

Puget Sound

SUSTAINNER

DECEMBER 2011



**364 ESC
HELPS GIS
GET
HOME**



Contents

From the CG

1

The CSM's Corner

2

Manas: Gateway to Afghanistan

4

Pack em Up, Move em Out

7

Did You Remember Movember?

8

Far From Home, Servicemembers become U.S. Citizens

10

The Puget Sound Sustainer is an authorized, unofficial publication printed under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense or personnel thereof.

COMMANDING GENERAL:
Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR:
Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Jennings
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Capt. Christopher Larsen
PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC:
Sgt. Joseph A. Villines
JOURNALIST/LAYOUT EDITOR:
Cpl. Christopher A. Bigelow

364th Expeditionary
Sustainment Command
Public Affairs Office
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
DSN 318-430-6850
Marysville, Wash.



Manas: Gateway to Afghanistan



Pack em' Up, Get em' Home



Family Resource Fair

STAR NOTES



Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives

Team – Things are beginning to pick up pace now that we're entering December. In line with President Barack Obama's directive to have all U.S. forces out of Iraq by the end of the year, 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command troops throughout the Middle East are working day and night to ensure a smooth and orderly withdrawal. We can all take pride in the success of our efforts.

Since arriving in September, Task Force Rainier has moved, or assisted in moving, 40,000 Soldiers, more than 5,000 vehicles, and driven more than 4 million miles to accomplish it all. The amount of dedication our Soldiers have shown in making sure our mission – to assist in the fastest and most complex logistical drawdown in history – is nothing short of amazing.

We will have driven millions of miles and arranged tens of thousands of flights

to ensure that Soldiers of U.S. Forces-Iraq were home by Christmas. This is a significant feat; to coordinate movement affecting so much, in so little time, required detailed collaboration and coordination – in person, via e-mail, meetings, phone and secure communications – 24/7. Thank you.

As operations in Iraq come to a close on Dec. 31, we begin the next phase of our mission: to set the stage for the future of sustainment operations in the Middle East. Wherever U.S. and international forces

are stationed – Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Bahrain, Sinai, Horn of Africa, among others – the 364th ESC and its strategic partners stand ready to provide the support, equipment, mobility expertise and personnel assistance they require to get the job done.

The year 2012 will be interesting. As an Army, we are focused on Afghanistan and the President's goal to bring 23,000 servicemembers and their equipment from that theater, across the inhospitable roads that make up the Pakistan Ground Line of Communication and the Northern Distribution Network, neither of which is fast or efficient.

Further, our nation is facing a presidential election year, which will bring with it a focus on the defense budget. Everything we do will be evaluated.

You, as Reserve Soldiers, bring a perfect prospective to understand and enact effectiveness. As we perform our mission, we will be working with everything from

convoys to base camps, analyzing purpose, looking for velocity and hard-fought efficiencies – and your suggestions are the future. When the time comes for us to turn the mission over to our follow-on unit, we can be secure in the knowledge that we have done everything in our power to prepare it for success.

Back in Marysville, the members of our Mission Support Element are setting the standard for support to a deployed ESC. Though most of our Soldiers are deployed, the MSE is providing command and control to our stateside downtrace units, the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 652nd Regional Support Group, and 654th RSG. In our absence, Col. Phil Jolly and his crew are providing exactly the kind of support our Soldiers need – effective, accurate, on time, and always with an eye to Soldier and Family care.

December also brings the holiday season. Being away from home during the holidays is always difficult. For you and your Families, I expect you will embrace the season with hope for the future and love of Family. As Soldiers, we know that our duty can call us away at any time. Throughout our nation's history, from George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas 1776, to the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, its Soldiers have been called upon during times of crisis to stop the forces arrayed against them. Through it all, Soldiers still find the essence of the holidays close at heart, shared in World War I and World War II with the enemy across the line in front.

This year, as we prepare to celebrate the holidays so far from our Families and loved ones, I ask each of you to take time out from your busy schedules and think of those who support us during this mission.

I wish each one of you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. May God continue to bless you and your Families during this season and in the coming year.

Sustain the Fight!

THE CSM's CORNER



Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Jennings

out for, or take care of the individual Soldier? Not at all; I'm saying our care for the Soldier is fashioned around the team and the overall completion of our assigned mission.

Here in Kuwait, most problems are generated through boredom or not understanding the individual role that adds to the collective team mission. I don't believe these issues can be solved by one sergeant. This is a concern that must be addressed by the entire noncommissioned officer corps. Every NCO making up the corps must know what they bring to the table during this deployment. We must understand our mission is in constant flux, and requires each of us to adapt.

Stay engaged in the fight and lead from the front. Don't allow boredom or lack of direction to interfere with your judgment, motivation, and dedication to the command. We must and will maintain clear thought, unwavering bearing, and moral courage. Although we will be faced with many challenges throughout this deployment, we know our development and implementation of sound administrative and operational systems will assist our sister expeditionary sustainment commands with the enduring mission in this theater.

Lastly, during this holiday season, I want to extend my best wishes and greetings to each and every member of the 364th ESC family. I want you to know that the sacrifices being made by all of you, at home and deployed are greatly appreciated and necessary to the success of Operation New Dawn.

Sustain the Fight!

Jan. 18, 2012, marks my thirtieth year in the Army. As with many Soldiers, I find myself wondering how I made it this long, especially during deployments where the smallest things sometimes seem to become bigger than they really are.

I can't explain the feeling of total frustration that comes over me during these times. I guess I've learned to be realistic about the situation I'm in and have preferred to look at the problems for what they are as opposed to blowing them out of proportion.

These days, I seem to find myself looking back over my career and

trying to apply some of the experiences I've had in other similar situations. Sometimes the answers aren't that simple, and I tend to think or ponder the issues for a longer period before proving guidance or answers. Maybe that thought process comes with time, or what many call 'age.'

I'm sure that's part of it, but also believe we must understand each and every situation, problem, or issue for what it is.

In the Army, we make decisions and solve problems based on the good of the unit and mission, not the individual.

Stop and think about that for a minute. Am I saying we don't look

SOLDIER. CIVILIAN. SELF.
THERE ARE NO SPLIT PERSONALITIES IN SOCIAL MEDIA.



WWW.ARMY.MIL/SOCIALMEDIA



Servicemembers at Ali Al Salem Air Base board a C-17 on their way to Manas Transit Center. Every month thousands of servicemembers pass through Manas on their way to and from Afghanistan. *Cpl. Christopher Bigelow/364th ESC*

Manas: Gateway to Afghanistan

MANAS, Kyrgyzstan – Every month, thousands of American servicemembers get the information they need to come and go from Afghanistan here.

Servicemembers are given the proper time, place, and uniform. They're told where they will be sleeping, what they can and can't do, and most importantly, when they'll leave.

by Cpl. Christopher Bigelow
364 ESC Photojournalist

The information is passed to troops by an Army liaison team that communicates between incoming Army units and the Air Force personnel responsible for transportation to and from Afghanistan.

"It's a really big responsibility," said Sgt. Adrienne Pixley, of Johnston, S.C., an Army liaison with the 642nd Regional Support Group.

"I put myself into their position," she said. "If it was me go-

ing downrange or going home and I arrived here, I would want to know exactly what is going on, what I have to do, what I am going to need.

"I would just like to be informed, so that's what I do – I keep them informed," Pixley added.

Sgt. Maj. Kent Spruill, of Augusta, Ga., the 642nd's sergeant major at Manas, is in charge of the Joint Movement Control Center's Army liaison teams.

"Our mission is the deployment

and redeployment of the warfighters into the area of operations in Afghanistan,” Spruill said.

Spruill’s biggest job is leading the small team of Army liaisons whose mission is to track and schedule incoming Army units’ onward movement to and from the continental United States and Afghanistan.

“The original order for our mission called for senior enlisted soldiers,” Spruill said. “Unfortunately, we didn’t have that many senior personnel, and so we came here with three junior noncommissioned officers and four junior enlisted soldiers.”

Even with that small number of Soldiers, Spruill’s team gets the job done, he said.

“A unit is tracked by a unit line number,” he said. “Every unit is assigned a ULN when they are sent into theater.”

Even though every unit is tracked every step of the way, the job isn’t without its challenges, Spruill said.

“Our biggest challenge is having units arrive that want to move out sooner than their ULN will move them, or go home sooner than their ULN will move them,” he said. “In that case, I would have to say that our Soldiers have really stepped up to the plate. They are very professional, and when they do have an issue, they have really been able to control it.”

Spruill and his team receive word that a unit is coming to Manas 72 to 100 hours before its arrival.

When a unit populates on the 642nd RSG’s ULN tracker, the liaisons immediately start planning for its arrival.

The liaisons schedule the unit’s housing, and any extra training the deploying unit might need before going into theater.

Manas offers a state-of-the-art, Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle rollover trainer to provide MRAP vehicle crewmembers with effective training before they go into the field. An advanced



Servicemembers rest on a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III on their way to Manas Transit Center. Every month, thousands of servicemembers pass through Manas on their way to and from Afghanistan, thanks to the help of Army liaisons.

Cpl. Christopher Bigelow/364th ESC

medical simulation training center is also offered, to better prepare troops to apply medical treatment in combat conditions.

Once at Manas, units go through a Small Arms Protective Insert plate inspection, after which they immediately palletize their baggage.

“We have units palletize their bags so that once their flight information comes down, all that they have to do is take their carryon and move out,” Pixley said.

“Some units require tactical directives training, extra medical training, or even MRAP vehicle rollover training before they go into Afghanistan, and part of our job is to make sure they have time to receive the training they need,” she added.

Tactical directives training provides soldiers with their commanding general’s tactical directives, escalation of force procedures, and cultural awareness training.

According to Spruill, units can expect to be at Manas for between 24 and 72 hours.

“Our goal is to not have anyone go over 72 hours boots-on-ground here at Manas,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Michael R. James, of Columbia, S.C., the 642nd RSG’s Army liaison NCOIC, said the team at Manas plays an important role in getting Soldiers to and from the fight.

“We are *the* gateway to Afghanistan,” James said. “We’re an outstanding team and we really seem to be coming together.”

I used a Cross Walk!

YOU ***What have***
done to save
a life today?



**ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG**





Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicles stage at the Retrograde Property Assistance Team yard at Camp Virginia, Nov. 16. The RPAT yard at Camp Virginia plays a key role in successfully completing the mandate set by the President for the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq by the end of the year. *Cpl. Christopher Bigelow/364th ESC*

Pack em' Up, Get em' Home

by Cpl. Christopher Bigelow
364 ESC Photojournalist

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait – As the responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq ramps up, a flood of equipment and supplies is beginning to pour into Kuwait in order to meet the Dec. 31 deadline set by the President. The majority of these supplies, troops and equipment are sent through yards like the Retrograde Property Assistance Team yard here.

“The entire team here at Camp Virginia is designed to assist units to as quickly and efficiently as possible, get out the door to be reunited with their families and loved ones, and also to maintain appropriate property accountability; to be accountable stewards for our taxpayers,” said Col. Fred Maiocco, of Hermiston, Ore., the

364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command’s support operations officer.

The drawdown of forces from Iraq involves taking all U.S. Soldiers from Iraq and safely transporting them back to their home stations.

“One of the most important functions here at the retrograde property assistance team is that we help company commanders and other military officials be relieved of property accountability,” Maiocco said.

Accountability is important to the Army, and it’s important to American taxpayers that all property in the Army supply system is accounted for, Maiocco said.

“This is the spot where we have the opportunity to inventory pieces of equipment to make sure any shortages are appropriately

documented and reconciled, and if necessary conduct investigations to determine what happened to that property if any is missing and determine how we might take care of those losses in accordance with all of the regulations,” he said.

Camp Virginia’s mission is to support redeploying forces coming from Iraq through Kuwait on their way home.

Camp Virginia has expanded its scope and requirements with the mandate set by the President to have all U.S. troops out of Iraq by the end of the holiday season.

When redeploying units arrive at Camp Virginia, a well-orchestrated ballet begins. Convoys loaded with Soldiers immediately begin the process of turning in supplies and equipment they no

RPAT, Cont'd

longer need, items that can be re-entered into the Army inventory, saving taxpayer dollars.

As convoys arrive at Camp Virginia, Soldiers with the RPAT team immediately begin the process of matching all of the convoy's materiel, supplies, and equipment to the convoy's materiel log.

"We collect all of those items here, and then we take the equipment and place it back into Army inventory for either retrofit or improvements or perhaps even cross-leveling across different organizations and departments in the Army," Maiocco said.

"We are indebted to the great work of our strategic partner, the Army Materiel Command, for managing that whole system," he added.

When a unit has completed all of its property turn-in, Soldiers go through a Navy customs station. Soldiers are given a customs briefing where they are told what the United States considers prohibited items, and they are also given a timeline for the rest of their stay on Camp Virginia. All bags are then searched for any possible contraband or prohibited items.

After inspection, Soldiers are sent to the Freedom Area, where they wait to be transported to their airplane and flown back to the continental United States to be reunited with their families and loved ones.

The entire retrograde process from a unit's initial arrival until it's homeward-bound takes three to five days.

The Retrograde Property Assistance Team plays a key role in successfully completing the mandate set by the President to responsibly draw down the forces in Iraq by the end of the holiday season. The success of the draw-down is dependent on their accurate processing of supplies and equipment.



DID
YOU
REMEMBER
MOVEMBER?

By Capt. Christopher Larsen
364th ESC PAO

Soldiers of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command have been participating in Movember, an annual charity event begun in 2004.

Throughout November, they have been growing mustaches to show solidarity with their brothers around the world to raise awareness of prostate and other cancers that affect men. More than 32,000 men in the United States die of prostate cancer every year.

The event, which ran through Nov. 30, has been turned into a contest, with mustaches judged on appearance (or non-appearance), grayness, bushiness, effort, and overall 'manliness.' Winners were judged by a select panel of 364th ESC Soldiers.

As of press time, the Stachestainers had raised more than \$200 for the charity.

The
ENEMY
is listening

**He wants to know
what you know**

KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

Military Intelligence Division, War Department

Office of Naval Intelligence, Navy Department

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice

Far From Home, Servicemembers Become U.S. Citizens

by Capt. Christopher Larsen
364 ESC PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Veterans Day means more this year to 27 servicemembers stationed here and in other locations around the area of operations. They spent this Veterans Day as brand-new U.S. citizens after a ceremony Nov. 9.

The Soldiers, sailors and airmen hailed from 17 countries. Seven servicemembers originally came from Mexico, while some countries, such as Micronesia and Suriname, contributed one apiece. There were also servicemembers from Kenya, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom, among others.

“It’s a great day to be an American,” said Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives, commander of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, the ceremony’s keynote speaker, “and an even better day to become one.”

The route to citizenship for servicemembers has been simplified in recent years. Under a special provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act, servicemembers are eligible for streamlined citizenship processing. During peacetime, a service member must serve honorably on active duty for one year before being eligible. During periods of hostility such as those that have existed since Sept. 11, 2001, a little as one day of honorable service may qualify, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

“These servicemembers have already taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States,” Ives said. “Today, they’re taking a different oath. And with that oath, they will become citizens of the greatest nation on Earth.”

Hundreds of servicemembers attended the ceremony to support their new fellow citizens. Also in



Spc. Michael Teddy, of Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a native of Kenya, recites the Oath of Allegiance during the naturalization ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 9. *Capt. Christopher Larsen/364th ESC*

attendance were Maria Torra and Kenneth Ellis of the USCIS, who were there to swear in the new citizens.

Michael Adler, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City, said he was pleased to be able to attend the Nov. 9 ceremony.

“Thank you for the sacrifices you have made, and that your families continue to make,” he said.

Some of the brand-new Americans spoke of moving into the next phases of their lives.

“I feel happiness and relief,” said Spc. Sean Yates, a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 224th

Assault Helicopter Battalion, Virginia Army National Guard, and a native of Germany. “Now I can move forward in my life. My goal is to become an officer, and being a citizen, now I can.”

Spc. David Duque, of the Forward Support Element, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, said he was “nervous at first” about the ceremony. But, he said, becoming a U.S. citizen is a major step forward.

“It’s something I’ve needed to do for awhile,” Duque, who came from Cuba at age 7, said. “This has given me a real feeling of accomplishment.”

by Capt. Michael N. Meyer
364 ESC (Rear) PAO

Families of deployed service-members participated in a joint-service Military Family Resource Fair Oct. 29 at the Elk's Lodge in Lake Forest Park, Wash., with many organizations, including representatives from the Army Reserve, Washington National Guard, and Navy Fleet and Family Programs.

"The goals and the vision of this event are to bring many providers under one roof with the spouses and Families of deployed Soldiers, so that they will have the newest information on hand," said Dianna Hawkins, the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command's regional community outreach assistant.

Hawkins worked alongside the 654th Regional Support Group and the 380th Adjutant General Battalion to plan and coordinate the event.

Representatives from many organizations

provided their support to service-members of the Seattle area.

Volunteers included military family life counselors, representatives from Military OneSource, United Concordia, Tri-West, Operation Home Front, Operation Military Kids, Children Youth School Service, and more. Other advisors specialized in financial counseling, education, and disaster preparedness.

"We try to help communities understand how the cycle of deployment affects an entire community," said Darleen Munson, coordinator



Children waving their new U.S. flags at the Military Family Resource Fair, Oct. 29 at Lake Forest Park, Wash. Capt. Michael N. Meyer/364th ESC

Family Time:

Resource Fair Informs, Entertains

dinator for Washington's Operation Military Kids program. Munson explained that Operation Military Kids organizes events to connect geographically-dispersed military Families.

"We have events where we bring military kids together so they can talk to other kids about how deployment affects them," she said.

Laurie Hightower is the spouse of a deployed Soldier and brought her son to the event.

"I came here today because my husband is deployed to Kuwait with the 364th ESC and I wanted

to learn more about the variety of programs and support networks out there," she said. "I also volunteer to help out with some of the Family Readiness Group events."

"I just got here, and I already got three packs of cards and a football," said her son, Colin Hightower, proudly showing off his new football.

For more information about resources, visit the Army Reserve Family Programs website at <http://www.arfp.org/skins/ARFP/home.aspx>, or Operation Military Kids at www.operationmilitarykids.org.



Don't deal with a problem alone. Reach out to a helping hand!

- ▶ Talk to your Battle Buddy and chain of command
- ▶ Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK [8255]

It takes COURAGE to ask for help when needed