



FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE

SUPPORTING THE DEFENDERS OF PEACE  
CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, QATAR  
NOVEMBER 2014

**THE DESERT MESH**

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For most Americans, November means turkey and football and Black Friday carnage. But, there is another event that happens during this time, one to which only a small percentage of Americans can relate on a personal level. Each year, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we celebrate Veterans Day.

While never lost in the shuffle of holiday madness, the history and origins of Veterans Day are not always acknowledged. As a result, some lack proper perspective of the observation and its meaning becomes at risk for dilution.

Inside this month's edition, our 100th, we tried to honor the meaning of Veterans Day and honor its origin as Armistice Day. As a celebration of peace and an affirmation of the values for which our nation is willing to go to war, many of the articles focus on the importance of specific ideas.

Our Army News section highlights important details about the Department of Defense's efforts to maintain the quality of our fighting forces, as well as what that means for troop strength and MOS qualifications.

In Happening Now, we take a look at some of the causes, effects and implications of discrepancies between state and federal laws. These have particular interest to Soldiers as there are major Army installations in some of the states where these discrepancies exist.

This month, the Main Event pays homage to the spirit and history of Veterans Day with commentary from the editor and the personal thoughts of a Soldier to whom the date has significant meaning.

The Wellness section showcases some very interesting opportunities for Soldiers, veterans and civilians who wish to advance their education. This is especially beneficial to any of our veterans who have exhausted or transferred their Post-9/11 Montgomery G.I Bill.

And, lastly, we're closing out this issue with a little bit of humor for veterans of every branch of military service, to whom this issue is dedicated. You are all appreciated, and we hope to earn the peace you have provided us with your service.

Levi Spellman  
Editor

ON THE COVER: THE U.S. HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN NEAR-CONSTANT WARFARE SINCE IT ANNOUNCED ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND. VERY FEW OF THOSE CONFLICTS HAVE TOUCHED AMERICAN SHORES, THANKS TO THE DEDICATION AND SERVICE OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS.

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## CONTACT US

DSN: (318) 432-2572 | (318) 432-2800  
EMAIL: USARMY.AS-SAYLIYAH.ASG-QATAR.MBX.QATASSA-ASG-PAO-GROUP@MAIL.MIL

 [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAMPASSAYLIYAH](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAMPASSAYLIYAH)

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THE DESERT MESH  
PUBLISHER AND STAFF

COMMANDER Col. William S. Wozniak  
SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR Command Sgt. Maj. Earla L. Reddock  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR, EDITOR Levi Spellman  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, WRITER Levi Spellman

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# SOLDIERS FACE RECLASSIFICATION OR SEPARATION FOR LOSING MOS QUALIFICATION

STORY BY  
LISA FERDINANDO  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON  
(OCT. 30, 2014)

Soldiers who have had their security clearance revoked or denied face reclassification or separation from the force, according to Army Human Resources Command.

HRC issued a military personnel message, MILPER Message 14-306, earlier this month to assist commanders in identifying enlisted Soldiers who are not qualified in their primary military occupation specialty, or MOS.

Two of the major deficiencies HRC has identified are security clearances and language proficiencies, according to James Bragg, chief of the HRC Retention and Reclassification Branch.

"Commanders can't utilize their Soldiers properly if they're not qualified in their MOS," he said. "If they need access to a certain facility based on security clearance and they can't get in there, they can't perform their duties."

HRC has identified several hundred Soldiers in the active Army whose records indicate they do not have the clearance required in their MOS, Bragg said.

He said the commands have been notified and need to take action.

The first order of business, he said, is for commanders to correct any errors and report back if a Soldier does in fact have the proper clearance. If a clearance has lapsed, a Soldier will have to take the necessary steps to get current again.

However, if the clearance has been revoked or denied, commanders need to recommend whether the Soldier should remain in the Army.

"In about 60 days from now, we're going to run those same Soldiers through our query," he said. "Those who have been fixed will continue

to stay in that MOS, and the other ones they should be either processing for reclassification or separation."

The issue affects readiness, he said, noting that the Army must ensure it is retaining only the most qualified people.

In addition, HRC has identified Army linguists who have not maintained their language proficiencies, Bragg said.

"These are our cryptological linguists who are required to interpret a foreign language," he said.

Linguists have to take a proficiency test every year, he explained. They may be late in taking the test or have failed the exam. Either way, they need to be up to standard, he said.

"We're in the middle of a drawdown and we

Bragg said HRC will place the Soldier in a shortage or balanced MOS, but will not reclassify a Soldier into a MOS that is over strength.

In the event a Soldier does not meet the qualifications for a shortage or balanced MOS, then that Soldier may be reclassified to Special Reporting Code "09U."

This identifies the Soldier as not being qualified in any Army MOS and will be separated from the Army in nine months.

In these times of tight budget and a shrinking force, the Army must look for ways to maintain readiness, Bragg said.

Separation from the force is a last resort, he said.

"Our first option is to reclassify Soldiers and continue to have them serve in the Army for a

"WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DRAWDOWN AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP PEOPLE IN THE ARMY WHO ARE NOT QUALIFIED IN THEIR MOS."

JAMES BRAGG, HRC RETENTION AND RECLASSIFICATION BRANCH CHIEF

can't afford to keep people in the Army who are not qualified in their MOS," he said. "We want to be a little more proactive than reactive, which is why we published MILPER Message 14-306."

If a Soldier is recommended for reclassification, HRC will look into the other MOS options for the Soldier.

career," he said.

Soldiers and leaders with questions concerning MOS qualifications should contact their unit career counselor.

(For more ARNEWS stories, visit [www.army.mil/ARNEWS](http://www.army.mil/ARNEWS), or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ArmyNewsService](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyNewsService), or Twitter @ArmyNewsService)

# TROOPS, CIVILIANS STILL FACE CONSEQUENCES FOR MARIJUANA USE DESPITE ALASKA LEGALIZATION

COURTESY STORY  
JOINT BASE ELMENDORE-RICHARDSON  
STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE NEWS RELEASE

In this week's election, Alaska residents voted to pass Ballot Measure 2, which allows civilians in Alaska age 21 and older to use and possess up to one ounce of marijuana and up to six marijuana plants. This measure must be acted upon and passed by the legislature before it will go into effect, so there is no known date of implementation.

However, though Alaska has voted to legalize marijuana, and regardless of the implementation date, the federal government and the military have not legalized the substance in any way. Service members are still subject to the

sponsored dependents and guests. Furthermore, troops who have civilian dependents, roommates or friends who are not subject to the UCMJ should remember that 'possession is nine-tenths of the law' – shared living spaces and vehicles could subject service members to further discipline. The onus is on the troops to ensure they are not putting themselves in a potentially illegal situation."

Recently, several service members stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson were convicted of illegal drug use. This summer, two service members were convicted at a special

will continue to test for marijuana use, because it is still illegal federally.

Drug use, even if legal under state law, may have employment and/or disciplinary consequences for the civilian workforce. Those in positions designated for random testing are subject to random drug testing and may also be tested upon reasonable suspicion of drug use, on or off duty.

Reasonable suspicion is a specific and fact-based belief that an employee has engaged in illicit drug use, and that evidence of illicit drug use is presently in the employee's body, drawn

from specific and particularized facts, and reasonable inferences from those facts.

Consequences of a positive test vary, but may mean an immediate reassignment and security clearance adjudication, which could result in revocation of an employee's security clearance. Employees in a non-testing designated position may also be tested upon reasonable suspicion of drug use on duty, or drug impairment on duty, and will be tested if they apply for a testing-designated position and receive a tentative job offer.

The bottom line, even for civilians, is that marijuana remains a federally controlled substance, and drug use may have negative employment consequences for all members of the Department of Defense community.

court martial for use of cocaine on multiple occasions. Both were sentenced to, among other things, discharge from the service with a bad conduct discharge.

Simply put, use, possession, manufacture and distribution of marijuana or any other illegal or non-prescribed drug, on or off duty, is still illegal for all service members.

## CIVILIAN USE

Civilian employees are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. However, the possibility of a court martial is not the only side-effect of illegal drug use.

Federal workplaces remain committed to maintaining a drug-free environment and the Civilian Drug Demand Reduction Program

**"THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY HAVE NOT LEGALIZED THE SUBSTANCE IN ANY WAY."**

Department of Defense zero-tolerance drug policy, regardless of the state in which they are stationed.

Drug testing programs will continue to screen for all drugs, including marijuana and spice, and the military will still prosecute for the same.

"The bottom line is that service members living in Alaska are still subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 112a, which prohibits not just the use of marijuana, but also the possession, distribution and manufacture of the drug," said Air Force Capt. Dayle Morell, chief of Military Justice at the 673d Air Base Wing Legal Office. "Additionally, marijuana and spice are still prohibited substances in federal law, and not permitted on base or in base housing with service members or their

# AND WHY IT MATTERS

ANALYSIS BY  
LEVI SPELLMAN  
AREA SUPPORT GROUP - QATAR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Law and sausage are, seemingly, two very different things. However, they do share one very important quality: one should *never* witness either being made.

But, what does this have to do with the recent spate of states legalizing marijuana, and why should it matter to Soldiers?

To put it into context, we must first acknowledge the U.S. is now more politically divided than it has been in several decades. While both parties share many of the same values, they have become polarized by the issues upon which they do not agree. It has now become common for members of both houses of Congress use strong-arm tactics to force members of the opposing party into a state of perpetual stalemate.

As a result, a recent Gallup poll showed a 14 percent approval rating for the U.S. Congress moving into the mid-term elections... yet, more than 95 percent of incumbents were re-elected.

This election highlights many issues surrounding the current state of American politics. During the discussion of these elections we often hear words and phrases, such as "gerrymandering," "Citizens United," and "dark money," all of which contribute to a fairly grim diagnosis of the state of American democracy.

While all of these issues deserve serious attention and merit intense national discourse, there is another takeaway from the mid-term elections that deserves our attention: the successful use of ballot initiatives.

Ballot initiatives are an increasingly important part of the legislative process because they bypass elected law-makers, putting certain issues to a public vote. That's how marijuana was legalized in Colorado and Washington. Now, Oregon, Alaska and Washington D.C. have all voted to do the same — all by ballot initiative.

By putting items directly on the ballot, voters can focus on a single issue without distorting it with party politics. It allows for movement in a state of total gridlock, and it restores some level of control to the American people.

The state-level legalization of marijuana is a perfect example of democracy in action — not only because it was done by ballot initiative, but because it is making progress where Congress *never* has.

Since its prohibition began in the 1920s and 1930s, the criminality of marijuana growth, possession and use has steadily increased on the federal level, despite the results of government-funded medical research and substantial public opinion.

However, after its outright legalization in Oregon and Colorado, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder publicly stated his "cautiously optimistic" view of those decisions, signaling a fundamental shift in attitude at the top levels of American government.

Citizens have the power to enact change, even when their government cannot — or will not — cooperate. This is all thanks to the United States Constitution, a document designed to ensure

control of the government remains with the people — the document each service member is sworn to uphold and defend.

If the ethical issues and political inaction surrounding the current two-party system have anything to teach us, it is that — in the end — we cannot rely on others to do the heavy lifting for us. We cannot simply turn over our responsibilities to a polarized political system and expect miracles.

In taking the lead on a minor issue like marijuana legalization, the American people have reasserted their role in the political process. If the current state of affairs continues on Capitol Hill, it is even possible that ballot initiatives could become a go-to method for passing more important legislation.

Thomas Jefferson once remarked that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. For the American at the polls, this means a steadfast duty to educate oneself before casting a vote. We must seek out apolitical, unbiased information, weigh it in our minds and weigh it in our hearts.

So, next election cycle, do your country a great service and learn about all of the candidates, not just the party front runners. Learn about the issues on your own, instead of through the talking heads on various cable news programs. Pay attention to ballot initiatives because they matter.

Our country has seen worse divisions and managed to recover. There is no reason to believe this will be any different, no matter what we hear on the news. If we remain vigilant, remain engaged, we can heal the divisions we currently face.

The heart of American democracy is still beating, even if does seem a bit sluggish, as of late. And, while herbal remedies may be a step in a different direction, we need to recognize that too much sausage is very bad for the heart.

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# VETERANS DAY

STORY BY  
**LEVI SPELLMAN**  
AREA SUPPORT GROUP - QATAR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Great War. A war so expansive, violent and terrifying that no other name was necessary. It was so destructive that afterward, the League of Nations — precursor to the United Nations — was formed with the intent prevent its like from ever happening again.

World War I ended on the 11th day of the 11th hour of the 11th month of 1918, when the armistice with Germany officially went into effect.

Originally observed as Armistice Day, the date was a celebration of a world at peace. However, the fragile calm was not to last, as the world plunged into another global-scale conflict.

Following World War II, all of the nations involved were desperate for peace. For those who had bore witness to both wars, the meaning of Armistice Day developed additional significance, becoming an official U.S. holiday in 1954 and renamed that same year to honor those who had served.

Today, we live in a country truly appreciative of the difficulties faced by our uniformed service members. On a regular basis, Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen are thanked for their dedication and service to their nation.

Each Veterans Day, we see a grateful nation manifesting its thanks in even more ways, ranging from individual acts of kindness to corporate-sponsored events and promotions.

However, it is important to remember the full spirit of Veterans Day. It is much more than simply displaying gratitude for those who bore the burden of violence on America's behalf. It is, at its core, a celebration of hard-won peace.

Peace is the desired end to any conflict. As such, we must honor more than our veterans' bravery and sacrifice. We must cherish the ideas and the principles deserving of such bravery and sacrifice.

Speaking as a veteran who has lost far too many friends to the maelstrom of combat, my hope is that we can learn to achieve peace without putting Americans in harm's way. My hope is that we can ensure our veterans are taken care of once they come home. Because, although gratitude is nice, peaceful diplomacy and competent veteran care are far more beneficial to our troops and our nation.

To all who have served, I am honored to be counted among you. To all who still serve, I am grateful for the sound sleep you provide me on a daily basis. And, in honor of that debt, I pledge to do my part to ensure you can enjoy the same.

On this Veterans Day, I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable holiday, and an uneventful deployment. But, above all, I wish you conviction of the principles you defend and the peace for which you fight.

# INSIDE THE UNIFORM

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
**LEVI SPELLMAN**  
AREA SUPPORT GROUP - QATAR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Each of us have our own views regarding Veterans Day and what makes it important; perhaps we have a family member in uniform, or we have even worn one ourselves. For Sgt. John Washburn, an administrative noncommissioned officer with the Area Support Group - Qatar provost marshal's office, Veterans Day carries deep personal meaning, which he was willing to share with us.

**DM:** What was one of the main reasons you joined the Army?

**JW:** It was probably because my dad served.

**DM:** Has that made an impact on your experience so far?

**JW:** Now that I've been in the Army and seen what it's like, it made me interested in what that experience was like for my dad.

So, I've been getting into military history. I'm starting to get an idea about some of the things our Soldiers have gone through. And, I can honestly say I feel proud of what they accomplished.

**DM:** How does your experience fit into this?

**JW:** At CAS, I work a desk job, which is different for me — and I like it — because I've spent most of my time in a field environment.

When I was deployed, we helped to train Iraqi and Afghani police on tactics, things like route recon. During one of my deployments, we lost two young Soldiers. It took me a really long time to come to terms with how and why we lost them.

It happened on July 17, 2007. I think about them all the time, but especially on that day and on Veterans Day — because, they're the main reason I'm still in a uniform. I serve to honor them.

**DM:** How has this affected your outlook on the Veterans Day holiday?

**JW:** Veterans Day has changed for me. Having read about what it was like for Soldiers in the past... they're the ones who made sacrifices for my freedom. It really makes me think we focus too much on honoring today's Soldiers when we should be paying more attention to our veterans.

Also, I think it should maybe be a time for reflection, not for throwing parties.

THIS VETERANS DAY TAKES PLACE 100 YEARS FROM THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR I, THE CONFLICT THAT RESULTED IN ITS CREATION.



SGT. JOHN WASHBURN II, A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER WITH THE INSTALLATION PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE, TOOK A FEW MINUTES TO DISCUSS WHY HE FIRST JOINED THE ARMY, WHAT INSPIRES HIM TO SERVE, AND WHAT VETERANS DAY MEANS TO HIM.



# EARNING YOUR DEGREE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THIS HARD

## THE EDUCATION CENTER IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

STORY BY  
**LEVI SPELLMAN**  
AREA SUPPORT GROUP - QATAR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
**NEW OLD STOCK PHOTOS**  
NOS.TWNSND.CO

In a rapidly developing world economy, the importance of an education cannot be overstated. For Soldiers, the installation education center provides all the information you will need for achieving higher education, both in uniform and after your service is completed.

However, some of you already have a degree. Or, perhaps you have set aside your G.I. Bill for your spouse or children. Some of you may have even chosen the college loan repayment option as part of your incentive package.

For these individuals, the pursuit of a college degree may seem redundant, difficult, or even out-of-reach. But, before

deciding to write the whole thing off, it may be worth your time to consider other options.

### GERMANY

Since the mid 1980s, the cost of a college education in the United States has more-than doubled. Twice. In Europe, during the same time, the cost has actually decreased. *Significantly.*

In Germany, college is free – for everybody – foreigners included. Additionally, many of the programs are taught in English to encourage proficiency among German students.

This means Americans can get a degree

from highly ranked German universities without paying a single dollar or speaking a word of German, and it applies to both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Currently, there are about 900 degree programs taught exclusively in English, with disciplines spanning the arts, sciences and humanities. Some of them do not even require an application.

If you are worried about the complications of living in Germany, ask around; many Soldiers have been stationed there and can give you a first-hand account of what it is like to live in Germany.

This is an unbelievable opportunity for anyone interested in furthering their education. Anyone falling into that

category, but who chooses not look into these programs, might actually be crazy and should seek the opinion of a medical professional.

Seriously. You can reach Doc Huillet at DSN 318-432-2255.

### FINLAND

Finland also offers degree programs to international students, tuition-free, and many of them are in English.

However, you will be responsible for covering your daily living expenses.

### FRANCE

The undergraduate experience in France is usually expensive, especially for the English-language programs that are taught primarily at private universities.

But, France can be a great place to get your graduate degree, as many more

courses are taught in English and there are multiple sources to help you finance your education.

At public universities, international students are given the same rates as French students, ranging from 175 to 570 euros per year.

### SWEDEN

While there are more than 900 programs taught in English at 35 universities across Sweden, only the Ph.D programs are tuition-free.

### NORWAY

Degrees in Norway are tuition-free, but the cost of living is fairly high and the weather is drastically different, depending on geographic area.

There are other options available for those willing to live and study abroad,

but these represent some of the best opportunities.

Considering these options for cost-free higher education, there is no reason you cannot get the education you want, no matter your situation.

If you plan on taking advantage of any of these opportunities, it may behoove you to get a head start by taking classes through the installation education center.

For more information on what the education center offers, contact:

Mina Martin  
DSN 318-432-2777

For more information on education in Europe, check out this article in the Washington Post:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2014/10/29/7-countries-where-americans-can-study-at-universities-in-english-for-free-or-almost-free/>

# ESSAY CONTEST: VIETNAM EXCHANGE

STORY BY  
**SGT. 1ST CLASS AARON EASTMAN**  
ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, along with Procter & Gamble, is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War with an essay contest that provides Vietnam veterans and family members an opportunity to share memories of their local PX/BX experience overseas or back home during the Vietnam War.

“We invite customers to write essays about how the Exchange provided comfort to our troops and brought a bit of home to their long days during the Vietnam War,” said Ray Lamy, the Exchange’s military outreach coordinator and retired Air Force major. “Many Exchange customers served in Vietnam or have family members who did.”

Exchange gift cards totaling \$4,000 will be awarded to four winners. One

grand-prize winner will receive a \$2,000 gift card, one second-place winner will receive a \$1,000 gift card and two third-place winners will each receive \$500 gift cards.

From now until Nov. 21, authorized Exchange customers 18 years or older can submit their essay of 300 words or less by email to patriotfamily@aafes.com. Entries must include full name (including middle initial), mailing address, email address and telephone number.

For complete rules and details, visit <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/patriot-family>.

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/146683/exchange-essay-contest-highlights-px-memories-vietnam#.VF26ovmUfh5#ixzz3ISQIA1x4>

THE ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE, ALONG WITH PROCTER & GAMBLE, IS COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR WITH AN ESSAY CONTEST THAT RUNS FROM OCT. 31 TO NOV. 21. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY, PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/PATRIOT-FAMILY](https://www.shopmyexchange.com/patriot-family).

READ MORE: [HTTP://WWW.DVIDSHUB.NET/NEWS/146683/EXCHANGE-ESSAY-CONTEST-HIGHLIGHTS-PX-MEMORIES-VIETNAM#.VF26ovmUfh5#ixzz3ISQVVEZ](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/146683/exchange-essay-contest-highlights-px-memories-vietnam#.VF26ovmUfh5#ixzz3ISQVVEZ)

*“We go where you go.”*

*During the Vietnam War, the Exchange served troops with American goods and services throughout Southeast Asia.*



Camp Enari



Freedom Hill Exchange



Mobile PX between DongHa and Con Thien



Qui Nhon

## Enter the “My Favorite PX Memory in Vietnam” Essay Contest

Send us an essay of 300 words or less. We’ll select four entries to receive Exchange gift cards:

**First Prize: \$2,000 Exchange Gift Card**  
**Second Prize: \$1,000 Exchange Gift Card**  
**Third Prize: \$500 Exchange Gift Cards**  
(two will be awarded)

Proudly sponsored by

**P&G**

All entries will be shared with the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration program in Washington, D.C. to archive the memories of American servicemembers and their families.



# ESSAY CONTEST: HOLIDAY SEASON

STORY BY  
**CHRIS WARD**  
ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

The holidays evoke fond memories of family gatherings, delicious food and fun. Those memories could be worth \$1,000 in the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s “Sweet Holiday Story” contest.

From Oct. 31 – Dec. 25, authorized shoppers 18 years old or older can submit an essay of 500 words or less about one of their favorite holiday memories. The winning entry will receive a \$1,000 Exchange gift card with second and third place receiving \$500 and \$300 gift cards, respectively.

“From the Soldier coming back from deployment to spend his first holiday with a newborn to the Airman receiving a promotion in front of his family, there’s no doubt we’re going

to receive many heartwarming stories,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Sean Applegate, the Exchange’s senior enlisted adviser.

Essays can be sent to patriotfamily@aafes.com and will be judged on creativity and the ability to inspire. Winners will be notified no later than February 7, 2015.

Complete rules and details can be found at [www.shopmyexchange.com/patriot-family](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/patriot-family).

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/146680/exchange-wants-hear-your-favorite-holiday-memory#.VF26ovmUfh5#ixzz3ISOPreji>

YOU COULD  
**WIN A \$1,000 SHOPPING SPREE**

*Share Your Favorite Holiday Story*

Visit [shopmyexchange.com/patriotfamily](http://shopmyexchange.com/patriotfamily) for more information and link to enter.



**PRIZES**

- 1st place: \$1,000 Exchange gift card
- 2nd place: \$500 Exchange gift card
- 3rd place: \$300 Exchange gift card



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Open to all authorized Exchange customers 18 years and older at time of entry. Ends 12/25/2014. To enter, submit in a word document or in email text to patriot\_family@afes.com a five hundred (500) words or less essay about one of your favorite holiday storybook endings. Entries must be received no later than 2359 CST on December 25, 2014. Subject to complete Official Rules which can be found at: <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Community/patriotfamily/contests.htm>  
SPONSOR: Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, 600 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60654. ©2014 Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company. All rights reserved.  
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HOLIDAY MEMORIES COULD BE WORTH \$1,000 IN THE ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE’S “SWEET HOLIDAY STORY” CONTEST. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY, PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/PATRIOT-FAMILY](https://www.shopmyexchange.com/patriot-family).

READ MORE: [HTTP://WWW.DVIDSHUB.NET/NEWS/146680/EXCHANGE-WANTS-HEAR-YOUR-FAVORITE-HOLIDAY-MEMORY#.VF26ovmUfh5#ixzz3ISPPPWHR](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/146680/exchange-wants-hear-your-favorite-holiday-memory#.VF26ovmUfh5#ixzz3ISPPPWHR). (COURTESY PHOTO)

# SMOKING & JOKING

## HUMOR FROM THE FIELD

JOKES COURTESY OF  
SWAPMEETDAVE.COM

**H**umor is one of the most indispensable tools for getting through a deployment. In honor of Veterans Day, we've decided to print a few jokes veterans of all stripes should appreciate.

### *Military Etiquette*

Officer: Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?

Soldier: Sure, buddy.

Officer: That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again. Do you have change for a dollar?

Soldier: No, SIR!

### *Communication Breakdown...*

The reason the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines squabble among themselves is that they don't speak the same language.

For example, take a simple phrase like, "Secure the building."

- The Army will put guards around the place.
- The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors.
- The Marines will kill everybody inside and make it a command post.
- The Air Force will take out a 5-year lease with an option to buy.

### *Strangers on a Train*

Four strangers traveled together in the same compartment of a European train. Two men and two women faced each other.

One woman was a very wealthy and sophisticated 70 year old lady who was decked out in the finest of furs and jewelry.

Next to her sat a beautiful young woman, nineteen years old--who looked like something right off the cover of a fashion magazine.

Across from the older lady was a very mature looking man in his mid-forties who was a highly decorated Sergeant Major in the Army.

Next to the Sergeant Major sat a young private fresh out of boot camp.

As these four strangers traveled, they talked and chatted about trivial things until they entered a dark tunnel, and there they sat in complete stillness and total quiet, until the distinct sound of a kiss broke the silence; following the kiss a loud slap could be heard

throughout the cabin.

In the ensuing period of silence the four strangers sat quietly with their own thoughts.

The older lady was thinking, "Isn't it wonderful that even in this permissive day and age there are still young women who have a little self-respect and dignity?"

The young woman, shaking her head and greatly puzzled, asked herself, "Why in the world would any man in his right mind want to kiss an old fossil like that when I'm sitting here?"

The Sergeant Major, rubbing his sore face, was outraged that any woman could ever think that a man in his position would try to sneak a kiss in the dark.

The private, grinning from ear to ear, was thinking, "What a wonderful world this is when a private can kiss the back of his hand and then smack a Sergeant Major in the face and get away with it!"

### *Sergeant's Philosophy*

The Company Commander and the First Sergeant were in the field. As they hit the sack for the night, the First Sergeant said, "Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see."

The CO said, "I see millions of stars."

1st Sgt.: "And what does that tell you, sir?"

CO: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Top?"

1st Sgt.: "Well sir, it tells me that somebody stole our tent."

### *Jeep in the Mud*

During training exercises, the lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud, with a red-faced colonel at the wheel.

"Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the lieutenant as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

### *Time Check*

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the

other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?"

The tower responded, "Who is calling?"

The pilot replied, "What difference does it make?"

The tower replied "It makes a lot of difference.

If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock.

If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours.

If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells.

If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3.

If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to "Happy Hour".

### *Military Truisms*

- "Aim towards the Enemy." [Instruction printed on U.S. rocket launcher]
- When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is no longer our friend. [From a U.S. Field Manual]
- Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground.
- Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.
- Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything.
- If your attack is going too well, you are walking into an ambush.
- If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly.
- Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you.
- No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection.
- Any ship can be a minesweeper . . . once.
- If the enemy is in range, so are you.
- Tracers work both ways.
- Friendly fire isn't.
- Five second fuses only last three seconds.
- Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
- The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
- Incoming fire has the right of way.
- The quartermaster has only two sizes: too large and too small.
- If you can see the enemy, he can see you.
- And never tell your Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.