



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

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

Gen. Dempsey nominated for JCS chairman

By **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama announced his choices as chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a Rose Garden ceremony May 30.

Obama intends to nominate Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey as chairman and Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld as vice chairman. Dempsey is currently the Army chief of staff and Winnefeld is the commander of U.S. Northern Command.

Dempsey will replace Navy Adm. Mike Mullen when his term ends September 30, and Winnefeld will replace Marine Gen. James “Hoss” Cartwright when his term ends in July.

Continued as CJCS, page 2

Honoring our fallen 10

⚔ The Official Publication of Camp As Sayliyah ⚔

DESERT MESH MAGAZINE®

Edition 71 July/August 2011



Wildlife visits CAS 14-15





CJCS from page 1

The president intends to nominate Gen. Ray Odierno to succeed Dempsey at the Army post.

The Senate must approve the nominations and the president called on the body to act expeditiously.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates released the following on the nominations:

“I enthusiastically support President Obama’s choices to fill these key military leadership positions.

“General Dempsey, Admiral Winnefeld, and General Odierno have all excelled in key command and staff roles within their services and in the joint arena. They possess the right mix of intellectual heft, moral courage, and strategic vision required to provide sound and candid advice to the President and his national security team. Above all, they are proven leaders of men and women in combat operations over the past decade, and are uniquely qualified to guide and shape our military institutions through the challenging times ahead.

“On a personal note, I have enjoyed working with Admiral Mullen and General Cartwright and benefited greatly from their wise counsel. All Americans owe these two fine officers and their families a debt of gratitude, and I look forward to paying fuller tribute to their accomplishments at the appropriate time.”

CONTENTS



Jonald Lalas photo

Sp. Joshua McKinney of the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, is baptized by Chaplain (Capt.) Ricky Trull, left, with Sp. Ronald McQueen of the 1148th Transportation Company. McKinney said he felt ready to be baptized a Christian, and wanted to do it while deployed to Camp As Sayliyah “in front of the very people who share the hardships of being away from their family and close loved ones,” he explained.

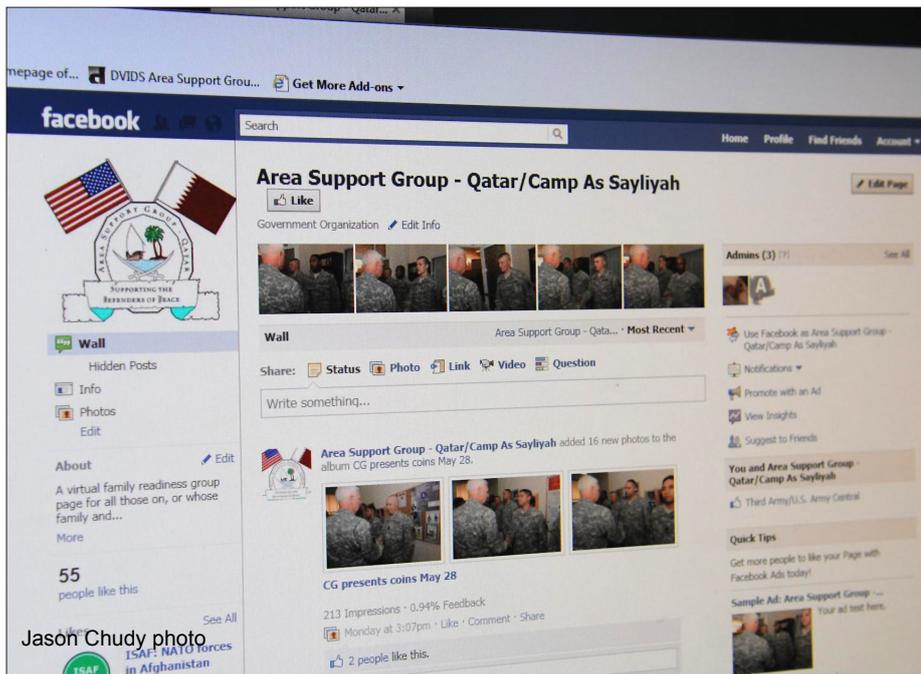
INSIDE THE WIRE

Putting an on-line 'Face' (book) on Camp As Sayliyah	3
■ Commander, CSM columns	4-5
■ USAMMC-SWA shipping keeps meds cool	6-7
■ USAMMC-SWA gets new commander	8
■ Central Contracting Command in focus	9
■ Camp recognizes those who have gone before us	10
■ ASG NCO, Soldier of the year named	11
■ LTG Webster visits, turns command to LTG Brooks	12-13
■ Protected species make visits to CAS	14-15
■ CAS helps AF EOD raise money for wounded	18-19
■ New Veterinary Detachment; who are they?	20-21

YOUR FAITH

■ Ramadan celebrated in August	22
■ Chaplain's Column	23

Edition 71 – This Army magazine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Desert Mesh* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content is the responsibility of the Area Support Group Qatar public affairs office. General comments should be addressed to pao@qatar.army.mil or call 011-974-450-2714 (: 318-432-2572). All photos are official U.S. Army Photos unless otherwise credited. *Desert Mesh* layout and design by Jason Chudy. Comments should be addressed to pao@qatar.army.mil or call 011-974-450-2714 (DSN 318-432-2572).



The Area Support Group - Qatar/Camp As Sayliyah Facebook page on June 2.

CAS gets Facebook page

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

Camp As Sayliyah has joined the social networking generation with the creation of its own Facebook page.

The page, which can be found by searching for Area Support Group - Qatar/Camp As Sayliyah on Facebook had more than 50 “followers” as of early June.

The page will mainly be used to promote command information as part of the family readiness group program, but will also be used to highlight the events of personnel on camp, as well as get feedback on anything ranging from photos to programs.

“I’d like to be able to get people as much information as possible as much as operational security allows,” explained Capt. Kraig Roxberry, ASG human resource officer.

“It’s an opportunity for Soldiers

and their family members and friends back home to get a taste of what life is like here,” he said.

In addition to providing camp-specific issues and items, the page also provides links to other military and government sites.

In addition to linking to the Department of Defense, Army and U.S. Army Central/Third Army Facebook pages, there are links to important area pages such as the U.S. Embassy in Doha and U.S. Central Command.

Other links will take visitors to The U.S. Air Force Central page, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Fifth Fleet page and 379th Air Expeditionary Wing pages.

As the purpose of social media is that people can interact, requests, likes and dislikes are always welcome on the page.

“I’m excited about the progress we’ve made,” Roxberry said, “and look forward to making the page even better.”

DOD has large presence in social media

The Department of Defense and all of its components maintain thousands of Facebook pages according to the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs’

registry maintained on www.Defense.gov.

Some best practices for social media usage are:

- Physical security is important. Safeguard your mobile phone, lock your computer when not in use and both computer and your door when you leave and don’t keep lists of your passwords out.
- Keep online conversations light, unclassified and clean.
- If you don’t recognize who wants to be part of your network, simply don’t let them in.
- Learn and use the privacy features of your social media service.
- Social media applications can enable conversations to be private. They also don’t stop you from using another means to converse. Public Internet access points may not be private or secure. Private, real life conversations are alive, well and often the safest option.
- The principle of “need to know” applies to military conversations just as much as it does to private conversations. Instead of posting comments on a friend’s Facebook page, maybe a private message is better idea.
- If you need help learning how to use social media, ask a friend. That’s what being social is about.



**The installation
Commander**

Maxine C. Girard

Colonel

Commander

Area Support Group - Qatar

Amazing! 23 short months ago, it was my honor and privilege to take command of this outstanding unit - Area Support Group - Qatar - and the wonderful community of partners and government agencies, located here at Camp As Sayliyah.

Time, just flew by and I am simply amazed at how much we as a team have accomplished in so short a time.

I wanted to take this opportunity in my final commander's column of the Desert Mesh to say

Thank you for making me welcome and quickly embracing me into your community of dedicated and selfless service.

You all have taught me so much and took the time and effort to enrich my life.

Many thanks to the Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Navy personnel along with our Department of Defense Civilian and contractor workforce, who made the job easy by simply doing your jobs, with excellence, and a focus on providing the best equipment, and support to our warfighters.

You were also great ambassadors to our host-nation country by living and enforcing the high standards expected of you as Americans serving in a foreign country.

As this period of transition continues ASG-Qatar and Camp As Sayliyah welcomes Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks Commanding General Third Army/ U.S. Army Central. Lt. Gen Brooks continues

the lines of effort on ready, sustain and shape how we anticipate and impact current operations in the CENTCOM AOR focusing on the information domain.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Grieme family Wayne, Shana, William and Jacob. As the new ASG-QATAR installation command team I wish you all the best and a very successful command tour here on Camp As Sayliyah.

My time has ended all too quickly, but I enjoyed my tour here and will have only fond memories of my time in Qatar.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL!
GOD BLESS AMERICA!
SUPPORT SIX-OUT!**



Charles A. Holliday, Sr.

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major
Area Support Group - Qatar

Summer means heat in Qatar, but for the Army it means change. The summer season is considered the permanent change of station season, and is generally when a good many people transition in and out of a command.

And Area Support Group - Qatar is no exception from this change. Many members of the ASG staff, as well, as I'm sure many people in the tenant commands will be ending their deployment and returning home, in the case of Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, and to new changes of station for the active duty Soldiers.

Our most visible change to the ASG will be when Col. Girard relinquishes command to Col. Wayne Grieme during a change of command in July.

Col. Girard has been my "battle buddy" for all of my time here and I want to send my personal thanks and congratulations on her move.

Please read her final commander's column to get her final thoughts and words.

But while Col. Girard is leaving, Col. Grieme will be coming in and I will be his "battle buddy."

So, change affects all of us in one way or the other, both at personal and professional levels.

One thing that will not be deviated from after the chain of command is the set standards and mission focus that we have here on camp.

Every military member, civilian and contractor will continue mission as before. That is one of the great things about the military, and our nation, too. Although the commanders may change, the

mission will remain the same, as are the basic Army and U.S. Army Central standards, such as uniform policies.

Each new commander comes with their own focus, their own ways of doing things, and their own personalities, and it is up to each of us to adapt to these.

By ensuring that we're following those basic standards mentioned above, it will be much easier to adapt to a new commander's way of doing things.

And, as good leaders and followers, we must adapt to the new commander's way of operating to ensure that the command's mission is met.

In the last Desert Mesh, I told you how Gen. Martin E. Dempsey had been sworn in as the Army's new chief of staff.

But, as ASG changes, so does our Army and military leadership.

He had been called a "Soldier's Soldier" and in just these past few months President Obama has nominated him to take over from Adm. Mike Mullin as the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman.

He is expected to assume duties as chairman in September, and will be replaced as chief of staff by Gen. Raymond T. Odierno.

Like Gen. Dempsey, Gen. Odierno has extensive experience in this region.

With the hottest months of summer around the corner, remember to stay hydrated drink plenty of water, seek shelter when possible. Do your part to protect your fellow soldiers from becoming a heat casualty. Be observant of each other for signs of heat injury. Have a safe and pleasant summer.

Charles A. Holliday, Sr.



Preparing for the change of command



The U.S. Army Medical Command

Its structure

Nine Army medical centers, 27 medical department activities and numerous clinics are grouped under five major subordinate commands.

Medical research is unified under a single major subordinate command, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, Md.

Dental facilities are grouped under U.S. Army Dental Command, headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., centralizes scientific experts and resources to support a worldwide preventive medicine, occupational health and wellness mission.

The AMEDD Center & School is where the Army trains medical personnel, and also serves as a 'think tank,' with a mission to envision, design and train a premier military medical force for military operations in support of our country.

U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center, at Fort Sam Houston, centralizes life-cycle management of AMEDD information systems. It is the AMEDD's "one-stop shopping center" for computer and information-management expertise and services.

The MEDCOM's Health Care Acquisition Activity provides worldwide medical contracting support for the AMEDD, through contracting centers located at four medical centers and at Fort Sam Houston.

INSIDE THE WI



Jason Chudy photo

Norlito Mendoza attaches labels explaining handling procedures for a temperature-controlled medical shipment May 19.

USAMMC-SWA shipping team keeps meds cool

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – When a Soldier in Kuwait was within 24 hours of losing his eyesight without an antiviral eye drop solution that his medical facility didn't carry, its staff contacted the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center – Southwest Asia.

Shipping the eye solution wasn't a problem. The Qatar-based center is responsible for supplying military medical units in the U.S. Central Command theater of operations, but the solution needed special treatment: It needed to be kept cold until used.

So with April's highs already in the 90s, the center's three-man temperature-sensitive medical supply section packaged the solution in insulated packaging and had it to Kuwait within 12 hours, saving the Soldier's eyesight.

"We give them the maximum amount of support," explained Laurence Gadsden, who runs the Lockheed Martin team that has shipped about \$14 million worth of temperature-controlled medical items since Oct. 1 2010.

Gadsden, who served 30 years as Army medic, said that they ship a wide variety of temperature-controlled items, ranging from flu shot doses, laboratory testing supplies to snake and spider anti-venom, for medical facilities in such locations as Iraq and Afghanistan.

And they've done it with a loss rate of "well below one-tenth of one percent," explained Maj. Matt Voyles, the center's chief of the material management division, which oversees the temperature-sensitive supply section.

In the past year alone they've safely shipped about 270,000 doses of flu vaccine.

"I know that's nearly \$2 million



Jason Chudy photo

Norlito Mendoza, left, packs temperature-controlled medical items in a box for shipment May 19. Behind him, Kyler Vargas checks shipment paperwork. The three-man ship-

ping team sent more than \$14 million in temperature-controlled medical items since Oct. 1, 2010, with a loss rate of less than one-tenth of one percent.

worth of flu vaccine with none lost," explained Capt. Matthew Krull, the unit's pharmacy consultant.

The center is able to ship all of these temperature-controlled supplies – 312 boxes in April 2011 alone – through a strict packaging and tracking system.

"The fact that we live in one of the most challenging climates makes this a true challenge for us," explained pharmacist Capt. David Delgado of the 591st Medical Logistics Company in Kandahar, Afghanistan. "But, it is overcome through the use of a multifaceted logistical tracking system."

Gadsden explained that when they receive an order, it's generally packaged and shipped within 48 hours. It's shipped quicker if the unit puts a priority on it, such

as with the case of the eye solution for the Kuwait-based Soldier.

The shipping boxes are heavily insulated, cushioned and cooled before use. Layers of gel-filled cold packs are placed above and below the actual shipment, and a thin packaged block of ice is placed on top before it all is held in place by a large piece of foam rubber.

This packaging keeps the temperature regulated in the box for about two days.

"By regulation these items are kept between two Celsius and eight Celsius, which is equal to 35 Fahrenheit and 46 Fahrenheit," Gadsden explained. Some items are even shipped frozen, kept between -10 Celsius and -20 Celsius with dry ice.

Behind him, Norlito Mendoza packaged supplies for shipment,

moving in and out of their walk-in freezer for supplies. Mendoza has worked at the center for 2 ½ years.

The final item put in the refrigerated package is a small, mobile-phone sized device called a TempTale monitor. The packer turns on the device and places it in the same area as the medical supplies, where it will record the temperature throughout shipment.

On arrival at its final destination, the TempTale provides the receiving unit with a running graph of the shipment's temperature, showing if it has been out of the set limits, and if so, for how long.

Another safety measure is that the company shipping the supplies replaces the ice block after 48 hours of transit time.

Continued as TEMP, page 24



USAMMC-SWA

The United States Army Medical Materiel Center - Southwest Asia was established in January 2003 to execute the single integrated medical logistics manager for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Initially, the center was comprised of Soldiers deployed to Camp As Sayliyah from the 6th Medical Logistics Management Center in Ft. Detrick, Md., the 388th Medical Logistics Battalion (Reserve) from Hayes, Kansas; and the 424th Medical Logistics Battalion (Reserve) from Pedricktown, Penn.; along with Airmen deployed as Air Force logistics and medical maintenance teams.

Since then, the center has developed into the theater lead agent for medical materiel in support of U.S. Central Command and includes a world-class team of active and reserve Soldiers, Airmen, contractors and medical maintenance augmentees from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency.

Currently, the 332nd Medical Logistics Company from St. Peters, Mo., is deployed to the center as are Soldiers from the 6th MLMC, Airmen from U.S. Air Forces Central, and Department of the Army civilians from the USAMMA headquarters.

INSIDE THE W



Lt. Col. David Sloniker, commander of U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center - Southwest Asia, passes on the unit guidon to Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Rowe, the unit's senior enlisted leader.

Sloniker takes command of USAMMC-SWA

By **KEITH DIXON**
ASG-QA Public Affairs

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar - Lt. Col. David L. Sloniker assumed command of U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center - Southwest Asia from Lt. Col. Kevin E. Cooper during a change of command ceremony June 9.

Sloniker's previous assignment was as support operations officer with the 6th Medical Logistics Management Center at Fort Detrick, Md.

Cooper's next assignment is as executive officer at the management center.

During the ceremony, Cooper thanked the medical materiel center's staff, as did Col. Chance T. Kaplan, commander of 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) Operational command

Post (Forward).

"Lieutenant Colonel Cooper's accomplishments are really your accomplishments. He has a huge mission, which he completed immaculately," said Kaplan to the assembled members of the 332nd Medical Logistics Company, which staffs the center.

The center serves more than 240 customers, and maintains more than \$11 million of stock, which consists of 2,654 items. Last year the material center shipped 271,000 doses of flu vaccine without loss.

During Cooper's tenure the center shipped 8 million pounds of supplies at a rate of about a half million every month.

In his remarks Kaplan stated "these are two of our finest officers and Lieutenant Colonel Sloniker has huge shoes to fill." **A**



Jason Chudy photo

Members of the U.S. Central Command Contracting Command headquarters staff are part of a 400-member

team responsible for about \$18 billion worth of contracts in the region.

C3 keeps region's contracts on course

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar - Although the U.S. Central Command Contracting Command headquarters has a small footprint on camp, the unit has a broad reach and responsibility for supporting operations in theater.

"Our job is to support our customers - the war fighters," explained chief of staff Navy Capt. Harry Thetford.

The command, known as C3, manages about 11,000 contracts worth \$18 billion through Centers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and at the Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

It's made up of military and civilian personnel from the four DoD services and contractors.

Since standing up about six

months ago, morphing from Joint Contracting Command Iraq/Afghanistan, it has taken on contracting oversight for the entire theater, which covers, the Middle East and Central Asia.

"Whether unit commanders need a contract for a construction project, the materials to support it, or need a contract for a critical service such as physical security, we are there," said C3's commander, Rear Adm. Nick Kalathas.

"Since the majority of U.S. military forces in theater are in Iraq and Afghanistan, that's where the majority of the staff is."

Out of about 400 C3 personnel, about 200 work at a dozen locations in Afghanistan and about 140 operate from six locations in Iraq.

"Contracting and logistics personnel are often some of the first people on the ground and some of the last to leave," Thetford said about its importance in operations.

The command's personnel are also taking an active role in helping nations develop their industrial base and sustainable economies.

He said they work not only with Department of Defense customers, but also with the State Department in some locations.

And as military operations in theater change, so does C3.

"Our mission is evolving," Thetford said. "It's a new command, a new concept."

"We have an outstanding workforce, a joint workforce," he said. "Truly it's a joint command, a joint effort."

Memorial Day

Early History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

INSIDE THE WII



U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Joseph LeBaron speaks during the Camp As Sayliyah Memorial Day service May 30. Behind him is Sgt. Dan Harrington, master of ceremonies.

Remembering those who gave everything in service

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – Solemn words and timeless tradition marked the camp's annual Memorial Day ceremony May 30.

Guest speaker U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Joseph LeBaron spoke of the day as one which is shared by all Americans.

"Today, we celebrate Memorial Day as a day when all Americans, regardless of background, beliefs, or experience remember, together, the sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of heroes who answered their nation's call," LeBaron said.

LeBaron highlighted America's military and political progress in the region.

"The milestones so far in 2011

prove that we are doing well in our fight to preserve and extend peace and freedom and stability," he said.

"Here in Qatar we have seen the consolidation of a U.S.-Qatar security relationship that is better than ever," the ambassador explained.

Also honoring America's fallen through their attendance at the ceremony were a number of senior Qatari military officers.

After his speech, LeBaron joined with the Area Support Group - Qatar executive officer, Maj. Tymon LaMar, and Operations Sgt. Maj., Master Sgt. Tim Stokley, to place a wreath in honor of the nation's fallen.

Following Taps, the camp color guard lowered the U.S. Flag, symbolically ending the ceremony. **A**

Corbie, Mullins ASG's top NCO, Soldier

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – Sgt. Kendall Corbie and Spc. Andrew Mullins were named Area Support Group – Qatar non-commissioned officer and Soldier of the year respectively.

Corbie is a military policeman serving as the camp provost marshal administrative section non-commissioned officer in charge. Mullins is a motor transport operator with the Georgia Army National Guard's 1148th Transportation Company, serving as part of the camp's security forces.

Both are now in the running for the U.S. Army Central NCO and Soldier of the Year.

Corbie was recognized for his organization of Solder/NCO study groups on camp, as well as receiving the Army physical fitness badge for scoring a 300 on his most recent army PT test.

Corbie is also working on a bachelor's of arts degree in business and law through Columbia Southern University. He has been in the Army for five years.

Mullins was recognized for his work during the unit's mobilization training at Ft. Bliss, Texas, where his efforts resulted in high validation standards. His work there earned him selection for the "hero" award by the 5th Armored Brigade command sergeant major.

Mullins is working on a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and is a veterinary technician at the Sugar Hill (Ga.) Animal Hospital when not deployed. He has been in the Army for three years. **A**



Jonald Lalas photo

Spc. Andrew Mullins checks a medical aid bag during the Area Support Group Qatar Soldier of the year competition May 1.



Jonald Lalas photo

Sgt. Kendall Corbie works an Army radio during the Area Support Group Qatar non-commissioned officer of the year competition May 1.

Third Army

From McPherson to Shaw

For more than 50 years Fort McPherson, Ga. has been the home of Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

From this location, Third Army has been the longest continuously-deployed warfighting headquarters.

Third Army has accomplished this while most recently planning for its relocation in accordance with a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision mandating that Fort McPherson close and Third Army move its headquarters to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Moving meant that the ground component for U.S. Central Command would now be located in the same location as the air component, 9th Air Force/ U.S. Air Force Central.

The move included the construction of a new headquarters building, known as Patton Hall.

“The opening of our command’s new headquarters marks the next phase in our proud history,” Lt. Gen. Webster said. “I would like to extend thanks to all those involved in the construction of this building which will increase our efficiency and enhance our command’s ability to continue our mission in the USCENTCOM region.”

The 320,000 square foot command and control facility took 22 months to build, has 42 conference rooms, a 200 seat auditorium and can support up to 1,500 personnel.

INSIDE THE WII



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., speaks with military members on Camp As Sayliyah May 28, days before relinquishing command of the Third Army and U.S. Army Central.

Lt. Gen. Webster makes final visit to ASG-QA

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – Third Army and U.S. Army Central commander Lt. Gen. William G. Webster Jr. made his final visit to Area Support Group – Qatar May 28, only days before relinquishing command and retiring after 37 years of military service.

Webster spoke to dozens of camp personnel during his hour-long visit, reminiscing on past success and reminding those in attendance of the responsibilities that working in the U.S. Central Command theater of operations brings.

“I wanted to come here and say thanks,” he explained. “You’ve accomplished a heck of a lot in this current fight as well as preparing for what could come (in

the future).”

Webster drew chuckles as he talked about the five years he spent as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, noting that it was supposed to be a four-year program.

It was a personal reflection of his “not studying hard enough,” he said, but also served a reminder to the mainly junior enlisted and officers that someone can overcome past shortcomings and rise through the ranks.

Much of Webster’s visit focused on personal and professional reflections. He interspersed humorous stories of once being mistaken for a chaplain to serious ones such as his desire to maintain Soldiers’ combat skills and equipment at the highest possible level.

“It pays off,” he explained about Granite Shield, the overall mis-

Brooks assumes ARCENT/Third Army



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Salcido photo

Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, center, receives the Third Army colors from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey during a change of command ceremony at Ft. McPherson, Ga., June 3. Third Army is moving its headquarters from Georgia to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., July 15.

sion encompassing the combat skills and equipment maintenance.

Webster also spoke broadly of his philosophy of running U.S. Army Central, which is responsible for all U.S. Army forces in the Central Command area of responsibility, which covers countries in North Africa, Southwest Asia and Central Asia, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

The philosophy encompasses mission, people and teamwork. "If you've got some good teammates, and you act like a good teammate, you can do just about anything," he said.

He also highlighted the huge changes in Iraq and Afghanistan force structures occurring since he

assumed command in May 2009, discussing at length Operation Nickel II, which saw a shift of forces and supplies from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Shifting the operational focus and logistic effort from Iraq to Afghanistan, Webster explained, was a good validation of the U.S. Army Central's staff planning. Plans, he said, need to be simple, focus on logistics, and be flexible.

He also complimented the Soldiers and Airmen on camp, noting some of the improvements he's seen here since taking command.

"You've accomplished an awful lot," he said. "And the people before you accomplished a lot. But there is still a lot to be done." **A**

Courtesy Third Army
Public Affairs

FORT McPHERSON, Ga.— More than 500 people were in attendance June 3 as Lt. Gen. William G. Webster relinquished command of Third Army to Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks in a change of command ceremony at Hedekin Field.

Army Chief of Staff General Martin E. Dempsey presided over the ceremony.

"The international security environment is constantly changing," said Dempsey. "The coming decade will bring with it a host of challenges and opportunities, most of which are not yet visible to us, most of which will likely emanate from the critical part of the world that happens to be Third Army's neighborhood."

"There is absolutely no one more qualified to lead Patton's Own into the future than Vince Brooks," Dempsey said.

Brooks will be the first Third Army commander to command from the new Patton Hall headquarters building at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

As commander of the 1st Infantry Division based out of Fort Riley, Kan. Brooks recently returned from serving in Iraq as the Commanding General of the U.S. Division-South.

Throughout his 30 years of military service Brooks has also served as Chief of Army Public Affairs, acting commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division and deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood. **A**

Qatar's Desert Wildlife

Sand snake

The Sand Snake feeds on small mammals and lizards. A fast moving reptile with black and white streaks on a grey-brown body, it grows to about 5 feet long and is found during daylight in cultivated areas as well as open desert. Its bite is mildly toxic to humans.

Horned viper

By moving sideways, the Horned Viper or Sidewinder can develop an astonishing speed by using the soft surface it is traveling on to its advantage. Strictly nocturnal, it's rarely seen, burying itself in the sand when threatened.

Spiny-tailed lizard

The Spiny-tailed Lizard known by the Arabic name of 'dhub', is a common desert reptile which, despite its dragon-like appearance, is a peaceful animal that prefers to flee rather than enter into conflict. It can use its short club-like tail with large pointed sharp scales to administer a painful blow. It never drinks water as it has special glands which help its body to dispose of uric acid. They can survive body temperatures of 46°C and display chameleon-like qualities.

Fennec fox

The Fennec Fox, the smallest member of the dog family, is almost indistinguishable from the slightly bigger Sand Fox. It is very pale in colour, almost white, with proportionately larger ears than the Sand Fox and a typical fox-like bushy tail. This nocturnal animal lives in remote desert areas in small family colonies feeding on small rodents, reptiles and insects.

<http://www.qatar.ucalgary.ca/wildlife>

INSIDE THE WILDLIFE



Jason Chudy photo

A spiny-tailed lizard suns itself near its hole in a wildlife sanctuary in western Qatar. Two of the lizards call Camp As Sayliyah home. They are the only protected species known to permanently live on camp.

Protected species visit, some call CAS home

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – The Qatari desert may seem empty of life, but it is home to a large number of species of wildlife, many of which are protected.

Some of these protected species sometime make their way to Camp As Sayliyah, which sits in a buffer area between Doha and the desert.

Many of these protected species, such as protected migratory birds, literally just “drop in” for a short visit as they fly through the country

“We have stuff wander in, usually birds,” ITT Systems Corporation’s Heather Collins-Proctor, the camp’s installation pest management coordinator. “They’ll come in, grace us with their presence for a few minutes, then they’re gone.”

But one of these protected species does stay.

A pair of spiny-tailed lizards has taken up home here, sunning themselves around air conditioning units and sandbagged bunkers near the center of the base, said Collins-Proctor

“We call them Bonnie and Clyde,” she said. “They’re the two that permanently reside on base; we see them on a regular basis.”

The sandy area they reside in provides a natural source of food and protection. Signs at the camp’s nearby dining facility remind people not to disturb the lizards.

The lizards grow to about a foot long and primarily eat plants and fruit, although they will supplement their diet with insects.

Foxes come to the camp regularly, their visits peaking after their semi-annual breeding season when their kits try to settle in their own territory. They’re mainly Fennec foxes, which have distinctive large ears, and their larger



Jason Chudy photo

A Fennec fox is released in a wildlife sanctuary in western Qatar May 5. The fox was caught on Camp As

Sayliyah that morning. Foxes are one of the handful of protected species to visit the camp regularly.

cousins, the Arabian red fox.

The Fennec foxes are the smallest of Canidae family, which includes coyotes, wolves, jackals and dogs, growing only to about 3 ½ pounds. The Arabian Red Fox can grow up to about 10 pounds.

While the foxes generally aren't aggressive, they could pose a danger to camp personnel if allowed to remain.

In the past, Collins-Proctor said, there was a problem with people feeding the wild animals.

If a large enough fox population was allowed to settle and become used to human handouts, she said, they would be forced to compete for food and possibly lose their natural instinct to shy away from humans and become aggressive.

Collins-Proctor and her team of environmental specialists set traps

to catch the foxes, which are then resettled in a wildlife sanctuary on the western end of the peninsular nation.

"All of the foxes we catch out here are protected species," said Collins-Proctor. "We'll catch them in traps and have as little human interaction with them as possible."

The spring and fall seasons are the typical busy times for the camp's fox trapping program. During a month and a half period between April and mid-May, the staff had caught and resettled five foxes.

Although not as large as a fox, snakes have also found their way on camp during Collins-Proctor's 1 ½ years here. "Since I've been here we've caught two," she said. "They were very small."

Even if snakes make their way on camp, she said, they probably wouldn't stay as a main source of food – rats – aren't abundant here.

"As long as we have no rats, we have no snakes," she said. "We have a very, very aggressive program for them."

In addition to the "normal" rat Americans would recognize, kangaroo rats are abundant in Qatar's desert, according to the University of Calgary – Qatar's Web site.

Whatever animal makes it way on base, Collins-Proctor said her shop's pest management personnel do everything they can to ensure these protected species are caught and resettled as humanely as possible.

"They were here first," she said. "We just have to deal with them."

MWR Operating Hours

- **Main and Small Gyms**
Open all day, every day
- **Cyber Cafe, Phone Ctr.**
Open all day, every day
- **Video Hut**
9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Swimming Pool**
5:30 a.m. to midnight, closed
for cleaning 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- **Mini Golf Course**
6 a.m. to midnight
- **Driving Range**
8 a.m. to midnight

Summer safety rules

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

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

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

CAS-TV

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



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

INSIDE THE WI

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



BINGO

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

Volleyball Tournament

This tournament is four to six person teams. Held at gym 106 July 2-3 at 8 p.m. Winners will receive medals. Event is double elimination.

Don't forget:

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

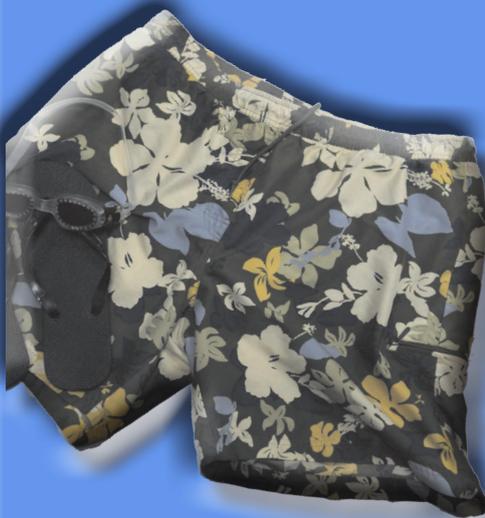




Three Point Shooting Competition Held

A men and women's basketball 3 point shooting competition was held June 8. Pfc. Colin Moore with the 994th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), finished number one. Spc. Brandon Metzler of the Joint Tactical Ground Station was runner up. Sgt. Aaron Lard from the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, took third place

honors. Sgt. Dothie Celestine finished first in the women's division. All first place winners were awarded \$100 AAFES gift certificates. The second place winner was awarded a digital camera; the third place winner received a Chili's 100 Riyal gift certificate. All prizes were provided by the Qatar Masonic Study Group.



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

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



The EOD badge

The wreath

Symbolic of the achievements and laurels gained in minimizing accident potentials, through the ingenuity and devotion to duty of its members. It is in memory of those EOD personnel who gave their lives while performing EOD duties.

The Bomb

Copied from the design of the World War II Bomb Disposal Badge, the bomb represents the historic and major objective of the EOD attack, the unexploded bomb. The three fins represent the major areas of nuclear, conventional and chemical/biological interest.

Lightning Bolts

Symbolize the potential destructive power of the bomb and the courage and professionalism of EOD personnel in their endeavors to reduce hazards as well as to render explosive ordnance harmless.

The Shield

Represents the EOD mission — prevent a detonation and protect the surrounding area and property to the utmost.

INSIDE THE WIR

Camp personnel help AF EOD raise \$3,200 in 5K run

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — Camp As Sayliyah personnel took more than a few steps to help the Air Force's 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Explosive Ordnance Disposal team raise about \$3,200 for the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation May 7.

More than 220 military members and coalition partners took part in the run, according to a

story by Senior Airman Veronica McMahon of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs office.

Members of the camp's EOD detachment, K-9 unit and 332nd Medical Logistics Company ran the morning 5k.

Most wore uniforms, body armor and rucksacks.

"People have done bomb suit runs in the past, but we just went a little bit further, I think," said Staff Sgt. Michael Bramble, 379th



Members of Camp As Sayliyah's 332nd Medical Logistics Company run in the Wounded EOD Warrior 5k May 7.



From left, Sgt. 1st Class William Webster, Staff Sgt. Morgan Wilson, Staff Sgt. John Hughey and Sgt. Andrew Weaver walk after completing the 5k run in support of the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation May 7.

Civil Engineer Squadron EOD technician and event coordinator. “We allowed everyone else to bring out their [personal protective equipment] and body armor and run with us like that.”

“We did it in full ‘battle rattle’ with 40- to 50-pound packs,” explained Staff Sgt. Morgan Wilson, who is deployed to the camp from the 319th EOD Company as part of a two-Soldier detachment. “I know I was overheated.”

“It was 80-ish pounds, so it was a workout,” explained his detachment partner, Sgt. Andrew Weaver.

“If you noticed, my top was soaked,” he added, commenting on a photograph taken of him after the run.

But despite the heat, both agreed that the cause was worth every ounce of sweat.

“We’re showing respect for our

brethren – our brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Wilson, who has been an EOD technician for 6 ½ years, including a tour in Iraq.

Other camp members wanted to show their support, and respect.

“We try to do what we can to show support for our two communities – EOD and K-9 -- as we work relatively close together and share very similar risks,” explained Staff Sgt. John Hughey, one of the camp’s dog handlers.

Kennel master Sgt. 1st Class William Webster echoed Hughey’s sentiment.

“EOD and K-9 are the two smallest units in the fight on terrorism,” he said. “We are units that actually work well together, we complement each other.

“This was an opportunity to ... let those family members of the fallen EOD soldier know that they

are not forgotten,” Webster explained.

It’s this support and togetherness that stuck with one of the Air Force EOD technicians.

“For EOD and the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing today it was all about teamwork,” said Tech. Sgt. Ryan McClary, 379th civil engineer squadron EOD technician. “In addition, we honor the 15 fallen EOD operators that made the ultimate sacrifice this past year.”

In 2010, five Army, eight Marine and two Air Force EOD members were killed in action, according to the EOD Memorial Foundation Web site.

Also in 2010, the House of Representatives expressed support for designating the first Saturday in May – which was May 7 this year – as National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Day. A

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.

The VETCOM activated on October 2, 1994, as a major subordinate command of the MEDCOM after a year as a provisional command. The VETCOM Headquarters was essentially created out of the former Directorate of Veterinary Services, U.S. Army Health Services Command. The 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

Vet goes from Navy blue to Army green

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

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – Gas turbines and German shepherds may not seem like they have a lot in common when “broken,” but Capt. Robert Miller of the 994th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Medicine) says that there are similarities in getting both back into peak working condition.

“They’re both very scientific pursuits,” he said about veterinary medicine and shipboard engineering. “Being an engineer and being a doctor aren’t so different.”

Miller, of Tulsa, Okla., spent five years as a Navy gas turbine electrician in the 1990s and has been an Army Reserve veterinarian for the past three years.

“There’s a logical, ordered approach to solving a problem,” he explained about the similarities between the two. “I find that I combine an engineering mindset with a medic’s mindset to identify what is wrong, and then use my additional schooling to find the solution to that problem.”

Miller started his military career on the San Diego-based guided missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain in 1991, where he worked on the cruiser’s power plant. Navy gas turbines power the Navy’s cruiser and destroyer fleets are very similar in design to aircraft jet engines.

His first job after leaving the Navy in 1996 was as a veterinary technician at an animal hospital. Medicine, whether veterinary or

human, is something that runs in his blood: his mother spent more than 40 years as an obstetrics nurse.

While working at the animal hospital, he enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a combat medic, earning the emergency medical technician basic qualification. In 2005 he decided to go to medical school.

“I worked in the veterinary clinic and really enjoyed it,” Miller explained. “That’s what made me want to go back to college.”

But Miller had to make a choice on what field of study to further. “I wasn’t sure I wanted to be a vet or go into human medicine,” he said.

When he chose veterinary medicine, it offered the best of both worlds.

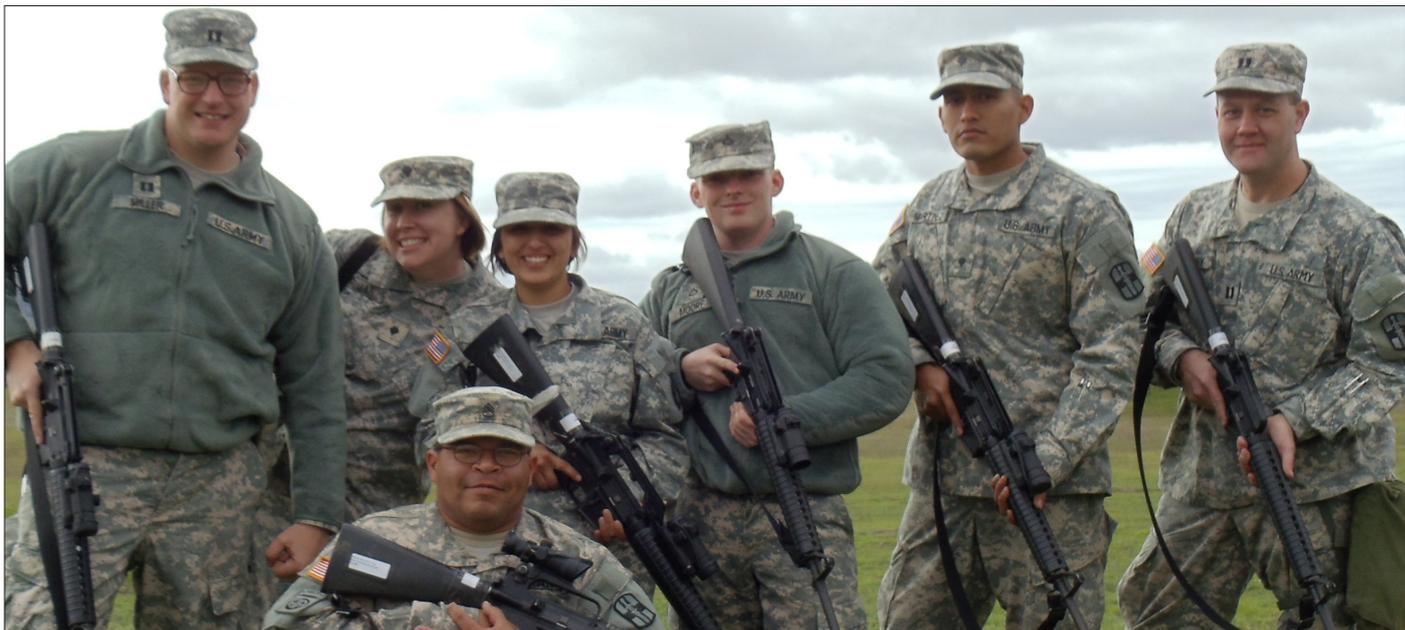
“Mainly what I love most about veterinary medicine is that we help a client,” he said. “They love their pets, and they’re depending on you to show them how to take care of it.”

Miller balanced veterinary school with his service in the National Guard. His experience as a Navy engineer helped him greatly, he said.

“Veterinary school was mentally challenging to say the least,” he said. “My experience being an engineer in the Navy gave me the mental discipline it required.”

Miller related stories about the shipboard operational power plant examinations, which are regularly done by Navy inspectors on the

Continued as VET, page 23



The 994th MDVS Qatar Squad at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during pre-deployment training in February. Top row, from left: Capt. Robert Miller, Spc. Britin Roman,

Spc. Vanessa Spires, Pfc. Colin Moore and Spc. Jesus Martinez, and Capt. Eric Story. In front is Staff Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez.

New veterinary team arrives on camp

By **Capt. Robert Miller, DVM**
994th Medical Detachment

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – A new veterinary services team arrived at Camp As Sayliyah May 7 to support the ongoing mission.

The veterinary team is part of the 994th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) of Round Rock, Texas, which arrived in theater on April 31, for a one year deployment to Kuwait, relieving the 109th MDVS.

The 994th has teams in Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan and Qatar supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 994th Medical Detachment has been very active in humanitarian and combat support missions around the world.

In the past year, veterinarians and Soldiers from the unit have deployed to Afghanistan, and Kuwait. The unit also consistently supports humanitarian missions in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean,

focusing on providing medical care to the farm animals of villages without veterinary services.

The unit provided a veterinary team to Haiti within 48 hours after the Jan. 12, 2010, 7.0 earthquake.

At Camp As Sayliyah, the team's primary mission is to inspect and ensure a safe food supply for the Soldiers, and provide veterinary support for Military Working Dogs at CAS and for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing.

The squads eagerly stepped into their mission, and have been very appreciative of the welcoming environment at CAS.

Pfc. Colin Moore, from Austin, Texas, serves as one of the squad's three veterinary food inspectors, said he appreciates Camp As Sayliyah. "There are great workout facilities and the (dining facility) has great food" he said. "The ITT people are very friendly and the rooms aren't bad. I like it enough to stay."

Spc. Vanessa Spires, from San Marcos, Texas, is assigned to the post exchange for food receipt and shelf-life extensions for the food sold there. "Mary Lou (Tangadik) at the PX is very friendly. It's also great to be a food inspector."

The veterinary services team is very close-knit, having served together at pre-deployment training.

The leadership strives to instill the ideals of teamwork and cooperation for the mission. Staff Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez, the squad non-commissioned officer in charge, is a veteran of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and to Kuwait with the 719th MDVS in 2009.

"We try to do as much as possible together off duty to promote squad unity, like the Memorial Day 5K run," he said, sharing his leadership philosophy.

The team looks forward to supporting Camp As Sayliyah's mission, and hope to reflect well on the 994th and the U.S. Army. **A**

Ramadan

Do's and

* Don't eat or drink in public during daylight hours.

* Don't smoke in public during daylight hours.

* Do wish a fasting Muslim "Ramadan Kareem," which is an Arabic phrase that welcomes the holy month.

Definition of Fasting

The Arabic term, Al-Sawm, usually translated into English as "fasting," literally means "to abstain." From a religious perspective, Al-Sawm means to abstain from eating, drinking, and doing other things, from dawn until sunset for the sole purpose of worshipping Allah.

Fasting the Month of Ramadan

Fasting during Ramadan is mentioned in the Quran and in the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad to be a mandatory duty for every Muslim, male or female.

Allah says: "Ramadan is the month in which was sent clear signs for guidance and judgment between right and wrong. So every one of you who is present at his home during that month should spend it in fasting, but if any one is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period should be made up by days later.

"Allah intends every facility for you; he does not want to put you to difficulties. He wants you to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify him in that he has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful." (2:185)

Source: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/atcmobil/tradiv/IMS/RAMADAN.htm>

Your Faith

August marks Ramadan

From the Desert Mesh Archives

Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of worship and fasting, is expected to begin about Aug. 1 and end about 30 days later.

During this religious time, it's important to remain respectful and courteous both on and off post.

This year, followers of the Islamic faith in Qatar are restricting themselves from food and water in the humid summer heat.

Camp As Sayliyah employs many Muslims who are fasting while performing regular physical activities outdoors, such as gardening, overseeing freight movements and doing vehicle repairs.

Regardless of thirst and hunger pangs, Muslims remain committed to resisting temptation; they persist in fasting to build a closer relationship with God, and to fulfill one of the five pillars of Islam.

On-post construction and re-modeling will be limited.

If you plan to be outdoors, and you're not fasting yourself, drink plenty of non-caffeinated liquids before departing the concealment of a building.

Food and water consumption should be limited to indoor dining facilities or personal living quarters – places without visibility by fasting Muslims.

If you're unsure who is observing Ramadan in your area, ask around before eating or drinking. If a Muslim says he or she is fasting, you can respond with "Ramadan Kareem," an Arabic phrase that welcomes their holy month. If you are going to eat and drink around a Muslim, be discreet.

Camp leadership must ensure fasting subordinates are not overworked or exposed to direct sunlight for long periods of time.

Notify the installation troop medical clinic staff if an individual is experiencing symptoms of a heat-related injury.

Ramadan brings changes to working with off-post vendors, many of whom may be fasting.

Daytime host nation productivity may slow down and the roadways will be less crowded, compared to other months.

Businesses in Qatar may adjust their office hours and many may be closed between 12 and 6 p.m. When planning off-post travel, be sure to contact businesses in advance, ask for their adjusted Ramadan hours of operation.

Throughout Ramadan and into the upcoming Eid holidays, which follows Ramadan, shipments and deliveries to the installation may be delayed.

The Area Support Group - Qatar will be releasing a Ramadan policy memorandum, which will explain appropriate on- and off-post behavior.

It also explains the consequences of noncompliance.

The guidance applies to all military and civilian personnel assigned, attached, on temporary duty or otherwise serving in support of Camp As Sayliyah.

Tenant unit commanders, officers and section supervisors are responsible for ensuring all personnel are properly briefed.

The ASG S-5 will also hold seminars and briefings on Ramadan for camp personnel.

Answer when God asks your purpose

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

Carlton Fletcher tells about his Uncle Walter who lived in Waldorf, Germany, during the Second World War.

During the war, Uncle Walter wanted to build himself a house, but all the necessary materials were reserved for the German Army.

For Uncle Walter, however, building a house and getting out of an apartment was a priority. And nothing, even a world war, would deter Uncle Walter, even if it meant building a house and hiding it under a junk pile.

Here is how he did it: He bought a piece of property and loaned it out for people to throw junk on it.

And he would go at night and build his house, layer by layer of brick, and cover it up with junk.

When the end of the war came, there was a big pile of junk, but there was a house under it practically completed. All it needed was a roof.

In 1946, when the war was over, he raised the roof like a madman. And he was jubilant. He said, "I beat the Nazis, I beat them. I got my house!"

God encourages us to clarify in our minds what we really want.

Many unfulfilled people cannot even tell you what it would take to satisfy them.

Many of us have no clear idea or conception what our real needs, our real desires, and our real priorities are.

And because we have never defined the problem or clarified our goals, we spend a lifetime anxiously wandering with very little to show for the pilgrimage.

If God were to ask you, "What do you want to be or do?" could you spell it out?

As we enter a season of transition, why not take a moment and allow God to define your purpose? A

VET from page 20

ships' powerplants.

"With OPPE I'd be up five, six days in a row," he said. "Sometimes on the ship we didn't know what time of day it was except for what they were serving on the mess decks."

The experience, said Miller, "made it easier to stay up late and study for finals."

"One thing my father always told me when I was growing up," he said, "was you could do anything you want to if you want it bad enough. When things got hard I'd remember that and study harder."

When he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 2005 from Oklahoma State University, he decided that he wanted to further his military service. Miller's enlistment had ended about a year earlier.

"I'd say the motivation and esprit de corps and camaraderie are compelling features of military service," he said. "I really enjoyed it in the Army, and it was one of the things I missed from the Navy."

Miller worked to become an Army veterinarian, succeeding in earning his commission in 2008.

Rather than working specifically on pets as he did in private practice, he's expected to have a much broader knowledge of animal medicine in the Army.

"The Army expects you to care for any animal they put in front of you," he said.

Here on camp, however, he mainly cares for military working dogs.

Another component to the Army veterinary corps is that they are responsible for food safety.

In late May, for example, he did

an inspection of a large food store in the nearby Villaggio Mall.

Working with food, he joked, is another thing that ties his service in the Navy and Army together.

"No matter how high in rank I get I can't get out of KP," he said.

"I have a picture of me as a GSM3 serving breakfast," he said about his time as a third class petty officer in the gas turbine systems technician – mechanical field. "And one as a first lieutenant serving cake. When I made captain, I graduated to serving entrees."

Although he jokes about his past, ensuring that food sanitation Miller and his small staff take the mission very serious.

"The food mission; that's how I make a contribution to the mission in a broader sense," he said. "This gets us more into human health and preventive medicine." A



Engineered for life

What did you think of Desert Mesh edition 71?

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 71. 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.

TEMP from page 7

Shipping the items within the desired temperatures saves not only money from losses, but could also save lives, explained Krull.

“Otherwise, the vaccine may not be effective,” he explained. “It could actually cause harm if stored out of that range. It becomes valueless and potentially dangerous.”

Even improperly-shipped test solutions, which aren’t administered to patients directly, can cause harm to personnel. “It could provide someone an inaccurate diagnosis,” Krull said.

While temperatures in Qatar rarely get cold enough for a heavy jacket, the summer heat can be oppressive to people and destructive to these medical items.

Unfortunately, it’s also the busiest time of the year for these temperature-controlled shipments.

“The Army traditionally does more in the summer, so our volume increases,” said Krull.

Gadsden said that in June 2010, their busiest month ever, the team shipped about 600 temperature-



Jason Chudy photo

Norlito Mendoza fills orders of temperature-controlled medical supplies May 19, putting them in paper bags before packaging them for shipping.

controlled boxes.

But as the orders increase, Gadsden and his crew understand the importance of these shipments supporting troops needing medical supplies.

“As a pharmacist, I fully appreciate the importance of having a rock-solid medication supply chain management system,” said Delgado. “Our Soldiers deserve the best medical care possible.”

It’s a belief that is shared firsthand by Gadsden and his team.

Gadsden is a retired Army sergeant major and shipping team member Kyler Vargas is an Army Reserve medical logistics specialist with deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan under his belt.

“That’s the reason we’re here,” Gadsden said, “for the personnel on the front lines.”

