



## 311th Soldiers pack footlockers for much anticipated return home

**By Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin**  
311th Sustainment Command

**W**ith time drawing near for the redeployment of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), its troops packed excess personal and military gear into footlockers and loaded them into the unit's sea/land containers destined for Los Angeles on a chilly day in early January.

Some Soldiers were surprised to find customs waiting to inspect their footlockers - especially those who tried to go "AWOL" by hiding

themselves in their footlockers.

In an early effort to bring the 311th troops one step closer home, members of 311th ESC Headquarters and Headquarters Company and U.S. Navy Customs teamed together to make the four day scheduled event seamless, said Master Sgt. Levi Kelly.

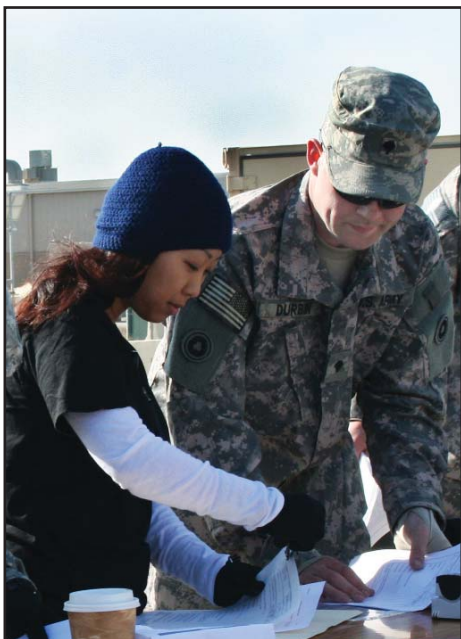
1st Lt. Jia Yu, the HHC executive officer, oversaw the whole operation to make sure all the troops had free footlockers and were notified of the the turn-in times, which were arranged alphabetically.

From the individual troops showing up on time to people like Sgt. Co-

nan Gross typing the master packing list for the 20 foot *connexes* to those who brought doughnuts for the work crew ... all helped to make it a painless process, said Pvt. 1st Class Darren Soto of HHC.

Supply personnel pitched in as well to include Staff Sgt. Alan Estrella and Sgt. William Merrick to take account of the military gear and also to help with the blocking and bracing in order to secure the loads.

After a couple more turn-ins of minor equipment this month the 311th ESC will near a successful tour of duty.



Spc. Neal Durbin (right) ensures Sgt. Diana Vallesteros' packing list is in order so that she can have her footlocker inspected by customs.



(Above) Staff Sgt. David Parker discovers Staff Sgt. Shawn Dennis. (Below) Customs ensures no banned items go undiscovered.



(Above) 1st Lt. Jia Yu, HHC executive officer, takes a sip of hot coffee during his walking back and forth checking on the packing process.

# C OMMANDER'S CORNER

## Continue the Great Work

By Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr.  
311th Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)



Log Warriors, 2009 is moving along at a steady pace and our tour of duty is coming to a close. I would like to take this time to commend and applaud you on a job well done.

I am thankful and proud of everyone's support and effort you provided the 311<sup>th</sup> ESC Mission Accomplishment.

It's amazing the things we have done during this past year – We distributed over 35,000 tons of ammunition, we deployed and redeployed over 25 BCT, 6 CAB, 7 Division HQs and 7 Coalition Forces Brigades.

We've delivered over 200M gallons of JP8, 75M gallons of DF1 and DF2, and 16.5 M gallons of MOGAS. We tracked over 100 types of high visibility retrograde items. We provided oversight of 150 contracts.

We hosted the inaugural Kuwaiti Appreciation Day.

The Command entered theater with 31 trained combat life savers and qualified six more after arrival.

To further support the mental health and well-being of Soldiers, the Command trained 20 Soldiers in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills.

There are so many more accomplishments I could list, but I must share the newsletter with other sections.

Throughout the deployment you constantly sought ways to

improve operations and increase efficiencies.

Due to mission growth and expansion, some of you were requested to move to different positions, different work locations, and even to different camps to support the mission and you accepted these changes wholeheartedly.

You worked tremendously in a joint environment and the support you provided to our Coalition Forces was outstanding. Not only were you able to accomplish mission requirements, but you also excelled in the extracurricular activities offered throughout the deployment.

We had people that participated in unit level volleyball, basketball, flag football, soccer, softball and numerous running events and you presented great sportsmanship and camaraderie in all the events. Throughout this deployment Strong Teams and Bonds have been formed.

I have seen with my own eyes, personal and team growth and I am proud of all the achievements and accomplishments you have done in support of the 311<sup>th</sup> ESC Mission. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter but don't run towards it, continue with the steady pace.

Too many times a unit loses sight of the mission when they are close to redeployment and I don't want the 311<sup>th</sup> ESC to fall into that trap.

Continue the great work you are doing so we can end our mission on a good note and get everyone home safely.

To date, you have exceeded all expectations. Thank you for a job well done and remain focused on mission and safety.

Log Warrior – Sustain the Fight!



**311th Sustainment  
Command (Expeditionary)**

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# Continue to lead from the front

By Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Ayala  
311th Sustainment Command (Exp.)

311th ESC Soldiers, the holidays have passed, the New Year is here and changes have been made. Some Soldiers have celebrated another Birthday, made plans for Marriage, completed their education or improved their APFT score.

But whatever you have put your hearts and minds to, whether it was something to improve yourself as a Soldier or for the mission as a team, you did it together with each other

as Leaders, as Soldiers and as professionals.

All of you have brought to the 311th ESC your own attributes, skills and devoted commitment in making your Unit the best ESC in the United States Army. All of you have made a difference, all of you have made changes, changes that have impacted the lives of others, changes that have improved and set the tone for others to emulate. Changes brought by you to improve our fox hole.

It is Soldiers like you that

lead from the front and never look back at what was but look forward to what will be. You are the leaders that will continue to uphold and live the Soldiers Creed and Army Values. This year is the year of the NCO, but also this is the year of the 311th ESC Soldiers and leaders.

Continue to make changes, continue to lead and continue to Soldier 24/7. I implore that you do this by looking out for one another, Hooah!



**Congratulations to all the new NCOs who were inducted on Jan. 30 to the NCO Corps. at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait during an official ceremony to celebrate their future leadership.**





## Cheerleaders and Lonestar support the troops



Michael Britt, lead guitar, and Cody Collins, lead vocalist, of the country music group Lonestar, perform for troops on the Zone 6 stage at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 20.



Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders dance for the troops on the Zone 6 outdoor stage at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Jan. 28 with much fanfare.



Lt. Gen. James L. Lovelace, USARCENT Commanding General, stands (center) with the Zone 2 Dining Facility cooks at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Jan. 25 after presenting the Christmas 2008 Best Decorated Winner for Small Category plaque to Sgt. 1st Class Sharen Calvin (holding plaque) on behalf of all those who helped make it possible.

# Who was Molotov and What Did He Drink?

**By COL Wendy A. McGuire**  
**311th Sustainment Command**  
**Deputy Chief of Staff, G5**

When we arrived in Kuwait, we were hit by a barrage of new military terms. For many of us, it was as if we had to adjust to a new country, new job, and new colleagues all while learning a new language. At times, it seemed that a sentence was not uttered without an acronym or unfamiliar military phrase. Before we return home, let's spend a moment to consider that we are now fluent in this terminology. What was foreign and strange is now a second language.

Although our friends and families will not be familiar with most of the language we learned here, there are many interesting origins behind the military phrases and words that we use commonly at home. Read on and you may learn something new about these old familiar phrases.

In 1941 American military etymology lovers discovered with horror that the abbreviation CINCUS (Commander-in-Chief, US Fleet) implied an invitation to the enemy to 'Sink Us'. The abbreviation was immediately changed.

How did the word meaning a 'ditch' (trench as an excavation) came to mean 'forced landing by aircraft on water at sea'? During WWII British aircraft returning from missions in Germany had to fly over the English Channel. In the sailors' lingo the word 'channel' has a familiar synonym, 'ditch'. Hence, the English Channel was called the 'Ditch'. When aircraft made emergency landings in the Ditch, they were 'ditched'.

What does the French word 'sabot'-a shoe with a thick wooden sole- have to do with sabotage? French workers used to show their protest against bosses with knocking with their sabots. Sometimes sabots were thrown into machinery to damage it. Hence 'saboteurs', and acts of 'sabotage'.

What about the rank of lieutenant? It means "deputy", from the French lieu-tenant "place-holder" (in the sense of replacement). Through the Age Of Sail, naval lieutenants were 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. according to their seniority. Army lieutenants, on the other hand, were always deputies of a higher rank: thus, "Lieutenant" meant an Army Captain's deputy, Lieutenant-Colonel the Colonel's deputy, etc. In the mid 1800's, Naval and Army Lieutenants formed

into their current ranks: Lt jg & Lt, 2nd & 1st Lt, etc.

When you issue a challenge, you are throwing down the gauntlet: an expression derived from the ancient knightly custom of throwing the gauntlet from a knight's armor onto the ground in front of the one he was challenging. The obverse, "taking up the gauntlet", meant accepting a challenge and still does.

Have you ever thought it was cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey? This expression originated from the days of sail and cannons, when ready rounds were kept next to guns by means of a brass plate with depressions in it to hold the cannonballs which was known as a "monkey". Extreme cold weather caused the brass to contract slightly, which pushed the cannon balls off the plate.

The expression "Showing your true colors" has a military origin. Military forces often concealed their flags of identity or regimental banners until close enough to engage the enemy by surprise, at which time they "showed their true colors", revealing their national identity and establishing whether their intentions were friendly or hostile. In an even older usage: knights often covered the crests and heraldic devices on their shields with a cloth cover when traveling abroad. When encountering someone of unknown intentions, showing your "true colors", i.e., uncovering your identifying personal markings on your shield, revealed your identity and allegiance to the other persons.

Here are word origins about our uniform: Khaki was a uniform color first introduced by the British Indian Army's Frontier Force Regiment while campaigning in the North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan at the turn of the 19th century. Tired of sticking out like sore thumbs in their bright regalia, the commander got his troops to rub dirt on their uniforms. Dirt or "khaak" in the local language gave the color its name: Khaaki in local dialect, "khaki" for the west. It was so successful, within a decade it became the standard color for all British and Colonial forces. Helmet was derived from the diminutive of the original knight's helm, which was all metal and covered his entire head and face and often the neck as well. The smaller version only covered the top and sides of the head, leaving the face and neck bare from the ears down. Thus a "little helm."

Decimate is likely the least understood word

originating from the Roman Legions. As punishment for cowardice in battle or some high crime, the Legion commander could order a unit "decimated", i.e., every tenth man was executed. Even highly educated military commanders today say that a unit which has suffered heavy casualties has been "decimated", and sometimes "decimated to the last man". This is nonsense- the maximum losses for a truly decimated unit are 10% - every tenth man.

Molotov cocktail: This "cocktail for Molotov" was so named by the Finns while fighting the Russians in 1940. The Russians were dropping bombs on Helsinki at the time, but Russian statesman Molotov claimed that they were only dropping food and drink to their comrades. This equation of food and drink with bombs quickly resulted in the black-humorous term Molotov breadbasket for an incendiary bomb and then Molotov cocktails for a gasoline-filled bottle with a slow burning wick that is ignited before the crude incendiary is thrown; when the bottle hits the ground it bursts and the ignited gasoline spreads over its target.

Here is a surprise- spoils of war: The spoils here are valuable goods, not ruined things, and take their name from the Latin spoliū, "the hide stripped from an animal." Thus anything stripped from a country after it lost a war became known as "spoils".

And here is one of my favorites:

Turn a Blind Eye, meaning to deliberately overlook something. The British Admiral, Lord Nelson, was blind in one eye. In 1801, Nelson was second-in-command during a naval attack on Copenhagen. The commanding admiral signaled an order to cease fire. Rather than obey it, Nelson held his telescope up to his blind eye, turned toward the admiral's ship, and told a subordinate, "I don't see anything." The attack continued, and the Danish eventually surrendered.

If the above has whetted your appetite for word origins, you might be a "vervivore". Check your library for one of the many books available on military and other word origins, and remember your Standard English when you return home. The kids or Mom and Dad are not going to be briefing D/ROPS at the BUA at 1400.

Thanks to several internet sites for definitions, and to Richard Lederer, the original Vervivore, author, punster, and friend.



# MILITARY SPORTS

## Enlisted Work Harder, Play Harder Jan. 22

Organizational day brings fun as Enlisted outperform the Officers of the 311th ESC



In an impromptu game Spc. Neal Durbin blocks Sgt. Hannah Diediker as Staff Sgt. Alan Estrella and her teammate Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Cornett prepare for a rebound. (Right) Diediker runs to the outside for a pass from Cornett.



The official basketball game between the “youthful” enlisted Soldiers and the Officers created a great show for the large audience. As hard as the “senior citizens” played they couldn’t beat the faster and more agile members of the enlisted ranks. The Officers did fair better, however, in the egg relay race since that race pitted sections against sections instead of green versus gold. The Command Section took first place in the egg relay race.





(Left) 1st Lt. Joseph Parker of G8 overtakes Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Chan of SJA as they both try to catch up with Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Ellis of G2 in an egg relay race. Despite their tremendous effort these sections were unable to take first place. The command section took first place in the egg relay.



(Above) Maj. Belinda May serves a fast ball to the enlisted side of the court. Volleyball proved to be one of the closest calls for the enlisted group.



(Above Right) Sgt. Herbert McKenzie shows off his scraped elbow after the Officers pulled the anchor and his team into the dirt. The first and only loss lit a fire under the enlisted who punished the officers with a vengeance. (Left) The enlisted heave and hoe as they slowly but surely wear down the officers. (Right) Staff Sgt. David Garibaldi (far left) roots for the enlisted as the officers try to hold on to the rope as it blisters their soft hands.



# Retirees to pass the baton

By Capt. Peter J. Amara, HHC  
Commander, 311th Sustainment  
Command (Expeditionary)

We all had so much fun at the company's organizational day on Jan. 22 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait ... especially where changing of batons in the relay races saw the officers of the company out run the enlisted Soldiers in a couple fo the races. But now its time for some of these officers with many years of service to pass the baton to the next generation of leaders.

Over the next couple of months Soldiers from the 311th ESC and 387th TTOE may or may not get the chance to watch the passing of the baton at our Home Station ... this time at a retirement ceremony. As these leaders pass on the baton to their successors, will they be ready for the challenge? Will they be ready to "take the

ball and run with it?" Filling the gap that the retirees leave behind warrants something for successors to start thinking about.

The 311th ESC has eight officers and the 387th TTOE has one officer who will retire soon. We will not focus on how old or how gray these leaders are, but between them, they have a combined service of 236 years. Yes, you read it right. 236 years! With that said, it's been an honor for me as a company commander to have served with such dedicated and patriotic Soldiers.

Everyone in their family has sacrificed for them and their chosen profession. For those who started or spent some of their career on active duty (AGR or Regular Army), they have moved more times than they could count. Their kids have made and given up more friends than the aver-

age kid will ever make, and so have their spouses. The sacrifices that their families made to allow these leaders to pursue their military career are unparalleled. Their families have truly been the supporting cast. So to the families, I say Thank You for giving us the opportunity to know and serve alongside your loved ones.

Log Warriors, please join me and take a minute out of your day to say, "Thank You for your service" to Col. Joel Mjolsness, Col. Nancy Bergeron, Col. Wendy McGuire, Col. James Bookwalter, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Milton Herring, Lt. Col. Rex Rodwell, Lt. Col. Richard Bjorkquist, Capt. Kenneth Morrison, Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Dyess, and their families.



**Let's not forget about softball and how once again, the enlisted continously brought the fans to their feet ... to win it all.**

*Log Warriors* is the monthly command information newsletter of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense, according to the provisions afforded by Army Regulation 360-1. The opinions and views expressed in *Log Warriors* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) public affairs officer. Point of contact for questions and submissions is Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin.





# Troops in Kuwait watch the Presidential Inauguration



**A large group of servicemembers gathered around a poster board of President Barack Obama after watching his swearing-in ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Jan. 20. (Left) Sgt. Richard Silva pours Sgt. 1st Class Michael Aquino some bubbly grape juice to celebrate.**

## REVISIONS TO THE SERVICE-MEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

**By Lt. Col. Edward Bean**

The SCRA provides a number of significant protections to servicemembers regarding debts they incurred before being called to active duty. These include: staying court hearings if military service materially affects servicemembers' ability to defend their interests; reducing interest to 6% on pre-service loans and obligations; requiring court action before a servicemember's family can be evicted from rental property for nonpayment of rent if the monthly rent is \$1,200 or less; termination of a pre-service residential lease; and allowing servicemembers to maintain their state of residence for tax purposes despite military relocations to other states.

Recent changes to law effect the SCRA by:

(1) Extending the application of a servicemember's right to stay court hearings to administrative hearings. It now requires a court or administrative hearing to grant at least a 90-day stay if requested by the servicemember (increased to 9 months until 31 December 2010). Additional stays can be granted at the discretion of the judge or hearing official. The court must appoint counsel to represent the servicemember if the court denies the request for an additional stay.

(2) Extending the period of the 6%

interest rate cap on mortgages and mortgage-like debt to one year after the end of activation/mobilization and clarifies the rules on the 6% interest rate cap on pre-service loans and obligations by specifying that interest in excess of 6% per year must be forgiven. The absence of such language in the SCRA had allowed some lenders to argue that interest in excess of 6% is merely deferred. It also specifies that a servicemember must request this reduction in writing and include a copy of his/her orders.

(3) Modifies the eviction protection section by precluding evictions from premises occupied by servicemembers for which the monthly rent does not exceed \$2,400 for the year 2003 (an increase from the current \$1,200). The Act provides a formula to calculate the rent ceiling for subsequent years.

(4) Extends the right to terminate real property leases to active duty soldiers moving pursuant to permanent change of station (PCS) orders or deployment orders of at least 90 days. This eliminates the need to request a military termination clause in leases.

(5) Adds a new provision allowing the termination of automobile leases for use by servicemembers and their dependents. Pre-service automobile leases may be cancelled if the servicemember receives orders to active duty for a period of 180 days or more. Automobile leases entered into while the servicemember is on active duty may be

terminated if the servicemember receives PCS orders to a location outside the continental United States or deployment orders for a period of 180 days or more.

(6) Adds a provision that would prevent states from increasing the tax bracket of a nonmilitary spouse who earned income in the state by adding in the service member's military income for the limited purpose of determining the nonmilitary spouse's tax bracket. This practice has had the effect of increasing the military family's tax burden.

(7) Adds legal services as a professional service specifically named under the provision that provides for suspension and subsequent reinstatement of existing professional liability insurance coverage for designated professionals serving on active duty. While the SCRA specifically names only health care services, legal services have been covered since 3 May 1999 by Secretary of Defense designations. The SCRA permitted such a Secretarial designation, but this revision will clarify this area.

(8) Extends the prohibition (through 2010) of sale or foreclosure of mortgage property or other real or personal property that secured a debt obligation after the end of military service from 90 days to 9 months.

Contact your Legal Assistance attorney concerning your questions. They're there to help both the servicemembers and the family members.

# Close Calls and Near Misses

**By Mr. Rickey Payne**  
**311th Sustainment Command**  
**Safety Director**

The 311th ESC Policy for reporting Close Calls has been published. The policy states: "A close call is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage - but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage. Although human error is commonly an initiating event, a faulty process or system invariably permits or compounds the harm, and should be the focus of improvement." It further provides a process in which to report these incidents.

This is a great policy, but I want to bring home the reality of what Close Calls and Near Miss information can provide us as we prepare to redeploy.

I'm sure some have experienced the "other" driver who was talking on the cell phone and nearly caused an accident! Or how about the driver putting on make-up, changing the channel on the radio, getting that last drop from the refreshment container who nearly took off part of your car and day!

I just want to say, even though no



close call report was made on these incidents, we've experienced them and must learn from them. Driving is a full time job.

Please remember when you are home and behind the wheel that you are the only safe driver on the road; everyone else is an accident waiting to happen. So watch out for erratic drivers and give them a wide berth or allow them to go around you.

Close calls and near misses don't only happen on the highway.

We've been in a very structured environment over the past year. We've had Safety, the Fire Department, HHC and NCO's to help mitigate risks concerning our electrical, personal, housing, work and everyday safety.

Remember the trip on an electrical cord or near misses with yard work? Probably more than one close call there! As for home or the work place, one is limited only by how long he or she takes the time to think on any given risk. So think about the risks of everything and anything in your immediate environment. Don't let your guard down here or at home.

Another thought for our safe return. While PT is not normally thought of as a safety issue, I submit to you that it is! A good PT regimen will prevent numerous kinds of personal injuries. It is a fact that most back problems are the result of poor exercise of the back muscles. If you think of it, you will soon come to the conclusion that PT has very large safety benefits. Again, as we redeploy we will be on our own to keep up our PT regimen. It's not only for your safety, it's also for your health, family and friends. So take the time and live long, healthy and safe!



(Left) Lt. Col. Leda Rozier, the 311th ESC civil affairs officer, prepares a humanitarian shipment at Camp Arifjan. With the help of Staff Sgt. Freddy Zuniga and the 1st TSC they transferred 1,100 unassembled wheelchairs for Iraqis from one 40 foot sea/land container to another Jan. 27. The containers are held under different contracts. The blue container had to go back to the shipping yard while the grey container will go as far north as Mosul, Iraq. Most notably the children's hospital in Basra will receive 500. They were donated by Free Wheelchairs Mission from Irvine, Ca. Over the last ten months the 311th ESC civil affairs team received an average of six 40-foot containers of humanitarian supplies per month from non-profit groups in the United States. The supplies have included anything from medical to school supplies for Iraqis to care packages for U.S. troops.