



-PATCH

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION NEWS

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BASRAH, IRAQ

JANUARY 31, 2011

CENTCOM CSM Visits USD-South Troops

Story by Sgt. David A. Bryant
36th Infantry Division

The senior enlisted leader of U.S. Central Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, visited the troops of U.S. Division-South Jan. 27 during a review of the operations of forward assets in Iraq.

U.S. CENTCOM, commanded by Marine Gen. James N. Mattis, is headquartered in Tampa, Fla., and is responsible for command and control of the Middle East, to include ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Grippe met with the commanding general and command sergeant major of USD-South, Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin and Command Sgt. Major Wilson L. Early, to discuss the transition of U.S. military operations to the Department of State. He then took a quick tour of Contingency Operating Base Basra to meet with troops and have lunch with noncommissioned officers and Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division and its subordinate units.

“One thing I’ve learned over the years, is you can’t tell the difference between the three components of the Army; active duty, the National Guard and the Reserve,” Grippe said. “I usually have the National Guard and Reserve Soldiers stand



Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, U.S. Central Command, speaks to United States Division-South Soldiers at a luncheon Jan. 27. The top enlisted Soldier for USCENTCOM, the command element for all units in the Middle East area of operations, spoke about the pride he has in the job National Guard and Reserve Soldiers do for their country and his respect for the sacrifices they make leaving their civilian jobs to mobilize for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan for Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant, 36th Infantry Division)

up when I go anywhere, and about a third stand. I like to tell the active-duty Soldiers; ‘Still want to make jokes about one weekend a month?’ We wouldn’t be able to do this

without our Citizen Soldiers.”

He also spoke about the sacrifices unique to the Guard and Reserve.

(Cont’d on Pg. 2)



Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, U.S. Central Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson L. Early, U.S. Division-South, pose with Soldiers from the units comprising USD-South. The senior enlisted leader from USCENTCOM visited the troops as part of a tour to review the operations of forward assets. (Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant, 36th Infantry Division)

(From Pg. 1)

“You’re out there working at your medical center, or your farm, your business and your various jobs when you get that mobilization letter,” Grippe said. “You just drop everything, leave your family and go. And you do just as good if not better a job than the active-duty troops. The active duty has the benefits and amenities of a military installation to go back to; you don’t always have that when you go home and right back to your jobs.”

For the troops who lunched with the command sergeant major, hearing him praise the job performance of Guard and Reserve Soldiers was a huge justification of their efforts.

“I admit it puts my head in the clouds hearing that from a command sergeant major so high up in the chain of command,” said Pfc. Adam Travis, an air traffic controller with A Co., 36th Division Special

Troops Battalion. “I agreed with all of what he said about the Guard. Me, I’m not an air traffic controller in my civilian job, so I had to relearn everything from (advanced individual training) when I came out here.”

Travis said he really enjoyed the opportunity to meet the USCENTCOM command sergeant major.

“It’s always neat to meet members of the command and actually put faces to the names,” Travis said. “That’s probably what he likes doing when coming here; putting faces to names and seeing the people who work for him. I had the impression he really didn’t want to leave.”

The senior enlisted leader took time to speak to each of the Soldiers during the luncheon, finding out where they were from and what they did for their civilian jobs.

“My hat’s off to you; I really respect you,” Grippe said. “I don’t know if I could be a ‘part-time’ Soldier when it comes to the sacrifices you make.”

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES DIVISION-SOUTH
36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
COB BASRAH, IRAQ
APO AE 09374**

Dear Soldiers, Service Members, and Civilians of U.S. Division-South,

As many of you already know, two U.S. Soldiers were killed and a third was wounded Saturday, Jan. 15, when “an individual wearing an Iraqi uniform” opened fire on them during a training exercise in the northern city of Mosul. Our hearts and prayers go out to their loving Families, and their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

The evidence to date strongly suggests that this tragic incident was an act of premeditated murder, committed by a violent extremist who had

penetrated the ranks of the Iraqi Army. It should not diminish our faith in the professionalism and dedication of the Iraqi Security Forces, nor should it cast a shadow of suspicion on those in the ISF with whom we are privileged to work as part of our vital Advise, Train, Assist and Equip mission in support of Operation New Dawn.

The murder of these two Soldiers does, however, remind us of the need for heightened vigilance and situational awareness. Over the past few years there has been much progress in the security of our Area of Operations, but violent extremist organizations are still out there, looking for new ways to harm American service members and Civilians. Do not become complacent in your duties. Stay alert and vigilant at all times. We are all battle buddies, and we all have to look out for each other.

Most of all, thank you for the great work you are doing on behalf of our Nation and the Iraqi people. It’s an honor to serve with you.

“In Spite of Hell!”

EDDY M. SPURGIN
Major General, USA
Commanding



Cultural Experts Ensure Smooth Operations

Story by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

BABIL, Iraq – Since 2003, military units in Iraq have been challenged to learn the cultures of the populace around which they operate. Many of those cultural considerations must be made before successful missions can be conducted.

In southern Iraq, across the five provinces where the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment currently operates, the work of a very small, but invaluable, group of people have paid dividends in the military's efforts to understand the needs of Iraq's people.

The members of the Human Terrain Team on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu provide socio-cultural information and atmospherics on tribal alliances

to the complex networks within local populations. The team's research allows the regiment to make informed and effective decisions before they act.

"We are very approachable for the local people," said Dr. Tanya L. Thompson, team leader for the Kalsu HTT and a native of Saddle Brook, N.J. "The information we gather lets units know where they are successful and where improvement is needed."

The current team has been operating out of COS Kalsu since 2006. They have worked with a number of different units but have maintained a continuity of success through each transition.

The team focuses on atmospherics to get a clear picture of what is happening in a certain area. When a commander

gathers information through internal sources, he may be told that a small neighborhood receives electricity for 12 hours a day. The team members will speak to the people themselves, and discover it is only two hours a day. Knowing the reality of the situation provides a focus point for mission development.

The team also helps units understand certain cultural practices that influence justice and political systems.

"It really depends on the nature of say, a criminal act, as to who people will go to when there is a problem," Said Mounim, a cultural analyst for the HTT said. "They will usually go to whoever will provide the swiftest solution. Who that may be, whether it is the police, army, or maybe the local sheik, depends on the location. It is different in different areas."

Historically, the team has had a direct impact on many projects around the five provinces. Their research assisted in the planning for the Wasit province Fish and Meat Market, the Hillah Courthouse project, and the Salman Pak Bridge.

The Salman Pak Bridge was a major success that stemmed from the team's work in the area. It had been earmarked by United States Forces-Iraq to be removed. After the HTT met with and interviewed local people near the bridge, it was discovered that the bridge served as a main route for Iraqi Security Forces and USF and allowed

(Cont'd on Pg. 5)



BABIL, Iraq – Curtis Smith, a social scientist with the Human Terrain Team at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, originally from Jonesboro, Ark., listens as a man explains land issues, Jan. 20, 2011. The HTT team engages local populations in southern Iraq addressing a wide array of issues to provide feedback to military units for future planning purposes. Photo by US Army

(From Pg. 4)

quick access to a medical clinic nearby. The USF-I commander was not aware of these facts. After the teams' report, the commander was able to make an informed decision based upon the needs of the people.

"The HTT is truly invaluable," said Maj. Joe Hammond, the regimental information and operations officer and a native of Fort Leavenworth, Kan. "They help the Regiment understand a situation from the view of the people. By getting the perspective of the populace, we can give the Iraqi government and its officials a better view of themselves, as well as the security and civil services they now provide."

Now, as other units once did on this base in southern Iraq, the 3rd ACR looks to the HTT to provide accurate information on the concerns of Iraqis in the area.



BABIL, Iraq – Dr. Tanya Thompson, team leader of the Babil Human Terrain Team at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, a native of Saddle Brook, N.J., hands out paper and colored pencils to students, March 2010. The HTT conducts socio-cultural studies and uses their skills to engage local populations. This information is provided to commanders so that informed decisions can be made prior to missions. Photo by US Army

This is essential to the success of today's Advise and Assist Brigade concept. As units like the 3rd ACR set the conditions

for a stronger Iraq, the HTT is there to help ensure that each decision made is an informed one. 🇺🇸

"Dude, where's my photo?!?!"

Looking for that really cool photo or video you just *know* Public Affairs took of you? Here's how you can find it!

On NIPR computers; click on the "Start" button, and then on "run." Type in: \\10.65.20.61 and click "okay."

Double-click on pao_photos; click on the folder of the year, then on the folder of the month, the photo was taken. Each event that month will have its own folder with two sub-folders in it. One sub-folder will contain the package we submit, and the other will have all the raw photos. Video packages are coming soon to the same place, so keep checking!

Sometimes it takes a few days to get all the photos and video completed, so be patient. Our broadcast and print journalists load everything onto the shared drive once it is approved!

Want your family and friends to see just how awesome you look in full gear? They can find you on the internet!



www.facebook.com/pages/36th-Infantry-Division



www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



pao36id.smugmug.com

Just For Fun!

Across

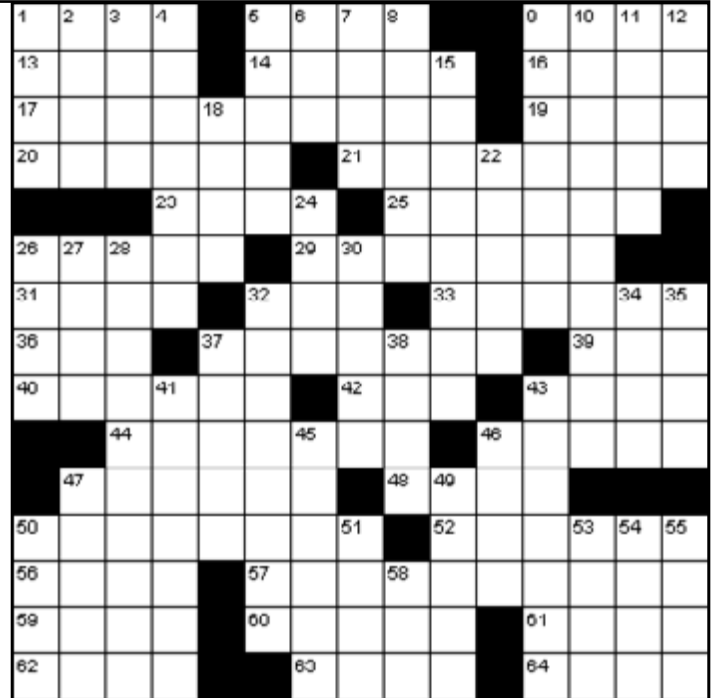
- 1** Rascals
5 Liberal pursuits
9 Chowder morsel
13 "Fiddlesticks!"
14 Remedies
16 San ____ (Riviera resort)
17 Darling
19 Milky gemstone
20 Dinner course
21 Cantankerous
23 City near Phoenix
25 Snaps, crackles and pops?
26 One of the United Arab Emirates
29 Starfleet officer Picard
31 Any minute now
32 Delivery vehicle
33 Cut
36 News station
37 Flower Power era
39 Latin lover's word
40 Hired killers
42 Musical sense
43 Seethe with rage
44 Filmgoer's purchase
46 Underwater detection system
47 Shows to be false
48 Individual performance
50 Trust
52 Be a Nosy Parker
56 Superior's inferior?
57 Not mass-produced

59 Grandstand section

- 60** Sgt. Bilko
61 Noted first name in jazz
62 Take a risk
63 Witnesses
64 Not e'en once

Down

- 1** "____ dixit"
2 Cut, as grass
3 Bard
4 Civil War general
5 ____ and pains
6 Strong-scented herb
7 Snare
8 Sister of Venus
9 Rich king
10 Irish fairy
11 Collect in abundance
12 Infiltrator
15 More intense
18 Adolescent
22 1977 U.S. Open champ
24 Trojan War hero
26 Polish-American author Sholem
27 Musical Mitchell
28 Vermont's capital
30 Calculator key
32 Director Minnelli
34 Jane Austen classic
35 Active sort
37 Old photo tone
38 Actors McKellen and Holm



- 41** "Tartuffe" dramatist
43 Male servants
45 Academy Awards
46 Disparaging remark
47 Soviet secret police chief 1938-53
49 Woodwind instruments
50 No longer active: Abbr.

- 51** "____ kleine Nachtmusic"
53 Raconteur's offering
54 Aimless
55 Approaching
58 Be deceitful

* Answers next week!

l r h m p o r n d s a l l a d
 a r o i h e a l s l o k u q d
 n n u i l g n n t g b s u l o
 l s s y m e s q u i t e t s n
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 Austin
 Beaumont
 BigSpring
 Brownsville
 CorpusCristi
 Dallas
 Edinburg
 ElPaso
 FortWorth
 Galveston
 Garland
 Houston
 McAllen
 Mesquite
 Midland
 Odessa
 RoundRock
 SanAntonio
 Tyler

Got an Idea?

Tell us!

Let us know if you
 have any good ideas
 on what you would
 like to see in the
 T-Patch.
 Send an e-mail to:
 36IDPAO@gmail.com
 today!





Headquarters Snapshots: Who We Are.



1st Lt. George Strable – The aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. William “Len” Smith, deputy commander for maneuver, U.S. Division-South, comes from Hutto, Texas. He has racked up a total of eight military occupational specialties, beginning his career as a private in the infantry in 1998.

Strable received his commission in January 2009 and has been on active guard-reserve status the last seven years.

The owner of a 2009 Super Glide Custom Harley-Davidson, Strable enjoys biking 300-mile rides with other Guard members back home.

“It’s like therapy on wheels,” said Strable. “(You can) reflect on (things). Just relaxing, letting the wind blow.”

The Business Management major plans to open his sports bar after retiring from the National Guard.

His second time around the block in Iraq, Strable said he is fortunate to be in his current position.

“We are privy... because we get to sit in with the bosses (general officers) and see the process behind the decisions they make, it’s unbelievable.”

Sgt. Alexsandra Leal – The Headquarters Support Company operations noncommissioned officer comes from Austin, Texas.

With eight years in service, Leal began her career as a nuclear biological chemical specialist with the Oregon National Guard before moving to Texas in 2004.

Back at home, Leal has been on active-duty orders and holds a job as an office procurement administrative personnel clerk with the Recruiting and Retention office.

Leal said she enjoys playing softball, a sport she has played since her freshman year in high school.

“I’m a pretty big fan of softball,” Leal said. “I like to play in the women’s league, anywhere in the outfield. I also play kickball in a women’s league.”

While on deployment, Leal said she has enrolled in two online classes with Central Texas College and may pursue a Criminal Justice degree.



Spc. Leticia Moreira – This Houston native is a paralegal specialist with the Judge Advocate General who enlisted in the Guard June 2008. As a subcontract administrator in the private sector for the last six years, Moreira said she averages working 40-to-60 hours a week, leaving very little time for play.

For the last two years, Moreira has attended the University of Phoenix campus in Houston, working towards her bachelor’s in military management and a minor in business management.

Being deployed has yet to slow the specialist down. Moreira said she has enrolled at the Basrah Education Center and remains focused on her goals.

She enjoys working out, listening to music and has recently added reading to her entertainment list.

Moreira is fairly new to the Guard and is on her first deployment. She hopes to learn more about the military and acquire additional skills.

Safety Slice

During our deployment in Iraq, whether in your office or in your combat housing unit, one of the biggest challenges you may face is voltage.

It's important to understand that electrical voltage in Iraq is 240 volts, so if you plug in your made-in-america electronic device you may get a big surprise.

Most fires in USD-S are due to overloading the electrical wiring.

Whether you just got to Basra, or you are about to redeploy home, one of the greatest threats to our safety is complacency.

Following these simple safety tips can help mitigate senseless injuries or loss of life to USD-S personnel.

Leaders should supervise and inspect all work and living areas to ensure Soldiers are not engaged in unsafe habits or procedures.

Let us all come together this New Year and resolve to live and work in a safety conscious environment.

STAY ALERT...STAY ALIVE!



In Spite of Hell!



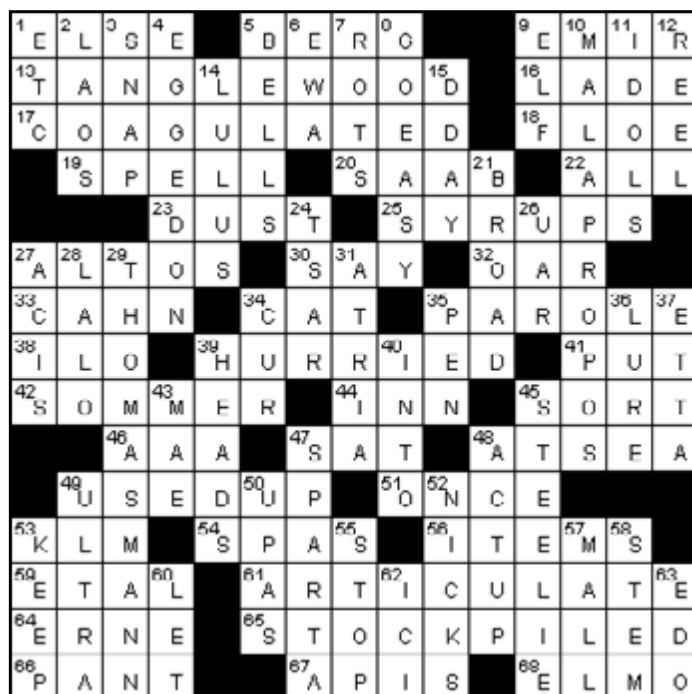
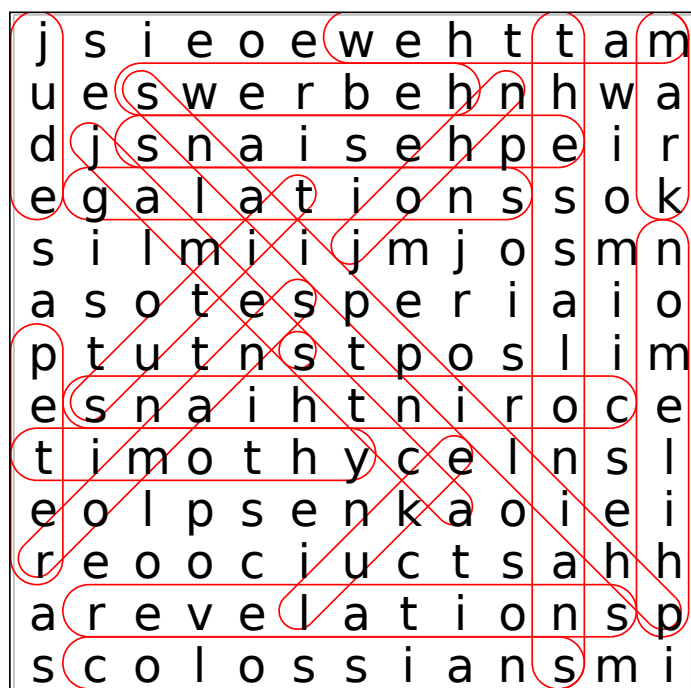
- **DO NOT** overload your power strips. Most power strips are rated for 15A or 1500 watts of power.
- **DO NOT** place cords under carpets, doors, or other locations that could cause abrasion or damage to the cords.
- **DO NOT** daisy chain your power strips.
- **DO NOT** use portable heaters in any living or work area.
- **DO NOT** use candles, incense, or any other flame producing items.
- **DO NOT** use hot plates or cooking items in your rooms. Cooking is PROHIBITED in your rooms.
- **DO NOT** tamper with or relocate fire extinguishers. They should be mounted and unobstructed at all times.
- **DO NOT** smoke inside any building.
- **DO NOT** have an open flame within 50 feet of ANY facility.

**Ultimately, we are all responsible
for our own safety.**

- **DO** turn off lights, TV's, and power strips when not in use.
- **DO** unplug all non-essential devices when you leave. i.e. hair dryers, laptops, game systems, rechargeable items.
- **DO** replace non-approved Chinese power strips with Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Conformance European (CE).
- **DO** remove hanging items from your light fixtures.
- **DO** ensure your smoke detectors are working properly.
- **DO** plug your refrigerators, coffee pots, and microwaves directly into a wall outlet, not a power strip.
- **DO** report any unsafe work or living conditions to your chain of command.



Last Week's Puzzles: The Answers



36th Infantry Division Mail Call

Hours of Operations:
1000 - 2000

Out bound certified/official mail: 1000 - 2000

Mail pick up hours:

Mail Handlers: 1000 - 1200
1400 - 1600

Individual pick up: 1000 - 2000

Please coordinate with your company orderlies to pick up your mail

If your address doesn't look like this, it could take a while to get your mail!

Last Name, First Name

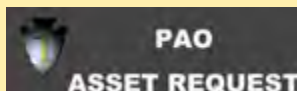
— Co., 36th ID

Unit # 124

APO AE 09374

Don't use your rank!

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Here's how to get it!

Go to the home page on the **SIPR** computer web portal. Click "Effects" on the drop-down menu, and scroll down to Public Affairs.

Then click on the PAO Asset Request button!

Just follow the directions and submit your request, Monday through Friday, during normal business hours. We'll get back to you within 24 hours!

DOLLARS AND

SENSE



By Staff Sgt. James M. Roach
36th Inf. Div. Finance Office

Staff Sgt. Roach sits down with the Public Affairs Staff of the 36th Inf. Div. to help dispel a few myths about federal taxes and the rules of how they apply while in theatre. Don't forget that if this section doesn't answer all of your questions, please stop by the finance office during duty hours to get the answer you need.

Combat Zone Tax Exclusion means I get all the money I pay in taxes back, right?

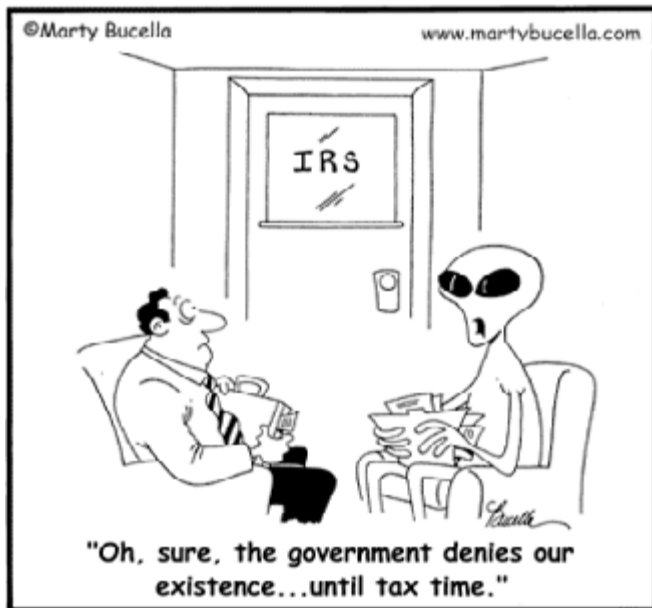
WRONG--you still have to pay Federal Income Contribution (FICA) tax. You do get your Federal and State (if applicable) taxes back.

I am really busy here and have no time to file taxes. Is there a way to file for an extension?

Yes! Taxes can be extended for a period of service in the combat zone, plus 180 days after the last day in the combat zone. You will need to submit a Form 4868 either electronically or by mail. So technically, if you preferred, you can wait until next year, 2012, to file your taxes.

What about my spouse, does my spouse have to file even though I was approved for extension?

No. According to the IRS, your spouse is included with your extension, so you can still file together if you so choose.



Ever notice
'The IRS'
spells
THEIRS??
Weird,
huh?

Hey Staff Sgt. Roach -- I thought I get my Federal Taxes back. So why didn't I get ALL my tax withholdings back?

I assume you are an officer and make more than the Sergeant Major of the Army. Well, that's the deal they came up with. EVERYONE making more than SMA Preston (highest rate of enlisted pay), then that money over the threshold is taxable. I'm only the messenger.

Wait a minute -- I still got my federal taxes taken out. My LES says so...

Right you are. Your taxes were taken out. But patience; you will get them no later than the 1st or 2nd week of the following month.

My Uncle Rockefeller gave me a substantial gift this past year and I have my own business; does the deadline extension provisions apply to taxes I would have to pay on those?

Yes. In fact, you can apply postponement provision to estate, gift, employment, and excise tax returns. However, the provision only applies to employment and excise tax returns on individual, sole-proprietors in a combat zone.

2010 tax statement availability in myPay

Retiree 1099R.....Available
Reserve Air Force, Army, Navy W-2.....Available
Civilian employee W-2.....Available

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Marine Corps Active & Reserve W-2.....Available
Savings Deposit Program 1099INT.....Available
Active Duty Air Force, Army, Navy W-2.....Available