



# The Mountain View

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December 30, 2008

## ECP 2: keeping VBC safe one vehicle at a time

**Spc. JUSTIN SNYDER**  
MND-C



**CAMP VICTORY** – Every day at approximately 5 a.m., Soldiers make their way to Entry Control Point 2 to begin work. It will be at least another 12 hours before their work is done, and they leave for the night.

The Soldiers working there know their efforts are vital to the mission of every service member and civilian on Camp Victory.

“It’s our job to keep everybody on the base safe,” said Pfc. Diego Valbuena, ECP 2 supervisor in charge of civilians walking onto base. “We do very thorough inspections to insure that nothing that can cause harm will get onto the base. The long days really are not an issue when you’re providing safety.”

The gates open at 6 a.m. and a flood of cars, buses, flatbed trucks and civilians come to the gate seeking entrance to Camp Victory. Some of them are Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army Soldiers, while others are contractors or those looking for work.

No matter who they are, they still get thoroughly searched before entering the base.

“My guys know what they are looking for, and nothing gets by them,” said Sgt. Christopher Cazinha, ECP 2 tier one noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “We are very serious about our jobs, and everybody entering gets the same treatment.”

The ECP is set up in three separate tiers. Tier one is the first gate vehicles and pedestrians enter. Here, five-Soldier teams, including Ugandan security contractors, compare



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

**Spc. Nathan Cramer, Headquarters Support Company, ECP 2 tier one Soldier, inspects the passenger side of a vehicle for suspicious cargo during a routine check.**

a previously submitted matrix with what the vehicle is actually carrying. The drivers, along with local citizens entering by foot, are searched and walk through an airport-like scanner.

If the person entering is female, a female member of the Ugandan team is called to do the search.

After passing the inspection at tier one, the vehicles are escorted to tier two by a Soldier. Here, the vehicles go through the MVACIS, a mobile x-ray machine that scans the entire vehicle and its cargo for any explosives.

Vehicles are searched again by Soldiers and a canine working dog after the MVACIS scan to ensure no threat was missed.

From there, the drivers meet up with the foot travelers to be searched again; this time in a full body scanner that can detect any type of metal.

“All of these steps are taken as precaution,” said Cazinha, a native of Omaha, Neb. “Most of these guys coming on base are

coming on a daily basis. However, the day we get complacent is the day someone gets hurt.”

After passing through the scanner and the second check, the vehicles head to tier three, also known as the badging section. If the person entering is a regular on base, they exchange their identity card for a temporary base access badge.

“We issue out two different kinds of badges,” said Spc. Christopher Rivera, ECP 2 Soldier in charge of badging.

**See ECP, page 3**

# Deployed Soldiers offered Graduate Record Examination testing

SPC. SOPHIA R. LOPEZ  
MND-C



**CAMP VICTORY** – The Victory Education Center plans to administer the Graduate Record Exam Feb. 21. Registration forms must be submitted to the education center by close of business Jan. 2.

The GRE measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills and is required for admission to most graduate programs in the United States.

Officers accepted into the Army Officers Graduate Degree Incentives Program and officers seeking a follow-on Advanced Civil Schooling or Army Educational Requirements System assignment were offered the GRE Nov. 22 at the education center on Camp Victory.

The Multi-National Division - Center G-1 coordinated with the Victory Base Complex education center to administer the GRE, which 40 service members completed in November, just as test sites were being established.

"The significance of being able to test here is that service members are able to take the paper-based GRE at the Victory Ed. Center rather than waiting until they are in the States or travelling to another non-military National Test Center. The

nearest one is located in Kuwait City, Kuwait," said Chris Pittman, of Huntsville, Ala., education services officer for the Fort Benning Directorate of Human Resources, Army Continuing Education System.

"GRE was flexible and worked with us to make this happen," said Pittman, who was stationed at the Victory Ed. Center.

The paper-based GRE is available twice each year at military installations, usually in the fall and mid-winter months. Meeting this timeline was a little difficult for the Victory Ed. Center.

"The original request was denied because we were too late to make the October test date," he said. "Persistence and getting a point of contact at GRE to work with us enabled the success of administering the exam."

All military sites administering the GRE use the paper-based exam. The exception is if a National Test Center is available on the military installation, in which case the test is computer-based. Test control officers administer the exams for Army bases. In the U.S., service members would have to register with a National Test Center to take the GRE.

The November exam was coordinated with VBC military units whose officers needed the GRE as part of their incentive

programs. Other service members were permitted to test on a space available basis. Future GRE sessions will be open to all U.S. identification card holders on a first-come, first-served basis. The education center plans to offer the GRE each time it is administered in the states.

"As the Army Continuing Education System establishes education centers in Iraq, more test sites will also be established," said Pittman. "The next location will be at Joint Base Balad in February or March."

This education center is also a Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support test site and offers a variety of exams such as the College Level Examination Program, DANTES Subject Standardized Tests, Excelsior and certification.

"We also proctor distance education exams," said Pittman. For more information, service members may email the test examiner. For more information about education testing programs, please visit the DANTES website at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

There are still spaces available for the February GRE. Those interested should contact the test examiner at [edtesting@us.army.mil](mailto:edtesting@us.army.mil) for more information.

## Tips for GRE preparation:

- Get a good night's sleep before the test
- Use study materials provided by the Education Center or purchase online at [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) or [www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)
- Study for verbal portion using flash cards
- Testing is long. Prepare for comfort by eating and using the restroom beforehand and dressing in layers for adjustment to the temperature of the testing room
- Study techniques to understanding the exam on the GRE test site: [ets.org/GRE](http://ets.org/GRE)

## GRE

Take the GRE at Camp Victory Feb. 21 at 8 a.m.  
The deadline to register for the GRE is Jan. 2 at 5 p.m.  
Please stop by the Camp Victory Education Center to fill out the registration form.

If you have any questions, please email the test examiner at

[victory.edtesting@us.army.mil](mailto:victory.edtesting@us.army.mil)

## THE Mountain View

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# The Post 9/11 GI Bill: education is power

STAFF SGT. AMBER EMERY  
MND-C



**CAMP VICTORY** – Education is an integral part of a growing and advancing career at all ages.

The improved Montgomery GI Bill, entitled the Post-9/11 GI Bill, is making it much easier for service members to further their education.

As of August 2009, it will provide up to 100 percent of tuition, a housing stipend, a books and supply stipend and several other benefits, all to a percentage determined by the state of residence, number of credit hours taken and number of active duty service days since September 11, 2001.

For Reserve or National Guard service members, the sum of total months of active duty will count toward the benefits available.

Benefits can be applied toward any approved program offered by a school in the United States that is authorized to grant an associate degree or higher. If a recipient transferred

benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserves or the Reserve Education Assistance Program, they may also be used for flight training, apprenticeship or on-the-job training programs and correspondence courses.

The percentages of total combined benefit eligibility are based on the following periods of post 9/11 service and are available for up to 36 total months and up to 15 years after discharge or separation from active duty:

- 100% 36 or more total months
- 100% 30 or more consecutive days with disability-related discharge
- 90% 30 total months
- 80% 24 total months
- 70% 18 total months
- 60% 12 total months
- 50% six total months
- 40% 90 or more consecutive days

The Post-9/11 GI Bill's housing stipend applies to full time or three-

quarter time students and is equal to the monthly amount of Basic Allowance of Housing for an E-5 with dependents. The average housing stipend will be about \$1,100 a month.

The first month of each quarter, semester or term, a lump-sum payment will be administered to help cover the cost of books, supplies, equipment and other educational fees.

Additionally, \$1,000 will be equally dispersed over the academic year for this benefit.

The benefits include: tuition up to the highest established charges for full-time undergraduate students charged by the public institution of higher education in the state in which you are enrolled; up to \$2,000 for one licensing or certification test; tutorial assistance of up to \$100 for 12 months; and the ability to transfer the benefits to a spouse or children.

For more information:

[www.GIBILL.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/programs.htm](http://www.GIBILL.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/programs.htm)

## ECP

From page 1

First time visitors at ECP 2 go through one more process before being given their badge. The ECP Soldiers collect biometrics data for future reference.

"This allows us to become familiar with them and makes things easier on us," said Rivera, a native of Corozal, Puerto Rico. "That way, if they come back again, we already have them in our system and know they are not a threat."

*"We have an important job, and somebody has to do it. I'm glad that somebody could be me."*

– Spc. Nathan Cramer  
HSC, ECP 2 tier one

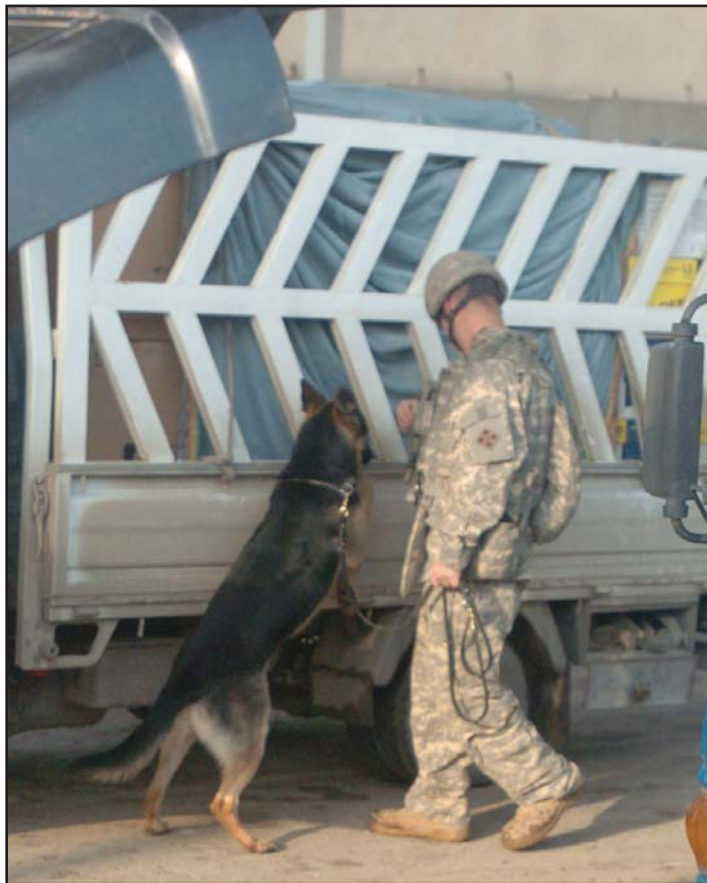
2, they believe that it is well worth it.

"If I was doing another job, I'd still be working all day," said Spc. Nathan Cramer, Headquarters Support Company, ECP 2 tier one Soldier. "We have an important job, and somebody has to do it. I'm glad that somebody could be me."

"The temporary workers who work on base and those delivering supplies get (one), while the IA Soldiers get (another) badge."

He added that even after the biometrics, they still must go through each tier upon arrival on their next trip.

While the process leads to long days for the Soldiers of ECP



(Right) A Soldier with a military working canine inspects a vehicle for explosives at the final stage of tier two at ECP 2 Dec. 24.

Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

## Staff Section Round-up

### EO Corner: I. A.M. Strong Sexual Assault Prevention Program

The Multi-National Division - Center Equal Opportunity Office, along with the United States Army, launched its newly implemented Sexual Assault initiative I.A.M. Strong in December.

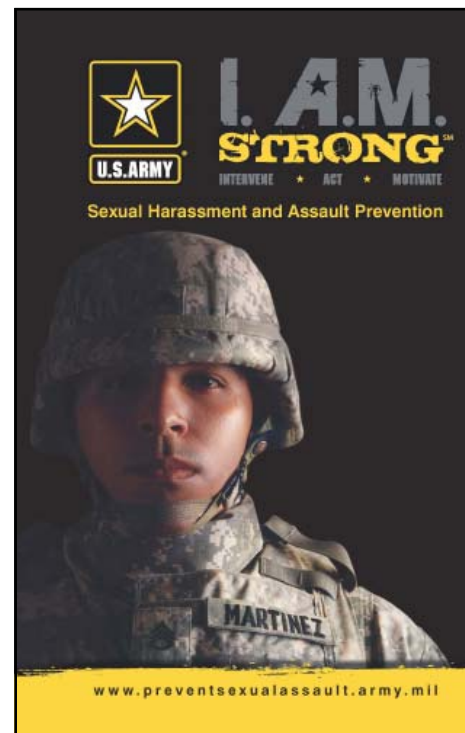
This new proposal was the product that originated from a summit in Alexandria, Va., in September. Army Senior Officials gathered to discuss the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program, in an effort to raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence in the U.S. Army. The I.A.M. Strong program is designed to empower Soldiers to "Intervene, Act and Motivate" to prevent sexual assault.

The Army is committed to the prevention of Sexual Assault, which affects Soldiers within all levels of its ranks. The rate of reported sexual assault cases in the Army in 2007 doubled the rate of our sister services. Within the past seven years, with our Nation at war, more than 1,800 Soldiers have been punished for sexual assault against their fellow Soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, MND-C commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Redmore, MND-C senior enlisted advisor, are committed to ensuring that Soldiers are safe, and that each Soldier endeavor to protect their battle buddies against anyone who presents harm, friend or foe.

The I. A.M. Strong campaign will promote change within the organizational culture, command climate and ideology of the old understanding of sexual assault. This new prevention campaign will reinforce our core values, Warriors Creed and standards of conduct. It will be up to us, Soldiers, and leaders to encourage and train responsible peer-to-peer behavior.

The road to recovery will not be easy, and there will be challenges to our advancement, but we must, for the good of our Soldiers, make this work. Our Soldiers depend on you and me to actively pursue the prevention of Sexual Assault at all costs. Together, we are strong, therefore, I.A.M. Strong.



## Soldier Photo of the Day



Brig. Gen. Jefforey Smith, Multi-National Division – Center deputy commanding general for support, poses with MND-C Soldiers and civilians during his visit to Joint Security Station Jenkins Dec. 25. From right to left: Mary Knaus, command group administrative assistant for MND-C Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division; Pfc. Patton, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment; Spc. Jackie Olvera, G-1 awards and actions clerk, HHC, 10th Mtn. Div.; Spc. Chanel Fimon, G-1 awards clerk, HHC, 10th Mtn. Div.; and Sonia Parker, G-8, Headquarters Support Company, 10th Mtn. Div.

Courtesy photo



# Headline Round-up

## World News:

The president of Somalia's U.N.-backed government, Abdullahi Yusuf, resigned Dec. 29, saying he had lost control of the country to Islamic insurgents and could not fulfill his duties after four years leading the violent and impoverished nation. Within hours of the announcement, mortar shells were raining down near the presidential palace in the capital, Mogadishu. The parliament speaker will stand in as acting president until Somalia can hold elections.

## U.S. News:

Wind gusting more than 60 mph knocked out power to approximately 413,000 Michigan homes and businesses Dec. 28 as temperatures dipped back into the 20's and 30's. Strong winds also gusted across upstate New York, reaching 75 mph in the Buffalo area and toppling power poles and trees. Nearly 16,000 customers were without power in five western and northern counties. In New York City, residents relaxed as temperatures reached the mid-60's Sunday.

## Sports News:

Of all the teams that remained in contention for a playoff berth entering the final weekend, the Eagles had the lowest odds. Meanwhile, Dallas knew all week it just had to win to get in. However, after the Oakland Raiders upset the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and the Houston Texans beat the Chicago Bears, Donavon McNabb and the Eagles overcame daunting odds to capture the final NFC wild-card spot with a dominating 44-6 victory over the Cowboys Dec. 28. "A lot of people counted us out and said it was over," McNabb said. "We continued to stay focused on what the plan was. Today was a total team effort. Things worked out well, and we're playing next week."

## Entertainment News:

The Warner Bros. studio said Dec. 24 it has canceled plans to release its blockbuster Batman movie, "The Dark Knight," in China, citing "cultural sensitivities" surrounding the film. The studio, a unit of Time Warner Inc., did not specify what Chinese audiences or censors might find objectionable about the movie. "The Dark Knight," which was released in July, is the top-grossing film of the year with more than \$996 million in worldwide ticket sales, including over \$7.5 million in Hong Kong, according to the website Box Office Mojo.

## Quote of the Day

*"The difference between the old ballplayer and the new ballplayer is the jersey. The old ballplayer cared about the name on the front. The new ballplayer cares about the name on the back."* — Steve Garvey

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today's puzzle,  
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## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING IN THE MILITARY?



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

"I joined when I was 19, so just having a job and the money," said Sgt. Louis Cobarruviaz, of Ponterville, Calif., mechanic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Expeditionary Sustainment Brigade.



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

"With the way the economy is, the job security is the best," said Spc. David Toothman, of Greenup, Ill., mechanic, Company B, 40th Expeditionary Sustainment Brigade.