



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

DESERTMESH MAGAZINE ^(A)

Edition 70 May/June 2011



APS-5 receives HIMARS ¹⁸

- !! **Commander**
Col. Maxine C. Girard
- !! **Command Sergeant Major**
Command Sgt. Maj.
Charles A. Holliday, Sr.
- !! **Executive Officer**
Maj. Tymon LaMar
- !! **Public Affairs Coordinator**
Jason Chudy
- !! **Visual Information**
Devin Butler
Jonald Lalas

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

DFAC receives Connelly Award

The Area Support Group – Qatar “Patton’s Own” Dining Facility received honors April 2 for its being named the large garrison runner-up in the 2011 Department of the Army Phillip A. Connelly Award competition.

The award was presented during the International Food Service Excellence conference and trade show in Schaumburg, Ill.

Receiving the award were, in the photo from left, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Niehus, camp food service officer; Command Sgt. Maj. Charles A. Holliday, Sr.; Joseph Colon, ITT Systems Corporation dining facility manager; and Col. Maxine C. Girard.

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



Connelly Award presented ^{at left}



Drifting the night away ²⁰



'Soldier's Soldier' becomes 37th Army chief of staff

ARLINGTON, Va. - Gen. Martin E. Dempsey was sworn in as the Army's 37th chief of staff April 11, surrounded by an enormous family, mentors, his classmates from the 1974 graduating class at West Point, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Defense.

"I'm confident that Martin Dempsey will bring the same passion and dedication to building the Army's next generation of leaders, guiding them with strength and vision as he has to every other position during his impressive career," said Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates during the ceremony on Summerall Field at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

"Marty, you are truly a Soldier's Soldier, and I know the Army is in able hands," Gates said.

Dempsey served as the commander of the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad in 2003. He then helped train the Iraqi army and police as commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

His last assignment was as commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, after stepping up as acting commander of U.S. Central Command.

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Spc. Jonnie Box, left, and Spc. Caitlin Butterfield, both of the Area Support Group - Qatar Headquarters and Headquarters Company, help load a simulated casualty into a Stryker armored fighting vehicle March 17 during training on Camp As Sayliyah. *Jonald Lalas photo*

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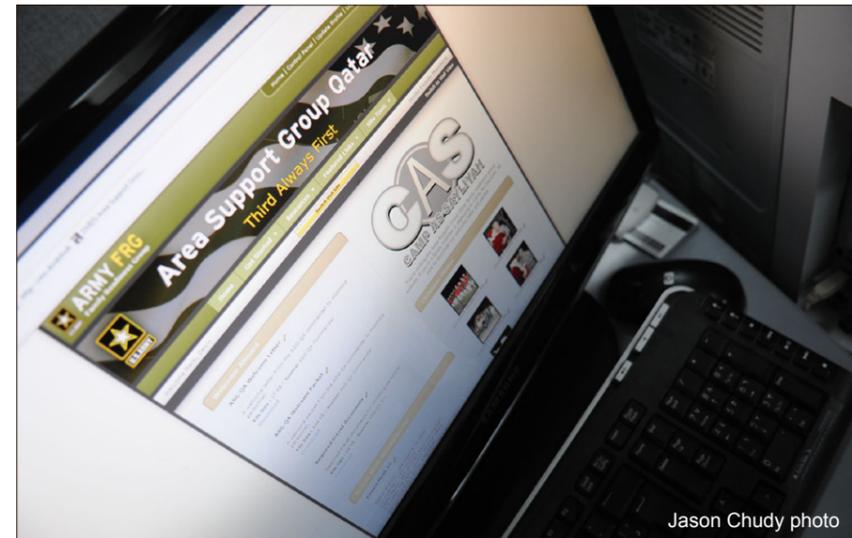
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The virtual family readiness group Web site is available at www.armyfrg.org. *Jason Chudy photo*

Virtual FRG helps keep the homefront informed

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

Keeping families and friends back home updated on what is happening at Camp As Sayliyah has gotten a lot easier with the implementation of the Area Support Group - Qatar virtual family readiness group Web site.

The site, available at www.armyfrg.org, allows the folks back home -- and even those family members here -- access to information on upcoming events, and a look at events that have already taken place.

Access is allowed for all Camp As Sayliyah personnel, not just those assigned or working with the area support group staff.

"It will be great for those in the States," explained Capt. Kraig Roxberry, the group's administrative/personnel officer.

"They're able to get access for spouses and family members on

what we're doing here."

The site, which is run under the Army's Family Readiness Group program, allows the set up "virtual" family readiness groups to augment normal unit FRGs.

For Camp As Sayliyah, which does not have a Stateside-based FRG, the Web site serves as the primary method of keeping people back home updated on information about the camp, as well as providing Web links for a wide variety of benefits and various support organizations.

The camp has a variety of military and civilian members here on both a permanent change of station and temporary basis from literally all over the world, minimizing the applicability of a typical FRG.

Those wanting access to the camp's site only need to register at the site, and will receive confirmation once they have been verified as an approved user.

FRG program and vFRG site

The FRG is an official Army program established pursuant to AR 600-20, Army Command Policy. Unit commanders at all levels are expected to establish and/or support FRG operations. FRGs are typically established at the company level with guidance and support from the battalion commander and staff.

In addition to content available on the Area Support Group - Qatar vFRG page, the vFRG site which hosts the camp page has a large amount of information that can be used by military members and their families.

Individual sections, for example, are set up specifically for kids, teens and "tweens," those who are considered between younger children and teenagers.

The site also has announcements tailored towards deployments and family members, as well as surveys and discussion forums.

Current topics of discussion include such things as care packages and support for family members of deployed Soldiers.

This year, the vFRG Web site will be upgraded to include Facebook-type features and will integrate Facebook into the actual Web site.

One planned phase will allow users to see their Facebook page on their vFRG site, and will allow site administrators to display unit Facebook pages as part of the vFRG page.

Dates for the integration have not been announced.



The installation commander

Maxine C. Girard

Colonel

Commander
Area Support Group - Qatar

Being deployed to the Middle East brings many challenges, from force protection issues to the summer heat and humidity which is right around the corner.

But on Camp As Sayliyah we are very fortunate in the fact that we are here in Qatar. I am thankful for the professional and positive relationship we have with our Qatari government, military and civilian counterparts.

In the past few months, I have met with Qatari officials and business leaders in an effort to sustain and improve these relationships.

We collectively benefit from the relationships that have been built with the Qataris over the many years. Most visible to the military on camp are the visits to the Chief of Staff's guest house, which were last done in December.

In the past few months, Area Support Group - Qatar staff leadership was invited to visit the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum as well as the National Command Center, which is one of only a few similar centers in the world.

These relationships we foster and maintain, both at the command level and at the individual level, ensure that Qatar remains a strong U.S. ally.

In the last Desert Mesh, we highlighted the ASG S-5 shop. This shop is one of the reasons that we are able to maintain these relationships and I am thankful for the work they do both publicly and behind the scenes.

As I mentioned earlier, the heat and humidity of summer are here. Command Sergeant Major Holliday's column and Dr. (Maj.) Khatri's article best sum

up dealing with the weather, so I will just say that the importance of making sure you stay healthy and hydrated in the heat cannot be overstated.

With recent events in the AOR, I want to remind everyone to stay vigilant. While most are relieved by the death of Osama bin Laden, there are others who aren't and may try to act out in response. Continue to focus on the mission and take care of each other.

The Air Force bus attack in Frankfurt, Germany, this March and the November 2009 shooting at Ft. Hood, Texas, show that terrorism can strike anywhere.

Basic personal force protection precautions will benefit you wherever you are, always be aware of your surroundings. This is a safety issue as well as a security issue -- it could keep you from being involved in something small like a petty crime act to something more violent such as getting involved in a protest gone bad or terrorist incident.

Take precautions such as varying your routes and times of travel when off camp. This will allow you to know a different number of routes to and from your desintation, which helps you in something as simple as detouring around an accident.

Practice operational security when dealing with people both off and on camp. If something doesn't look or sound right, report it to security officials. Thank you for your continued service!

Patton's Own!

Charles A. Holliday, Sr.

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major
Area Support Group - Qatar



The summer season is here

The summer season is here, and with it comes heat and humidity in Qatar.

Maj. Khatri's article on preparing for the hot weather on page 23 better explains what can happen to you if you don't prepare properly.

One basic rule for the heat - for any temperature - is to stay hydrated!

As Soldiers, we are required to maintain physical fitness standards, and the hot temperatures may force some of us to adjust when and where we do PT. Don't let the change in temperature change your workout regimen.

As the temperature continues to rise, so will the pace of everything from workloads to transfers in the coming few months.

The Area Support Group -Qatar staff has a lot of personnel changes coming, including an upcoming change of command, so please be flexible.

Be prepared to step in and help out when needed, whether it is for a specific task or training new personnel on ASG rules and procedures, to ensure that we are meeting the command's missions.

As you may have read on page 2, we have a new Army Chief of Staff. Martin E. Dempsey is called a "Soldier's Soldier" and he has experience working in the Middle East, including serving as 1st Armored Division commander and was also commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

He also served as the acting commander of U.S. Central Command.

By the time the next Desert Mesh comes out, the change of command will be right around the

corner.

I touched on training, and want to reiterate its importance to the military. We have training on Thursday mornings, but don't just limit it to that.

Ensure those who work with you know your job, and that you know their jobs, so that if called upon, either of you can take over for the other. Learn what your supervisor does.

This benefits you in a number of ways: it ensures that your section will have continuity in its operations if people change, but will also show that you seek out increased responsibility, which is one of the hallmarks of a good leader.

Don't forget personal growth. In addition to my military responsibilities, I am also a college student.

Taking college courses helps you grow professionally and personally. It is not easy, but when your time here is done, you can look back and have a better sense of accomplishment.

When you get back to the responsibilities of families, homes, car repairs, and everything else that you deal with back in the United States, or wherever your next PCS takes you, you may not have the time to take college courses that you did here.

Visit Dr. Whitaker and her staff in the Education Center to see what options for earning college credits are available for you.

Patton's Own!





379th Air Expeditionary Wing

Mission

The mission is simple: “aim high ... fly, fight, win” by executing the air and space tasking order as directed by Headquarters, U.S. Air Forces Central Command. The 379th is the largest expeditionary wing in the world.

The wing “fuels, moves, finds, fixes and finishes” in support of commanders on the ground as directed. It also maintains close alignment with U.S. Air Forces Central Command. U.S. Central Command vision of making “supported commanders successful, by their definition of success and their measures of effectiveness.”

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing is the largest expeditionary wing in the world. Thousands of Airmen - plus joint and coalition tenants -- fly 30 percent of the daily air tasking order sorties. The 379th is one of the top three installations providing aerial port movements, and handles more jet fuel than the next top five U.S. Air Force bases combined.

The wing is building the infrastructure and processes to enable this station to support its mission, mission partners, and mobility throughput in the coming years.

INSIDE THE WIRE

Airmen help keep security up, speeds down on camp

By 2nd Lt. CHRISTINA PATTON
Det. 1, 379th ESFS

At first glance, the U.S. Air Force’s Detachment 1, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, may seem a little out of place on the U.S. Army’s Camp As Sayliyah. But the Airmen who handle various security and military police missions on the installation are playing an important role for the Area Support Group - Qatar Provost Marshal’s Office.

“What makes the provost marshal’s office so successful here on (camp) is a team made up of professionals from different walks of life—regardless of branch of service, our guys have a breadth of experience and training that is very impressive,” said Capt. Steven Benson, security forces commander.

Bringing a unique blend of backgrounds and credentials makes the Air Force detachment a strong asset. After completing pre-deployment training in two separate groups, 43 Airmen from nine different duty stations all over the world, from England and Germany to Texas and Alaska, converged in Qatar to tackle the joint mission head on.

The Airmen arrived in late November 2010, and is tasked with the law and order, quick reaction force and convoy security missions of the provost marshal, with the majority of their work doing traffic enforcement, criminal in-

vestigation and base defense.

With a mission set similar to that of military police, these defenders bring experiences and knowledge to the table that set them apart from their peers.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Eltzroth of Moody Air Force Base, Ga., is one such Airman. As a longtime K9 troop, Eltzroth was offered the opportunity of a lifetime in July 1999—join a team of Secret Service K9 handlers and protect the president, his family and key leaders.

“I got to meet a lot of interesting people, including Colin Powell, Larry King, Al Franken, several foreign dignitaries... the list goes on and on,” he states. “The most rewarding part is obvious—I was given the opportunity to protect four consecutive commander-in-chiefs.”

Other Security Forces members have similar stories. Staff Sgt. Jesse Stanton, from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was on the way to Uzbekistan in 2002 when his team was rerouted to what is now Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

“We got the call that they needed a team to set up bare-base security in Afghanistan, so we headed out,” Stanton said. “We were the first security forces on the ground.”

They were there so early in Operation Enduring Freedom that the grounds of the base itself were still a danger.

“Getting off the plane and being told to follow the trail of glow-sticks on the ground, and that if we stepped outside them, we’d risk



Jonald Lalas photo

Airman 1st Class Adam Parton “chokes” Airman 1st Class Brandon Contreras during combatives training at the camp’s small gym Feb. 17. Airmen of the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron taught combatives to members of Area Support Group - Qatar as part of the Army unit’s training program.

stepping into a minefield,” he said. “It’s not every day you hear something like that.”

After leaving Bagram, Stanton went on to spend a year on a police transition team covering southern Baghdad, Iraq—a task that entailed training and mentoring thousands of Iraqi Police to conduct law enforcement missions, checkpoint operations, patrol markets and districts, and serve warrants.

Airman 1st Class Garrett Christ is no stranger to training others. While stationed at RAF Lakenheath, England, this past year, he was tasked with instructing members of the Royal Air Force Police on how to execute individual and team movements in urban settings. “After class,” he said, “we got to be (opposing forces) while they practiced in a reconstructed Iraqi village. It was a great opportunity.”

379th: AF blue with Army roots

The 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron is part of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, which was activated in April 2002.

This historic unit began as the U.S. Army Air Forces 379th Bombardment Group, when it was established Oct. 28, 1942, and assigned to the 8th Air Force in England.

The 379th BG was awarded the unprecedented “8th Air Force Operational Grand Slam,” for operations during May 1944 in recognition for having the best bombing accuracy, greatest tonnage of bombs dropped on target, largest number of aircraft attacking and lowest mission-abort rate.

As the only unit ever recognized in this manner, the 379th AEW still wears the moniker of “Grand Slam” wing today.



Greetings, fellow Camp As Sayliyah community members, I am Capt. Darrel Geving, commander of the 1177th Transportation Company of the Georgia Army National Guard, based out of LaGrange, Ga.

My first sergeant is 1st Sgt. Edward Tucker. It is both a pleasure and honor for us to take over this mission from our friends from the great state of Florida, Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment.

My company's primary mission, under the oversight of the Area Support - Qatar Provost Marshal Office, is to provide the camp with force protection and security forces of entry control points 1, 2, 3, 11 third-country national walkthrough gates, and gate 11 vehicle search pit on a continuous 24/7 basis.

The responsibility of ECP 1,2,3 falls under the control of my 2nd platoon, which is led by 2nd Lt. Patrick Jarvis and Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Jones.

The responsibility of ECP 11 walkthrough gates falls under the control of my 1st platoon, which is led by 1st Lt. Charles Wells and Sgt. 1st Class Donald Young.

The responsibility of ECP 11 vehicle search falls under the control of my 3rd platoon, which is led by 1st Lt. Eldwood Kaumeheiwa (A.K.A "LT K") and Sgt. 1st Class Barry White.

We are extremely proud and honored to be here and we look forward to serving with and getting to know each of you as well as developing lasting friendships as we continue to provide the camp with top notch force protection, while focusing on always being "ready tonight," "sustaining the fight" and "shaping our future."

"Go Dawgs!"

INSIDE THE WIRE

Georgia sergeant faced hurdles before deploying

By 2nd Lt. **CUTHBERT CHRISTOPHER**
1148th Transportation Company

Sgt. Ngangola Molesanga has faced struggles and uphill battles while preparing for deployment – the possible deportation of his wife from the United States and the death of his father in Democratic Republic of The Congo.

But while other Soldiers may have succumbed to the circumstances and pressures, Molesanga has demonstrated steadfast resolve to keep driving on and deploy.

The 44-year-old 1148th Transportation Company Georgia Army National Guardsman was in pre-deployment training at Ft. Bliss, Texas, last year when he received word that the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service was mistakenly trying to deport his wife to the Congo.

Both Molesanga and his wife were born there and later moved to the United States.

Compounding the situation was that Molesanga's wife was taking care of their child during the pre-deployment training and would also be during the deployment.

The balance between helping his wife fix her immigration issue and preparing for deployment took a toll on him, but he was determined to fulfill his military obligation.

As the training and immigration issue continued, he received word



Sgt. Ngangola Molesanga from the Congo that his father had passed away.

Nearly overcome by emotions, the unit allowed him to take emergency leave and attend the funeral.

Despite this additional setback, Molesanga made it to the funeral and returned to Ft. Bliss in a little more than a week, jumping quickly into training.

He was able to deploy with the company, and Molesanga now serves as a member of the Falcon 78 Ammunition Storage Point force protection detail, where he provides video surveillance of the outlying facility.

His wife's immigration issue has, thankfully for all involved, been resolve.

Once finished with military service, Molesanga hopes to return to the Congo and pursue a career in politics.

1148th Pfc. lives, acts by one simple plan



Pfc. Mark Alonzo

By 2nd Lt. **TERRELL L. HOOD**
1148th Transportation Company

Pfc. Mark Alonzo of the 1148th Transportation Company has a simple plan to be successful in life: "Do your job effectively, get as far as you can get, and stay out of trouble," he said.

The 24-year-old Trinidad native has aspirations for greatness, distinguishing himself from others as he plans and outlines his major life events.

Following his plans will help Alonzo establish credibility and a good reputation. Having these are extremely important, he said, because they will cause people to form opinions of a person before they even meet.

Alonzo, a Georgia Army National Guardsman, said that through this credibility and reputation someone's legacy is created, and that must be something that a person must be focused on to establish the right legacy.

"Determination," he said, "is

the key to success."

Alonzo said that he will use his time wisely and be productive during his deployment as a force protection member with the company's third platoon, manning guard positions around the camp.

He's off to a strong start in establishing both a successful deployment and a good legacy. He graduated in the top 10 percent of his motor transport operator advanced individual training course, posted the fastest time during pre-mobilization training for disassembling, reassembling and performing function checks on the M2 .50-cal. machine gun, completing them in under two

minutes.

Alonzo said the military has been good for him, and he hopes to move into either the signal corps or military intelligence fields.

And he balances his military successes with personal success.

He has enrolled in classes at the Camp As Sayliyah Education Center, is saving money to buy a home with his wife when he returns to Atlanta, and is making plans to visit family in Trinidad.

Alonzo also spends many hours per week at the gym, working on his jump shot in preparation for being part of the unit's basketball team during camp tournaments.

Randall a 'specialist' in many Army career occupations

By 2nd Lt. **TIA N. PETERS**
1148th Transportation Company

Despite having only three years of service, Spc. Jeremiah Randall of the 1148th Transportation Company knows a lot about the Army.

The Georgia National Guardsman enlisted as a field artillery fire support specialist has earned the military occupation specialties of rifleman and cavalry scout since enlisting in August 2008.

Randall, who now serves as a part of Camp As Sayliyah's Security Forces, now has set his sights on both the warrior leader course and airborne school.

This is his first deployment. "We have made it here and this

place has plenty to offer," he said.

Working at gate 10, Randall says he enjoys meeting the differ-

Continued as RANDALL, page 24



Spc. Jeremiah Randall

Past Rest and Relaxation programs

Korea

The 5th Air Force carried military personnel from Korea to Japan for badly-needed, three- to five-day R&R leave. Many took the train from Tachikawa to visit Tokyo while others visited nearby Japanese national parks. The R&R program gave more than 800,000 combat-weary UN military personnel the chance to leave the war behind for a short while.

World War II

Many military members were given four-day passes during the war. After the invasion of Italy in late 1943, troops were able to take four-day passes to the island of Capri near Naples, Naples itself, and at an R&R center set up at the nearby Caserta Royal Palace, which also served as the 5th Army headquarters. The capture of Paris in 1944 meant troops had the “City of Lights” to explore. In the Pacific, which mainly saw fighting on islands, rest and relaxation was harder to come by, with units being generally pulled off the line for a few days. Troops coming to and from theater, however, were able to make R&R visits to Hawaii and, sometimes, Australia.

At sea

Navy ships have been making non-stop combat deployments to the region since the first Gulf War in 1991. Port visits are limited during these deployments, but Sailors can sometimes take a day for a “steel beach picnic,” during which they barbecue and play sports on the largest open deck.

INSIDE THE WIRE

R2P2 program shuts doors after nine years

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

The military’s Rest and Relaxation Pass Program is getting a break of its own, closing April 30.

The U.S. Central Command program is closing after nearly a decade of operation, having provided 197,583 military members and Department of Defense civilians four days away from combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan or from the high operational tempo of Kuwait.

The program, which started in 2002 on the Army’s Camp As Sayliyah near Doha, Qatar, is being shut down because of a large vacancy rate, brought on by the drawdown in Iraq and “rest in place” or other similar in-country programs.

Over the past three years alone, the program has dropped what amounts to about six percent capacity. In Fiscal Year 2008 the program hosted 29,907 military members. In FY ’09 it dropped to 18,350, and in FY ’10, that number was down to 7,765.

So far this fiscal year, 1,479 military members have participated. Of these, a little more than half have come from Kuwait and a little less than half from Iraq. Only seven military personnel have come from Afghanistan.

“I’m sad to see it go, especially as a former Soldier myself,” said retired Army Sergeant 1st Class Clarence Moore, who works as a program shift supervisor for Easter Solutions Group.

“Those coming from combat areas, you can see a difference in the guys,” he said about observing troops at the beginning of their four days and again at the end. “There’s definitely an attitude change.”

Venue briefer Joshua Wells has been working with ESG at the center since September 2010. He recently manned the program’s customer service counter on his 4 p.m. to midnight shift, helping Soldiers sign up for off-base trips such as to local shopping malls or for deep sea fishing.

Wells has seen the benefits of the programs from both sides of the counter. “I came through, I believe, in July 2005 while on a 12-month Army deployment to Iraq,” he said. “I thought it was great. It was nice to relax and get away from Iraq for four days.

“I think the program has gotten better since then,” Wells added. “There’s more stuff offered.”

In addition to the off-base trips, there is a wide range of ways to pass time on camp, including a large TV lounge, United Service Organizations center, clubs, bowling alley, a swimming pool, driving range and miniature golf course.

Wells believes his time as a Soldier helps him better take care of military members. “I’ve been there,” he said. “I know what they’re going through and what they’re coming from.”

While the program is extremely popular with the troops, explained Area Support Group – Qatar Mo-



Jason Chudy photo

Soldiers load their bags onto a bus on their departure from the Rest and Relaxation Pass Program on Camp As Sayliyah March 12. The two were part of the last group of military

members taking part in the program, which formally ended April 30. The last Soldiers departed from the program March 13.

rality Welfare and Recreation lead recreation specialist Lee Barclay, one reason for the drop in usage is the amount of time it takes to get to and from Qatar.

“One big issue that comes from participating is the time it takes to get here from Iraq or Afghanistan,” he said, leafing through a folder with dozens of comment sheets. “That’s the biggest complaint we get.”

Troops must take military flights to Qatar, and those flights may not always be available in a timely manner or may require them to fly through an intermediary location.

“It may take a week to get here, and a week to get back,” said Barclay about travel from Iraq or

Afghanistan. “[Military members say] ‘My command can’t support that.’”

One comment from a colonel summed up the difficulties: “Two flights from Baghdad cancelled,” it read. “Flew to Kuwait, waited two days, no flights ... asked at the counter and they were getting ready to fly a C-17 [transport] out for repairs. Only four of us in terminal out of 28 waiting had time to fly out.”

With the program closing, the time to fly here has past. The last group of 29 arrived in early March and was expected to leave by March 12 – depending, of course, on availability of flights.

Tech. Sgt. Crystal Collins was one of the program’s last partici-

pants. “I love it,” she said while checking her Facebook account.

Collins is assigned to the U.S. Forces – Iraq staff judge advocate office in Baghdad. “It’s a great break from being on a base and not getting attacked or having to carry a weapon,” she said. “It’s great.”

While this was Collins’ first trip to the program, her husband, Jason Worley, made the trip here in 2004 while serving as an Army engineer in Mosul, Iraq.

“There’s no shortage of events,” said Spc. Thomas Whitworth, another first-timer, as he watched the movie “Reservoir Dogs” on the big-screen TV. “It’s a great program and I’m sorry to hear they’re closing it down.”

Organizational Day



April 15



Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment

Mission

OASA (IE&E) provides strategic direction for Army installations and facilities in all matters relating to infrastructure, energy and the environment, to support global Army missions in a cost effective, safe, and sustainable manner.

Sustainable design and development policy

An October 2010 policy for sustainable design and development signed by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment spells out the implementing of energy and cost-savings measures into Army facilities:

"High performance buildings are critical to cost effective life cycle management of our infrastructure and national energy security. The Army must continue to develop and implement sustainability objectives for our facilities, installations, and infrastructure to meet energy security and independence goals."

Path to energy savings lit by efficient bulbs

The U.S. Army announced in October 2010 that all light bulbs acquired for use in facilities and structures owned, leased or controlled by the Army must meet higher energy efficiency standards. The goal is a complete replacement of all inefficient incandescent lighting on Army installations within five years. New efficient lighting will use 3-5 times less electricity than an incandescent bulb over the same period.

INSIDE THE WIRE



Capt. Josef Garcia, public works officer, explains Camp As Sayliyah's fuel operations to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment Katherine Hammack Feb. 25. Next to Hammack is Lt. Col. Kevin Clark, Area Support Group - Qatar director of logistics.

ASA Hammack tours CAS, offers energy savings ideas

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

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment Katherine Hammack visited Camp As Sayliyah Feb. 25 on the final leg of a visit to Iraq and Afghanistan.

While on Camp, Hammack toured the bottled drinking water storage facility, power plant and fueling facilities.

A mechanical engineer by trade, Hammack was appointed assistant secretary of the Army in June 2010. She has more than 30 years of experience in energy and sustainability advisory services.

During her stop at the power plant, she explained that one of

the best practices she saw during her visit to Camp Liberty, Iraq, in Baghdad was the filtration and integration of generator oil into the unit's fuel, which saved 52,000 gallons a year.

A founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council, Hammack mentioned that the roofs on many of the facilities would make good platforms for solar panels, sparking a discussion on the feasibility of installing panels and the difficulties in keeping them clean in the desert environment.

Hammack then met with Area Support Group - Qatar leadership in the camp dining facility, discussing energy initiatives and taking questions from the assembled officers and civilians. **A**

Vet's care runs from dogs to dolphins

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

Most Army recruiters aren't afraid to strike up a conversation when trying to recruit Soldiers, but Capt. Brian Joseph's didn't have to say a word.

In fact, he couldn't.

"I was recruited by a dog," explained the Army veterinarian, who is deployed to Camp As Sayliyah with the 109th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services).

Ringo, a Belgian malinois, was a retired military working dog with two tours in Iraq under his collar when Joseph saw him and his Army veterinarian recruiter/owner at a conference.

"I can't just walk past a dog," he said. When Ringo later got the okay from Joseph's wife, Sally, the 59-year-old began the process of joining the Army Reserve.

"I have always had a strong service ethic," said Joseph, of Escondido, Calif. Service not only for animals, he explained, but also for the people all over the world who rely on those animals.

"As a private veterinarian, there's little you can do to help people if you don't have the infrastructure," he said. "If you're part of the Army veterinary corps, they provide security as well as support."

Four years after his initial contact with Ringo, Joseph treats military working dogs here and at nearby Al Udeid Air Base, as well as managing any stray cats and dogs that make their way on camp. Many of these strays are put up for adoption in town.

With his six-month deploy-



Capt. Brian Joseph, Camp As Sayliyah's veterinarian, credits a former military working dog for his joining the military. Behind him are photos of his family, including the "four-legged" members.

ment nearly complete, Joseph will return to his civilian position as the executive director of the Chula Vista (Calif.) Nature Center. He specializes in the movement of marine mammals, but has worked on everything from polar bears in Canada to pandas in Hong Kong. "You'd be hard pressed to think of an animal that I haven't worked with," he said.

One of his first jobs as a veterinarian was at Sea World, where he was in charge of moving animals from their summer home in Cleveland to winter quarters in San Diego or Florida, mostly in a chartered 747.

"Two killer whales, a dozen dolphins, two belugas, two walrus, maybe a dozen sea lions and

harbor seals," he said, counting them off.

Although many of these animals weigh hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds and, like the polar bear, can easily kill – or even eat – a human, he said he's still more worried about "domestic" animals, including the military working dogs.

"Number one on their job description is to bite people," he joked. While the large animals are generally put to sleep before many procedures, most of the checkups on military working dogs are done with them wide awake.

"It's safer for me with a polar bear than it is with a military working dog," he explained. **A**

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

Summer safety rules

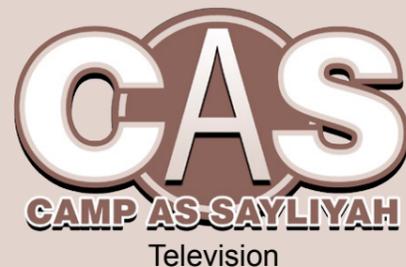
Running and jogging outdoors is prohibited from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September 30 due to extremely high temperatures.

This restriction also extends to all time periods outside this window when the wet bulb temperature index reading shows heat category 4 (red flag) or 5 (black flag). These restrictions are to prevent heat injuries.

The physical training program when conducted during the summer months and in hot environments will be done in the cooler parts of the day.

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.

INSIDE THE WIRE

MWR

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



BINGO

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



Don't forget:

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

Comedy Night



Wednesday, May 25
8:30 p.m. at the Top Off

Aspiring comedians need to register no later than May 24



**LIKE TO RHYME
BUT WITHOUT MUSIC?!
PERHAPS YOUR POETRY IS
YOUR THING!**

**A POETRY NIGHT WILL OCCUR ON MAY 18TH, AT 8:30 P.M.
AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR ANY INTERESTED POETS.
SO IF YOU HAVE A DESIRE FOR POETRY, PLEASE SIGN-UP BY MAY 17TH!**

POC : SSgt. Kenneth Johnson
DSN : 432-3049
Mobile : 6626-2483

Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration

May 19, 7 p.m.
at the Top Off Club
Food, Prizes, and Games provided
POC: Sgt 1st Class Toshiba Narcisse, 5581-8513

HIMARS and MLRS

HIMARS

According to a Department of Defense Office of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation program fact sheet, the Army was expected to purchase an initial 888 HIMARS systems for use in 45 battalions. The Marine Corps was expected to field 40 launchers in two battalions.

The stats

The HIMARS can use the standard MLRS rockets, which can fire up to 60 kilometers, and the Army Tactical Missile System, which can reach 300 kilometers.

MLRS

The HIMARS is basically a smaller version of the MLRS, which has been in the Army's inventory for a few decades. The MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) is a high-mobility automatic system based on an M270 weapons platform. The MLRS is capable of supporting and delivering all free-flight basic and extended-range (ER-MLRS) rockets and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Block I missiles. The MLRS launcher unit comprises an M270 launcher loaded with 12 rockets, packaged in two six-rocket pods. The launcher, which is mounted on a stretched Bradley chassis, is a highly automated self-loading and self-aiming system. It contains a fire control computer that integrates the vehicle and rocket launching operations. Without leaving the cab, the crew of three (driver, gunner and section chief) can fire up to twelve MLRS rockets in less than 60 seconds.

DOHA LIFE



Jason Chudy photo

A M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System unit is driven along the Camp As Sayliyah test track April 9. The HIMARS, as it is known, was recently added into the Army Prepositioned Stocks - 5 inventory.

APS-5 adds Army's newest rocket system to stocks

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

Army Field Support Battalion - Qatar has added the Army's newest multiple-launch rocket system to its Army Prepositioned Stock - 5 inventory, further bolstering the equipment available to a deploying fires brigade.

The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a light MLRS mounted on the U.S. Army's family of medium tactical vehicles five-ton truck, known as the FMTV.

A fires brigade is made up of both traditional artillery and multiple rocket launcher systems, known as MLRS, and its smaller cousin, the HIMARS.

Since the first HIMARS started arriving in February, the battalion staff has been checking the equipment's operating conditions and putting it into "care of supplies in storage" status. This process should be complete within a few weeks, explained the battalion's Chief Warrant Officer Jason Word, who oversees all maintenance for APS-5.

As part of the maintenance mission, the HIMARS system will be separated into two components: the FMTV carrier, which is maintained by the unit's ITT Systems Corporation contractors; and, the launcher, which is maintained by Lockheed Martin.

Continued as HIMARS, page 21

APS-5 equipment keeps the fuel flowing

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

Army Field Support Battalion - Qatar, which oversees Army Prepositioned Stock -5, took a step towards its full pre-Operation Iraqi Freedom reconstitution with the return of equipment for the inland petroleum distribution system.

The petroleum system, known as IPDS, includes fuel bladders, generators, pumps and more than 165 miles of pipe. Its return to storage facilities in Qatar greatly increases the Army's ability to operate.

"It's very important," explained Army Field Support Battalion - Qatar Chief Warrant Officer Jason Word, who oversees maintenance for APS-5. "They used it during the beginning (of Iraqi Freedom) and it made a big difference."

The system allows the transport of fuel from land-based storage areas or Navy fuel ships to as close to the front lines as is deemed safe.

Fuel, said Word, is the lifeblood of a mobile Army. "I don't think we could operate without it," he said, then paused and clarified his statement. "I know we couldn't operate without it."

Since the IPDS hasn't been in the APS-5 inventory for about eight years, Word said, its return includes maintenance training for the unit's personnel.

"If you put it in storage for a couple of years, a lot can go wrong," explained William Simpson of the Sierra Army Depot, Calif., about the necessity for regular maintenance on the equipment.



Jason Chudy photo

Bernard Howard, left, of DRS Technologies trains ITT Systems Corporation contractors with Army Prepositioned Stocks -5 on operating the inland petroleum distribution system. An IPDS system was returned to APS-5 stocks after the last system was deployed about eight years ago.

Simpson said that without regular maintenance and inspection seals in pipes and pumps can deteriorate, fluids in the pumps can leak, and dust, heat and humidity - all of which are prevalent in Qatar - can damage electrical components.

Each piece of the system's components has a maintenance schedule, and APS-5 has set up a short closed-loop piping system to regularly test its various parts. The loop includes a fuel bladder filled with water, two types of pumps, generators, and piping. "A typical (full) system is like this," explained Bernard Howard of DRS Technologies of Richmond, Va., as he trained APS-5 staff to set up

this test loop.

Howard, a retired sergeant first class petroleum specialist, worked with the system while on active duty. "I can say it worked, and worked well," he said about its application to the Army.

"We used it in Iraq - both times," he said, referring to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Desert Shield/Storm. "It kept up with demand. It did what it needed to do: keep fuel as far forward as needed."

APS-5 is one of five Army equipment storage sites designed to allow rapidly-deploying Army units to meet up with equipment in theater, rather than shipping their own equipment overseas. **A**

The sport of Drifting

History

Modern drifting as a sport started out as a racing technique popular in the All Japan Touring Car Championship races. Motorcycling legend turned driver, Kunimitsu Takahashi, was the foremost creator of drifting techniques in the 1970s. He is noted for hitting the apex (the point where the car is closest to the inside of a turn) at high speed and then drifting through the corner, preserving a high exit speed. This earned him several championships and a legion of fans who enjoyed the spectacle of smoking tires. The bias ply racing tires of the 1960s-1980s lent themselves to driving styles with a high slip angle.

Drifting in film

Drifting is featured in the 2006 movie *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*. The premise of the film involves the lead character moving to Japan to live with his military father, where he is caught up in the underground world of drift racing.

As professional racers in Japan drove this way, so did the street racers. Keiichi Tsuchiya (known as the Dorikin/Drift King) became particularly interested by Takahashi's drift techniques. Tsuchiya began practicing his drifting skills on the mountain roads of Japan, and quickly gained a reputation amongst the racing crowd. In 1987, several popular car magazines and tuning garages agreed to produce a video of Tsuchiya's drifting skills. The video, known as Pluspy, became a hit and inspired many of the professional drifting drivers on the circuits today.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drifting_\(motorsport\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drifting_(motorsport))

DOHA LIFE



Pfc. Jimmy Taing of Camp As Sayliyah's 109th Veterinary Detachment hands drift racing driver Tanner Foust his program to sign before racing March 18. Taing and other detachment personnel, including, from left, Sgt. Ben Blazak, Spc. Jerry Vang and Spc. Christopher Bryan, were part of a group of more than 100 camp personnel invited to the race.

'Drifting' the night away

By JASON CHUDY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Tires squealed and smoked, engines revved and hundreds of military and civilian members from Camp As Sayliyah and Al Udeid Air Base spent an evening at the Qatar Racing Club's formula drift event March 18.

Drifting involves two cars racing each other for one lap around a small track. The track's turns, however, are what give drifting its name, since each is a minimum of 90 degrees – forcing the vehicles to skid into, and through the turns.

Eight drivers fought up to three laps in each set.

"I thought it was great," said Sgt. George Alexis of Area Support Group – Qatar. "I've been to drifting before and knew some of the main people (racing)."

Alexis said he'd been to three

drift events back in the United States, and was pleasantly surprised to see it in Qatar.

"To me, it's more of a U.S. and Japanese sport," he said. "I've never seen it anywhere else other than in the U.S. or Asian countries."

"I've never seen it before," said Sgt. Ben Blazak of the 109th Veterinary Detachment, who spent the evening with three of his co-workers. "It was pretty cool. It's nice to get off base and see stuff like this that you couldn't see for free back in the States."

Tickets for camp personnel were provided free of charge.

While drifting was new for many people, track officials have hosted hundreds of military members from Qatar-based units over the past months for the regular Arabian Drag Racing League season, which ended in February. **A**

Teams place in rifle, pistol tourney

By JASON CHUDY
ASG-QA Public Affairs

Two of the four participating shooting teams from Camp As Sayliyah placed in recent Qatari military tournaments.

The center fire rifle team made up of Sgt. Timothy Leigh of the 332nd Medical Logistics Company, Spc. Justin Coon and Sgt. Jevar McGhee of the 1148th Transportation Company, took third in the tournament, which was held at the Hammand Range March 3 and 4.

The rapid fire pistol team of Lt. Col. James Robertson and Spc. Mark Giboney of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center - Southeast Asia, and Pfc. Andrew Hildebrand of the 1148th took fourth at the Duhail Range March 9 and 10.

The two teams were presented medals during a ceremony March 16 at the Duhail Range. **A**

HIMARS from page 18

When deployed, the FMTV would be armed with six rockets or one tactical missile system, according to an Army press release.

FMTV's are already maintained in the unit's stocks, making maintenance much more conducive to supporting the warfighters' needs. "It helps us as mechanics," Word said. "It cuts down on the number of parts in our inventory."

"The parts are already there, and the differences (between a standard FMTV and the HIMARS FMTV) are minimal," he added.

The Army only fielded its first HIMARS battalion in March 2005



Above: From left, Sgt. Timothy Leigh, Spc. Justin Coon, and Sgt. Jevar McGhee wear medals presented by Maj. ANasserAhmed al-Shiba for their third-place center fire rifle win March 4. Below, from left, Leigh, Pfc. Andrew Hildebrand, Lt. Col. James Robertson, McGhee and Spc. Mark Giboney are photographed after the formal awards ceremony March 16. Not available for the photograph was Coon.



at Ft. Bragg, N.C., with the system entering full production three months later.

"It's a piece of equipment that not many people have seen," Word said. "It's the first time it's been in this APS."

Once the systems are in place, support equipment and vehicles will follow, and all the equipment

will receive regular maintenance in preparation for possible issuance to deploying units.

APS-5 is one of five Army prepositioned equipment sites designed to allow rapidly-deploying Army formations to meet up with equipment in theater, rather than having them ship their own equipment overseas. **A**

Avoid sports injury

Weightlifting

- * 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.
 - * Avoid anabolic steroids. They're illegal and cause long-term health effects.
 - * Increase the amount of weight and number of repetitions gradually.
- ### Basketball
- * For a previously sprained ankle, wear a sports ankle brace to avoid re-injury.
 - * Remove trip hazards (water bottles, gym bags, etc.) from the sidelines.
 - * Wear a mouth guard and eye protection.
 - * Remove rings, watches and other jewelry.
- ### Touch or flag football
- * Avoid overaggressive play.
 - * Check the field for rocks, holes and other hazards.
 - * Wear appropriate footwear for the field and weather conditions.
 - * Wear a mouth guard.

YOUR HEALTH

Humility sometimes means cleaning up own messes

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

When I try to tell people what Ronald Reagan was like," says Peggy Noonan, former White House speechwriter, "I tell them the bathroom story."

A few days after President Reagan had been shot, when he was well enough to get out of bed, he wasn't feeling well, so he went into the bathroom that connected to his room.

He slapped some water on his face and some of the water slopped out of the sink.

He got some paper towels and got down on the floor to clean it up.

An aide went in to check on him, and found the president of the United States on his hands and knees on the cold tile floor, mopping up water with paper towels.

"Mr. President," the aide said, "what are you doing? Let the nurse clean that up!" And President Ronald Reagan said, "Oh, no. I made that mess, and I'd hate for the nurse to have to clean it up."

Have you ever been given the task of cleaning up someone else's mess? It's often a frustrating experience, isn't it?

When you hear the word "humility," what goes through your mind? Images of low self-esteem? Having a weak will? Letting other people take advantage of you?

Humility is the ability to see ourselves and our neighbors as



The late President Ronald Reagan speaking at a rally for Senator Durenberger Feb. 8, 1982. Despite being hospitalized after being shot, Reagan got on his hands and knees to clean up a mess he made in his hospital bathroom, saying he didn't want someone to clean up a mess he made.

(Photo courtesy U.S. Archives)

God sees us: as his beloved children.

Expressed in Christian terminology, humility really involves our commitment to developing the strength to become like Jesus—to love unconditionally, to forgive, and to share generously with those around us.

Humble people don't have to wear a mask or put on a show. Because they see other people's value in God's eyes, they aren't swayed by accidentals such as position, wealth, or good looks.

I invite you to consider the needs of others, simply because they are important to God.

Summer heat can bring serious hurt

By Dr. (Maj.) **SAMEER KHATRI**
ASG-QA Director of Health Svcs.

If you haven't experienced a summer in the Middle East, you are in for a surprise! Summers in Doha are extremely hot and often-times very humid making it a very difficult to do much of anything outdoors.

It is very important that you recognize the dangers of heat illness so that you can be prepared and prevent getting seriously injured or even killed.

Interestingly, about 3 or 4 Soldiers die annually as a result of heat-related injuries and most of those occur during physical fitness training or testing.

In 2009, 209 Soldiers suffered from heat stroke and an additional 1,160 needed further medical intervention as a result of heat illness.

It is important to note, however, that the vast majority of heat related injuries can be prevented as well as all of those deaths.

Planning and implementing mitigating measures for dealing with heat stress must be considered for all outdoor tasks. Furthermore, early recognition of individuals showing symptoms of a heat illness is essential for saving lives.

People become victims of heat illness when their bodies are unable to compensate for heat stress and are unable to properly cool themselves.

The body's normal mechanism for cooling itself is by sweating. However, in certain occasions, this may not be sufficient.

In these cases, the person's body temperature rises rapidly potentially causing damage to the brain



Jason Chudy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Sutton of the 1148th Transportation Company takes a temperature reading at Camp As Sayliyah April 5.

and other vital organs.

There are many factors that can affect the body's capacity to cool itself during extremely hot weather.

If the humidity is very high, sweat is not able to evaporate as quickly, and therefore prevents the body from releasing heat rapidly.

There are also health conditions that can increase one's risk to heat related illness.

These include age (very young or elderly), obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug and alcohol use.

You can protect yourself from becoming a victim of a heat illness by doing the following: drink plenty of fluids, eat adequately so that all essential salts and minerals are replenished, and

wear appropriate clothing to cover your body, including wearing wide-brimmed hats, and sunglasses.

Make sure any exposed skin is protected with a "broad spectrum" UVA/UVB protected sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher. Ensure that you pace yourself or get acclimatized.

If exertion in the heat makes your heart pound and leaves you gasping for breath, stop all activity. Get into a cool area or at least in the shade, and rest, especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak, or faint.

Remember to use common sense, stay indoors in an air-conditioned area whenever feasible, and look after those at higher risk for heat related illnesses. Think about the heat before you plan and act to avoid becoming a statistic. **A**



Engineered for life

What did you think of Desert Mesh edition 70?

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 70. 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.

RANDALL from page 9

ent people who come in the gate and ensuring that the base’s force protection measures are upheld.

Although he said that he would have rather deployed for combat operations, he understands that the company has an important mission in protecting the military members and civilians on camp who support those combat troops.

Back in his hometown of Canton, Ga., Randall works construction and welding. A newlywed, he relies on the cards, pictures and letters from his wife and mother to carry him through the remainder of his deployment.

When not working, or serving in the Army, he works on cars, rides street bikes and, as an avid guitarist, loves and plays various types of music.

While he is proud of his service in third platoon, he is also thankful for those who served before him.

His step-brother, Justin Hill, was in the Air Force between 2001 and 2005, serving in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

He especially thankful for the World War II veterans, believing they are true heroes. “That is why I believe we have made it” as an Army and a country, he said.

The sacrifice of those Soldiers

is how the Army has matured to what it is today.

Randall hopes to continue providing for a better Army, and a better future for the country, for those who follow him.



Jonald L alas photo

Dancing to share, celebrate their culture

Nigerians Opeyemi Faloye, left, and Victoria Opara perform a traditional dance during the Black History Month closeout ceremony Feb. 28 at the Camp As Sayliyah theater. Faloye, from Ektit, and Opara, from Imo, work at the Braids n’ More hair salon at the exchange complex.