



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

DESERTMESH MAGAZINE

Edition 72 September/October 2011

- ⚡ **Commander**
COL Wayne C. Grieme, Jr.
- ⚡ **Command Sergeant Major**
CSM Charles A. Holliday, Sr.
- ⚡ **Executive Officer**
LTC Kevin B. Clark
- ⚡ **Public Affairs Staff**
Keith A. Dixon
- ⚡ **Visual Information**
Devin Butler
Jonald Lalas

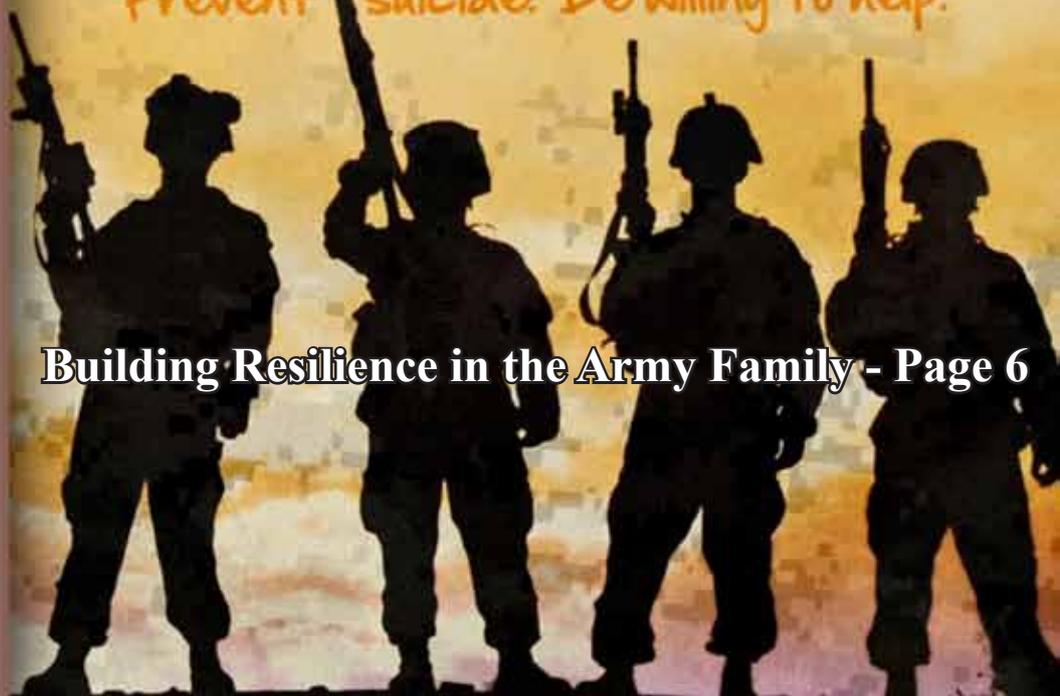
Desert Mesh Contributors
MAJ Gary Payne
1LT Tia Peters
SPC Christopher Abilz
Nickole Scott Conerly, Ph.D
SSG Joe Armas

Remembering 9-11

Shoulder to Shoulder

NO SOLDIER STANDS ALONE

Prevent suicide. Be willing to help.



Building Resilience in the Army Family - Page 6

It is your responsibility to stand by your fellow Soldier.

CONTENTS



GENERAL RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
38th Chief of Staff
UNITED STATES ARMY

General Raymond T. Odierno, assumed duty as the 38th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army on Sept. 7, 2011. A native of northern New Jersey, General Odierno attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1976 with a commission in Field Artillery. During more than 35 years of service, he has commanded units at every echelon, from platoon to theater, with duty in Germany, Albania, Kuwait, Iraq, and the United States. After his first assignment with U.S. Army Europe, General Odierno was assigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he commanded two batteries and served as a battalion operations officer.

General Odierno returned to U.S. Army Europe serving as a battalion executive officer and division artillery executive officer including deployment for Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. He later commanded 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, 7th Infantry Division, and the Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. From October 2001 to June 2004, General Odierno commanded the 4th Infantry Division, leading the division during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, from April 2003 to March 2004. From December 2006 to February 2008, he served as the Commanding General, Multi-National Corps – Iraq (III Corps) as the operational commander of the surge of forces. Later, he served as the Commanding General, Multi-National Force - Iraq, and subsequently United States Forces - Iraq, from September 2008 until September 2010. Most recently he commanded United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM).



Secretary of the Army John McHugh administers the oath to Gen. Raymond T. Odierno during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, VA., as Odierno's wife Linda looks on, Sept. 7, 2011. Upon completion of the oath, Odierno became the Army's 38th Chief of Staff. (U.S. Army Photo)

INSIDE THE WIRE

- **Initial Thoughts-Chief of Staff U.S.Army** 2- 3
- **Commander, CSM Columns** 4-5
- **Building Resilience in the Army Family** 6-7
- **"Goin' For the Gold"** 8-9
- **Talk On The Streets** 10-11
- **So Long, Farewell** 12-13
- **1st Sgt. Tanisha Geter, A 9-11 Story** 14-15
- **MWR** 16-17
- **Summer Change in Leadership** 18-19
- **Strays Control Rodents-The Military Resident Cat Program** 20-21

YOUR FAITH

- **Chaplain's Column** 22-23

Edition 72 – This Army magazine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Desert Mesh* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content is the responsibility of the Area Support Group Qatar public affairs office. All photos are official U.S. Army Photos unless otherwise credited. *Desert Mesh* layout and design by 1st Lt Tia Peters and Keith A.Dixon. Comments should be addressed to pao@qatar.army.mil or call 011-974-450-2714 (DSN 318-432-2572).

(continued from previous page)

Other significant assignments include: Arms Control Officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Chief of Staff, V Corps; Assistant Division Commander (Support), 1st Armored Division; Deputy Commanding General, Task Force Hawk, Albania; Director of Force Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans; and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he was the primary military advisor to Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice.

General Odierno holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from West Point and a Master's degree in Nuclear Effects Engineering from North Carolina State University. He is a graduate of the Army War College and holds a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

General Odierno is married to his high school sweetheart, Linda. They have three children: Tony, Katie, and Mike; and three grandchildren. His oldest son, Army Captain (Retired) Tony Odierno, is a combat veteran.

General Odierno's awards and decorations include four Defense Distinguished Service Medals, two Army Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, six Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Some initial thoughts from the new U.S. Army Chief of Staff

I am honored and humbled to be your 38th Chief of Staff. Over the last 10 years, our Army has proven itself in arguably the most difficult environment we have ever faced. At every level, our leaders have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability. Our Soldiers have displayed mental and physical toughness and courage under fire. They have transformed the Army into the most versatile, agile, rapidly deployable, and sustainable strategic land force in the world.

Our Army is the Nation's force of decisive action, extremely relevant and highly effective for a wide range of missions. Trust is the bedrock of our honored Profession - trust between each other, trust between Soldiers and Leaders, trust between Soldiers and their Families and the Army, and trust with the American people.

Today is like no other time in our history. We remain at war, and our top priority is to win the current fight. It is also a time of uncertainty and historic change. We face a multitude of security challenges, such as transnational and regional terrorism in places like Yemen, Somalia, North Africa, and Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas. We have the uncertainty of the Arab Spring, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and challenges of rising powers. All of this is

underpinned by fiscal constraint.

Despite the challenges, we confront the future from a position of great strength. Our Army will continue to be the best equipped, best trained, and best led force in the world. The strength of our Nation is our Army; the strength of our Army is our Soldiers; the strength of our Soldiers is our Families. This is what makes us Army Strong.

Along with the Secretary of the Army, in the coming weeks I will share thoughts on our way forward. This includes sustaining our All-Volunteer Army, providing depth and versatility to the Joint Force, and ensuring flexibility for defense of our interests at home and abroad.

I am proud to serve in your ranks, filled by great men and women that willingly serve our country. You are courageous, confident, competent, and compassionate. You live our Army Values 24/7 in all you do. Discipline, high standards, and fitness are your watch words. You are the best our country has to offer. I look forward to seeing you as I visit your camps, posts, stations, and operating bases.

Thank you for your steadfast dedication and loyal service to our Nation.

General Raymond T. Odierno
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army



**The Installation
Commander**



Wayne C. Grieme, Jr.

Colonel

Commander

Area Support Group - Qatar

I would like to extend a very warm “thank you” to all who attended the Area Support Group Qatar change of command ceremony on July 21. My family and I have been given a great welcome, and we appreciate all the time and effort that made the change of command and our transition here a great success.

It is a true privilege to be here, and we are happy to serve you. This change of command was indicative of the professionalism of this installation as well as the great friendships that have been developed over the years with all of our partners in Qatar.

As with all changes of command, this change now marks a new journey for Camp As Sayliyah and all our friends that work here.

From the first day of my arrival I was impressed with the quality leadership and professionalism of our civilian work force, the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines. As well, I am equally impressed with those that we support on this installation.

I appreciate the time that our friends here at Camp As Sayliyah have taken to provide briefs, as well as walking tours, showcasing what you do and what you have accomplished.

I am very proud to be a part of this organization and even prouder to have the opportunity to support you. I truly look forward to working with everyone on this installation.

Many things flourish beyond our gates. Most important are our relationships with our Air Force partners at Al Udeid Air

Base, our friends at the American Embassy, and especially, our gracious host nation, the Qataris. I could not be happier to join a group of professionals to not only work with, but to broaden my cultural awareness, thinking, and horizons.

Now that Eid has passed, school has started in the local communities. If your time at Camp As Sayliyah seems to be moving too slowly, I encourage you to take the time to volunteer at one of the local schools. There are many organizational and sporting events that will occur throughout the school year that require volunteers to make the year successful to many young people. Share your time with others -- it will make you feel good.

On a more somber note we took time to mark Patriot’s Day at the Community Activity Center on Sept. 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the attack against the United States. This quiet ceremony marked the untimely deaths of thousands of Americans. We took time to think about the families who lost their loved ones and the events of the world that have affected our Nation these past 10 years.

September also marks Suicide Awareness month. The Army continues to lose too many Soldiers each month to suicide. These deaths are a sad reminder of the struggle that many people go through each and every day. The focus for suicide awareness is on building

Continued as COL Grieme, page 6

Charles A. Holliday, Sr.

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major
Area Support Group - Qatar

The Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) is that Corporal – Sergeant Major of the Army – who “Gets it done.” Someone may ask, “What is it to be done?”

The first thing that we must do is take better care our Nation’s precious assets “The American Soldier.” When I speak of Soldiers, I am speaking of Airmen, Marines, and Sailors as well.

Taking Care of our Soldiers is Sergeant’s Business; it is much more than just giving Soldiers a day off or allowing them to go on MWR trips.

A good Non-Commissioned Officer takes care of his or her Soldiers by ensuring they are disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in their warrior tasks and drills. Good NCOs lead by example; they never require Soldiers to attempt a task they themselves cannot accomplish.

The quality of our Armed Forces is directly linked to our Non-Commissioned Officer Corps; other countries envy our Armed Forces because of our strong NCO Corps. We have proven time and time again that we can fight and win our Nation’s battles, but when the fighting and killing is over, what do we do next?

We reset and reconnect with society, our family and friends. Some of our Soldiers find it

difficult to reconnect and reset so they withdraw. Some even consider and/or commit suicide.

Just as we fight and win our Nation’s battles, we must fight and win the battle on suicide. “LOSING ISN’T AN OPTION!” Far too many of our heroes are killing themselves at an alarming rate.

Leaders must take an active role to ensure they are available, approachable and accessible. Saving our heroes’ lives is Leaders’ Business!

Outsourcing is a common practice in today’s society. There are a lot of jobs that can be and should be outsourced in our profession. LEADERSHIP is not one of them. Leadership cannot be outsourced; I can’t stress it enough.

Throughout my travels, I often ask Sergeants; how would they handle a Soldier who has a financial problem?

Then I give them this simple situation: Your Soldier continues to overdraw from their checking account. What action would you take? The common answer is “I will send the Soldier to Army Community Services (ACS) for a budgeting class.” This is outsourcing at its worst!

I applaud ACS for their great work within our communities; however, ACS cannot be the first step in the problem solving process.

Continued as CSM Holliday, page 8



Getting Back To Basic “Leadership 101”



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER:

COL Grieme from page 4

resilience in the Army family through physical, spiritual, emotional, and social well being.

Take the time to learn this month to stand side-by-side with others; take the time to learn how to save a life – especially if it is your own. There is no shame in seeking help.

Once again, thank you to all that have made my family's transition here successful. We really look forward to working and socializing with everyone. There is a lot of greatness at Camp As Sayliyah – I see it every day.

COL Wayne C. Grieme, Jr.

Suicide Awareness Month Observance on Camp As Sayliyah

By Nickole Scott Conerly, Ph.D.

As many know, members of the American Military have been taking their lives by unprecedented numbers since 2001. A large number of these Soldiers have experienced combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. For some, the rigors of service, repeated deployments without adequate time to debrief, injuries and the separation from loved ones has caused feelings of isolation, hopelessness and often thoughts of suicide.

Other factors that may trigger suicidal feelings include financial problems, illness, substance abuse, relationship breakdowns, toxic leadership, a traumatic event or tension within the unit.

During the past two years, several CAS Soldiers have experienced stressors that made them vulnerable to suicide. Luckily, all received the necessary help before they were able to mortally harm themselves.

With these Soldiers in mind, the 2011 Suicide Awareness Month on CAS was designed

to elevate the feeling of well being and belonging within the community. This was done in part by helping the community to focus on the positive aspects of life rather than the negative ones and to work on becoming more resilient.

Aspects of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness plan also have been incorporated in the month's activities. A major goal of the month's activities is to assist the CAS community in becoming more self confident, balanced and healthy.

The plan includes decreasing the likelihood of suicidal ideations and attempts on CAS by increasing individual and group resilience. The month's activities focused on strengthening physical, spiritual, emotional, social and family well being. To this end, a variety experiences will offered and included the following:

Physical Focus: The Army describes physical resilience as “performing and excelling in physical activities that require aerobic fitness, endurance, strength, healthy body composition and flexibility derived through exercise, nutrition and training.”

The CAS community had a variety of opportunities to



Building Army resilience in the Army family

focus on physical resilience during September. These included Labor Day Installation Run, Eating Right Nutrition Session, Smoking Cessation Training, Friends of Bill Gathering (for alcohol abuse awareness,) Fitness Tips Presentation and more.

Spiritual Focus includes programming aimed at strengthening an individual's set of beliefs, values or principles that help to sustain and strengthen that person. Highlights included Catholic Mass, Protestant Worship, Patriot's Day Ceremony, Spiritual Fitness Luncheon, Chaplain's Open Door, Spiritual Resiliency Training and more.

Emotional Focus includes participation in activities that help to increase the skills needed to manage life's challenges in a positive and optimistic way. This included the ability to demonstrate self-control, stamina and good character with choices and actions.

Programming included in this area were: Understanding PTSD Session, Alcohol/Depression Screening Day, Labor Day Barbecue, Relaxation Training Session,

Financial Readiness Seminar, Make a List of Your Positive Traits Day and more.

Social Focus includes developing and maintaining trusted, valued relationships and friendships that can be personally fulfilling.

Programming included in this area were Salsa Night at the Top Off, Take a Friend to the Movie Night, Omega Fashion Show, Shoulder-to-Shoulder Walk/Run, "The Incredibles" Movie Night and more.

All of these activities were designed to increase mental health and wellness which will in turn lead to increased resiliency in the CAS Community. 



For any questions about suicide awareness, please contact the Suicide Awareness Month Program co-chairs Chaplain Gary Payne at 432-2198 or Dr. Nickole Conerly at 432-3508.



Army Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, right, and Army Reserve Chief, Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, left, discuss recent statistics on Army suicide rates during a Pentagon press conference in January 2011.

(Dept. of Defense photo by R. D. Ward)

Some years ago, when I was a young Soldier, I was overdrawn on my checking account. SSG David Reid, my section chief, made me go to my room and get all my bills to include all my checkbooks.

At first I thought he was going to burn all my checks. Instead, he had me lay out all my expenses and bills, along with my LES. He helped me get my finances in order. My chief took the time to help me figure out my financial problem; he did not send me to ACS.

Someone may wonder how I got into that short-lived problem. I was a young married Soldier with a child. My family was back in the states and I was overseas. My young wife was spending money to take care of the family at home, and I was spending money at my duty station.

Well, needless to say that was a recipe for disaster. My chief convinced me, as only he could, to stop spending and I will leave it at that. I never went to ACS, nor was overdrawn on my checking account again. Thanks, Chief!

General (R) Colin Powell stated, "Leadership is solving problems. The day Soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care." Either case is a failure of leadership. "Our Soldiers need more leadership and less friendship"

-CSM Charles A. Holliday, Sr.

THE WIRE

Goin' for the Gold

By SPC Christopher Abilez

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar - Patton's Own Dining Facility is preparing for the Annual Connelly Inspection. The Phillip A. Connelly Award Program is governed by the Army Food Service Program. It is co-sponsored by the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) and the Department of the Army.

The IFSEA participates in the evaluation of the finalists, the presentation of awards, and other forms of recognition that support the program's objectives.

This will be the first time competing as a contract run dining facility. Patton's Own Dining Facility finished in second place last year and is very determined to finish first this year. The Connelly Inspection will take place on or about December 2.

The contract ITT Q-BOSS management is Dining Facility Manager, Joseph Colon, and Assistant DFAC Manager, Elvi Acevedo, both from Redding, Pennsylvania.

They work closely with Tamimi contracting workers to produce the best quality product for personnel at Camp As Saliyah. The Army has personnel who will be assisting with the day-to-day operation of

managing the facility. The food service officer is Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Niehus, also from Redding, Pennsylvania.

The dining facility staff consists of NCOIC Staff Sgt. (P) Marvin C. Johnson Sr., from Columbus, Mississippi; Sgt. Carl D. Hopkins, from Houston, Texas; Spc. Christopher Abilez from El Paso, Texas; and Spc. Brendon H. Flaherty, from High Point, North Carolina.

"DON'T GET READY, BE READY!" is the dining facility's motto set by the Army staff. They have played a vital role by improving the physical appearance of the dining facility. One improvement was the ceiling being tiled, which resulted in the dining area being considerably cooler.

Other items in the dining area include new flat screen TVs, new refrigerators, drinking machines for the beverages, and several murals on the walls.

The murals depict different cultural aspects in the region, as well as one dedicated to General Patton after whom the dining facility is named.

All of the murals were designed to make the dining facility more enjoyable and relaxing for the guests, especially during the heat of the day. Also installed was a

large painted thermometer on both entrances of the dining facility. They were installed so that the heat categories are displayed for the military to determine a work-to-rest ratio.

Patton's Own Dining Facility has also played host to more than 50 VIPs over the past year, including a visit from the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

With even more improvements being made at the dining facility, many on suggestions of Service Members and other daily guests, the facility staff eagerly awaits the competition. 



Joseph Colon, the DFAC Manager, touches up the background of one of his most recent creations at the dining facility.

(Keith A. Dixon Photo)



From left to right: CW2 Wayne Niehus, SSG (P) Marvin C. Johnson, SPC Christopher Abilez, SPC Brenden H. Flaherty, Jahangir Khan, Altaf Hussain, Joseph Colon, and Joel Pattillo, pose in front of previous Connelly award trophies.

(Keith A Dixon Photo)

INSIDE THE WIRE

Talk On T



SGT Chris Jones
Lafayette, Georgia
1177th Transportation

“ I witnessed the increase in security within a day or so. I also noticed the number of American flags that were flown in my neighborhood. My next door neighbor gave me a flag. Since then, my house has never been without one. The outpouring of patriotism has was amazing!”

With this being the 10th anniversary
Camp As Sayliyah to ask how 9-11 has im

SGT Gina Muncy
Annville, Kentucky
ASG HHC

“9-11 reunited the American people. It brought us closer together!”



The Streets

1SG Thomas Miskevish
Charleston, West Virginia
ASG HHC

“I have done more in the last 10 years than I did in the first 13 years of my Army career. I’m more dedicated to my profession and my family, Soldiers, and friends because of the longer deployments as a result of 9-11.”



...ry of 9-11, we took to the streets of
...npacted the lives of our military members.



SFC George Brooks
Stockbridge, Georgia
1177th Transportation

“I was about to board a plane in Bosnia to return home when the news of 9-11 was announced. Our flight was postponed for a week. It was then that I understood the importance of why I am a Soldier. I was more committed than ever to the service of my country.”

A fond farewell from the Deputy Provost Marshal

Dear 1148th and 1177th Transportation Company:

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve as your Deputy Provost Marshal during the last year. As the 1148th and 1177th Transportation Companies depart for home station, I walk away humbled by the magnitude of the responsibility and effort your leadership put forth to strengthen the partnership between the Georgia National Guard and ASG-Qatar.

The 1148th and 1177th have fulfilled their deployment requirements, and it's time to reunite with family and friends in the great state of Georgia. After 11 mission-packed months in the scorching sun, sporadic sandstorms and sweltering humidity, your deployment time in Qatar is at its end.

It was not an easy deployment. First, your units were challenged with executing 15 different force protection missions to ensure the security of ASG-Qatar's installations, U. S. military and civilian personnel as well as a community of foreign nationals.

The Provost Marshal Office, and the 1148th and 1177th, quickly formed a partnership to ensure we had the right strategy, personnel and resources in place to accomplish the force protection mission. I believe we

worked hard to get that right, and it showed in the numerous inspection results; first by receiving commendable ratings in all areas inspected by ARCENT's Initial Command Inspection and second by receiving "best practice" comments during the DoD Joint Service Integrated Vulnerability Assessment. Both companies have received numerous accolades from tenant unit commanders, visiting general officers and distinguished visitors.

When the 1148th and 1177th first arrived I challenged them to improve their foxhole and that is exactly what happened. Working with ASG's primary staff the partnership between the Georgia National Guard and ASG-Qatar continued to be strengthened.

The Directorate of Logistics and 1148th worked together to enhance the driver's training program. Under the supervision of the Chaplain's office, both companies volunteered for extensive chapel duties that maximized spiritual fitness programs. There were weekly meetings with the EO Officer and the companies assisted with hosting monthly ethnic observances.

The Directorate of Public Works and Transportation company project officer met weekly to initiate construction projects designed to enhance force protection and or improve

Soldier working conditions while performing their duties. You furnished outstanding Soldiers to stand side by side with ASG Soldiers for a brigade level change of command, Veteran's Day, Memorial's Day and President's Day ceremonies. After duty hours while the installation slept, your companies trained with the 379th Air Force Security Forces on force protection drills and hosted meetings with the operations' directorate in planning missions and de-conflicting multiple calendar commitments. Your contributions to the partnership are too many to name.

In the midst of work, there were good times. The Installation Commander and Command Sergeant Major mandated that morale and welfare trips would be maximized. The Soldiers were allowed to experience a small taste of Arabic culture by participating in water sports, safaris, camel riding, drag car racing, food tasting and my favorite, Souq shopping. In addition to the morale trips, the civilian community delivered meals to the gates and invited Soldiers to their homes for home cooked meals at every opportunity to include holidays.

It has truly been a partnership. Because of your willingness to learn new things and your commitment to the force protection mission, you will be missed. I am deeply honored to have served for and with you. May God bless you and your families, always.

Mrs. Karen K. Beard
Deputy Provost Marshal
Area Support Group - Qatar

U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force join forces to win soccer title

By Hani Abukishk
ASG-QA Civil Affairs

Muaiter Area Soccer Field

Doha, Qatar-The announcer's voice echoed throughout the mini-soccer field "And now, his Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Nasser Al-Thani will crown the winner of this year's Ramadan football tournament, the U.S. Military! Put your hands together and give a big round of applause to the U.S. Military team!" The crowd, both American and Qatari, erupted in cheers and jubilation. The U.S. Military team finally won the tournament hosted by his Excellency Sheikh Brigadier General (Pilot) Ahmed bin Nasser Al-Thani, Assistant Qatari Military Chief of Staff for Intelligence and Security.

Brigadier General Ahmed bin Nasser Al-Thani, a member of the Qatari ruling family, invited the United States team to participate in this tournament as the only non-Qatari unit. The tournament is held every year during the holy month of Ramadan, and was – until recently – only open to branches of the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI). This was the second year in which the U.S. military participated in this prestigious sporting event. The

tournament lasted two weeks, during which the U.S. team won 3 out of 4 games, including the championship game, securing a 2-1 victory against the Electronic Warfare team.

The American team was made up of a mix of Army, Navy, and Air Force service members, who managed to win despite having played together for one week. For the tournament, the U.S. team scored 14 goals, with U.S. Team Captain, SGT Aboko-Cole, scoring six goals and recognition as the Most Valuable Player.

With virtually no preparation,

the U.S. team was assembled after having one quick try out. The players were determined to participate and represent the U.S. Armed Forces well in this tournament. Win or lose, the objective of the U.S. team was to forge a strong relationship with their Qatari counterparts through sports engagements. That ultimate goal was achieved, and in addition to making new friends, the troops brought home the gold! As the defending champions, the team will automatically be invited to next year's tournament. **A**



SGT William Adobo-Cole, from Huntsville, Ala., holds up the first place trophy awarded during the closing ceremonies at the annual Ramadan Soccer Tournament held August 19. SGT Aboco- Cole was selected the Most Valuable Player of the tournament after scoring six of the 14 points in the four games played. Sheikh Ahmed bin nasser Al-Thani (right) and ASG Commander, COL Wayne C. Grieme, Jr., and his son William Grieme, and ASG-Qatar Command Sergeant Major, Charles A. Holliday, Sr. (left), applaud during the presentation.

9-11, Looking back from the front

Photo and Story by SSG. Joe Armas



1SG Tanisha Geter, Company A, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks during a prayer luncheon on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Geter had family who worked near the World Trade Center the day of the attack, and it took her days to confirm that her family had survived.

The soldiers of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, along with members of the coalition here at Camp Marmal, paused from their normal routines to reflect on the events of Sept. 11 with a prayer breakfast on the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Sept. 11, 2001 started like any other normal day in America. People were in the midst of their daily routines: sending their children off to school, going off to work and about their normal business and not knowing

what their fate would hold.

On that day, the United States suffered the worst terrorist attack in its history, but just like for many in the U.S. and around the world, images of that tragic September morning remain clear for Soldiers of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The Soldiers of the 1st ACB, along with members of the coalition here at Camp Marmal, paused from their normal routines to reflect on the events of Sept. 11 with a prayer breakfast on the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

“Today, we pause to remember where we were and what it was like to watch the unfolding destruction of a familiar New York City horizon,” said Cpt. James Ward, chaplain, Task Force Lobos, 1st ACB.

“We remember a desperate rush to save as many lives as possible, not knowing how many more lives it would cost,” he added as he addressed those in attendance.

Memories of Sept. 11 are poignant for 1SG Tanisha

Geter, Company A, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y. During the luncheon, Geter gave her thoughts and recollections of that September day.

“I remember it vividly as if it was this morning and not 10 years ago,” she said.

Geter’s aunt worked three blocks away from the World Trade Center and usually walked by the World Trade Center around the same time that both planes had struck the twin towers.

Moreover, Geter remembers the sense of desperation that she felt as she tried to call her family back home in New York.

“I just kept trying to call home that morning, as I cried and prayed that my family would be okay,” she explained. “The thought that my aunt might have been part of this tragedy made my heart stop.”

With the phone lines congested and no bridge of communication available between her and her family, she remained glued to the

television in her office that afternoon. As the masses crossed the Brooklyn Bridge covered in ashes she wondered if her family had survived the attacks.

“It took days to find out that my family had survived,” she said.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Alejandro, who is assigned to Task Force Atlas, also spoke about his memories of Sept. 11. Alejandro was in New York City that day due to sheer coincidence. His grandmother required emergency heart surgery, and he had taken leave from his duty station in Korea to be by her side.

As he looked through the window in the hospital he had a clear view of the horrible events that unfolded that crisp September morning.

“I’ll never forget it,” he said. “I began to pray like I never had before.” He described the situation inside the hospital immediately after the attacks.

“Everybody started running, screaming and crying,” he said. “The hospital had become a mad house.”

Amidst the chaos, Alejandro said he saw that emergency response teams immediately took action.

“I’ve never seen New York City come together like it did on that day,” he said.

Furthermore, Ward also touched on how the attacks managed to bring people together.

“We watched as people from every creed and every color met at ground zero to dig through rubble and search in hope,” said Ward. “Whatever our differences were, the curtain was pulled back on the American spirit that day.”

That day would go down in infamy for the thousands of lives that were changed forever, and it’s the day that brought together a group of service members from a vast array of backgrounds and nations to reflect 10 years later.

A

To make a contribution or for more information on the CFC, contact SGT Gina Muncy at 432-239, or SGT Alexis George, at 432-2374.



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 during the cooler parts of the day.

CAS-TV

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



Contact Keith A. Dixon, ASG-QA public affairs coordinator, for more information.

INSIDE THE WI

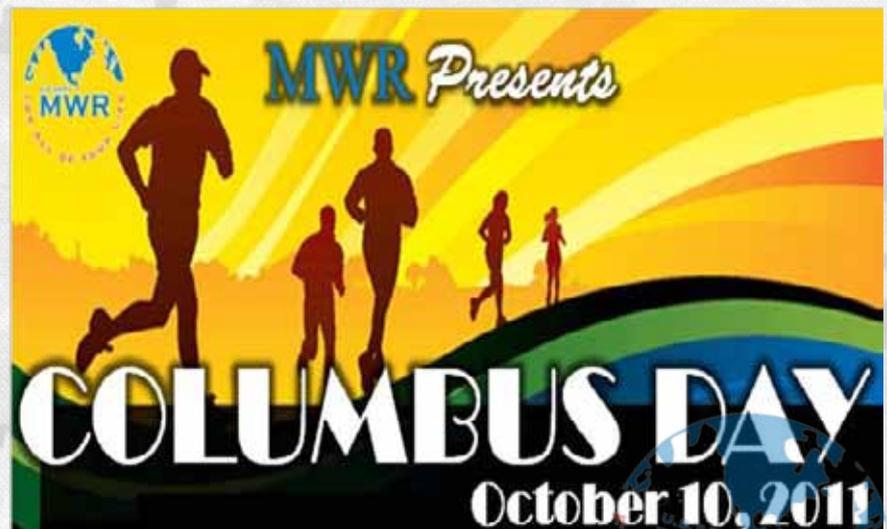
*Billboard Top 100 hits starting at
9 p.m. on most nights!*



Cool down at the Oasis

B I N G O

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



Don't forget:

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

RE

MWR



Keeping It Cool! From left to right, front row: Mr. Mansur Akram, DFAS Specialist; MAJ Jeff Harris, 645th Contingency Contracting Team Leader; LTC Lee MacGregor, Commander/Director of Contracting (DOC); SFC Maria Sierra, Contracting Specialist; MAJ Senodja Sundiata-Walker, RCC-QA Operations Officer/Contracting Specialist. (L-R) Back Row: MAJ Brad Tweedy, Contracting Specialist; Mr. Chad Cobb, IT Specialist; SFC Mark Hirsch, Contracting Specialist; and Mr. Rod Hill, Deputy DOC.



***Open 5:30 a.m. to midnight,
closed for cleaning 9 to 10:30 a.m.***

***Keep cool ...
hit the pool!***

SUMMER CHANGE

Camp As Sayliyah ASG Qatar- The Big Picture

Third Army/ARCENT Commanding General, LTG Vincent K. Brooks, passes the reigns of command to incoming ASG Commander, COL Wayne C. Grieme, Jr.



LTC Aaron J. Cook, commander of Army Field Support Battalion – Qatar, addresses the battalion after taking charge in an earlier change of command ceremony.

IN LEADERSHIP

July 21, 2011



ASG Qatar Commander, COL Wayne C. Grieme, Jr., is joined by his son, Jacob, during the playing of the Army song, during the closing of the change of command ceremony.



LTC Lee MacGregor, Regional Contracting Center commander, receives the unit colors during the change of command ceremony.

VETCOM

What is it?

The United States Army Veterinary Command provides military veterinary services in support of United States Army Medical Command and Department of Defense missions in their areas of responsibility. In addition, VETCOM assures the readiness of the Veterinary Command and deploys individual and unit professional filler system personnel. Responsibilities include food safety and quality assurance, care of government owned animals, and animal disease prevention and control.

Where's the vets?

The VETCOM headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is the senior headquarters for about 40 percent of the United States Army veterinarians worldwide. The remaining are assigned to other MEDCOM major subordinate commands, Forces Command, 18th MEDCOM, 30th Medical Brigade, and a Joint Activities Account.

VETCOM activated on October 2, 1994, as a major subordinate command of MEDCOM after a year as a provisional command. VETCOM Headquarters was essentially created out of the former Directorate of Veterinary Services, U.S. Army Health Services Command. VETCOM has many one-soldier duty sites, where food inspection specialists, animal care specialists and Veterinary Corps officers work in cooperation with the supported Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force facilities.

DOHA LIFE

Stray cats control rodents: The Military Resident Cat Program

By CPT Robert E. Miller
994th MDVS

Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar-The Installation Pest Manager has just received a call that a cat has been found in one of the many animal traps on Camp As Sayliyah (CAS). Pest Management is responsible for managing rodent control on military installations, as well as trapping stray cats and removing them from the post. However, it's not uncommon for Pest Management to find an empty trap when they investigate. "People have been letting cats out of the traps," says Heather Collins-Proctor, Camp As Sayliyah's pest control manager. "It requires thumbs to open these traps." A policy of euthanasia, even of stray cats, has an effect on post morale, especially in remote locations where soldiers and DoD civilians miss their own pets. When people free the trapped cats for fear they will be euthanized, the trapping program no longer works. Due to animal overpopulation, there is always another cat waiting to enter the installation even before Veterinary Services can find a home for the last one. The cycle continued until recently, when the 994th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) started a trap, vaccinate, neuter and release (TVNR) program, called the "Military Resident Cat Program."

The new program developed by the 994th MDVS and recently approved by the post legal officer,

Mr. John Venskus, changes the dynamic considerably. Instead of being euthanized, the stray cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and released back onto the post, where they are free to hunt rodents and mice. Because cats are territorial, they will also prevent new, unvaccinated cats from entering the post. This progressive pest management policy has numerous benefits for the post.

MAJ Tamara Gull, 994th MDVS Veterinarian assigned to CAS, explains. "The TVNR program has already had a positive effect on post morale. Previously, trapped cats had to either be adopted through a civilian rescue agency (very difficult with a feral cat, and often no space is available) or euthanized. None of us liked being forced to euthanize the cats. Knowing the cats can stay on CAS and that their health care is assured makes many CAS residents much happier."

After being treated at the Veterinary Clinic by MAJ Gull and her technician, SPC Britni Roman, the military resident cats are now part of the post rodent control program.

As a large animal internal medicine specialist and a bacteriology professor at Oklahoma State University Veterinary School, MAJ Gull is an authority on the threats posed by rodents. "Any military post will have a rodent problem due to the vast amounts

of food waste we generate plus the endless hiding and denning areas created by the construction of temporary buildings and collection of conexes in yards.”

Maj. Gull described some of the diseases spread by rodents. “Examples are hantavirus, a respiratory disease caused by inhaling dried rodent waste products, and murine typhus, which is a flu-like disease transmitted by rat fleas. Stray cats will routinely catch and consume rodents, thus decreasing that risk to our Soldiers; the cats themselves are not susceptible to these rodent diseases.”

MAJ Gull adds “Stray cats can themselves carry diseases as well as reproduce rapidly. By establishing a TVNR program, we are able to catch the locally-established stray cats and ensure that they are healthy and will not be a risk to our Soldiers. We are also able to spay or neuter them so we are not inundated with many more cats than we can handle. The TVNR program complements the work that the CAS Pest Control is doing, without the use of any additional pesticides.”

This program relieves the pressure to find homes for an infinite number of stray cats on residents like Sharyn Adams, who works at Camp As Sayliyah’s housing office. “I have adopted over 10 cats from the base.” She says.” I am very excited about the TNR program because it gives them a fighting chance instead of immediate euthanasia. I also it makes it easier on QAWS (Qatari Animal Welfare Society) and myself, since we are full with animals as it is.”

The program cats are managed by SPC Britni Roman, who is an Animal Care Specialist with the 994th MDVS assigned to Camp As Sayliyah. “Each

one has their own paper medical record in a file and an excel spreadsheet that lists all of their important information: Name, number, color, trapped location, and vaccination dates.” The medical record tracks the cats and they are revaccinated yearly.

SPC Roman enjoys telling Soldiers about the program and said many are relieved when they learn the cats are not routinely euthanized. “Soldiers are blown away and have questions regarding how stray cats can work for the military. This is where I get a huge smile and tell them that they are controlling our pest/rodent problem.”

new program. According to MAJ Gull, “The installation Soldiers can rest assured that the cats on CAS do not pose a threat to them and that they are helping to keep the rodent population down. In addition, the cats are often looked at fondly and with a sense of ownership, almost like a mascot. While mascots are prohibited by General Order 1B, the TVNR cats on other camps are considered part of the community.

However, we ask that Soldiers to refrain from feeding the cats, since a well-fed cat catches few mice!” 



Animal Care Specialist, SPC Britni Roman, releases “Ghost” as part of the military’s Resident Cat Program. In this program, stray cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and released back onto the post where they are free to hunt rodents and mice.

Your Faith



Pass the Soup

Chaplain (MAJ-P) Gary G. Payne
ASG-QA Command Chaplain

Once there was a man who asked an old and wise rabbi, “Rabbi, what is the difference between heaven and hell?”

The rabbi, looking at the man intently, began to explain, “There was a man who died and went to hell. He appeared in a room that had a big pot of steaming soup. The soup smelled good too. In a circle, around the pot of soup, there was a group of people. They were starving to death. Skin and bones. They were in misery. Even though each had a long spoon to reach in the pot, they could not eat. The spoons were so long they could not get the soup to their mouths. The soup spilled to the ground.”

The man listening to the rabbi seemed puzzled. “So, Rabbi, what is heaven like?”

A smile came upon the rabbi’s face as he continued. “There was a man who died and went to heaven. He appeared in a room that had a big pot of steaming soup. The soup smelled good too. In a circle, around the pot of soup, there was a group of people. They were fat and healthy. They were laughing and having a great time. They each had a long spoon to reach in the pot. As each got a spoonful of the soup, they would extend it to the person sitting next to them. They knew how to feed each other.”

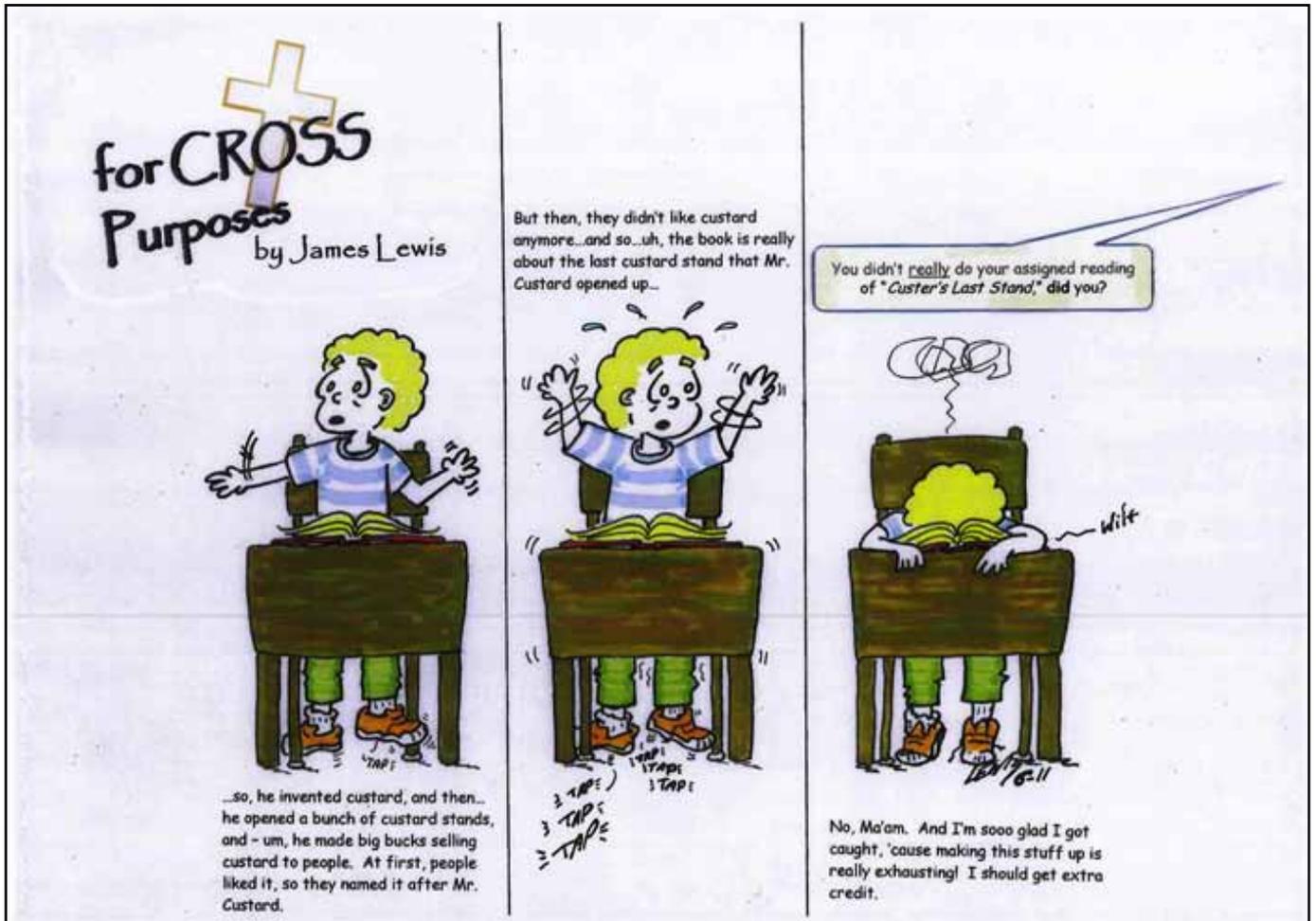
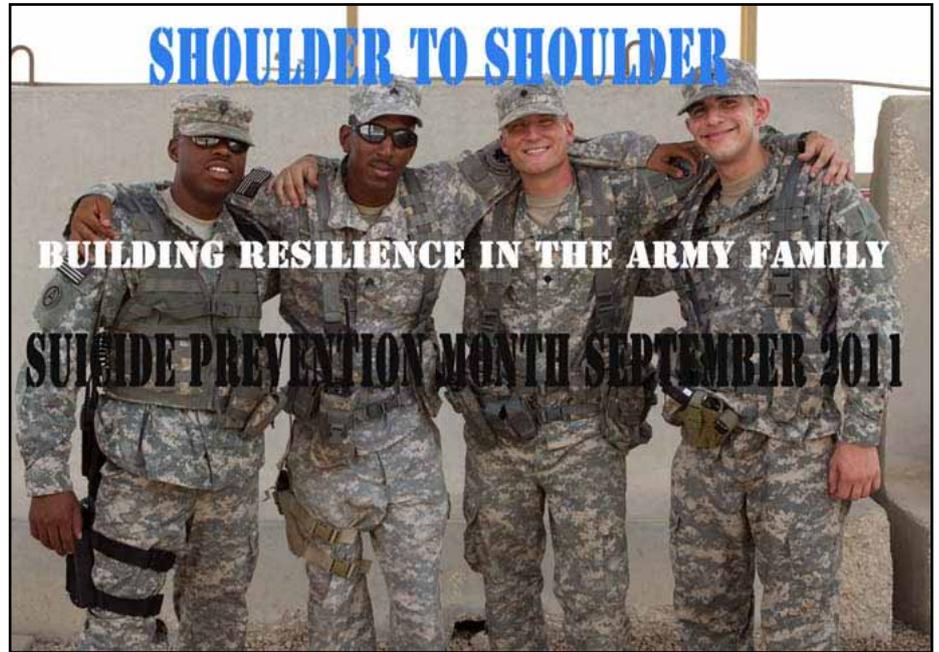
There are a lot of ideas about eternal punishments and rewards. However, to a degree, what is coming is an extension of what we are now. People who are self-serving are the most miserable. They suffer from jealousy, anger, and discontent. People who learn to feed others are the most happy.

I do not remember where I heard this parable—years ago. In another parable, Jesus states, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked

after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

As Jesus unfolded this picture, the righteous asked, “When did we see hungry . . . thirsty . . . needing clothes?” “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:31-46)

Folks who are the happiest are those who learn to reach out to the person next to them. Reaching outside of themselves, they learn what real life is. **A**





Engineered for life

What did you think of Desert Mesh Edition 72?

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 72. 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.

