



U.S. ARMY
CENTRAL

DESERT VOICE



Army air assault

comes to Kuwait

Pg. 9

Plunge into

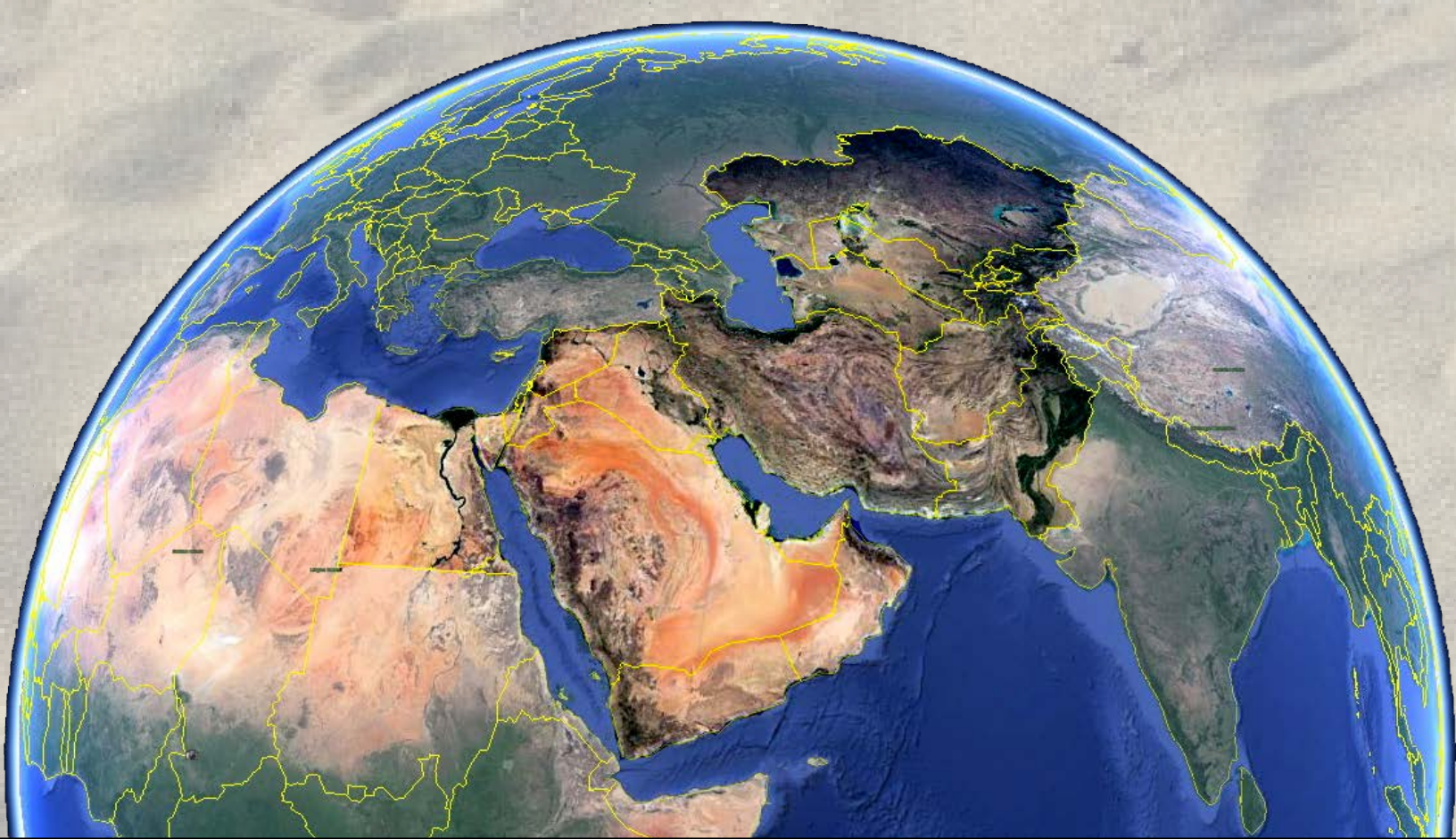
Operation Deep Blue

Pg. 11

US, Jordan Troops shine

brightly together

Pg. 15



U.S. ARMY CENTRAL

Spring 2017



<<On the Front Cover

Soldiers with the 511th Engineer Dive Detachment from Fort Eustis, Va., maintain the umbilical cables that supply oxygen to the divers underneath the surface of the Arabian Gulf, off the coast of Kuwait Naval Base, while they conduct diver training, Nov. 18, 2016. The unit executed various diving techniques and certified diving supervisors in emergency protocol throughout the exercise, Operation Deep Blue, enhancing the team's overall readiness and ability to support the U.S. Army Central mission. (U.S. Army Photo by Angela Lorden)

The Desert Voice is the official magazine for U.S. Army Central and subordinate commands. It is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or Department of the Army. The Desert Voice is published quarterly under supervision of the USARCENT chief of public affairs to provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited to be considered for print in the Desert Voice. Direct communication is authorized to the editor by calling DSN: 312-889-8869 or commercial: 803-885-8869, or contact us at <http://www.usarcent.army.mil/Contact-Us>. Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to the Desert Voice and the author. All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited. The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. Use of funds for printing 1,000 copies of this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army Sept. 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: UI .A827.

STAFF

Commander

Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett

Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Eric C. Dostie

Chief, Public Affairs

Col. Wayne Marotto

Public Affairs Sergeant Major

Sgt. Maj. Tami Hillis

Public Affairs Deputy (FWD)

Lt. Col. Gregory Majewski

350th PAD Commander

Capt. Darrell Melrose

350th PAD NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Daniel Sullivan

CONTRIBUTORS

Sgt. Christopher Bigelow
1st TSC

Col. Matt Easley
335th Signal Command

Sgt. Aaron Ellerman
204th PAD

Sgt. Jonathan Fernandez
204th PAD

Sgt. Kelly Gary
29th Infantry Division

Sgt. Angela Lorden
204th PAD

Staff Sgt. Dalton Smith
1st TSC

"DESERT VOICE"
LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Sgt. Bethany Huff
350th PAD



CONTENTS

<i>Lucky 6: On Point</i>	1
<i>Lucky 7: From My Foxhole</i>	2
<i>New warehouses boost readiness</i>	3
<i>Building toward better efficiency</i>	5
<i>Partners train as they fight</i>	6
<i>Top medics compete to win</i>	7
<i>Soldiers give sight to pilots</i>	8
<i>Army Air Assault comes to Kuwait</i>	9
<i>Tactical logistics exchange</i>	10
<i>Plunge into Operation Deep Blue</i>	11
<i>Unconventional training for partner nations</i>	13
<i>Camp Arifjan celebrates MLK day</i>	14
<i>US, Jordan troops shine together</i>	15
<i>Windows 10 roll out</i>	17
<i>A different take on familiar training</i>	19
<i>Deployed Soldiers clean up camp</i>	21
<i>Equipping the 'total force'</i>	22



Lucky 6: On Point

Since my last column where I provided my annual assessment of our command, we have continued to be extremely busy and focused thanks to your continued commitment to excellence. This hard work, in a tough and demanding environment, continues to bear fruit. We remain focused on our four enduring priorities and especially on the further refined areas of focus, including integrating the Division Headquarters, our support of ongoing operations in Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, protecting the force, continuing to support Operation Spartan Shield, and our focus on continuing to build capacity and interoperability in our partners. We have just completed a busy time of the year; one where we celebrated the diversity of our force during Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Our integration of Task Force Spartan remains the number one priority as we prepare for the first transition of this important headquarters and capability from the 29th Infantry Division to the 35th Infantry Division. This capability enables us to focus on strategic efforts, however we must remember to apply the lessons learned from the initial integration of TF Spartan and apply them smartly to the next. A properly resourced and integrated division headquarters allows U.S. Army Central the flexibility to improve our overall footprint across the theater while also expanding our strategic partnerships and readiness.

Part of our ongoing mission, and one of my focus areas, is to ensure that the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are supported with the logistics, 1 Desert Voice

enablers, and forces they need to be successful. We must anticipate requirements by staying proactive, asking the right questions, and above all else communicate effectively so the forces we support in both OIR and OFS can meet their mission objectives.

Of course, our efforts don't end there. Operation Spartan Shield also remains a top priority for our nation as we continue to deter aggression towards our allies now and in the future. TF Spartan must proactively identify opportunities to expand our relationships while also providing the manning and resource to meet our objectives.

In the upcoming quarter, USARCENT will be participating in a number of major events: Eager Lion, where we will test our Contingency Command Post, a number of multi-national symposiums that will bring our partners together, and an assessment of the 5.4 MTOE transition. Add those events to the integration of the 35th Infantry Division, and the beginning of the usual army-wide PCS season and you have a very challenging task to keep the mission on track. Stay focused on the mission and executing the myriad transitions during this turbulent time.

I challenge each of you to continue the tremendous progress this command has made over the last year and a half. Combat and specifically leadership are human endeavors and each one of you is an invaluable asset in our mission. Our area of operations is complex and our mission difficult, but with your leadership, effort and professionalism we continue to accomplish our mission. Patton's Own – Third, Always First! ■



Lucky 7: From My Foxhole

As we go into this New Year, it offers each of us an opportunity to start fresh and create new opportunities to excel. I hope each of you has reflected on where you are in life and where you would like to be. Again, set goals for yourself and strive to meet and surpass them while you serve our great fighting force.

My battlefield circulation started immediately this year as I went to visit Soldiers in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman and United Arab Emirates. As I stated last quarter, I am always amazed at the accomplishments and high level of readiness of each organization. Your individual competence and professionalism are always on display, whether monitoring our skies at a remote site or training with our partners in a vast desert.

One area that I would like to emphasize is force protection. As we continue to bring the fight to our enemy, they are trying to find opportunities to exploit small victories. These are areas we should all be concerned about. The guards at the entrances to our military installations must remain vigilant, and aggressively enforce standards, procedures and safety.

Those assigned security force roles must remain alert and continue to rehearse scenarios. Everyone must be aware of their surroundings and report anything that is out of the ordinary or just flat out looks wrong. This is one area in which none of us can lose focus.

I expect all senior noncommissioned officers to take the time to talk with Soldiers about force protection and what it means in your individual areas. Relook security measures in all areas in which you work and live. Ensure we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our men and women. As I visit your organizations, I will be asking what steps you have taken to identify potential areas in which you may be at risk, what measures have you taken to improve, and what areas do you need assistance in.

Together, we will remain strong, safe and ready. I have no doubt each of you will continue to uphold standards, do what is right, and look out for one another. Together we will continue to defeat our enemies, and together we will continue to uphold the proud distinction of being Patton's Own – Third, Always First! ■

New warehouses for Kuwait boost readiness and beyond

Story and Photos by Sgt. Angela Lorden

The 401st Army Field Support Brigade celebrated with troops, civilians and Kuwaiti partners in honor of the completion of several new equipment-protecting warehouses during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 17, 2016, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The newly innovative warehouses, designed and built by the U.S. Army engineers with the support of the host nation, Kuwait, were built to store and protect combat-ready, military equipment from the desert environment and increase readiness.

“With these new facilities, we are postured to ensure long-term responsive support to theater commanders,” said Col. Aaron Stanek, the commander of the 401st AFSB, during his remarks at the ceremony. “We are increasing readiness to the warfighter and being fiscally responsible to the American taxpayer.”

Each climate and humidity-controlled warehouse can protect more than 100 pieces of equipment and material. The warehouses include energy-efficient LED lighting and various safety features that can be monitored by a warehouse manager from a centralized control-point.

“These warehouses are the gold standard for integrating technology,” Stanek said. “They’re safer than the last generation of facilities.”

The 401st AFSB will manage the new equipment warehouses at Camp Arifjan. Inside the facilities, they will house prepositioned, combat-ready equipment and material to support unified-land operations all over the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

“We enable the equipping piece of the Army mission,” said Stanek.

Approximately 5.5 billion dollars’ worth of equipment covers roughly 70 percent of Camp Arifjan, according to Stanek. The U.S. government spends money to maintain

the combat-ready equipment.

“Warehouses save the government money by decreasing the need for frequent maintenance,” said Maj. Kyle Johnson, a support operations officer with the 401st AFSB. “The environment is a critical threat to Army equipment in a desert. Having more vehicles protected and ready-to-go increases readiness overall.”

After the equipment is moved into the U.S. government-funded warehouses, more than half of the Army’s prepositioned stocks at Camp Arifjan will be stored indoors. More warehouses are scheduled to be built to accommodate the equipment still stored outside.

“We’re putting the equipment to good use and we’re taking care of it,” Stanek said.

The 401st AFSB is a forward presence of the Army Sustainment Command. This support command, headquartered in Rock Island, Illinois, is the operational arm of U.S. Army Materiel Command. Army Materiel Command is the primary provider of Army logistics support.

“If a Soldier wears it, drives it, shoots it or eats it, Army Materiel Command provides it,” Stanek said.

One of the programs the 401st AFSB implements in support of its command’s primary mission is the Army Prepositioned Stocks-Kuwait program. The program maintains combat-ready equipment and material, strategically prepositioned and ready-for-use at a moment’s notice.

“What we’re getting after is speed,” Stanek said.

The APS-5 maintains three brigade sets of equipment. A brigade generally consists of thousands of Soldiers. Each brigade equipment set includes enough tanks, cannons, command transport vehicles and support vehicles to outfit an entire brigade.

“If all the people in a brigade came here by

themselves, we have all the equipment they would need, brand new, in the warehouses, ready to go,” Johnson said. “They could pick it up and immediately enter the fight.”

The 401st AFSB also provides maintenance readiness to forces in the field through contracted logistics.

“If a unit is already here and their equipment breaks, they need to replace it immediately,” Johnson said. “They can do that here opposed to shipping it from the states. It allows us to conduct operations more quickly.”

More than 2,000 civilian contractors provide equipment maintenance. Soldiers are responsible for the oversight of this maintenance.

“We provide surveillance while contractors work on equipment to assure everything is to standard,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Trejo, a quality assurance maintenance Soldier who works in the AFSB’s motor pool. “We hold them accountable.”

Trejo said he believes his job is an important component of the 401st AFSB’s mission.

“Units need equipment that works properly,” Trejo said. “We verify all the work done on equipment so Soldiers signing for it have nothing to worry about. They can concentrate on the mission, not whether or not their equipment works.”

Equipment is signed out by troops on a daily basis. Shipments of new equipment come in hourly with the possibility of being pushed out to support military missions.

While the 401st AFSB supports CENTCOM, Army logistics is prepositioned all over the world.

“We are APS-5,” Johnson said. “That means there’s APS-1, 2, 3 and 4. The Army has strategically prepositioned equipment around the world to allow us to rapidly deploy troops anywhere they need us.” ■



Above: Senior leaders from the U.S. Army Sustainment Command and the 401st Army Field Support Brigade cut a ribbon to celebrate the opening of several new equipment warehouses, Nov. 17, 2016, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The warehouses, designed and built by the U.S. Army engineers with support of the Kuwait government, will store and protect Army equipment.

Background: A newly-built warehouse waits to house equipment for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Oct. 22, 2016, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. This new warehouse will store the 401st AFSB’s pre-positioned, combat-ready equipment and material to support unified-land operations all over the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.



Building toward better efficiency, quality of life

**Story and Photo By
Sgt. 1st Class Rael Tirado**

For hundreds of Soldiers on Camp Redleg, living and working in tents has been the normal way of life in the middle of the hot, dry desert, but not for long, as energy efficient buildings are being constructed by the hands of U.S. Army engineers for energy cost savings and improving quality of life.

The Soldiers of the 176th Engineer Brigade of the Texas Army National Guard, also known as Task Force Chaos, have been mobilized to construct engineering projects throughout the United States Army Central area of operation, which includes the unique construction project on Camp Redleg.

“This particular project is a great project for many reasons,” said Col. Charles M. Schoening, commander of Task Force Chaos. “We’re saving the U.S. government millions of dollars by using troop labor versus a contracted force. In addition, because of the energy-efficient nature of these structures being built, the units will pay for themselves over the next few years on energy savings.”

The individuals who will enjoy the benefits will be the Soldiers on Camp Redleg whose quality of life will improve drastically by moving from tents to office rooms and living quarters inside climate controlled, energy efficient buildings.

What makes the construction project unique is that the Army engineers are producing newly designed modular metal buildings that are simpler to assemble and construct.

“Most of the Army’s vertical unit engineers work with wood,” said Master Sgt. Benjamin Mountain, a project 5 Desert Voice

manager with Task Force Chaos for the Camp Redleg project. “This being a steel frame construction of a modular unit is something new and that no one here has ever seen.”

Once completed, a two-story, steel-frame modular unit has the capacity to hold 160 individuals with 20 climate controlled rooms on each floor. The modular units can be configured to the needs of the Soldiers with open-floors plans or expanded rooms.

The units will be wired for network access throughout the buildings, each room will have a thermostat for climate control and the building is insulated to maintain cool or warm air. This quality of life improvement will eliminate the environment of wooden floors with drainage issues, unregulated climate control and poorly insulated tents, which is a costly drain of energy.

“We are constructing four barracks, multiple office buildings, plus peripheral structures to house the post office, chapel and maintenance,” said Mountain. “Getting the Soldiers out of tents and improving quality of living helps the force and the operational energy initiative ensures each unit has a reduction in power needed to run, it’s going to be a win across the board.”

The Camp Redleg project will take several months to complete and all the construction will be conducted by engineer Soldiers.

“When you look at ARCENT priorities of efforts, enhancing the force is one that is at the top of the list,” said Schoening. “How do we enhance the force and have them prepare to fight? This project will differently enhance the quality of life for Soldiers who have been living in tents for a while. There have been many issues with this in the past and this project will solve them.” ■

Partners train as they fight

**Story and Photo by
Sgt. Aaron Ellerman**

More than 200 U.S. and Kuwaiti service members carried out a simulated mass ground and air assault against a mock enemy during Operation Lightning Eagle on the Udairi Training Range, Kuwait, Dec. 6-7, 2016.

Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and Kuwaiti land and air forces came together for this combined arms live-fire exercise to test the efficiency of their forces abilities to identify and eliminate an enemies’ anti-aircraft capabilities while maneuvering effectively as a multinational element.

“It feels a lot like Christmas,” said Lt. Col. Mark Paczynski, commander of the 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

The attack element, comprised of about 30 M1 Abrams tanks, two Kuwaiti AH-64 Apache helicopters, several Bradley Fighting Vehicles, scout sniper teams, mortar and artillery fire, assaulted and destroyed the enemy positions within minutes.

Organizers and planners from both countries worked jointly for nearly three months to coordinate the training for the event.

Paczynski likened the immense planning and coordination to buying gifts for the holidays and seeing them all unwrapped quickly. “We were able to execute the whole operation in about 25 minutes,” said Paczynski.

For many service members, this was their first opportunity to work alongside their Kuwaiti counterparts.

“It’s pretty exciting to get this training opportunity to work side by side with the Kuwaitis and see that they’re not that different from us,” said Pfc. Keymy Vasquez, an M1 Abrams tank crewman with 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment.

The 3rd ABCT, part of U.S. Army Central’s contingency force, has been deployed for nearly seven months and have taken part in numerous multinational training engagements.

“If the day comes where we have to fight together, its exercises like this that go a long way to prepare our armies,” said Paczynski. ■



Background photo: A sniper team from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, engage a target during a joint combined arms live-fire exercise near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 6-7, 2016. The multi-day exercise was designed to test the efficiency of the U.S. Army and Kuwaiti land and air forces ability to identify and eliminate enemies’ anti-aircraft capabilities.

Top medics compete to win

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jonathan Fernandez

Fifty-five competed. Thirty-nine completed. Only one was named champion. Combat medics under U.S. Army Central, stationed in Kuwait, competed in the Top Medic Competition hosted by 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Dec. 17-19, 2016. The tiring, stressful 36-hour competition tested the Soldiers’ basic warrior skills, job-specific proficiency, and overall physical strength and endurance. It consisted of three ruck marches, the Army’s 1946 physical fitness test, medical assessment and care lanes, electronic firing ranges, written tests, and land navigation.

The competition was tight from the beginning, said 1st Lt. Nick Coffey, one of the masterminds behind the competition.

“We strove to design a gender-neutral, grueling competition with 18 events to find out who was the most well-rounded medic,” he said. “Anybody could have won.”

The prizes for first, second and third place were an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and a Certificate of Achievement, respectively.

The winner, a squad leader in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 3-1 AD, was Staff Sgt. Miriam Reyes, a native of Yuma, Arizona.

When it was put out that ‘at least one from first squad should go,’ she said, adding, “Let’s go kick some ass.

Because, we as (noncommissioned officers) lead from the front.”

On top of winning the competition, Reyes was often seen motivating members of her unit who were also competing.

Coffey, a battalion physician assistant in 2nd Brigade Engineering Battalion and native of Snohomish, Washington, created the competition, with 1st Lt. Christopher Torres, a battalion physician assistant with 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, with the intent of instilling esprit de corps within the medics, building confidence and competence in their skill craft, and ensuring tactical and technical proficiency.

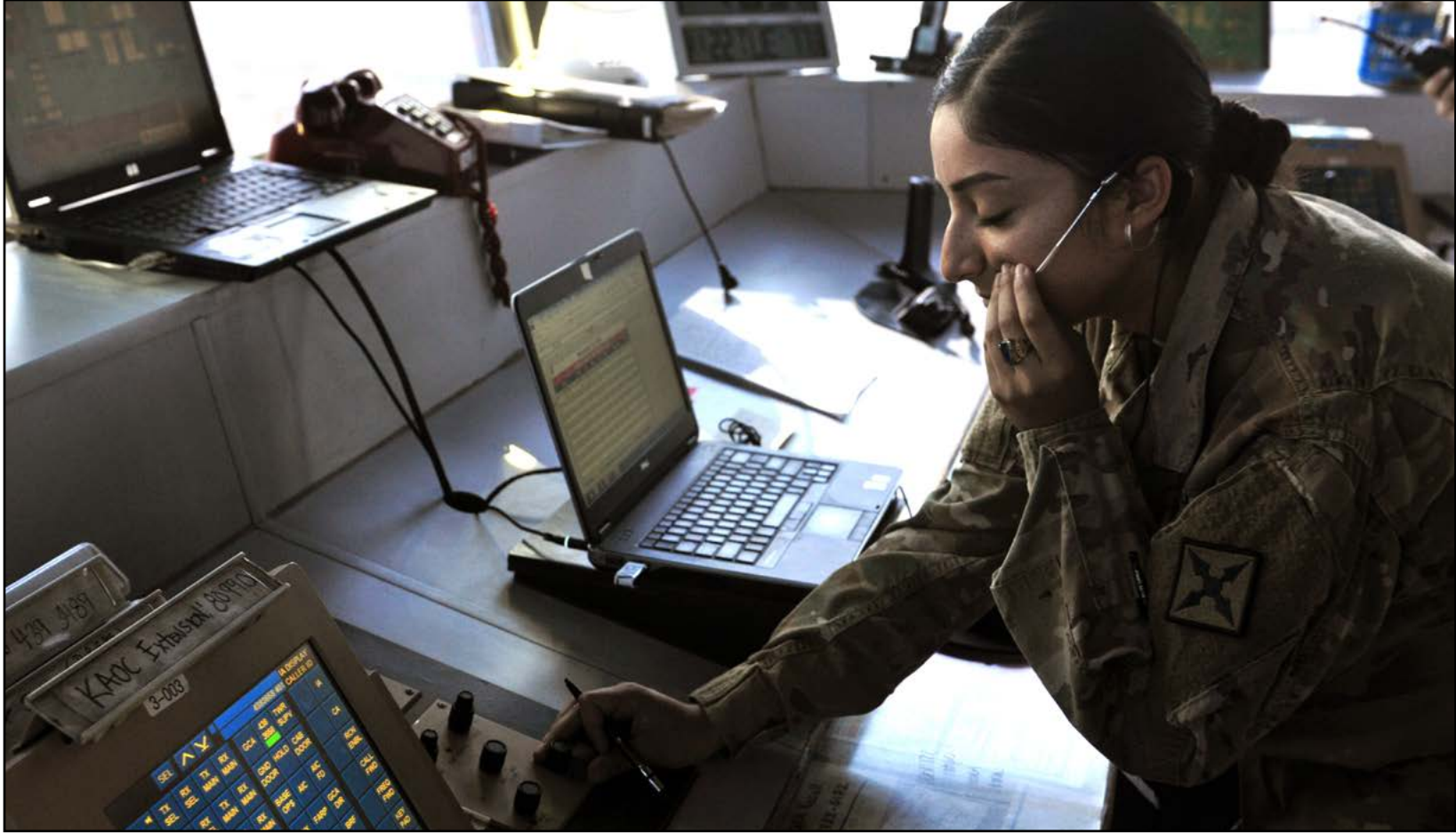
“We don’t always get to do things like this,” said Spc. Lilimae Cobb at the start of the competition. “I see a lot of learning ahead in the competition.”

Cobb, a combat medic in 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery and native of Canyon Lake, Texas, was one of the original 55 competitors in the event.

“This is a good competition for those preparing for the Expert Field Medical Badge,” she said.

Emphasizing the Army’s number one priority, Coffey said medics must maintain a high level of readiness to ensure their fellow Soldiers remain alive and well on the battlefield.

“This competition highlights that medics need to be ready to execute at all times,’ he said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re tired. It doesn’t matter if you’re cold. It doesn’t matter if you’re hungry. At any time, anything can happen.” ■



Soldiers give sight to pilots

Story and Photo by Sgt. Aaron Ellerman

Air traffic controllers from the 1st Airfield Operations Battalion, 245th Aviation Regiment, played an integral part of an inadvertent instrument meteorological conditions training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 22, 2016.

The group of controllers facilitated communication and movement of aircraft and emergency responders in the area throughout the training event where they helped pilots, who have lost the ability to pilot their aircraft by visual cues due to weather conditions.

“We are the eye in the sky, so our role is very important because we make sure the pilots aren’t landing blind sided in the event of low visibility,” said Spc. Gardenia Garibo, an air traffic control operator with the 1st AOB and Oklahoma City native.

The event was designed to test the abilities and response times of an aircraft landing under distress and in inclement weather.

Garibo, on her first deployment and first experience operating in the tower, said she gained valuable knowledge of operating procedures during the event.

“I was a little nervous but I feel we did well overall. It’s always good to prepare for this type of scenario so when an actual event happens we are ready,” said Garibo.

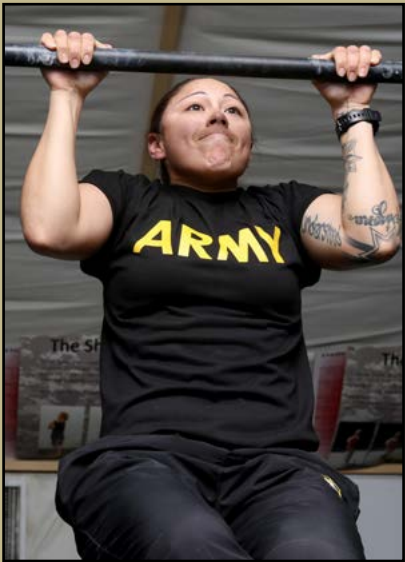
Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Zahn, event coordinator and airfield operations safety officer with the 1st AOB, came up with the idea for the event during a mission at the beginning of this deployment. He was flying a medical evacuation aircraft with an injured person on board and had to return to base due to worsening weather conditions.

“The process then could have been more streamlined so I recreated the scenario based off those events so everyone could learn and gain the experience,” said Zahn, a Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, native.

Many elements were involved in the event including military police and fire rescue.

Zahn said he is hoping to expand agency involvement for the next training event to include hazardous material cleanup, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive response and emergency medical services.

“The exercise went well today and the minor deficiencies we found were a great highlight because they will help us learn and become better,” said Zahn.■



Above to the left: Staff Sgt. Miriam Reyes, a squad leader in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, performs pull-ups during the Top Medic completion, Dec. 18, 2016. *Above to the right:* Sgt. Elizabeth Berry, a combat medic, deployed to Kuwait, plots points during the land navigation portion of the Top Medic Competition, Dec. 18, 2016.

Army Air Assault comes to Kuwait

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Jonathan Fernandez

Key operations, planning, training and safety personnel from U.S. Army Central visited the new Camp Buehring Air Assault course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 25.

The visit was one of the final inspections to take place before the school begins accepting its first students in early April.

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Nungester, the senior noncommissioned officer for the air assault course, visited the site to inspect the quality of the desert environment obstacles and lanes.

“The course is actually looking really good,” he said. “This is definitely one of the best courses I’ve seen.”

The course will provide U.S. military personnel in the Central Command area of responsibility the unique opportunity to become air assault qualified, while also deployed outside the continental United States.

The main goal for the course is unit readiness, said Lt. Col. Roger Davis, the USARCENT future operations officer.

“Major General William Hickman, the USARCENT deputy commanding general, put out guidance to add an air assault course, and here it is,” he said.

Davis, the action officer for the building and planning of the course, said he was excited to see this sort of course added to Camp Buehring.

“On top of adding the course to ensure unit readiness when they get on ground, the course adds to unit morale,” he said. “We have slots set aside for other personnel who want to earn the badge.”

The course’s priority is unit readiness, but a secondary goal is to have other Soldiers who have no air assault requirement get the same opportunity.

“And, that adds value,” said Nungester. “I’ve never seen a course like this in a deployment environment, but I’m excited to see it in action.”

The air assault course is scheduled to start in April with other courses going on throughout the year. For Soldiers interested in taking the course while deployed, they must speak with their unit training personnel. ■

Tactical logistics exchange

“Interoperability is a perishable military skill and only through continuous training and deliberate exchange are units of differing nations able to operate together to achieve a common goal.”

-Col. Marty T. Pennock

Story and Photo
by Sgt. Christopher Bigelow



In an effort to increase a shared understanding of theater level logistics throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Kuwaiti Armed Forces and 1st Sustainment Command logistics leadership met at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 19, 2016.

The joint effort was to develop and increase understanding between the U.S. and Kuwaiti armies via a tactical logistics exchange.

“This event will bring the 1st TSC and Kuwaiti planning and logistics staffs together,” said Col. Marty T. Pennock, civil affairs chief, 1st TSC, and native of Sioux Falls, North Dakota.

The forces met to set clear objectives for future logistics training exchanges.

“Our goal is to develop a scenario-based engagement focusing on the sustainment capabilities of the Kuwaiti army to enhance our exchanged information,” said Pennock.

The 1st TSC and Kuwaiti officials worked to have a clear objective before executing any combined scenarios.

“The purpose of this forum is to refine and clarify the planning process we have for the scheduled tactical logistics exchange,” said Maj. Steve McKnight, civil affairs officer, 1st TSC.

“Together we will make sure the TLE offers key takeaways for both the 1st TSC and the Kuwaiti logistics community,” McKnight added.

KAZMA IV is the fourth iteration in a series of exchanges designed to strengthen and sustain current relationships between the 1st TSC and the Kuwaiti armed forces.

KAZMA IV is a tabletop discussion focused on

operational level logistics staff processes, which enhance the bi-lateral military relationships between the armed forces.

The Kuwait-based TLE provides function checks for staff processes, promotes improved communication and highlights the importance of interoperability in the contemporary operating environment within the CENTCOM AOR.

Interoperability is the key skill to be practiced during the TLE.

“Interoperability is a perishable military skill and only through continuous training and deliberate exchange are units of differing nations able to operate together to achieve a common goal,” said Pennock.

A full spectrum of theater level logistics occurs each and every day within the CENTCOM AOR, and those continual logistics missions have led to the development of some of the world’s finest logisticians, said Maj. Gen. Paul C. Hurley Jr., commanding general, 1st TSC.

“With today’s complex environment, we need agile and adaptive logistics leaders. We need leaders broad enough to handle the challenges of full-spectrum operations in an era of persistent conflict and exchanges like this TLE keep our, and our allies, logisticians sharp, ready, and prepared for anything that lies ahead,” said Hurley.

The 1st TSC provides mission command and operational-level sustainment support to Army, joint, interagency, and multinational forces. It sets the theater, and conducts theater security cooperation. The 1st TSC is postured to meet all U.S. Army Central sustainment missions, across the full range of military operations throughout the CENTCOM AOR. ■

Above: In an effort to increase a shared understanding of theater level logistics throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Kuwaiti armed forces and 1st Sustainment Command logistics leadership met at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 19, 2016.

Story and Photo by Sgt. Angela Lorden

The U.S. Army is widely recognized for its land dominance; for selective teams of Soldiers, however, the terrain they dominate is the vastly mysterious and volatile world under the sea.

U.S. Army engineer divers with the 511th Engineer Dive Detachment, 30th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, plunged into the swift currents of the Arabian Gulf for a two-week diving exercise that concluded Nov. 19, 2016.

The unit from Fort Eustis, Virginia, executed various diving techniques and certified diving supervisors in emergency protocol throughout the exercise, Operation Deep Blue, enhancing the team's overall readiness and ability to support U.S. Army Central missions.

"Although we are a small detachment, our impacts are profound on the strategic level," said 1st Lt. Grant Rice, the executive officer of the unit and native of Dover, Massachusetts "This training demonstrates the validity of our capability."

Rice was responsible for the logistical and safety planning of Deep Blue.

"Diving is considered by the military to be a high-risk activity," he said. "By conducting training events like this, we actually reduce risk by becoming proficient."

The team mitigated risk for future operations by reacting to simulated, emergency scenarios throughout the exercise. The scenarios included unconscious divers, underwater injuries and decompression sickness, commonly known as the bends. Soldiers had to assess and react to each situation accordingly.

"Nobody wants to lose a brother or a sister, especially not with something that could have been avoided," said 1st Sgt. Tyler Dodd, the master diver of the team. "My philosophy is if my Soldiers have seen the scenarios play out, they're going to be more prepared to handle it in real time."

Master diver is the highest level of diving proficiency an enlisted Soldier can attain. As a master diver, Dodd is able to certify divers within his unit to conduct various diving operations without his supervision. Operation Deep Blue's mission included the certification of his diving supervisors.

"For me to be able to rely on my (Soldiers) to take out missions when I'm not there is a force multiplier," Dodd said.

The exercise also included operating the team's

recompression chamber. The chamber, worth approximately \$1 million, simulates various ocean depths with air. As the theater's diving-emergency response team, the 511th Engineer Dive Detachment uses the chamber to treat military personnel and civilians suffering from decompression illnesses.

One of Rice's Soldiers treated a Kuwaiti diver during his last deployment here with a recompression chamber. "With his training from exercises like Operation Deep Blue, he was able to respond to the incident, treat the Kuwaiti diver and prevent a potentially fatal injury," Rice said.

While USARCENT dive teams train and conduct missions near Kuwait Naval Base several times a year, divers can be tasked out anywhere in the area of operations. Soldiers from the dive team frequently support missions in countries like Jordan, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Some missions require dive units to travel country to country as force-protection assets for vessels transporting military cargo.

Large shipments of military cargo can be considered high-profile targets for terrorists, Rice said. Divers assure the mobility of the vessels as they travel to different countries in several ways, such as searching for underwater explosives and other obstructions that may prevent cargo delivery.

Divers honed their force protection skills by practicing various underwater tasks. The training included cutting wood with a chain saw, slicing other material with an underwater torch and lifting and moving various objects from the bottom of the sea.

"It's an exhausting job," said Sgt. Christian Webber, an engineer diver with the unit.

As the divers performed their tasks underwater, the Soldiers on the vessel maintained the diver's life-support equipment. Trust between Soldiers is as vital as the diving-umbilical cables that supply the oxygen to the divers below.

"We have to rely on each other," Webber said. "We go through a lot together."

While the dive team relies on each other, USARCENT relies on the unique capabilities of U.S. Army divers to accomplish necessary missions.

"Our divers need to be able to operate in the most austere environments in the world," Dodd said. "It's important to do training like this." ■

Deployed Army divers plunge into Operation Deep Blue



Background photo: A U.S. Army engineer diver with the 511th Engineer Dive Detachment from Fort Eustis, Va., waits for the approval to dive underneath the surface of the Arabian Gulf, off the coast of Kuwait Naval Base, to conduct underwater-diving tasks Nov. 8, 2016. The two-week training exercise, Operation Deep Blue, required Army divers to practice diving tasks such as cutting material underwater with a chain saw and a torch.

Unconventional training for partner nations

Story and Photo by Sgt. Aaron Ellerman

Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and United Arab Emirates land forces joined together to conduct mounted training operations during a two-week exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in September 2016.

Soldiers on both sides got an opportunity to have realistic force-on-force training working with different nation's equipment and vehicles.

"I like working with different countries and being able to see their capabilities and how their different equipment functions," said Sgt. Bryan Miller, cavalry scout with the 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment.

According to Miller the exercise proved to be a great training event encompassing day and night operations that presented unique challenges and opportunities for both nations.

"This training is far from routine, and I've had the chance to do something different every day," said Miller.

Miller explained that working with other nations in this type of exercise makes the event more realistic, which benefits his skillset.

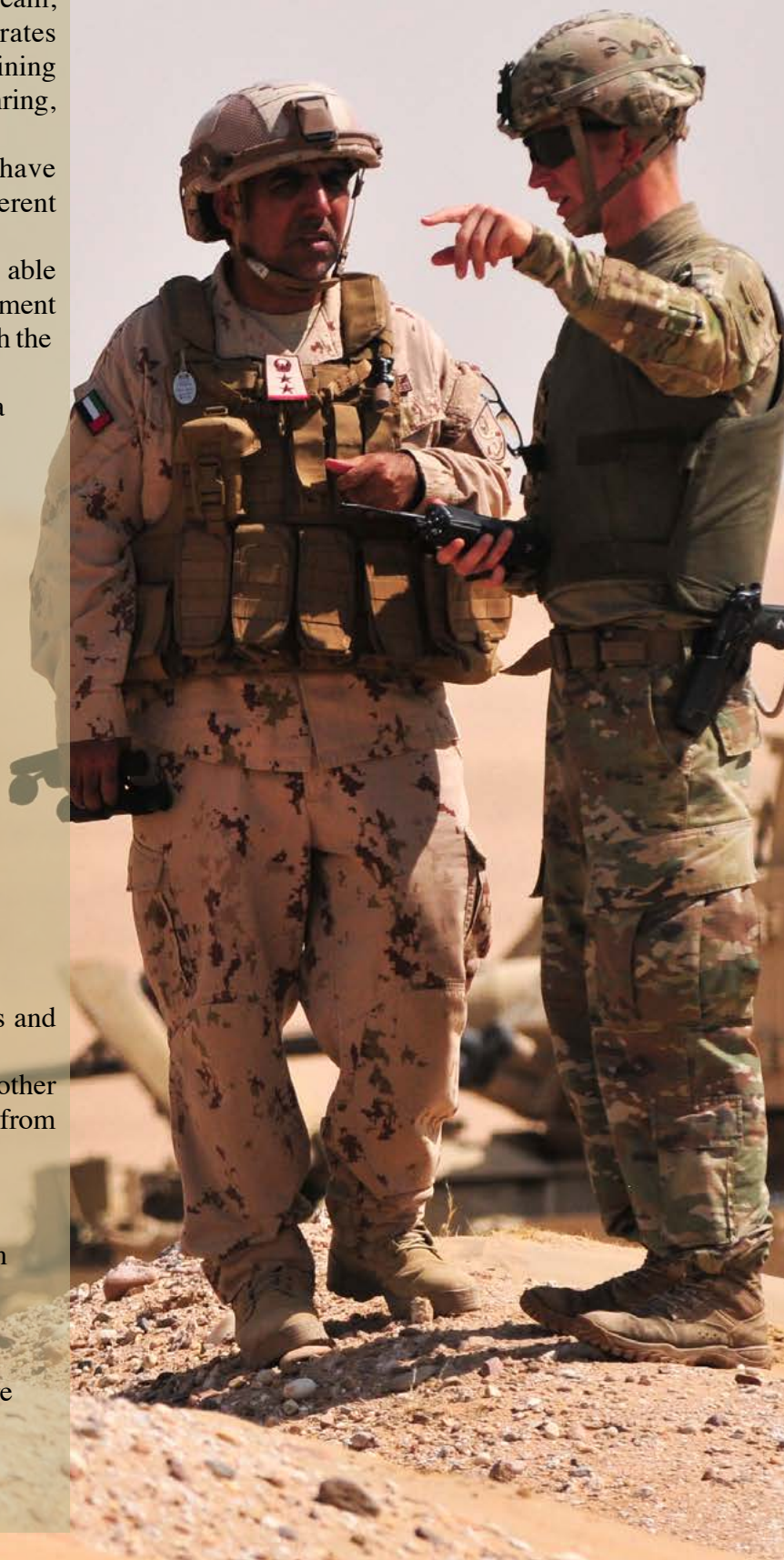
"Their vehicles are different than ours and I can actually identify the type and determine who is friendly or hostile making it more realistic than when we train with just our own vehicles and it's difficult to tell who is who," said Miller.

The 3rd ABCT and other units within U.S. Army Central continuously conduct joint exercises like this throughout USARCENT's 20-country area of operations to improve readiness and increase interoperability with partnered nations.

"Right now is the opportunity to get to know each other through training together and build on what we learn from this event to make future exercises tougher and more realistic," said Maj. Gen. Saleh M. Al Ameri, UAE land forces commander.

Ameri, previously a task force commander in Afghanistan, conveyed his desire for future engagements while watching his troops operate during a portion of the exercise.

"I feel this experience was successful. This year there have been a lot of meetings, and we agree that we are going to build interoperability between us before any future operations arise." ■



Arifjan reflects on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Jonathan Fernandez

Service members celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 12, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, with an observance for a national day of service.

The theme for the event, 'A Day On, Not A Day Off,' is used to empower individuals to "strengthen their communities and create solutions to social problems."

The observance included the singing of the national anthem, a poem recital, an a cappella quartet and key note speakers.

The speakers highlighted three points as the center for the observance: remember, celebrate and act.

"We look at the remembrance and then we take a pause," said Lt. Col. Martin Kendrick, the Area Support Group-Kuwait command chaplain. "We continue in those changes."

Kendrick also reiterated the need to remember the past,

the sacrifices that were made and maintain the successes of Dr. King and the civil rights movement in order to avoid repeating those negative actions in the future.

Maj. Keva Brown, the narrator for the event and a medical logistics officer for U.S. Army Central, said as service members remember, they also celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King.

"Let us learn to truly walk together not just in defense of the constitution of the United States but because of it," Brown said.

At the conclusion of the event, Kendrick encouraged those present not only to remember and celebrate, but to act.

"The selfless service concept is not to think of ourselves, but thinking about others. How can we uplift and support those that may be in need, those that have the willingness but not the means," stated Kendrick. "We continue to work and to provide for efforts that sometimes may not have the support or the means to make things happen." ■

US-Jordan troops shine together brightly



Story and Photos by Sgt. Angela Lorden

Roughly 180 U.S. Army Central and Jordan armed forces – Arab Army Soldiers came together to participate in Exercise Eager Light 2017, a command post exercise that enhanced military cooperation and interoperability Jan. 28 to Feb. 2, at the Joint Training Center in Jordan.

The USARCENT-led and Jordan-hosted exercise combined Soldiers from U.S. Army 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and the Jordanian King Hussein Bin Ali Brigade together to function as a single military element. The combined force coordinated and conducted simulated, urban-warfare operations.

“This year we’re concentrating on urban operations, border reinforcement and border control,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Derrick Mixon, the USARCENT deputy exercise director of Eager Light. “We’re looking at the region and what the Jordanians might possibly face in the future.”

Conceived in 1998, Eager Light aims to improve each forces’ capacity to plan and operate within their respective armies, as well as improve the forces’ ability to work together. Soldiers accomplish both goals by utilizing electronic systems to simulate a virtual battlefield and respond, together, to different scenarios.

“It’s not a scripted event,” said U.S. Army Col. Robert E. Lee Magee, commander of 3rd ABCT, 1st AD. “We work our systems and procedures, how we make decisions, how we gather intelligence and how we put that together in an operational construct on the battlefield.”

Magee said bilateral exercises like Eager Light make his Soldiers better.

“Because we continue to work with different countries with different techniques, it builds a better depth inside of my team and how we conduct coalition operations in support of USARCENT,” he said. “It also shows how well the entire staff can think as a theater army in support of the entire U.S. Central Command area of responsibility”

15 Desert Voice

THE ORDER BRIEF

The brigade’s order brief was delivered before the exercise officially began. The brief summarized the commander’s intent and the concept of operations for Eager Light.

For the first time in this exercise’s history, the Jordanians modeled their delivery of the brigade order’s brief after a U.S. Army template.

“Usually, a brigade commander issued every aspect of the order,” Magee said. “In this exercise, they did something that would be very familiar to U.S. forces: subject matter experts briefed their piece of the order.”

The main benefit of this style is the thoroughness of the brief, Magee said.

Each subject matter expert briefed their portion of the order, using a large sand table as a visual guide. The sand table included tanks and army men, frozen in time, and strategically placed on the intricate battlespace. Tiny helicopters, strung on wire, hovered over miniature cities. Signs written in Arabic designated each fictitious location.

“The Jordanians are very willing to learn and share ideas,” Magee said. “There’s no preconceived notions on how the exercise is supposed to go.”

A VISIT FROM THE TOP

A few days into the exercise, Lt. Gen. Michael Garrett, USARCENT commander, checked in with the troops Jan. 29, and observed the major working parts of Eager Light.

“This is one of Garrett’s priorities,” Magee said. “These sort of exercises builds capacity and capability within our partners and allies here and allows us to assist in regional security and stability.”

Garrett visited the different sections of Eager Light, listened to briefings delivered by the exercise’s participants and asked several questions about the exercise’s progress.

Mixon, one of the key coordinators of Eager Light, said he appreciated Garrett’s visit.

“It means there’s visibility at the highest levels of USARCENT of what’s actually going on at the ground and where we’re moving forward in these exercises,” he said.



To the left: A tiny plastic helicopter hangs above a sand table of mocked battle positions while Soldiers from the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army and U.S. Army Central Soldiers rehearse their delivery of the brigade’s order brief for Exercise Eager Light 2017, Jan. 24, 2017, at the Joint Training Center in Jordan. *Above:* A U.S. Army officer from the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion in Fort Gordon, Ga., discusses hypothetical combat scenarios with his counterpart, right, an officer with the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army, during the planning portion of the annual exercise, Eager Light 2017, at the Joint Training Center in Jordan.

JORDANIAN HOSPITALITY

Toward the end of the exercise, U.S. and JAF Soldiers filtered into a room of a dozen tables. On each table was Mansaf: a single, large tray of grains, beans, lamb and spices. The Jordanians were accustomed to this meal, as it is their country’s national dish, often reserved for special occasions.

For the U.S. personnel, however, a few key elements familiar to American culture were missing: chairs, individual plates and silverware.

“We don’t generally eat rice with our hands,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Yvette Lane-Rose, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense officer with USARCENT. “It’s not something you see back in the states. But, as the saying goes, ‘If you’re in Jordan, do as the Jordanians do.’”

The U.S. Soldiers weren’t without teachers. Jordanian soldiers demonstrated various techniques for scooping rice with their fingers to their counterparts.

“Seeing everyone’s hands going into the same plate was a unique experience,” Lane-Rose said with a smile. “But, the meal, in many ways, bridged a gap between the two armies. We came out here for an exercise and to

interact on a professional level. The opportunity to share a meal put all ranks aside. Everyone got the chance to relax and enjoy the meal and the comradery.”

Lane-Rose said she was grateful for the newly formed friendships she developed at Eager Light and the bonds that were strengthen during the exercise.

The family-style luncheon was one of the several ways the Jordanians showed their hospitality and shared their culture with U.S. troops during Eager Light.

“Understanding an ally in this region of the world is very important,” Mixon said. “By knowing their culture, you understand how they operate. It builds a relationship and trust that can only be an asset in future operations.”

While the closing ceremony marked the end of the exercise, it was evident from the dancing, laughter, and exchanges of patches and small tokens between the two armies at the exercise’s conclusion that the relationships formed would not end.

“This exercise illustrates the deep relationship between the Jordan army and USCENCOM,” said Brig. Gen. Khaled Alshraa, the JAF joint training director. “I hope that we’re going to continue this distinguished relationship and this exercise in the future.” ■

What you need to know about the Windows 10 roll out

Story and Graphic by Col. Matt Easley

The U.S. Army Central G-6 and the rest of the signal community in the USARCENT area of operations will be upgrading the operating system of more than 30,000 laptops and workstations from Windows 7 to Windows 10.

This is part of a worldwide initiative driven by the Department of Defense and being executed via the U.S. Army's Network Enterprise Technology Command.

More than one million machines will be upgraded Army-wide. The goal is to upgrade nearly all of the computers on the network by the end of October.

This transition applies to all USARCENT computers in both the continental U.S. and outside continental U.S. locations. The upgrade is for all non-classified and secret internet protocol router network machines. It does not include systems outside of the control of the Department of the Army Information Network Army, such as battlefield information collection and exploitation systems or Central Command partner network.

Windows 10 provides improvements to the user interface and enhanced security features with most of the changes being under-the-

hood security improvements. The user interface is very similar to Windows 7, so most users should be able to transition with little formal training required. A new multiple desktops feature allows users to run multiple sets of windows on a virtual monitor—as if the user had a second or third physical monitor. So instead of having multiple window applications open on a single desk top, users can have multiple virtual desktops, e.g., one for writing correspondence in Outlook or Word and another for building presentations in PowerPoint or Adobe Acrobat.

The information management officers within a user's

S-6 or G-6 section will install the new operating system for most laptops and work stations, which typically takes a few hours. Before the installation, users will need to backup any of their local data onto a shared or network drive.

Local information management officers will give specific instructions on how and when to do this. Any new machine purchased or being introduced into the network will have Windows 10 already installed.

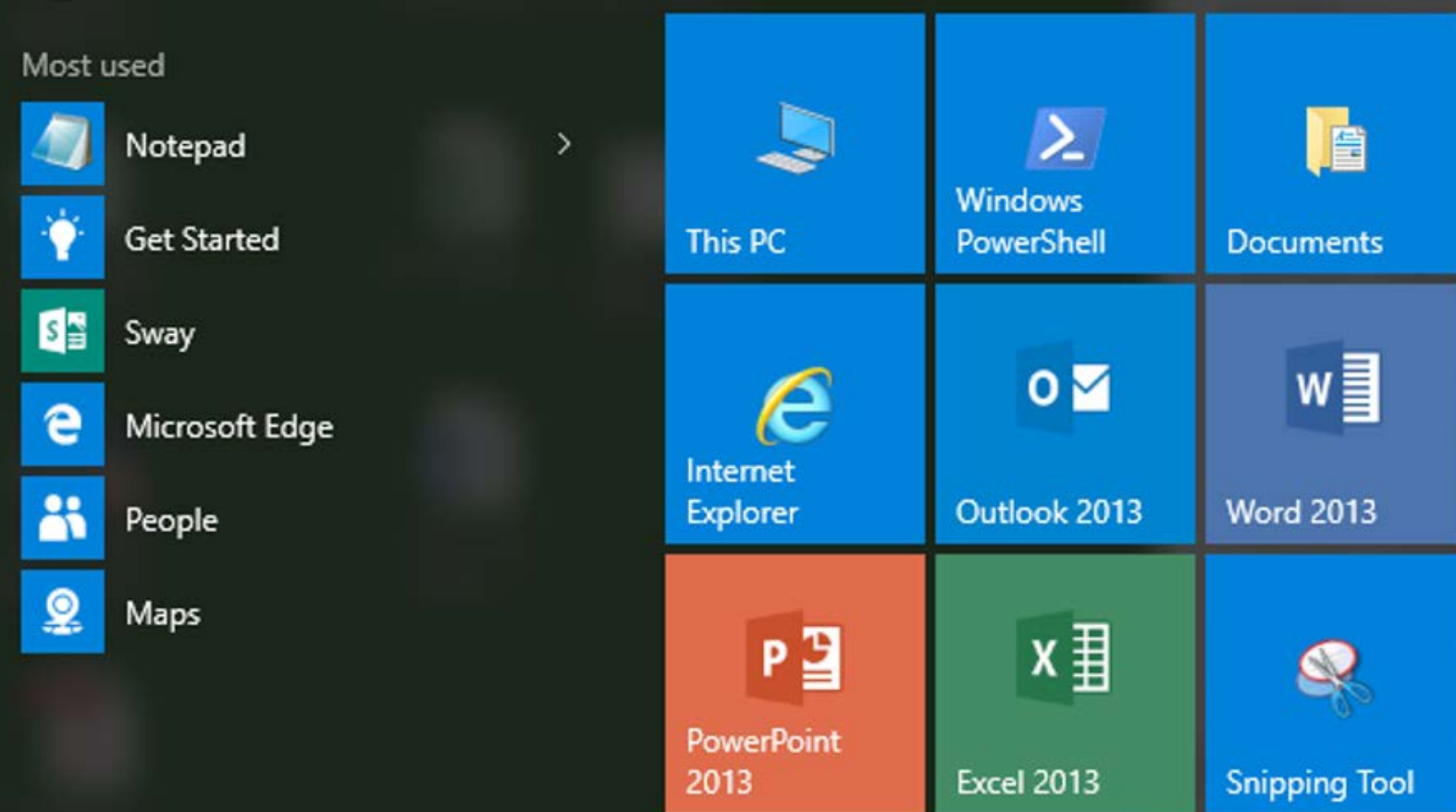
Software applications running will be largely the same as under Windows 7; Office 2013 will remain on the new systems, featuring the same versions of Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

The Army will not be using the new internet browser called Microsoft Edge that comes preinstalled on Windows 10 but instead will continue to use Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Windows 10 has multiple security features that make it significantly less vulnerable than the Windows 7 operating system. For example, it has an AppContainer, which creates an isolated sand box within the processor for executing programs. This sand box restricts the range of operations an application can do within the sandbox, which reduces the ability of malware to

affect other processes running on the system. Windows 10 also reduces the chances of malware attacks by requiring key applications to have an associated Microsoft digital certificate. The system can automatically reject execution of software applications if it does not present the correct certificate.

Users should look forward to using an easy to navigate user interface as well as being confident that their system will be significantly more secure when they have upgraded to Windows 10. General Staff level offices will manage the upgrade of individual computers based upon mission requirements. ■



Above: Larry Nation, a Blackberry administrator and contractor for 160th Signal Battalion, USANEC-Kuwait, installs and updates three non-classified internet protocol router network computers in the General Staff level office for Signal and Communication at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 8, 2017. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Bethany Huff)

A different take on familiar training

Story and Photo by Sgt. Aaron Ellerman

Background photo: A Soldier with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, participates in Squad Overmatch, a new program designed to condense and enhance several existing Army training programs, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 13-15, 2016. The course was inspired by information gathered from analysis of current programs throughout the Department of Defense and other agencies, including advice from industry subject matter experts.

The sound of footsteps echoes throughout the room as the Soldiers pace quickens and the noise grows. Loud shouting, gunfire and radio chatter fill the air accompanied by an odd clamor of clicks. The Soldier spots an enemy across the courtyard and alerts his comrades over his radio then engages. Suddenly he is down. Blood covers the screen as it fades to black. Now his only glimpse of the fight comes from watching his teammates screen as the team completes the virtual mission.

About 20 Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, participated in Squad Overmatch, a new program designed to condense and enhance several existing Army training programs, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 13-15, 2016.

This training is about taking the best of existing programs and condensing them into a package of information that tailors to the essentials a Soldier needs to win, survive and thrive in current and future combat environments,” said Rob Wolf, strategic requirements integrator with U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

The course was inspired by information gathered from analysis of current programs throughout the Department of Defense and other agencies, including advice from industry subject matter experts. Squad Overmatch focuses in detail on improving situational awareness, psychological resilience, teamwork, tactical casualty combat care and human performance enhancement. Has been in development since 2013 and is constantly updated with the latest data from across a broad spectrum of operations.

Soldiers train in three phases during the program; classroom instruction, virtual practice and live application, each building upon the skills learned and implemented in the previous phase.

“The streamlined process of the class allows Soldiers to develop through phases building on what they’ve learned and teaching them how to identify and deal with the ever changing environment on the battle field,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Boone, team development program instructor for the class and M1 armor crewman with 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment.

The program emphasizes the importance of the train-the-trainer principle, whereupon Soldiers gain the knowledge and then teach other Soldiers.

“The unit level training with this program is very beneficial because a lot of time, when you send a Soldier away to a training class, they don’t receive the information well due to the lack of understanding between them and the instructor. Having this taught in the unit with Soldiers who know each other and how one another operate allows them to absorb the material faster and retain it,” Boone said.

In the first phase the participants learned about the importance of the courses core principles while getting to know each other through discussion. They also established roles and operational plans and received a refresher course in basic combat casualty care.

During the virtual portion of the training, each Soldier monitored and controlled a digital avatar through

numerous virtual scenarios. They communicated through headsets while moving as a team to accomplish several objectives. In an adjacent room fellow Soldiers acted as an opposing force directing their avatars to interfere with ongoing operations while simultaneously shooting and disrupting communication and inducing stress into the quiet computer room.

In the group, there was a variety of different skill sets from medics to tankers that came from numerous units so few were familiar with one another forcing the team to adapt efficient communication in a short period of time.

“The skill sets taught in the program apply to every Soldier, from infantry to logistics, it’s important for all to develop mental models and behaviors that are going to help save their lives,” said Wolf.

For the final phase of the training, the small contingent of troops geared up to patrol a small mock village. Three different scenarios were played out in which the teams reacted to civilian and team member casualties, sniper fire, a hostage scenario, improvised explosive devices, and suicide attackers.

“Advanced situational awareness is a key part of this training, because if a Soldier knows how to read a population through physical patterns they can identify dangerous anomalies and avoid negative situations before they happen,” said Boone.

According to Wolf, the program currently is in the final stages of being fielded and a train the trainer curriculum package is expected to be available for implementation by the end of this year. ■

“The skill sets taught in the program apply to every Soldier, from infantry to logistics...”

*-Rob Wolf
U.S. Army Program
Executive Office for Simulation,
Training and Instrumentation*



Deployed Soldiers cleanup camp

Story and Photo by Sgt. Angela Lorden

Hundreds of deployed troops and U.S. civilians picked up trash littering Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and contributed to a cleaner work environment during an organized cleanup, Dec. 16, 2016.

Area Support Group – Kuwait hosted the cleanup, dubbed Operation Flying Debris by Command Sgt. Maj. Scott I. Anderson, the senior enlisted leader of the unit, with the intent of taking initiative and care of our surroundings here.

“The motive behind this was the new commanding officer and the CSM wanted people to have ownership of this base,” said Master Sgt. Marvin Curtis, a cleanup coordinator and the resiliency noncommissioned officer in charge with the 1st Sustainment Command. “We need to take pride and ownership of what we do on this post and throughout the Middle East.”

The cleanup also included more than 50 civilian volunteers from the Mormon Helping Hands organization. The organization provided troops and other volunteers with t-shirts as participation awards.

“We were blessed to have U.S. citizens come and help a U.S. military installation pick up,” Curtis said. “We got a lot of trash picked up. We set a good example and maybe

a pace for something we could do semi-annually. I think everyone here had a good time.”

Operation Flying Debris’ mission was not just about disposing of trash. Soldiers separated recyclable materials from the waste they found during the cleanup.

Curtis said recycling at Camp Arifjan not only helps the environment, but also helps pay for extracurricular activities for Soldiers such as Morale and Welfare Recreation events and tours in Kuwait City, which provide Soldiers an opportunity to increase their cultural awareness.

“It was fun to get many, many bags of trash up and recycled items out,” he said.

Volunteers joked, laughed and socialized with one another during the cleanup.

“A job like picking up trash is always better when you have your buddies also doing the task,” said 1st Lt. Will Keyes, a volunteer at the event with U.S. Army Central. “It can make a tedious chore actually fun.”

Keyes said he hopes his fellow Soldiers will continue to fulfill their responsibility to protect the environment by participating in future cleanups.

“This is where we live and work,” he said. “It’s important to respect the property and keep everything clean. It comes down to responsibility for what we do.” ■

Above: A U.S. Army Soldier picks up trash during an organized cleanup Dec. 16, 2017, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Hundreds of volunteers came together to participate in the cleanup and collected over 50 bags of trash and recyclable material.

Equipping the ‘total force’

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Dalton Smith



As the primary means of transporting weapons, ammunition, vehicles and more in to Iraq, the 1st Sustainment Command, Iraq Train and Equipment Funding team’s work is never ending.

“As ITEF, we’re the sole means of transporting the entire kit to the forces in Iraq,” said Col. Michael Plattenburg, director of ITEF with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

In 2015, Congress appropriated \$1.6 billion in ITEF appropriation to provide assistance to military and other security services associated with the government of Iraq, including Kurdish and tribal security forces with a national security mission.

The coalition has provided more than eight million pounds of ammunition and equipment to Iraqi Kurdish forces through more than 100 airlift missions and in coordination with the Iraqi government. This includes

small arms, machine guns, mortars, radios and vehicles donated from more than a dozen countries. Many of the U.S. contributions were purchased using ITEF allocations.

“Uniforms, vests, boots, you name it we have it,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Amber Price, ITEF warehouse supervisor. “We receive, package and issue all items from the ITEF warehouse once the 1st TSC sends us a request.”

The U.S. military has also trained more than 2,000 Iraqi Kurdish forces and currently several hundred more through ITEF. Units trained under this program will receive the same weapons systems, vehicles and equipment as the Iraq army forces.

“ITEF’s primary is to outfit the Iraqi forces and to make sure they have the appropriate equipment and arms to combat Da’esh,” said Plattenburg. ■

Above: Brig. Gen. Robert D. Harter, commanding general of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), (left), explains the process of how equipment is moved throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to the U.S. Army Reserve Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, (right), during a tour of the Iraq Train and Equipment Fund warehouse at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 4, 2017.



< Maj. Gen. Blake Ortner, commanding general of Task Force Spartan, right, shares a laugh with Col. Jabar Al-boti of the Kuwaiti Air Defense during Patriot Day activities at the Kuwaiti Air Defense Force Headquarters, Dec. 28, 2016. The friendly competition between the Kuwaitis and the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade included events, such as setting up a MM-104 Patriot weapons system, a soccer game, and tug-of-war. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Kelly Gary, 29th Infantry Division)

> A Jordanian soldier takes notes during the rehearsal of the brigade's order brief for Exercise Eager Light, Jan. 24, 2017, at the Joint Training Center in Jordan. While the bilateral exercise, Eager Light, has been conducted annually since 1998, this was the first year the Jordan Armed Forces delivered the exercise's orders brief in the same style as their U.S. counterparts. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Angela Lorden, 204th Public Affairs Detachment)



> Staff Sgt. Eugenia Howard, safety noncommissioned officer of the 59th Engineer Brigade, walks through the "Alliance Norfolk" vessel during the 2017 Worldwide Ammunition Logistics and Explosives Safety Review in Shuaiba Port, Kuwait, Feb. 10, 2017. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Dalton Smith, 1st Theater Sustainment Command)



<<On the back Cover

Soldiers with the 511th Engineer Dive Detachment from Fort Eustis, Va., maintain the umbilical cables that supply oxygen to the divers underneath the surface of the Arabian Gulf, off the coast of Kuwait Naval Base, while they conduct diver training, Nov. 18, 2016. The unit executed various diving techniques and certified diving supervisors in emergency protocol throughout the exercise, Operation Deep Blue, enhancing the team's overall readiness and ability to support the U.S. Army Central mission. (U.S. Army Photo by Angela Lorden)



< Inspectors general from the 1st Theater Sustainment Command-Operational Command Post and petroleum specialists from Task Force Phoenix walk the fuel lines at a forward operation base in central Iraq to inspect the operations, recently. The 1st TSC is responsible for overseeing fuel logistics in multiple countries throughout Southwest Asia. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Brandon Hubbard, 204th Public Affairs Detachment)

> Junior officers stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, toured the Al Qurain Martyrs' museum and the Kuwaiti Towers, Jan. 20, 2017, as part of the junior officer's leadership professional development at U.S. Army Central. The U.S. Army officers learned about the historic significance of the site, the role that U.S. played and the importance of the Kuwaiti people's perseverance. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Fernandez, 204th Public Affairs Detachment)

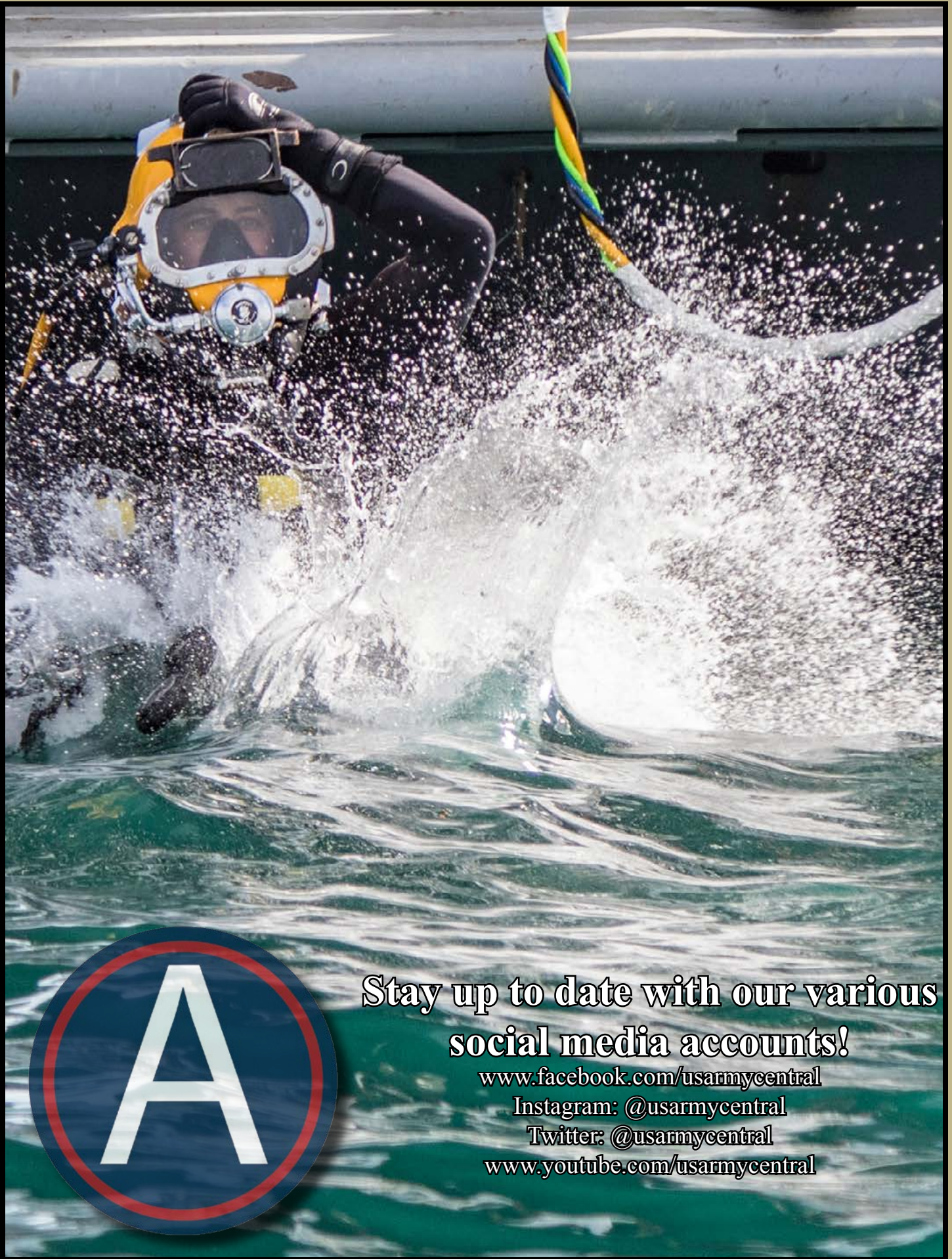


For these stories and more check out the respective DVIDS pages at

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USARCENT>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/29ID>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/316ESC>



Stay up to date with our various
social media accounts!

www.facebook.com/usarmycentral

Instagram: [@usarmycentral](https://www.instagram.com/usarmycentral)

Twitter: [@usarmycentral](https://twitter.com/usarmycentral)

www.youtube.com/usarmycentral