

Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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Service members inducted to NCO Corps

Story by
Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs

Sixty junior enlisted service members with United States Forces –Iraq experienced the pride of being inducted into the Corps of NCOs at the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Dec. 29.

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Liven-good, III Corps Special Troops Battalion command sergeant major, welcomed the inductees to the event that highlighted the importance of the first sergeant, achievements of NCOs and the Soldiers' rite of passage.

"It's all about the history and traditions

— See Induction, Page 4



Photo by Lee Craker, USF-I Public Affairs Office

From left, 1st Sgt. Brian McCutcheon from Company A, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, and 1st Sgt. Rutilio Guzman from Co. B, STB, III Corps, light the white candle, which represents the purity of deed, thought and competence displayed by the NCO. During the III Corps Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony, Dec. 29 at Camp Victory

Army Reserve chief visits Soldiers in Iraq

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. April Davis
116th Garrison Command, USD-C

Lieutenant Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, and his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, visited deployed Soldiers Dec. 26 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

Members of the Army Reserve, serving in Iraq on VBC, gathered for a town hall meeting at Camp Victory to ask the USAR leadership questions and discuss issues affecting them.

"The Army, today, can't accomplish what it does without you," Stultz told the reservists during the town hall meeting. "I tell everyone who will listen that you are a national treasure.

"As I travel around the world, the question I get asked most often is, 'How have you built such a capable and professional reserve force?'" Stultz said. "The fact that other countries want to create a reserve force modeled after you is a testament to you and your dedication."

Stultz discussed promotions with the

reservists, explaining how strength, training requirements and the location of where the Soldier lives in relation to a Reserve unit with an available slot all play a role in determining eligibility.

"We are in the process of shaping the force, trying to make a better formation," Stultz said. "I need to put the right people with the right ranks and the right job skills in the right locations."

During the meeting, Schultz advised deployed Soldiers to keep up on the

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Chaplain's Corner

New year is time for challenges, resolutions

Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Cozzens
TF Med 807th Medical Brigade

Can you believe it? A new year has now begun.

When a new year begins, we immediately think of all the activities that we will be doing this year. There is so much to look forward to.

Many of us will return to our families this year, and be reunited with them. This will be an exciting year for so many of us.

Every year, many of us make decisions to improve our lives in some way. We refer to these decisions as resolutions.

Maybe you have already made your resolutions for the new year. If you have not made your decisions, be sure to do so. There are so many resolutions that can be made. Remember also that whatever resolutions you decide to make, they must be completed.

We cannot just give up on them and say to ourselves that we could not do it.

We face so many challenges in life. When we were growing up as children

and adolescence, it was a challenge because there were so many things we had to learn.

Keeping ourselves motivated through school was a constant challenge.

Making a decision to enter the military and having to endure the training that was



at times very demanding. The challenges continue today with our military deployments; staying in contact with our families as well as enduring the separation from them can be emotionally very difficult.

Something what helps me is my relationship with God. In Psalms 46:10, the psalmist writes: "Be still and know that I

am God."

One of the resolutions that we can make this year is to accept the challenge that the Psalmist writes. To be still is in itself a challenge.

It is a challenge because everywhere we go, we are in a constant condition of speaking to others, listening to others, watching a program, listening to music, accomplishing any type of work, and spending time with our friends or families. We just cannot seem to take any time "to be still and know that I am God."

If you have not made your resolution yet, the Psalmist offers one to you. This resolution is to take quiet time every day to spend with God.

It is in those quiet hours when we can come close to him, speak to him, and he will speak to us and work out his will for our lives. Life has so many challenges, and this is a challenge. When we take this precious quiet time to be with God, he can give us the strength and endurance to accomplish any challenge that we may have in this new year.

SARC Smarts

What are your rights as a sexual assault victim? (AR 27-10):



- Be treated with fairness, dignity and respect
- Be protected from the offender
- Be notified (present at) court proceedings
- Confer with the prosecutor
- Receive information about the court-martial process
- Seek damages
- Have privacy rights respected

Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



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Kashafa Cup: U.S., Iraqi troops strengthen partnership through sport

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs

U.S. service members and Iraqi soldiers netted a successful partnership event, competing on the soccer pitch during the Kashafa Cup, Dec. 26, at Camp Victory.

A team of U.S. military service members competed with the Iraqi Army in the Kashafa Cup, a soccer event designed to recruit volunteers for the Kashafa program and build on the partnership between the service members from the two nations.

Kashafa is local scouting group that has volunteers working directly with Iraqi children from the ages of 5 to 17, teaching the scouts sports, teamwork, and leadership.

The event helped raise awareness of the program and let U.S. service members know there are volunteer opportunities available to assist with the scouts.

The event was arranged by Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Zelonis, a logistics petty officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, with Richard Hurley the Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor for United States Division – Central.

Zelonis said, that through events like this, the U.S. and Iraqi service members



Staff Sgt. Tristen Frazier , Company B, XVIII Airborne Corps shakes hands with an Iraqi Soldier after the game.

can increase their relationship through other sports in the future.

“It’s great to have an event like this. In the future I hope we can have other sports like basketball and softball added to the Kashafa program,” said Zelonis.

“This game bridged some relations between American Soldiers and Iraqi Soldiers,” he said.

“I think it shows that while we’re over here trying to accomplish the same mission, we still enjoy the same things like sports and entertainment as they do,” said Sgt. Ryan Clark, lead DNI analyst, Cryptologic Services Group - Baghdad.

“I believe that it sheds a little light on the fact that we’re not all that different,” he said.

Electrical Fire Safety

Never overload extension cords or wall sockets.

Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas.

Replace all worn, old, or damaged appliance cords immediately.

Look for products that meet the UL standard for safety when buying electrical appliances.

Do not trap electric cords against walls where heat can build up.

If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg, 305th MPAD

1st Sgt. Christopher Reeves from Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, pins the sergeant rank on Elsamani T. Galdouf.

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of the U.S. Army. In the past there has been some form of recognition that went along with leadership. Becoming a noncommissioned officer in the Army is a rite of passage,” said Livengood.

Livengood said, the ceremony gives the young NCOs a better understanding of the significance of becoming a sergeant.

“This event signifies a Soldier from being follower to becoming a leader. It’s the most significant promotion in the Army,” said Livengood. “There’s a huge difference between a specialist that takes orders and a sergeant that gives orders,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Fox, a operations NCO with Joint Operations Directorate, United States Forces – Iraq, said that taking part in the induction ceremony is all about mentoring the junior enlisted Soldiers.

“Inducting a young NCO in this ceremony makes me proud to be an NCO because I am given the opportunity to mentor these younger Soldiers to make them better leaders.”

The ceremony re-enacted the history of the NCO rite of pas-

sage that traces its roots back to the army of Frederick the Great from the 17th century. Before a Soldier was recognized as an NCO, they were required to stand four watches, one every four days.

First Sgt. Christopher Reeves, from Headquarters Support Company, III Corps STB marched two Soldiers to the front of the rotunda for guard mount and posted them to watch over the fallen comrade’s table and the NCO Arch.

Specialist Elsamani T. Galdouf, a combat interpreter with HSC, III Corps, one of the individuals posted to stand the symbolic four watches during the ceremony. After the completion of the four watches, he was then promoted to sergeant.

At the first watch, Spc. Allen Perry, a military police officer with Company B, XVIII Airborne Corps, offered bread and a cup of juice to symbolize brandy as an offering that Soldiers gave to the soon-to-be promoted comrades. Perry then read the Soldier’s Request, which asks newly promoted NCOs to respect, train and prepare junior Soldiers when they become sergeants.

On the second visit, Staff Sgt. Christopher Fox gave Galdouf a drink that represents the gift of beer and tobacco. Fox read the NCO Creed to Galdouf, emphasizing the role of NCOs as “The Backbone of the Army.”

Reeves was the last to approach for the third watch with a Soldier who relieved Galdouf from his post. He spoke to Galdouf about being an NCO and offered him a glass of juice symbolizing the gift of wine and a tin plate of tobacco.

After their drink, Reeves brought Galdouf to the NCO Arch symbolizing the fourth and final watch and promoted him to



Photo by Lee Craker, USF-I Public Affairs Office

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Livengood, command sergeant major, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, congratulates Sgt. Emily Fannin from Company B, STB, III Corps, after her induction into the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg, 305th MPAD

(Left) Seven first sergeants stand in front of 60 junior NCOs representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines during the NCO Induction ceremony at the Al Faw Palace Rotunda. The first sergeants named their inductees during the ceremony and marched them to the NCO Arch as a symbol of the final step toward their induction to the NCO Corps.

sergeant, making him the first Soldier to march through the arch as an NCO during the ceremony.

After Galdouf's promotion, Livengood called on the first sergeants who named their NCO inductees and marched them to the NCO Arch representing the line of authority and final symbolic step toward induction into the NCO Corps.

The newly inducted NCOs said this event was a meaningful

way to begin their career as NCOs.

"It feels great to be inducted to the NCO Corps, it's definitely one of my highest achievements in life," said Galdouf.

"It feels good to be an NCO. I look forward to leading junior enlisted Soldiers to be outstanding NCOs some day," said Sgt. Wayne A. Saunders, a information system operator analyst with HSC, III Corps.



Photo by Lee Craker, USF-I Public Affairs Office



Photo by Lee Craker, USF-I Public Affairs Office

(Above) Spc. Allen Perry with Company B, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps (right), recites the Soldiers Request to then Spc. Elsamani Galdouf from Headquarters Support Company, STB, III Corps, one of the guards providing overwatch during the NCO Induction Ceremony.

(Left) Sgt. Maria Duenas from Company A, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, stands in the NCO Arch as her name is called and she is inducted in the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers.

UNSUNG HERO



Sgt. John M. Benedict is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and received a Certificate of Achievement from Brig. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Forces - Iraq, at Al Faw Palace Dec. 31. Benedict received the certificate for his exemplary performance while serving as a detainee operations paralegal in the USF-I Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

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changes taking place with promotion requirements, including structured self-development courses, and to take advantage of online education opportunities available through Army distance learning courses and civilian institutions.

"A lot of changes are moving forward right now and the train is moving fast," he said. "Keep up on the changes, so when you get home from deployment you are not behind your peers who stayed behind."

Schultz also reminded the reservists to become familiar with the Army's new physical readiness training, which replaces previous physical fitness training manuals. Other topics discussed at the town hall meeting included health benefits for reservists when they return from deployment, the retirement system and civilian employment opportunities.

"Employers in America are starting to wake up to what a national treasure you are," Stultz said. "Only a small percentage of the American population meets all of the educational, physical and background

requirements to serve in the military. Civilian employers face the same challenge. The criteria we look for to enlist Soldiers is the same criteria employers look for in their employees."

Stultz said medical companies, hospitals and law enforcement agencies, among many other top companies, are lining up to join the Army Reserve Employer Partnership Initiative.

It is not just out of patriotism, but because of the skills that Soldiers bring to the table.

"You have a different set of values, work ethic and integrity that employers can appreciate," he said.

Stultz and Schultz also presided over several award presentations and promotions during the town hall meeting. They



Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve (center right), promotes Sgt. Jody Schnurrenberger, a behavioral health professional with 883rd Combat Stress Control, to the rank of staff sergeant Dec. 26 on Camp Victory. The USAR leadership team visited deployed Army Reserve units throughout Iraq during the holiday season.

promoted three Soldiers, administered the oath of enlistment for two Soldiers re-enlisting and formally recognized eight Soldiers with certificates of achievement.

After the town hall, the chief and sergeant major ate lunch with Army Reserve Soldiers in the dining facility at Camp Liberty.

What makes a good NCO?



**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Alexander Starr**

*Command Group Tactical
Communication*

USF-I Command Group

*"Someone who is always willing
to learn and listen to the junior
enlisted service members."*



**Staff Sgt.
Michael Young**

*DOIM Special Project NCO
HHC, 116th Cav. Brigade*

*"Someone who can learn from
their mistakes."*

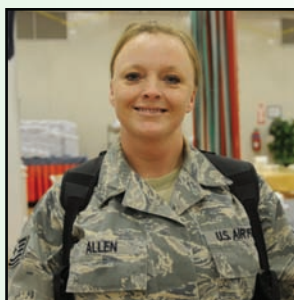


**Sgt. 1st Class
Robert Lynn**

*Communications Electronics
Maintenance Technician*

40th ESB

*"Someone who lives by the
Army values."*



**Tech. Sgt.
Katheryn Allen**

Administrative NCO

USF-I J5

*"A good follower and doesn't
ask others to do things they
won't do."*



**Sgt. 1st Class
Charlotte Banks**

*MWD Program Manager
USF-I PMO*

*"Somebody that takes initiative
and leads from the front."*



**Master Sgt.
Jacque London**

Clinical Operations NCO

Task Force 807th Med

*"Someone who cares for the
Soldiers under them."*

VBC Facility Operating Hours

Sports Oasis DFAC
Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sandwich Bar open 24 hours
Sunday Brunch 7:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Education Center
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Camp Victory Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Paul Smith Gym
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

USF-I Unit Mail Room
Customer Services/Mail Call:
Daily 3 - 6 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Golby TMC Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Websites

Check it out:

USF-I Web pages
www.usf-iraq.com
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mnfiraq](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq/)
[www.twitter.com/
USF_Iraq](http://www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq)

Facebook -
United States Forces-Iraq
U.S. Army III Corps
Phantom Battalion
III Corps Fort Hood

Celebrating Christmas on Camp Victory



(Right) Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ira Houck, assigned to III Corps, (left) and Chaplain (Capt) Johnnie Elder, assigned to Task Force C-RAM, prepare to sing "Silent Night" during the United States Forces – Iraq Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Hope Chapel on Camp Victory, Dec. 24. About 100 service members gathered at the chapel for the service.

Photo by Lee Craker, USF-I Public Affairs Office



Photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg, 305th MPAD

Service members pack the Sports Oasis Dining Facility at Camp Victory for a traditional Christmas meal. The DFAC personnel prepared the special meal with all the holiday favorites.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg, 305th MPAD

Elf, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Stallings, a contracting officer representative for Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, speaks with a service member during the Christmas meal at the Sport Oasis Dining Facility.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg, 305th MPAD

Petty Officer 1st Class Katherine Savant hands a stocking to a Soldier at the Raider DFAC on Camp Liberty, Dec. 24. Savant received items from citizens of Lockport, N.Y. and packed stockings for service members on Victory Base Complex.