



# DV *The Desert Voice*

**United States Army Central**  
"Transforming to Full-Spectrum Operations"



**August 20, 2008**

***Gear up and roll out!***

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*Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin  
311th Sustainment Command*

### Contact us

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



## Time of Transition

The summer months bring not only a change in the season, but also a change in the faces of entire organizations across our Army. No one understands this better than Soldiers and Families ... and it's no different here in U.S. Army Central.

For those who are leaving us ... Gail and I cannot begin to express our appreciation for your tireless efforts, selfless service and sacrifice to your Nation. Military life is not for everyone ... especially in a time of war...but you have made a huge difference in the success of this organization.

In USARCENT, like many other combat formations, Families have endured long hours, deployments of loved ones and unpredictable schedules ... thank you for your flexibility, patience and understanding.

If you have been assigned to our Atlanta headquarters for two or three years, you have likely participated in deployments to Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Afghanistan, the continent of Africa or even elsewhere in our vast area of responsibility. Deployments to any and all of these locations may have been for one year or come less in duration but with much more frequency, routinely involving many trips to the theater – several three to six month deployments – over the course of a three-year assignment.

Again, from this command team ... thanks you for all that you have done to make USARCENT a winning team.

For those of you who are just arriving ... welcome. We are going through a defining period in this command. It's an exciting time and you will have the opportunity to be part of some historic changes in the character of this organization. The pace is quick and we are "breaking trail" for the rest of the Army.

I would like to share a few of my thoughts and expectations of USARCENT Soldiers:

**Everyone ... regardless of rank ... is a leader in this organization.** Our Soldiers



**Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace  
U.S. Army Central Commanding General**

are incredibly smart and capable of just about any task we ask of them. You will be challenged in this assignment... I am confident you will rise accordingly.

It's not a right to wear the uniform; it's a privilege. It's a privilege to be in the best armed forces on the face of the earth and an honor to defend our great Nation.  
**USARCENT  
Soldiers are**


**disciplined, respect the uniform and demonstrate enthusiasm for their part of the mission.** Take a look at the USARCENT Standards Book or ask your NCOs if you have any questions.

**Be physically, mentally and ethically ready... at all times.** Stay in shape...it's our duty to do PT and lead a healthy lifestyle. Continuously improve your fighting position.

**Noncommissioned officers are the backbone of this organization.** We have the most gifted NCO Corps in the world... we will challenge them to do what they are capable of doing. I expect leaders to be engaged and fix issues through their chain of command.

We have a responsibility to hold ourselves to a high ethical standard ... **we are a values based organization** and consistently rank at the top of the list of most respected organizations. Our individual actions reflect directly on USARCENT and the entire U.S. Army.

We have developed **a winning team** by maintaining standards, enforcing discipline, empowering individuals and displaying the appropriate team mentality. We are glad to have you on the team and look forward to reaching our objective together.

I'm immensely proud of this organization ... thank you for all that you do. 

## Patton's Own!

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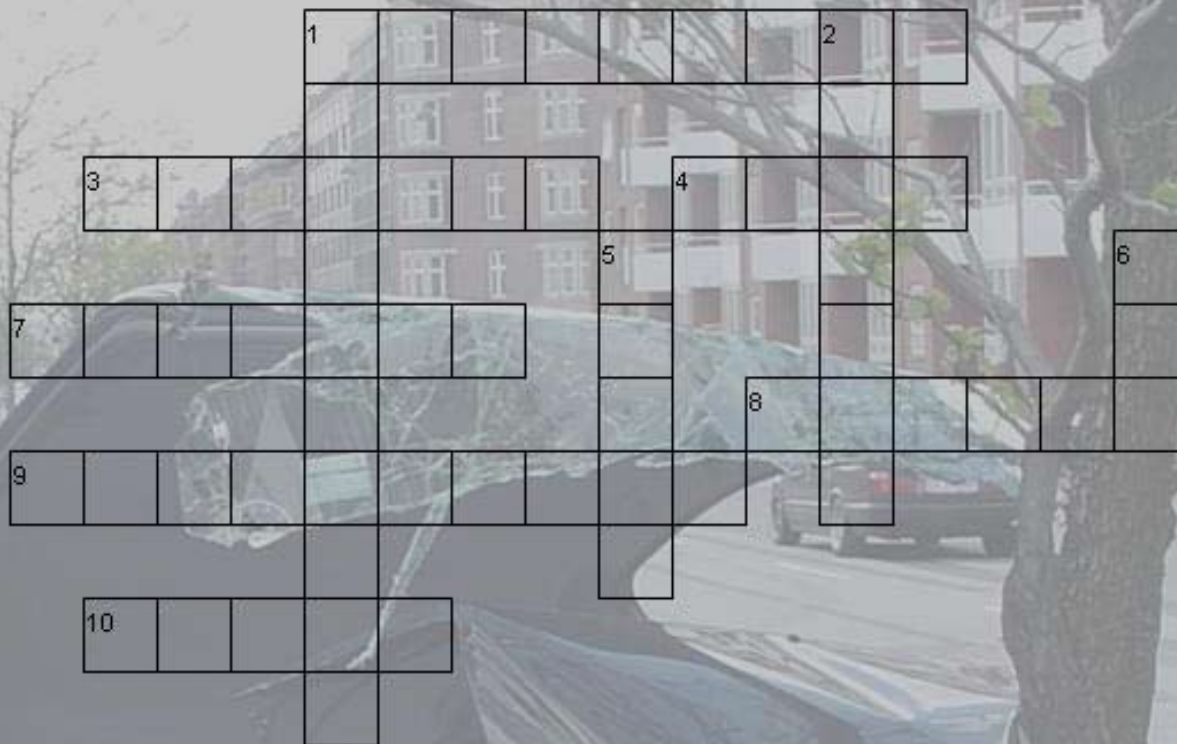
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**DV**  
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## Safety Corner: Accident Prevention Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 1.) Taking \_\_\_\_ is not following procedures
- 3.) \_\_\_\_ any tool before using
- 4.) An "almost" accident: a \_\_\_\_ miss
- 7.) Report these to your supervisor
- 8.) After an accident you must make a \_\_\_\_
- 9.) Missing guards are called unsafe \_\_\_\_
- 10.) Never leave material on the \_\_\_\_ where they could become a trip hazard

### DOWN

- 1.) Who you tell about hazards
- 2.) To do any job you must be \_\_\_\_
- 5.) Danger \_\_\_\_ are posted in hazardous areas
- 6.) An unsafe \_\_\_\_ is careless behavior

Answers located on page 11

# Servicemembers honor fallen Soldier

Story and photo by  
Spc. John D. Ortiz  
4th Sustainment Brigade

**S**ervicemember filed into the chapel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 12, to pay their respects to Master Sgt. Danny Maybin, who died in a non-combat related incident, Aug. 7.

Maybin, a Columbia, S.C., native, was assigned to 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Through his position as the safety noncommissioned officer in charge, he met and influenced many people, both in his work and personal life.

The memorial ceremony began with a short invocation from Lt. Col. Kenneth F. Revell, chaplain, 1st TSC.

"We pray you would pour your consolation and grace upon all in the throes of grief," said Revell. "We seek to bring tribute to the life of Master Sergeant Danny E. Maybin, and remember his family."

Revell, then introduced Maj. Paul Royle, executive officer, 1st Special Troops Battalion.

"It does not matter if you knew Master Sergeant Maybin for a lifetime, for a minute or if you even knew him at all. I guarantee you he had an impact on your life," said Royle. "He served in a position where he

continually ensured others did not become injured or die due to carelessness or poor leadership. He quietly prevented many accidents from happening.

"It was because of Master Sergeant Maybin's efforts that accidents within the 1st TSC have dropped by nearly 35 percent," Royle added.

In Sept 2007, Maybin deployed with the 1st STB to Kuwait serving as the 1st TSC safety officer.

He previously deployed to Kosovo and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After Royle's comments, Mr. Ricky Payne, Maybin's supervisor, rose to the podium and stated his friendship with Maybin was "uncommon, because it was based upon understanding and empathy for each other."

"While Master Sergeant Maybin was the Soldier's Soldier, he had a warm and friendly side he reserved for his friends and then mostly in private," said Payne.

After friends and co-workers made comments, Sgt. Amelia L. Bradley, 10th Transportation Company sang "Amazing Grace," accompanied by Timothy Robinson on piano.

Following the song, Revell returned to the podium and shared his experiences about Maybin. One event



**The memorial centerpiece for Master Sgt. Danny E. Maybin is a remembrance to his life and service to the Nation.**

stood out to him.

As Revell made daily pastoral rounds, upon reaching Maybin, Revell would say, "Master Sergeant, you don't need to stand," and Maybin would always respond by saying, "I always stand up for you Sir; I'll stand up for you."

Common military courtesy is to stand when a higher ranking officer addresses you.

"He had a presence about him that commanded respect but he also gave respect. It was clear; I was standing in the presence of a quiet professional," said Revell. "His demeanor was always stoic, steady, professional, emotionless, but not unfeeling - clearly a Soldier right down to the core of his being.

"The things I learned, in a new way are the preciousness, perishability, and proximity of life," added Revell. **A**



**The identification tags of Master Sgt. Danny E. Maybin hang off an upside down M-16 to recognize his service and life.**

# You're gonna get caught ...

## General Order 1B is in full effect!

Story by  
Pfc. Alicia Torbush  
Desert Voice staff writer

**G**eneral Order 1B is a general order issued by the commander of U.S. Central Command prohibiting certain items and actions in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. The order pertains to all Department of Defense personnel, servicemembers, civilians and contractors accompanying the force in the CENTCOM AOR, and bans all contraband that violate the laws of AOR host nations.

"The current operations and deployments place U.S. Armed Forces in countries with local laws and customs which prohibit or restrict various activities that are generally permissible in western societies," said Robert Holmes, deputy director, Provost Marshal's Office. "Adhering to those restrictions, upon such activities, is essential to preserving U.S. host nation relations and ensuring success of combined operations between the U.S. and friendly forces."

Prohibited items and actions

include: possession and consumption of alcohol, possession of pornography in any format, possession of personal firearms, ammunitions, explosives or illegal substances, feeding or watering stray or domestic animals, making pets of stray animals, engaging in gambling, exchanging currency for an amount other than the current exchange rate, and taking war trophies.

"GO 1B is a general order; therefore, any violation of such is a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Capt. Joseph A. Schwade, deputy command judge advocate, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Article 92 of the UCMJ is the article concerning a violation of or a failure to obey a lawful general order or regulation.

Some contraband is being sent to DoD personnel and civilian contractors through the U.S. Postal Service from senders located outside the CENTCOM AOR.

"When the mail enters the Joint Military Mail Terminal, it is initially inspected using X-ray machines," said

Holmes. "If anything is detected when they do the X-ray screen, that package is flagged."

The package is set aside until a search authorization can be obtained by a military magistrate to open it, said Schwade.

DoD and postal regulations prohibit any parcel or letter from being opened without proper authorization or consent from either the sender or the addressee, Schwade added.

Senders can be prosecuted based on a criminal statute governing prohibited items being sent in the mail. It is a federal misdemeanor that is punishable by up to a \$10,000 fine and a year in prison.

DoD personnel and contractors can protect themselves by notifying their families about GO 1B and the consequences, said Holmes.

"Being forthright and honest is always the right thing, and that is going to keep [servicemembers] out of trouble," said Schwade. **A**

**The Rapi-Scan X-ray screening machine uses the same technology that the Transportation Security Administration uses in airports. All packages that enter theater are pre-screened for weight and scanned for contraband prior to reaching their destination.**



# A Co., 1-148 Infantry Regiment

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin  
311th Sustainment Command

**A** Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Brigade Infantry Combat Team is not only infantry Soldiers but engineers, tankers, medics, truck drivers, mechanics, chemical specialists, cooks, fuel handlers, scouts, field artillery and air defense.

These Soldiers comprise the Convoy Escort Teams.

Like their predecessors from the Ohio Buckeye Infantry Division, who went to combat first in 1803, these men bring honor to the Ohio National Guard.

The three months of training at Fort Hood, Texas, did entirely not prepare the crew for convoy escort duties, but they adapted quickly after further training in Kuwait, said Staff Sgt. Bryan Moore, convoy commander, 3rd Squad.

CETs provide convoy security for Heavy Equipment Transport Systems moving supplies in and out of Iraq.

"The troops of 3rd Squad are well versed in different specialties, which works as an advantage if anything goes wrong," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Glenn, platoon sergeant. "... everybody knows something about something."

In order to support the 4th Sustainment Brigade and meet its logistic mission requirements, these Buckeye Soldiers from varied backgrounds volunteered for the mission.

"When I volunteered for something [in] an infantry brigade combat team as a chemical or communications

sergeant – I thought I'd end up in a tactical operations center," said Moore. "I'm happy it worked out this way. I'd rather lead these guys where every day is different. The landscape and the people; it's definitely not Cincinnati."

Moore's team consists mostly of Soldiers whose young looks and wisecracks camouflage their iron will and fortitude to get the job done.

"Lord have mercy on my enemies, for I will not," reads a tattoo on the left bicep of Pfc. Brandon Brown, a Toledo, Ohio, native.

Brown is an infantryman and



**Convoy Escort Teams provide escort security for Heavy Equipment Transport System and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles being delivered to the troops in Iraq.**



**Spc. Justin Marchand, A Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, awaits the order to move out.**

# **Federal Election Mailing Dates Pullout**



# Federal Election Mailing Dates

STATES	Postmark NLT Deadline	Ballot Return NLT Deadline	Electronic Transmission Availability
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>3-Nov-08 2400</b>	<b>4-Nov-08 1200</b>	<b>No</b>
Alaska	4-Nov-08 1200	19-Nov-08 1600	Yes
American Samoa	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1330	No
Arizona	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1900	Yes
Arkansas	4-Nov-08 1200	14-Nov-08 1700	No
California	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 2000	Yes
Colorado	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1900	Yes
Connecticut	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 2000	No
Delaware	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 2000	No
District of Columbia	4-Nov-08 1200	14-Nov-08 1600	Yes
Florida	4-Nov-08 1200	14-Nov-08 1600	Yes
Georgia	4-Nov-08 1200	7-Nov-08 1600	No
Guam	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 2000	No
Hawaii	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1600	Yes
Idaho	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 2000	Yes
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>3-Nov-08 2400</b>	<b>18-Nov-08 1600</b>	<b>No</b>
Indiana	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1600	Yes
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>3-Nov-08 2400</b>	<b>10-Nov-08 1200</b>	<b>No</b>
Kansas	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1600	Yes
Kentucky	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1600	No
Louisiana	4-Nov-08 1200	4-Nov-08 1600	Yes



Maine	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No, Some Exceptions
Maryland	4-Nov-08	1200	14-Nov-08	1600	No
Massachusetts	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Michigan	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Minnesota	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Mississippi	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1900	Yes
Missouri	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1700	No
Montana	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	2200	Yes, Some Exceptions
Nebraska	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Nevada	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1700	No
New Hampshire	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1700	No
New Jersey	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	Yes
New Mexico	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	Yes
<b>New York</b>	<b>3-Nov-08</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>17-Nov-08</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>3-Nov-08</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>3-Nov-08</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>3-Nov-08</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>7-Nov-08</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>Yes, Some Exceptions</b>
Ohio	4-Nov-08	1200	14-Nov-08	1600	No
Oklahoma	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1900	No, Some Exceptions
Oregon	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	2200	No
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>3-Nov-08</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>11-Nov-08</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>No</b>
Puerto Rico	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1500	No
Rhode Island	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	2100	Yes
South Carolina	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	Yes
South Dakota	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Tennessee	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Texas	4-Nov-08	1200	10-Nov-08	1600	Yes
<b>Utah</b>	<b>3-Nov-08</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>18-Nov-08</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Vermont	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No
Virgin Islands	4-Nov-08	1200	14-Nov-08	1600	Yes
Virginia	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1900	No
Washington	4-Nov-08	1200	25-Nov-08	1600	Yes, Some Exceptions
West Virginia	4-Nov-08	1200	9-Nov-08	1600	Yes
Wisconsin	4-Nov-08	1200	14-Nov-08	1600	No
Wyoming	4-Nov-08	1200	4-Nov-08	1600	No





# ment provides convoy security

Armored Security Vehicle driver.

Recently the CET safely escorted HETS carrying mine resistant ambush protected vehicles to infantry troops in Iraq.

The announcement of an upcoming mission fired up 3rd Squad to prepare themselves and their equipment three days in advance for a mission on a Monday.

Friday evening, the CET and HET teams received an operational assessment brief, peppered with praise due to their part in helping Iraq gain the initiative towards defeating Al-Qaida in Iraq, from Chief Warrant

Officer Justin Trenary, operations officer, 10th Transportation Battalion.

Afterwards the CET commander conducted a rock drill on a table with miniature trucks and a mock roadway with an overpass to his squad, as well as the HETS commander and his drivers.

Saturday evening the CET conducted yet another well-rehearsed training exercise: extracting incapacitated team members from armored vehicles.

Early Sunday evening the crew gathered to draw ammunition, inventory sensitive items, mount their

weapons, stock their coolers, perform communication checks and receive a safety briefing before conducting a pre-combat inspection.

Once the trucks were ready to roll from the Arifjan motor pool area, most of the troops broke for dinner. Some came back with full bellies and others carried fast food; all drenched in sweat from walking the long distance to and from the food court or DFAC.

"It's hot as sin out here," said Brown. "I can't wait to get to [Iraq] and hopefully feel a cool breeze."

As the sandy, burnt-orange horizon slipped into darkness, 1st Sgt. Robert Nash made a visit to ensure everything was okay and wished the Soldiers a safe and uneventful journey.

After one last safety briefing and with the vehicles lined up, Moore shouted, "Head 'em up and move 'em out."

The CET rolled into another camp in Kuwait late Sunday evening to link up with the convoy and bed down. The team set up cots and rolled out their bedding and personal effects as the winds picked up and ruffled the columns and rows of 16-person tents.

The next morning the convoy, military and civilian trucks along with their drivers, to include third country nationals, awaited orders at the ready line.

The 1-148 Inf. Regt.'s CET and the 546th Transportation Company's HETS busily packed their coolers with ice, energy drinks, water and Gatorade. The civilian drivers, employed by international contractors, made last minute checks on securing loads.

After a short prayer, the convoy geared up and moved through the sands of southern Mesopotamia.

The CET kept its game face on and made a successful mission, delivering the MRAPs into Iraq.

The CET rolled back into Arifjan the next day with everybody and everything safely accounted for. It was yet another successful mission. **A**



**Soldiers of A Company, 1-148 Inf. Regt., secure crew-served weapons to an Armored Security Vehicle before heading north to escort convoys into Iraq.**



**tation, to move**

# Soldier, Sapp compete through X-Box

Story by  
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher  
*Desert Voice editor*

**S**ervicemembers participated in the Pro vs. G.I. Joe Madden football tournament held at the newly-renovated United Service Organizations' center at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Aug. 11.

The event gave servicemembers the chance to be the first to play Electronic Arts Sports Madden NFL 2009 prior to its release, Aug. 12, and a chance to play against retired NFL lineman, Warren Sapp.

"We are the bridge that links Soldiers with their Families back home," said Jonathan Matthews, center director, USO Camp Virginia. "In this case, we are using that bridge to give Soldiers the opportunity to play one of their idols."

Pro vs. G.I. Joes, a non-profit organization, links servicemembers with sports and pop culture icons to compete against one another through online video games during the Soldiers' deployments.



Photo by Sgt. Brooks Fletcher

**Spc. George Sunderland, B Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion, plays Madden NFL 2009 against retired NFL Lineman Warren Sapp through X-Box Live.**

During the event, 16 servicemembers competed against one another on Madden NFL 2008 in a round robin-style bracket.

The winner of the single-elimination tournament linked-up, through X-Box Live, and played Sapp, who was located at the Maddenpalooza fan festival, held at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

"I like this event a lot; it gets my morale up after being here for 15 months," said Sgt. Michael Reynolds, Special Troop Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade.

"This event makes me happy ... enough to be here a couple more days," added Reynolds, a Bronx, N.Y., native, who will redeploy back to Fort Stewart, Ga.

Spc. George Sunderland, B Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion, also showed his enthusiasm for the event and the collaborating organizations, USO and Pro vs. G.I. Joes.

"I love Madden and I love this event," said Sunderland, who has been playing Madden football games since 2003. "It's a good morale boost for the troops."

When asked about his game plan, if he was to play Sapp, Sunderland had confident words.

"I'm going to do what I do best, I'm going to take [Sapp] down," said Sunderland, a Niles, Ohio, native. Sunderland's favorite team is the Cleveland Browns, but he played with the New England Patriots for this tournament.

Reynolds and Sunderland, along with many others, stayed up through the later part of the night competing at a chance to play Sapp.

One game after another the bracket



Photo by Addie Zinnon

**Servicemembers taunt Sapp, far right, after a last minute touchdown by Sunderland.**

narrowed down and competition became scarce for Sunderland, who came out victorious in the USO-based tournament, setting the stage for the night's main event.

"I have no weakness," said a confident Sunderland, who used the Patriots combined with the Browns' playbook. "[Weaknesses] are for people who lose."


As the online game began, Sapp, Sunderland and audiences from both sides shared taunts through the television monitors and speakers.

"This is the first international Madden 2009 link-up to date," said Matthews, about the night's X-Box Live matchup.

In the end Sunderland came out victorious over the NFL great and was honored by Sapp for his service to the nation.

For his win Sunderland not only received a copy of Madden NFL 2009, but also a Sapp-autographed X-Box 360 and the entire 2009 EA Sports game line-up.

"It is great to get these two charities linked-up and working in conjunction to make this happen," said Sunderland.

"This is one way of getting the American public's attention," said Matthews. "By running this event, in conjunction with Pro vs. G.I. Joe, EA Sports, and Microsoft, it's helping put the USO into the public eye." 

# Arifjan female league fast breaks

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Alicia Torbush  
Desert Voice staff writer

**F**emales of all services, ranks and ages gathered Aug. 9, at the Zone 1 Gym to participate in a draft for an all-female basketball league on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"[Every unit] didn't have a team so we decided to have a draft," said Army Sgt. Tamika Holston, S-1, 4th Sustainment Brigade.

Holston and Sgt. Michelle Glover, 4th Sustainment Brigade, are working together to start the female basketball league.

"I like playing ball, so we just started to get something together," said Holston, a Fort Myers, Fla., native.

There was not going to be a female basketball league this year because of

the shortage of teams and players last year, Holston explained.

"In the last tournament there were just two female teams, so this next tournament coming up was just going to be for the males," said Holston. "A lot of people like playing ball, but not a lot of people knew about the tournament, so we put up flyers and started talking to people to get the word out. We've gotten a pretty good response to this and we expect a lot of people out here today."

Each new team will practice individually to prepare for the tournament which is scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

"The reward is that we're going to be in a league and we're going to be in the tournament," said Holston.

The coaches and organizers understand life in the military. Servicemem-

bers are constantly rotating in and out of country and some of the teams will lose and gain players throughout the month.

"We're going to keep it going [on the court] and the coaches are more than willing to add to their teams," said Holston.

"You've just got to have a lot of heart," added Glover, a South Carolina native. "It's not about who you're going to play with; it's about playing basketball because you love it." **A**

*Below, Seaman Meredith L. Johnson, Expeditionary Medical Facility-Kuwait, prepares to shoot during a practice for the female basketball league.*



*Left, Sgt. Tamika Holston, S-1, 4th Sustainment Brigade, shoots a layup during a warm-up exercise for the female basketball league draft, held in the Zone 1 Gym, Aug. 9.*



# Class offers lessons on Arabic culture

Story and photos by  
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton  
**Desert Voice staff writer**

**T**here is no Arabic world, it is Arabic Culture,” said Souhail Dib, facility manager, Education Center at Camp Arifjan.

This is one of the many lessons Dib tries to get across to the students who attend the Arabic Headstart class.

Arabic Headstart is a free course designed to educate servicemembers and civilians about Arabic culture. Students are introduced to many of the culture’s beliefs, basic Arabic phrases and are given an overview of the Islamic religion.

“I wanted to learn more about the culture because I am here in this country,” said Spc. Chad Love, paralegal, headquarters and headquarters company, 160th Signal Brigade. “I wanted to come [to the class], learn something about the country I am in and take it home and share with my family what I’ve learned while I was over here.”

Dib, who is of Arabic descent and is currently the sole teacher of the

Arabic Headstart class here, encourages his students to participate by asking questions about the culture.

Dib combines group participation with lectures and shows documentaries on the Islamic religion. He even plays Arabic music videos so the students can get a better feel for the culture.

“I was trying the best I can to make [sure] all the Soldiers who attend the class understand the culture of the Arabs,” said Dib. “All the Arabs are not like the ones we see on the T.V. They are very good people, very educated, very open and very friendly. For me it’s more of a message than teaching.”

Retired servicemember Mary J. Newkirk, education services director at the Education Center, was inspired by a similar course offered in Germany when designing Arabic Headstart.

“One of my visions was to get something like German Headstart. Arabic Headstart is for Soldiers who have to come over here and gives them an idea of exactly what the culture is like,” said Newkirk. “When they get an opportunity to go off post they will know how to interact with the people of the region. We give

them some basic language [skills] so they can go out there and communicate.”


For many of the students who attend Dib’s class, it is their first time learning about the Arabic culture in a formal setting.

“I think it’s important that servicemembers know that this program is here,” said Newkirk. “I would like everyone to take the opportunity to come and learn more than what they see on T.V.”

Putting serious time and effort into the lessons taught during each session can help students become comfortable with the culture and language.

“I am learning the language, a little bit, and I just think the more you put into it, the more you get out of it,” said Love, a Virginia Beach, Va., native. “I am excited to actually try to speak it and start a conversation.”

Two 20-hour Arabic Headstart classes are held at the Education Center each month. Days and times for the classes vary.

For more information or to register for a class, contact Mr. Dib at 430-1320. 



*Souhail Dib, the instructor of Arabic Headstart, Camp Arifjan Education Center, teaches a class on Arabic culture.*

# Spin Class at Zone 1 Gym

Those who attend one of the dates listed will be given a T-shirt and water bottle for participating.

August 21, 2008  
Two-Hour Spin Class  
1730-1930

August 25, 2008  
Two-Hour Spin Class  
0530-0730

## Just One Question ...

**"What is your favorite Olympic sport and why?"**



**"I like watching gymnastics because it is amazing to watch what the human body can do in the air."**

Master Sgt. Samuel Louie  
CDDOC  
Single Ticket Tracker Manager  
San Francisco, Calif.



**"I wrestled in high school, so wrestling is my favorite sport."**

Cpl. David Logan  
MARCENT  
Marine Air/Ground Taskforce Planner  
Rossville, Ga.



**"I have been watching Olympic swimming since I was a kid and it inspired me to become a more proficient swimmer."**

Lt. Col. Mark Bremer  
ARCENT NGR  
Chief, Logistics Support Team  
Greenville, N.C.



**"Diving, because an athlete I graduated high school with is in this year's Olympics."**

Petty Officer 1st Class Shera Terry  
NAVELSG  
Administration Lead Petty Officer  
Tomball, Texas

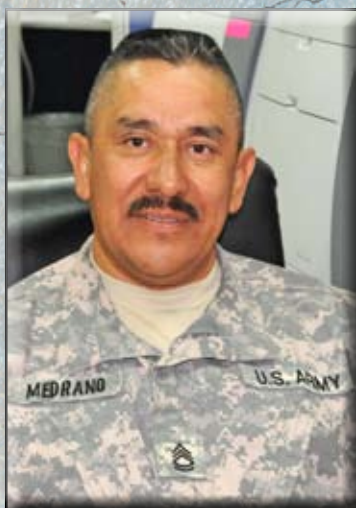


**"I like to watch gymnastics because I wanted to be a gymnast as a kid."**

Spc. Cristi Venable  
ARCENT G-1  
Program Manager  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

## Why I serve:

Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Medrano  
311th Expeditionary Support Command  
Air Mobility NCOIC



The Guadalajara, Mexico native explains why he chose to join the military.

**"To pay back to the country all the good things it has given me."**

ACROSS 1), shortcuts 3), inspect 4), near 7), hazards 8), report 9), conditions 10), floor DOWN 1), supervisor 2), trained 5), signs 6), act

Kuwait

# What's happening around USARCENT ...



## ***FMF Pin***

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway pins the Fleet Marine Force Officer Warfare Qualification Badge on Navy Lt. Benny Mathis, chaplain for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command's MARCENT Coordination Element Kuwait. The Calvin, Okla., native earned his badge while working with 12th Marine Regiment in Japan and I Marine Expeditionary Force-Forward in Iraq. The FMF pin, as it is more commonly known, is earned after a sailor has demonstrated a prescribed level of expertise in Marine Corps skills and knowledge.

Photo by Marine Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

## ***Intel Conference***

U.S. Army Central G-2 hosted an intelligence conference, attended by units throughout Kuwait and Qatar, July 9. Attendees spent the day discussing the organization and its mission. "The success of an organization begins with the intel products, which the rest of us get behind," said Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, commanding general, USARCENT.



Courtesy Photo

## ***Did you know ...***

***On December 3, 1982, a ceremony was held at Fort McPherson to mark the return to active Army status of Headquarters, Third U.S. Army under the command of Lt. Gen. M. Collier Ross.***

1918-2008

Celebrating 90 Years of Service to the Nation

***"Patton's Own"***

DV United States Army Central 