

# Victory Times



**Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story**

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## Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visits troops in Iraq



Photo by Spc. Paul Holston

U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to service members during an all-hands call on Camp Victory, Iraq, April 22. The gathering included an awards and reenlistment ceremony, as well as a question and answer session between Mullen and the service members.

Story by Spc. Charlene Apatang Mendiola  
USF-I Public Affairs

During a two-day visit to Iraq, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Michael Mullen, awarded joint service medals to four service members and a civilian. He also administered the oath of reenlistment to eight Soldiers in the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, April 22.

Mullen met with service members and civilians around Iraq to address concerns and answer questions. He also met with U.S. and Iraqi leaders to obtain updates on the mission.

“It’s a very special treat to be here with you today,” Mullen said to those assembled.

During his speech in the palace rotunda, Mullen acknowledged that the mission and the personnel carrying out the mission are more important

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## Experts share skills, knowledge through professional development

Story and photo by  
Spc. Charlene Apatang Mendiola  
USF-I Public Affairs

“Willingly render loyal services to superiors, subordinates and peers in every organization of which they are members. Teach other people in a way the effectively expand and

perpetuate the scope of their technical competence.”

This is just a short excerpt of the Army warrant officer creed. With pride and dedication, the “chiefs” recited this creed, by which they continually live, during their professional development on Camp Victory, April 22.

This professional development entails a two-fold purpose, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jasper Lee, food service advisor, United States Forces – Iraq. “First, it is to bring junior and senior warrant officers together to meet and interact. Secondly, it is to

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# Chaplain's Corner

## Self Sufficiency

By Chaplain (Capt.) Mohammed Khan  
USF-I Muslim Chaplain

From birth the human being struggles to be self-sufficient or to gain the necessary resources to be self-sufficient. This desire of self-sufficiency led man to learn, explore and achieve numerous resources and discoveries. Today, with our knowledge and technical skills, we have reached into space and even placed men on the moon. The question, however, remains: are we as human beings self sufficient? The answer is clearly no. We experience helplessness both individually and collectively, from our infancy to old age. We depend upon people, resources, and most of all upon our Bountiful Creator and Guardian Lord for guidance and sustainment.

The recent earthquakes and following tsunami in Japan along with other disasters in the past have proven that we as humankind are often helpless and powerless. We are always in need of divine help and guidance to overcome our needs. No nation was as well prepared as Japan was with technology, talent and skills to deal with an earthquake but as the saying goes: the best laid plans of mice and men often go askew, and this most advanced and rich nation was brought to its knees and cried for help.

The Holy Quran described the ultimate power and ability of God in chapter 14, V-19, "Have you not seen that God created the heavens and the earth in truth and justice? If he will He can remove you and replace with

new creation." We can only observe the situation with our limited vision. Due to the fact that we are humans our knowledge cannot comprehend God's universal plan. He holds in his hands all that is good and he has ultimate power over all. Our insufficiency in reality is a mercy and blessings from our Guardian Lord. This reminds us to refer to him for his guidance, mercy and help in all aspects of our life. His doors are always open and it is up to us to reach him for our needs big or small. It is true that every creature in heaven and on earth seeks what they need from him and his shows of splendor are on display every day, every hour and every moment. The door of our Guardian Lord is open so do not hesitate to ask for his guidance, help or mercy.

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build a network of skills shared by experienced chiefs."

Professional development like this, allows warrant officers access to tools and information that are not readily available in a combat environment, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Sonji Moss-Clyburn, asset visibility chief with USF-I J4 sustainment and intelligence section.

During this period, the warrant officers shared news on promotion board for new and promotable chiefs, the do's and don'ts in a packet, and proper protocol when writing letters of recommendation.

Since the establishment of the warrant officer rank on July 9, 1918, chiefs, as they are often referred to, are viewed as technical experts, combat leaders, trainers, and advisors in the Army.

"Warrant officers are experts," Lee said. "They are managers of complex systems."

Warrant officers fall between commissioned officers and enlisted members in the military rank structure. These highly skilled, single-track specialty officers have five distinct ranks and levels from Warrant Officer 1 basic level to Chief Warrant Officer 5 master level.

As prior noncommissioned officers, chiefs have a unique

perspective on mission execution and Soldier's needs. Their function as liaisons to commissioned officers allows these individuals to perform as middle managers.

"We are the middle piece that keeps the officer and the NCO corps aligned," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ramona Campbell, human resource technician, USF-I command group. "We are the bridge that maintains the Army's overall structure."

Chiefs are defined as competent and confident warriors, innovative integrators of technology, dynamic teachers, and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. Where did you get this?

Considered subject-matter experts, these officers provide valuable skills, guidance, and expertise to commanders and organizations in their specific field.

Warrant officers generally get the respect because of their level of expertise, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jacque Nixon, executive officer for USF-I J1. "We bring expertise to the fight. Because we have the ability to be self-starters, we find the answer for any complex question."

Warrant officers are here to uphold command philosophy, execute command intent and advise command to ensure success in a mission, Lee said.

"Because of the frequent change in this environment, I am always asked for expert advice," Moss-Clyburn said. "It helps my leaders and the people I work with everyday. They can't get that information from anyone but a warrant officer."

As the best corps in the military, chiefs have that ability to keep Soldiers in sync, Campbell said. "I can get things done with this position. I am able to acknowledge an issue, voice it and correct it."

Extensive professional experience and technical knowledge qualifies warrant officers as role models and mentors for junior officers and NCOs.

Throughout their meeting, the chiefs displayed their management and leadership skills. They exhibited actions of taking charge, responding efficiently to questions and effectively engaging in in-depth discussions.

In order to grow and advance in the Army, it would behoove any Soldier to associate and interact with a warrant officer to gain that wealth of knowledge and experience, Lee said.

"We are here to help Soldiers of every rank," Nixon said.

Hosting this professional development is to ensure that every warrant officer remains effective, efficient and informed during the tenure here, he said.

"The camaraderie we have, in which we continue to build is not because of the rank but because of our distinct relationship," he said.

As a distinct corps in the Army, it feels good to have a unique relationship with chiefs near or far, Nixon said. "I am very passionate about this bond."



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jacque Nixon, executive officer for USF-I J1, speaks to chiefs of all ranks about the processes of an accession board during a professional development conference on Camp Victory, April 22.

## SAPR Spotlight

### Common myths #1 and #2 regarding sexual assault:



**MYTH #1:** The Rapist Is Usually a Stranger

**FACT:** Most Victims (Over 80%) Know Their Assailants & Most Assaults Occur In the Victim's Home/Dorm (FBI Uniform Crime Report)

**MYTH #2:** Sexual Assault Affects Only Women

**FACT:** While Women 16-23 Are Particularly Vulnerable- Men Suffer 10% of All Reported Sexual Assaults

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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# Airman's daughter brings comfort, happiness, cookies to Camp Victory service members

Story by Lt. Col. Don Peters  
USF-I Public Affairs

The cookies brought smiles, but it was the letter that produced the tears.

For members of the United States Forces – Iraq, public affairs section, care packages are nothing new. Always deeply appreciated, they come from a variety of different sources - family members, charitable organizations and even a group of ladies from Florida who have sent homemade snacks for as long as anyone in the section can remember.

But the box that arrived at Al Faw palace on March 4 was different. Inside were boxes of Girl Scout cookies. And a handwritten note.

“Dear Soldiers,” it began.

“Hi, my name is Mackenzie Frost.

I am a second grader at Hawthorne Elementary School. I am also a Girl Scout in Troop #2653. This year is my first year as a Girl Scout. I came up with a great idea to collect boxes of Girl Scout cookies to send to you guys because my Dad was a soldier just like you, but he died in Iraq 3 years ago.

“My Daddy really loved Girl Scout cookies. I went door to door selling Girl Scout cookies. I got people to donate these cookies for you all to enjoy. I thought this was a great way to remember my Dad, Staff Sergeant Christopher Frost, USAF.

“Love, Mackenzie Frost.”

Staff Sergeant Frost of Waukesha, Wisconsin died March 3, 2008 near Bayji, Iraq in a crash of an Iraqi Army Mi-17 helicopter. Assigned to the 377th Air Base Wing, he was a public affairs specialist working for Multi-National Security Command – Iraq. Mackenzie was five years old.

The gesture and letter deeply touched the public affairs service members.

“Mackenzie’s thoughtful and unselfish attitude are simply amazing to me,” said Col. Kevin V. Arata, Chief, J9 strategic communications, “It shows how one person, when they put their mind to it, can make a big difference and contribute so much to others.”

“That someone who has lost so much is thinking of others like she did, is indicative of someone with a warm, caring heart, who really knows what it means to be kind to others,” Arata continued. “Mackenzie is certainly upholding the Girl Scout motto of serving God and country and helping people at all times.”

The next day, more boxes arrived. Then even more. The stream became a torrent and then a flood. Stacks of cookie boxes appeared on tables throughout the palace. They didn’t stay there long.



Col. Richard Fischer (right) and 2nd Lt. Nathan Wallin (left) present Mackenzie Frost an American Flag, flown in her honor in Baghdad, Iraq, and a certificate of appreciation, April 19.

All told, there would be 762 boxes.

Mackenzie’s letter immediately was posted on the section’s bulletin board, and collectively they decided something had to be done to recognize the little girl’s efforts.

“We kept thinking that people were just happening to send all these cookies from different places at one time,” Arata said. “Then we saw copies of Mackenzie’s letter in each of the boxes and we figured it out – she had put together this “campaign” to send cookies to Iraq, en masse, and we were the lucky recipients. That’s when we knew we had to do something to say thank you, and Operation Mackenzie was born.”

It would eventually span two continents over nine time zones and involve active Army and Air Force service members, the Wisconsin National Guard (WING), the Air Force Reserve and Hawthorne Elementary School – all working to give something back.

The coincidences were staggering. Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, the USF-I deputy commanding general for operations and commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, had taken over MNSTC-I just a few months after Frost’s death. Members of the PAO section remembered the incident. Air Force 2nd Lt. Nathan Wallin from WING Public Affairs went to the Defense Information School with Frost, and had helped with his funeral arrangements. And the Air Force Reserve’s 440th Airlift Wing – formerly stationed in Wisconsin – is now at Pope Army Airfield, which is co-located with Fort Bragg, the home of the XVIII Abn. Corps and many of the PAO section’s Soldiers.

First, the section flew a flag over the palace in Mackenzie and her father’s honor, and the USF-I Air Component Coordination Element donated a

shadow box to house the flag. They created a photo collage, and had it framed with help from the Al Faw Palace Mayor’s Cell. Lt Gen. Helmick provided a signed three-star letter to place in the framed photo collage, along with a personal video tribute to Mackenzie.

Phone calls and emails flew back and forth between Wisconsin and Baghdad. Wallin took over plans to help deliver the packages, coordinating with Mackenzie’s mother, Tiffany Goodson, and her principal, Joe Russell, for a special school-wide assembly.

On April 19, it all came together. In front of her classmates, Mackenzie received her thanks. Helmick’s video ran. Air Force Colonel Richard Fischer, commander of the 440th Medical Squadron from Pope Army Airfield presented the mementos. Dry eyes were hard to find, but there were plenty of smiles.

Afterward, Russell said staff members and parents told him it was by far the most meaningful assembly they’d ever witnessed.

Goodson said she was incredibly proud of her daughter. “It was amazing that she came up with the idea and was able to execute it,” she said.

And Mackenzie’s reaction upon receiving her gifts?

“Awesome!”

(The Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs Office contributed to this story.)



Mackenzie Frost and her classmates watch the Fox 6 Milwaukee Video that tells the story of her cookie drive.



The photo collage sent to Mackenzie Frost was on display at Hawthorne Elementary School April 19.

# Weapon Safety - T.H.I.N.K.

- **T**reat every weapon as if it's loaded
- **H**andle every weapon with care
- **I**dentify the target before you fire
- **N**ever point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot
- **K**eep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire

Remember!



Help save lives of our Soldiers!

# VICTORY VOICES

What do you think makes military children special?



"They serve just like their parents. When their mom or dad are gone, they sacrifice just like us."

**Lt Col. Rich Fields**  
Air Mobility Specialist  
Air Component Coordination  
Element - Iraq



"They are more adaptable and more extraverted than other children growing up."

**Col. Mike Reams**  
Chief of Human Encounter  
Intelligence  
USF-I J2



"They are more resilient and better able to face adversity throughout their life."

**Sgt. 1st Class Keith Smith**  
Operations NCOIC  
USF-I J9



"Military children are special because they share the same sacrifice when their parent(s) serve."

**Lt. Cmdr. John Burke**  
Executive Officer to Deputy  
Director  
USF-I J9

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and tougher now than it was when the war first started in 2003.

Placing the Iraqis in charge of their own security and their destiny is what this mission is all about, he said. "I am extremely grateful for your time here and your focus on the mission."

Mullen also spoke of the changes in the military, noting that the U.S. military is the best military that has ever existed because of the constant improvement of equipment, education, and recruitment.

"We have the best of the best and we retain the best of who we are," he said. "We have a solid-rock military and will remain as the most combat effective force we have ever been."

Following his meet-and-greet with the troops, Mullen addressed the media in a press conference. The questions ranged from the current Libya conflict and response to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's statement and the in-depth U.S. presence in Iraq.

In his short speech, Mullen said he met with Prime Minister al-Maliki and Minister al-Kader and spoke of Iraq's current status as a result of the rising conflicts within the region.

"There is no denying that this vastly improved security has permitted Iraq and Iraqi citizens the time and space they needed to develop a burgeoning democratic institution, he said.

Based on his assessment of the Iraqi security forces, Mullen remains convinced that the Iraqis are defending their country and their people very well.

"The U.S. military will remain committed to helping the ISF improve their readiness," he said. "We will also continue to help our State Department as it now assumes the mantle of leadership in this relationship."



Photo by Spc. Paul Holston

U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to service members, including United States Forces - Iraq senior leaders, during an all-hands call on Camp Victory, Iraq, April 22.

Mullen stated that there are no plans nor has there been any request from the Iraqi government for any residual U.S. force presence beyond 2011.

"Gen. Austin is on a plan right now to end the mission based on the current strategic framework agreement, which was signed a few years ago," he said. "Late this summer we will see the pace and scope of the drawdown reach its most aggressive level."

Mullen went on to clarify the U.S. stance on its future in Iraq.

"Should the Iraqi government have the desire to discuss the potential for some U.S. troops to stay, I am certain my government will welcome that dialogue," he said. "But it needs to start soon, very soon, should there be any chances of avoiding irrevocable logistics and operational decisions we must make in the coming weeks."

"We desire truly strategic partnership with Iraq, one that last a very long time into the future," Mullen said. "That partnership won't end with our departure but it must certainly begin with keeping our promises."

## 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 - 8:30 p.m.  
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Sandwich bar open 24 hours  
Sunday brunch 7:30 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.

**SFC 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 Saturday  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Golby TMC Sick Call**  
Mon. Wed. Thur. Fri.  
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. & 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tues. and Sat. 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday - emergency only

**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](http://www.usf-iraq.com)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq/)  
[www.twitter.com/USForcesIraq](http://www.twitter.com/USForcesIraq)  
[www.youtube.com/USFIraq](http://www.youtube.com/USFIraq)  
**Facebook**  
United States Forces-Iraq  
U.S. Army  
XVIII Airborne Corps  
Fort Bragg

# AROUND CAMP VICTORY



A Soldier bows his head as the audience is held in prayer during the Easter Sunrise Service held on Camp Victory, Iraq, April 24. This is the last Easter service held on Victory, as U.S. forces are expected to draw down from Iraq by the end of the year. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Paul Holston/USF-I PAO)



Runners from Victory Base Complex take-off from the start point of the 103rd Army Reserve Birthday 10K/5K Run/Walk, April 24 at Camp Victory, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg/USF-I PAO)

► Sgt. 1st Class Eric D. Hayes, the United States Forces - Iraq Joint Operations Center noncommissioned officer-in-charge, is presented the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award by Command Sgt. Maj. Earl L. Rice, the senior enlisted advisor to the deputy commanding general for operations, USF-I at a ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq, April 29. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. A.M. LaVey/USF-I PAO)

