



CACOM COURIER

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Memorial Day 2015

COMMANDING GENERAL

BRIG. GEN. ALAN STOLTE

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California Fun
Annual Training at NTC

Change of Commands



ABOVE: COLUMBUS, Ohio – Col. Isaac Johnson Jr., commander of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, a U.S. Army Reserve unit located at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, hands the battalion colors to incoming battalion commander of the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Lt. Col. James Paul Sanders on July 19, 2015 during the change of command ceremony. Sanders was a member of the 412th for 12 years, having held myriad assignments including company commander and battalion executive officer.

AT RIGHT: SOUTHFIELD, Michigan – Incoming commander Lt. Col. Kevin G. Guidry hands the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Steward A. Smith during the Change of Command Ceremony on May 22, 2015. “It is an honor and a privilege to command this Battalion,” Guidry said during his remarks.



RIVERDALE PARK, Maryland
– Lt. Col. Martin Strauss
Scantlin accepts the colors of
the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion
(Airborne) from Col. Isaac
Johnson Jr., 360th Brigade
Commander, and Lt. Col. Jeffrey
M. Farris, outgoing commander
of the 450th. On July 12,
2015, family and distinguished
guests gathered at the historic
Riverdale House Museum for
the change of command.



War College Graduation

CARLISLE BARRACKS, Pennsylvania – After two years of study, Colonel Jeremy Alan Crist, Colonel Gene Del Bianco, Lieutenant Colonel Dennis H. Greco, and Lieutenant Colonel James Michael Guelcher graduated today from the U.S. Army War College Distance Learning Class of 2015. The graduates crossed the stage and received their diplomas to the cheers of friends and Family.

Brigadier General Alan L. Stolte, commander of the 352 Civil Affairs Command, a U.S. Army Reserve unit located at Fort Meade, Maryland, attended the graduation. As an alumnus of the U.S. Army War College, Class of 2005, Stolte welcomed the opportunity to return.

“It’s great to be back at Carlisle Barracks here today,” Stolte said. “I have many fond memories from my time at the Army War College.”

Stolte offered his congratulations to the graduating officers and set the stage for future expectations. Stolte explained that Crist, Del Bianco, Greco, and Guelcher have now transitioned from the tactical level to the operational and strategic level.

“Our graduating officers will now take on more responsibility in the U.S. Army and I challenge each of them to lead from the front and apply what they have learned at the AWC,” Stolte said. “They will be among tomorrow’s leaders.”

As CACOM Soldiers, Crist, Del Bianco, Greco, and Guelcher are positioned to apply lessons learned during this rigorous course. Crist, the 352nd’s Operations Team Chief, started his military career with his 1993 commissioning from the U.S. Military Academy. Del Bianco is a Functional Specialty Team Chief with twenty-five years of service starting with his 1990



Officer Candidate School commissioning. Both Soldiers are experienced civil affairs officers with numerous tours and training, including Airborne School, the Civil Affairs Qualification Course, Intermediate Level Education-Common Course, and Advanced Joint Professional Military Education.

Greco, just completed two years as commander of the 437th Civil Affairs Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit located in Fort Story, Virginia. Greco is now assigned to the CACOM as a plans officer for a Civil Affairs Planning Team. He is responsible for planning and coordinating civil affairs and civil military operations within a joint staff.

Guelcher, Command Judge Advocate for the CACOM, received his ROTC commission in 1988 at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. During his career, Guelcher attended the Combined Armed Staff and Service School, Command and General Staff College, and received a Master of Laws degree from the Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

CARLISLE BARRACKS, Pennsylvania – (ABOVE) Col. Del Bianco is congratulated when he receives his U.S. Army War College diploma. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army War College.

(AT RIGHT) Brig. Gen. Alan L. Stolte (second from the left) congratulates recent U.S. Army War College graduates (left to right) Lt. Col. Guelcher, Col. Del Bianco, and Col. Crist.



PREPARE FOR A CHANGE IN PLAN...

FORT IRWIN, California – No plan survives contact with the enemy. On June 3, 2015 members of the Civil Affairs Team 935 of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Knoxville, Tennessee, learned this lesson first hand. Team leader Maj. John Ling, team sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Charles Hajko, Sgt. John Tucker and Sgt. Sam Milliken arrived at the National Training Center prepared for their civil affairs mission. They left ready for basic infantry maneuvers.



FORT IRWIN, California – Sgt. First Class Charles Hajko, a member of Civil Affairs Team 935, moves to secure a position during exercises at the National Training Center in June 2015. Hajko is a U.S. Army Reservist assigned to the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The mission of CAT 935 was to conduct civil military operations in order to keep civilians on the battlefield from adversely impacting the operations, to complete key leader engagements, and to assess the city's capacities for medical aid and water. Circumstances got in the way.

"I keep getting killed," Ling said.

The team planned on securing the site that would house humanitarian assistance supplies. The battalion had other plans for the team. The battalion operations officer commandeered the civil affairs, intelligence and EOD Soldiers and turned them into a rifle squad.

"We had to fire and maneuver in the general direction of the government compound to secure a foothold for the battalion," Ling said. "It's been a bloodbath. Happily, it's just a digital bloodbath."



FORT IRWIN, California - Maj. John Ling and Sgt. First Class Charles Hajko, members of Civil Affairs Team 935, simulate firing at the enemy during annual training exercises at the National Training Center in June 2015.



FORT IRWIN, California - Maj. John Ling interviews militia leaders to assess his team's next move. Ling leads Civil Affairs Team 935 as it conduct civil military operations during an exercise at the National Training Center. Ling is a U.S. Army Reservist assigned to the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade from Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

It's a lot to ask of a team formed just a week and a half earlier. The 489th was short on leadership and requested Soldiers from the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade. Ling was one of the volunteers and the team leader.

"We just clicked," Ling said. "I think there is something about the civil affairs culture where we come together as teams a little bit faster."

To fill teams during rotations, Soldiers are pulled from throughout the civil affairs sphere.

"We are used to adapting, sometimes we don't get a team leader," Hajko said. "That's part of it. We get deployed, sometimes we get split up."

Civil Affairs professionals expect the

unexpected and develop training to ensure Soldiers at all levels are prepared. Prior to departing for NTC, teams trained junior Soldiers on what to do if they suddenly become the senior man on the team.

Junior Soldiers need to be prepared to take over a team in the event that team leaders are gone. Earlier in the exercise, Tucker became the team chief while the team leader and team sergeant were out of action.

"He had to take over the entire leadership of the team and had to interface with the battalion commander and his staff in planning the mission as seamlessly as possible," Ling said.



FORT IRWIN, California - Sgt. First Class Charles Hajko (left) of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, Tennessee and Maj. John Ling (right) of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, secure a foothold for the battalion during training at the National Training Center in June 2015. Through training at NTC, civil affairs Soldiers become cohesive, disciplined and effective command teams.

Tucker was responsible for planning civil affairs operations and briefing the battalion commander. It was a significant learning curve and Tucker walked away with some new found knowledge and experience.

“Oftentimes in our local communities we go out and do key leader engagements with the local politicians or infrastructure people such as the utility board,” Hajko said. “We let the junior soldiers run the engagement with those managers running those plants.”

NTC gave CAT 935 the opportunity to test their training and learn new lessons. The members of CAT 935 returned to the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion better prepared to adapt and overcome. Plans change during a battle, and NTC helps civil affairs Soldiers prepare for the challenge.



FORT IRWIN, California – Cpt. Matthew Friedel and Staff Sgt. John Cadieux conduct a key leader engagement in the mock city of Ujen at the National Training Center. The Civil Affairs Team mission is to build stronger relationships between the local populace and the policy force. Friedel and Cadieux are Soldiers assigned to the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion a U.S. Army Reserve unit located in Knoxville, Tennessee.



FORT IRWIN, California – Under the cover of smoke, opposing forces enter the government compound in the mock village of Razish at the National Training Center.

Photograph by Master Sgt. David Johnson, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion



Cpt. Jeremiah Gebhart, loads a Soldier on his back during NTC 15-07. During the training exercise, Cpt. Gebhart, the CAT Team Leader, led his team into a village for an assessment. In the scenario, two shooters surfaced and wounded a Soldier. Sgt. 1st Class Cynthia Taylor, the company medic, performed first aid on the simulated casualty and assists with security while Gebhart carries the Soldier to safety.

MALDEN, Missouri. -- Barbara Crayne, Manager of the Malden Regional Airport, meets with a team from the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion for an Operation Bootheel community leader engagement on July 21, 2015. The team (from left to right) consisting of Pfc. Marissa Riley, Cadet Robert Ontiveros, Sgt. Seth McCormick and Sgt. 1st Class Larry Sellers, conducted an economic study of the airport in order to determine its impact on Malden. Operation Bootheel provided the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion with an opportunity to support Innovative Readiness Training that brought medical, dental and vision care to the community while performing their duties in a real-world environment.



“Cultural awareness is a force multiplier. Working in another culture is enormously difficult if one doesn’t understand the ethnic groups, tribes, religious elements, political parties, and other social groupings—and their respective viewpoints; the relationships among the various groups; governmental structures and processes; local and regional history; and, of course, local and national leaders. Understanding of such cultural aspects is essential if one is to help the people build stable political, social, and economic institutions.”

-Gen. Petraeus--Jan/Feb 2006, Military Review, Vol. 86, No. 4



IRAN: Brief Analysis of Religion and Culture



Three Main Religious Actors

Supreme Leader. At the top of Iran’s political and religious pecking order is the supreme leader. The de facto leader of the executive branch, the leader oversees the military; appoints military and judicial leaders; supervises the constitution; and sets general state policy. The supreme leader also appoints senior commanders of the Revolutionary Guards.

Assembly of Experts. An eighty-six-member body of senior clergymen, the assembly elects the supreme leader. Appointed by popular vote, the assembly is charged with reviewing the leader’s work; it can, in principle, dismiss the leader, but never has.

President. Officially sitting atop the executive branch, the president is in practice second to the supreme leader. Nationally elected to four-year terms, Iran’s president is constitutional mandated to be a Shiite Muslim. The power of the president has varied historically; many observers speculate the office’s fortunes are closely tied to the political whims of the supreme leader.

Political & Religious Structure

Beliefs:

Shia is a unifying force in Iran. “Political ends are being achieved through religious means.” Any attempt to pacify violence should include religious leaders.

Inequality of rights are seen as part of Sharia law. Stoning is an appropriate method of execution for certain violations of Sharia law. Dialogue with religious leaders will benefit Iranian-American relations in an attempt to 1) understand and 2) negotiate a path forward.

Subordinate status of women in Sharia law. An understanding of this aspect will avoid a “Western” view being forced upon Iran.

The Second Constitution of the Revolution of Iran in 1979 created a theocratic government based upon principles of Sharia Muslim law and religious philosophy. The Second Constitution was amended in 1989.

Authority and power rests with the Iranian clergy, under the near absolute authority of the Supreme Leader. As a consequence, Modern Iran has been a repressive totalitarian state, in which religious authorities wield near absolute, despotic power.

Iran is the only Shi’ite theocracy in the world with a population of approximately 97 percent Muslim, of which an estimated 89 percent are Shi’a and 8 percent are Sunni. Religion transcends political and national boundaries.

The IRI is the only regime in the Muslim world that is directly ruled by the clergy. The justification for clerical rule derives from clerical status as the interpreters of the divine law and guiders of the religious community. Iran observes 14 religious holidays as national holidays. Ashoura (February 9): Shia day of mourning; celebrates the martyrdom of the Prophet’s grandson, Hussein, and his followers at the battle of Karbala; history of violence on this date perpetrated by Sunni and Shia extremists groups; large crowds of Iranians take trips to Karbala in Iraq; the religious divide between Sunnis and Shia is often violent.

Sunni Muslims encounter religious discrimination at the local, provincial, and national levels, and there were reports of discrimination against practitioners of the Sufi tradition. Sufis have been targeted by the country’s intelligence and security services.

For more information contact Chaplin Camacho at ncamacho7@verizon.net and ask about the 352 CACOM Religion and Culture Newsletter.

Promotions



FORT MEADE, Maryland – (At Left) SGT Marie T. Campbell pins new ranks on SPC Scott R. Lovett, G6 Signal Support Specialist, and SPC Jordan X. Satterfield, G6 IT Specialist, during final formation on June 28, 2015. (Below) Lovett and Satterfield proudly wear their new ranks after a promotion ceremony on June 28, 2015.





GREENSBORO, North Carolina – (AT LEFT) Lt. Col. Richard Brown, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion commander promotes Maj. Timothy Brooke, 422nd Executive Officer, to Lt. Col. on April 18, 2015. (BELOW) Brig. Gen. Alan Stolte, commander of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, tours the construction of the future home of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion in McLeansville, North Carolina on April 18, 2015. Stolte is accompanied by Lt. Col. Richard Brown, 422nd commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Paulette Williams, Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rocca, and Sgt. Maj. Alberto Rodriguez. (AT RIGHT) Stolte presents a coin to Spc. Nicholas Hersom, Delta Company of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion in recognition of his achievements and imminent promotion.



Awards - 352nd Civil Affairs Command

AMMAN, Jordan – Sgt. Schylur Wells received the Army Achievement Medal AAM at the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center, Jordan for his exceptional achievement during Detachment 66's premobilization activities in preparation for deployment to Baghdad, Iraq and KATSOTC, Jordan.





WASHINGTON D.C. – Sgt. First Class Francis Peter Fahey Jr, Miss America 2015 Kira Kazahstev, Staff Sgt. Daniel Collinsworth, and Sgt. First Class Malcolm C. Flanders pose together after Miss America completes her route on on the 2015 Memorial Day Parade.

WASHINGTON D.C. – Staff Sgt. Daniel Collinsworth of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command is photographed with a World War II veteran celebrating Memorial Day on the National Mall.



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