Gear up and roll out!
The summer months bring not only a change in the season, but also a change in the faces of entire organizations across our Army. No one understands this better than Soldiers and Families…and it’s no different here in U.S. Army Central.

For those who are leaving us…Gail and I cannot begin to express our appreciation for your tireless efforts, selfless service and sacrifice to your Nation. Military life is not for everyone…especially in a time of war…but you have made a huge difference in the success of this organization.

In USARCENT, like many other combat formations, Families have endured long hours, deployments of loved ones and unpredictable schedules…thank you for your flexibility, patience and understanding.

If you have been assigned to our Atlanta headquarters for two or three years, you have likely participated in deployments to Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Afghanistan, the continent of Africa or even elsewhere in our vast area of responsibility. Deployments to any and all of these locations may have been for one year or come less in duration but with much more frequency, routinely involving many trips to the theater—several three to six month deployments—over the course of a three-year assignment.

Again, from this command team…thank you for all that you have done to make USARCENT a winning team.

For those of you who are just arriving…welcome. We are going through a defining period in this command. It’s an exciting time and you will have the opportunity to be part of some historic changes in the character of this organization. The pace is quick and we are “breaking trail” for the rest of the Army.

I would like to share a few of my thoughts and expectations of USARCENT Soldiers:

Everyone…regardless of rank…is a leader in this organization. Our Soldiers are incredibly smart and capable of just about any task we ask of them. You will be challenged in this assignment…I am confident you will rise accordingly.

It’s not a right to wear the uniform; it’s a privilege. It’s a privilege to be in the best armed forces on the face of the earth and an honor to defend our great Nation.

USARCENT Soldiers are disciplined, respect the uniform and demonstrate enthusiasm for their part of the mission. Take a look at the USARCENT Standards Book or ask your NCOs if you have any questions.

Be physically, mentally and ethically ready…at all times. Stay in shape…it’s our duty to do PT and lead a healthy lifestyle. Continuously improve your fighting position.

Noncommissioned officers are the backbone of this organization. We have the most gifted NCO Corps in the world…we will challenge them to do what they are capable of doing. I expect leaders to be engaged and fix issues through their chain of command.

We have a responsibility to hold ourselves to a high ethical standard…we are a values based organization and consistently rank at the top of the list of most respected organizations. Our individual actions reflect directly on USARCENT and the entire U.S. Army.

We have developed a winning team by maintaining standards, enforcing discipline, empowering individuals and displaying the appropriate team mentality. We are glad to have you on the team and look forward to reaching our objective together.

I’m immensely proud of this organization…thank you for all that you do.

Patton’s Own!

USARCENT Commanding General
Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace
USARCENT Command Sgt. Maj., Maj. John D. Fourthman
USARCENT Public Affairs Officer
Col. Thomas Nickerson
USARCENT Deputy PAO (FWD)
Lt. Col. Paula Jones

20th Public Affairs Detachment Commander
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Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.
Safety Corner: Accident Prevention Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1.) Taking ____ is not following procedures
3.) ____ any tool before using
4.) An “almost” accident: a ____ miss
7.) Report these to your supervisor
8.) After an accident you must make a ____
9.) Missing guards are called unsafe ____
10.) Never leave material on the ____ where they could become a trip hazard

DOWN
1.) Who you tell about hazards
2.) To do any job you must be ____
5.) Danger ____ are posted in hazardous areas
6.) An unsafe ____ is careless behavior

Answers located on page 11
Servicemembers honor fallen Soldier

Story and photo by
Spc. John D. Ortiz
4th Sustainment Brigade

Servicemember filed into the chapel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 12, to pay their respects to Master Sgt. Danny Maybin, who died in a non-combat related incident, Aug. 7.

Maybin, a Columbia, S.C., native, was assigned to 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Through his position as the safety noncommissioned officer in charge, he met and influenced many people, both in his work and personal life.

The memorial ceremony began with a short invocation from Lt. Col. Kenneth F. Revell, chaplain, 1st TSC.

“We pray you would pour your consolation and grace upon all in the throes of grief,” said Revell. “We seek to bring tribute to the life of Master Sergeant Danny E. Maybin, and remember his family.”

Revell, then introduced Maj. Paul Royle, executive officer, 1st Special Troops Battalion.

“It does not matter if you knew Master Sergeant Maybin for a lifetime, for a minute or if you even knew him at all. I guarantee you he had an impact on your life,” said Royle.

“He served in a position where he continually ensured others did not become injured or die due to carelessness or poor leadership. He quietly prevented many accidents from happening. “It was because of Master Sergeant Maybin’s efforts that accidents within the 1st TSC have dropped by nearly 35 percent,” Royle added.

In Sept 2007, Maybin deployed with the 1st STB to Kuwait serving as the 1st TSC safety officer.

He previously deployed to Kosovo and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After Royle’s comments, Mr. Ricky Payne, Maybin’s supervisor, rose to the podium and stated his friendship with Maybin was “uncommon, because it was based upon understanding and empathy for each other.”

“While Master Sergeant Maybin was the Soldier’s Soldier, he had a warm and friendly side he reserved for his friends and then mostly in private,” said Payne.

Following the song, Revell returned to the podium and shared his experiences about Maybin. One event stood out to him.

As Revell made daily pastoral rounds, upon reaching Maybin, Revell would say, “Master Sergeant, you don’t need to stand,” and Maybin would always respond by saying, “I always stand up for you Sir; I’ll stand up for you.”

Common military courtesy is to stand when a higher ranking officer addresses you.

“He had a presence about him that commanded respect but he also gave respect. It was clear; I was standing in the presence of a quiet professional,” said Revell. “His demeanor was always stoic, steady, professional, emotionless, but not unfeeling - clearly a Soldier right down to the core of his being.

“The things I learned, in a new way are the preciousness, perishability, and proximity of life,” added Revell.
General Order 1B is a general order issued by the commander of U.S. Central Command prohibiting certain items and actions in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. The order pertains to all Department of Defense personnel, servicemembers, civilians and contractors accompanying the force in the CENTCOM AOR, and bans all contraband that violate the laws of AOR host nations.

“The current operations and deployments place U.S. Armed Forces in countries with local laws and customs which prohibit or restrict various activities that are generally permissible in western societies,” said Robert Holmes, deputy director, Provost Marshal’s Office. “Adhering to those restrictions, upon such activities, is essential to preserving U.S. host nation relations and ensuring success of combined operations between the U.S. and friendly forces.”

Prohibited items and actions include: possession and consumption of alcohol, possession of pornography in any format, possession of personal firearms, ammunitions, explosives or illegal substances, feeding or watering stray or domestic animals, making pets of stray animals, engaging in gambling, exchanging currency for an amount other than the current exchange rate, and taking war trophies.

“GO 1B is a general order; therefore, any violation of such is a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice,” said Capt. Joseph A. Schwade, deputy command judge advocate, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Article 92 of the UCMJ is the article concerning a violation of or a failure to obey a lawful general order or regulation.

Some contraband is being sent to DoD personnel and civilian contractors through the U.S. Postal Service from senders located outside the CENTCOM AOR.

“When the mail enters the Joint Military Mail Terminal, it is initially inspected using X-ray machines,” said Holmes. “If anything is detected when they do the X-ray screen, that package is flagged.”

The package is set aside until a search authorization can be obtained by a military magistrate to open it, said Schwade.

DoD and postal regulations prohibit any parcel or letter from being opened without proper authorization or consent from either the sender or the addressee, Schwade added.

Senders can be prosecuted based on a criminal statute governing prohibited items being sent in the mail. It is a federal misdemeanor that is punishable by up to a $10,000 fine and a year in prison.

DoD personnel and contractors can protect themselves by notifying their families about GO 1B and the consequences, said Holmes.

“Being forthright and honest is always the right thing, and that is going to keep [servicemembers] out of trouble,” said Schwade.
A Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment is not only infantry Soldiers but engineers, tankers, medics, truck drivers, mechanics, chemical specialists, cooks, fuel handlers, scouts, field artillery and air defense.

These Soldiers comprise the Convoy Escort Teams.

Like their predecessors from the Ohio Buckeye Infantry Division, who went to combat first in 1803, these men bring honor to the Ohio National Guard.

The three months of training at Fort Hood, Texas, did entirely not prepare the crew for convoy escort duties, but they adapted quickly after further training in Kuwait, said Staff Sgt. Bryan Moore, convoy commander, 3rd Squad.

CETs provide convoy security for Heavy Equipment Transport Systems moving supplies in and out of Iraq.

"The troops of 3rd Squad are well versed in different specialties, which works as an advantage if anything goes wrong," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Glenn, platoon sergeant. "... everybody knows something about something."

In order to support the 4th Sustainment Brigade and meet its logistic mission requirements, these Buckeye Soldiers from varied backgrounds volunteered for the mission.

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"Lord have mercy on my enemies, for I will not," reads a tattoo on the left bicep of Pfc. Brandon Brown, a Toledo, Ohio, native.

Brown is an infantryman and
A Co., 1-148 Infantry Regiment provides convoy security. Armored Security Vehicle driver. Recently the CET safely escorted HETS carrying mine resistant ambush protected vehicles to infantry troops in Iraq. The announcement of an upcoming mission fired up 3rd Squad to prepare themselves and their equipment three days in advance for a mission on a Monday. Friday evening, the CET and HET teams received an operational assessment brief, peppered with praise due to their part in helping Iraq gain the initiative towards defeating Al-Qaida in Iraq, from Chief Warrant Officer Justin Trenary, operations officer, 10th Transportation Battalion. Afterwards the CET commander conducted a rock drill on a table with miniature trucks and a mock roadway to his squad, as well as the HETS commander and his drivers. Saturday evening the CET conducted yet another well-rehearsed training exercise: extracting incapacitated team members from armored vehicles. Early Sunday evening the crew gathered to draw ammunition, inventory sensitive items, mount their weapons, stock their coolers, perform communication checks and receive a safety briefing before conducting a pre-combat inspection. Once the trucks were ready to roll from the Arifjan motor pool area, most of the troops broke for dinner. Some came back with full bellies and others carried fast food; all drenched in sweat from walking the long distance to and from the food court or DFAC. "It's hot as sin out here," said Brown. "I can't wait to get to [Iraq] and hopefully feel a cool breeze." As the sandy, burnt-orange horizon slipped into darkness, 1st Sgt. Robert Nash made a visit to ensure everything was okay and wished the Soldiers a safe and uneventful journey. After one last safety briefing and with the vehicles lined up, Moore shouted, "Head 'em up and move 'em out." The CET rolled into another camp in Kuwait late Sunday evening to link up with the convoy and bed down. The team set up cots and rolled out their bedding and personal effects as the winds picked up and ruffled the columns and rows of 16-person tents. The next morning the convoy, military and civilian trucks along with their drivers, to include third country nationals, awaited orders at the ready line. The 1-148 Inf. Regt.'s CET and the 546th Transportation Company's HETS busily packed their coolers with ice, energy drinks, water and Gatorade. The civilian drivers, employed by international contractors, made last minute checks on securing loads. After a short prayer, the convoy geared up and moved through the sands of southern Mesopotamia. The CET kept its game face on and made a successful mission, delivering the MRAPs into Iraq. The CET rolled back into Arifjan the next day with everybody and everything safely accounted for. It was yet another successful mission.
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A Co., 1-148 Infantry Regiment provides convoy security.

Convoy Escort Teams provide escort security for Heavy Equipment Transport Systems and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles being delivered to the troops in Iraq.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin

311th Sustainment Command Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Brigade Infantry Combat Team is not only infantry Soldiers but engineers, tankers, medics, truck drivers, mechanics, chemical specialists, cooks, fuel handlers, scouts, field artillery and air defense.

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Servicemembers participated in the Pro vs. G.I. Joe Madden football tournament held at the newly-renovated United Service Organizations’ center at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Aug. 11.

The event gave servicemembers the chance to be the first to play Electronic Arts Sports Madden NFL 2009 prior to its release, Aug. 12, and a chance to play against retired NFL lineman, Warren Sapp.

“We are the bridge that links Soldiers with their Families back home,” said Jonathan Matthews, center director, USO Camp Virginia. “In this case, we are using that bridge to give Soldiers the opportunity to play one of their idols.”

Pro vs. G.I. Joes, a non-profit organization, links servicemembers with sports and pop culture icons to compete against one another through online video games during the Soldiers’ deployments.

During the event, 16 servicemembers competed against one another on Madden NFL 2008 in a round robin-style bracket.

The winner of the single-elimination tournament linked-up, through X-Box Live, and played Sapp, who was located at the Maddenpalooza fan festival, held at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

“I like this event a lot; it gets my morale up after being here for 15 months,” said Sgt. Michael Reynolds, Special Troop Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade.

“This event makes me happy … enough to be here a couple more days,” added Reynolds, a Bronx, N.Y., native, who will redeploy back to Fort Stewart, Ga.

Spc. George Sunderland, B Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion, also showed his enthusiasm for the event and the collaborating organizations, USO and Pro vs. G.I. Joes.

“I love Madden and I love this event,” said Sunderland, who has been playing Madden football games since 2003. “It’s a good morale boost for the troops.”

When asked about his game plan, if he was to play Sapp, Sunderland had confident words.

“I’m going to do what I do best, I’m going to take [Sapp] down,” said Sunderland, a Niles, Ohio, native. Sunderland’s favorite team is the Cleveland Browns, but he played with the New England Patriots for this tournament.

Reynolds and Sunderland, along with many others, stayed up through the later part of the night competing at a chance to play Sapp.

One game after another the bracket narrowed down and competition became scarce for Sunderland, who came out victorious in the USO-based tournament, setting the stage for the night’s main event.

“I have no weakness,” said a confident Sunderland, who used the Patriots combined with the Browns’ playbook. “[Weaknesses] are for people who lose.”

As the online game began, Sapp, Sunderland and audiences from both sides shared taunts through the television monitors and speakers.

“This is the first international Madden 2009 link-up to date,” said Matthews, about the night’s X-Box Live matchup.

In the end Sunderland came out victorious over the NFL great and was honored by Sapp for his service to the nation.

For his win Sunderland not only received a copy of Madden NFL 2009, but also a Sapp-autographed X-Box 360 and the entire 2009 EA Sports game line-up.

“It is great to get these two charities linked-up and working in conjunction to make this happen,” said Sunderland.

“This is one way of getting the American public’s attention,” said Matthews. “By running this event, in conjunction with Pro vs. G.I. Joe, EA Sports, and Microsoft, it’s helping put the USO into the public eye.”
Females of all services, ranks and ages gathered Aug. 9, at the Zone 1 Gym to participate in a draft for an all-female basketball league on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

“[Every unit] didn’t have a team so we decided to have a draft,” said Army Sgt. Tamika Holston, S-1, 4th Sustainment Brigade.

Holston and Sgt. Michelle Glover, 4th Sustainment Brigade, are working together to start the female basketball league.

“I like playing ball, so we just started to get something together,” said Holston, a Fort Myers, Fla., native.

There was not going to be a female basketball league this year because of the shortage of teams and players last year, Holston explained.

“In the last tournament there were just two female teams, so this next tournament coming up was just going to be for the males,” said Holston. “A lot of people like playing ball, but not a lot of people knew about the tournament, so we put up flyers and started talking to people to get the word out. We’ve gotten a pretty good response to this and we expect a lot of people out here today.”

Each new team will practice individually to prepare for the tournament which is scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

“The reward is that we’re going to be in a league and we’re going to be in the tournament,” said Holston.

The coaches and organizers understand life in the military. Servicemembers are constantly rotating in and out of country and some of the teams will lose and gain players throughout the month.

“We’re going to keep it going [on the court] and the coaches are more than willing to add to their teams,” said Holston.

“You’ve just got to have a lot of heart,” added Glover, a South Carolina native. “It’s not about who you’re going to play with; it’s about playing basketball because you love it.”

Below, Seaman Meredith L. Johnson, Expeditionary Medical Facility-Kuwait prepares to shoot during a practice for the female basketball league.
There is no Arabic world, it is Arabic Culture,” said Souhail Dib, facility manager, Education Center at Camp Arifjan.

This is one of the many lessons Dib tries to get across to the students who attend the Arabic Headstart class.

Arabic Headstart is a free course designed to educate servicemembers and civilians about Arabic culture. Students are introduced to many of the culture’s beliefs, basic Arabic phrases and are given an overview of the Islamic religion.

“I wanted to learn more about the culture because I am here in this country,” said Spc. Chad Love, paralegal, headquarters and headquarters company, 160th Signal Brigade. “I wanted to come [to the class], learn something about the country I am in and take it home and share with my family what I’ve learned while I was over here.”

Dib, who is of Arabic descent and is currently the sole teacher of the Arabic Headstart class here, encourages his students to participate by asking questions about the culture.

Dib combines group participation with lectures and shows documentaries on the Islamic religion. He even plays Arabic music videos so the students can get a better feel for the culture.

“I was trying the best I can to make sure all the Soldiers who attend the class understand the culture of the Arabs,” said Dib. “All the Arabs are not like the ones we see on the T.V. They are very good people, very educated, very open and very friendly. For me it’s more of a message than teaching.”

Retired servicemember Mary J. Newkirk, education services director at the Education Center, was inspired by a similar course offered in Germany when designing Arabic Headstart.

“One of my visions was to get something like German Headstart. Arabic Headstart is for Soldiers who have to come over here and gives them an idea of exactly what the culture is like,” said Newkirk. “When they get an opportunity to go off post they will know how to interact with the people of the region. We give them some basic language [skills] so they can go out there and communicate.”

For many of the students who attend Dib’s class, it is their first time learning about the Arabic culture in a formal setting.

“I think it’s important that servicemembers know that this program is here,” said Newkirk. “I would like everyone to take the opportunity to come and learn more than what they see on T.V.”

Putting serious time and effort into the lessons taught during each session can help students become comfortable with the culture and language.

“I am learning the language, a little bit, and I just think the more you put into it, the more you get out of it,” said Love, a Virginia Beach, Va., native. “I am excited to actually try to speak it and start a conversation.”

Two 20-hour Arabic Headstart classes are held at the Education Center each month. Days and times for the classes vary.

For more information or to register for a class, contact Mr. Dib at 430-1320.
Just One Question...

“What is your favorite Olympic sport and why?”

“I like watching gymnastics because it is amazing to watch what the human body can do in the air.”

Master Sgt. Samuel Louie
CDDOC
Single Ticket Tracker Manager
San Francisco, Calif.

“I wrestled in high school, so wrestling is my favorite sport.”

Cpl. David Logan
MARCENT
Marine Air/Ground Taskforce Planner
Rossville, Ga.

“I have been watching Olympic swimming since I was a kid and it inspired me to become a more proficient swimmer.”

Lt. Col. Mark Bremer
ARCENT NGR
Chief, Logistics Support Team
Greenville, N.C.

“Diving, because an athlete I graduated high school with is in this year’s Olympics.”

Petty Officer 1st Class Shera Terry
NAVELSG
Administration Lead Petty Officer
Tomball, Texas

“I like to watch gymnastics because I wanted to be a gymnast as a kid.”

Spc. Cristi Venable
ARCENT G-1
Program Manager
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Spin Class
at
Zone 1 Gym

Those who attend one of the dates listed will be given a T-shirt and water bottle for participating.

August 21, 2008
Two-Hour Spin Class
1730-1930

August 25, 2008
Two-Hour Spin Class
0530-0730

Why I serve:
Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Medrano
311th Expeditionary Support Command
Air Mobility NCOIC

The Guadalajara, Mexico native explains why he chose to join the military.

“To pay back to the country all the good things it has given me.”

USARCENT
August 20, 2008
The Desert Voice
What’s happening around USARCENT ...

**FMF Pin**

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway pins the Fleet Marine Force Officer Warfare Qualification Badge on Navy Lt. Benny Mathis, chaplain for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command’s MARCENT Coordination Element Kuwait. The Calvin, Okla., native earned his badge while working with 12th Marine Regiment in Japan and I Marine Expeditionary Force-Forward in Iraq. The FMF pin, as it is more commonly known, is earned after a sailor has demonstrated a prescribed level of expertise in Marine Corps skills and knowledge.

**Intel Conference**

U.S. Army Central G-2 hosted an intelligence conference, attended by units throughout Kuwait and Qatar, July 9. Attendees spent the day discussing the organization and its mission. “The success of an organization begins with the intel products, which the rest of us get behind,” said Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, commanding general, USARCENT.

**Did you know ...**

On December 3, 1982, a ceremony was held at Fort McPherson to mark the return to active Army status of Headquarters, Third U.S. Army under the command of Lt. Gen. M. Collier Ross.


Courtesy Photo