



## New re-up incentives for deployed Soldiers

By Sgt. David Foley

MNC-I PAO

Like any major corporation, the Army is always looking for ways to retain its trained and qualified employees.

One of the ways the Army does this is by providing Soldiers with re-enlistment bonuses.

Until recently, only Soldiers of certain rank or military occupational specialty qualified for re-enlistment bonuses. Soldiers also had to wait for their re-enlistment windows to open before they could re-enlist, thus making it difficult for them to get tax-free bonuses by signing up during a deployment.

However, all that changed Jan. 18, 2005, when the Department of the Army sent out a military personnel message to Army career counselors around the globe. The Selective Re-enlistment Program

allows deployed Soldiers to re-enlist for a chance to receive a tax-free bonus of up to \$15,000.

"Basically, you can re-enlist outside of your window while deployed to take advantage of the re-enlistment bonus in a deployment area where it will be tax-free," said Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Garcia, career counselor, Task Force Dragon, Camp Victory.

Garcia said the program is a great opportunity for Soldiers because many of them wouldn't qualify for a re-enlistment bonus if they re-enlisted without being deployed.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wilkerson, XVIII Airborne Corps, re-enlisted in front of the Al Faw Palace Feb. 7 and was awarded a \$5,600 bonus. Wilkerson said he didn't get the opportunity to re-enlist during his last deployment because his window wasn't open, and he waited until this

deployment just so he could re-enlist in Iraq.

However, he said he was glad to hear about the bonus and thinks it will encourage other Soldiers to re-enlist even though they are more likely to deploy again.

Maj. Raymond Bowyer, who swore in Wilkerson during his re-enlistment ceremony, said he fully supports the program.

"I think it will contribute to keeping good Soldiers who are 'sitting on the fence' and can't decide whether to stay in the Army," Bowyer said. "It gives them benefits that will help to make the decision easier."

Soldiers have two options when re-enlisting under the new program.

They can sign up for the needs of the Army, which lets the Army choose their next duty station; or stabilization, which locks in their current



Photo by Sgt. David Foley/ MNC-I PAO

Maj. Raymond Bowyer (left) swears in Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wilkerson in front of Al Faw Palace Feb. 7 at Camp Victory.

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## Program trains service members to be first responders

By Spc. Mary Rose

MNC-I PAO

Camp Victory has a program similar to a volunteer fire department called the First Assistance and Support Team.

The FAST program is made up of qualified emergency medical technicians and military combat life savers who are ready anytime to assist first-responders when someone is in need of immediate medical attention.

Each member of the FAST program is given a reflective decal in the shape of a cross with a circle around it to put on the door of his or her living quarters. If an emergency medical situation arises on or near the living support areas, such as a mortar attack or a heat injury, soldiers can "knock on a door with a cross on it," said Sgt. Maj. James "Rich" Richard, FAST team coordinator and Multi-National Corps - Iraq's staff engineer sergeant major. Richard is assigned to the 20th Engineer Brigade from Fort Bragg, N.C.

A door with a blue cross represents an EMT, and a door with a red cross represents a CLS-qualified Soldier.

The members of FAST are trained to assist the fire department and medical personnel, not to



photo by Spc. Mary Rose/ MNC-I PAO

Spc. Rozetti Haynes (far right) teaches Soldiers with the First Assistance and Support Team how to properly give another person an intravenous injection March 6 at Camp Victory, Iraq.

replace them, said Richard.

Members of the program go through bi-monthly training meetings. This training ranges from advanced first aid and giving intravenous injections to breaching damaged buildings and using entrenching tools as rescue tools in case of emergencies, Richard said.

"It's great training," said Spc. Josh Baker, a graphic illustrator with 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., and a FAST member

If a FAST member "just gives a Band-Aid to someone, the program is successful," Richard said. Soldiers need to know where to go for immediate help. This is a way to help a neighbor, he added.

Service members from many units on Camp Victory participate, but the majority of the supporters come from 35th Sig. Bde., 20th Eng. Bde. and the MNC-I Surgeon's Office, Richard said.

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## Preventive Points:

*Tips from Multi-National Corps - Iraq's Force Health Protection*

### Heat Injuries

■ A heat injury occurs when a Soldier engages in a physical activity to the extent where the heat production within his or her body exceeds its ability to lose heat adequately. This results in a rise in inner body (body core) temperature to the levels at which normal body functions are interfered with. This may lead to temporary or permanent disturbances in bodily functions.

■ The human body gains heat continuously through various channels. This gain is even more significant in a Soldier exerting himself physically in a hot environment. There are many processes through which body heat is lost.

■ A Soldier is able to regulate his body temperature and stay safe. However, factors such as acclimatization, hydration and rest play a very important role. Lack of acclimatization, poor physical fitness, obesity, illness and lack of instinct to drink water adequately are major risk factors for heat injuries.

■ So keep these factors in mind during the upcoming months. The spring and summer months in this part of the world can be extremely hot. It isn't unusual for temperatures to reach 110 to 130 degrees during mid-summer.

■ Stay physically fit and stay hydrated. Don't be a victim of heat injuries. We need every Soldier, Marine, Airman and Sailor healthy to continue our efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## RE-UP

duty station for two years after they redeploy.

Even though most Soldiers will qualify for a bonus if they re-enlist while deployed, Garcia said not everyone will get the full \$15,000, and some may not even qualify for a bonus at all.

"It's all in the math," he said.

Under the new program, Soldiers will fall into two categories based on pay grade and time in service. Soldiers in their initial term of enlistment who have served

between 17 months and six years fall into the A zone, and Soldiers who have served between six and 10 years fall into the B zone. Soldiers in the A zone will be awarded 1.5 times their monthly base pay multiplied by the number of years they re-enlist beyond their current exit the service date. Soldiers in the B zone will qualify for their base pay multiplied by the number of years they re-enlist. All bonuses will be paid in one lump sum.

Garcia said Soldiers in some MOSs might qualify for more money based on their standard bonuses. "For instance," he said, "explosive ordnance disposal specialists normally qualify for 3.5 times their base pay multiplied by the number of years and can go up to \$30,000, so they would want to stick with that option."

For more information about Selective Re-enlistment Bonuses, see your career counselor.



photo by Sgt. David Foley/ MNC-I PAO

### Waterworld

**Warrant Officer Chuck Zavorka, intelligence analyst, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Gordon, Ga., wades through water at the Dodge City North living facilities on his way to work March 12 at Camp Victory. Due to the recent downpour of rain, water stands ankle-deep in many areas on Camp Victory.**

## Camp Victory personnel learn to speak, read Arabic

By Sgt. Michael J. Carden

MNC-I PAO

Service members deployed to Camp Victory have a new opportunity to learn Arabic as a second language.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from noon to 1 p.m., 1st Lt. Debbie Holland, officer-in-charge, personnel administration office, 327th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, heads up an Arabic class. Her Iraqi interpreter, Ahmed, teaches the class's criteria of basic phrases, letters, numbers and writing.

Since Holland arrived at Camp Victory in December, she's had the personal goal of learning as much as she could about the Iraqi culture and language, but found trouble finding the time

to learn, she explained.

"I knew I wouldn't have time to take lessons from Ahmed unless we had a set time scheduled," Holland said.

Holland also thought that if she could arrange times to learn Arabic, she wanted to include other people on Camp Victory.

"I was really glad to see that Lieutenant Holland hooked up this class," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Steve Weldon, intelligence officer, Multi-National Corps - Iraq. "So far, the class has been really good."

Holland, who was once an enlisted Spanish linguist for the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., began making arrangements to receive

Arabic language books from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

Shortly after making the arrangements, Holland received 50 small, pocket-sized survival books. The books contain basic Arabic phrases and commands designed to help service members be successful in an Arabic environment.

The first class was held Feb. 1 with only five students in attendance. Since then, the class has grown not only in number of students, but in material, which has become more in depth.

"Right now, we're looking for more material to improve the class," Holland said. "From there, we

# Voices of Victory:

## How are you going to wear green on St. Patrick's Day?



**"I'll wear a green bracelet."**

Air Force Staff Sgt. Theresa Norte, chaplain assistant, Multi-National Corps - Iraq



**"A green turtle my wife sent me."**

Staff Sgt. John A. Robles, logistics NCO, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Multi-National Corps - Iraq



**"I'm a retired Marine ... I do have green!"**

Dwane James, supply chain analyst, United States Army Toxic Industrial Chemical Program

## Operating Hours

### Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.  
Midnight Dining 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

### Shopette

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

### Chapel

#### Sunday:

Protestant Worship 7 a.m.  
Protestant Worship 9 a.m.  
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Gospel Service Noon  
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.  
Episcopal 4 p.m.  
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

#### Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.  
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

## Hometown Greetings

Send a greeting to your family, friends and loved ones. The MNC-I Public Affairs Office wants to put you on T.V. We will be videotaping shout-outs on Sunday outside of the Camp Victory Chapel from 7:30 - 11 a.m.

## MEDICAL

There are approximately 700 CLS and EMT qualified people on Camp Victory who have been identified and given a cross decal. There has been a regular turn-out of 50 to 60 personnel at the training meetings, Richard said. The FAST members are looking for more participants to attend the training and be more involved with the community on Camp Victory.



FAST team members can provide medical support to anyone in theater as long as they are working in an official military capacity. As long as service members are acting within the scope of their official duties, and they do not exceed that scope (such as performing surgery when they are only EMS qualified), they would be cov-



ered in the event there is litigation over their actions, said Lt. Col. Gregory Woods, MNC-I deputy staff judge advocate. The service members are covered under the Federal Tort Claims Act and Army Regulation 27-40. For more information on the program, call Richard at 318-822-3159, or e-mail him at james.richard@iraq.centcom.mil.

## ARABIC

hope to build our skills toward being able to read and write sentences as well as commu-



Photo by Sgt. Michael J. Carden/MNC-I PAO

**Students of the tri-weekly Arabic class at Camp Victory, learn basic phrases and writing during a Feb. 22 class.**

nicate verbally on a deep level."

The class criteria is becoming more in depth and is set up so that if people haven't been to any of the previous classes, they can attend without feeling like they're behind the other students, Holland said.

"During each class we review greetings, letters and numbers," Holland said. "So, even if you've never attended, you'll leave at least knowing a couple of phrases."

Holland and Ahmed hope that everyone who attends the class will become more familiar with, and have a better understanding of, the Iraqi culture. They hope their interaction with the local Iraqis-on and off the base camp-will help spread the Coalition's good will.

## Victory MWR Events March 15-21

**Today:** Karaoke at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124  
**Wednesday:** Softball Coaches meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Camp Victory

Gym; Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124  
**Thursday:** Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124  
**Friday:** St. Patrick's Day Softball Tournament; Country Music night at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 124  
**Saturday:** St. Patrick's Day Softball

Tournament; 5K Run; Basketball at the cage; Hip Hop night at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 124  
**Sunday:** Basketball at the cage; Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124  
**Monday:** Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124

**MNC-I Commanding General:** Lt. Gen. John R. Vines **MNC-I Production Chief:** Sgt. Mark St.Clair  
**MNC-I Public Affairs Officer:** Col. Billy J. Buckner **Victory Weekly Chief:** Sgt. Michael J. Carden  
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Victory Weekly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to michael.carden@iraq.centcom.mil

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