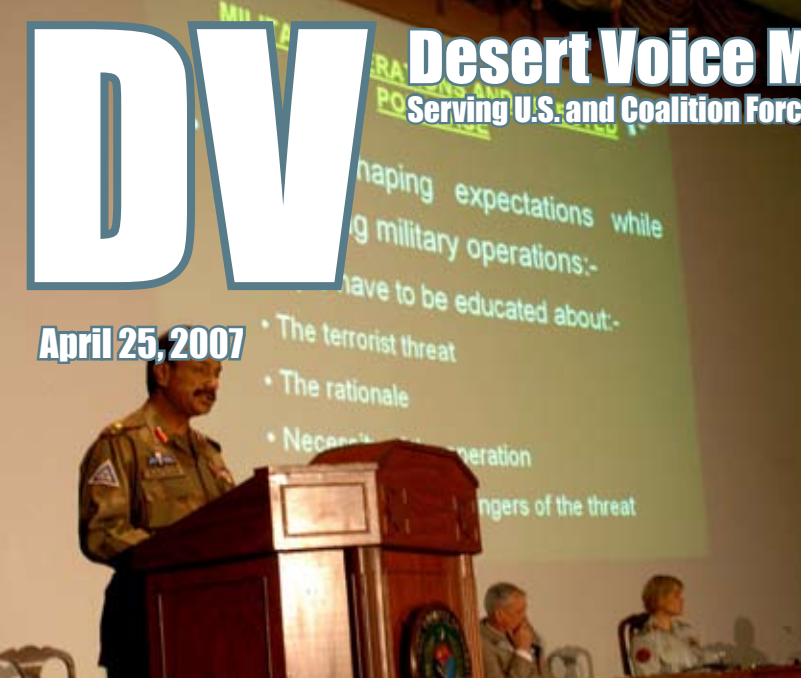


DV

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

April 25, 2007



United Against Terror

Senior military leaders attend joint symposium in Pakistan



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On the cover

Various photos from the Land Forces Symposium in Islamabad, Pakistan, where 22 military leaders met to find a "Common Security in the Global War on Terror."

Photos by Staff Sgt. Reebea Critser

From the Top

With extension announcement, Soldiers should keep eyes, mind on the mission

On April 11, the Secretary of Defense announced that all active component Army tours in Theater are extended from 12 to 15 months. At the urging of the Acting Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army, Secretary Gates wanted to ensure units



**Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb
Third Army Commanding General**

have at least 12 months between tours to improve the predictability for Soldiers and their Families. Many of the deploying Brigades right now didn't get that opportunity. What you want to know is how this affects you and your Family.

While we continue to work the details, the full extent of this extension is not yet known as some of the specifics are still being worked out. Your chain of command will keep you informed as soon as they are known. But, I wanted to give everyone as much information as possible up front. All active component Soldiers assigned to deployed active component units in support of OEF and OIF should plan on staying in theater for 15 months. Some units and individuals already have inbound replacements, and they may not stay. The Army staff in concert with our staff and unit teams are looking at this to determine what is best for the mission, Soldiers, and Families. We plan to come to resolution as quickly as we can, but until then, I will always remember the Company First Sergeants at DESERT STORM when no end of mission date was ever set. When asked by a Soldier when they were going home...the first sergeant wisely replied, "Soldier, you will go home when the mission is done, and of course

when I tell you to load up your rucksack on the deuce and a half (truck). Until then, we have a mission to do, keep your eyes and mind on the mission."

That remains pretty good advice today and is less frustrating than chasing every rumor or new media report.

Please stay in touch with your Families.

I understand they too are worried and, in many cases, frustrated. False hopes are a killer, so be careful (like we will be) on making any assumptions. Please also look after your buddy...we have caring leaders and professionals both in theater and at home stations to help.

I was here in CENTCOM when the first major unexpected extension was made to 15 months. When the enemy in Iraq interdicted the road network in April 2004, we had to extend the 1st Armored Division, 2nd LCR, and a dozen truck companies and MP companies based in Kuwait. Many Soldiers were on the flight line at KCIA ready for that freedom bird... some were even back home. Despite all the frustration and disappointment, I was never prouder of our Soldiers and their Families; they saluted and headed back north. More than ever, I have that same sense of pride and respect to be serving with you.

I am still certain of one fact: Our Nation more than ever is counting on every Soldier, active or reserve, to do their duty; our success in this war depends upon it... and I know you are up to the task.

God bless you and your Families.
Patton's Own!

DV
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Incoming Message, Army Chief of Staff

General George W. Casey, Jr.
36th Chief of Staff of the Army

Soldiers, Civilians,
and Families of the
United States Army,

I am extremely proud to be taking charge of an organization that is rightly regarded as the best in the world. I have watched the men and women of our Army in action for the past several years in the most demanding combat environment. I am proud of the courage, competence, and commitment of our Soldiers and civilians both to the ideals that made this country great and to making a difference in our world. You epitomize what is best about America. You and your Families carry a heavy burden in today's war, with a hard road ahead. Your willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is a great strength of our nation. In every generation, when faced with difficult challenges, Americans have risen to the occasion. Today, such heroes fill the Army's ranks. It is your efforts that will make victory possible.

We are locked in a war against a global extremist network that is fixed on defeating the United States and destroying our way of life. This foe will not go away nor will they give up easily, and the next decade will likely be one of persistent conflict. We are engaged in a long war.

At stake are the power of



our values and our civilization, exemplified by the promise of America, to confront and defeat the menace of extremist terrorists. At stake is whether the authority of those who treasure the rights of free individuals will stand firm against the ruthless and pitiless men who wantonly slay the defenseless. At stake is whether the future will be framed by the individual freedoms we hold so dear or dominated by a demented form of extremism. At stake is whether we will continue to expand freedom, opportunity, and decency for those who thirst for it, or let fall the darkness of extremism and terror.

We have been at war for over five years, fighting for our freedom, our security, and our future as a nation. We have made hard sacrifices. There will be more. Faced with such a long and difficult struggle, it is useful

to remind ourselves that the Army exists to field forces for victory. We are in this war to win. We have fought this way since 1775. We always will.

As Soldiers, we will lead the nation to victory over this enemy. Our combat veterans know well the meaning of "Army Strong." They have been "baptized in fire and blood, and they have come out as steel." That steel endures. Our Warrior Ethos has it right:

- I will always place the mission first.
- I will never quit.
- I will never accept defeat.
- I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Seldom in our history have Soldiers faced greater challenges. We serve at a time when the stakes for our nation and our way of life are high, and the demands on our force significant. We will continue to reflect the very best of our nation by defeating the enemies of freedom and the proponents of terror, by defending our homeland, and by assisting our Nation to build a better future for coming generations.

I could not be more proud to be a Soldier today and to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and your Families during this time of great danger and uncertainty. Together we are, and always will be...

ARMY STRONG.

United Aga

Twenty-two senior military leaders

Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser
Third Army/USARCENT PAO

In an effort to enhance regional security in the Central Command area of responsibility, senior military leaders from 22 countries participated in the Third Army/U.S. Army Central Land Forces Symposium conducted in Pakistan April 11-12.

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third Army/U.S. Army Central commanding general, said that this year's symposium was the second meeting of its kind and

thanked the government of Pakistan and the Pakistani army for hosting the event. This year's theme was "Common Security and the Global War on Terror."

Whitcomb said the conference gave the participants a forum to discuss ways to effectively combat terrorism – a topic of common interest among all countries.

The symposium was not about discussing military tactics, but exploring the full range of tools and

options available to senior leaders.

In addition to military tools, senior leaders have information, diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, finance, and economic tools. Whitcomb stated that the struggle against terrorism requires the wise application of all the elements of national power.

"This is about the future," he said, "Today, we are military leaders with a responsibility to tomorrow."

The delegates in attendance were from Australia, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States and Yemen.

"In my opinion, your appearance here is a dedicated long-term commitment to reach a resolution in the war on terror," said Gen. Ahsan Saleem Hyat, vice chief of staff of the Pakistan army, in his opening remarks to the delegates.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf gave the closing remarks. "I believe in seeing the present even if you don't like what you see," he said. "I don't believe in being anchored by history. We need to not cry over spilt milk. Instead, look ahead to the future to bring more harmony to the world."

Musharraf also assured the delegates that Pakistan is working hard to stop terrorists from crossing the Afghanistan border into Pakistan.

"Therefore we will not accept that Pakistan is not doing enough in the war against terror.

"But there is support in Pakistan," Musharraf continued. "[The Taliban] are in the mountains, and we will



Photos by Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser

(Above) Col. Patrick Michelson, Third Army/U.S. Army Central CIMA chief, preps for the executive session with Maj. Gen. Chawki El-Masry, chief of staff of the Lebanese Armed Forces, April 12 at the National Defence University in Islamabad, Pakistan. The two were part of a larger group of military leaders attending the second Land Forces Symposium.

(Far right) Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commanding general of Third Army/U.S. Army Central, listens to Mushahid Hussain Syed, former Pakistani information minister, speak about global and national security concerns at the second Land Forces Symposium April 11, 2007, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Against Terror

attend U.S. symposium in Pakistan



fight them. But please don't think everything is happening only here, and across the border everything is hunky-dory.

"If this were the case, my conclusion as a military man would be that everything, all military, should move to the border and seal the borders."

In addition, Musharraf stated military force isn't enough to stop terrorism.

"The West, led by the United States, must resolve political disputes and help the social and economic development [in Afghanistan and Iraq]. When I say this, I mean justice

must be done and be seen by the Muslim world."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said in an earlier speech that "hundreds of terrorists, and some terrorist leaders, have been captured in Pakistan."

He said terrorists have tried to kill Musharraf and himself on several occasions.

"But these are the actions of a few misguided individuals," Aziz said. "The real solution for winning terrorism is winning the hearts and minds of the people you're protecting."

Whitcomb said he hopes the

delegates leave the symposium with "camaraderie strengthened, our minds exercised and our vision of the future reinforced."

He also stressed understanding the visions for the future and the roles everyone plays, individually and together.

Whitcomb concluded by saying the symposium made the delegates and their countries stronger, more capable, and established the conditions and relationships necessary for future cooperative efforts.

"That will give our enemies pause to think before they threaten."

Buehring Every



Photos by Sgt. Thomas L. Day



ing Day



(Right) A 4th Brigade, 2nd Inf. Div. team provides security as fellow Soldiers swarm a simulated insurgent home at the Mobile Operations Urban Trainer at Camp Buehring.

(Top left) Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez instructs Soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 2nd Inf. Div. on safety procedures before they begin training on the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer.

(Bottom left) Mark Farrar, a Battle Staff Course instructor at the Camp Buehring Training Village, trains 4th Brigade, 2nd Inf. Div. officers on the Iraq counter insurgency environment.

(Bottom, far left) With the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, all Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez has to do is push a button to turn five 4th Brigade, 2nd Inf. Reg. Soldiers on their heads.



Photos by Maj. April N. Olsen



Culture

At Jordanian training center, U.S. Army Central trains Soldiers to face cultural differences in Iraq

Maj. April N. Olsen 40th PAD Commander

More than 300 Soldiers learned how to balance cultural sensitivities with mission requirements from the Jordanian Armed Forces during the fourth annual Peace Operations Training Center session held in Amman March 19 to April 5.

The joint U.S. and Jordanian team of observer/controllers brought combat experience and intelligence to the training.

"The leadership here at the POTC really focuses on every aspect of cultural awareness," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Martz, the Third Army/U.S. Army Central assistant chief of staff for operations.

"They say it and they mean it when they say our effort here is to save Iraqi blood and American blood...they are really focused on trying to help people operate in a very tough environment with as little loss of life as possible."

The center provides troops with cultural considerations they need to be aware of while conducting their missions in Iraq, such as clearing buildings, traffic check points and mounted patrols.

Classes discussing the role of women in Iraqi society, Arab media awareness and tribal affiliations aim to provide students with basic knowledge of cultural differences so Soldiers can prevent misunderstandings while conducting military operations.

The students then practice that knowledge on situational training exercises, and return to their units to assist others.

"It is clear that each agency or nation brings its own cultural background," said Col. Ali Mahasneh, POTC commandant.

"Cultural [awareness] has a powerful affect on how the mission plays out on the ground," he said.

Mahasneh said that making sweeping generalities about others is dangerous,

and taking part in POTC training can inform and educate Soldiers before they face cultural differences in Iraq.

Third Army/U.S. Army Central Commanding General, Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, told instructors and students the training offers long-term benefits.

"It is not just about deploying to Iraq, but what you're doing to prepare Army leaders for the next 10-15 years," Whitcomb said.

"This is not about TTPs [tactics, techniques and procedures], how to search a house," Whitcomb said. "It's about cultural awareness. It is more about you as leaders...learning how to operate in a foreign land."

Many Soldiers with previous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan are learning to focus more on the cultural aspects of completing their missions said Sgt. First Class Scot Hector, a Special Forces Soldier working with Third Army/U.S. Army Central Civil International



re class

ing center, Third Army

nce cultural challenges

Military Affairs

He highlighted the challenges with a class of troopers from the 82nd Airborne Division attending the training.

“What we identified, what we saw, was a lot of guys from Rangers and a lot of guys from Division were so well-trained in their unit TTPs and the way they’ve operated in their previous tours, we threw them off with culturally significant scenarios,” said Hector.

“They were confident in their tactics, but cultural awareness can throw off even the best trained units.”

Presenting scenarios such as deciding how to proceed with an apartment search where a female is home alone forces Soldiers to discern how to apply knowledge of cultural sensitivities to help accomplish the mission, said Hector.

Whitcomb said being culturally aware is not a hard and fast skill that can be taught like tank gunnery. Leaders can focus on preparing Soldiers by increasing their language proficiency.

“Here, we stress that it may diffuse the situation simply by being courteous and professional,” said Whitcomb. “And that’s easier said than done at about the eleventh month of your rotation.”

Many of the students said they will take back the sense of urgency for language proficiency to their units.

“Even if a Soldier, a private, knows 10 to 15 phrases, that could mean the difference between pulling a trigger and killing someone or not,” said 1st Lt. Michael Filanowski, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Abn. Div. “That language barrier is really what breaks everybody on deployment.

Filanowski said he intends to build on the skills he learned during the language labs at POTC.

“It’s more important on our end that we can communicate effectively because we are the ones armed,” he said.



(Far left) Jordanian army Sgt. Abeer Mahmoud Abu Sbeh conducts a mock interview with Sgt. 1st Class Eunice Hill, a First Army Soldier, during training at the Jordanian Peace Operations Training Center. Media Relations and Foreign Media Awareness was part of cultural awareness training.

(Left) Capt. Jeffery Schwartz, 37th Brigade Combat Team, Ohio National Guard, negotiates with a role player during a mosque scenario at the POTC, while an Iraqi police officer and Army soldier (also role players) gauge the situation.

(Above) A Jordanian observer/controller leads an after action review with Soldiers of the 38th Infantry Division following a mounted patrol training lane at the POTC.

(Below) Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third Army/U.S. Army Central commanding general, discusses the success of cultural awareness training with (left) Lt. Gen. Ahmad Maged Al Ietan, commander of the Jordanian Royal Military Academy, and (center) Col. Ali Mahasneh, POTC commandant.





Photos by Sgt. Sarah Scully

Battle Staff training prepares Soldiers for different culture

Sgt. Sarah Scully
Desert Voice staff writer

Dozens of Soldiers stationed in Kuwait joined hundreds of their comrades by experiencing the same training on Iraqi customs during a Battle Staff class at Camp Buehring's Training Village.

Although members of Third Army/U.S. Army Central's Special Troop Battalion are stationed at Camp Arifjan instead of Baghdad, they benefit from seeing the big picture of what is happening in the hearts and minds of Iraqi people.

And their knowledge can help spread to other subordinate units through meetings, training and interactions.

"All the news reports can get confusing, and the battle staff helps the Soldiers see the big picture and how all the pieces fit together," said Randy Williams, MPRI Battle Staff instructor and retired Army colonel.

By understanding the threat

environment in Iraq, the Soldiers can understand how to handle national sensitivities and succeed in the Global War on Terror.

"It's good, topical Army warrior training," said Lt. Col. Robert Cassidy, STB commander. "Some of these folks have been to Iraq and some haven't – this war being what it is, we all will some day."

Hundreds of servicemembers have left the class with a greater understanding of what to expect in the Middle East.

By gaining appreciation of differing cultures, the Soldiers can move forward with knowledge and purpose.

"It will help us as a whole," said Williams.

(Above) Randy Williams, MPRI Battle Staff instructor, explains Iraqi customs and politics to Soldiers with Third Army/U.S. Army Central Special Troops Battalion. Dozens of Soldiers assigned to the STB attended the Battle Staff training at Camp Buehring's Training Village.

(Below) Members of Third Army/U.S. Army Central Special Troops Battalion watch a video demonstrating cultural sensitivity during a Battle Staff training course at Camp Buehring's Training Village.



Anthrax vaccine mandatory

Vaccinations are now mandatory for Department of Defense servicemembers, emergency-essential designated civilians and contractor personnel performing mission-essential services assigned to:

- ▶ Central Command area of responsibility for 15 or more consecutive days.
- ▶ Special units with bio-warfare or bio-terrorism related missions
- ▶ Specialty units with approved exception to policy

Vaccinations shall begin, to the extent feasible, up to 60 days prior to deployment or arrival in higher threat areas.

The anthrax vaccine is voluntary for DoD servicemembers and U.S. Government civilian employees of DoD who are not in the mandatory groups and have received at least one dose of anthrax vaccine adsorbed during or after 1998.

Vaccinations are voluntary for DoD civilians and adult family members; contractors and their accompanying U.S. citizen family members residing in Central Command area of responsibility for 15 or more consecutive days.

For more information, contact your local Troop Medical Clinic or visit the Web site, www.anthrax.mil.

Just One Question...

“Who should your team pick in the NFL Draft?”



(Denver Broncos) “A middle linebacker.”

Capt. Michael Spears
Colorado Springs, Col.
Class 2 Officer
U.S. Army Central C-4



**(Cleveland Browns)
“JaMarcus Russell, if Oakland doesn’t pick him up.”**

Sgt. Jacob Morgan
Cleveland, Ohio
IMO
U.S. Army Central C-1



(Pittsburgh Steelers) “Anyone from the University of Oregon.”

1st Lt. Rachel Miller
Roseburg, Ore.
Support Operations
39th Movement Control Battalion



(New Orleans Saints) “Offensive Linemen...they just need to work on their line.”

Sgt. Jimmy Parker
New Orleans, La.
Human Resources Clerk
377th Theater Support Group



(Detroit Lions) “They need a quarterback. I’d like Brady Quinn.”

Staff Sgt. Gregory Morris
Detroit, Mich.
Container Management
1188th Transportation Battalion

Hometown Hero

Petty Officer 2 Steve Baldwin
Battle Captain
Medical Task Force-Kuwait

Baldwin coordinates situation reports and filters them to his commanding officer. He also handles mass casualty information.

Baldwin talks about why he misses San Antonio.

“The food, the family, the atmosphere. People who like me.”





Missouri March

At Camp Arifjan, servicemembers take on the St. Louis Half-Marathon

(Bottom left) A Sailor shows off his t-shirt during the Spirit of St. Louis Half-Marathon on Camp Arifjan, Friday. The event was a half marathon shadow race of the one in St. Louis on April 14-15. Approximately 800 servicemembers supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central participated in the race. **(Bottom right)** Servicemembers stretch during the early morning hours Friday before running the Spirit of St. Louis Half Marathon. **(Right)** Race director Jerry Cataldo briefs service-members before the start of the race, Friday. **(Top)** Runners begin the half-marathon.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes



Top Finishers

St. Louis Half-Marathon at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Male

Overall winners: 1st -- Isaac Sargent, 1:27:08; 2nd -- Erik Neider, 1:27:37; 3rd -- Sean Stewart, 1:28:22

Walk, 40+ : Don Kolesar Jr, 3:04
Walk, 39- : David Small, 2:11
Run, 50+ : Rafael Ortiz, 1:53
Run, 40-49 : Sean Stewart, 1:28
Run, 30-39, Erik Neider, 1:27
Run, 29- : Isaac Sargent, 1:27

Female

Overall winners: 1st -- Deanna Sikora, 1:33:12; 2nd -- Rachel Rosenbaum, 1:34:54; 3rd -- Brenda Walton, 1:35:15

Walk, 40+ : Susan Soisson, 2:41
Walk, 39- : Erica Polite, 2:44
Run, 50+ : Lynn Bergren, 2:04
Run, 40-49 : Deanna Sikora, 1:33
Run, 30-39, Rachel Rosenbaum, 1:34

