Ever There

Volume I, Issue 8

June 2011

Honoring the Fallen

Sustaining the Fight

Inside This Issue

Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan

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"Ever There" is a command information publication for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, and is published in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

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On the cover: Members of Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country during a Memorial Day ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on 30 May 2011. (Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A PAO)

From the Commander's Desk...

Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher
JSC-A Commanding General

Free time is a prized commodity during deployments. Continue to make the most of this time by taking advantage of the multiple opportunities available to improve your body, mind and spirit.

Nearly all forward operating bases offer some form of gym, some of which are better equipped than many private facilities in the U.S. While working out retains a common appeal to most, setting specific goals is necessary to maximize results. Don't just "go to the gym." Instead, determine specific goals and set aside a consistent time each day to work towards those goals. Strive to work various muscle groups and track your progress throughout. Use a notebook to record your improvements. Establish a baseline time for your walk or run, and by mixing in appropriate cardiovascular training, gradually lower that time over the course of your deployment. Take positive steps to control your weight through proper diet and exercise. Don't try to lose an unreasonable number of pounds in a short time. Set a weight loss goal and stick to it. Never be intimidated by those further along than you. Remember, there's a first workout session for everyone, and many of those already involved would be glad to assist you. Take advantage of the various exercise classes available and get started.

Many opportunities exist to further your education in both civilian and military fields. A number of colleges throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area offer courses to further your work towards a college degree. If you already have a degree, why not take courses for the sheer pleasure of learning? Online education offers an expanding world of mental challenges and growth. Additional military training is available in your current field or a new one. Multiple military specialties never hurt anyone. What a great chance to improve your future prospects while meeting new people and sharing common goals. Never miss a chance to improve your mind.

Warrior's Call

Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey L. Riggs
JSC-A Command Sergeant Major

Warriors, on 30 May, the JSC-A held a Memorial Day Ceremony and placed a wreath at the JSC-A flag pole in remembrance of our fallen brothers and sisters that made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation and the people of Afghanistan. Let us not forget them and their families.

I want to thank the leadership and Soldiers of the 643rd Regional Support Group and the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion for a job well done. I wish them safe travel home to their loved ones. I welcome the leadership and the Soldiers of the 645th RSG and the 142nd CSSB to the JSC-A Team.

All units want inspirational and discipline-based leadership for their Soldiers. Warriors of JSC-A units have this "standard". This is shown by Sgt. Dineyazhe of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, 1225th CSSB, 297th ICTC, and Spc. Adams of the 101st Sustainment Brigade, 530th CSSB. On 12 May, these Warriors captured the titles of both Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition for the 1st Theater Sustainment Command at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

These Warriors truly lead from the front. I commend all of the

- Warrior Call
Continued on pg. 4

- From the Commander's Desk Continued from pg. 3

Spiritual refreshment exists everywhere. No matter your religious preference, the Chaplain Corps stands ready to meet your needs, whether it is to simply lend an ear or actively assist with your problems. The environment we live in can be taxing on the human psyche, and Chaplains, serving beside you and sharing your discomforts, offer a safe place to address your fears and nurture your spirit. Religious services are always in need of musicians and choir members. Sing, in tune or out of tune, to enhance the worship service and make it better for all involved. Volunteer your time and it will come back to you in many positive ways.

Continue to set high goals to improve your body, mind, and spirit during your remaining time during deployment. Pass along your positive attitude to others; it is contagious.

"Continue to use your free time wisely and finish strong!"

Palazzo visits Kandahar Airfield

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

(Left) U.S. Army Sgt. Stillman Pate, JSC-A, poses for a photo with U.S. Congressman Steven Palazzo, fourth congressional district of Miss., during a recent visit to Kandahar Airfield on 29 May.

(Center) U.S. Congressman Steven Palazzo poses for a photo with U.S. Service members from Miss. serving at Kandahar Airfield.

- Warrior's Call Continued from pg. 3

inspirational leadership of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Escalona, Command Sgt. Maj. Taylor, 1st Sgt. Floyd, and from the 101st SB, Command Sgt. Maj. Thompson, Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson, and the mentors of both sustainment brigades for this success.

Sgt. Dineyazhe and Spc. Adams' skills and leadership will be challenged again as both travel to Kuwait, to compete for the Army Central Command's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition in late June. The Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan wishes both of these Soldiers success.

Safety is every leader and Soldiers' watchword for the JSC-A. The JSC-A has Soldiers performing operations throughout Southwest Asia and must remain vigilant. We, as leaders, can and must prevent sexual assaults, fire and electrical hazards and vehicle accidents. We have the great junior leaders and this is where it starts. Empower them to enforce the safety standards and all standards. Let us not be remembered for losing a Soldier to an accident. Let us be remembered for preventing Soldiers from having accidents.

From the Headquarter's Company Commander...by Capt. Tawaski R. Carter

When you joined the military you took an oath of loyalty to the United States of America, and pledged allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers. I'm reminding every Soldier of that commitment. By bearing true faith and allegiance, you made a statement of believing in and devoting yourself to great cause.

Fellow Soldiers, we are just a blink of an eye from the end of your tour. You still have an obligation to stay loyal to your fellow leaders and coworkers. The pledge you made may feel stained, but you must trust and believe in our leaders to make the best decisions. Remember, by wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army, you are expressing your loyalty. By doing your part, you are showing loyalty to your unit and the Constitution of the United States of America.

"You must have discipline to have fun."

~Julia Child

Coin presentations from Maj. Gen. McHale

Photos by Lt. Col. James G. Kent, USFOR-A XO to DCDR-S

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cheryl Anderson, JSC-A S&S

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Milton Griffith, JSC-A Contracting

U.S. Army Maj. Daniel Beeson, JSC-A J5 Plans

U.S. Army Maj. Ailrick Young, JSC-A J9

Monthly promotions at JSC-A

Photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly, JSC-A Public Affairs

(Left) U.S. Army Sgt. David Nelson is promoted to the rank of staff sergeant by his wife, Sgt. Tamara Nelson on 23 May, while Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher cheers the two on.

(Left) U.S. Army Pfc. Glenn Caylor stands at attention as Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher promotes him to the rank of specialist on 23 May.

(Right) U.S. Army Maj. Bridget Armstrong smiles after being promoted by Lt. Col. Randall Mantooth on 25 May.

(Above) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Aaron Beckman is promoted to the rank of master sergeant by members of the JSC-A J5 section on May 9.

(At left) U.S. Army Capt. Gary Crist is promoted to the rank of major by Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher on 19 May.

- Monthly promotions Continued on pg. 7

- Monthly promotions
Continued from pg. 6

(Right) U.S. Army Maj. William Reese, JSC-A materiel readiness, is promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel by Col. Craig Weaver, JSC-A support operations officer, at Kandahar Airfield on 26 May.

(Left) U.S. Army Sgt. Stephanie Jarrett is congratulated by Sgt. Maj. Thomas after being promoted to the rank of sergeant on 30 May.

(Right) U.S. Army 1st Lt. Tyrone Sanders poses for a photo with Lt. Col. Cheryl Anderson after being promoted to the rank of 1st lieutenant in May at JSC-A headquarters.

(Right) U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Bryan Rushing was promoted by Maj. William Smith to the rank of 1st lieutenant in May.

JSC-A compound cookout

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Thompson carries in a case filled with freshly grilled hotdogs and hamburgers to hungry members of JSC-A in the HHC tent on 28 May.

(Left) U.S. Army Capt. Towaski Carter and Spc. Robert Malone team up to manage the grill at JSC-A.

(Left) U.S. Army Spc. Robert Malone and Maj. Gary Crist cool off with cold non-alcoholic beer during the cooking.

U.S. Army Capt. Jared Mathews keeps a close watch on hamburgers on the grill at the JSC-A compound.

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Thompson sneaks a peek at hotdogs and chicken being prepared for JSC-A members.

- Cookout Continued on pg. 9

- Cookout: Continued from pg. 8

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Golden takes a combat-sized bite out of a juicy hamburger during the JSC-A compound cookout.

U.S. Army Capt. David Duckworth supervises the festivities at JSC-A with a watchful eye and his homemade pipe in hand. Duckworth whittled the pipe out of a solid piece of wood during his spare time at Kandahar Airfield.

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillip Cliburn delicately dresses his hamburger with mustard inside the HHC tent. The cookout featured grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, chips and desserts.

U.S. Army Spc. Wade Eason smiles in anticipation as he ponders how many hamburgers to put on his plate inside the HHC tent without others cathing on.

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Carroll Mooney guzzles a cold can of Moutain Dew to beat the heat at Kandahar Airfield.

4-401st AFSB commander farewell dinner

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lee Lienemann smiles as he accepts end of tour awards from his staff. Lienemann was awarded the Bronze Star Medal , Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the NATO Medal during a farewell dinner at Kandahar Airfield on 26 May.

Lienemann examines a plaque rigged with mouse traps from Kaufman.

Lienemann's cake was adhorned with a John Deere logo, Diet Pepsi logos, and his famed saying of "Lienemann like cinnamon."

Lienemann and Sgt. Maj. George Kaufman display the unit's battalion colors.

U.S. Army Col. Richard O'Connor, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, describes the impact of Lt. Col. Lee Lienemann on the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan.

4-401st AFSB change of command

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

(Right) U.S. Army Col. Richard O'Connor, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, passes the battalion colors to Lt. Col. Garry Bush during a change of command ceremony at the 4th Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade compound on 27 May.

A crowd gathered for the 4th Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade change of command ceremony at KAF on 27 May. The unit's mission is to execute, direct and manage field and sustainment level logistics in Regional Command South, Southwest and West.

184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Soldiers, Sgt. Pate and Staff Sgt. Curtis Davis, volunteered to serve as the color guard for the change of command ceremony.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Garry Bush salutes during the change of command ceremony. Bush will serve as the incoming commander for the 4th Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade at Kandahar Airfield.

From the Inspector General's office…

By Lt. Col. Mathyn D. Williams

"Do not repeat anything you will not sign your name to"
~Author Unknown

Some of the most damaging issues affecting a unit are rumors, perceptions and misinformation. Apparently, some Service members (SM) feel they have a right to spread rumors, or to outright lie about others. This can not only be hurtful to the person they are talking about, but also to the morale of the unit. One very important principle Inspector's General (IG) are taught in IG school is to make every effort to "First be right, and then go forward." This is done to ensure that the facts are gathered before accusations are made to the leadership or boss, in order to protect a person's good name and reputation. Webster's dictionary defines a rumor as, "a story or statement in general circulation without confirmation or certainty as to facts: a rumor of war." It is unfair and unprofessional to use a rumor as a basis for punishment or negative actions against a SM, as this could be devastating to the SM, his/her career, family, etc. In accordance with Army Regulation 20-1, SMs are not to be discouraged from coming to the IG with their complaints, but they should keep in mind that, if and when they do, the IG is required to make an inquiry on all cases accepted in order to find the facts. We cannot and will not pursue issues that we feel cannot be substantiated by facts. So, just because you believe it to be true, and bring your issue to the IG, please do not feel slighted if you see no actions taken. The IG works for the commander. As such, the IG is responsible to him to help ensure that unit cohesiveness and good order and discipline is not destroyed by facilitating rumors.

Perceptions are as dangerous to a group or unit as rumors. Perceptions are not always based on a true picture of reality, although many of us behave as though our perceptions are real, just because we believe it. With this in mind, be aware of your conduct and what perceptions might be derived from what you do (or don't do). The IG often gets requests to look into a person's conduct based upon where the person is seen, or with whom they associate with, etc. Everyone should be aware that they are being observed by others, and that opinions are being formed of them, even when they don't even know it. Once a perception is formed, it is difficult to break. Many innocent people have been alienated by their peers or even punished for something they truly did not do, based upon false perceptions; perceptions that they couldn't overcome because they were discovered to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, or had made comments that led others to jump to the wrong conclusions, etc.

Lastly, consider that miscommunication affects the morale of SMs and can be dangerous to a unit's readiness. Consider bringing rumors and perceptions to your leadership first, in order to try and determine what is and is not accurate or true, before coming to the IG. Give your leadership an opportunity to either confirm or explain the information or to put out the accurate information. It might be that your leadership has chosen to take a course of action that you do not understand, but that doesn't make it wrong. Also, you might find that the leadership has no idea that the miscommunication, rumor or perception exists, and can dispel the 'myth' when made aware of it.

(Left) U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, discusses the state of current sustainment operations in Afghanistan with Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher, JSC-A commander, during a recent visit to JSC-A headquarters on 30 May.

643rd RSG awards ceremony

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

(Above) U.S. Army Col. Chris Gentry, 643rd Regional Support Group commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence May pose for a photo with Lt. Col. Lee Lienemann, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, and Sgt. Maj. George Kaughman.

U.S. Army Col. Chris Gentry, 643rd Regional Support Group commander, looks on after receiving the Legion of Merit Medal for his actions during Operation Enduring Freedom.

(Above) U.S. Army Col. Chris Gentry, 643rd Regional Support Group commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence May pose for a photo for with Col. Brian Alvin, 645th Regional Support Group commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil Akins. (From left) May, Gentry, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs, Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher, Alvin, Akins. The 645th RSG will assume command from the 643rd RSG.

Chaplain's Message... *by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ramsey Coutta*

Ending well can make a successful venture even more so. Ending poorly can ruin everything you have worked so hard for and have to be proud of.

The apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now, there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Soon, many Service members within the JSC-A will be departing to be replaced by new groups of Warriors. As those preparing to leave begin to look forward to their return trip home, it's important to keep in mind that, "it's not over until it's over." By this, I mean sometimes during the final weeks Service members will relax and lose some of their military bearing. By doing so, they allow themselves to engage in behaviors that are either risky or places them in some kind of legal jeopardy. I have seen Soldiers who have made it successfully through a deployment, get to their out-processing station in the states, and then do something senseless and thoughtless and get arrested by the MPs. Then, they find themselves having to take the long slow walk through the military legal system, while their loved ones wait with uncertainty and sadness. They were so close but couldn't control themselves for just a few more days.

Titus 2:12 tells us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. You have done well! You have endured a long and sometimes lonely deployment. You have controlled your words and actions up to this point. You have a lot to be proud of and thankful for. Now, finish the race! Receive your reward that is justly due by avoiding any kind of temptations and troubles in these final days!

J2 Section... *by Maj. Juan Corrigan*

Situational awareness is one of the fundamental keys in preventing terrorist attacks. This has been proven many times over, not only in the military, but in the civilian sector as well. Several of the attacks that U.S. and NATO have experienced have succeeded in part due to a lack of situational awareness.

Recently, an attack occurred at the Kabul Hospital and foreign instructors were the insurgents' targets. Reports were constantly distributed to different units and personnel about attacks on soft targets. People that worked at the hospital reported that there was little security, and that it didn't seem that it was needed because a hospital was not a high value target. Complacency is also to blame. When one tends to hear that an area will or will not be attacked over an extended period of time, it's easy for the mind to shut it out. This is when an incident is most likely to occur.

Some of the things that one can do to maintain situational awareness include double checking your duty station. Have others to do the same. Don't let something out of the ordinary slip by thinking there's nothing to it. Report vulnerable areas and have something done about them. Make sure subordinates do the same and continue the practice. Expect the unexpected and don't take anything for granted. If you spot something that can be a target, so can the enemy. It will only be a matter of time before insurgents figure out how to attack your area. No one can predict an attack but you can prepare for it. Training and common sense are your best defense. For the safety and lives of the Soldiers around you, maintain situational awareness. It can save your life and the lives of others.

Surgeon farewell

Photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly, JSC-A Public Affairs

U.S. Army Col. Mark Prine, JSC-A deputy commander, presents Col. Gary Doublestein with the Afghanistan Campaign Medal in recognition of his service with JSC-A on 13 May. Doublestein served as the JSC-A surgeon; he was also presented with the NATO ISAF Medal and the Defense Meriorious Service Medal.

Never one to disappoint, Doublestein took time to recognize many members of JSC-A with commerative patches. The patches contained acronyms of his most memorable qualities of each individual.

U.S. Army Maj. Jacqueline Corley, JSC-A PMO

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lawrence Austin, JSC-A JAG

U.S. Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Fintan Kilmurray, JSC-A

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mathyn Williams, JSC-A IG

Sunshade at JSC-A headquarters

Photo by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

Members of 184th ESC HHC recently constructed a sunshade between buildings at JSC-A headquarters in an attempt to beat the summer heat in Kandahar.

Summer Safety Message

by Chief Warrant Officer 2 David G. Hardigree, JSC-A Safety

Summer is a very dangerous time of year for the Army with notable increases in off-duty accidental fatalities.

To help protect our band of brothers and sisters during this high-risk time of year, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center launches the 2011 Safe Summer Campaign. This year's campaign, which runs April 1 through Sept. 30, encourages every member of the Army Family to get out and enjoy all that summer has to offer, but to ask yourself, "what have you done to save a life today?"

This campaign site offers posters, videos and feature articles on several summer safety topics including grilling and food preparation, travel, swimming, and ATV safety. These products are meant to bolster your command's existing safety program by providing information on topics which your Soldiers, family members and civilians may enjoy during their off duty time.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center stands ready to support you this summer in our collective mission to safeguard our most precious resource, our Soldiers, and, in doing so, keep our team Army Strong. Please encourage your Soldiers to "Take 5" this summer, by looking out for each other and protecting our band of brothers and sisters.

Visit the web site *www.safety.army.mil*, and check out the vast array of multimedia products available to support the Summer Safety efforts.

Memorial Day Run at KAF

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Esther Zamora, JSC-A J1

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jody Kyzar, JSC-A J1

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Bowman and Master Sgt. Bobby Patrick eagerly prepare the start of the race.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Torrence Green, JSC-A J1

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Brown, JSC-A

Runners dodge traffic and less-than-desirable air conditions as they charge through the heat during the Memorial Day 5K at Kandahar Airfield.

Holocaust Month Observance at Fraise Chapel

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

This Month in Army History

1775 - George Washington was appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army by the Second Continental Congress.

1812 - President James Madison delivers a special message calling for emergency commissions for new military officers 12 days after declaring war on Britain.

1942 - Japanese Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, commander of the fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor, launches a raid on Midway Island with almost the entirety of the Japanese navy.

1942 - General Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes commander of all U.S. troops in the European theater of World War II, continuing the steady ascent in military rank that would culminate in his appointment as supreme Allied commander of all forces in Europe in 1943. As U.S. commander, Ike developed diplomatic skills that he would later employ as America's 34th president.

1944 - American bombers of the Fifteenth Air Force launch Operation Frantic, a series of bombing raids over Central Europe, alighting from airbases in southern Italy, but landing at airbases in Poltava, in the Soviet Union, in what is called "shuttle bombing."

1944 - Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the go-ahead for the largest amphibious military operation in history: Operation Overlord, code named D-Day, the Allied invasion of northern France. By daybreak, 18,000 British and American parachutists were already on the ground. At 6:30 a.m., American troops came ashore at Utah and Omaha beaches. At Omaha, the U.S. First Division battled high seas, mist, mines, burning vehicles—and German coastal batteries, including an elite infantry division, which spewed heavy fire. Many wounded Americans ultimately drowned in the high tide. British divisions, which landed at Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches, and Canadian troops also met with heavy German fire, but by the end of the day they were able to push inland.

1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the GI bill to provide financial aid to veterans returning from World War II. Upon signing the legislation, Roosevelt voiced his belief that ensuring veterans' employability was critical to a sound postwar economy. The GI bill, named after the slang term for soldiers whose wartime goods and services were government issued, provided funding for education, home loans, unemployment insurance, job counseling and the construction of veterans' hospital facilities. It also greatly strengthened the authority of and scope of services provided by the Veterans Administration. Tuition for advanced education or technical training was covered up to $500 per school year, along with a monthly living allowance while the veteran was in school. GIs could also apply for guaranteed home and business loans.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Event

Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

News from the KAF Legal Center

by: Maj. William W. Dreher

You are a reservist on title 10 orders for the past three years. Before you left your job at Big Corporation, you notified your employer about your impending mobilization, providing copies of your military orders.

In approximately two months, you will demobilize and return to your civilian life. Unfortunately, you spoke to your boss yesterday, who told you that he had no choice but to fire you last year (unknown to you) because you volunteered for mobilization, as opposed to being ordered to active duty.

As your head spins and you consider leaving active duty to return to civilian life with a means of income for your wife and 2.3 children, you ponder your options. You make an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney at the KAF legal center.

Your helpful legal assistance attorney informs you that, as an initial bit of information, the draft ended in the United States in June 1973 under the Nixon Administration. Anyone who enlists in any branch of the U. S. military does so on a volunteer basis.

You further learn that the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, commonly known as "USERRA" applies to voluntary as well as involuntary military service, in peacetime as well as wartime (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(e)(3).

According to the ESGR website, you have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

• you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
• you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
• you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
• you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

Additionally, you have the right to be free from discrimination and retaliation if you:

• are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
• have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;
• then an employer may not deny you:
  - o initial employment; reemployment;
  - o retention in employment;
  - o promotion; or
  - o any benefit of employment because of this status.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

You can find additional resources at *http://esgr.org/userraFAQ.asp*.

As always, if you have legal needs, contact the Legal Assistance Office.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler visits 'Resolute' Soldiers

Photo by Sgt. Edwin J. Rodriguez, 7th SB Public Affairs

U.S. Army Spc. Byron Scott, assigned to 7th Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Resolute, was presented with a command coin from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler during a visit to Kandahar Airfield on 26 May. Chandley visited the 'Resolute' brigade to recognize outstanding Soldiers and to talk about the future of the Army. Chandler said, "We need strong leaders more then we need technical experts to lead us into the future our Soldiers will face."

JSC-A Soldiers inducted into NCO Corps

Photo by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

Three U.S. Army Soldiers from Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan pose for a photo with their sponsors during the 7th Special Troops Battalion Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on 12 May. (Front, from left) U.S. Army Sgt. Benjamen Campbell, Sgt. Joshua Satcher and Sgt. Nehemiah Taylor. (Sponsors, back from left) Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Thompson, Staff Sgt. Mark Graves, Sgt. 1st Class James Parish.

Director of Defense Logistics Agency meets with JSC-A leadership

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten, JSC-A Public Affairs

(Left) U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, director of the Defense Logistics Agency, discusses current issues facing the military sustainment community with U.S. Army Brig. Gen Philip Fisher, JSC-A commander, during a special dinner held at Luxemburg dining facility at Kandahar Airfield on 19 May.

(From left) U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. William Hatten, Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lindgren, Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Cuffee, Sgt. Maj. John Thomas and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs pose for a photo at Kandahar Airfield on 19 May.

(Above) U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson tours Kandahar Airfield during a recent battlefield circulation on 19 May.

(At left) Senior non-commissioned officers discuss current deployment concerns with Command Sgt. Maj. Cuffee, senior enlisted leader for the Defense Logistics Agency, during a special dinner held at Luxemburg dining facility at Kandahar Airfield on 19 May.

DIB: The glue that holds the SPO together

Story by Maj. Bridget Armstrong, JSC-A Material Readiness Branch

The Support Operations (SPO) Directorate is made up of experienced logisticians managing the commodities and services required to sustain the war fighter. Throughout our deployment, we have published articles featuring the various duties and accomplishments of the branches that make up the SPO. Now, we will spotlight the glue that holds it all together…the Distribution and Integration Branch a.k.a "The DIB".

(Front, from left) U.S. Army Maj. John Cochran, Master Sgt. Stanley Coats, Lt. Col. Randall Mantooth, Maj. Bridget Armstrong and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Deitrich. (Back, from left) Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Bowman, Maj. Dexter Thornton, Maj. Richard Bennett, Master Sgt. Curtis Patrick, Maj. Scotty Carpenter, Staff Sgt. Encarnacion Cardona, Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Howard, Mr. Donald Taylor and Mr. William Cannon.

Serving as the "Tactical Operation Center of the SPO," the DIB, led by branch chief, Lt. Col. Randall Mantooth, plays a crucial role in the success of the SPO. Maintaining the SPO's battle rhythm of over 400 boards, briefings, cells, committees, and working groups per month is a daunting task, but the DIB accomplishes this mission day after day with superb communications and spot-on organization. Their outstanding attention to details is important when it comes to preparing general officer (GO) level briefing products and presentations for distinguished visitors.

"With any machine, all parts need oil in order for it to work well," said Lt. Col. Mantooth. "DIB is the oil for all the moving parts of the SPO."

The DIB staff works around the clock to keep SPO running like a well-oiled machine. The night shift shoulders the vital responsibility of consolidating reports from all branches and producing the daily reports briefed to the support operations officer and the commanding general. They also track and follow up on significant events that occur during their shift to keep the chain of command informed.

The DIB maintains constant coordination with the seven branches of the SPO to ensure information is effectively managed and turned into knowledge, but that's not all. Maj. Scotty Carpenter, deputy DIB chief, represents SPO in weekly helium distribution meetings and spearheaded the planning of a multi-modal key leader engagement. Plus, Maj. Richard Bennett served as a member of the Detainee Review Board for 60 days while Maj. John Cochran will spend almost 90 days serving on the source selection board for National Afghan Trucking.

But, it's not all work and no play in the DIB. Several members of Team DIB are avid runners that have participated in over 20 5Ks and10Ks, a half- marathon, and the Army 10-Miler shadow run at Kandahar Airfield (KAF). On April 16th, Maj. Dexter Thornton, Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Bowman, Master Sgt. Curtis Patrick, and Master Sgt. Stan Coats were members of the first place all-male team for the KAF 24-Hour Ultra Run and Relay for Charity, raising over $2,300 for the Sunnybrook Home for Children in Ridgeland, Miss.

"You might beat a dibber in a run, but you're gonna have to bleed to do it," said Maj. Dexter Thornton, after their victory. Maj. Thornton has taken the lead in organizing the 184th ESC's first unit sponsored run on KAF, the Magnolia Provider 5K which takes place on the 4th of July.

JSC-A end of tour awards

Photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly, JSC-A Public Affairs

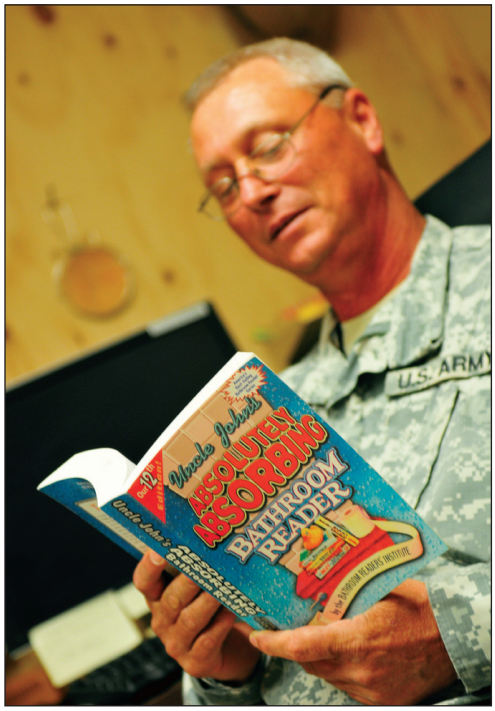
(Left) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher congratulates Col. Bruce Irwin for his contributions to JSC-A during his tour as part of 1st Theater Sustainment Command on 26 May. Irwin was presented with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, NATO ISAF Medal and Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

(Left) U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. John Thomas poses for a photo with Air Force Tech. Sgt. Tina Mora during an end-of-tour ceremony recognizing her contributions to the JSC-A SPO on 2 June. Mora was also presented with a Joint Service Commendation Medal for her actions in Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. Box recognized at JSC-A

Photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly and Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

(Left) U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Bautch, USFOR-A South, presents Master Sgt. Michael Box with a certificate of appreciation for his actions.



Master Sgt. Michael Box ponders the advice contained in a bathroom reader presented by Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher, JSC-A commander, while cooling off in his office. The book was presented for Box's actions in facilitating completion of recent building project at JSC-A headquarters, inlcuding a new ablution unit.

451st Air Expeditionary Wing members augment Kandahar Airfield IMP

Story by 1st Lt. Abigail L. Wise, 451st AEW Public Affairs
Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

KANDHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Members of the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing volunteer their time and expertise to augment Kandahar Air Field International Security Assistance Force Military Police.

The KAF IMP are responsible for upholding the law on base, spanning from lost identification cards to vehicle accidents to compound sweeps, and everything in between that you would expect a traditional police department to handle. They are composed of US and coalition forces.

"Our coalition IMP partners bring some phenomenal expertise to the fight. We're extremely fortunate to work with some of the best MPs from around the world. It's a different set of eyes when responding to incidents. There's a lot of gray area when conducting law enforcement operations and we rely on our coalition counterparts to share their experiences with some of our very young Airmen," said Master Sgt. Bill "TF Thunder" Seguin, IMP operations superintendent.

International Security Assistance Forces Military Police member sweeps a room for dangerous or illegal contraband on the morning of 26 May. Contraband checks are then conducted by fire teams led by experienced IMP members. These teams are made up of many nationalities all working together to ensure base protection.

While the IMP vehicles rove the base for suspicious activity, they also receive information from base agencies about illegal activity. One result of this would be the compound sweeps.

This means the IMP with the help of augmentees will enter a compound on base and search the entire area for dangerous or illegal contraband or personnel not authorized on base. Findings range from alcohol to weapons.

The compound search on May 26 began with a formal briefing for all involved. Before the sun rose that day, details of the location were discussed as well as number of rooms and how long the operation is expected to last. Groups were broken down ahead of time with experienced IMP as team leaders. The teams split and discussed their individual mission and how they'll handle a non-routine situation.

"Protecting the base from inside threats is very necessary," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Beers, 451st Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron plans and programs and IMP augmentee.

Sergeant Beers volunteers often for these missions, because this is the kind of thing he has been trained to do.

"We start our SF training like this and are very efficient and professional about it," he said.

Some volunteer to expand their experiences while deployed and work with the coalition forces.

- KAF IMP Support
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"Working with the coalition forces is great, because we all have the same mission and mind set of keeping the base safe," said Senior Airman Antwoine Smith, 451st ESFS tactical security element and IMP augmentee. "It builds camaraderie knowing we're working together to keep the base safe."

Keeping minds on the mission is essential, and we want to help facilitate that, he said.

The help is appreciated on the compound searches as well as day-to-day happenings.

"We couldn't do this job without the help of other units," said Major Edward Hunn, IMP provost marshal.

"We coordinate with most every agency on base to stay on top of things," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Morris, IMP Patrolman. "It can be a challenge with so many different nationalities all having different laws, but everyone falls under the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Here, the coalition forces work together to achieve the common goal of base safety.

A working dog anxiously awaits the moment he's given the signal to clear the room in front of him and his handler.

U.S. and Coalition International Security Assistance Forces Military Police conduct a compound sweep on the morning of May 26. Once the compound is entered and secured all occupants are escorted out of their rooms. Contraband checks are then conducted by fire teams led by experienced IMP members. These teams are made up of many nationalities all working together to ensure base protection.

Brothers visit during JSC-A battlefield circulation

Story and photos courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lindgren, Jr., JSC-A

During a recent battlefield circulation to Camps Bastion, Leatherneck and Dwyer, I was afforded the unique opportunity to visit with my brother, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Brett Puwalowski, whom I have not seen in almost two years.

My brother serves as a generator mechanic and electrician with A Co., 2nd CEB, at Forward Operating Base Dwyer. He is my youngest brother of some 27 years, while I hail as the oldest.

My battlefield circulation consisted of researching the feasibility of helium balloon placement in remote areas of Afghanistan. Another important facet of our trip was to ensure that dining facilities are getting the fresh fruits and vegetables that troops need and desire to stay in top form on the battlefield. We also see to it that they are receiving some of the conveniences of home, such as protein bars, potato chips and chewing gum. We also monitor their water supply and probe for possible stockage issues.

My brother is in charge of some 51 generators throughout FOB Dwyer and its subordinates. Despite our group's high operational tempo, we were able to have breakfast and dinner together as a family. After almost two years without seeing each other, we were extremely grateful to share a unique experience that they we will both cherish for a lifetime.

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JULY 4TH, 2011

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Tuesday, Thursday: 1900-2000

Race Day Registration: 0515
Show Time for Race: 0530 at Boardwalk
Race Start Time: 0600

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Supplies found, given to local bases

Story by Spc. Michael Vanpool, 101st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Mayes, 101st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – When the 101st Sustainment Brigade arrived in Afghanistan six months ago, the commander, Col. Michael Peterman, and his staff aimed their sights at simplifying the logistical battlefield after ten years of war.

They sought to work closely with other logistical elements in their area of responsibility, Regional Commands North, East and Capitol. The Lifeliners began to re-manage the storage of cargo and supplies on Bagram Airfield, in a project called BAF After Next.

The Billing of Material yard here was a part of the BAF After Next project, which is reconfiguring the logistical elements on Bagram. A team from the brigade went to the area and inspected the yard. What they found was $12 million in unaccounted and highly desired building materials.

Millions of dollars of unused equipment have been found on the Billing of Material Yard at Bagram Airfield. The 101st Sustainment Brigade set their sights on simplifying the logistical fielding with their "BAF After Next" concept.

"All this material showed up that no one knew about," said Capt. Rob LoMonaco, the operations officer for the Defense Logistics Agency Support Team – Bagram Detachment. "The key thing is we figured out what it was and where it came from."

After the material was indentified, the mobile retrograde team for DLA came in and inventoried the containers. Inside the conexs were plumbing and electrical materials, as well as other soldier life support supplies, that are crucial to servicemembers on smaller forward operating bases.

The brigade Router Identifier Code – Geographic section deals with all classes of supplies coming into theater. When the materials were found, they scoured open orders from outlying FOBs and distributed the supplies to units with needs and FOBs building their bases, said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Hall, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the RIC GEO section.

"It was critical supplies just lying around," he said. "The customer didn't have to wait for their order to come into country. It was already here."

"We found some battle space owners who needed it and shipped it to them," LoMonaco said. "It helped a lot of units with material they needed. If they break a pipe they can't just order a new one and receive it immediately."

As the materials were being inventoried and distributed, the brigade, DLA and the Combined Joint Task Force-101 logistics and finance sections sat down and worked out a plan. The drafted policy was distributed by CJTF-101, and brings only vital equipment and supplies into the theater.

"The last thing we did was work with CJTF-101 to make sure orders are properly vetted," LoMonaco said. "They have to show that the material they are asking for is needed for a project."

By bringing in only the essential materials and supplies, air and ground transportation are free for other more critical missions, he said. Aside from the $12 million saved with the project, potentially millions more were saved in transportation costs.

"If you can properly monitor BOM, you're freeing up air assets and storage on the ground," LoMonaco said.

Since the BOM yard project this past Winter, the 101st Sust. Bde. and DLA have been working closely to guarantee the service members throughout Afghanistan are supplied and ready for the fight. Peterman has encouraged his staff to coordinate with DLA to prevent any future logistics issues.

"Why wait until you need it, when you can project what you'll need?" LoMonaco said.

Remembering the Fallen

Written by 1st Lt. Daryl Taylor, 313th JMCB JSC-A LNO
Photo by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly, JSC-A Public Affairs

The first official day of summer;

A time for cookouts, parties, racing, and time off from work;

Not many people know or appreciate the real meaning of Memorial Day, nor who the holi-day is intended to celebrate. If you are reading this, then Memorial Day is not for you.

Memorial Day began during the waning hours of the Civil War, in Charleston, South Carolina, 1865. The day's original name was Decoration Day, and it began by freed former slaves, or "freedmen," of the Charleston area who wanted to honor the fallen Union soldiers at a nearby gravesite. In the years to follow, the holiday was nationalized, promoted by general officers of the Union Army. Its popularity grew quickly, with ceremonies being sponsored at many ceme-teries across the country. The purpose for the holiday developed into a manifestation of Ameri-can Exceptionalism, and a time to reflect and internalize national pride.

After World War II, the name transitioned to what we now refer to as Memorial Day. Dur-ing the late 60's, Congress moved to have the date changed from 30 May to the last Monday in May, to facilitate a three-day holiday weekend. Some argue the change has taken away some of the reverence of the day, and caused a diminished level of significance in the minds of the population. Nevertheless, the day continues to be celebrated to this day, with local and state parades, concerts on the National Mall in Washington D.C., and races such as the Indianapolis 500.

However, this day is much more than hotdogs, fast cars, and vacation travel. Every year, hundreds of veterans gather at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington to stand face to face with the men and women whose names are forever etched into history displayed upon polished slates of black stone. Across the country, in seas of green grass and perfectly aligned white marble, members of the Boy Scouts of America diligently place American flags in cemeteries, to mark the day.

Memorial Day is a day to remember the fallen. Those men and women throughout the his-tory of this country who gave their lives in her defense; the "... last full measure of devotion." Every few years, this country is called to action; each time, Americans answer that call to duty. Many have laced boots, mounted horses, boarded trains, planes, and ships, to leave home...never to return. These, the fallen, are a manifestation of the statement, "... some gave all." These men and women who have given their lives to defend, not only land and property, but the ideals and principles that make this country great. Freedom, Honor, Duty, Service. Words many of us take for granted, others have fought and died to defend.

Memorial Day is for them. A day of respect, reverence, and remembrance. As members of the uniformed services of the United States, we also draw on the strength and legacy of kindred spirits. Many of us have friends and family, fathers and grandmothers, who also wore their name on their chest, the flag on their shoulder, and answered the call to duty. It was they who met the challenge of, "ask NOT ... what your country can do for you...," and did more than most others ever would. It is to them we owe the responsibility of carrying on the torch of duty and ser-vice, as they once did. It falls upon us to remember the true meaning and purpose of this day.

On Memorial Day and all days, honor those who have come before us. Honor their memory. Honor their service. Honor their dedication to duty and country.

Honor, and remember.

June Birthdays

The JSC-A would like to wish the following people a

Happy Birthday!

Master Sgt. Gary Akins
Maj. Bridget Armstrong
Spc. Christopher Bell
Staff Sgt. Rashonda Bly
Staff Sgt. Daniel Brown
Master Sgt. Stanley Coats
Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Golden
Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Goodwin
Lt. Col. Harry Gunter
Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Hardigree
Maj. Billy Hardin
Spc. Christopher Heidelberg
Sgt. 1st Class Paula Henderson
1st Lt. Jesse Hill
Pfc. Timothy Howard
Spc. Tanya Jones
Master Sgt. Ronald Long
Capt. Jared Mathews
Mr. Lance Miller
Spc. James Morris
Sgt. Tamara Nelson
Lt. Col. Vincent Orlando
Spc. Stacy Ratliff
Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Ruffin
Staff Sgt. Cecilia Russell
Sgt. 1st Class Rosie Sorrells
Spc. Shannon Tarver
Sgt. Maj. John Thomas
Mr. Russell Ward
Col. Craig Weaver
Spc. Robert Wilson
Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Windham
Maj. Ailrick Young

Information provided by JSC-A, J1 Section