



:::: The Official Publication of Camp As Sayliyah ::::

DESERTMESH MAGAZINE [®] _A

Edition 68 January 2011

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- :: **Command Sergeant Major**
Command Sgt. Maj.
Charles A. Holliday, Sr.
- :: **Executive Officer**
Maj. Tymon LaMar
- :: **Public Affairs Coordinator**
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- :: **Visual Information**
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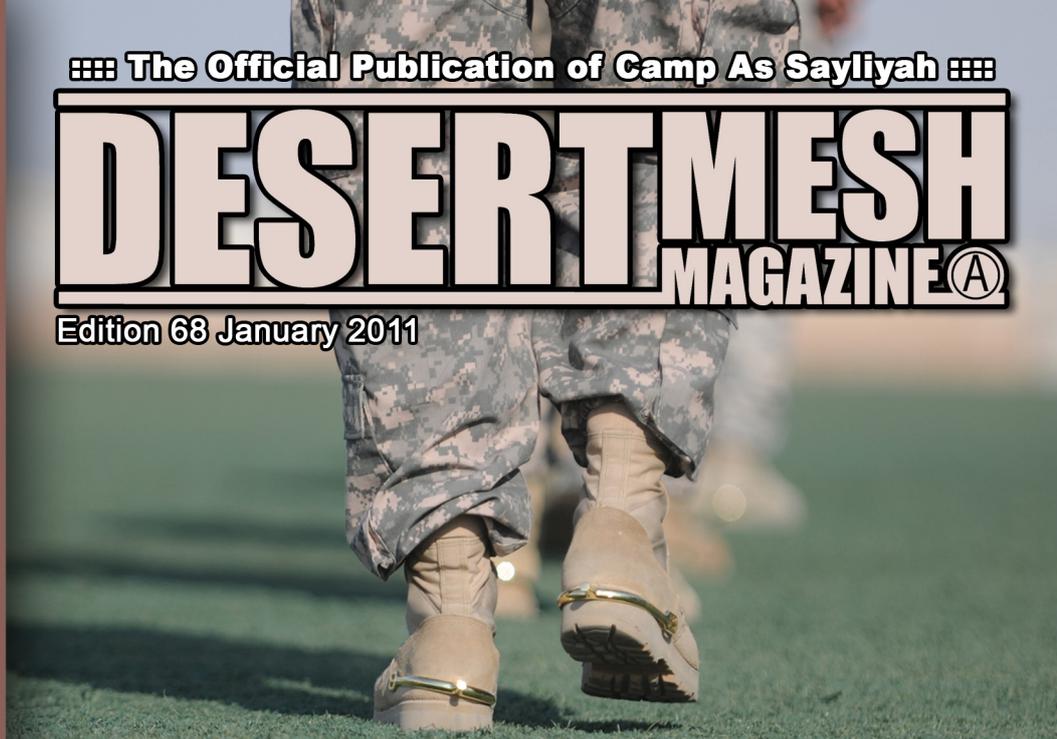
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See the back cover for details.



Jason Chudy photo

American Education Week

Camp As Sayliyah celebrated American Education Week in mid-November, which included a performance by the U.S. Army Europe Band. Guest speaker for the event was Carolyn Baker, chief of continuing education programs for the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.



Cav earns gold spurs ₃



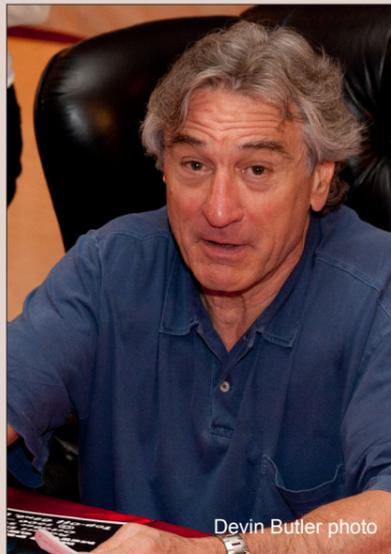
Drag races 21



At the CoS Beach House 22-23



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Devin Butler photo

'You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me?'

American Actor Robert De Niro visited Camp As Sayliyah in late October in conjunction with his trip to Qatar for the Doha Tribeca Film Festival, which was in its second year.

De Niro signed autographs for hundreds of base personnel, and took photos with dozens of them.

He has starred in dozens of movies, ranging from mobster films such as *The Godfather: Part II* and *Goodfellas* to comedies such as *Analyze This* and *Meet the Parents*.

De Niro's trademark "talkin'" phrase from the 1976 film *Taxi Driver* earned him a place as the American Film Institute's 10th most famous movie quote of all time.



Jason Chudy photo

Beach House was 'cat's meow' for hundreds of troops
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Edition 68 – This Army magazine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Desert Mesh* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content is the responsibility of the Area Support Group Qatar public affairs office. General comments should be addressed to pao@qatar.army.mil or call 011-974-450-2714 (DSN: 318-432-2572). All photos are official U.S. Army Photos unless otherwise credited. *Desert Mesh* layout and design by Jason Chudy. Comments should be addressed to jason.r.chudy@qatar.army.mil or call 011-974-450-2714 (DSN 318-432-2572).

Connelly Award announced

'Patton's Own' second best in Army

By JASON CHUDY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

The Area Support Group – Qatar "Patton's Own" Dining Facility was named the large garrison runner-up in the 2011 Department of the Army Phillip A. Connelly Award competition.

Winning the category was the Freedom Inn Dining Facility at Ft. Meade, Md.

A three-member team of Connelly inspectors were on camp in November to grade the facility on a list of 100 items ranging from sanitation to food presentation. They inspect the top seven facilities in each of the three active Army categories, and competition is tough.

"The difference between the winner and second place can be as little as five points out of 1,000," explained Jim Riddle of the International Food Service Executives Association.

Riddle, who spent 25 years in the Army before joining IFSEA, said he's seen a great increase in the quality of dining facilities. "The food program is 1,000 times better than when I was in," he said.

"It's not about who's best," explained inspector Sgt. Maj. Andrea Farmer, who has 27 ½ years in Army food services, "It's about excellence in food service. If they make the diners happy, that's the ultimate goal."

While this was Farmer's first trip to the camp as an inspector, she was here on Rest and Recuperation leave in 2006. "There's



Jonald Lallas photo

Jim Riddle, right, watches as Mohammad Naem moves barbecue chicken from the baking plate to a serving pan during the Phillip A. Connelly Award Competition inspection in November. Riddle, of the International Food Service Executives Association, and two Army food service inspectors were on camp to evaluate the facility for the competition.

been a lot of changes," she said, "A lot of positive changes. Now, it's really extremely impressive. It's a first-class dining facility." Camp Food Service Officer Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Niehus agreed. "We take care of Soldiers coming here from Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait," he said. "Some are coming in from battle. They're entitled to the best we can offer."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ellen Magras rounded out the inspection team. She said that with the Army having been on a cycle of combat deployments for nearly a decade, the Connelly inspection and award takes on more significance.

"It makes the competition more challenging," she said. "The more

you compete, the better you get at enforcing the policies and practices of Army food service."

And ensuring that Army policies and practices are followed is made more of a challenge since most of the camp's dining staff is not from the United States.

"We've got staff and individuals from different countries working in the dining facility," Niehus said. "They put in tremendously long hours here."

Joe Colon, the ITT Systems Corporation dining facility manager, said that everyone in the facility gives their all.

"We care and cook with love for the Soldiers," said Colon. "We don't look at this as just a job. We treat it like it's our second home."



Maxine C. Girard

Colonel
Commander
Area Support Group Qatar

The installation commander



Last year was, and this coming year will continue to be, a year of transitions and changes as our mission continues. Priority, of course, remains support to the warfighter.

Looking back, we began the new year of 2010 with a change in our base security force from contractors to Soldiers with Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment of the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the Florida Army National Guard.

The Joint Psychological Operations Task Force transitioned command and received a new name: Joint Information Support Task Force (Special Operations).

The Central Command Contracting Command (CCC) transitioned from Iraq to Qatar and changed names to the Joint Theater Support Contracting Command (JTSCC).

Additional units coming to Camp As Sayliyah include the 1177th and 1148th Transportation Companies of the Georgia Army National Guard and the 332nd Medical Logistics Company of St. Peters, Mo., replaced the 424th Medical Logistics Company.

The mission of all these units continued without missing a beat; a positive and unique aspect of our business.

But our mission remained the same: supporting U.S. Army Central (ARCENT)/Third Army, specifically with the largest logistical operation since World War II - Operation Nickle II, the transition from Operation Iraqi Freedom

to Operation New Dawn, and the movement of more than 3 million pieces of equipment from the Middle East to Afghanistan.

Third Army redeployed 95,000 troops, 44,000 containers and 40,000 vehicles from Iraq, a portion of which were used in support of the build up in Afghanistan.

It transported equipment worth \$1.12 billion from Iraq to Afghanistan, equipment that otherwise would have been purchased for operations in Afghanistan.

This redistribution plan demonstrated Third Army's commitment to being a good steward of the American taxpayer's funds.

Change and transition occurs, but as we execute these changes the mission, our readiness, and our Soldiers continue to sustain our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now as we transition into a new year and new decade, we renew our commitment to provide the same level of focus in being "Ready Tonight," "Sustaining the Fight," and "Shaping our Future" success.

Thank you for your service to our nation and your respective services, as well as the Camp As Sayliyah community.

Patton's Own! Happy New Year!

Support 6

Charles A. Holliday, Sr.

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
Area Support Group Qatar



A new year, a new challenge



First off, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

As we look back at 2010, I want to thank you all for the support that you have provided. Your contributions make our nation stronger as a whole.

America will remain strong because of what you do here in Qatar. It takes a lot of little pieces to complete the big picture that is America, and we have an important part of that picture here.

To ensure that our portion of the big picture remains in focus, please continue to be flexible, adaptive and responsive to whatever changes and challenges we will face in 2011.

As we transition into the new year, let's continue to look out for each other. We need to be vigilant, keeping our guard up both on and off camp, never forgetting that our adversaries are still looking to do us harm. Everyone is a safety officer, regardless of your "rank." We must make safety our priority. If you see an unsafe act, STOP IT! Keep your piece of the puzzle in focus, so stay focused yourself!

A large part of that focus is accountability. Everyone must be accountable to any government property issued to them. For example, we must take better care of our NTVs. All equipment must be properly maintained, and accounted for, at all times and any discrepancies reported through the proper channels.

We also need to maintain ac-

countability to ourselves and to our leaders, and if we're in a leadership role, to our subordinates.

Taking care of subordinates and their families should be a priority for our leaders, and here on camp our non-commissioned officers need to be accountable for, and to, their Soldiers at all times.

We recently inducted 15 sergeants into the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps - you can read about it on Page 9. Their induction means that they are aware of their responsibilities and will continue to live the value of professionalism that being an NCO requires.

Our Army is great because of the NCO Corps and their ability to train. Training is "Sergeant's Business." Yes, there is a "business" that the sergeants own: training Soldiers to be prepared to "fight tonight." The subject-matter expert has been, and must continue to be, the sergeant. The sergeant is responsible for the individual training and mentoring of those Soldiers, including ensuring they follow standards in accordance with published regulations and ensuring that their personal appearance is impeccable.

Remember, every Soldier has a sergeant. Whether that Soldier is a private or a general, there is a sergeant looking out for him or her!

So, again, I wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to our accomplishments in 2011!



Boar's Head

The red boar's head with green oak branch and acorn patch of the Georgia Army National Guard was suggested by the crest of the coat of arms of Sir James Oglethorpe, the founder of the colony. The boar is symbolic of courage and ferocity in attack; it is also a symbol of hospitality. The white and red color of the wreath refer to the English origin of the first settlement in the colony. It has been used by the Georgia Guard since May 8, 1970.



Did you know?

Guardsmen operate under their state adjutant general and governor unless mobilized.



RSTA

1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment, 53rd Infantry Brigade, is a

RSTA unit, which stands for Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition. They perform the RSTA mission for their assigned regiment, although, as Bravo Troop proved, they can do other assigned missions.

53rd Infantry Brigade

The 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the largest Army National Guard unit in Florida, reported for duty at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in early March.

Source: Florida and Georgia National Guard Web sites.

INSIDE THE WIRE

Peach State Guard takes security reigns

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Georgia Army National Guardsmen from the 1148th and 1177th Transportation Companies formally assumed duties from Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment Dec. 14 during a transfer of authority ceremony.

Bravo Troop Commander Capt. Dewitt Revels and 1st Sergeant Patrick Burtschell cased their guidon, then watched as the company commanders and 1st sergeants of the two companies unfurl theirs in the base's small gym.

First Squadron Commander Lt. Col. John Haas followed, addressing both units.

"It's a pleasure to hand off this mission to our friends from the

great state of Georgia," he said.

Revels followed, summing up their tenure here.

"We achieved everything we were asked, and then some," he said. "We had success ... in what I believe was the toughest mission in the brigade."

Capt. Trevis McCullough, 1148th company commander, said that his Soldiers were ready, despite a change in missions since being mobilized.

"We were tested and challenged and always exceeded the standards," he said.

Capt. Darrel Geving, commander of the 1177th, said that his Soldiers are ready to take over the mission.

"I can assure you we are excited," he said. **A**



Jonald Lalas photo

Spc. Lawrence Davenport holds the company guidon as Capt. Darrel Geving, right, and 1st Sgt. Edward Tucker stand at attention after unfurling it.



Jason Chudy photo

Lt. Col. John Haas "knight" Capt. Dewitt Revels into the "order of the gold spur."

Cav earns gold spurs for deployment

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

More than 150 Soldiers from Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment, earned their gold spurs Dec. 13 for completing their yearlong deployment to the Area Support Group Qatar facilities.

Squadron Commander Lt. Col. John Haas presided over the ceremony, which included the placing of gold spurs on each of the Florida Army National Guard troopers' boots.

Cavalry troops can earn silver spurs through what is known as a "spur ride."

Gold spurs can only be earned

after a tour in a combat theater.

"From this day forward, troopers of Bravo Troop can wear their spurs," said Haas. "This is a lasting symbol of troop readiness. You are, and always will be, known as a 'Darkhorse' trooper."

The Prince of Wales spurs, as they are formally known, are held in place by leather straps over the top of the foot and in front of the heel portion of a boot. They are commonly used in English-style horseback riding.

Haas initiated the placement of the troop's spurs, ceremonially "knighting" a kneeling Capt. Dewitt Revels into the "Order of the Gold Spur" with his saber.

Following the induction, Revels

was placed in a "front leaning rest position," which is also known as the push-up position, to receive his spurs.

First Sgt. Patrick Burtschell received his next, followed by their guidon-bearer, Spc. Michael Mogar.

Once the platoon leaders received theirs, they returned to their platoons and, with their platoon sergeants placed spurs on their troopers, who, like those previously, received them in the "leaning rest" position.

As the troopers received theirs, executive officer 1st Lt. Michael Whitaker read out the regulation detailing wear of the spurs and cavalry Stetson. **A**

INSIDE THE WIRE

The Army NCO

History of the Army NCO

The history of the U.S. Army and of the non-commissioned officer began in 1775 with the birth of the Continental Army. The American NCO did not copy the British. He, like the American Army itself, blended traditions of the French, British, and Prussian armies into a uniquely American institution, and these helped develop the modern NCO.

The first NCOs

During 1776, General George Washington standardized the infantry regiment at eight companies and one headquarters company. The headquarters company or regimental NCOs included one sergeant major, a quartermaster sergeant, a drum major, and a fife major. Each company had four sergeants, four corporals, two drummers or fifers, and seventy-six privates.

Von Steubin's orders

Amid the long, hard winter of 1778 at Valley Forge, Inspector General Friedrich von Steuben standardized NCO duties and responsibilities in his *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*. Among other things, this work (commonly called the Blue Book) set down the duties and responsibilities for corporals, sergeants, first sergeants, and sergeants major, which were the NCO ranks of the period. It also emphasized the importance of selecting quality enlisted men for NCO positions.

NCO Corps Inductees

Sgt. William V. Aboko-Cole
Area Support Group - Qatar

Sgt. Jennifer L. Burns
Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment

Sgt. Jerrald T. Butts
Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment

Sgt. Lindsay J. Camacho
Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment

Sgt. Yamson Foy
Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment

Sgt. Bernard Funderburk
Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment

Sgt. Frederick L. Harmon
Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment

Sgt. Anthony E. Lisuke
United States Army Medical Materiel Center - Southwest Asia

Sgt. Sameerah Ronyce' McNeil
424th Medical Logistics Battalion

Sgt. Renato Ossio
United States Army Medical Materiel Center - Southwest Asia

Sgt. Nicol F. Padilla
United States Army Medical Materiel Center - Southwest Asia

Sgt. Corey Terrell Perkins
Area Support Group - Qatar



Jonald Lalas photo

Fifteen inducted into NCO corps

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

"No one is more professional than I."

With these first lines of the Army Non-Commissioned Officers Creed, fifteen new sergeants took their final steps to becoming inducted into the NCO corps during a formal ceremony at the Community Activities Center Dec. 13.

"These young sergeants," said Sgt. Maj. Roberto Lopez, guest speaker for the event, "are part of an organization that is the envy of every army in the world."

"They are the future of our corps, and will take the NCO corps into the 21st century," said Lopez, the Third Army command career counselor.

The fifteen came from a variety of military specialties, ranging

from combat engineering to human resources, and three different base commands.

They are the "hub of what I call the 'big wheel' of the Army," said Lopez, explaining their importance to the operation of the Army as a whole.

"Remember, young sergeants need praise and encouragement," he told the dozens of non-commissioned officers in the audience.

With that praise and encouragement, Lopez said, comes responsibility. That sergeant "is the individual who has to make life and death decisions at the point of impact," he said.

He also gave them a warning: The new sergeants "now live in glass houses," in which their on- and off-duty conduct is always being watched.

"Your Soldiers will observe every move," he said. "You must

strive to be the best NCO daily. Seek challenges, not comfort."

Lopez's words were clear to Sgt. Yamson Foy of Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment, Florida Army National Guard. "There is no question that I need to step up and be a leader," he said after the ceremony.

Two of Foy's fellow troop non-commissioned officers nodded in agreement that he has been stepping up as a leader, saying that they have worked with him to further his leadership skills, especially since his promotion to sergeant last summer.

Sgt. Nicol Padilla explained that she was proud, but humbled by being inducted into the corps and the responsibilities it brings. "It's definitely an accomplishment," she said. "But I know there is a lot behind it. It's a little bit scary when it hits you."

INSIDE THE WIRE

Qatari Military Facts

The military

The Qatari military is broken into three different branches: the Qatari Emiri Land Force, the Qatari Emiri Navy, Qatari Emiri Air Force.

Defense expenditure

According to a 2005 estimate, the Qatari defense budget is about 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Military-age population

According to a 2010 estimate, the manpower available for military service in Qatar is: males age 16-49: 387,399; females age 16-49: 163,652.

Did you know?

Qatari military service is voluntary, but you must be 18 years old to join.

Independence, National Days

The State of Qatar became independent from the British on Sept. 3, 1971, and the date is celebrated as Independence Day. Also observed is National Day, December 18, which is the anniversary of Al Thani family accession to the throne.

Source: CIA Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/qa.html>.



Jason Chudy photo

Qatari Brig. Gen. Mohammad al Dosari of the Qatari Emiri Land Forces listens as Area Support Group – Qatar Commander Col. Maxine C. Girard discusses current and future coordination between the U.S. Army and Qatari forces.

ASG commander visits Qatari Emiri Land Forces general

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

DOHA, Qatar – Area Support Group – Qatar Commander Col. Maxine C. Girard met with Brig. Gen. Mohammad al Dosari of the Qatari Emiri Land Forces Dec. 13 to discuss current and future Qatari-U.S. Army coordination.

Al Dosari told Girard that he believes the “relationship between Qatar and the U.S. Army is very strong,” he said. “We want to build that relationship stronger.”

Girard thanked al Dosari on behalf of Lt. Gen. William Webster, U.S. Third Army commander, and expressed his desire to continue and further strengthen relations between the two military forces.

“As you say, [Lt. Gen. Webster]

understands the need for a stronger relationship,” she said.

The two discussed past and present training and exercises between the nations, including the annual U.S. -Gulf Cooperation Council exercise Eagle Resolve and past infantry maneuver training.

Al Dosari expressed the desire for further interaction between the forces, telling Girard of his visits to the Third Army headquarters in Georgia, U.S. Central Command in Florida and the National Training Center in California.

The two pledged to increase dialogue between the two forces and Girard invited al Dosari to visit Camp As Sayliyah and the camp’s Stryker Battle Damage Assessment and Repair Facility. **A**



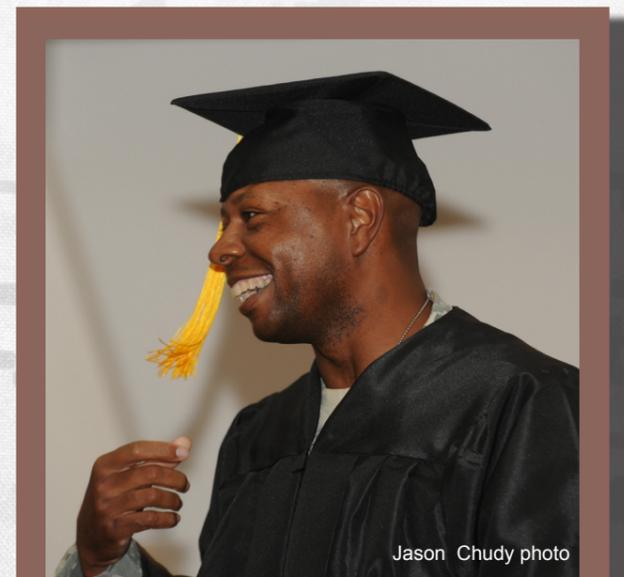
Jason Chudy photo

Archbishop, Santa help ASG honor Christmas

Left, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio holds the Holy Eucharist before Communion during Mass for Area Support Group – Qatar parish members Dec. 24. Celebrating Mass with Broglio is Chaplain (Air Force Lt. Col.) Mark P. Rowan of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing from Al Udeid Air Base. Broglio, the head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, was installed as the fourth Archbishop of the Military Services, USA, on January 25, 2008. Below left, Staff Sgt. Henry Garcia smiles as he sits on Santa stand-in Capt. John Albright’s lap during the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony Dec. 9.



Devin Butler photo



Jason Chudy photo

ACUs and Academic A's

Master Sgt. Montgomery Miller laughs during his college graduation ceremony Nov. 14. Miller earned his bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management from Columbia Southern University. Miller graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.81 grade point average.



About AMC

What do they do?

If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, eats it or communicates with it, AMC provides it. The U.S. Army Materiel Command is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness – technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment – to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations.

Did you know?

AMC's Vision: Providing America's Warfighters with the Decisive Edge.

Where is AMC?

AMC is headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., and impacts or has a presence in 49 states and 144 countries. Manning AMC is a work force of more than 70,000 military and civilian employees.

How is AMC structured?

AMC operates the research, development and engineering centers; Army Research Laboratory; depots; arsenals; ammunition plants; and other facilities; and maintains the Army's prepositioned stocks, both on land and afloat. The command is also the DoD executive agent for the chemical weapons stockpile and for conventional ammunition.

Source: Army Materiel Command
Web site: <http://www.amc.army.mil/pa/about.asp>

INSIDE THE WIRE

Army Materiel Command

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Teresa Gerton, the Army Materiel Command Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, toured Camp As Sayliyah in early November and met with members of the 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

Gerton is responsible for AMC's current global operations. This was her first visit to Qatar in this position.

"This location is important because it allows a flexible response in dealing with theater operations," said Gerton, whose position is equivalent to that of a general officer.

She is also a retired Army lieutenant colonel with more than 20 years of service.

The camp is home to one of five Army Prepositioned Stocks

units as well as the Stryker Battle Damage Assessment and Repair Facility. A Hellfire missile repair facility also falls under the battalion's oversight.

"It's a tough mission and a tough place (logistically) to have to do it," she explained about the camp's location outside of the United States, which places it in a strategic position near both the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters. "I don't even think people (outside of AMC) are aware of what is going on out here."

In addition to touring the camp facilities, Gerton also met with the battalion's civilian and military personnel, briefing them on how their "piece" fits into the bigger AMC puzzle. "It puts it all together," said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Peter Butts said. "(Battalion staff) can see what is going on at the higher level." **A**



Adam Fosbre, weld supervisor for the General Dynamics Land Systems-run Stryker Battle Damage Assessment and Repair Facility, explains general repair procedures to AMC Executive Deputy Teresa Gerton.

exec deputy, new Third Army G-4 visit



Jason Chudy photo

William Barker, retrofit specialist for the General Dynamics Land Systems-run Stryker Battle Damage Assessment and Repair Facility, explains upgraded parts on a

Stryker to Brig. Gen. Jesse Cross, who heads Third Army/U.S. Army Central logistics and serves as the Army Materiel Command - Southwest Asia commander.

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Jesse Cross, who heads the Third Army/U.S. Army Central logistics and serves as the Army Materiel Command - Southwest Asia commander, visited Camp As Sayliyah in early November.

Cross most recently served as the Army's Quartermaster General at Fort Lee, Va., where he also served as the commanding general of the Combined Arms Support Command and Sustainment Center of Excellence, and as the commandant of the Quartermaster School.

This visit gave Cross a better understanding of the camp's logis-

tic capabilities.

We will be the first thing he remembers when he comes over again," said Lt. Col. Peter Butts, commander of 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. "We became the standard."

The camp is home to one of five Army Prepositioned Stocks units as well as the Stryker Battle Damage Assessment and Repair Facility. A Hellfire missile repair facility also falls under the battalion's oversight.

Camp As Sayliyah's location in Qatar, according to Cross, makes operational and financial sense for the Army and the United States as a whole, especially when it comes to the Stryker facility.

"If we can save transportation

costs by not going back to (the continental United States), you're saving a whole lot," Cross said after touring the General Dynamics Land Systems-run program. "They get vehicles back in the fight sooner."

And, facility production supervisor Carlton Williams, the six vehicles they repair each month can also be upgraded, if required. Facility staff pointed out to Cross some of the upgrades on a repaired Stryker during the visit.

The internationally-staffed facility impressed Cross, who was commissioned in 1979. "These guys are very capable at fixing damaged vehicles," he said. "They take pride in their work, too. It's not just a job for them." **A**



Qataris 'tackle' U.S. in soccer

The soccer team made up of members from Camp As Sayliyah and Al Udeid Air Base took to the field against Qatari teams in December. The first match was against the Qatari Air Force on Dec. 2, from which these photos were taken. The U.S. team put up a good fight, with a couple of solid shots on goal, but were overpowered by the well-coordinated Qatari team, which exhibited precise passing and accurate shots in the goal. The U.S. loss, which was forecasted based on historical performance, was overshadowed by the "win" gained by the furthering of international relations. The final two games, against the Qatari Navy on Dec. 6, and the Qatari Land Forces on Dec. 13, brought more victories for bilateral relations, but two more on-the-field losses for the American team.

Jason Chudy photos



About Veterans Day

Armistice Day

The day was designed as a federal holiday in 1938 to commemorate the World War I armistice, which took effect at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918. On June 1, 1954, the day was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, honoring those who had ever served their country in uniform.

Veterans by the numbers

The number of military veterans in the United States in 2009 was 21.9 million. Of these, 1.5 million were women. In this total, 2.3 million were black, 1.1 were Hispanic, 258,000 were Asian; 153,000 were American Indian or Alaska Native; 30,000 were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and 17.7 million were non-Hispanic white.

When They Served

The number of veterans 65 and older in 2009 was 9 million. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.7 million were younger than 35. The number of Vietnam-era veterans in 2009 was 7.6 million. Thirty-five percent of all living veterans served during this time (1964-1975). In addition, 4.5 million have service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present; 2.3 million in World War II (1941-1945); 2.7 million in the Korean War (1950-1953); and 5.6 million in peacetime only.

Where They Live

The three states with more than 1 million veterans are California (2 million), Florida (1.6 million) and Texas (1.6 million).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey

INSIDE THE WIRE



Jonald Lalas photo

Color guard members fold the U.S. flag after lowering it at the end of the Veterans Day ceremony.

Veterans honored Nov. 11

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

“America owes each of you a debt that, I believe, can never be repaid,” U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Joseph LeBaron told dozens of military and civilian members during Camp As Sayliyah’s Veterans Day ceremony.

LeBaron, who was the guest speaker for the sunset event, was joined by senior Qatari military officials to honor veterans both past and present.

“You have sacrificed something so that all Americans can enjoy the freedom that all of us have today,” he said.

Earlier in the ceremony, Area Support Group Qatar Commander Col. Maxine C. Girard read the official proclamation from President Barack Obama.

“It is not our weapons or our technology that make us the most advanced military in the world; it is the unparalleled spirit, skill, and devotion of our troops,” Gi-

rard read from the proclamation. “Whether Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard, they are our Nation’s finest citizens, and they have shown the heights to which Americans can rise when asked and inspired to do so.”

The ambassador echoed the President’s sentiments during his remarks. “He means you here in Qatar,” LeBaron said. “You are at the crossroads of the United States Forces’ mission in Iraq, and parallel mission in Afghanistan.”

Although attended mainly by the base’s military personnel, a number of base civilians and contractors were in attendance.

Many of them are veterans themselves; some are even combat veterans who continue to serve the country out of uniform by working with U.S. forces in Qatar.

“Long after leaving the uniform behind, many veterans continue to serve our country as public servants and mentors, parents and community leaders,” Girard read. A

DFAC leaders share hometown ties

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

This Army camp west of the Qatari capital of Doha may be thousands of miles away from Reading, Pa., but two camp dining facility staff members found hometown ties much closer than that.

Food Program Manager Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Niehus and Dining Facility Manager Joe Colon started working together in April 2010 and quickly found that they shared the same Pennsylvania hometown.

“I consider Reading home,” said Colon, who moved to Reading nearly 20 years ago. “My son, Joseph, was born in Reading. That place helped me out a lot.”

Colon, who works for ITT Systems Corporation, attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. and has been working in various military dining facilities throughout the world since 2003.

Niehus is deployed to Qatar from Reading, where he lives with his wife, Bridget, a retired Army lieutenant colonel. “I’m going back on R&R (rest and recuperation leave) right after Christmas,” he said.

Niehus, who had volunteered to return to active duty after retiring from the Army 20 years ago, and Colon have taken their common Reading ties and used them to build an award-winning dining facility.

The facility was recently named the second best dining facility during the Philip A. Connelly Award competition. A



Jonald Lalas photo

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Niehus, food program manager, and ITT Systems Corporation’s Joe Colon, dining facility manager, share more than “Patton’s Own” Dining Facility management responsibilities. Both are from Reading, Pa., as are a number of the DFAC’s food items.

Colon, who works for ITT Systems Corporation and is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America of Hyde Park, N.Y., said that their being recognized as second best was an honor.

“We care and cook with love for the Soldiers,” said Colon. “We don’t look at this as just a job. We treat it like it’s our second home; we eat here.”

The facility feeds mainly base personnel, but the camp is also the home of the military’s Rest and Recreation Pass Program for troops coming in from throughout

the Middle East and Central Asia.

“We take care of Soldiers coming here from Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait,” Niehus said, “coming in from battle. They’re entitled to the best we can offer.”

And part of that “best we can offer,” Niehus said, are products from Reading: Berk’s meats and Sweet Streets desserts.

“Those two things bring a little bit of home to me and Joe in Qatar,” he said. “We’re giving a sample of products from our hometown to thousands of Soldiers here.” A

INSIDE THE WIRE

MWR

Rest and Recuperation Pass Program

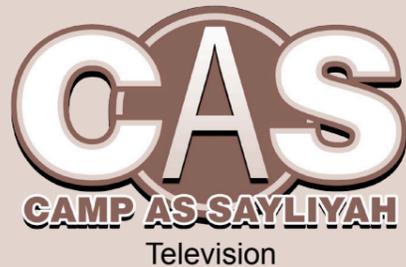
Donations help R&R participants enjoy the program's off-post opportunities by donating your new or used items.

- **Call the R&R front desk for more information.**

Contact Master Sgt. Montgomery Miller, ASG-QA Rest and Recuperation Pass Program non-commissioned officer in charge, for more information.

CAS-TV

Turn your on-post television to channel 36 (may vary) for camp information.



Contact Jason Chudy, ASG-QA public affairs coordinator, for more information.

MWR Operating 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




Martin Luther King Day

5K Fun Run/Walk	5:30 a.m.
Free-throw Basketball	10 a.m.
Singles Ping Pong	2 p.m.
Singles Horseshoes	5 p.m.

Jan. 17

Flag football Tournament

Jan. 29-30
7:30 p.m.
Multipurpose field



Don't forget:

All MWR events are listed on the Area Support Group - Qatar Intranet page!



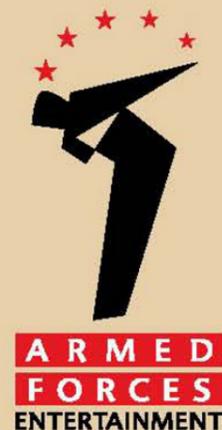
Gifts from home

Master Sgt. Montgomery Miller and Spc. Lakesha Davis-Moore carry mail bags filled with 34 boxes of toiletries Dec. 21. The boxes were sent by the Metal Tek company and were distributed to base tenant commands.

COMICS ON DUTY THE MUSERS OF AMUSEMENT ARE COMING

Join Comics On Duty for a night of fun and laughs as veteran funny men Dave Mishevitz, Steve Simeone, Rodney Laney and Tom Foss bring their brand of out-to-lunch comedy to the stage.

**Jan. 14
10 p.m.
At the Top Off!**



Horse Racing in Qatar

Doha RAC

The Racing and Equestrian Club (REC) was established in 1975. Located in New Rayyan, Doha, it has the mission of developing thoroughbred and purebred Arabian horse racing events, organizing Arabian horse shows and encouraging horse owners to own the best horses and to develop horse breeding.

Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

Since 2008, REC has been the official sponsor of the weekend of Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, which is held in Longchamp, Paris, during the first weekend of October. REC will be the official sponsor of this prestigious racing event through 2022. One of the richest races on turf in the world, Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe attracts over 1 billion television viewers every year besides more than 70,000 spectators at the Longchamp.

Arabian Horses

A distinctive head shape and high tail carriage, the Arabian is one of the most easily recognizable horse breeds in the world.

A night at the races!

Races are run nearly every Thursday and on some Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m. through May. Admission is free and the track is near the Villaggio Mall. Information on specific race dates is available at the track's Web site: <http://qrec.gov.qa/website/index.html>

DOHA LIFE

Soldiers receive 'royal treatment' at horse track

By JASON CHUDY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

DOHA, Qatar – Soldiers of Area Support Group - Qatar literally received 'royal treatment' at the Doha Racing and Equestrian Club Thursday, Nov. 18, after being invited to watch that night's races in the track's Royal Lounge.

The dozen soldiers were hosted by Sheikh Mohammed bin Faleh al-Thani, member of the Qatari royal family and club director.

"We're being treated as VIPs," said Spc. Nathanael Morrison of Las Cruces, N.M., Camp As Sayliyah's chief paralegal. "We're in the royal lounge; that's exclusive. This is a great way to spend an evening in Qatar. I love it."

After a buffet dinner, the soldiers settled back in the outdoor lounge balcony to watch the evening's eight races. "Horse racing is in our culture," said al-Thani between races. "All Qatari people like the traditional things like horses, camels and falcons."

"This is one of the first hobbies we had here in Qatar," he said, explaining how the early Qataris went from racing Arabian horses in the open desert to stadiums like the Racing and Equestrian Club.

"This was one of the first tracks in the [Persian] Gulf," said al-Thani. Opened in the 1960s and renovated a number of times since, races are held between October and mid-May at the track.

Al-Thani said that in addition

to the turf track, the club also has stables for about 1,000 horses. Stables were visible from the lounge balcony, which was centered on the finish line, giving the soldiers a good look at the final seconds of the races.

"This is my first time at the races," said Spc. Caitlin Butterfield of Bothell, Wash., who works in the area support group's orderly room. "I'm impressed at the size of the track."

Butterfield sat next to Spc. Lakesha Davis-Moore of New York City in the back row of the balcony, which was about two-thirds full between the soldiers, horse owners and a few other guests.

"It never happens where we've just been asked to come and not do anything," Davis-Moore said. "We're here to enjoy!"

Hugs and traditional kisses on the cheeks were given to victorious owners by others in attendance, and the racing spirit wasn't lost on the soldiers. As the horses rounded the final turn for the straightaway on the final turn, a handful of them called out the number of their favorites.

"That was a great race," said Morrison, who cheered on his chosen horse in race six, which literally ended in a photo finish – so close, in fact, that even on the big-screen display it looked like the horses' noses crossed at the exact same moment.

"That's what it was all about," he said. "I was on the edge of my seat." A

CAS 'decompresses' at drag races

By JASON CHUDY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

DOHA, Qatar -- More than 100 military members and civilians from Camp As Sayliyah attended the first round of the Qatar Racing Club Arabian Drag Racing League season Dec. 3 and 4 as guests of the club's management.

Visitors watched the races, which included cars in eight different categories, and motorcycles in three different categories from the grandstand, just a few dozen feet from the track.

Soldiers 1st Lt. Jeff Freeman of the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Lt. Vanessa Freeman of U.S. Forces Iraq staff were enjoying both the races and each other's company.

The married couple was able to come together from their separate bases in Iraq to the camp in Qatar as part of the military's Rest and Recuperation Pass Program from their separate bases in Iraq.

Jeff Freeman said that he'd been to drag races in his hometown of Pensacola, Fla., and was impressed with the Qatar club's track. "The stadium quality is better than some of the areas I've been to," he said, pausing only as vehicles sped down the track.

Both husband and wife agreed that Qatar, and the races, was a good place to decompress. "It's interesting, a nice change," Vanessa Freeman said from her seat halfway up the bleachers. "It's really a good place to decompress and forget about work."

While the Freemans watched the races, a joint American and

Canadian team of six worked to ready their two pro extreme class bikes in the pit areas at the end of the track.

They chatted with military passers-by, who could easily recognize the team's nationalities – the entire side of one of their bikes was a U.S. flag, the other side was a Canadian flag.

"We just got here this week," said team member Tim Haley. "The track's great. The facility is top notch."

"They're trying very hard to promote it," Haley said about drag racing in Qatar, "make it big and respectable here."

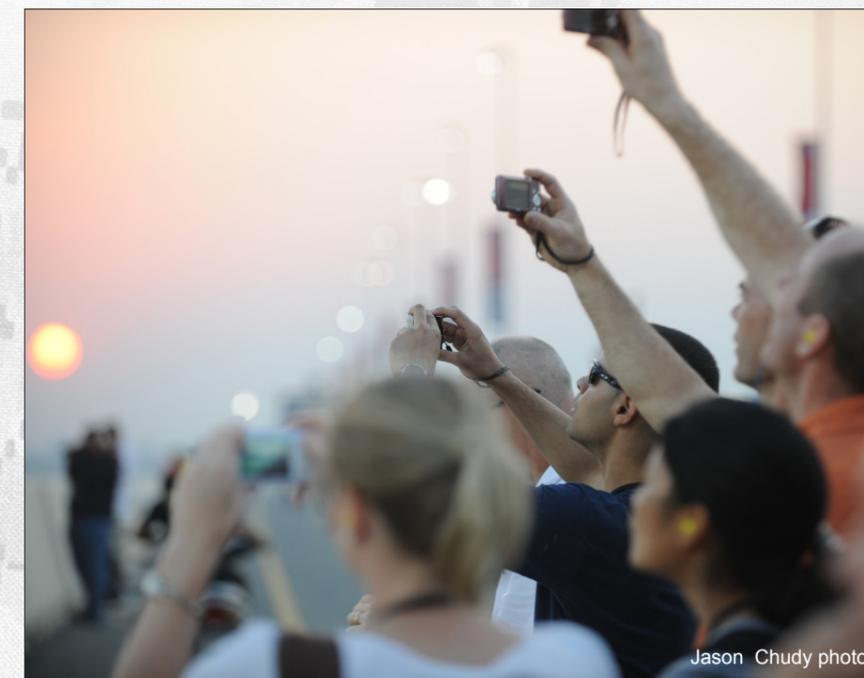
Haley explained the team was invited to spend three months here by Sheikh Khalid al-Thani, Qatari

Race Club president and owner of the al-Anabi racing team. Al-Thani is also son of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

Haley also spoke highly of racing in the Middle East. "It's a smaller field," he said. "But ... It's not like we were going to ship our American bike over here and kick everyone's (butts)."

The league's 2010-2011 season ran two more weekends in December; the first two weekends in January, and round out its season for the first three weekends in February.

The Arabian Drag Racing League, a partner of the American Drag Racing League, and uses the same rules as its counterpart. A



Jason Chudy photo

Military and civilians from Camp As Sayliyah photograph race cars during the first round of the Arabian Drag Racing League's 2010-2011 season, which runs through February. Dozens of personnel, including many from the Rest and Recuperation Pass Program visited the club for the first round of the Arabian Drag Racing League's 2010-2011 season.

DOHA LIFE

About Camels

Two humps or one?

There are two types of camels: the Bactrian (or Asian) camel, which has two humps and the Dromedary (or Arabian) camel, which has one hump.

What's in a name

A female is a cow, a male is a bull and a baby is a calf. When calves are born they weigh 60 to more than 80 pounds but by the time they're adults, they weigh around more than 1,000 pounds. They get to this size at 6-7 years but can live up to 50 years. Calves remain close to their mother until they are around 5 years old.

Camel cousins

Llamas are very closely related to camels. In fact, a camel-crossed llama was bred in Dubai in 1997. It was called Rama the Cama.

Sailing the sands

The camel's nickname "ships of the desert" comes from their walk. Like a giraffe, the camel moves both legs on one side of its body at the same time, then the other side. The rolling motion resembles a ship at sea.

Not just for transport

Camel wool is of high quality and is used in the Arab world for rug-making and clothing. A camel sheds around 4 1/2 pounds of wool every time they molt. Camels can be milked, but the flavor is an acquired taste. Dairy herds are kept in parts of the Middle East.

Source: Australian Broadcasting Corporation Web site: <http://www.abc.net.au/creaturefeatures/facts/camels.htm>



Jason Chudy photo

Hundreds spend day at Qatari CoS Beach House

By JASON CHUDY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

DOHA, Qatar -- Hundreds of military and civilian personnel from Camp As Sayliyah and Al Udeid Air Base spent a day at Qatari Military Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Hamad bin Ali al Attiyah's beach house on Qatar's northeast coast.

Al Attiyah extended the invitation over eight days in early December, offering attendees a full day's worth of activities from traditional camel rides and falconry demonstrations to all-terrain vehicle and jet-ski rides, boat tours, and fishing.

"Aaah, I think this is a great experience," sighed a contented Sgt. Gabriel Garcia of the Area Support Group – Qatar Provost Marshal Office as he sat on a small patio overlooking the beach.

The relaxing day, he said, not only helps relieve the stresses of deployment, but also has other benefits. "Soldiers come out, take the day off and relax and really bond," Garcia said, drawing nods of agreement from the others.

At the other end of the patio, Senior Airman Kristy Wolfmayer of the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group sat, contented, after petting Al Attiyah's cheetah.

"It was pretty cool," she said about the cheetah, which is the fastest land animal on earth. "We also went on ATVs; it wasn't a first (for me), but it was fun!

As Garcia and Wolfmayer relaxed, other military members took advantage of a traditional Qatari travel option.

"It was awesome," gushed Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Amber Benson of the U.S. Central Command staff after her first camel ride. "It's actually pretty

relaxing; it's a very smooth ride."

"Camels are the way to go!" Benson joked. "I'm surprised; I really liked it!"

The evening was capped off by an extensive buffet dinner. One of the main courses was roasted camel, which many said had the taste and consistency of a beef pot roast.

Reflecting on the event, many were surprised at its magnitude. "It's very nice that we were selected to attend," said Wolfmayer, a pharmacy technician. "It's amazing that (al Attiyah) had two thousand people here in two weeks.

"This is something very rare," she said. "This is very gracious." A



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Stednitz listens to a falcon handler before releasing the bird during a demonstration at the Qatari Chief of General Staff's beach house Dec. 8.

Jason Chudy photo



Shishmaref, Alaska

Location

Shishmaref sits on the northern tip of Sairchef Island, which is a barrier island along the westernmost part of the Alaskan mainland. Shishmaref sits about 20 miles south of the Arctic Circle. Big Diomed Island, Russia, sits about 90 miles to the southwest.

History

Shishmaref has been inhabited for about 400 years. In 1816, Lt. Otto Von Kotzebue named the inlet "Shishmarev," after a member of his crew. Shishmaref has an excellent harbor, and around 1900 it became a supply center for gold mining activities to the south. The village was named after the Inlet and a post office was established in 1901. The city government was incorporated in 1969.

Population

Shishmaref had a population of about 560 during the 2000 U.S. Census. Of this, nearly 95 percent are Inuit, the Native American people of Alaska.

Environmental change

Shishmaref is facing evacuation due to rising temperatures, which is causing a reduction in sea ice and the thawing of permafrost along the coast. The reduced sea ice allows higher sea surge to reach shore and the thawing permafrost is making the shoreline more vulnerable to erosion.

INSIDE THE WIRE



Honoring our native heritage

Sgt. 1st Class Abigail St. Clair, above, right, wearing a traditional Inuit coat, talks with Col. Maxine C. Girard after giving a presentation at the end of Native American Heritage Month Nov. 30. St. Clair is an Inuit from the Bering Sea coastal town of Shishmaref, Alaska, about 100 miles from Russia. St. Clair is not the first in her family to serve in the military: Her uncle, Spc. 5 Thomas Barr, was killed in Vietnam on May 12, 1969. Barr, a personnel specialist, was serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry "Americal" Division, when he died of multiple fragmentation wounds in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. Below is a 1969 photo of Barr's parents - St. Clair's grandparents - Fannie and Gideon Barr, and his brother and sister, Perry and Arlene, St. Clair's uncle and aunt.



A new year, a new chance for resolutions

By **Chaplain (Maj.) JAY WEST**
ASG-QA Chaplain

Have you heard about the man who moved into a retirement community to spend the rest of his life there? It wasn't long until he had made a number of friends among the other residents.

There was one lady he was especially attracted to, and she was also attracted to him. So they spent a lot of time together. Finally one evening he proposed, asking her to marry him.

The next morning he woke up remembering his proposal, but he couldn't remember her answer. So he went to her and asked, "I'm really embarrassed. I proposed to you last night but I can't remember if you said 'yes' or 'no.'"

"Oh, thank goodness!" she replied. "I remembered saying 'yes'

but I couldn't remember who asked me."

Sometimes I feel that way about New Year's resolutions. I tell myself, "This year I'm going to turn over a new leaf. I'm going to exercise regularly and lose weight. I'm going to do all kinds of things to improve myself physically and spiritually." But then somehow I

forget. Maybe you have that problem, too.

If so, perhaps the "Top 10" resolutions found in Proverbs 3, listed below, will help.

As 2011 dawns, may I encourage you to resolve today to pay close attention and adhere to these principles and see what God will do in our lives? A

'Top 10' resolutions from Proverbs 3

- #1: Let love and faithfulness never leave you.
- #2: Trust in your God with all of your heart.
- #3: Do not be wise in your own eyes.
- #4: Honor the Lord with your wealth.
- #5: Do not despise the God's standards.
- #6: Search diligently for wisdom and find it.
- #7: Have no fear.
- #8: Do not withhold good from those who deserve it.
- #9: Do not plot harm against your neighbor.
- #10: Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways.

Foreign accounts may require Treasury form

By **JOHN VENSUS**

ASG-QA Attorney-Advisor
(partially adapted from an article written by Steve Smith)

U.S. citizens and certain others having more than \$10,000 in any foreign financial accounts at any time during 2010 must file a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts with the U.S. Treasury Department by June 30, 2011.

The FBAR form, TD F 90-22.1, is available on the IRS's Web site: www.irs.gov. It is not a tax form and should not be included with an income tax return.

The form must be filed by any U.S. person who has a financial interest in, or signature authority or other authority, over any financial account in a foreign country if the aggregate value of the accounts exceeds \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year.

A "United States person" includes a citizen or resident of the United States.

Accounts in military banking facilities are not considered foreign bank accounts for purposes of filing the form.

Anyone who filed a joint return with a non-resident alien spouse may also have to file the form. By filing a joint return, you are electing to treat your spouse as if she were a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes, whether or not she currently holds a "green card."

If you have a foreign spouse with a sizable foreign bank account or investments, and you filed a joint tax return, instructions on the form will help determine if you must file.

The form helps the Treasury Department detect money laundering and related illegal activities.

There are civil and criminal penalties for those not filing the form by June 30, and extensions are not given.

Once complete, the form must be sent to the

See **TREASURY** on Page 26

Off-Limit Areas

The following list identifies permanent off-limits areas for Camp As Sayliyah servicemembers and DOD civilians.

- Iranian souqs
- Industrial area
- Al Wakra
- Marine House
- Establishments serving alcohol, except full-service restaurants located in: Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton, Intercontinental, Sheraton, Marriott, and Ramada hotels
- Local residences of employees of private corporations or other civilian organizations under contract with the U.S. government

Drove a Little Fast?

Check traffic violations at the Qatar e-Government portal: <http://www.moi.gov.qa>

Vehicle Accidents

All accidents, on and off post, must be reported to the military police desk, no matter how minor:



460-8214

- Call your supervisor.
- Report the five W's.
- If damage is minor, move your vehicle off the road.
- **DO NOT** move the vehicle after a major collision.
- **DO NOT** leave the scene unless instructed by an official.

Put these phone numbers in your mobile phone:

Off-post emergency: 999
On-post emergency: 911
ASG-QA BDOC: 460-8423
ASG-QA Civil Affairs: 588-9345

Contact Lt. Col. Darius Gallegos, ASG-QA provost marshal, or Hani Abukishk, civil affairs officer, for more information.

SAFETY

Sports, rec activities injure many

By **KEITH HAURET**
and **DAVID SWEDLER**
Courtesy *Knowledge* magazine

Sports and recreational activities help Soldiers achieve and maintain a high level of physical fitness. Many of these activities, however, carry some degree of injury risk or hazard.

Each year, Soldiers are injured, some fatally, while exercising or participating in sports or other recreational activities.

In 2007, sports participation was the third-leading cause of injury hospitalizations for Soldiers. Physical training and sports were also the most frequent causes of injury resulting in sick-call visits and limited-duty days.

Sports and PT-related injuries are also common among deployed Soldiers. During the current deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, about 20 percent of air evacuations for noncombat injuries have resulted from PT and sports activities.

Basketball, football, PT and weightlifting account for 76 percent of these sports-related injuries during deployments. The

Army notes more serious weight-lifting injuries among deployed Soldiers. At least one-third of these injuries occurred with the bench press and involved serious muscle tears.

There are several injury hazards associated with weight training, including lifting too much weight, using improper technique and using anabolic steroids. To reduce the risk of injury, Soldiers should implement the following controls into their weightlifting routine:

- Use caution when loading and unloading the weight plates.
- Train with a spotter, especially when doing high-weight, low-repetition exercises.
- Be sure you know and use proper lifting form and technique.
- Warm up with repetitions of lighter weight before attempting heavier weights.
- Don't hold your breath; inhale lowering the weight, exhale pressing it back up.
- Increase the amount of weight and number of repetitions gradually.

Unique injury hazards are present in most physical exercise, sports or recreational activities. **A**

TREASURY

From Page 25

Treasury Department: U.S. Department of the Treasury, P.O. Box 32621, Detroit, MI 48232-0621.

Information about the form and its requirements are available at the IRS Web site; through an IRS telephone help line at 800-800-2877, then selecting option 2; and by e-mail: FBARquestions@irs.gov.

Military and DoD/DA civilian personnel who have questions related to Form TD F 90-22.1 may contact the Area Support Group - Qatar Legal Office at DSN 432-2409.

Safety advisor discusses roundabouts, speeding

By **JASON CHUDY**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Roundabouts may seem daunting to American drivers, according to traffic department safety advisor Ademola Gideon Ilori, but feel comfortable about one, and others will easily follow.

"Every roundabout is different," said Ilori, who works for the State of Qatar Ministry of Interior General Administration of Public Safety Traffic Department. "But if you can drive one, you can drive them all."

Ilori spoke to military and civilian personnel at Camp As Sayliyah recently, giving driving rules and tips to the drivers, mainly about roundabouts, and answering a variety of questions from audience members.

"Nobody knows the 40 kilometer per hour speed limit," Ilori said about the 300-meter zone before the entrance to a modern roundabout, receiving nods from many in the audience. He also explained the entrance distance signs, how to merge into roundabouts and how to properly exit.

Being able to safely navigate modern roundabouts, Ilori added, is a practice Americans should become familiar with, as they are becoming more prevalent in the United States.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, there are more than 2,000 modern roundabouts in the United States.

Since then, more than 30 states either have roundabouts or plans for installing them, including Ohio, which Ilori used as an example of U.S. implementation.

He played a video from Dublin, Ohio, which explained everything from their construction to usage and safety issues.

A 2006 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study states that modern roundabouts are safer than intersections with stoplights. And despite their initial daunting appearance, a majority of American drivers with roundabouts in their neighborhoods actually prefer them to stoplights.

The modern roundabout, which differs from traditional traffic circles, was introduced first to the country in Nevada in 1990, according to the insurance institute.

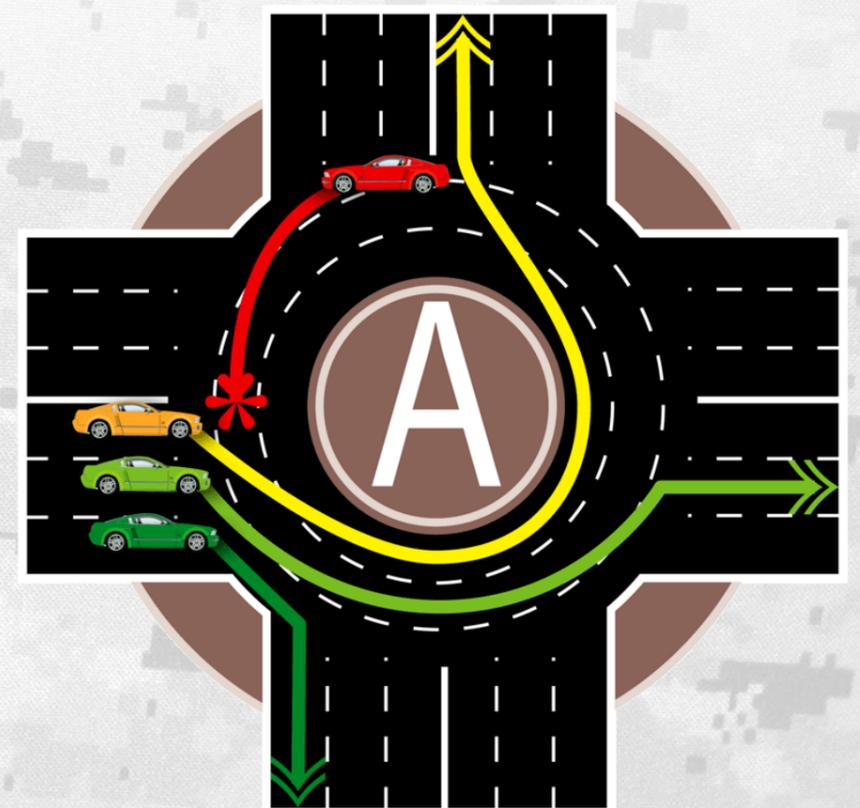
Other countries, however, have adapted modern roundabouts more quickly than the United States: France has about 20,000,

Australia has about 15,000, and the United Kingdom has about 10,000.

For those learning to navigate Qatar's roundabouts, Ilori recommended a simple strategy: driving roundabouts in the areas you will frequently use on Fridays or Saturdays, when traffic is lighter because of the weekend.

While Ilori focused on roundabouts for the majority of the presentation, he also discussed other areas, including accident procedures, the three types of Qatari traffic speed cameras and what to do if a driver receives a ticket.

The Ministry of Interior Web site's English language home page has a link where a driver can check if a ticket has been issued to a vehicle. It is available at: www.moi.gov.qa/site/english/ **A**





Engineered for life

What did you think of Desert Mesh edition 68?

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 68. 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 4450-2714 or DSN 432-2572.



'Saved rounds'

New photo feature of shots that didn't make the "cut" on the story page, but are worth a look anyway. This month, falconry at the Chief of Staff's beach house.

Jason Chudy photos