The Official Publication of Camp As Sayliyah

DESERT MESH MAGAZINE

ARE YOU ARMY STRONG?

Edition 77

July/August 2012

DESERT MESH MAGAZINE

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Front cover photo, concept and design by Mr. Jonald Lalas. Pictured are Soldiers of the 3175th who are featured in this edition of the Desert Mesh.

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

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U.S. Army in time of transition: Building a flexible force

By GEN RAYMOND ODIERNO
Chief of Staff of the Army

WASHINGTON (April 25, 2012) -- After six months as chief of staff, I can see clearly that the coming decade will be a vital period of transition for the U.S. Army. The service will have to adjust to three major changes: declining budgets, due to the country's worsened fiscal situation; a shift in emphasis to the Asia-Pacific region; and a broadening of focus from counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, and training of partners to shaping the strategic environment, preventing the outbreak of dangerous regional conflicts, and improving the Army's readiness to respond in force to a range of complex contingencies worldwide.

SMALLER BUDGETS

To ensure that declining budgets do not lead to shortfalls in training and equipment, the size of the active-duty force will have to be reduced. The reductions will be painful, but they are necessary and can be done responsibly. We must do our utmost to ensure that the Soldiers leaving the force are treated fairly and that they and their families are provided with support to help them successfully transition to civilian life. We must also cut units as we cut Soldiers, to prevent units from becoming undermanned and ineffective.

Although maintaining a smaller active-duty Army will involve some risks, those risks will be less than some believe because of the changes that have taken place in the Army in recent years. Today's force is qualitatively different from the Army of a decade ago. It is more combat seasoned, more tightly integrated with the other military services and with special operations forces, and more technologically advanced.

Today's Army also has an unprecedented level of integration between its active and its reserve components. The Army National Guard and the Army Reserve have stood shoulder to shoulder with active-duty troops around the globe, and the level of trust, respect, and mutual understanding between them is unparalleled in the Army's history. Our reserve component Soldiers are better than they have ever been, and we will dedicate resources to ensure that some of them will be either deployed or ready to deploy around the globe.

Multiple initiatives are under way to ensure that the Army continues to improve the stewardship of its resources and increase its return on the investment of public dollars. These include broad-based reforms of the processes that support key Army functions, changes to how the Army defines its equipment needs and then buys and fields systems to meet them, a careful examination of both institutional and operational headquarters to eliminate excess layers of command, and the pursuit of alternative energy sources and practices that can increase operational effectiveness while also saving money.

Ultimately, maintaining the Army the country requires with fewer resources will mean balancing three variables: the overall size of the force, its equipment, and its training and readiness. All the budgetary adjustments I recommend as chief of staff will be governed by the necessity of ensuring that each of these pillars is sufficiently robust to field an Army with the capability and capacity to perform its assigned missions.

PIVOTING TO THE PACIFIC

The United States serves as a critical guarantor of stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and a robust joint military presence there is an important part of the country's broader regional strategy. U.S. naval and air forces maintain the ability to provide rapid strikes, and if a broader conflict arose, they would play a key role in enabling the entry of the U.S. Army or the Marines into the theater. But the Army has a critical regional role to play in peacetime as well. The presence of Army forces in the region is an essential component of deterrence against aggression, complicating potential adversaries' planning and diverting their resources from

*(see **FORCE** on page 19)*

Wayne C. Grieme, Jr.
Colonel
Commander
Area Support Group - Qatar

Thoughts from the commander

Welcome to another edition of the Desert Mesh! As you all know, July and August were busy months here at Camp As Sayliyah, with summer transitions in full swing for units across the Camp. Whether you are a service member, DoD civilian, or contractor, I want to thank all those who have served here this last year and welcome those who are new to the Camp! Also, a special thanks to all the families that have supported their family members deployed here to Qatar. Both on and off the Camp, neither life, nor work, ever slows down. I know that many of the organizations on the Camp run 24/7 operations, and I hope that you have had the opportunity to take advantage of the many recreational activities on and off the Camp. At the Area Support Group Headquarters, we are welcoming a lot of new personnel as well – I am looking forward to working with the new team and continuing the great support to all of our organizational partners on the Camp.

The months of July and August were marked with hot weather, high humidity, and no rain! I am glad to report that even with the higher than normal temperatures, there were very few heat casualties this past summer. This is a great achievement especially with the turnover. It is also a testament to the quality leadership across the Camp, as well as everyone looking out for each other at the battle buddy level.

Speaking of quality leadership, in this issue we celebrate our great Nation's independence – 236 years! Ably led, through great sacrifice and perseverance, the United States has grown from its humble origins as a grouping of colonies to the superpower that it is today. Nowhere is this heritage better reflected than the Army which defends this remarkable civilization. All of you carry that heritage with you every day, and I'm proud to serve with you here in Qatar. A special thanks to the MWR staff for hosting the 4th of July BBQ at the Top Off – it was another one of your spectacular events supporting the CAS community.

In this edition of Desert Mesh, we learn more about our Host Nation's religious customs during the month of Ramadan and ending with the Eid Al Fitr. If given the opportunity, I hope that you had a chance to partake in the breaking of the fast at the end of the day, along with the fabulous meals offered late into the evening. With the sun up and fasting all day in the heat, it takes quite a bit of determination and will power to go all day without food, water, or any other routine acts that we take for granted. I appreciate everyone being mindful of those who were fasting, and for adhering to the standards set forth as you ventured off the Camp. Although we did not win the Directorate of Military Intelligence's Ramadan Soccer series, I know that a valiant effort was put forth and the assembled team played with dignity and pride. As your time at CAS continues to move forward, take advantage of your opportunities to learn more about our Host Nation.

In the month of August, we celebrated Women's Equality Day. On August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was ratified by both the House and the Senate recognizing women's right to vote. Women have always played an integral part in the progression of our American society, to include their many contributions to our branches of the Service. To all our female service members, DoD civilians, and defense contractors, thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make our Nation stronger, and for the positive impact you have made to the Department of Defense.

Speaking of great contributions, this month we bid Farewell to the 175th Military Police Battalion as they returned to their home state of Missouri. The 175th was the first battalion- sized Security Force to the Camp. Their many contributions both on and off the Camp have set a high standard for others to follow.

*see **GRIEME** on page 23*

Charles A. Holliday, Sr.
Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
Area Support Group - Qatar

Army Strong is great teamwork, leadership

Hello and welcome to another issue of the Desert Mesh. I hope that this issue finds you doing well and adjusting to the hot and humid temperatures outside. As I mentioned in the last column, make sure that you are hydrating regularly, using sunscreen every day, and taking any other extra precautions to stay alert and healthy. Those hot strolls to the DFAC, or across the various courtyards from building to building, can easily become the longest walks of your life if you are not preparing for the intense sun or extreme heat by chugging down some cool water before you head out. In fact, it's probably not a bad idea to get into the habit of carrying some bottled water with you as you trek from place to place. Yes, I know there is water available at just about every location here on post; but I'm talking about hydrating while you're on the go. It definitely couldn't hurt, and you probably will be VERY glad that you did!

This time of year is particularly busy with an increase of people either coming or going here at Camp As Sayliyah. We said goodbye to former HHC Commander, CPT Petal Leate, in a change of command ceremony held July 11, as she turned her duties over to CPT Nicholas Soroka. CPT Soroka now assumes HHC's "Headhunter 6" duties along with 1SG John Kimmerly as his "Headhunter 7" right-hand man. I have no doubt that with the two of them at the helm, HHC will continue taking care of the Soldier and ensuring that they are prepared in every way for duty here. We also watched several units rotate out and head back home to families and friends. We appreciated their time and commitment to the mission here at CAS.

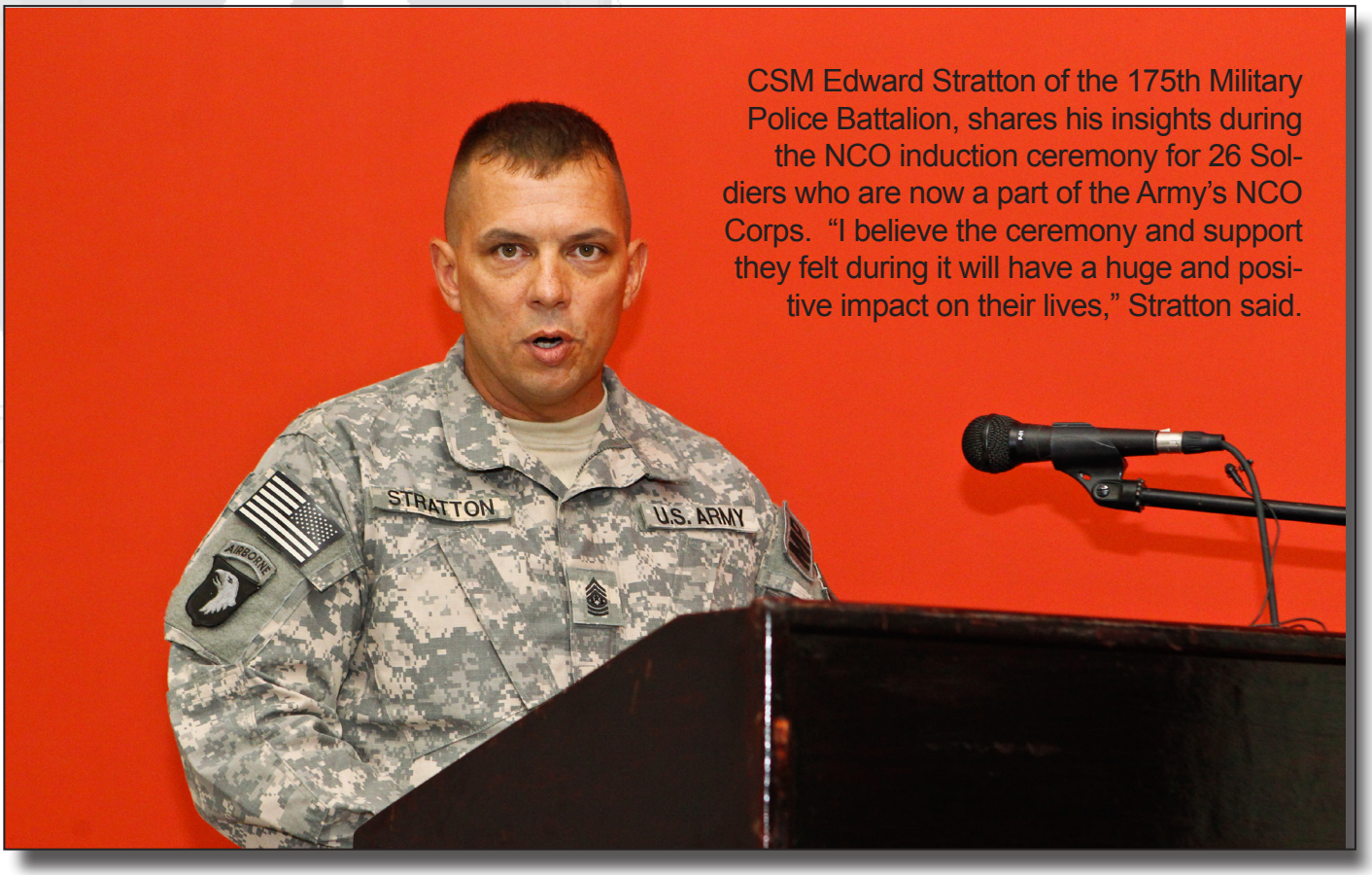
As most of you know, we are in the middle of observing the Holy Month of Ramadan which began July 20 and will end on August 19, and is celebrated by Muslims annually. It can't be overstated that we must always show respect for our Host Nation's religious customs. By now, you've heard all about what to do and what NOT to do. All I can say is to continue doing what you're already doing by being mindful and sensitive to those who are fasting. We've provided more comprehensive information about Ramadan on pages 12-13 which might prove helpful for you to read and review for future reference.

I am particularly excited about this issue of the Desert Mesh because it is our first Army Strong edition; at least the first that I know about. This issue will celebrate what makes us as Soldiers, who we are. It doesn't matter what our job might entail, where we're stationed, or what rank we might hold, there is something unifying that happens to all of us when we see or hear the words *Army Strong*. We take pride in being Soldiers and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with members of the best Army in the world. You will find articles on a variety of things that will be encouraging, inspiring, and helpful as you read through this issue.

For my part, I'd like to share a thought about leadership. I'm not a fancy guy with fancy words, but I've certainly learned over the years the value of great to mediocre leadership. I've also learned the importance of being one who can be led.

As a leader, it's important to know who's on your team. A leader must learn as well, understand the strengths and weaknesses of their team. To know this, understanding each member's ability or inability is paramount. I believe there are at least four types of players on a team:

*see **HOLLIDAY** on page 23*



CSM Edward Stratton of the 175th Military Police Battalion, shares his insights during the NCO induction ceremony for 26 Soldiers who are now a part of the Army's NCO Corps. "I believe the ceremony and support they felt during it will have a huge and positive impact on their lives," Stratton said.

Soldiers of the 3175th leave CAS as Army NCOs

By JESSICA M. BAILEY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

The Army welcomed 26 Soldiers into the Army NCO Corps in a ceremony held August 13, 2012, at the Camp As Sayliyah Community Activity Center. The Soldiers are members of the 3175th Chemical Company which was preparing to return to its detachment back in the state of Missouri after spending the past year deployed to in Qatar.

CSM Edward L. Stratton, who spoke at the ceremony and is the command sergeant major of the 175th, saw the occasion as a milestone for the NCOs and marked a celebratory tradition in the Army. "The NCO Corps has come a long way in the 25 years I have served," Stratton said. "I remember the day I became an NCO, and I was extremely proud and excited to be a leader. The NCOs I served under have had a huge impact on my life and career; I needed that mentorship and support."

Stratton credits the guidance he received during his early years in the Army and relates easily to what these new NCOs feel, because he hasn't forgotten where it all began for him. Sentiments aside, Stratton offered some advice and encouragement to the new NCOs as they embark on this new journey.

"I would encourage them to continually seek more knowledge," he said. "I would tell them to get to know their Soldiers and learn from their superiors," he said. "Be open and honest and live the 7 Army values, 24/7. Communicate consistently and be fair and understanding when dealing with Soldiers. If they follow these simple rules, they will gain respect and loyalty and will succeed as leaders."

New NCOs

Beginning top row, left to right: SGT Nicole F. Hubbard, SGT Benjamin T. McCain, SGT Landon B. Pummell, CPL David A. Mikkelson, SGT Tolighta N. Morrow, SGT Anita T. Mathies, SGT David Clark, SGT Christopher J. Hunn, SGT Cole Jansen, SGT Daniel J. Harrison, and SGT Ronald T. Kuester.

Editor's note: *SGT David Clark was also recently named the 2012 ASG Soldier of the Year.*

ARMY STRONG

Beginning top row, left to right: SGT Robert W. Casey, SGT Andrew Kenner, SGT Ryan A. Duey, SGT Ryan Miller, SGT Mark S. Atkins, SGT Peter Brandon, SGT Cameron L. Barnett, SGT Gregory O'Neil, SGT Koty J. Johnson, SGT Aaron C. Kavishe, SGT Donte T. Turner.

Bottom, opposite page, left to right: SGT Victor Medina, SGT Peung A. Kim and SGT Stuart Gambrill, and SGT Noah Cutshall.

New NCOs

Above: CSM Don Hubbard of the 175th Military Police Battalion takes the lead in reciting the NCO Creed as the new NCOs "accept the charge" and are sworn in at a ceremony held August 8, at the base theater. Twenty-six Soldiers were inducted.

3175th History Snapshot

Established in September 2004, the 3175th added to the force structure of the Missouri Army National Guard in St. Peters, Mo., with an end-strength of 72 personnel. The unit included a detachment in Jefferson City, Mo., which was assigned the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) mission.

Through a myriad of assignments, including Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and multiple stateside emergency duties, the Soldiers of the 3175th Chemical Company have conducted all assigned missions with honor and dignity.

***History courtesy of the 3175th Chemical Company*

Soldiers of the 3175th, from let to right: SPC Andrew Walls, PFC Christopher A. Southern, SGT Kevin Carter, Jr., SSG Brian Boss, SPC Tristan H. Ketterling, SPC Matthew S. Barnes, SPC Nicholas Mathina, and SPC Nicole L. Brittingham.

Ambassadors at the Gates:
Hail to the Soldiers who keep us safe

By JESSICA M. BAILEY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Being an American Soldier carries with it a huge responsibility. When you read the "Soldier's Creed," the words, "I am a guardian of freedom …" easily applies to any of our men and women who serve our country, whether it's on the battlefield of some foreign soil or in more familiar territory on the home front. Whatever the job or location, there is always an appreciation for their sacrifice. However, those Soldiers who are charged with standing guard at our gates here and all around the world, every single day, 24/7; ready to protect and eager to defend, those words in the Soldier's Creed, cause us to pause and really ponder the true significance of them. As our gatekeepers, these Soldiers determine with who has access to the facility and who doesn't.

"It may sound corny to some, but we are the first line of defense in many respects," said SGT Kevin Carter, Jr., of the 3175th Chemical Company, and part of its distinguished company of gate guards. "It's our job to ensure the safety of everyone," Carter said. "I would also like to think that we have a say in how a person's day goes; that's why I try to be warm, friendly and courteous to everyone."

Although some might view the job of a gatekeeper as boring or even mundane, these Soldiers manage to put on a smile, extend a handshake, and share a joke as they balance a heavy weapon and sweat under layers of sweaty, cumbersome gear. They have been trained and remain dedicated to ensuring they fulfill the assigned mission at hand; protecting the facility.

"The people that come through

are the first contact we have as they come on the base," said SSG Michael Lee Orasco, Jr., from Granite City, Ill., and also a member of the 3175th. "So, our appearance, attitude and demeanor toward any and all should always be the highest priority.

According to MAJ Adam Smith, the CAS Provost Marshal, these Soldiers, or gate ambassadors, do much more than just scan ID cards and allow access to the base.

"A critical aspect of the security posture of any post, camp, station or base of operation is access control," Smith said. "The objective of access control is to prevent unauthorized access and intercept contraband such as weapons, explosives, illegal drugs, and classified material. Access control involves establishment of a system of complementary, overlapping security measures to control access to critical resources and information."

The job for these Soldiers can be difficult, especially with the grueling shifts and painstakingly hot, humid days in the sun here in Qatar. The hours don't leave much time for extracurricular activities, but many of them take advantage of educational and recreational activities available to them here on CAS.

"I don't give myself much time to relax," said SPC Nicholas Mathina of St. Louis, Mo. "I get off work and then head to the gym; the only time I get to relax is when I am going to sleep."

Although spare time can be a luxury for many Soldiers, Carter said the down time allows him to devote some time to some cherished hobbies.

"Music and movies will always have a special place in my heart," Carter said. "But, when I'm at home, I live in the kitchen," he said. "I'm always trying to refine my culinary skills and impress my wife with one of my new creations."

Despite the demanding duty schedule, and hours in the hot sun, they remain Soldiers who have other responsibilities and requirements that go along with the job. There are always the programs that will allow them to move ahead in the Army through the variety of opportunities that are available to them.

Many are college students hoping to finish college, while others work full-time and will return to the jobs they had before deployment.

"I just want to go back home and be a Mom again," said St. Louis native, SPC Nicole L. Brittingham. "I also plan to go back to work, and to school full-time to be a nurse," she said.

Each recognizes the ups and downs with serving in the military; but they're all quick to appreciate the small contribution they've made while standing guard and being the ambassadors at the gates. If there is a bottom line, it's that they have the initial interaction with anyone who comes on or leaves the base.

"We are the first ones that anyone sees," said SSG Brian Boss of Granite City, Ill. "We are the ones who set the example of safety, security and professionalism for all personnel entering CAS."

SPC Mathina has an even more profound take on their job as ambassadors. As far as he is concerned, the proverbial buck stops with them. "No matter what, we are definitely the first line of defense."

Editor's note: *The Soldiers interviewed for this story are from the 3175th Chemical Company of the Missouri National Guard. They returned to Missouri recently, following their deployment in Qatar.*

Ramadan marks time to renew faith and commitment to God

By HANI ABUKISHK
ASG-QA S5

U.S. service members in the Islamic Gulf countries, regardless of their religious beliefs, must remain aware of the importance and traditions of Ramadan, the ninth and holiest month of the Islamic (lunar) calendar. This year, the religious observance will occur from July 20 through August 19, 2012. The actual start date is dependent on the rise of the new moon. After an official declaration, a widespread fast for Muslims begins at the next sunrise. The holy month continues until the sighting of a subsequent new moon. This is an important time to learn more about Islamic culture and religion, to avoid unintentionally offending the Muslim population.

The Quran was first revealed to the prophet Mohammed bin Abdullah during Ramadan in the early 7th century. In respect of the sacred revelation of their holy book, Muslims around the world have brought concentrated religious focus to their lives during Ramadan for more than 14 centuries. The holy month presents a period of religious commitment and reflection. "Ramadan mubarak" is an Arabic phrase used to express religious blessings and encouragement.

Ramadan includes a phase of obligatory fasting for all adult Muslims; excluding those experiencing poor health, age-related illness, long travel, pregnancy (or otherwise nursing), or a menstrual cycle. "Salat El Fajr," an Arabic phrase referring to the first prayer of the day, begins daily fasting the moment the first sliver of light breaks the darkness on the morning horizon. During the fast, Muslims abstain from food, drink, sexual activities, foul language (profanity, slander, backstabbing, lying), smoking, anger or carrying grudges or ill-will towards others. Abstinence is applied to any avoidable

activities that distract a Muslim from worshiping God. "Salat El Maghrib" is an Arabic phrase for the prayer observed at sunset which terminates daily fasting periods during Ramadan.

Fasting is required as one of the five pillars of Islam — it is obligatory, not optional. A person does not sin if they don't purposely break the fast, but they must immediately resume fasting once they realize the mistake. For each oversight, a Muslim must make up an entire day of fasting after Eid al Fitr, the three-day festivities that mark the end of Ramadan. Charity events can help make up for a lapse during fasting or missed prayers. Ramadan's special blessings can be abandoned or forfeited if someone deliberately, without an allowed exception, breaks their fast.

Guests in Islamic countries, homes and businesses should dress conservatively. It is important to avoid wearing or displaying anything remotely offensive. Many Muslim men do not shake hands with women during their fast to avoid anything that might lead to impure thoughts. It's best to always avoid physical contact between men and women, especially during daytime fasting. If a Muslim is reluctant, or refuses to shake hands — even if he or she had done so in the past — don't be offended.

All blessings are multiplied during the month of Ramadan. Moreover, Muslims receive extra blessings when they pray in congregation — some confine themselves to a mosque, especially during the last 10 days, to make the most of the sacred opportunity. Muslims often bring guests into their homes, since sharing a meal is another source of blessings. The wealthy often seek opportunities to feed the poor; at times, preparing food for others inside a mosque. All acts of goodness and kindness are rewarded with blessings and forgiveness of sin.

Special foods and celebrations are prepared exclusively for breaking daily fasts during the month of Ramadan. These events vary between countries, tribes and even families. In the middle of the month, all Muslims celebrate the passing of the first half of Ramadan; not as a religious ritual but rather a cultural practice. Arab-Muslim children in the Gulf countries commonly call this a Garangaou festival. For the most part, Garangaou activities are arranged to provide entertainment and social events for kids and family. Groups of children travel from house-to-house singing, dancing and collecting presents consisting of sweets, nuts and money. Shopping areas also hand out sweets to children on this day. The gifts are usually put in small cloth bags so the children can carry them.

Muslim families often extend invitations to co-workers and friends to join them during "iftar," an Arabic word for the first meal immediately following a daily fast. If you find yourself invited to iftar, be polite and respectful if you have other obligations. If you feel inclined, it should prove to be an excellent opportunity to experience traditional Islamic Arab culture.

The luxurious five-star hotels in the Gulf countries are well-known for holding nightly events and celebrations during Ramadan, which are frequently open to non-Muslim patronage. Ramadan tents open several hours after iftar with the announcement of buffet-style dinners. Since local traffic can become horribly congested during this time; most patrons make plans to arrive early. While attending, it's important to be respectful, open- minded and patient.

During Ramadan, remember the holy month's meaningful intentions in Islam: renewing faith and commitment to God; understanding the feeling of pain and hunger that impoverished people suffer year-round; avoiding desires and temptations for a higher purpose; increasing involvement in Islamic activities; and receiving greater blessings from God through good deeds and prayers. Overall, Ramadan is a time for Muslims to obtain a closer relationship with God and the Islamic community.

AROUND CAM

KIMMERLEY
SOROKA
U.S. ARMY

VOTES
for
WOMEN

LARSON
U.S. ARMY
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SUP CO

AP AS SAYLIYAH

This Way to the FUN!

U.S. ARMY MWR FOR ALL OF YOUR LIFE

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 and more!

Every Month is Fitness Mania Month

Participate in a different event every day, every month and earn points. 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 Key Staff

MWR Director
Antoine T. Randall
DSN: 432-3033

MWR NCOIC
MSG Montgomery Miller
DSN: 432-3755

INSIDE THE WIRE

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

Play bingo at the Top Off club every Tuesday, starting at 8:30 p.m.

On the road with MWR

Trip to the Souqs:
3 p.m. - 10 p.m. - This trip is *FREE* to all!

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

MWR trips are every Friday and Saturday!

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:
4 p.m. - 10 p.m. - $26.25 for CAS military, and $35.00 for DOD civilians and contractors

Doha City Tour:
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - $37.20 for CAS military, and $49.60 for DOD civilians and contractors

Water Sports:
9:30 a.m. - 5 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!

OASIS & TOP OFF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2012

Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar

WASHINGTON REDSKINS CHEERLEADERS AND NFL ALUMNI PLAYERS
11 SEPTEMBER 2012

FITNESS MANIA
01-30 SEPTEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Darts Top-Off @ 2030 Dance Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis – 1700-2200
2 Texas Hold'em Top Off @ 2030 Country music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**3** Labor Day BBQ @1930 Oasis Club	**4** Free Bowling Top Off Club 1800-2000 Midnight Bowling Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**5** 8-Ball Top Off Club @ 2030 Rock/Old School Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**6** Bingo Top Off @ 2030 Latin Music & Dance Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**7** Hip-Hop Music Top Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**8** Darts Top-Off @ 2030 Dance Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis – 1700-2200
9 Texas Hold'em Top Off @ 2030 Country Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**10** Bag Toss 2030 @ Top Off Karaoke Top Off Club 2030-0030 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**11** Free Bowling Top Off Club 1800-2000 Midnight Bowling Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**12** 9-Ball Top Off Club @ 2030 Rock/Old School Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**13** Bingo Top Off @ 2030 Latin Music & Dance Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**14** Hip-Hop Music Top Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**15** Darts Top-Off @ 2030 Dance Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis – 1700-2200
16 Texas Hold'em Top Off @ 2030 Country Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**17** Karaoke Top Off Club 2030-0030 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**18** Free Bowling Top Off Club 1800-2000 Midnight Bowling Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**19** 8-Ball Top Off Club @ 2030 Rock/Old School Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**20** Bingo Top Off @ 2030 Latin Music & Dance Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**21** Hip-Hop Music Top Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**22** Darts Top-Off @ 2030 Dance Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis – 1700-2200
23 Texas Hold'em Top Off @ 2030 Country Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**24** Bag Toss 2030 @ Top Off Karaoke Top Off Club 2030-0030 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**25** Free Bowling Top Off Club 1800-2000 Midnight Bowling Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2200	**26** 9-Ball Top Off Club @ 2030 Rock/Old School Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**27** Bingo Top Off @ 2030 Latin Music & Dance Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	**28** Hip-Hop Music Top Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis 1700-2400	Darts Top-Off @ 203 Dance Music Top-Off @ 2200 Billboard Top 100 Oasis – 1700-2200
30						

McHugh: Army's success depends on civilian workforce

By LTC ANNE EDGECOMB
Secretary of the Army Public Affairs

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (Aug. 10, 2012) -- The last 11 years of conflict have once again given the nation reason to be proud of American Soldiers' incredible achievements: the sacrifices they've made, the flexibility and skill they've shown, and the strategic capabilities they've brought during a challenging time.

"This Army has not just succeeded, but it has excelled, and has done so magnificently," said Secretary of the Army John McHugh, addressing a group of the most senior career civilians during a recent professional education program. Acknowledging the critical role Army civilians have played, McHugh continued, "All of us, as part of this team, had a very important piece in that effort."

Through opportunities for professional development and education, the Army will shape the future civilian workforce, ensuring adaptive leaders with diverse experiences, who are able to solve complex problems -- an effort comparable to the development of Soldiers throughout their careers. Retaining and managing talent is a top priority for Army leaders, particularly during downsizing.

Citing the tough situation civilians have endured -- pay and hiring freezes and the threat of shutdowns -- McHugh said he's committed to providing civilian employees the means by which to grow, evolve and develop professional capabilities despite diminishing resources.

Speaking to senior civilians attending the Army Senior Executive Education Program at the University of Notre Dame, McHugh said that while the Army needs to remain robust on the military side to execute missions, it must also provide for a sufficiently robust civilian workforce with money for training and modernization. "If you don't do that, you get out of balance," he said.

Civilians make up roughly one quarter of the 1.4 million-person Army, providing a full range of skills that complement military occupational specialties. From acquisition specialists and human resource managers to medical professionals and engineers, civilians are integral to helping the Army meet its missions around the world.

In an era of declining budgets and a reduction in active duty end strength, it's likely the civilian workforce also will be smaller, decreasing even beyond last year's reduction of 8,700 employees. And although the Army hasn't determined specific numbers for the future, budget realities indicate these cuts aren't the end.

Generally, during every post-conflict period, budgets decrease. The Army's challenge, according to McHugh, is to manage it. "We have to get this right," he said.

In 2009, then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates gave the services a mission to increase efficiency. McHugh said the Army has met this challenge.

"Every day for the last three years, we've been looking for ways to do things more smartly, in a way that can help us go forward as intelligently as possible," he said. "We can manage it and shape it ourselves, or we can have it done to us."

McHugh said he knows the "irreplaceable contributions" civilians have made to the Army. "Our Soldiers forward deployed should know they couldn't have done the things they have been able to do without the kind of leadership and support [civilians] have provided."

"We are committed not to try to balance our budget requirements on the backs of anyone, and that includes the civilian workforce," McHugh said. "Without our people, we don't have an Army."

ODIERNO

(continued from page 3)

other investments. And despite the region's vast expanses of oceans, Asia's militaries remain dominated by armies, making the U.S. Army's robust relationships with its regional partners a vital resource in a broad range of situations.

The recently announced training initiative between the United States and Australia has already demonstrated a renewed U.S. commitment to the region. This adds to the Army's partnership with South Korea, its long-standing record of exercises with Japan and Thailand, and special operations forces' training missions in the Philippines. Over the next decade, the Army will build on this strong foundation, seeking opportunities to engage new partners. We will also look to increase exchanges with other forces, better align our foreign assistance programs with additional engagement opportunities, and explore a range of other changes, from new command-and-control structures that would enhance responsiveness to modifications in how Army forces in the region are provisioned to increase their readiness.

Of course, even as the Army increases its activities in the Asia-Pacific region, it will retain substantial responsibilities elsewhere in the world. The posture of the U.S. military in the Middle East is critical to maintaining regional stability there. Peace between Israel and its neighbors remains elusive, Iran's behavior continues to be provocative and destabilizing, and the trajectory of the Arab Spring is by no means fixed. To maintain U.S. influence, particularly if additional U.S. naval assets will be devoted to the Pacific, the Army will continue to need some combination of prepositioned equipment and a permanent and rotational presence there throughout the next decade.

In most of Africa and the Americas, as elsewhere, the dominant military forces are armies, giving the U.S. Army a major role to play in continued U.S. military engagement. In Africa, past partnership activities have included assisting local forces in assuming greater responsibility for peacekeeping operations, and this will remain an important responsibility. With wars proceeding elsewhere, the Army's efforts in both Africa and the Americas have been limited in recent years. But we are exploring new ways to enhance our support to the U.S. Africa and Southern Commands as needs arise and existing operational commitments decline, while remaining respectful of local sensitivities.

Relationships with our European partners will be even more critical as so many Western nations reduce their defense expenditures. We have already announced the removal of two Army brigades from Europe. But we will continue our pattern of robust engagement with our allies and partners in the region by deploying rotational forces to ensure continued interoperability and the further development of advanced military skills. Furthermore, the Army intends to continue to invest in logistics hubs, intelligence facilities, state-of-the-art medical capabilities, and training grounds there, all of which serve as dramatic multipliers for U.S. joint forces and allied military activities both within and beyond Europe.

Finally, the challenges in the United States itself remain daunting. Although the actions of our forces overseas have helped preclude more terrorist attacks on the U.S. homeland, the threat persists. The need for U.S. armed forces, and the Army in particular, to provide planning, logistical, command-and-control, and equipment support to civil authorities in the event of natural disasters continues to be demonstrated regularly and is unlikely to diminish. And many security challenges in the Americas are transnational, including humanitarian crises, illicit trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, and weapons proliferation. Army forces will continue to be ready to contribute to broader national efforts to counter those challenges at home, if needed. Our reserve component Soldiers remain the bedrock of the Army's domestic response capability, but where appropriate we will also dedicate active-duty forces, especially those with niche skills and equipment, to provide civilian officials with a robust set of reliable and rapid response options.

A BROADER MISSION SET

The final major transition the Army must manage is that from a force focused on counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, and advising

*see **ODIERNO** on next page*

ODIERNO

(continued from page 19)

counterterrorism, and advising and assisting to one that actively prepares to effectively conduct a fuller range of potential missions. Since counterterrorism missions will not diminish in the foreseeable future, the Army will need to preserve and enhance its relationship with joint special operations forces. The evolution of this partnership over the past decade has been extraordinary, and the ties can become even stronger as we continue to develop new operational concepts, enhance our training, and invest in new capabilities. The Army will also need to preserve the intellectual and organizational knowledge it has gained about counterinsurgency, stability operations, and advise-and-assist missions. This expertise has come at a very high price that is etched into the hearts and minds of all of us who have worn the Army uniform over the last ten years, and we will not dishonor our fallen comrades by allowing it to atrophy. But we will address new needs as well.

The Army will make it a high priority in the next several years to more fully integrate cyberspace capabilities into our tactical and operational units. Despite continuing ambiguities about how and when such capabilities may be employed, we will clearly be increasingly challenged in cyberspace, and we must accelerate our efforts both to protect ourselves and to exploit our advantages in this domain.

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The Army will also make sure it firmly embeds one of the most costly lessons it has learned over the last decade: how to deal with the challenge of hybrid

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The Army will also make sure it firmly embeds one of the most costly lessons it has learned over the last decade: how to deal with the challenge of hybrid

warfare. In the future, it will be increasingly common for the Army to operate in environments with both regular military and irregular paramilitary or civilian adversaries, with the potential for terrorism, criminality, and other complications. Advanced technology and the information revolution have fundamentally altered the battlefield. Now, any activity a soldier undertakes can rapidly evolve into a combination of combat, governance, and civil support missions, and any individual, military or civilian, can alter the trajectory of an operation with the push of a button on a cell phone. The Army's experiences in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere have shown that failing to account for this challenge is dangerous. In recent years, we have made great strides in incorporating the complexity of hybrid warfare into our training for deploying forces, and we are determined to consolidate and build on those gains to ensure that our Soldiers and leaders are prepared for the uncertainty they will face in the future.

Finally, the Army needs to prepare for doing many different things well. In addition to combat of all kinds, possible operations in the next several years will include everything from helping victims of a flood to restoring order in a collapsed state with large-scale criminal activity, violence, and perhaps even unconventional weaponry. But how can the Army broaden its scope and maintain its readiness even as the available resources decline? First, we must align our forces, both active and reserve, with regional commands to the greatest possible extent. Regional commanders' anticipations of likely contingencies should dictate the mission set for which aligned units prepare. This means that some units may focus on higher-end war fighting while others dedicate much of their training to disaster relief or exercises with partners in the region. Regional alignment will also help inform the language training, cultural training, and even the equipment that units receive. Second, we will develop our capacity for adaptation and rapid adjustment so as to be able to respond to unexpected demands of any kind as and when they emerge. At the individual level, this means revitalizing how we train and prepare our leaders. At the unit level, it means reexamining how to provide the most efficient, effective, and flexible forces to joint force commanders -- making sure they retain a high level of war-fighting competency while still training for other missions as appropriate. And at the institutional level, it means ensuring that the Army's equipping strategy includes realistic projections about the industrial base and reevaluating the Army's capability to rapidly project power around the world.

PREVENTING, SHAPING, AND WINNING

The English philosopher Francis Bacon noted that "things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they be not altered for the better designedly." The Army is determined to design its better future, given the constraints and requirements it faces.

Over the next ten years, we will be increasingly focused on preventing conflict and shaping the broader security environment. This means maintaining a force of sufficient size and capacity so that potential adversaries understand clearly our ability to compel capitulation if necessary. It also means maintaining a vigorous presence abroad, one that reassures our partners and dissuades our foes.

As we shift away from active involvement in major combat operations, we will increasingly emphasize activities aimed at deepening our relationships with partners and demonstrating our country's commitment to global security. Ideally, a focus on prevention and shaping will keep future conflicts at bay. Should they emerge nonetheless, the Army, as part of the joint force, will be ready to decisively achieve American ends, whatever they may be. Ten years of war have produced an exceptional cadre of commissioned and noncommissioned leaders able to shift among different missions and different physical, political, and cultural environments. With years of sacrifice in Iraq behind us, and a responsible transition in Afghanistan on the near horizon, Army leaders will put those skills to use again to posture the force for the decade ahead.

(EDITORIAL NOTE: Gen. Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, wrote this commentary for the May/June edition of Foreign Affairs, which is published by the Council of Foreign Relations.)

Changes to Comprehensive Soldier Fitness focus on families

By J.D. LEIPOLD
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Aug. 22, 2012) -- Thirty-two Army spouses are now qualified to serve as master resilience trainers after completing a pilot program identical to the one Soldiers take to become MRTs under what was formerly called Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, or CSF.

Reflecting changes to the newly renamed Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program, or CSF2, the spouses attended a 10-day, 80-hour course at Fort Campbell, Ky., to learn how to train other spouses in psychological health and resiliency principles.

Col. Kenneth Riddle, new CSF2 director, said teaching the other half of the family effective listening techniques, constructive response and optimism skills along with critical thinking skills is okay, but sharing those communication tools are what builds strong families, and that's a primary objective he's focused on as the program evolves.

"The spouses are the ones who came up with the idea," said Riddle, who participated in a 90-day strategic review of CSF before becoming its leader. "They said, 'train us as MRTs and we'll turn around and train other spouses because we see them at Family Readiness Group meetings; we have yellow-ribbon events, picnics, coffee groups; we see each other every day and can teach the same skills just as Soldiers do.'"

The colonel said not only was the curriculum for the 32 spouses identical to that which Soldiers receive, this pilot class was mixed and included 29 Soldiers, something he noted could become the future of the training.

Riddle said his staff will spend the next 30 to 90 days studying how the pilot program worked out on what he termed a fairly isolated population.

"That's why it was a pilot, so we could collect data, look at how many spouses they touch, how many skills they're teaching; the frequency, the efficacy and then if it's proven effective, we'll deploy the program Army-wide," he said.

If the review proves the program effective, Riddle said he'd recommend to the chief of staff of the Army that spouses be allocated seats for master resilience training at Fort Jackson, S.C., the University of Pennsylvania and Fort McCoy, Wis., where a new school was stood up to support primarily the Army Reserve and National Guard. He would like to see spouses incorporated into the Mobile Training Teams.

Presently, CSF2 trains 120 MRTs monthly at the Leadership Development Division, which was formerly called Victory University, at Fort Jackson. In addition to the 10-day level-one base MRT instruction, the schoolhouse plans to open up instruction in level II facilitator training. Training for levels II, III (assistant primary instructor for breakout groups) and IV (primary instructor for the entire MRT course within a command) are taught at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We're sending mobile training teams with levels II, III and IV out to every installation and holding courses with class sizes ranging

*see **FITNESS** on page 24*

COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER FITNESS
STRONG MINDS ★ STRONG BODIES

GRIEME

(continued from page 4)

Their volunteer work in the local community, the mission training with Security Forces at Al Udeid Air Base, as well as the Fire Department Training, contributed to the overall readiness of their battalion and the Area Support Group.

As we say farewell to one set of professionals, we hail the 850th Military Police Battalion from the state of Arizona. Notable to the 850th is the fact that the battalion is made up of companies not only from Arizona, but from Alabama, Massachusetts, and Ohio. As with the change out of the security forces, we have changed the law and order detachment as well. The 368th from Guam is heading home at the end of this month. We also appreciate their contributions to the Camp. Most remarkable was their ability to execute the mission to standard with half the force from the previous unit. Their professionalism and dedication to the mission was unmatched – well done! Our team from Guam is replaced by the 79th Military Police Detachment from the state of Minnesota. We look forward to working with both of our new partners on this mission!

We recently celebrated Camp As Sayliyah's achievement of being Accident Free for one year! Well done to everyone on the Camp! During this accident-free year we have had multiple battalion, company, and detachment-level changeovers, as well as many individual replacements across the whole of the Camp. The ability for all persons on the Camp, whether wearing a uniform, serving as a DoD civilian, or as a contractor, to go one year accident free, with many working long hours, churning 24/7 to support warfighters down range or other organizations in the AOR, is remarkable. Clearly, this speaks well of all leaders at every level, down to the individual. This achievement has enabled organizations to remain focused on the mission, without the loss of any one person who contributes to the mission. Congratulations to everyone!

In closing, September begins Suicide Awareness Month; classes and activities are planned throughout the month. I continue to ask for your support to ensure we are taking care of each other – always look out for your friends and battle buddy – your organization depends on you! There are a lot of people out there who are suffering inside, and those who are closest are the ones we count on for saving lives. This Camp, as well as our Air Force neighbors, has great resources, from psychologists to chaplains, as well as your chain of command, we are always ready to help. Never feel ashamed or embarrassed to seek assistance – you earned it – you deserve it – your family and friends deserve it – get it!

HOLLIDAY

(continued from page 5)

The Willing and Able: Every leader desires these members. These members only need guidance. Give them the guidance and move out of their way and watch them achieve.

The Willing but Unable: These members require more training and time from their leader, and when the training and time is invested, the returns will be enormous. They will become a valuable part of the team.

The Unwilling but Able: A behavior adjustment is in order in this particular case. Leaders must be creative because most of the time, we find that these members need to be challenged and need a lot of encouragement. However, I recommend that leaders not to waste a lot of time if this person refuses to change their behavior; simply make them a "free agent**.**" Leaders should **s**pend most of their time mentoring, coaching and teaching those who want to be a valuable part of the team.

The Unwilling and Unable: Leaders must spend the proper amount of time to ensure this individual is no longer a part of the team (**terminate their contract**).

Just remember that our nation deserves a first-class force, and the only way we can achieve that is to ensure we grow first-class leaders. If we keep everything in the proper perspective, at the end of the day, everybody wins!

Finally, whatever you take away from the issue, whether it's an article about our new NCOs or about Army retention, I hope that you have a better appreciation for just how important and essential we all are in achieving the Army's mission here and around the world. To our Soldiers, families, contractors and civilians who support our Army Nation, as a whole, we are all *Army Strong*!

All-star comedy tour brings laughter to CAS community

By JESSICA M. BAILEY
ASG-QA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The NY All-Star Comedy Tour brought their brand of humor and fun to the CAS community recently. The team divided their time between an extremely hot Top-Off club on one night and the joyful bliss of air conditioning at the Oasis on another.

The four-person team, consisting of Elayne Boosler, Carole Montgomery, Jim Mendrinos, and Mark Riccodonna had embarked on the journey to entertain troops, primarily because of the opportunity to use their humor as a way of saying "thank you" to the Soldiers.

"This is my eighth tour overseas for the troops," said Carole Montgomery, who is known for her edgy, truthful styled of comedy. "My Dad is a Korean War veteran and he remembers seeing Bob Hope. I know what it meant to him; so I do this for him and everyone else in the United States military."

All the comedians call New York home and are accustomed to entertaining small and large crowds alike, but being able to tour the Middle East and bring humor to the Soldiers in the region meant being in front of a truly special crowd.

"My uncle served in Vietnam and told me about entertainers bringing a piece of "home" to the Soldiers," said Jim Mendrinos, who started doing stand-up comedy at 19. "It was his fondest memories, and I feel when I perform for the Soldiers, I'm honoring him and hopefully, bringing the Soldiers a piece of home."

Even with the soaring heat inside and outside the venue, the audience seemed comfortable and unperturbed during the performances as they sipped cool drinks, snacked on munchies and laughed at the jokes from each performer. Elayne Boosler, who has been doing stand-up for nearly four decades, kept the topic of the throbbing heat in her monologue, but didn't allow it to affect her attitude about entertaining the troops.

"I'm just so happy to be able to bring a little color into the landscape," she said. "It's a pleasure for us to be able to bring laughter to these guys."

The NY All-Star Comedy Tour, which is a presentation of Armed Forces Entertainment, continues touring the Middle East region through the end of August.

FITNESS

(continued from page 22)

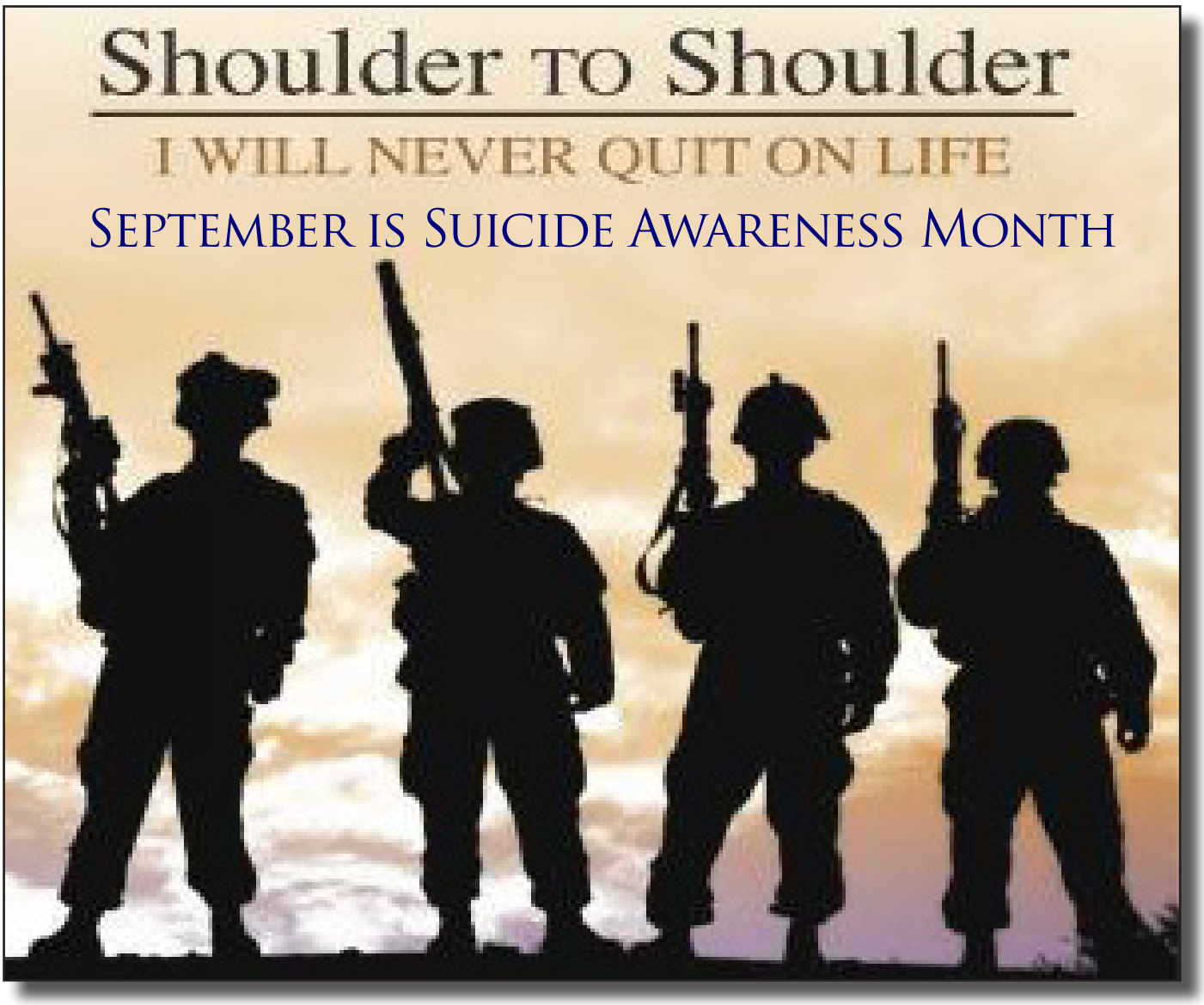
from 60 to 140 monthly," Riddle said, adding that MRT seats at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) have been reduced from 180 every month to every other month. He said the program would eventually become self-sustaining and independent of UPenn.

When the original CSF program launched in 2009, MRT training was limited to staff-sergeant squad leaders and sergeants first class who were platoon sergeants because it was felt they had the maturity level and skills to teach resiliency skills to their Soldiers.

Senior enlisted leadership recognized the Army was missing the boat by not opening the training to its sergeants who have proven capable team and squad leaders, so that too is in the works as well as a refresher MRT course for those Soldiers who haven't been training the MRT skills or have transferred to other units in new capacities.

Riddle said since 2009, more than 11,000 Soldiers have become level-one master resilience trainers, but he estimates that number has dropped by about half. So the Army will not only bring sergeants aboard as MRTs, it will increase the requirement of one MRT per battalion to one per company.

To learn more about the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program, log on to: http://csf.army.mil/.



What does *Army Strong* mean to you?

"It's living by a code of honor. It's being not only mentally and physically tough, but mentally and physically ready and capable."
SGT Kevin Carter, Jr.

"It means being able to accomplish any task."
SPC Matthew S. Barnes

"It means having a strong mind and a strong body."
SSG Brian Boss

"It means being able to take on any challenge and overcome your fears."
SPC Nicole L. Brittingham

"It means, don't give up, and believe in yourself."
SPC Nicholas Mathina

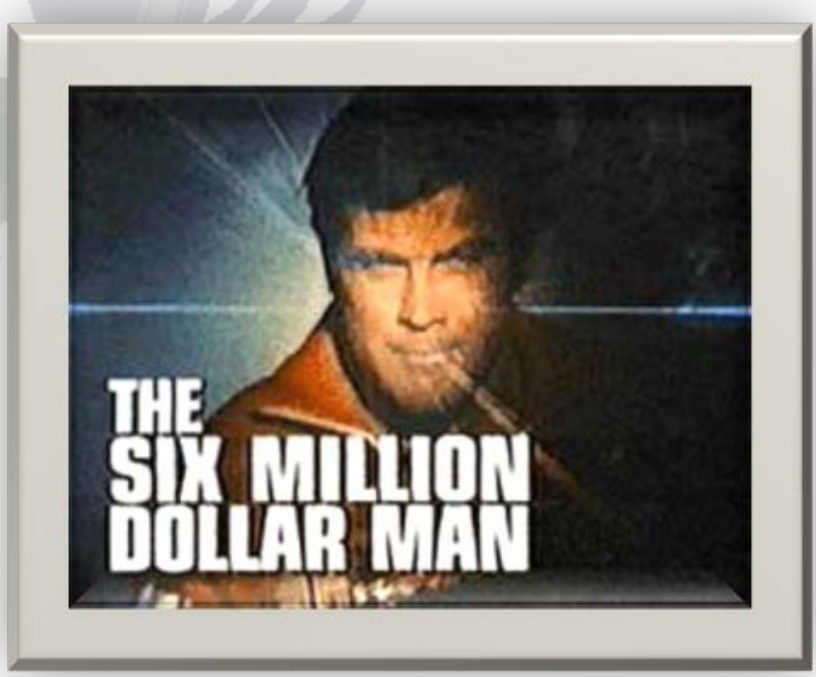
"It means to be stronger than the average civilian and be ready in any situation, no matter what."
PFC Christopher A. Southern

"I think that I means to stay vigilant, even when times are tough."
SPC Tristan H. Ketterling

The Chaplain's Corner

What is your source of real strength?

By CH (MAJ) WILLIAM J. WEHLAGE
ASG-QA Command Chaplain



What is your source of strength? Many of us are not old enough to remember the 1970s TV series, *The Six Million Dollar Man* starring Lee Majors, an astronaut who received bionic transplants which gave him super strength. His mechanical legs enabled him to run 60 miles per hour and his eye could see for miles. Perhaps most impressive was his bionic right arm which allowed him to move enormous objects. I remember one episode when he pushed a building completely off of its foundation. Is this possible?; of course not. Force directed against a heavier object will always move the lighter object; it's physics.

In my years of counseling families and individuals, I've discovered that most people are not as strong as they seem. Men and women alike will profess strength and give every impression of complete control, but when (and if) we get honest, each of us have points of weakness. Like the bionic man, we are not what we seem. So, what's the source of true strength? Let's look at some options:

Option A: Strength From Self: Mankind, dependent totally on themselves, has a sense of no need for others. They navigate through life with their own compass, judging right from wrong, triaging better from best and avoiding pitfalls with their innate data bank.

Sound like a good plan? Maybe! But, truth be known, none of us know it all and the less dependent we are on others, the greater our risk of failure. The truth is; know-it-alls don't; do-it-alls can't; and be-it-alls won't ever completely develop when in dependence only upon themselves.

As a chaplain, I've had occasions to conduct funerals of individuals who chose to walk alone. They are always poorly attended with people scratching their heads to find the words to describe a distant life that seemingly had everything but needed nothing.

Option B: Strength from Others: This is a marvelous option with an absolute landslide of contemporary players. Synergize! We are the world! Together we can make the difference! Even our Army has transformed from Option A to B, beginning with "Be All You Can Be" progressing to "An Army of One" then finally to "Army Strong."

How do we draw strength from others? Find someone who knows more than you and depend on them. By the way, this is how teams are formed, families are built and armies win wars. It is the basis for our education system and the premise for every professional service offered today. Not a bad thing; after all, what would mankind be without one another.

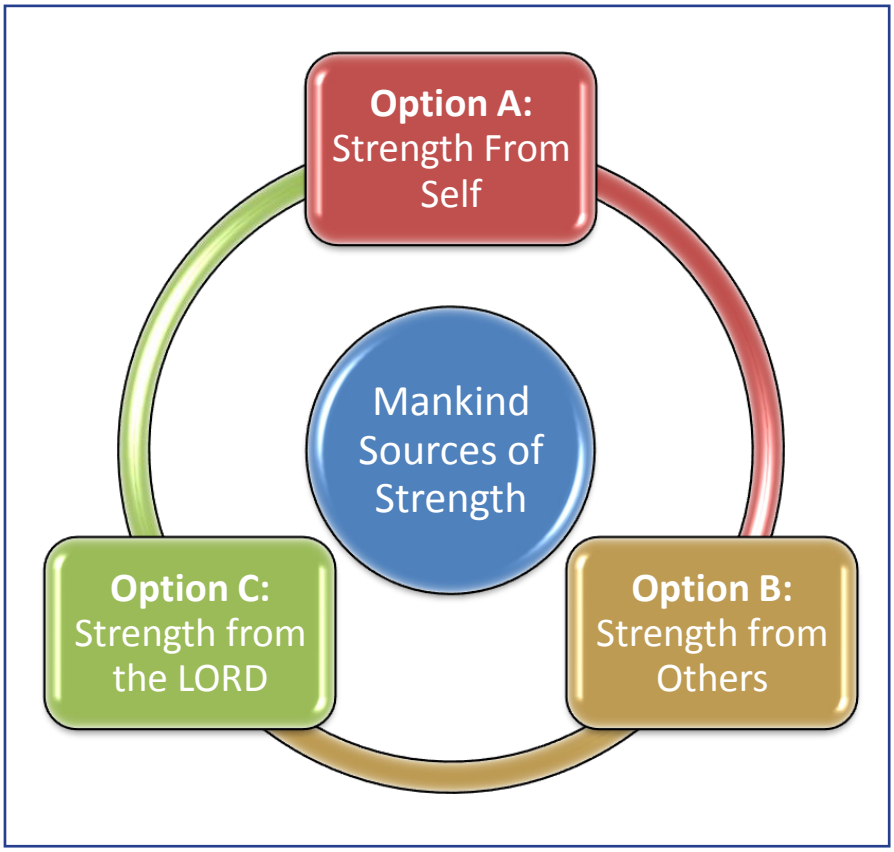
Learning from other people would be a great thing if it were not for one thing – people! Anyone with any life experience has had a bad experience with another human being; be it a

supervisor out for their own glory, a former spouse who cheated, a friend who betrayed, or a trusted professional who proved to be dishonest. Gathering strength from others requires wisdom to navigate the dangerous waters of human agenda and select only the best relationships.

Options C: Strength from the Lord: Ok, you probably guessed I'd get to this one, and I do so unapologetically! When you sit on my side of the desk, you see people without their mask, in their most vulnerable moments and you realize what really works and what clearly does not.

That's the chaplain's recommendation? The Lord! He's not really caught-up on your abilities, or lack of ability; in fact, less ability is better as our weakness is a perfect advertisement for His strength. A complete confidant, the Lord will work with you in those places you're really not proud of, exchanging your inability for His strength. Oh, and not to belabor the point, but I've conducted many funerals of those in dependence on the Lord; and let me tell you, they are much different!

Today, we'd be far less impressed with a six-million dollar man. In fact, with rising medical costs, it would not take much to rack up a seven-digit medical bill. But strength— true lasting strength— is something we all require and desire.



Army Chaplains Mission Statement

The United States Army Chaplaincy provides religious support to America's Army while assisting commanders in ensuring the right of free exercise of religion for all Soldiers. In short, we nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen.

Vision Statement: Spiritual leadership for the Army family.

Since July 29, 1775, approximately 25,000 Army Chaplains have served as religious and spiritual leaders for 25 million Soldiers and their Families. From military installations to deployed combat units and from service schools to military hospitals, Army Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants have performed their ministries in the most religiously diverse organization in the world.

Always present with their Soldiers in war and in peace, Army Chaplains have served in more than 270 major wars and combat engagements. Nearly 300 Army Chaplains have laid down their lives in battle. Six have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Their love of God, Country and the American Soldier has been a beacon of light and a message of hope for all those who have served our nation.

Currently, more than 2,900 Chaplains are serving the Total Army representing over 130 different religious organizations. More than 800 chaplains and Chaplain assistants are currently mobilized or deployed in support of contingency operations throughout the world.

ITT EXELIS

What did you think of Desert Mesh edition 77?

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? _____

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Additional Comments: _____

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DESERT MESH MAGAZINE

We would like your feedback!

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