

# Victory Times



*Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story*

Vol. V, Issue 35

November 08, 2010



## USF-I Sailors first to wear Navy's new Warfare Insignia

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall  
USF-I Public Affairs

Twenty-three Sailors were the first service members to receive the Information Dominance Corps Warfare insignia during a ceremony in Al Faw Palace, Oct. 29.

The insignia is awarded to recognize the service members for the important work they perform as information specialists.

Admiral Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, approved the insignia in February of this year.

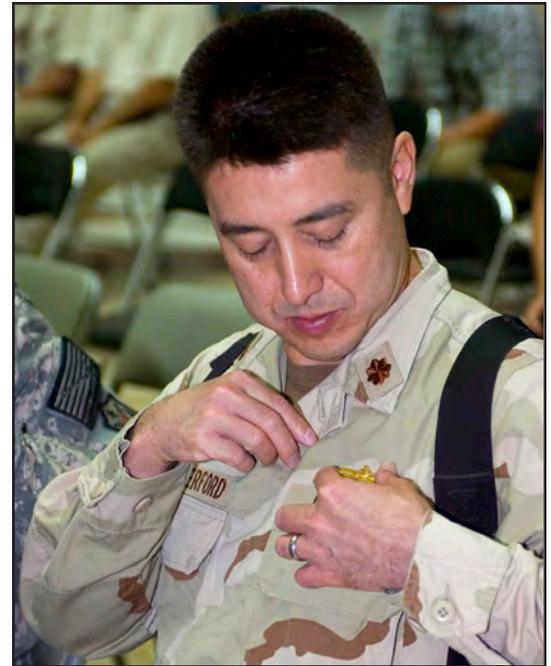
Commander Ethan Gibson, commander of United States Forces-Iraq information operations said the insignia can be earned by any Navy personnel so long as their occupation falls under an informational field. It indicates superior proficiency in one or

more of a number of professions relating to information, operations and networking. All of these skills are brought to bear in information warfare.

"By joining them together within the Information Dominance Corps, it allows the Navy to be more flexible in addressing the information environment and to have greater capabilities in sensing and shaping that environment," Gibson said.

Rear Adm. David Simpson, deputy chief of staff, communications and information systems, USF-I, not only had the honor of pinning the Sailors that day, but was also a recipient of the award.

**See Insignia, Page 4**



*Lt. Cmdr. Michael Rutherford adjusts his Information Dominance Corps Warfare insignia following the pinning ceremony held in the Al Faw Palace rotunda, Oct. 29.*

## Triple 7 MPs archive detainee records

Story and photos by Spc. Joseph Vine  
USF-I Public Affairs

Throughout the course of the war in Iraq, more than 85,000 detainees were processed through the United States military detention centers.

With the records of so many detainees in the system, accurate record-keeping is critical.

Cataloguing and archiving these records are tasks the 777th Military Police Detachment, from the Michigan National Guard, doesn't take lightly.

To accomplish this mission, the 777th is conducting a split

deployment. The unit recently completed an internal relief in place. The first rotation of Soldiers redeployed back to Michigan and was replaced by their fellow unit members.

The Soldiers received specialized training to collect and process all detainee records from Iraq, said Lt. Col. Edward D. Ziegenmeyer, from Silverwood, Mich., commander of the 777th MP Det., rotation 1.

The Soldiers in the first rotation catalogued more than half of the 85,000 detainee records from Iraq. The Soldiers

**See Records, Page 4**

**INSIDE:**

*Honoring Native  
American Heritage*  
Page 3

*Streamlining the  
supply system*  
Page 5

*Running with  
the Corps*  
Page 8

# Chaplain's Corner

## How to maintain long-distance relationships

By Chaplain (Cpt.) Paul Polk  
199th Garrison Chaplain VBC

Do you suppose the person who coined the phrase "absence makes the heart grow fonder" was ever involved in a long-distance relationship?

When many miles separate and your loved one, keeping your connection strong is tough regardless of your love for each other, but by establishing a few ground rules and engaging in creative methods of communication, you can make a long-distance relationship thrive.

Establish ground rules at the start. To maintain a successful long-distance relationship, you and your loved one must communicate openly and agree to ground rules for your relationship. Don't assume anything or leave issues to be discussed up in the air. When both of you are on the same page, you have the formula for a strong relationship.

Discuss a goal for your relationship. For a long-distance relationship to survive, both parties need to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Have something you both will look forward to when the going gets tough. When setting an end goal, make sure it's one you both understand, and on which you both agree.

Avoid excessive communication. I recommend having

only one hour-long phone call per week. You will have more exciting updates to share and you'll be more enthusiastic to talk to one another because you have been anticipating it all week. Less-frequent communication will also keep you from growing dependent on each other and will provide you both with the freedom to grow independently.

Raise your trust level. Being separated from your significant other means you are not aware of his or her whereabouts and activities. This can create anxiety and insecurity in some people. Give each other the freedom to live your lives separately and resist the temptation to become jealous, suspicious, overprotective or accusatory.

Live your life. Many individuals in long-distance relationships have their whole lives wrapped up in their partner, which leaves them depressed and lonely. Dependency stunts your growth and can take its toll on your relationship. Use your separation as an opportunity to grow and develop strong friendships. You can both grow and enrich your lives independently while still being in a partnership.

If handled correctly, a long distance relationship can make each individual much more well-developed and productive and will bring more to a relationship in the end.

## SARC Smarts

### BE AWARE-Watch for signs of trouble:



- The other person won't stop when you say "No!"
- He or she threatens to hurt you
- He or she physically restrains you
- The person threatens to or uses a weapon
- He or she tries to have sex with you when you are too drunk or medicated to say "No!"
- The person suggests something bad may happen if you don't give in

Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help.

Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



The Victory Times is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the DOD. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of United States Forces-Iraq.

**USF - I Commanding General:** Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III  
**USF - I Senior Public Affairs Officer:** Col. Benton A. Danner  
**USF - I Senior PA Enlisted Advisor:** Sgt. Maj. James Posten  
**Editor:** Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey  
**Print Staff:** Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall, Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg  
Sgt. Chris McCann, Sgt. Tanya-Jo Moller  
Spc. Britney Bodner, Spc. Joseph Vine  
**Layout:** Spc. Charlene Mendiola

The Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Please send submissions, story ideas or comments to the editorial staff at [roger.dey@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:roger.dey@iraq.centcom.mil). The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



# Native American Heritage Month: The Navajo Code Talkers

Story by Spc. Britney Bodner  
USF-I Public Affairs

**Editor's Note: November is Native American Heritage Month. The following article recognizes one of the major achievements of Native Americans in our military.**

They were a group of 29 Navajo men, called upon during a time of war to create something that would save thousands of lives.

In the early months of World War II, America was at a loss. Japan had currently broken every code the United States military devised and, with many Japanese fluent in the English language, were able to sabotage messages and ambush American forces.

The only solution at the time was to create highly complex codes that could take hours to decipher. During the heat of battle, this way of communication was far from ideal.

According to the Navajo Code Association's website, [navajocode.org](http://navajocode.org), the language of the Navajo was brought to the attention of U.S. commanders by Phillip Johnston, the son of a missionary who grew up on a Navajo reservation and was one of fewer than 30 outsiders fluent in the language.

In early 1942, Johnston recruited the group who are now known as the 'Original 29.'

Though not the first time U.S. forces had used the languages of Native Americans for code, the complexity of the Navajo language made it the only unbroken code in modern U.S. military history.

The code they created at Camp Pendleton, Calif., was as inventive as it was effective. It originated as approximately 200 terms — growing to more than 600 by war's end — and could communicate in 20 seconds what once took hours.

The words consisted of native terms that were associated with the respective military terms they resembled.



*Courtesy photo*

*Two Navajo Marines listen to a radio communication given in Navajo code during World War II. Known as Code Talkers, approximately 400 Navajo played a key part in sending and receiving messages coded in their own language during the war. The code was created by 29 Navajo members in 1942 in an effort to create a code the Japanese could not decipher.*

For example, 'chay-da-gahi', or tortoise, meant tank and 'gini' meant chicken hawk for dive-bomber. To supplement those terms, words could be spelled out using Navajo terms assigned to individual letters of the English alphabet, as the language did not have its own. This made a unique phonetic alphabet for Code Talkers to transmit messages with.

Once trained, the Navajo Code Talkers were sent to Marine divisions in the Pacific theater of WWII, where they quickly gained a distinguished reputation for their remarkable abilities.

They became known as living, walking, talking codes, as none of the code was allowed to be written down outside of U.S. classrooms, and even in the worst battle conditions had to rapidly recall every word with utmost precision, or risk hundreds or thousands of lives.

During the battle of Iwo Jima, in the first 48 hours alone, they coded more than 800 transmissions with

perfect accuracy.

As of 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command webpage. Roughly 400 of them trained as Code Talkers.

At the end of the war, Navajo Code Talkers returned home, but were unable to share their part in the war with others.

The code was so successful it was used in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars until the code was declassified in 1968. However, it wasn't until 1982 that the Navajo Code Talkers were recognized by President Ronald Reagan, and in 2001, each member of the Original 29 were presented the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush.

Fewer than 100 Code Talkers, and only two of the Original 29, are alive today.

A museum is currently in the works to record and honor their stories and role in WWII.

## Insignia, from page 1



*A row of Information Dominance Corps Warfare insignia are lined up and ready to be pinned on a group of information specialists during ceremony held in the Al Faw Palace rotunda, Oct. 29.*

He explained that the need to award the insignia happened when the chief of naval operations recognized the value of the information domain through the work that was being done here.

“It’s a great honor to bring a qualification standard initiated in Iraq, and to recognize those who are eligible,” said Simpson.

“Admiral Roughead saw the collaboration that was working so well here,” said Simpson. “He saw commanders who expressed intent, and how it would result in positive effects across this wide and varied battle space.”

Gibson said that it means a lot to him to be a part of the ceremony and one of the first Sailors to wear the IDC insignia.

“I think the Navy is in the lead in a lot of concepts and issues. In this particular case, approaching the issues in the information environment and developing a work force that can shape that environment is revolutionary,” he said. “I’m very proud to be one of the first members.”

## Records, from page 1

of the second rotation will continue to process and ship the remaining records to the National Detainee Reporting Center in the Pentagon

“The paperwork process starts from the ‘point of capture’ and doesn’t end until the detainee is no longer in U.S. custody,” said Sgt. 1st Class Carol Dalpe, from Shelby Township, Mich., the detachment sergeant for the 777th MP Det., rotation 2.

“When the detainee first gets to the Facility In-processing Holding Area, we collect biometric data such as fingerprints, a retinal scan and DNA,” said Ziegenmeyer.

“We also include information the detainee will give us like their birthday, residence, where they were born, and full name,” he said. “All of that information goes into the Detainee Reporting System.”

The information in the records comes from anyone who has contact with the detainee, from the legal department to the guards at the internment facility, Dalpe said.

The files contain sworn statements, evidence, medical reports, intelligence reports and conduct reports, she said.

“We’ve collected, catalogued, indexed and are currently shipping the records for all the detainees the U.S. has had in Iraq,” said Ziegenmeyer. “Those records filled eight, 20-foot shipping containers, and end to end would cover four miles.”

The records are being shipped to the U.S. to be digitized and put into the reporting system.

“If we collect a fingerprint off a shell fragment or casing, we can get a positive identification if they’ve been through

our system,” said Ziegenmeyer.

The 777th will continue to serve the Provost Marshal’s Office at Camp Victory through August 2011, when their mission is complete.



*Sgt. Robert Beebe, from Madison Heights, Mich., and an MP with the 777th Military Police Detachment, sorts through and stacks thousands of United States detainees records. The 777th MP Det. is collecting and transporting more than 85,000 records back to the U.S. for digitization and archiving.*

# III Corps STB streamlines supply system

Story by Sgt. Chris McCann  
USF-I Public Affairs

As United States Forces – Iraq continues to consolidate its presence, units have found equipment that could be better used elsewhere by deployed U.S. forces or given to the Government of Iraq – but getting it there takes a little work.

Because the equipment turn-in process has traditionally been time-consuming, the III Corps Special Troops Battalion logistics section has made great efforts to streamline the process and make it easier for units.

Chief Warrant Officer Jubaba Kemp helps coordinate turn-in and ensures that the items are entered properly into three systems.

“There are three phases, really,” Kemp said. “First, it goes into the USF-I logistics system, then into a Central Command database for Iraq, then into the Life Cycle Management Command system. Then the final disposition is determined.”

**It's a good feeling – we're helping downsize, and we're saving the Army money, redistributing this property to places it's needed**

This system allows the equipment to be offered to USF-I units, then others in the CENTCOM areas of operations, and even possibly to units that might need it in the United States.

Once the equipment has been slated for someone in need, it is packed up and sent.

“Lots of equipment goes to Afghanistan, or to other supply depots,” said Kemp.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall

*Sgt. Francisco Martinez, a supply sergeant with Company A, III Corps Special Troops Battalion, inventories chemical protective equipment.*

Of course, much of the work still falls on the unit supply sergeants, he said. They make sure that the serial numbers and other information that Kemp and his team need are correct. When things aren't correct, it makes Kemp's job more difficult, so the S-4 shop works with the unit representatives to make sure everything is done right the first time.

“They make my job easier,” said Sgt. Francisco Martinez, supply sergeant for Company A of the STB. “They check over my paperwork and make sure the information is correct.”

“They're very good to work with,” Martinez said. “And they're even a little bit better than the battalion supply section I worked with last time I was deployed. They give a lot of feedback, and the turn-around time on paperwork is very quick.”

Capt. Garron Bremer, the STB logistics officer and resource manager, has some tips for units who need to have excess equipment taken off their books.

“There's a standard operating procedure on the USF-I portal,” he said. “They can just send in the paperwork, then take the equipment to the Redistribution Property Accountability Team yard on Camp Liberty.”

Having all the serial numbers and national stock numbers correct before trying to turn things in will speed the process, said Kemp.

“Making sure the information is accurate is the toughest part,” he said. “It's not difficult, but it can be repetitive and time consuming. If there's a serial number discrepancy, we have to file more paperwork to pull that item off the property book and make adjustments.”

The best part?

“It's a good feeling – we're helping downsize, and we're saving the Army money, redistributing this property to places it's needed,” said Kemp. “That's the most encouraging thing. We know we've had a major part in downsizing our presence in Iraq.”

# Keeping Soldiers healthy one truck at a time

Story and photo by Spc. Britney Bodner  
USF-I Public Affairs

Personnel on Victory Base Complex and forward operating bases go through a lot of water on a day to day basis and the trucks that haul it are a key part of the life support mission.

Keeping the trucks clean plays a major part in keeping the water uncontaminated during transport around VBC and outlying FOBs, said Sgt. D'Arlo Smith, a preventative medicine noncommissioned officer originally from Daytona Beach, Fla.

"Water is one of the easiest ways for a unit to go down," Smith said. "It could be water-borne diseases or rust from water tanks, both put the health of service members at risk."

There are approximately 159 trucks that need to be inspected to ensure the water they transport remains potable, or clean and suitable to drink.

Personnel with the preventive medicine section of the 926th Medical Detachment from Fort Benning, Ga., check the trucks each month, said Spc. Brian Robbins, a mechanic and Pensacola, Fla., native, who has been working with the 926th for the past year.

The trucks have three days to be inspected and receive the paperwork that permits them to carry water, said 1st Lt. Amanda Gonzalez, executive officer for preventive medicine.

"We go through all the potable-water trucks to make sure they are sanitary, stable, and have no rust or debris," said Smith. "They also need to have the proper chlorination paperwork so we know the trucks have been properly disinfected."

The entire water tank and hoses need to be



*Sgt. D'Arlo Smith, a preventative medicine noncommissioned officer with the 926th Medical Detachment, checks one of the hoses on a potable water truck for rust and debris at Camp Liberty, Nov. 1. Smith and several other members a part of preventative medicine spent the morning doing their monthly inspection of the potable water trucks on Victory Base Complex to make sure they are clean and serviceable.*

inspected for the truck to be considered suitable to haul water.

"We look in the valves, checking to make sure there's no rust or dirt and make sure the hoses are serviceable," Robbins said. "We check that they have rubber gaskets so no contamination can get inside."

The Soldiers of preventive medicine also check inside the tanks for cleanliness, rust spots or dirt, which could contaminate the water, Robbins said.

Personnel have to pay close attention to the amount of rust, how severe it is and where it's located, Smith said. For example, a filling port or a dispensing valve is not a good spot to have a lot of debris because of the water passing from there to the shower or latrine holding tank.

Making sure Soldiers receive good, clean water for bathing and basic hygiene needs is a vital part of the 926th's mission, said Gonzalez. Checking the equipment is just one way of accomplishing that mission.



*An empty potable water truck pulls up to the area designated for inspections by the preventive medicine section of the 926th Medical Detachment at Camp Liberty, Nov. 1.*

# Unsung Hero



Staff Sgt. Derrick Royal, Joint Operations Center Air Missile Defense Night noncommissioned officer-in-charge, is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and receives a Certificate of Achievement from Brig. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Forces-Iraq, at Al Faw Palace Nov. 5. Royal received the recognition for ensuring the successful execution of Air Defense Missile Operations.

## VBC Facility Operating Hours

**Sports Oasis DFAC**  
Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 8:30 p.m.  
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Sandwich Bar open 24 hours

**Education Center**  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Camp Liberty Post Exchange**  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Camp Victory Post Exchange**  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Paul Smith Gym**  
Open 24 Hours

**Victory Main Post Office**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**USF-I Unit Mail Room**  
**Customer Services/Mail Call:**  
Daily 3 - 6 p.m.

**Al Faw Palace Post Office**  
Wednesday and Sunday  
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Golby TMC Sick Call**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 - 11:30 a.m.

**Mental Health Clinic**  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

**Pharmacy**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;  
1 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

**Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay has been  
extended until Dec. 3, 2010.**

**Service members may be eligible for \$500  
per month in retroactive pay for each month their  
service was extended under "Stop Loss."**

Apply at  
[www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss)  
or contact your unit S1

# negligent DISCHARGES

It's one of the easiest  
**ACCIDENTS**  
to prevent!



own the  
**EDGE**  
Composite Risk Management

## Websites

Check it out:

**USF-I Web pages**  
[www.usf-iraq.com](http://www.usf-iraq.com)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq)  
[www.twitter.com/USF\\_Iraq](http://www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq)

**Facebook -**  
United States Forces-Iraq  
U.S. Army III Corps  
Phantom Battalion  
III Corps Fort Hood

# Camp Victory hosts Marine Corps Marathon



Runners start the Camp Victory, Iraq Marine Corps Marathon Forward, Oct. 31. Roughly 200 runners participated in the run, held in conjunction with the 35th Annual Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va.

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey  
USF-I Public Affairs

Nearly 200 service members and civilians gathered in the predawn darkness, Oct. 31, to take part in Camp Victory's Marine Corps Marathon Forward satellite run.

The 26.2 mile run began at 5 a.m. and took runners onto laps around Camp Victory, onto neighboring Camp Liberty and back again.

The marathon was expected to end at roughly the same time the 35th Annual Marine Corps Marathon was set to begin in Arlington, Va., said event coordinator Maj. Amy Sitze, United States Force-Iraq current operations space operations officer.

Marine Lance Cpl. Armando Ojeda, deployed to Iraq with Marine Forces Central Command, had never run a marathon before, but said he knew he had to take part in the run as soon as he heard about it.

"It's an honor to do it here in Iraq. (The opportunity) to do a marathon doesn't happen every time you deploy," Ojeda, from Santa Maria, Calif. said.

The Camp Victory run was one of two MCM Forward satellite runs in Iraq, with the second taking place on Joint Base Balad

Marine Corps Marathons have been held in Iraq since 2006, when the first MCM Forward was organized at Al Asad Airbase.



Marine Lance Cpl. Armando Ojeda heads toward Lost Lake on Camp Victory during the Marine Corps Marathon.