

Fire in the hole

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DV Table of Contents

Page 5

Newly inducted noncommissioned officers cross the threshold.

Page 6

Father and son duo deployed to Kuwait as brothers-in-arms.

Page 10

U.S. medics train their Qatari counterparts in life-saving first aid skills.

Page 12

NMCB 74 Seabees take the road more traveled – and improve it.

On the cover

A fireball erupts as thousands of pounds of ammunition are detonated during a controlled detonation near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 30. For the full story, see page 8.

Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Contact us

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

The new Standards Book – live the standards

Standards are a part of military life and like anywhere else in the Army, U.S. Army Central has standards that are unique to our mission and our area of operation. As many of you may know, we have updated the USARCENT Standards Book. The new edition of this book is not just a reprint of old information, but provides Soldiers with a tool to help them know and live the standards while in USARCENT.

While each of you will have a chance to read the standards, I want to point out some of the significant changes in the new book. This book includes updates on all Army guidance including the new wear policy for the Army Combat Shirt and the wear of ballistic glasses on the authorized protective eyewear list. We also address the wear of the flag on the right shoulder of the Army Combat Uniform. The only authorized flag for our forward deployed Soldiers is the IR flag, not the subdued U.S. flag. We also address the wear of the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform during common physical training hours and the need to wear the reflective belt in that uniform.

Another change to the previous editions of the Standards Book is a section on composite risk management. Too many people in USARCENT are injured in preventable accidents. We have included this section to help Soldiers and leaders think about safety measures before they begin a mission or activity.

Soldiers should pay special attention to the sections on military customs and courtesies and Soldier conduct. Make sure



Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman
USARCENT command sergeant major

you salute all officers when you recognize them and render proper customs and courtesies. Use the USARCENT motto, "Always First," and expect to hear "Patton's Own" in response.

Each of our Soldiers must take the time to read the information in the book and implement it in their lives. Each and

every leader must take the time to learn the standards and enforce them in their Soldiers. They should never be afraid to enforce a standard because they are unsure of a policy or practice.

As I have said before, noncommissioned officers are the standard bearers for U.S. Army Central. I expect NCOs to know, practice and enforce the standards. Not only the standards found in this book, but all Army standards. Leaders should never be complacent when they see something wrong. If you see something or someone that is not up to standard, make an on-the-spot correction. If you can't fix it yourself, report it to your supervisor or chain of command.

These standards are not just rules we come up with to make Soldiers' lives more difficult; they exist to help each of you remain safe and professional. I encourage you to carry this new book with you, learn the standards and practice them daily.

-Patton's Own

Editor's note: The USARCENT Standards Book can be found online on the USARCENT command sergeant major's page at www.arcent.army.mil/welcome/csm_welcome/welcome_letter.asp – click on the Soldier Standards Book tab in the

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DV
The
Desert
Voice

Safety Corner: Snake invaders

Story by
C.W. Mitchell Lewis,
Environmental Engineer, Camp Arifjan

The Area Support Group – Kuwait Environmental Pest Management Contractor is issuing an alert to all civilian and military personnel to the high incidences of snake sightings and removals in theater particularly in the northern camp areas.

The Horned and Hornless Sahara Sand Vipers are the predominate culprits being sighted. They are highly venomous and are to be avoided.

Normally in the spring there is a fair amount of snake movement, said Randy Padgett, ASG-KU Environmental Pest Management Manager.

“When there are earth excavations of soil for establishing new structures, or clean-up when units move in or out, the snake habitats are disturbed. The once-burrowed snakes are on the march,” he said. “There has been, in the past few weeks, one sighting, a ‘call-in’ a day. But this week, we have had seven sightings, and it is only the third day of the week.”

No other snake looks quite as dramatic as the Horned Viper so it is easily identifiable.

The species is fairly small (1 meter long), and their coloring is highly adaptable to the desert sand of their homeland. This species can burrow



Courtesy photo

The Horned and Hornless Sahara Sand Vipers are not known to be ill-tempered and their venom, which is a cytotoxin, is not particularly potent. Bites can be painful and should always be taken seriously, but little venom is injected and few fatalities are known.

rapidly into the sandy desert. It can also make its way indoors.

The Horned Viper feeds on small mammals, lizards, birds and hibernates from November to March in the burrows of desert rodents.

On sighting this species of snake or any other, follow these steps:

- Call DPW (Camp Arifjan: 430-3108, Camp Virginia: 906-6103, Camp Buehring: 828-2146, Life Support Area-Kuwait: 442-0019). DPW will dispatch Pest Management.
- Do not approach the snake at any time.

- Do not disturb or try to trap the snake.

- Please assign a responsible party to watch the snake's movements and to alert others of the danger until the Pest Management staff arrives.

General Order 1B, March 13, 2006, Prohibited Activities of U.S. Department of Defense Personnel Present Within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, should be your reference guide to activities and behavior that will diminish introducing pests into installation boundaries in theater. **A**





Pakistan Brig. Gen. Tanveer Ullah Khan and more than 36 aviation officers attended the week-long symposium aimed at strengthening US-ARCENT's relationship with nations in our area of operations. This week's symposium is phase 2 of a tri-phase concept that will culminate in an international aviation training exercise at Fort Rucker, Ala. in September 2008.

U.S. Army Central hosts annual aviation symposium

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Brown
USARCENT Public Affairs

ATLANTA, Ga. – U.S. Army Central hosted its second annual International Aviation Symposium in Atlanta, Ga., last week featuring more than 30 aviators representing 13 countries from across the command's area of responsibility.

USARCENT's G-3 Aviation, Fort Rucker aviators along with helicopter pilots representing many of the countries from within the command's AOR, led presentations and discussions, ranging across the full-spectrum of operations. Topics included helicopter support during humanitarian crisis, air assault and attack operations, medical evacuations and reconnaissance operations.

The major objective of this symposium was to increase cooperation of the many countries working together to support both humanitarian and combat operations.


"This event enables us all to learn from the expertise of others," said Lt. Col. Stephen Loftis, USARCENT's G-3 aviation officer.

Loftis added that symposium participants had the unique opportunity to discuss in a small-group setting the many operations where rotary-winged assets are used and the inherent challenges that come with them.

Brig. Gen. Tanveer Ullah Khan, Pakistan's 101 Army Aviation Group commander, underscored this point during his presentation on the use of rotary-winged aircraft while stressing the challenges of relief operations

such as managing air space and the lack of an international relief committee.

"The symposium was professionally rewarding because it afforded the opportunity to gel and exchange views of different subjects of interest. The mere gathering of army aviation pilots from such a variety of countries was a learning occasion by itself," said Khan.

This year's symposium was the second of a three-phase series, originally launched with last year's International Aviation Maintenance Symposium. USARCENT's third aviation phase will be an aviation training exercise at Fort Rucker, Ala., building from the foundation of the two previous symposiums and following a combat aviation brigade's preparation for a combat tour in Iraq. 

The backbone of the Army

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

Years of dedicated service to the people of the United States and countless hours of preparation finally came to fruition for 15 Soldiers, soon to become members of the time honored corps.

The non-commissioned officer corps welcomed these 15 new NCOs into its ranks during an NCO induction ceremony held May 29 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"It's a great experience," said New York native Sgt. Wayne Belfon, the operations and administration NCO for USARCENT G1. "Becoming a NCO is one of the best things that can happen to a Soldier."

The NCO induction ceremony, like many others, is steeped in tradition

and history dating back to the Army of Frederick the Great. Before a Soldier could be recognized as a NCO he was required to stand four watches, one every four days.

At the first watch the privates appeared and claimed a gift of bread and brandy. The company NCOs came to the second watch for beer and tobacco. The first sergeant visited during the third watch and was presented with a

glass of wine and a piece of tobacco on a tin plate.

Though this tradition is no longer followed in today's Army, certain traditions remain a vital part of marking

the transition to a member of the time honored corps.

"This ceremony is based on tradition and knowing that I'm able to take part in something like this feels great," said Brooklyn native Sgt. Genevieve Daly, an information systems specialist for Operational Command and Control G6.

The basic duties of the NCO remain

"This ceremony is based on tradition and knowing that I'm able to take part in something like this feels great."

Sgt. Genevieve Daly

*Operational Command and Control
Information systems specialist*



Three NCOs recite the NCO Creed during the NCO induction ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

consistent throughout their enlisted career. From the rank of sergeant a NCO is responsible for the individual training, personal appearance and cleanliness of their Soldiers.

Described in the NCO Creed as the "backbone of the Army," the NCO is the leader of Soldiers and an example for future NCOs.

"If the command thinks that I'm ready for this rank and responsibility then I'm willing to take the challenge," said Sgt. Bradley M. Zurla, a human intelligence collector with the 513th Military Intelligence Detachment.

Each NCO being inducted was called by name and identified by their sponsor. After being called, the NCOs walked beneath crossed swords and were congratulated by their superiors.

After the ceremony had finished, the newly christened NCOs left having cemented their place in the ranks of the NCO corps. **A**



NCOs take the oath of induction during the NCO induction ceremony held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 29. The ceremony formally welcomed 15 Soldiers of the rank of sergeant into the non-commissioned officer corps.

Like father, like son ...

Deployed father, son duo serve

Story and photos by
Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen
311th ESC Public Affairs

Spc. Lylevalentine K. McMackin won't have to call back to the United States to talk to his father for Father's Day.

He won't even have to drop a card in the mailbox or send off an e-mail. No, this Father's Day McMackin will be able to shoot hoops with his dad, Sgt. Frank C. McMackin, like they do almost every Sunday. Only this year, they'll be playing on a court in Kuwait while

deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The McMackins are both assigned to the 257th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport), based out of Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas and currently conducting operations in Kuwait and Iraq.

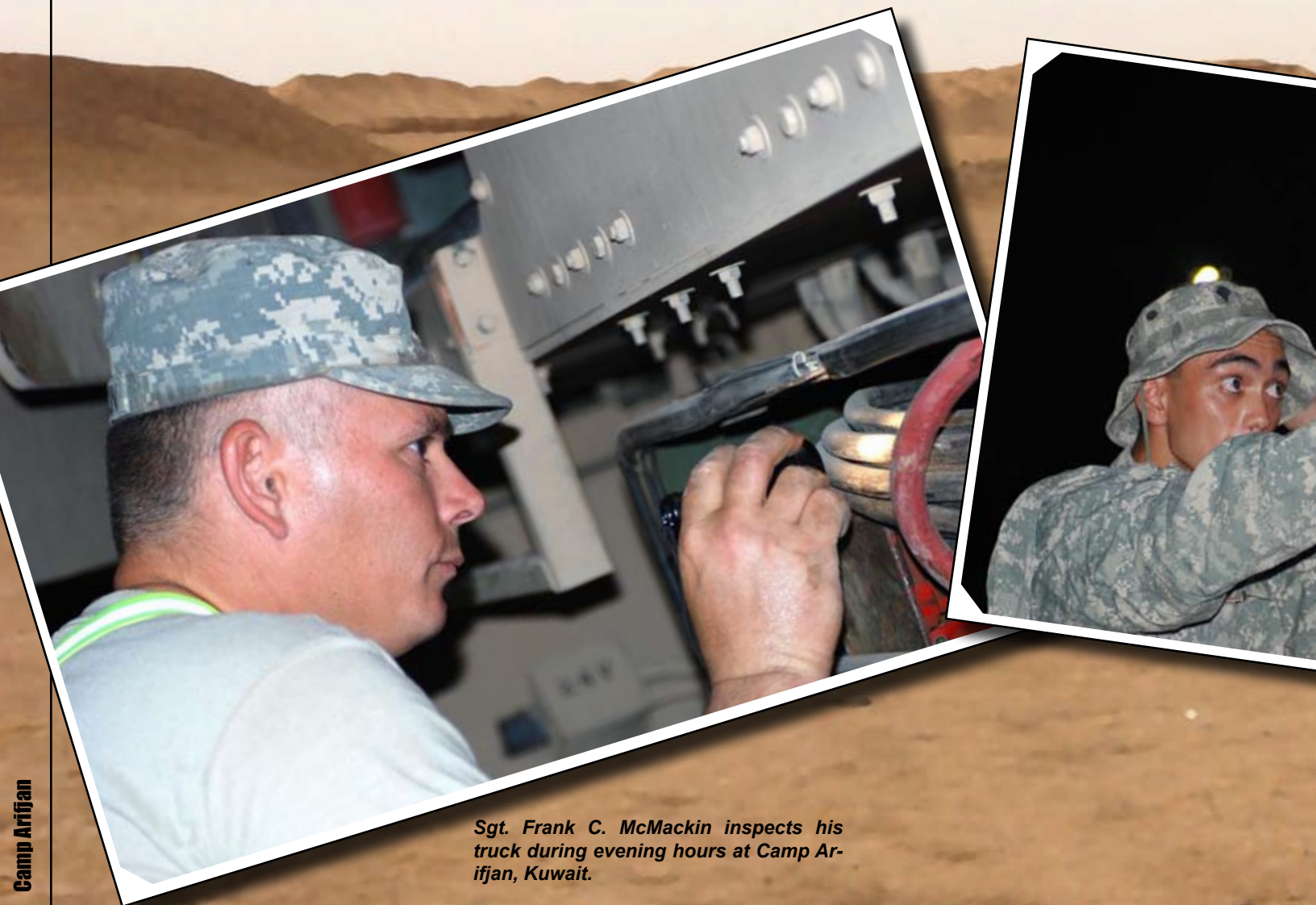
"On the surface it seems like it would be a problem having father and son in the same platoon, but I've never had a problem," said Sgt. 1st Class Cory L. Comeau, their platoon sergeant, "which speaks a great volume on their character."

"Big Mack," as he is known to the Soldiers of the 257th, is cur-

rently on his second deployment in the Global War on Terrorism. He deployed in 2006 to Iraq where he ran gun trucks for a year. In his civilian job, he works as a truck dispatcher for the Carl's Jr. company in Ontario, Calif.

He lives in Anaheim, Calif., with his wife and his daughter Chayla. His son, known as "Little Mack," is the last of his three sons to be deployed to the Middle East.

"The others have all been here," said Sgt. McMackin, speaking of his sons Spc. Devinshaw and Sgt. Charles McMackin, both active duty infantrymen. "He is the last one."



Sgt. Frank C. McMackin inspects his truck during evening hours at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

ve side-by-side

The challenges of being homesick and missing Family that affect many Soldiers are less prevalent among the McMackins.

“Once in a while we’ll hang out, go to the PX, play volleyball, play basketball,” said Spc. McMackin. “When it’s me and my two brothers and my dad at home we play basketball every Sunday.”

But along with the benefits of being deployed together, this year is also proving to have some challenges. Unlike Family members back home who don’t know the day-to-day operations of their loved ones who are deployed, the McMackins

know the dangers and the risks because they are both exposed to them.

“When we come back from a mission, I don’t have to call home,” Little Mack said. “I can just go talk to my dad.”

The two are never sent out on convoys together and sometimes end up going days or weeks at a time with no contact.

“I don’t ask questions when he’s gone,” Big Mack said. “I trust the guys he is with.”

Because of their opposite schedules, finding the two on the same base at the same time can be a challenge. But when Big Mack and Lit-

tle Mack are together, they provide many humorous moments for the company.

When the unit’s supply clerk ordered nametapes for the Soldiers of the 257th, all of the “McMackin” name tapes were issued to Big Mack. He thought about keeping them for himself, but eventually gave some to his son.

And just like any Family members, the two have been known to fight on occasion.

“It’s like father-son banter,” said Comeau. “It’s not really an argument; it’s more like a loud disagreement.” **A**



Spc. Lylevalentine K. McMackin provides ground guide support to a truck in the motor pool area of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Spc. Lylevalentine K. McMackin, right, won’t have to call back to the states to talk to his father, Sgt. Frank C. McMackin, left, for Father’s Day. ‘Big Mack’ and ‘Little Mack,’ as they are known to their platoon, are both assigned to the 257th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport) currently conducting operations in Kuwait and Iraq.



Kuwaiti EOD Soldiers arrange a pile of munitions for demolition. The Kuwaiti EOD often works alongside U.S. forces for various operations such as the disposal of code-H munitions.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Meuser (back), an EOD technician with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, and Sgt. Jonathan Timm (right), an EOD technician with 362nd EOD, stack explosives for disposal at a range outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 29.



The big bang

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

The uniforms of three different countries and three different services were present to assist the 362nd Ordnance Company Explosive Ordnance Disposal during the code-H munitions demolition May 30 at a range outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The 362nd disposes of unserviceable munitions, improvised explosive devices and any other ordnance in the U.S. Army Central area of operations.

"It is our pleasure to work with the U.S., they saved our country," said Kuwaiti Army Lt. Meshari Nabeel, an EOD technician with the Naval Special Unit EOD team.

The Kuwait EOD trains its personnel in the U.S. for nine months before they are qualified. This helps make operations alongside U.S. forces much easier.

Also present were Australian Army Soldiers who brought the medics for the operation as well as EOD.

The 362nd EOD works alongside the Navy, Air Force and the Kuwaiti military often, while disposing of

IEDs and UXO. This helps keep the roads clear of hazards and enables safe travel for convoys heading to or from Iraq.

Unserviceable munitions, referred to as Code-H munitions, are any ordnance that are out of date, damaged, or can no longer be guaranteed to function as designed, said Sgt. Encarnacion Garcia, a Phoenix native with the 362nd EOD.

The ordnance can either be shipped back to the U.S. or taken to ranges such as those outside Camp Buehring for disposal. Shipping ordnance back to the U.S. costs large amounts of money to dispose of a very small amount of ordnance. Ordnance disposal in theater costs very little and gets rid of large amounts of unexploded ordnance.

"These types of missions are important because we are taking this stuff off the hands of Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Garcia. "It has to go somehow and this way there's one less thing they have to worry about."

Disposal of ordnance also provides the opportunity for EOD training, demolition operations training, and training in safety operations.

When handling explosives, safety

is the main consideration of the 362nd EOD. The net weight of the ordnance is calculated as well as the blast and fragmentation radius, Garcia said. Fragments quickly lose their velocity, however the blast travels a much greater distance. The 362nd EOD personnel stood about a mile away from the explosion, well outside the blast and fragmentation radius when the munitions were detonated.

The proper disposal of such lethal items is necessary to keep Soldiers safe, allowing them to return home unharmed. **A**



Australian Army Warrant Officer Darren Gould, a warrant officer ammunition technician, and Senior Airman David Howell, an EOD technician with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, add M18A1 Claymore Antipersonnel Mines to the pile of munitions to be destroyed.



U.S. medics strengthen vital lines with Qatari counterparts

Story and photos by
Dustin Senger
ASG – Qatar Public Affairs

DOHA, Qatar – U.S. Army medics completed the first combat lifesaver seminar in Qatar on May 29, as part of a U.S. military information exchange program offered to allied forces in the Middle East.

A group of 30 participants from the Gulf state's armed forces spent four consecutive days learning U.S. Army combat life-saving concepts, which centered on tactical combat casualty care at a point of injury – when seconds count toward saving a life.

Qatar is a small country with a large global impact. The emirate's fast growing economy is boosted by exporting an abundance of fossil fuels. Since 2004, more than 160,000 war fighters have participated in the U.S. Central Command rest and recuperation pass program in Qatar. Executed by U.S. Army Central Area Support Group Qatar, the program provides

troops various venues for relaxation, recreation, shopping and cultural expeditions.

The medical information exchange seminar was a relationship-building effort coordinated by USARCENT and the U.S. Embassy in Qatar.

"All of our units should experience this," said Qatari Army Lt. Col. Adel Khamis Al Noobi, during the third day of the seminar. "If you find an injured person, it's important to know how to keep them alive until medics arrive."

According to Noobi, most Qatari military servicemembers learn field medical support from basic text-book instruction. Hands-on training is usually reserved for specialized emergency response units. Of the 30 participants, 21 held non-medical military occupations, such as infantry, logistics, transportation and administration.

"Being on the field playing is much different than learning in the locker room – in the field, you learn more," said Noobi.

As part of the information ex-

change, U.S. Army medical officials staged exercises simulating real medical emergencies.

"I hope we can continue these courses but make them longer," Noobi said. "Two weeks would have been much better than four days."

The will to learn made training the Qataris easier.

"The Qataris were willing to learn and put forth a lot of effort," said Sgt. Michael Beck, from Chesapeake, Va. "The participants definitely wanted to be here."

The event was Beck's first international symposium as a combat medic instructor.

"Coming to Qatar was a unique experience. I am not used to speaking through an interpreter but we had a great linguist," he said. "We monitored our success by asking questions and observing practical exercises."

During one hands-on scenario, participants prepared and administered intravenous solutions to each other.

"Qatar turned out to be one of our best information exchange seminars in the Middle East," said Lt. Col. Gordon Mayes, from Haines City, Fla. "If the Qataris request it, this could continue to happen several times a year."

Mayes is the USARCENT medical operations officer who led the team of five instructors. Prior to Qatar, he completed health services support seminars in Yemen, Bahrain and Oman.

The team leader says he always receives immediate feedback asking for return visits.

"Aside from our medics, we are also building the knowledge base of our Arabic linguists by submerging them in the culture," Mayes said. "This interaction provides an excellent opportunity for both nations to get together and see how each operates."

Information exchange seminars are offered to numerous nations throughout Southwest Asia, as a cooperative effort between U.S. Central Command and the local U.S. embassies.

Qatari Soldiers listen to U.S. Army medics explain how to administer an intravenous solution in Qatar, May 28.





Qatari soldiers listen to Sgt. Michael Beck, from Chesapeake, Va., explain how to administer an intravenous solution in Qatar, May 28. Thirty participants from the Gulf state's armed forces spent four consecutive days learning U.S. Army combat life-saving concepts.

The programs in the Middle East focus on many facets of global military readiness; such as aviation, artillery, air-defense artillery, communications, counter-terrorism, professional development, staff planning, military intelligence, engineering, women serving in the military, special operations, security forces and infantry tactics.

Other than troop training, the seminars create a forum for senior military officials to discuss regional requirements and plan future advancements.

Qatar's combat lifesaver seminar was an introduction to continued medical security cooperation efforts. U.S. Army officials plan to continue support to their armed forces – in an effort to enhance host nation support capabilities and joint military readiness.

"This event in Qatar wasn't training but a demonstration of U.S. military

capabilities," said Warrant Officer Scot Hector, from Fayetteville, N.C., a Civil International Military Affairs operations officer coordinating the events for USARCENT.


"We provide over 50 similar seminars a year to build relationships in the Middle East. These type of sessions plant the seeds that later grow into major training events – such as BrightStar, a combined forces exercise that has been reoccurring for 30 years."

Bright Star, hosted in Egypt, is the largest USARCENT coalition training exercise overseas. It combines air, ground, naval and special operations forces from several nations.



Qatari soldiers practice casualty care with Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Maley, from Buffalo, N.Y., in Qatar, May 29.

Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, USARCENT commanding general, encourages cooperative events similar to the combat lifesaver seminar in Qatar.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for us to work with the Qatari Army which strengthens our relationship and allows us to exchange ideas," Lovelace said. 



Navy Seabees hit the road

Story and photos by
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
ASG-KU Public Affairs

The Seabees have one of the hottest jobs in the desert, to lay asphalt on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Proud of their "Can Do" lineage, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, Gulfport, Miss., adds a strong point in an extensive history of supporting warfighters.

"I take incredible pride seeing things go from nothing to something," said NMCB 74 Safety Officer, Senior Chief Petty Officer Anthony R. Chance.

Since World War II, the Seabees have done things no one thought was possible. Their projects range from huge, well-planned bridges and substantial structures, such as barracks and hospitals, to the quickly planned contingency projects, such as guard towers practically constructed overnight.

Zone 6 at Camp Arifjan houses more than 6,200 servicemembers. The pavement project will meet with the Zone 1 paved road. The end result will provide a paved loop around Zone



A Seabee from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, Gulfport, Miss., operates a roller over freshly laid asphalt in Zone 6, here, where over 6,200 servicemembers live. The Seabees carry on their honorable lineage of providing life support for deployed forces since World War II.



Seaman Jared K. Salvini, an equipment operator, is seen operating the paving machine while fellow Seabees assist in laying a strip of asphalt as part of the Zone 6 pavement project at Camp Arifjan.

6 as well as attempt to keep the dust down. The loop will ease the driving conditions around Zone 6 and with the addition of cross walks, make it a safer crossing for pedestrians.

The pavement project is no small feat. It will take 8,130 tons of asphalt to complete the task. The Sailors have to endure the sweltering desert heat all day while laying asphalt that is more than 250 degrees.

"They work in the worst conditions and never complain," said Chief Petty Officer Harrison Couch. "The Seabees are a very loyal group of guys."

As with any project, strategic planning is essential to the success of a mission. Since the project started, the Seabees' reputation of adapting and overcoming has been tested.

One of the biggest challenges they have faced is the sand. Finding the perfect mix of aggregate, the layer before the asphalt is laid, proved difficult because the Seabees have never worked with that type of aggregate material.

It took more than a week of adding different amounts of water to piles and piles of aggregate, trying to find that perfect mix that will stand the test of time. It was a test of trial and

error before they got the compaction rate needed to pave.

"The under-layer is sand," said Petty Officer 1st Class Tremayne Nicholson, crew supervisor. "We do not work with it in the states."

Seabees spend most their time in the states training and working on equipment. Due to the use of civilian contracting, their only chance to perform extensive construction projects is during



or with NMCB 74, tends
ow crewmembers focus
Six pavement project on



Workers from the NMCB 74 rake fresh asphalt as it comes out of the paving machine. The crew of 'Can Do' Seabees withstood relentless heat to provide a paved loop around Zone Six on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

deployments.

"When we started this project, the workers were fresh, but as we move forward, I can see they are learning a lot," Nicholson said.

Seaman Jared K. Salvini, one of the newest Seabees on the crew, said getting out and doing the job is the best training. He said he experiences something new everyday he is out on the asphalt.


"It's always something different everyday," said Seaman Jared K. Salvini. "I never know what I will be operating."

No matter what tasks are given to

the Seabees, they provide the best quality craftsmanship with great customer service.

"I have a lot of pride in being a Seabee," Chance said. "We get out there and make a difference. That's what it's all about."

Since WWII, the Seabees have done all they can to fight for their country and provide life support for fellow servicemembers around the world.

"We will build and do anything for Soldiers who put their lives at risk providing service to their country," Chance said passionately. "This is our way to show we support them." 

A big heart a little swab

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jacob A. McDonald
Desert Voice staff writer

When she was six years old, Petty Officer 3rd Class Celinna Pascual didn't fully understand what was happening to her 15-year-old cousin, only that he was very sick.

When he died from leukemia, it made a lasting impression on her.

Now, as a hospital corpsman with Expeditionary Medical Facility – Kuwait, Pascual has taken the memory of her early loss and turned it into action. She organized the first bone marrow donor drive on a U.S. military installation in Kuwait to help patients in the United States and around the world who, like her cousin, could benefit from a bone marrow transplant.

Pascual said she got the idea for a bone marrow drive here after volunteering for one at her home station in Yokosuka, Japan.

"I volunteered for this deployment in EMF-Kuwait," the Sacramento, Calif., native said. "They said they had never had a bone marrow drive here. I called the national registry and the Department of Defense and asked how to have a bone marrow drive out here. They said it was very possible."

Registering to become a donor is a pain-free process. When donors come in to a clinic they fill out background paperwork, swab their cheeks, and receive a donor card and information regarding the program. The clinic sends the swab samples to a national database where donors are screened for potential matches. Donors are registered until they are 61 years old and can be called in anytime there is a match, even if they are deployed overseas. If they are chosen, donors fly to Washington, D.C., undergo more tests, and the bone marrow is extracted from either their hip or spine. During the procedure they are under complete anesthesia. After the procedure the bone marrow naturally grows back.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Loany Moore, a hospital corpsman, instructs Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Hart, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, on how to swab his cheek at a bone-marrow donor drive on Camp Arifjan, May 23.

"Your bone marrow replenishes itself and that is something people don't understand," Pascual said. "It is just like donating blood, just a little more painful, but you know you are saving a life doing it. You could be saving another military member; you could be saving a civilian; you could be saving a six-month-old baby or a 16 year old."

Bone marrow donors are screened for several factors, including ethnicity and tissue type.

"It is very specific," Pascual said. "That is why it is so important to have all the servicemembers sign up here so they can find a match and save lives."

While the drive focused on getting new donors, one servicemember is taking the next step in the process. Petty Officer 2nd Class Kayla Modschiedler, EMF-K, a native of Piqua, Ohio, stationed at Bethesda, Md., registered as a donor three years ago and has been selected as a possible donor match.


"I had completely forgotten about it," she said. "I got here and I got an e-mail saying I was a possible match for a person who needs a donation."

After answering the e-mail, she was sent a questionnaire and a donation kit. The lab here took her blood and mailed the kit back. Now waiting on

those results, she said she thinks about the little bit of herself she is giving.

"It's going to hurt, but what is a little pain for someone else?" Modschiedler said. "If it were my Family member I would want someone to do it for him. It is like the gift that keeps on giving."

Pascual said her vision is for every clinic in Kuwait to do a bone-marrow drive and have as many sailors, Soldiers, airmen and Marines in the registry to give hope to those in need.

"I look back and think about what would have happened if we had found a match for my cousin and he had a transplant," Pascual said. "Would he be living right now? Would he have gone to college? Would he be successful? There are a lot of what ifs." 

Editor's note: The bone-marrow drive is over on Camp Arifjan, but will continue at the following locations:

Camp Buehring: Walk-ins at the Troop Medical Center through June 30. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Camp Buehring: Walk-in registration at the USO 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. through June 30.

Camp Virginia: Walk-in registration at the Troop Medical Center through June 27. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.



"Edge of the Bench"

by Maj. Gen. Chuck Anderson
USARCENT deputy commanding general

Blocking and Tackling

With football season only months away, it might be premature to discuss pre-season picks for the national title. For sure teams that are competitive will be the best at the basics of the game which to most who follow the sport can be summed up in the category of "blocking and tackling."

Well the same holds true for units. Good units do the basic fundamentals well. Units who master the fundamentals are well balanced – meaning they have the agility to react to changes and can persevere when faced with tough challenges. I look at balance, not in the light of a mechanical scale, but that of a boxer who has the agility, skill and is adaptive against an opponent.

So what are the basic fundamentals that make good units? I bet if you ask any officer or NCO your list would vary. I'm not saying my list is the right one and in fact, your list is probably better, but my list has not changed since I was a major.

I believe good units do three things well – take care of their equipment, marksmanship and physical development. Units that are disciplined to do thorough maintenance, using applicable manuals, with a reader and a doer

seem to possess equipment that is functional and performs to intended specifications. Second, units that spend time on the range building confidence in carrying, maintaining and firing weapons are not only lethal in combat but are smart in the use of force. The ranges near Camp Buehring offer a wide range of marksmanship experiences that build confidence and competence in marksmanship. Don't pass up the opportunity to use the simulations and dry/live fire resources, manned by expert trainers, at Camp Buehring's training complex. Third, units that promulgate a healthy and fitness-oriented climate tend to have Soldiers who can operate in pressing conditions, are generally well disciplined and mentally and physically tough.

Fitness programs that are tailored to their population tend to survive and generate results.

Well, you have my list. Taking care of your equipment, being physically fit, and mastering the use and care of your assigned weapon produces good Soldiers and naturally, good units. I believe these are the basic fundamentals or the blocking and tackling found in most good units. When you get a chance write down your list and then live it.

Just One Question ...

"What is one lesson you learned from your father?"



"To stay positive. The only thing that beats a failure is a try."

Chief Warrant Officer Jovar McKellar
335th Signal Command
Theater network technician
Lawrenceville, Ga.



"My father always told me to always make sure you're responsible for your own actions in life."

Capt. Walter Lewis
335th Signal Command
Deputy G8
Atlanta



"Honesty is the best way to go."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Vicki Platis
2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment
Helicopter Mechanic
Lawrenceville, Ga.

Why I serve:

Lt. Col. William Harris
CDDOC
ITV cell chief



The Scott AFB, Ill., native explains why he chose to join the military.

"I felt like I needed to serve, whether it's for four years or 10 years. I felt like it was best for me. I've served for 22 years now."



"Forgiveness. He taught me to forgive and have peace and be a good person."

Petty Officer Third Class Mack Kowalski
U.S. Coast Guard
Avon Lake, Ohio



"Honor thy father and mother."

Master Sgt. Mac McCurdy
387th Transportation Det.
1st TSC Mobility
Hattiesburg, Miss.

What's happening around USARCENT ...

Spread the cheer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob McDonald



Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class John Hulle

Helping out

Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Johnson, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, repairs a light fixture at the Balbala primary school in Djibouti on May 31. NMCB 74 Seabees are repairing the school as part of a Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa project. For the full story, check out next week's issue of the Desert Voice.

(Left) Servicemembers get autographed pictures from the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders at the Coalition Operation Information Center, June 3.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES CAMP ARIFJAN

ZONE 1 - CHAPEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES		
Catholic Mass	MON	1215
Catholic Mass	TUE	1215
Catholic Mass (participated Sunday Mass)	FRI	1700
Catholic Mass	SUN	1200
PROTESTANT SERVICES		
Liturgical Protestant	SUN	0830
Contemporary	SUN	1000
Gospel	SUN	1400
Latter Day Saints	SUN	1630
JEWISH PRAYER SERVICES		
Jewish Service	FRI	1900

ZONE 1 - MOSQUE (Bldg T374)

MUSLIM JUM'AH		
Muslim Prayer	FRI	1200

ZONE 6 - CHAPEL (WHITE BLDG)

PROTESTANT SERVICES		
Gospel	FRI	1900
Spanish Service	SAT	1900
Traditional Protestant	SUN	0900
Contemporary	SUN	1100
Blended Protestant Worship	SUN	1730

ZONE 6 - LSA CLASSROOM

WICCA		
Wiccan Service - POC: ILT Ortiz	SAT	1900

ZONE 6 - CHAPEL ANNEX (BROWN BLDG)

OTHER SERVICES		
Orthodox Service	SUN	0900
Church of Christ - POC: CWS Hickey (430-5059)	SUN	1200/1800

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
ZONE 1 CHAPEL: 430-1364 OR 430-1369

AS OF 03 June 08

BIBLE STUDIES CAMP ARIFJAN



ZONE 1- 3rd Deck of I BLDG

Topical Bible Study - POC: CH (LTC) Burns (c977.4837)	WED	1830
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ZONE 6 - CHAPEL ANNEX

Latter Day Saints - Bible Study	MON	1900
Spanish Bible Study	WED	1830
Church of Christ	THUR	1900
Prayer Hour	FRI	1900

ZONE 1 - CHAPEL		
Catholic RCIA Class (Zone 1 Chapel)	MON	1830
Gospel Men's Bible Study	WED	1900
Gospel Women's Bible Study	WED	1900
Firm Foundation Bible Study	WED	1900

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
ZONE 1 CHAPEL: 430-1364 OR 430-1369

AS OF 03 June 08

Reminder!

During the PT hours from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m., the only authorized uniform is the appropriate service-specific physical training uniform theater wide.