



The Desert Voice

Third Army/United States Army Central
"Ready Tonight ... Sustain The Fight ... Shape The Future"

October 21, 2009

FIRE PREVENTION



DV

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On the cover

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Photoillustration by Sgt. Daniel Lucas.

Contact us

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The
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COMMANDING GENERAL
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306

October 13, 2009

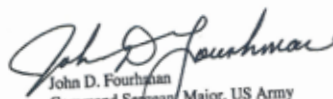
To the Third Army/USARCENT Team,


On 13 October 1775, the Continental Congress approved the formation of a Continental Navy. Throughout the Revolutionary War, a Continental Navy consisting of approximately 50 ships fought alongside the Continental Army for America's independence. In 1789, the newly ratified Constitution (Article 1, Section 8) gave Congress the authority "To provide and maintain a Navy."

Throughout our Nation's proud history, our armed forces have always maintained our focus on the *Mission* of common defense, taking care of our *People* and ensuring *Teamwork* to achieve success in the air, on sea, and on land. Today, we serve alongside thousands of Navy personnel assigned to NAVCENT and operational missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the US Central Command Area of Responsibility.

We wish our current and future partners and lifelong Teammates of the Navy a happy 234th birthday. We are proud to stand with you, shoulder-to-shoulder.

Patton's Own!


John D. Fourhman
Command Sergeant Major, US Army
Command Sergeant Major


William G. Webster
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding General

Third Army Commanding General
Lt. Gen. William G. Webster
Third Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman
Third Army Public Affairs Officer
Col. Gerald O'Hara
Third Army Public Affairs Sgt. Maj.
Sgt. Maj. Brian Thomas
Third Army Deputy PAO (FWD)
Lt. Col. Martha Brooks

203rd Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Capt. Tracey Frink
20th Public Affairs Detachment Sergeant
Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Rothfus
203rd Public Affairs Detachment
Print Team
Sgt. Daniel Lucas
Sgt. David Nunn
Spc. Monte Swift
Spc. Brandon Babbitt

<http://www.youtube.com/user/dvidshub?blend=2&ob=1>



Snacks

Small snacks between meals are a good way to maintain energy levels and prevent hunger that can cause overeating at meals. To prevent weight gain, keep these snacks to around 200 calories or less.


One of the easiest and healthiest snacks is fresh fruit. An apple or orange the size of a tennis ball contains around 70 calories, a medium banana has 105 calories, one cup of grapes has 110 calories, and two plums have 60 calories. An apple or banana is great with peanut butter, but keep it to one packet since peanut butter is calorie dense. Each packet from the Dining Hall has around 125 calories.

Some other snack ideas include yogurt, raisins, trail mix, granola bars, nuts, seeds and popcorn. A healthy



Capt. Kate Schrumm R.D.
U.S. Army Central Surgeon's Office

food can still cause weight gain if calories are eaten in excess so pay attention to portion size. For example, a quarter cup serving of trail mix usually contains 140-160 calories depending on the brand and contents. If you eat the entire bag, you will be eating around 800-1400 calories or the equivalent of one to two meals! Half a cup of cashews contains 378 calories and sunflower seeds contain 410 calories. Even raisins containing 210 calories per half of a cup can add up.


Snacks can be a great way to improve your nutrition, but only if chosen correctly. Mindlessly snacking all day due to boredom can lead to calorie overload. Plan healthy snacks and go for a quick walk to reenergize during the day. Go to www.myfoodapedia.gov to evaluate your snacks. 

National Fire Prevention Month

Helpful tips around Camp Arifjan to prevent fire

- Ensure all electrical cords and attachments are not frayed, cut, torn or worn.
- In work centers you may use refrigerators, microwave ovens and coffee pots/hot water heaters only. These appliances must be connected directly to wall receptacles to avoid circuit overloading.
- Hot plates, microwaves, coffee pots and other heat producing appliances are prohibited in any billeting room or living area on post.
- Daisy chaining of extension cords or surge protectors is prohibited.



- Candles and incense are prohibited on Post.
- Barbecues on post require a permit from the Fire Prevention Office or any Fire Station obtained the day of the event.
- Any electrical modification to a facility must be accomplished by a certified electrician subject to a DPW or Major's Cell work order prior to commencing work.
- Modified extension cords (splicing together) are prohibited in the Kuwait AOR.
 - Homemade "Science Projects" Transformer, 110 volt receptacle outlet and multi-plug all wired together and mounted to plywood are prohibited. 



Ready Tonight Sustain the Fight Shape the Future

Third Army/U.S. Army Central



FRAG-7 ARMOR

Article and Photos by
Dustin Senger
Area Support Group Qatar Public Affairs Office

The 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade vehicle maintenance facility showcased its first up-armored Humvee fitted with the Fragmentation Kit Seven at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar earlier this month. Contracted mechanics finished retrofitting the vehicle, shipped from Iraq to FRAG-7 configurations on Oct. 8, upgrading it from FRAG-5. The Qatar facility is helping expedite the latest up-armored Humvee technology for war fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. military personnel depend on Humvees for missions such as patrols, convoy security and transporting light cargo on the battlefield. FRAG-7 is the vehicle's latest up-armor package and began fielding earlier this year. Mechanics at the 1-401st vehicle maintenance facility are replacing obsolete parts and installing several innovations, in accordance with the up-armored Humvee FRAG-7 specifications.

"FRAG-7 provides Soldiers more protection," said Sgt. 1st Class Lee Bolding, 1-401st maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge at the Qatar facility from Gulfport, Miss. "It addresses several safety issues like escaping out the window after a rollover."

The FRAG-7 kit offers many advantages, increasing the vehicles safety and capability. Vehicle Emergency Egress window kits integrate releasing levers for independently removing each windshield. Doors are easier to release after becoming jammed. Flame control is more dependable with enhanced fire suppression systems. Fuel filler door cover kits place additional armor and security around gas caps.

The Humvees latest up-armor package protects gunners by implementing an overhead cover, designed by the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center. The cover uses transparent armored glass for


greater situational awareness without compromising safety. Retrofitted Humvees have equipment replaced inside the turret to make battery-powered motorized traversing units much more durable.

Additional occupant protection is offered by a removable roof appliqué, which was jointly developed by the U.S. Government and AM General.

Several add-ons compensate for the increased vehicle weight. FRAG-7 armor suspension kits are installed to enhance driver control and vehicle durability. Load Range "E" tires and replacement wheel assemblies improve vehicle reliability. Stronger brake kits boost stopping power.

"Soldiers like the suspension upgrades – FRAG-7 handles better on and off roads," said Charles Cole, the ITT site manager at the Speicher vehicle maintenance facility in Tikrit, Iraq, from Colorado Springs, Colo. Cole traveled to the Qatar base to support integration of the FRAG-7 mission.

"We usually work in two-person teams but this took three because of the extra weight," said Ray Green, an ITT mechanic from Charleston, S.C. His team finished the Qatar facility's first FRAG-7 retrofit in four days. Now the requirements are understood, each vehicle is expected to be completed within three days.

"Humvees look indestructible now," said Bolding, who has worked on Humvees for 20 years. "I remember when they had canvas doors and no armor. Today, they look like something out of a movie. Soldiers will know a FRAG-7 vehicle when they see it – instantly." 

Practice Fire Prevention

Article by
Spc. Monte Swift
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

The month of October is National Fire Safety Month. For most, it is a time to learn new things that help keep ourselves and others a little safer, but for the men and women of the Camp Arifjan Fire Department, the act of practicing fire safety is business as usual.

The fire prevention team, which occupies half of Fire Station number one here, is in charge of maintaining, installing and updating safety devices such as sprinkler systems, alarms, safety lights and fire exits. They also take on the important job of educating Servicemembers and civilians on proper fire safety and prevention.

“The Fire Warden/Electrical Safety Course, held every Friday, is one thing we are doing to help minimize fires and get the word out,” says Charles Coffman, Fire Inspector and Fire Plans Examiner at Station One. “The fire safety wardens are the eyes and ears in the building they work and live,” he said.

The class, which trains designated Fire Wardens from each unit or building,

provides the fire warden with detailed information, checklists and education on preventing the most common causes of fire in theater.

Another aspect of fire preventions job is to identify the causes or potential risks of common fires.

“Electrical hazards are by far the biggest concern we have here,” said Coffman. “Well over 95 percent of the fires in theater are electrical.”

With so many types of electrical outlets and plugs, it is important for Servicemembers to be aware of the voltage capacities of electronics and not overload power strips, which is a big concern. Many higher voltage electronics such as microwaves, coffee pots and refrigerators need to be plugged directly into wall outlets to avoid power overload.

It is also important for those who smoke to use proper smoking areas, and to extinguish cigarettes in a safe location. “The high temperatures in the summer are a big factor in the fire situation here,” said Coffman. “A discarded cigarette can easily ignite dry wood chips or pallets.”

A recent project conducted by the fire prevention team involved updating a helicopter maintenance facility with new fire safety equipment. This included a fire control panel that allows the fire department to be alerted of the exact location of the fire in the building. “It’s a vast improvement over the previous method of going through the building looking for the fire,” said Coffman.

These improvements can be life-saving in a dangerous situation. The fire system is maintained by Senior Fire Technician Ninan Joy and his team who keep the equipment up and running properly.

With so many Servicemembers and civilians coming and going, keeping everyone informed is a constant challenge for the Fire Prevention team. Therefore, it is everyone’s responsibility to practice good fire prevention whenever possible. With everyone’s help, we can work to reduce the number of injuries and loss of equipment due to fires. **A**



EXTINGUISHERS

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory. Check the fire extinguisher gauge monthly to insure it is holding a charge, and will work.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher training.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Every building should have a fire escape plan and working smoke alarms. Stay low, near the floor while escaping to avoid the harmful, debilitating effects of heat and smoke, as both rise. Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape.



Article and photos by
Spc. Monte Swift
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

Left: A fire truck sprays water from its ladder hose during a training demonstration at Camp Arifjan.
Above: Fire Fighter in training Steve Collins (Front) is instructed on the fire hose by Fire Fighter Kamal Giri (Back) during a training exercise at Camp Arifjan.

The events of September 11, 2001, forever changed the way the United States views its heroes. At a time when many were grieving over the pain of a country under attack, others rose up to perform a job idolized by children and later a grateful nation. Like so many of our military, Firefighters emerged as a symbol of bravery, who have put their lives on the line, no matter what the risk, to ensure the safety of others. The men and women of the Camp Arifjan Fire Department, many who previously fought for their country and now fight fires, are no exception.

“Before 911, this was just a job to do to pay the bills. Afterward, when we lost so many firefighters and police officers, I think it changed people’s view of what we do,” said Paul “Fonz” Fonseca, a fire-

fighter at Station One on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The Fire Department, which has been in operation for several years, works hand-in-hand with first responders and other emergency personnel to provide first-aid and assist in transporting patients. Despite the very different location, the department runs and operates much like fire departments in the U.S. though they sometimes deal with combat and the trucks are fitted with armor.

“The language barrier is one of the biggest hurdles of working in Kuwait compared to working in the states,” said Captain Michael Scitzs, captain of the Camp Arifjan Fire Department. “Another problem to deal with is the high, dry temperatures during the summer months.”

When not on calls, the department holds training exercises that keep the fireman and equipment ready to react to any situation that may arise. One training exercise, which uses a smoke generator to fill a building with smoke, tests the fire fighters on their ability to rescue victims in limited visibility and in full gear and get them to medical attention.

“I would say 85 percent of the fires we respond to are preventable fires,” said Scitzs. “Around 90 percent are electrical fires due to power strips or overloading extension cords.”

Not limited to fires, the department also deals with hazardous materials and technical rescues. Many of the calls they respond to are fire alarms and medical calls, but have been tasked with dealing with more dangerous situations such as a tire fire in Zone Seven at Camp Arifjan. Through it all, one of the biggest concerns is Fireman

safety.

“We travel together, we hang out together and we go to the gym together. We push each other all the time on calls. We have camaraderie,” said Fonseca.

“Everyone here is a big family,” says Scitzs. “We spend half a year’s time living, working, eating and working out with these guys, day in and day out.”

While so many Servicemembers and civilians deal with the hustle of completing the daily mission, it is comforting to know that a very different mission is being performed 24 hours a day to ensure that medical attention and rescue will be delivered by some of our finest heroes in the event of an emergency. **A**

Below: Fire fighters at camp Arifjan, Kuwait, perform functions checks on equipment, including this 77 foot, 70 degree ladder, every morning to ensure it function correctly in the event of an emergency.

Right: Fireman Kamal Giri attaches a fire hose to a fire truck’s water inlet during a routine training exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Cooking

Never leave your stovetop unattended while cooking.

If you have a stovetop grease fire:

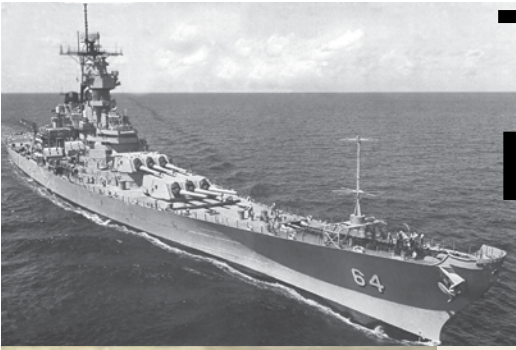
- Turn the burner off and cover the pan with a lid to cut off the oxygen to the fire. Let the pan cool before removing the lid.
- Never try to take a burning pan to the sink.
- Never use water on a grease fire.
- Use a fire extinguisher rated for grease fires only if you are trained. If you stand too close and use the fire extinguisher, you can spread the flaming grease all over the kitchen.

If you have an oven fire:

- Turn the oven off
- Keep the door closed until the fire is out and the oven cools

Never leave an oven door open to heat a room. The oven can overheat and catch fire.

Third Army celebrates Navy's 234th Birthday



Article by
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kim Harris
Third Army Public Affairs Office

Camp Arifjan commemorates the birthday of the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Navy is divided in two major time periods which are referred to as the “Old Navy” and today’s modern Navy. The foundation of the “Old Navy” predates the Constitution of the United States

The Old Navy consisted of ironclad sailing ships. But the new Navy that exists today commands a vast fleet of seaward vessels and aircraft that has made it one of the most powerful and respected navies in the world.

The Rhode Island General Assembly created the first formal government authorized navy in the Western Hemisphere on June 12, 1775, but the U.S. Navy was formed in Philadelphia on October 13, 1775 by the Continental Congress. Congress fitted two sailing vessels with a crew of eighty enlisted sailors, equipped with 10 guns, 14 swivel guns,

small arms and warlike stores to cruise the seas for three months to intercept British vessels and protect the trade of the colony. The Continental Fleet was established as a result of these events.


“I joined the Navy to see the world. I have been afforded the opportunity to see and do things that most Americans can only dream of. Serving in the Navy has been a perfect fit for me, creating advantages for me and my family,” said Master Chief Petty Officer William T. Etherton, a native of Murray, Ky.

“The Navy personnel serving in theater have a huge positive impact on operations. We support the missions in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan by providing port and detainment security, customs and medical support.”

“I am honored and privileged to be a Navy clinical social worker serving in theater. This is exactly

where I want to be,” said Navy Lt. Jo Ann Martinez, a native of San Antonio, Texas, who has been in the Navy for 14 months. “I joined the Navy because I wanted to serve in social work and mental health career fields. It was a personal call to duty for me and it has been very rewarding.”

Currently the U.S. Navy supports the War on Terrorism by deploying Servicemembers for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The world seas are dominated by the naval power of the U.S. Navy’s 11 aircraft super carriers. The establishment of the United States Navy has not only accelerated the lives of those who serve in it, but the country that it serves. Happy 234th Birthday Navy. 

Women Vets



Third Army Soldier, Sgt. Ashely Klipfel, Service Non-Commissioned Officer of the 443rd Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit based out of Lincoln, Neb., performs maintenance on a vehicle's axle at her unit's machine shop located at Camp Arifjan.

Article by Spc. Brandon Babbitt
Photo by Sgt. David Nunn
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

At least 58 women have been killed in Iraq since 2003, and 428 have been wounded. While still officially relegated to support positions and barred from infantry or armored divisions, such distinctions mean little when even the enemy isn't clear and any position can be a target. Despite all of these facts, for U.S. citizens, the image of a veteran is still firmly masculine.

"Many women worry about critics declaring too many differences between them and their male counterparts and are most proud of the ways in which they've shown themselves to be equal," said Navy Chief Leah Gentry, Equal Opportunity non-commissioned officer in charge for the Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Kuwait. "Each year women gain more equality in the military and at the same time we take on more leadership roles and play a bigger part in the overall picture."

Take for example the story of Army Capt. Amabilia Hogg, a married mother of two boys who is currently attached to Third Army as a Public Affairs Officer with the 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command. Hogg, on her third deployment, has seen plenty of action starting back in 2003.

"My first deployment was during the first Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was a [Military Police] officer and Platoon Leader as a lieutenant," said Hogg. "When I got to Iraq, I had to learn on the fly. Soon after I arrived we were conducting patrols and combat missions. Women Soldiers were busting down doors and clearing rooms right alongside the men."

Hogg says she has always sensed a stigma in the Army with women who are in leadership positions.


"Can she do it as well as he can, and does she have the toughness to do the job and get respect from the Soldiers," asked Hogg. "These are the things you have to fight through as a woman to prove you have what it takes to lead."

Some 28,000 of the 274,000 service-members currently deployed are women. Women make up fifteen percent of the U.S. military. More than 16,000 single mothers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Women seem to get a fair shake more than ever before thanks in large part to the command climate that has improved in the military," said Gentry. "However, with this comes sacrifice. Many women have to spend time away from their families on multiple deployments in order to meet the needs of the military."

Just as battle techniques have changed, so has the composition of the military and women's roles in it. More than 102,000 women veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have separated from the military, and so far, more than 48,000 have received health care from Veterans Affairs.

With these statistics today's military women have evolved from just the clerical and nursing positions of the World War II era.

"History will teach future generations about all the dangerous things women have done in regards to OIF and OEF," said Hogg. "I am proud to serve my country during this very important time." 

Daisy Chains are
DEADLY
no matter how
you use them



NEWS IN BRIEF

VA, lawmakers share blame for GI Bill delay

Legislation has been introduced that would offer long-term care to any veterans exposed to environmental hazards in the line of duty, even if there is no textbook evidence to link the exposure to an illness.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Evan Bayh, would amend Title 38 of the U.S. Code, which deals with veterans benefits, by adding a passage stating that a veteran exposed in the line of duty to “an occupational and environmental health chemical hazard of particular concern” is eligible for hospital care, medical services and nursing home care for any disability, even if there is “insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such disability may be associated with exposure.”

The bill comes in the wake of a series of hearings about troops being exposed to carcinogenic material at Qarmat Ali water treatment plant in Iraq; a sulfur fire in Mosul, Iraq; and burn-pit smoke throughout Iraq and Afghanistan.

The provision would not cover veterans with illnesses that the National Academy of Sciences says show limited evidence of a positive association of illness and exposure. But it would cover hazards that the Defense Department has determined are “of particular concern after considering appropriate guidelines and standards for exposure,” including those of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Obama administration to unveil new Sudan policy

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Obama administration plans to roll out a new policy toward Sudan with an eye toward engaging the government in Khartoum but also warning that continued violence in Darfur will result in penalties, U.S. officials said Friday.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, and the administration’s special Sudan envoy, Scott Gration, are to unveil the policy Monday at a news conference at the State Department, the officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Congress has not yet been briefed on the matter.

The announcement is planned to show unity within the Obama administration. Rice and Gration have notoriously clashed over engaging with the Sudanese government of President Omar al-Bashir, who has been charged by the International Criminal Court with crimes against humanity

and war crimes for allegedly masterminding deadly attacks throughout Darfur.

Gration has argued in public for a less strict line toward Bashir, who he has told officials is the key to resolving the situation in Darfur as well as in southern Sudan, which in 2005 signed a provisional peace deal with the government in Khartoum, ending Africa’s longest-running civil war.

However, the officials said the new policy will not make major concessions to Bashir, whose government is designated a “state sponsor of terrorism” by the State Department.

Instead, the new policy is designed to bring Khartoum into the fold by offering incentives for improved relations for improvements in the situation in Darfur as well as in southern Sudan, which will hold a referendum on succession scheduled to take place in 2011, they said.

No COLA likely, but \$250 check for some vets

On the eve of an announcement stating for the first time in 35 years there will be no annual cost-of-living increase in Social Security and government retired pay, the White House is working with Congress to rush a \$250 emergency payment into the hands of seniors, veterans and the disabled to help make ends meet.

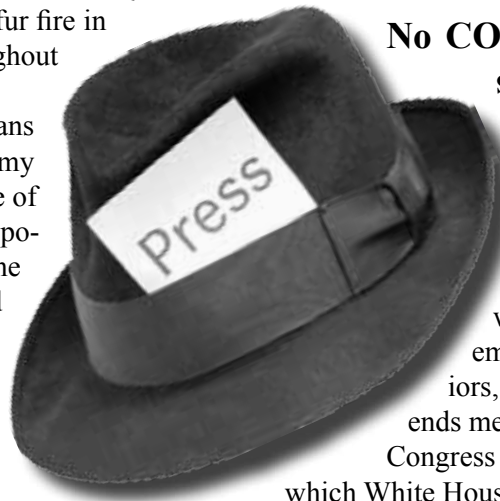
Congress would have to approve the payments, which White House officials estimate will cost \$13 billion.

The Social Security Administration is expected to officially announce on Thursday what has been anticipated for months: The dismal U.S. economy has been such a powerful drag on inflation that there will be no cost-of-living adjustment Dec. 1 in federal benefits that are linked to the Consumer Price Index.

That includes Social Security; military and federal civilian retired pay; and veterans’ disability, survivor and pension payments.

While retirees have complained they see higher costs for everything, the market basket of goods and services used by the Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine consumer prices has been heavily influenced over the past year by falling oil and gasoline prices, which have a widespread effect on the Consumer Price Index because it involves direct transportation costs, heating costs and even the cost of food and clothing — all expenses in which transportation is a key element.

The \$250 payment looks small, but White House officials said it equals a two percent cost-of-living adjustment for the typical Social Security recipient. **A**



Emergency Numbers

Camp Arifjan

DSN 430-3160/ Arifjan Cell 6682-2120

Camp Buerhing

DSN 438-3224 Buerhing Cell 9720-5396

Camp Virginia

DSN 832-2559 /Virginia Cell 6705-9470

LSA

DSN 442-0189/ LSA Cell 6682-2467

K-Crossing

DSN 823-1327/ K-Crossing Cell 682-0095

KCIA/APOD

Cell 6706-0165-DSN 825-1314

SPOD

Cell 9720-5982

KNB

DSN 839-1334/ KNB Cell 6691-4967

NCO Spotlight

Sgt. Kevin Patty

Third Army Telephone Control Officer



“Keep an open mind and pay attention to your surroundings.”

Sgt. Patty, a Waverly, Illinois native, works for the Secretary of the General Staff for Third Army. Patty first joined the Army for four years when he was 17, and then re-joined at age 38 because he had “unfinished business.” Born on Veteran’s Day, Patty has had family members serve in every war since World War II. He is the father of two twin boys, and enjoys the outdoors.

Just One Question ...

“What do you do to stay physically fit while deployed?”



“I pump iron at the gym every day.”

Pfc. Victor Harwood
Lansing, Mich.
110 Transportation Company



“Run around outside and do push-ups in the morning.”

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ronald Cruz
Las Vegas, Nev.
424th Medium Truck Detachment



“I run and do push-ups and sit ups when I have time.”

Spc. Nate Goldsmith
Coshocton, Ohio
762nd Transportation Company



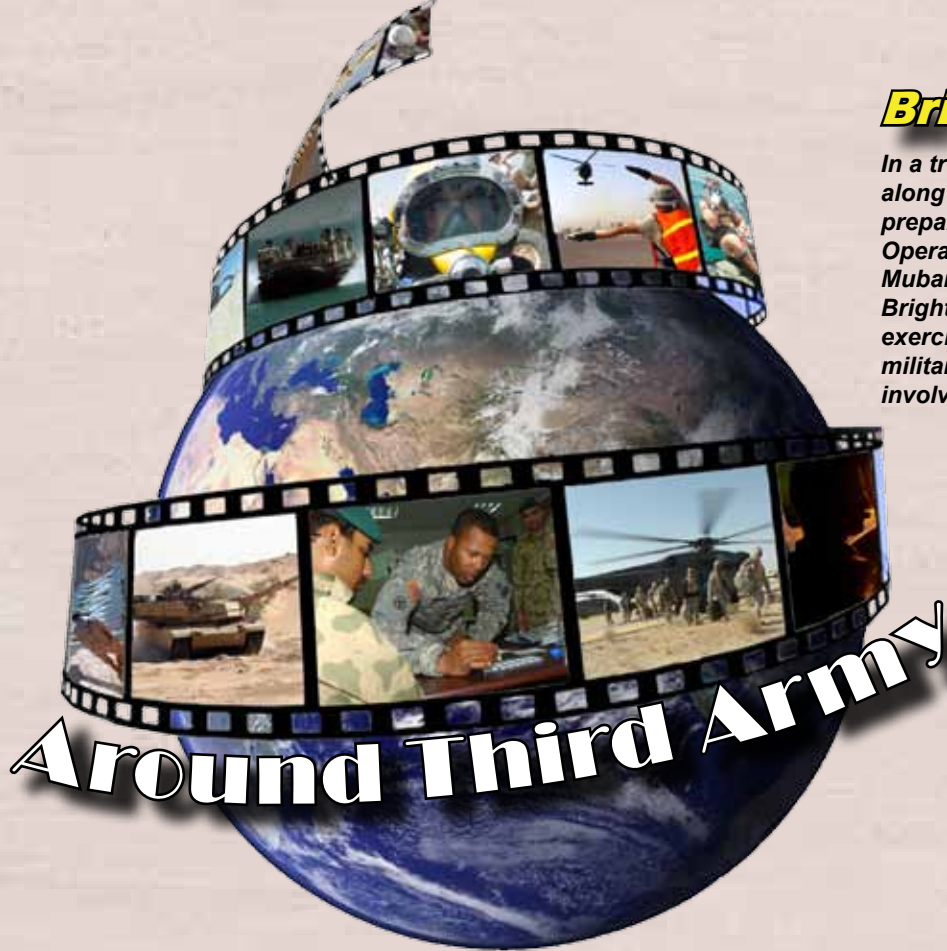
“I watch my calorie intake and do group PT with my unit 5 times per-week.”

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Danile Gilbert
San Diego, Calif.
EMF-K



“I play a lot of sports like soccer and basketball.”

Airman Zai Mohammed
Sacramento, Calif.
387th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron



Bright Star has begun

In a true show of partnership, a U.S. paratrooper along with Egyptian and Pakistani soldiers prepare to enter a room during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training at the Mubarak Military City, Egypt during Operation Bright Star. The training was part of the overall exercise designed to build partnerships and military cooperation between the 11 countries involved in the exercise.



Photo by Sgt. Ty Stafford

Two Stars

Brig. Gen. Phillip E. McGhee was recently promoted to major general. "We both know it's all about the team, and I have been blessed with being on incredible Teams over the years," said McGhee. "I am especially humbled by the privilege and opportunity to be part of the Third Army team and to serve beside awesome Warriors, civilian employees, and contract employees."



Photo by Spc. Monte Swift

Court Martial

On Sept. 19, 2009, a military judge tried Sgt. Howard K. Lopes of HHB, 115th Fires Brigade at a special court-martial at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In accordance with his pleas, the military judge found Sgt. Lopes guilty of making a false official statement in violation of Article 107, Uniform Code of Military Justice; of assaulting his fiancée, in violation of Article 128, UCMJ; of housebreaking into her room, in violation of Article 130, UCMJ; and of communicating a threat, in violation of Article 134, UCMJ. The underlying misconduct occurred in June of 2009 when Sgt. Lopes broke into a "Female Only" PCB in Zone 6 and assaulted his fiancée, who was a fellow Soldier in his unit. Sgt. Lopes then threatened two fellow Soldiers, one Enlisted and another a Senior non-commissioned officer. Finally, Sgt. Lopes lied to a Military Police Investigator concerning this incident. Consequently, the military judge sentenced Sgt. Lopes to be reduced to the grade of private (E-1), to be confined for four months, and to be discharged from the U.S. Army with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

