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Soldier Edition

January 29, 2009

An issue dedicated to soldiers' stories

Civilians in theater being all they can be

STAFF SGT. AMBER EMERY
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – “It would be inconceivable to think we could complete our mission without the great support of all the civilian employees and volunteers that are out here with us,” said Col. David Clark.

“We certainly wouldn’t have been able to achieve the results that we have achieved without their dedication and skills they bring to the fight,” continued Clark, Multi-National Division – Center deputy commanding general.

Since the beginning of the conflict here, civilians worked alongside service members on the battlefield facing many of the same dangers and hardships as their coworkers in uniform.

“I think that even from the very outset of conflict, having those types of technicians to fix helicopters, weapons systems and technical equipment made us realize it is an important asset to have with us,” said Clark, a native of Lakeland, Fla. “It gets our equipment repaired and back to us quickly, and it also helps to train our own mechanics and repairmen so that they can make these repairs.”

Civilians help to satisfy the huge logistical requirement to support our Soldiers. There are more than 300 civilians currently working in MND-C.

“Civilians contribute to everything from doing laundry, to feeding, to making sure the repair parts get here, to making sure the lights come on when you turn the light switch on,” Clark said. “In order to do that with just Soldiers, the size of our Army would be so large it would be beyond



Courtesy photo

Jalal Ahmad, mechanic with Qatar International Trading Co. on Victory Base Complex, changes the oil on a vehicle brought into the shop Nov. 21.

supportable.”

According to Clark, many of these civilian employees are former Soldiers, either retired or having left the service but wishing to contribute in a different way. They bring very valuable skills to the table.

“I have been to Afghanistan three times with 10th Mountain Division, and now I am here in Iraq. Actually this is my seventh deployment and the fourth since I retired,” said Raymond Dalinsky, MND-C safety director and retired sergeant major. “I have been shot at more as a civilian than I did in 24 years in the Army. Our job is just as dangerous as the Soldiers who work beside us. Really, you could say we just didn’t retire.”

There are many different types of civilian workers in MND-C; appropri-

ated and non-appropriated Department of the Army and Department of Defense civilians as well as contractors.

“The ones most people think of when they think of civilians is the Department of the Army or Department of Defense civilians, and those are normally called general service employees,” Clark said.

“Generally, back at Fort Drum, the DA employees work at the Commons or Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and are considered non-appropriated fund employees; and the type you see processing identification cards are the appropriated fund employees, but they are all government employees.”

See CIVILIANS, page 3

From the recruiting station to stationed overseas

PFC. TERENCE EWINGS
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER — Sgt. 1st Class Charles Washington, a career counselor or attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, mentors Soldiers and puts them into a position for future success.

Washington is a recruiter assigned to the 3rd Army Medical Recruiting Command. He volunteered to deploy with the Long Knife Brigade as part of an individual augmentee program, which allows a recruiter to go overseas and work as a career counselor during a combat tour.

"I volunteered for this program so that I can share my experiences with the men and women that have questions about deployments" said Washington.

"Being a career counselor is somewhat similar to recruiting. You talk to the Soldiers and help them make a decision with their best interest in mind."

The former ammunition specialist from Lewisville, Ga., found his passion in recruiting when he was selected to serve at his first recruiting station in Youngstown, Ohio.

"It was hard at first, but I think recruiting came to me naturally," said Washington. "Taking a young man or



Photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Washington and Master Sgt. Keith Green, career counselors assigned to the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., discuss reenlistment options at the brigade's retention office on COB Adder Nov. 10.

woman and teaching them to be a Soldier gives me a good feeling"

He speaks of his Soldiers with pride and shows it by wearing his recruiter's ring, which came with his Glen E. Morrell Award for excelling at recruiting.

"Washington has been a great asset to the team, and he's very successful at what he does" said Master Sgt. Keith Green, the head career counselor as-

signed to the Long Knife Brigade. "He counsels Soldiers just like we do and helps them with their future plans."

After this deployment, with his seven years of recruiting experience, Washington plans on going back to a recruiting station and becoming a recruiting trainer so that he can share his knowledge with future Soldiers and their families back home.

10th Mountain Div. Salsa Band in concert

Lions Den, Camp Slayer 9 p.m. Jan. 31

THE Mountain View

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793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449



Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

CIVILIANS

From page 1

As there are several types of GS employees, there are also numerous types of contractors working in MND-C.

"There are various different kinds of contractors from Kellogg Brown and Root, who we see here a lot on Victory Base Complex; contractors that run and fix our computers; contractors that give us training, whether it's in pre-deployment or post deployment activities and other types of people and companies that are hired to deliver services," said Clark.

Generally, those that work outside Victory Base Complex on a regular basis, such as safety personnel, will be in a military style uniform such as Army Combat Uniform or Desert Battle Dress Uniform.

Other civilian personnel such as contractors do not.

"There are policies, of course, for the proper wear of the uniform by DoD civilians," said Clark. "Ulti-

mately . . . the local commander can, within certain parameters, set the uniform wear policy in order to best meet mission requirements."

The mobilization and deployment process for civilians depends on their type of employment. If it is a DA civilian or a contractor from the United States, they conduct training that ensures they know how to wear protective gear and how to defend themselves if required; they will also need some of the same type of training Soldiers receive, in terms of understanding cultural awareness.

"There is definitely some training involved," said Clark. "We want them prepared as much as they can be for the type of environment in which we put them."

No matter the type or position of a civilian worker in the theater of oper-

ations, they are all undergoing a majority of the same adversities as the service members beside them.

"They are also away from their families and enduring some hardships as well as us, but they are doing it for the right reasons," said Clark. "They believe in the cause, and they believe in what they are doing here."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

Raymond Dalinsky, MND-C safety director and a native of Springfield, Mass., reviews safety reports within MND-C's area of operations at his desk in the headquarters building Nov. 14.

Awarding Soldiers brings sense of accomplishment

SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY
MND - C



CAMP VICTORY — The process of getting to pin on an award is more than just the commander having an award ceremony and signing the certificate.

The personnel section, awards, in the 10th Mountain Division Headquarters processes paper work for awards Soldiers receive during their deployment.

"Our brigades and battalions submit their award request up to us," said Sgt. Wendell Yearly, acting non-commissioned officer in charge, personnel section, awards, 10th Mountain Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "We look through them and make sure we have the documents needed to put in a packet for their Soldiers."

Making sure Soldiers are awarded for their accom-

plishments in the field is rewarding for him, but he doesn't like processing paperwork for Purple Hearts because he has to read about how the Soldier was killed or wounded, Yearly said.

The awards section has processed 60 Purple Hearts since May for the entire division, Yearly said. He said that is 60 too many because it's sad to him when a fellow Soldier is wounded.

"I don't like seeing Purple Hearts because it means someone on the team has been killed or injured in combat," said Pfc. Brandon Redmon, awards clerk, personnel section, awards, 10th Mountain Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "I haven't processed many of them."

He likes putting together packets for Soldiers getting awards they have earned without being in harm's way. He said it's good to see the higher number is for Sol-

diers doing a good job.

"The most common awards we process are the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal," Yearly said. "A lot of people complain that the award they receive is based on rank when it is really based on responsibility, and commanders do a good job basing it on responsibility."

Processing awards he has never done before is exciting for Redmon because it allows him the chance to learn about them. He said he is always looking for an experience that teaches him something. On an average day, the awards section processes about 30 award packets, but as many as 128 packets have been completed in a day.

"At the end of the day, there is a good sense of accomplishment that we did something for someone we may never meet," Yearly said. "We have helped them get what they earned."



Photo by Spc. Darryl Montgomery

Pfc. Brandon Redmon, awards clerk, personnel section, awards, 10th Mountain Div. HHC, sets out the medals the section processes. Some of the medals prepared include The Purple Heart, The Bronze Star, The Meritorious Service Medal, The Air Medal, and The Army Commendation Medal.

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Word Search

World Currencies

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Ariayry	Kuna
Baht	Kwacha
Balboa	Kwanza
Birr	Kyat
Bolivar	Lempira
Boliviano	Leone
Colon	Lilangeni
Dalasi	Lira
Denar	Litas
Dinar	Loti
Dirham	Manat
Dollar	Metical
Dram	Naira
Escudo	Nakfa
Euro	New Cedi
Forint	New Dong
Franc	New Kip
Gold Cordoba	New Shekel
Gourde	Ngultrum
Guarani	Ouguiya
Guilder	Pataca
Hryvnia	Peso
Kina	Pound
Koruna	Pula
Krona	Quetzal
Krone	Rand

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Rial	Shilling	Tolar
Ringgit	Som	Vatu
Riyal	Sucre	Won
Ruble	Syli	Yen
Rufiyaa	Taka	Yuan renminbi
Rupee	Tala	Zloty

AROUND THE
COMMUNITY**Lion's Den**

Jan 29th
Pool class @ 3 p.m.
Karaoke @ 8 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

Jan 29th
Full Body Aerobics @ 6 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

Tuesdays
God & the Military @ 7 - 9:30
p.m. three weeks
Wednesdays
Guitar Lessons @ 7 p.m.
Fridays
Catholic Hour @ 6:30 p.m.

Slayer

Jan. 31
Slayer 10k run at 7 a.m.
Assemble at MWR south by
6:30-6:45 a.m. for sign in.

Feb. 7

R & B group "FRESH" is
performing on Slayer's gazebo
in front of the fishbowl gym,
@ 7:30 p.m.

Victory

Jan. 30
The U.S. Air Force band will be
performing @ 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4
Swing Dance Lessons @ 8 - 10
p.m. Building 51 MWR

Striker

Jan. 29
The U.S. Air Force band will be
performing @ 7:30 p.m.

Cropper

Jan. 31
The U.S. Air Force band will be
performing @ 7 p.m.

Trivia of the Week

Which range of hills runs in a north-south direction through the central part of England?