

!!!! The Official Publication of Camp As Sayliyah !!!!

DESERT MESH

MAGAZINE

Edition 75 March/April 2012

Army opens six more occupations specialties
to women



Conerly reflects on her role models' historic contributions to Black History,
and her appointment to the United States Peace Corps Director post



Women
History
Month

Also inside this issue ...
National Day of Prayer Coverage



DESERT MESH MAGAZINE

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Your feedback is important to us.
See the back cover for details.

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Budgets, force reduction on service members' minds

By **C. Todd Lopez**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 16, 2012) -- The senior enlisted advisors for the four military services met on Capitol Hill recently to discuss with lawmakers issues on the minds of service members. It turns out that for many, it's the same as what's on lawmaker's minds: the budget.

"I was asked questions, beginning in April, all the way to September -- 'what do you mean the Army can't pay me?'" said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III, relaying to lawmakers the words of Soldiers who had been concerned about the "continuing resolution" last year. Without an approved Defense Appropriations Act, some Soldiers mistakenly believed that they might not get paid.

Budget concerns still weigh on the minds of service members, as lawmakers try to find a way to balance the federal budget. Lawmakers who were part of the "super committee" last year were looking to find \$1.2 trillion in savings within the budget, and were unable to reach a compromise. Now, as much as half of that amount could automatically be cut from the DOD through "sequestration" and service members are concerned what that will mean for them.

"It's a very eye-opening experience," said Chandler "I

think the concerns raised in media about the impact of the election year and whether or not there will be an appropriations and authorization bill signed, is on people's minds. The last thing we want to have is for some Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine deployed in harm's way, being concerned about whether or not they are going to be paid. That's something we don't need these young people to be concerned about."

The senior enlisted advisors gathered Feb. 16 to speak at a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittee on military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies.

Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett said that when he had talked to Marines about the effects of a continuing resolution, some of those Marines had considered visiting "the snakes," to make ends meet -- a term Barrett said they used to refer to the "predatory loan industry" prominent outside military installations.

"They are still finding a way to put 400 percent on top of a loan for you to pay it back," he said.

Service members are also concerned about their retirements, with rumors of changes being considered as part of budget-trimming efforts. The senior enlisted advisors said retirement is not something that should be on the minds of a young person in

uniform.

"It is a distractor," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy. "We have young Airmen focused on retirement. I don't need young Airmen focused on retirement. I need young Airmen focused on upgrade training. I need young Airmen focused on mission. I don't need them to be worried on their retirement and compensation. That is the number-one thing I hear from Airmen, and from families. There is uncertainty out there and we are trying to keep focus on the mission."

Across the world's oceans, America's Sailors are worried about their futures in the military as well, said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West.

"They're talking about the retirements," West explained. "They are talking about the future of the force, with the budget cuts, with all the personnel. We've had to make some tough choices. With our folks, it's no different. The budget cuts as of late -- some folks will tell you, personnel didn't join the Navy for the retirement. Maybe they didn't initially. But once they get in and see the contributions they make to the nation, they start thinking about some of that."

Service members that want to stay in uniform are also going to find it harder to do so. The Army and the Marine Corps, for instance, are cutting personnel.



Wayne C. Grieme, Jr.

Colonel

Commander

Area Support Group - Qatar



Thoughts from the commander

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Families, Service Members, Civilians, and Contractors of Camp As Sayliyah for the continued hard work and dedication to everything you do. It is important to remember that no one can accomplish the tasks set before us without the support from every team member we have here at CAS. Teamwork is the key to success.

Congratulations to the entire Camp for remaining accident free for more than 210 days! This is a great accomplishment and a testament of leadership emphasis on safety as well as taking on personal responsibilities. Safety is always a priority for me when it comes to anything we do here on CAS. Observing correct driving habits and obeying local traffic laws when driving off installation is paramount to mission accomplishment and protecting our greatest asset – YOU!



The recent presentation of Qatari traffic laws was given to emphasize remaining observant while on the roads and to help raise awareness of what difficulties Service Members and the CAS community as a whole face when traveling. On CAS, we rely on you to wear reflective gear when outdoors in times of darkness and low visibility. This not only protects the pedestrian but helps drivers to see you in order to avoid an accident.

The month of March is Women's History Month, and is the perfect time to reflect on the sacrifices and accomplishments of women in the Army. Recognition of the contributions of women in all aspects of society has been a long, hard-fought battle that continues to this day. I am proud to serve next to American women in uniform, and it is important that everyone recognize their contributions throughout our military history. Recently, the U.S. Army has opened numerous military occupations, once reserved only for men, to women. This important step in recognizing the contributions of women in the service and their abilities on the modern battlefield is critical to our future success as an Army and is the right thing to do.

Along with this, it is important to continue to remember there are many who contribute to the CENTCOM mission from CAS. Agencies such as the Open Source Center, the National

Virtual Translation Center, and the Combined Media Processing Center work diligently to support the war fighters through their government agencies. It is their service that sometimes goes unnoticed to those in uniform that contribute to our overall success in the region.

We had a great visit in February from CH(MG) Donald Rutherford, the Army Chief of Chaplains, in support of our National Day of Prayer breakfast. He, along with Regimental Sergeant Major Stott, has reminded us of the value of the support that is extended to service members from many branches within the Army. As well, he reinforced the Chief of Staff of the Army's, "Marching Orders" with the importance of trust that must be the foundation of our profession. We thank them for their contributions and the time they spent here at the CAS. As well I would like to extend a warm welcome To MG Brown the new JTSCC, CENTCOM Contracting Command, Commander. Welcome to Camp As Saliyah we hope your time here, as well as the time of all our new partners, is both personally and professionally rewarding.

On a final note, please take the time to continue to volunteer either on or off the Camp. There are many venues, either playing or coaching sports, or contributing to

see **GRIEME** on page 7



Charles A. Holliday, Sr.

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major

Area Support Group - Qatar

Keep only those resolutions that really matter

Greetings to you all, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new personnel on Camp As Sayliyah. We are well into the new year now, and I hope that most of you have moved into 2012 with unbridled enthusiasm, great expectations, and renewed hope. But, for those of you who have found the transition into a new year a bit difficult, take some time to read my last column (*Desert Mesh* edition 74 (Jan/Feb)) for some inspiration and a good kick start.

I'm sure that many of you made New Year's resolutions, but historically, being able to keep those resolutions has proven to be a challenge for countless people. It's a known fact that many New Year's resolutions usually involve health and welfare issues. Perhaps you made a promise to yourself to work out more and eat less. Some might have even made the decision to spend more time with the family or even to start a new venture. The truth is that we all made promises at the beginning of the year, and had every intention of keeping those promises. But, like with anything else; life happens, and we might lose sight of those lofty goals we

set at the beginning of the year.

For one thing, we have distractions at every turn; a new duty station, a new baby, a new spouse, a new boss – all kinds of things that cause us to procrastinate or ignore that nagging little list we promised to keep at the beginning of the year. Distractions do have a way of keeping us away from the things that are supposed to be important to us. Notice that I said, "supposed to be important."

First, the key is to find out what really IS important. You might have to set aside some time to think about this: What's REALLY important to me in 2012 and what is it that I want to accomplish this year? To figure this out, you will need to reevaluate the importance of those resolutions that you made initially and modify the list by re-prioritizing some things a little. Yes, you ARE allowed to do that! This shouldn't be that difficult, really. As Service Members, setting priorities should be second nature to us because we always have to prioritize things. We have to be organized and prioritize schedules so that we can meet our goals. As a matter of fact, we read, make, use, and



follow prioritized lists throughout our entire career. We also have prioritized lists at home, with laundry, grocery, and other "to do" lists. A myriad of things compete for our time and require our immediate attention or action on a regular basis – all having to do with something that is prioritized on a list.

After you've considered what's really important, narrow those items down to the "Top 5" things that matter to you. Pay particular attention to entries that need to be removed, shifted to another spot or replaced altogether. Don't waste a lot of time on things that are frivolous or unattainable like marrying a celebrity or winning the lottery. For the purposes of this discussion, those are just pipe

see CSM on page 7



INSIDE THE WIRE

Chaplain (MG) Rutherford visits CAS for National Prayer Breakfast

By **JESSICA M. BAILEY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

CH(MG) Daniel Rutherford, the Army's Chief of Chaplains, was the guest speaker for this year's National Day of Prayer breakfast, which was held Feb. 8, at Patton's Own dining facility.

In his brief presentation, the chaplain spoke about the significance of trust in leadership.

"Every nation is in need of prayer as country's engage in battles and conflicts," he said. "There is always emphasis on trust. Leadership is important, but trust is what really makes us good leaders."

Rutherford said that trust begins with basic training and carries the Soldier through life. "We are told to trust in times of conflict and trouble," he said. "We are asked to put our faith in each other and in God. Using part of a quote from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Rutherford said.

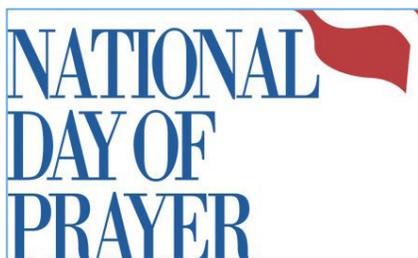
"Trust is the bedrock of our honored profession; trust between each other, trust between Soldiers and leaders, trust between Soldiers and their families and the Army, and trust with the American people."



CH(MG) Rutherford addresses attendees at this year's National Day of Prayer breakfast. Rutherford spoke on the significance of trust in times of conflict and trouble.



CH(MG) Rutherford chats with CH(MAJ) Van Dinh and Staff Sgt. Theresa Allen of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing following his National Day of Prayer breakfast address.



GRIEME

(continued from page 4)

the many programs on CAS where we come together as a team to share ideas and backgrounds.

Again, I thank all of you that serve our great Nation in this time of war and for the sacrifices you make while deployed away from your families and loved ones.



HOLLIDAY

(continued from page 5)

dreams.

In reality, maybe spending time with your family, deciding to make your health a priority, or enrolling in a college or certification course will work best in the "Top 5" for you this time around. For those awaiting promotion, perhaps finishing a college degree will make you more competitive and marketable. If this sounds like a plan for you, then it probably should be in your top "Top 5."

The bottom line is; resolutions only work if you have a connection with and are committed to what's on that list. Take another look at your 2012 resolutions and remember that the only items that are keepers are the ones that truly matter, and yes it IS ok to discard everything else.

MOU signing marks new partnership

By **JESSICA M. BAILEY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

COL Grieme and BG(Dr.) Mubarak al-Abdullah of Qatari Military Medical Services met recently to sign a historic agreement that will open the door to a new medical partnership. The new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing will allow ASG-QA to expand joint training and exchanges between the base medical officers and their Qatari counterparts.

Dr. Mubarak said that he was very excited about the new partnership and said the signing would improve current medical service in Qatar.

"The signing will help the Qatar Armed Medical Services to be updated with the latest medical treatments in the field," Mubarak said. "The agreement will provide flexible communication

between both sides under the defenses agreement between our countries."

COL Grieme echoed the sentiments felt by Mubarak adding that the partnership is a new beginning in the relationship between the Qataris and ASG-QA.

"This new partnership is significant because it will allow our medical teams to work together, which will make it easier to coordinate between the two medical entities," Grieme said. "It sets the stage for a dynamic collaborative effort."

To mark the historic occasion, the two sides presented each other with mementos to commemorate the ground-breaking agreement.

"We appreciate your country's hospitality and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with this new agreement," Grieme said.



Dr. Mubarak al-Abdullah, the brigadier general of Qatari Military Medical Services, and COL Grieme enjoy a pleasant exchange following the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document between Qatari Military Medical Services and Area Support Group-Qatar.

INSIDE THE WIRE



Dr. Nickole Conerly addressing an audience at the African American History month observance on Feb. 28. Dr. Conerly said that her aunt's contribution to history impacted her life and inspired her to become a psychologist.

BLACK HISTORY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY

Conerly remembers trailblazing aunt's contributions to American history

By Dr. Nickole Conerly
TMC Clinical Psychologist

Some people may remember her as a psychologist and advocate for women and minority rights. Others may remember her as a pioneer in cross-cultural and ethnic minority psychology. Folks in the mental health community might remember her as the recipient of the 1997 American Psychological Association award for outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of psychology. Others may remember her as the first

woman and first African American to serve as the director of the U.S. Peace Corps.

I remember her in all of those ways. She was my mother's younger sister, and my aunt Carolyn, but to family and friends she was simply called "Teenie."

Carolyn Robertson Payton was born in Norfolk, Va., on May 13, 1925. She was a granddaughter of both a former slave and of African royalty.

After graduating from primary and secondary school, she obtained a bachelor's in Home Eco-

nomics in 1945 at Bennett College in Greensboro, N. C., a historically Black women's college.

In 1945, the "separate-but-equal" doctrine was in effect in Virginia. This ruling outlined that when a graduate degree was available to Whites at White state institutions and was unavailable to Blacks at Black state institutions, the state would cover all expenses for the student if they had to obtain an education out-of-state. Since she met this criterion and because of its practicality, Payton decided to pursue the study of

psychology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She was the only Black graduate student in her class. The class discussions about the superiority of White intelligence inspired her to conduct a comparative study of Black and White intelligence based on the Wechsler-Bellevue Test of Intelligence for her master's thesis. Her study showed no intellectual differences between races, and furthermore, she concluded that the test did not accurately measure Black respondents' true abilities.

After completing her master's in clinical psychology at the University of Wisconsin in 1948, she was hired as an instructor in psychology at Livingstone College in Salisbury, N. C., where she was the only psychologist in the faculty.

In 1953, she was hired as the Dean of Women with an appointment in psychology at Elizabeth City State Teachers College in Elizabeth City, N. C. In 1956, she accepted the position of associate professor of psychology at Virginia State College in Petersburg, Va.

Payton accepted an assistant professor position at Howard University in Washington, DC, in 1959. Through the recommendation of her university, she became a field assessment officer for the Peace Corps where she was responsible for preparing trainees to serve in Togo, West Africa. This involvement led to a full time position in the Peace Corps as a field selection officer. In 1966, she was appointed as deputy director and then director for the Caribbean region.

In 1970, she left the Peace Corps and returned to Howard University to direct the University

Counseling Service (UCS). She was involved in expanding the UCS into a large counseling and training center that integrated the university with the community.

She returned to the Peace Corps and as director in 1977, a position appointed by then U.S. President Jimmy Carter. She was the first woman and the first African American to serve at that level.

After serving 13 months, she resigned from the Peace Corps in 1979 and returned to Howard University to become dean of counseling and career development. While there, she continued working to expand the counseling and training center, while also focusing on ethnic minority psychology, especially for African Americans.

Payton was a member of the American Psychological Association (APA) for more than 40 years where she made many contributions including working to increase the involvement of underrepresented group such as women and minorities. Some of the positions she held while at the APA included: chair for the Committee on Scientific and Professional Ethics and Conduct; member of the APA Task Force on Bias and Sex Role Stereotyping in Psychotherapeutic Practice; and member and chair of the APA Committee on Women in Psychology.

For her many accomplishments, she received numerous awards including the APA Distinguished Professional Contributions to Public Service award in 1982 and the distinguished Leader for Women in Psychology award from the APA Committee on Women in Psychology in 1985. In 1997, she received the APA Award for Out-

standing Lifetime Contributions to Psychology.

My Aunt "Teenie" continued to offer advice and consultation to friends and family long after her retirement. Her efforts to eradicate social injustice make her an outstanding role model for all psychologists. I will always remember her as the person whose history created a frame for my future. She passed away on April 11, 2001, at the age of 75.

As I close, I want you to focus on the history that you are writing for the next generation. That history doesn't have to be written in books or papers. Your life can write a history for the next generation through your words and your deeds. Most adults are trying to be positive role models and trying to write a positive history for the younger generation; for the children and for the babies.

What history are you writing? Is it one that you would like the next generation to follow? Think about the history that you are writing and make sure that you are writing it well.

Editor's Note: This text was extracted from a speech given by Dr. Nickole Conerly in honor of her late aunt, Dr. Carolyn Robertson Payton during the African-American History Month observance, February 28, 2012.

INSIDE THE WIRE

Miller flies to Benning for distinguished honor

By **JESSICA M. BAILEY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

CPT Brian G. Miller, who works in the Provost Marshal Office as the force protection officer, flew back to Fort Benning, Ga., recently to accept a rare but distinguished Army honor. As part of the 209th Military Police (MP) Detachment at Fort Benning, from August 2009 to September 2011, Miller is the recipient of the highly-coveted BG Jeremiah P. Holland award for fiscal year 2011. The award recognizes the achievement of the most outstanding military police unit (company or smaller level) in

the Army overall.

Miller, who is a 14-year Army veteran, said that he is truly humbled by this unexpected honor and proud that the 209th MPs were considered the very best amongst some of the Army's finest.

"I'm extremely proud of this recognition for my unit," Miller said. "It's a great achievement in the sense that my unit worked so hard, and we reached the pinnacle as a unit and did it together."

Named after BG Jeremiah P. Holland, the award has been handed out since 1970, with nominees being considered based on mission performance, command programs, and other

outstanding and significant contributions that affect the Army's mission and local community presence.

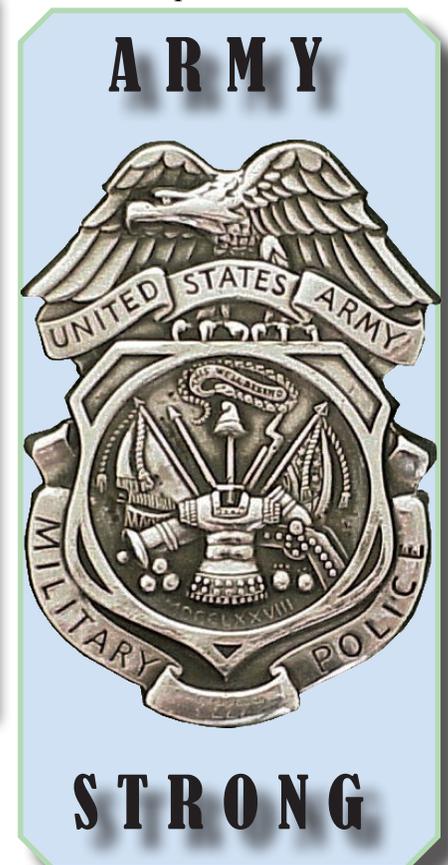
"My unit did their job and became true pillars in their community," Miller said. "They were the ones who volunteered their time, attended classes after hours, and accepted any new challenge that came their way. Without their solid commitment, there would be no award."

Miller went on to say that the honor has caused him to evaluate being a more effective leader.

"It's caused me to critically analyze the way I've done things in the past," he said. "I don't take this honor too lightly. I will make sure that I take the positive and negative experiences I've had and grow with it. There are always some important lessons to learn and pass on to others.



CPT Miller shares a little face time with one of his biggest fans, his 8-year old daughter, Azileigh. Miller said that he was truly humbled by the Holland honor, but it was the people who worked with him that deserved most of the credit. "I was just the commander, surrounded by great, dedicated people," he said. Azileigh, and Miller's wife, Brenda, were on hand for the ceremony.



INSIDE THE WIRE

CAS Tax Center offers free tax filing service

CAS Tax Assistance Center

Navigating the murky waters of tax season can be rough, which is why the military is reaching out to help service members.

The Area Support Group, Qatar, tax assistance center is open for business and willing to assist Soldiers, retirees, Department of the Army civilians, their dependents and other qualified individuals with preparing their state and federal tax returns. The center helps people save money by providing free services, while cutting down on the number of errors untrained preparers normally make.

All Soldiers who work in the tax assistance center have

undergone comprehensive training in tax returns, including certification from the I.R.S. Additional training includes practical exercises and case studies, and supplemental instruction in office management and finance. The tax assistance center ensures accurate preparing and filing of income tax returns through a quality assurance structure and a multi-level quality review component.

If one resides in the United States taxes are due by April 17 this year, but there are extensions for individuals serving in Qatar, overseas or in combat zones. Experts said that there are no sweeping changes to the tax

code this year, but there are always changes to incentives and deductions. Still, it's usually best if you contact the tax preparers at the tax assistance center for further assistance.

Tax Center

Now By Appointment
Only.
After April 17.

Call DSN 432-2319 for
information or to schedule
an appointment.

The Tax Assistance Center
is located in building 111.

BUDGETS

(continued from page 3)

That means, for both services, fewer fresh faces coming in the front door, older service members possibly retiring before they expected to retire, and service members in the middle of their careers finding it tougher to meet the standards to re-enlist.

"They want to know who we are going to go fight next," said Barrett. "They want to know about advancements in full-spectrum battle equipment [and] they want to know what they need to do to stay in the Corps."

The Marine senior enlisted advisor told lawmakers what Marines ask him most about when he visits them. To the last

question, he answers, "you'd better bring your 'A' game every single day."

Inside the larger of the two ground forces, the Army, Chandler said "the privilege to serve will become more difficult." Standards will increase, he said. And to draw down the force, the Army will use multiple tools -- including fewer new recruits, tougher retention standards, and early retirements.

For those who will leave, he said, the Army will "have an orderly transition plan starting a year before they leave the service."

That, the sergeant major said, will make sure both Soldiers and their families are ready, and are able to leave the Army "with dignity and respect."

What a service member will do after military life is also a concern. Chandler said there are "tremendous concerns" among Soldiers leaving the service given the state of the economy and the job market. The Army and its sister services are working to make smooth the transition for service members.

"That is a major focus for me personally and the rest of the Army this year is to really refine our transition assistance program with the help of VA and DOL and to put our kids in the best place we can to make sure they have a dignified transition out of the service and back into the rest of American society," Chandler said.

INSIDE THE WIRE



In this series of photos, SFC Jeremy Emrick serves as "bait" for Viking, one of the MWDs working on CAS.

Beware of the dog! Military Working Dogs key to fighting war on terror

By **SSG Charles Messer**
CAS Explosive Dog Handler

Military Working Dogs (MWD), along with their handlers who represent every branch of the armed services, are deployed worldwide to support the war on terror. They help safeguard military bases and activities by detecting bombs and other explosives before these devices can inflict harm, perhaps even death.

With an acute sense of smell that is five to 10 times stronger than that of a human, MWDs can alert their handlers when traces of

explosives or drugs are present. At the same time, MWDs have an incredible ability to inflict fear on the enemy, which creates a powerful psychological deterrent.

Through the years, a number of different breeds have been tested for the MWD program. Among the best are German shepherds, Dutch shepherds and Belgian malinois who have proven to be extremely effective in patrol and detection work. However, other breeds such as the golden retriever and other sporting-breed dogs have been used in support of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) mission.

Training for MWDs starts with a 120-day program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where the dogs learn basic obedience, in addition to more advanced training. The advanced training usually includes teaching them how to detect explosives and drugs

MWDs have been used by the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War, and later during World War I to search and kill rats hiding in trenches. Today, MWDs are serving with U.S. forces in deployed locations around the world as patrol dogs, and as explosives and drug detectors.

INSIDE THE WIRE



Don't mess with us! Following a rigorous session of Marine Martial Arts training held recently at the Camp, the participants wiped off their sweat long enough to pose for this "intimidating" photo. From left to right, front row: SPC Thomas Marler, SPC April Bruner, SPC Chace Boring, SPC James Roassin, SGT Curtis Leavitt, and Marine Corps Martial Arts instructor, Sgt. Donald Webster. From left to right, back row: SGT Corey Nichols, SPC Richard Jaycox, SGT Noah Cutshell, and SPC Ronald Kuester.

A T T E N T I O N



Are you wearing your reflective gear?

Wearing reflective gear may not be fashionable, but it's the law on CAS. All personnel on CAS are required to wear reflective gear during hours of darkness or limited visibility (this includes sandstorms). See the CAS Safety SOP for more information.

(Photo was approved by CAS Provost Marshal Office and is used for demonstrational purposes only.)

Talk On The

Have you been successful at keeping

SFC Melissa S. Squires
3175th Chemical Comp.
HHD 175th
Troy, Mo.

“My New Year’s resolution was to volunteer to coach flag football. However, my plans were altered after I broke my metatarsal. Since flag football would require too much activity on my foot, I decided to manage kids soccer at the American School of Doha instead. So far, it’s been a blast. I’m really beginning to enjoy the game of soccer.”



SPC John Caruso
1137th MP Company
St. Louis, Mo.

“My New Year’s resolution was to “man up” and face and deal with some of my personal issues. I have put it (these issues) on the back burner for so long.”

On the Streets

Keeping your New Year's resolution?



SPC Frankie Slater, Jr.
ASG-QA HHC
Cocoa, Fla.

"My goal this year was to get back into a regular workout routine to lose weight. I also want to stay focused on my school and complete as many credit hours as possible while I'm here in Qatar. So far, I have enrolled in class, and I'm making it to the gym three days a week."

SGT Debro A. Caicedo
175th MP Battalion
HHD, Kansas City, Mo.

"My resolution this year was to improve my PT two-mile run time. I started this year running the two miles in 18:30. Now, I'm running the two miles in 15:55."





MWR Hours

- **Main and Small Gyms**
Open all day, every day
- **Cyber Cafe, Phone Ctr.**
Open all day, every day
- **Video Hut**
9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Swimming Pool**
5:30 a.m. to midnight, closed for cleaning 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- **Mini Golf Course**
6 a.m. to midnight
- **Driving Range**
8 a.m. to midnight

MWR Events

Every Month is Fitness Mania Month

Participate in a different event every day during the months of March and April. Some of the events include Single Darts, 6 on 6 Volleyball, and Billiards.

To register for these events or for any MWR-sponsored trip, stop by the MWR office, in building 109, Monday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or call DSN: 432-3049.

You can register for trips up to three days prior to the trip departure date. Payment is required at the time you register for any trip.

MWR Staff

MWR Director
Antoine T. Randall

MWR Lead Recreation Specialist
Lee Barclay

MWR NCOIC
MSG Montgomery Miller

INSIDE THE WIRE

Billboard Top 100 hits starting at 9 p.m. on most nights!



Hit the road with MWR

Trip to the Old and Gold Souq:
10 a.m.- 5 p.m. - FREE to CAS military, DOD civilians and contractors

MWR trips are every Friday and Saturday!

Doha City Tours:
11a.m.-3:30 p.m.
CAS military:\$22.50
DOD civilians and contractors: \$30.00

Inland Sea Picnic:
9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. - \$30 for CAS military, and \$40 for DOD civilians and contractors

Dhow "Sunset Delight" Cruise:
3:30 p.m.-10 p.m. - \$26.25 for CAS military, and \$35.00 for DOD civilians and contractors

Dhow Entertainment Cruise:
4 p.m.-10 p.m. - \$37.20 for CAS military, and \$49.60 for DOD civilians and contractors

Remember:

Visit the Area Support Group - Qatar Intranet page for a complete listing of these MWR events and more!



MWFD



Camp As Sayliyah's kids at play



EDUCATION

Changes to GI Bill benefits

By Dr. ANNETTE WHITAKER
ASG-QA
Army Education Center

Soldiers who have previously signed up for the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB - Chapter 33) and have changed over to the Post 9/11 GI Bill, will only be able to collect the \$1,200 once the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits are completely exhausted (either by a Soldier or his/her family members). Only under these conditions will the Veterans Administration (VA) add \$1,200 (less taxes) to the last check the VA pays for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

If you have just signed up for the MGIB, are currently paying into the MGIB and you plan to change over to the Post 9/11 GI Bill before you finish paying \$1200, you may contact DFAS and request for them to stop the reduction and return the money previously reduced from your pay.

The only time the Education Incentives Branch (EIB) will assist a Soldier in working with DFAS in the return of funds reduced by the MGIB reduction in pay, is when the pay is reduced erroneously (e.g., Soldier declined MGIB on DD Form 2366 but



DFAS initiated reduction in pay).

Soldiers are advised that the MGIB reduction in pay is non-refundable, except as explained above. For more information, please contact Mr. Haxhiu, education guidance counselor, on DSN at 432-2777.

Register now for Spring term classes

REGISTER
NOW

Registration for upcoming the University of Maryland-University College (MUC) classes held here at CAS (March 19 – May 13) is now open. We will have the pleasure of having CH (LTC) Gary Payne teach History 141 (Introduction to Western Civilization); Dr. Mircheva, Statistics 200 (Introduction to Statistics); and I will be teaching BMGT 110 (Introduction to Business Management). BMGT 110 is also a good class to all of those interested in opening up their own business after finishing their military career.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to earn college credit while being deployed and transfer it to your respective colleges. As you know the advantages



of having face-to-face classes rather than online is that you receive immediate feedback to any questions you might have, plus we (the faculty) understand that the mission comes first, and will work with you and your work schedules. If any of these classes could assist you with advancing academically and earning

promotion points, then please let us help you reach your goal.

Last term, we had to cancel the Psychology class due to lack of enrollment. We want to avoid that happening again. Please make sure that you register for classes as soon as possible to ensure that these classes are not cancelled and remain on the schedule for everyone's benefit.

The point-of-contact for additional information is Mr. Robert Grey, the UMUC Field Representative/Associate Professor at 432-2774, or by cell at 5599-8138. ***(For more information, see the Spring class schedule cut out on the next page.)***

GO this way



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University of Maryland University College Europe

Camp As Sayliyah On Base (Summer) College Classes

Course Code	Course Title	Days	Time	Start Date	End Date	Instructor
BMGT 364	Management and Organization Theory	Mon/Wed	18:00 – 21:00	04 Jun	25 Jul	Grey
WRTG 101	Introduction to Writing	Tue/Thu	18:00 – 21:00	07 Jun	28 Jul	Dr. Koch



THIS SOLDIER'S STORY



SGT Salena Hardison

My favorite things:

Favorite hobby: Listening to music

Favorite movie or movies: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Favorite television show: Jersey Shore

Favorite food: Italian

Favorite vacation location: Key West, Florida

Favorite memory: Redeploying safely back from Baghdad, Iraq, and my Mom being on the parade field in Fort Stewart, Georgia to welcome me home.

Favorite quote: Everything happens for a reason, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.

Favorite person in history and why: GEN Colin Powell, because of all his achievements.

Helping others, Mom's support, motivators for dedicated CAS Soldier

By **JESSICA M. BAILEY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

A strong desire to help others, pay for college along with some good old-fashioned encouragement from Mom, were the big motivators for SGT Salena Hardison when she decided to join the Army. Her story, like so many others, had humble, unpretentious beginnings, and taking the route to join the Army was the farthest thing from her mind.

"I didn't have an example in terms of family in the military," she said. "I didn't have anyone to ask, but I just knew at that time, there were no jobs available at home, and I wanted to go to

college, but didn't have the money to pay for it," the Greenville, S.C. native said. "I really needed the money for college, and I knew that if I really wanted to secure my future, I'd have to be willing to do something very different. The Army seemed like a good alternative."

Hardison, who is the Centralized Operations Police Suite (COPS) administrator in the CAS Provost Marshal Office (PMO), joined the Army in July 2006. Her decision to join started out as simple quest for something that would help her fulfill her dreams while opening up more future opportunities. However, that journey began amidst



Hardison said the best part of the job is helping people. "Providing the best customer service is really important to me," she said. "I like solving problems and finding the best solutions for a problem."

FEATURING

SGT Salena Hardison

CAS Provost Marshal Office



CPT Brian Miller, ASG-QA's force protection officer in the PMO and Hardison look over some work-related details as part of their everyday responsibilities. Miller said he is impressed with Hardison's work ethic. "She is a very hard-working and dedicated Non-commissioned Officer who strives to excel at customer service," Miller said. "She provides the Provost Marshal with efficient and relevant products that directly support the safety and security of Camp As Sayliyah."

doubts and questions that needed answers.

"I remember talking to the recruiter in the library back then," she said. "I asked lots of questions, and he told me about the different jobs and opportunities that were available in the Army. We talked about all the places that I could go, too. It gave me a lot to think about."

Her life in South Carolina wasn't bad or even that difficult, but certainly not ideal. She comes from a family of four, but her parents divorced when she was only 3 years old, and her dad had custody of her until she turned 15. It might not have been the best situation, but it wasn't the worst

either.

"This was family to me," she said. "My dad provided the best that he could, and although my brother and I weren't really that close, and kind of did our own thing, we loved each other. I knew that if I needed anything, they would be there for me."

More than anything, however, Hardison credits her mother with encouraging her and keeping her grounded.

"When I decided to join the Army, it was a surprise to her," Hardison said. "But, once she got over the initial shock, she was fine with it and just supported me all the way."

Hardison's job in law enforcement keeps her busy and actively engaged. As a COPS administrator, she reviews all the law enforcement cases to ensure there are no errors before the paperwork is sent to the commander. Her job also allows her to work with people and solve problems. Hardison said that although she wears a lot of hats, she remains focused by being like a sponge and learning as much as she can, while she can.

"I take a lot of pride in what we do here in the PMO," she said. "I think that being in law

ARMY NATION

CELEBRATING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

New soldiering roles for women ensure best use of talent

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 10, 2012) -- The Army announced Feb. 9 a broadening of opportunities for female Soldiers, something the service's chief of staff said is meant to take better advantage of all the talent in uniform.

Six new military occupational specialties have now opened to female Soldiers. Additionally, other MOSs that had been open to women only at brigade level or above will now be open to female Soldiers at the battalion level.

"To me, it's about talent management," said Gen. Raymond T. Odierno. "It's about using our best talent in the best

positions and I don't ever want to limit our ability and hinder the talent that we have in our Army."

Odierno spoke Feb. 9 before an audience of lawmakers, congressional staffers and Army general officers at a House Army Caucus breakfast on Capitol Hill.

While speaking to lawmakers, the general also touched on sexual assault, hazing and suicide prevention.

Sexual assault, the general said, is "absolutely inconsistent with our Army values." He told lawmakers the Army is "dedicated to establishing a campaign for awareness to change in some cases culture, to understand we are Soldiers together, and we will protect each other no matter where or when it is."

The general also said the Army is working on investigational capabilities for sexual assault and development of programs for prosecutors on how to deal with sexual assaults.

Suicide prevention has continued to be a concern for the Army. Suicide statistics published by the Army in January, for instance, showed that in 2011, there were 140 confirmed active-duty suicides, with an additional 24 under investigation.

Odierno said the Army has put a "full court press" on suicide prevention but that has made only a "marginal difference" in the suicide numbers.

"We are going to continue to work this," he said. "It's about training our Soldiers, it's about awareness, it's about identification of the signs of suicide. We'll continue to work this very hard."

Also important to Odierno is the relationship the Army has with its partners in the Asia-Pacific region. That part of the world, the general said, is home to seven of the 10 largest land armies in the world. There, he said, 22 of 28 chiefs of defense are army officers, and the predominant military force in each major country in Asia is the Army.

So in Asia, Odierno said, the U.S. Army must work to strengthen its partnerships.

"We have to help to engage, build partner capacity, (and) establish military-to-military



Photo Credit: C. Todd Lopez

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said new policies regarding women in combat roles are about using the Army's best talent in the best positions.

(see TALENT on page 25)



Master Sgt. Renee Baldwin fires a .50-caliber machine gun during training last summer at Joint Multinational Training Command's Grafenwoehr range in Germany. Women will soon be allowed in six additional military occupational specialties normally located with combat units.

CELEBRATING MARCH AS Women's HISTORY MONTH!

Army to open six more occupation specialties, to women

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 9, 2012) -- The Army announced its intent today to open six occupational specialties and more than 13,000 positions to women.

These six military occupational specialties, or MOSs, were previously closed to women because they were normally co-

- 13M Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember
- 13P MLRS Operations/Fire Direction Specialist
- 13R Field Artillery Firefinder Radar Operator Specialist
- 91A M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer

-- 91M Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer

-- 91P Artillery Mechanic

DOD officials said at a Pentagon press conference Thursday afternoon that they have notified Congress of their intent to open these MOSs to women, and the change will become effective after 30 days of continuous Congressional session, as required by law. This is expected to occur later in the spring, said Maj. Gen. Gary Patton, principal director for DOD Military Personnel Policy.

In addition, officials announced that another 1,186 positions at battalion level would be opened to women in the Army, Marine Corps and Navy. These are in

specialties already filled by women, but only at the brigade or higher level.

The 1994 DOD policy known as the Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule had prohibited women from serving in combat units below the brigade level. But the secretary of Defense has now granted an exception to policy to allow women to serve in some positions in combat units at the battalion level.

The six specialties previously barred to women were due to the "co-location" element of the 1994 policy. That provision has

(see JOBS on page 25)

HEALTH

MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH!

Revamped dietary guidelines encourage better eating habits

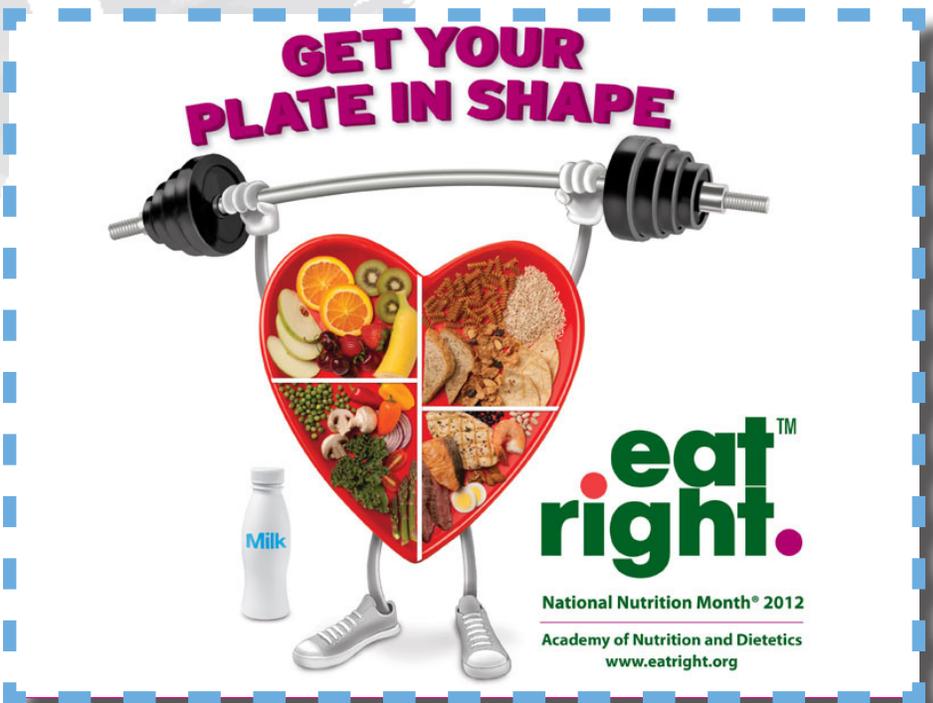
The 2010 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* encourage an increased focus on fruits and vegetables and an understanding of proper portion sizes. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) helps consumers understand how to implement these suggestions into their daily lives with “Get Your Plate in Shape,” this year’s theme of National Nutrition Month®.

Each March, the Academy encourages Americans to return to the basics of healthy eating. This year’s National Nutrition Month theme encourages consumers to ensure they are eating the recommended amounts of fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods and dairy each day.

“The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is committed to improving the nutritional health of consumers by translating sound science- and evidence-based research into messages they can understand and apply to their everyday lives,” said registered dietitian and Academy President Sylvia Escott-Stump.

“Each year, National Nutrition Month provides us the opportunity to remind consumers of the basics of healthy eating. By focusing this year’s theme on the new *MyPlate*, we can help people make the simple changes to their daily eating plans that will benefit them for a lifetime.”

Initiated in 1973 as a week-long event, “National Nutrition Week” became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing public interest in nutrition. To commemorate the dedication of registered dietitians as the leading



advocates for advancing the nutritional status of Americans and people around the world, the second Wednesday of each March is celebrated as “Registered Dietitian Day.” This year marks the fifth annual Registered Dietitian Day.

Launched in June 2011, USDA’s *MyPlate* replaced *MyPyramid* as the government’s primary food group symbol as an easy-to-understand visual cue to help consumers adopt healthy eating habits consistent with the 2010 *Dietary Guidelines*. Dividing the plate into four sections: fruits, vegetables, grains and proteins, as well as a glass representing dairy products, it shows consumers how they can incorporate the recommendations of the *Dietary Guidelines* into every meal.

“*MyPlate* is a great tool for helping people be mindful of what foods they should be eating and how much should be on their plate. Our ‘Get Your Plate in Shape’ theme takes it a step further by giving consumers ideas for creative ways to include the food groups, helping them think out of the box to make every meal both healthful and enjoyable,” Escott-Stump said.

As part of this public education campaign, the Academy’s National Nutrition Month website (www.eatright.org/nnm) includes helpful tips, fun games, promotional tools and nutrition education resources, all designed to spread the message of good nutrition around the “Get Your

TALENT

(continued from page 22)

relationships as we continue to work our issues in the Asia-Pacific region,” he said.

In South Korea, he said, there has been some concern about the reduction of defense spending in the United States. To address that concern, Odierno said, “we reinforce with them

our commitment, our treaty commitment with them. We will be there for them if necessary.”

Odierno said the Army is working to build a “strong trilateral” relationship between Korea, Japan and the United States. Acknowledging that Korea and Japan have had differences in the past, he said he’s been encouraged by the growing

relationship between the nations. “We are starting to see more discussion and more agreement between the two countries and we are there to help facilitate that.”

A trilateral relationship between the chiefs of staff of the three countries exists now, he said, now to continue to meet “to deal with some of the key issues that face our militaries in the region.”

JOBS

(continued from page 23)

restricted women from serving in MOSs that by doctrine are located with combat units.

DOD intends to eliminate the “co-location” provision due to the non-linear and fluid nature of today’s battlefield where there often is no front line, said Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy Virginia “Vee” Penrod.

“The battle space we have experienced in Afghanistan and Iraq require our forces to be distributed across the country,” Penrod said. “There is no rear area that exists in this battle space. Continuing to restrict positions as

solely on being co-located with direct combat units has become irrelevant.”

Patton said it may take some time to recruit and train women in the six specialties where they haven’t served before. Training them as tank mechanics, for instance, will take longer than placing them at battalion level in MOSs they already know, he said.

Women will be placed in the new positions as men are scheduled to rotate out, Patton said. A normal rotation schedule will be followed and men will not leave the positions earlier than expected, he said.

About 280,000 positions across the services remain closed

to women due to the combat exclusion policy.

After six months, DOD will assess the feedback from women serving in the new positions and use the information to take another look at the suitability and relevance of the direct ground combat unit assignment prohibition, Penrod said.

“This is the beginning of the end” of the combat exclusion policy, she added.

“We recognize the expanded role of women in the military,” Patton said. “I’ve seen women in combat perform in an expanded role. I’m very proud of them.”

HARDISON

(continued from page 21)

enforcement means that people hold you to a higher standard, because you represent the law to them. We have to enforce the law whether we are deployed or back in garrison, not only because it’s expected of us, but because it’s the right thing to do.”

Even though she’s only been in the Army for six years, Hardison has seen a few duty stations and spent some time in Iraq from Dec.

2009-Dec. 2010. She said the Iraq experience was “scary” but she learned a valuable lesson about life by making the best of what you have and not taking anything for granted.

“Being in Iraq taught me to appreciate things more,” she said. “It gave me a lot of time to think about my future and what I wanted to do. I also learned that it’s important to be close to the people you love and make sure that they know it every day, because you really don’t know what can happen.”

Army life has been a major adjustment for Hardison; she’s left home, made new friends, and been in combat. With all the challenges, she has decided that she likes the Army life and has decided to make it a career.

“I’ve just enrolled in college, and I’m taking courses in law enforcement,” she said. “I hope to go Airborne one day or even maybe become a drill sergeant. The sky really is the limit when there are so many opportunities available in the Army.”

The Chaplain's Corner

National Day of Prayer Breakfast



CH(LTC) Gary Payne (left), ASG's command chaplain; CSM Holliday and COL Grieme present Army Chief of Chaplains, CH(MG) Donald Rutherford, with a special prayer rug at Patton's Own dining facility following the National Day of Prayer breakfast observance. Rutherford was the guest speaker for the event.



SGT Althea Spellman, DFAC's NCO (left), served as the narrator of the National Day of Prayer breakfast, and SPC Courtney West of the 2175th Military Police Company (above), sang the National Anthem for the ceremony.

Thanksgiving in song

National Day of Prayer



SPC Donalle Bennett, a documentation specialist with the Joint Information Support Task Force, sang a moving accappella rendition of "This Day," (written by Richard Smallwood and Whitney Houston) for prayer breakfast attendees. Bennett said she picked the song because of its inspiring message. "I chose the song because it captured the spirit of what all prayers should include confession, thanksgiving, and supplication," she said.



The recently promoted CH(LTC) Gary Payne chats with Air Force Master Sgt. Vicky Perry and Capt. Rebecca Michael following the National Day of Prayer breakfast and before his promotion ceremony. Payne was promoted to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony held shortly after the prayer breakfast.

Chaplain Payne promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

By **JESSICA M. BAILEY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

ASG-QA's Command Chaplain, (LTC) Gary Payne, was officially promoted to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony held Feb. 8, in the small dining facility here. The ceremony came on the heels of the National Day of Prayer breakfast, which was celebrated just a few hours before his promotion.

Payne's promotion was followed by a reception in which the newly-promoted lieutenant colonel presented his wife, Ellen, with a special 30th wedding anniversary keepsake. He also thanked those who attended the promotion ceremony and reception.

"I am thankful for what God has done in my life." Payne said. "He turned my life from a self-destructive course to where I am today. It all began when I came in as a private in 1977."

Payne has served for more than 30 years in various components of the Army, including, active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR). He credits his wife, Ellen with helping him keeping him on track and maintain a focused perspective.

"Ellen has been by my side for 30 years," he said. "I am truly blessed, and thankful that she was here to share this incredible moment with me."



What did you think of Desert Mesh edition 75?

Please comment on this form, or make a copy, then drop it into any comment card box on Camp As Sayliyah.

How would you rate this edition? _____

What is your opinion of the content? _____

Was the layout and design appropriate? _____

Do you find it easy to obtain a copy? _____

Additional Comments: _____



We would like your feedback!

Edition 75. The editorial content is the responsibility of the Area Support Group-Qatar Public Affairs Office, located in building 101 across from the command suite. General comments should be addressed to pao@qatar.army.mil or by calling (011) 974-450-2714 or DSN (318) 432-2572/2800.



THE SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my Warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.