AMC Outpost

402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Iraq

April 2010 | Readiness Power, Forward | AMC Outpost

402nd AFSB Mission

402nd AFSB provides the single face to the field for AMC sustainment logistics forming a Materiel Enterprise in Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar that integrates acquisition, logistics, and technology to protect, equip, and sustain joint/coalition forces supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

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HMMWVs in a Can

By LTC Gaylon L. Kravig, 2nd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

The 2nd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade (2/401st AFSB), commanded by LTC Michael T. Wright, has well over 2,000 M1114 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) in its footprint on Camp Arifjan. Until recently, most of these HMMWVs had an uncertain future due to subsequent upgrades to the HMMWV family of vehicles and the introduction of more hardened vehicles such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle. "HMMWVs in a Can" is just a humorous way of describing a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program that presents the Battalion with the opportunity to put the M1114s back into productive use and to recoup the Army's initial investment in the vehicles.

Currently, a total of over 1,500 HMMWVs have been identified for sale, the bulk of them to the Afghan National Police and the remainder to the Afghan National Army. To prepare the vehicles for sale, the Battalion first puts them through a Theater Provided Equipment Refurbishment (TPER) and Battalion maintenance program to ensure the vehicles meet 10/20 standards, that is, operator and organizational-level maintenance. Second, the Battalion prepares the vehicles for shipping. That is where the "can" comes in. Each HMMWV is stripped of its doors and Objective Gunner Protection Kit (OGPK). Then each HMMWV is carefully backed into a twenty-foot metal container, commonly known as a MILVAN. It is such a tight squeeze that there are only about two inches of room to spare on either side of the Humvee, and the driver has to wiggle through the gunner's hatch to get out. Lastly, the vehicle is blocked and braced, tagged and labeled, and transported to the Sea Port of Embarkation. Doors and OGPK are packed in separate containers. The ratio of vehicle containers to components is 6:1.

So far, the Battalion has completed maintenance on 72 percent of the vehicles, and the first shipment has arrived at the Sea Port of Debarkation. A preliminary estimate of the cost to process the HMMWVs indicates that the first "push" of 78 vehicles cost a little over $200,000. That cost includes maintenance labor and parts, Basic Issue Items, packing materials, and shipping labor. The low cost per vehicle was around $1,500, and the high was over $5,000. Most HMMWVs cost between $2,000 and $3,000 to process.

Once complete, the benefits of the M1114 FMS project will be threefold: first, and most importantly, the Afghan National Army and Police will receive a fleet of HMMWVs which will greatly facilitate the Afghan security mission for many years to come. Second, the Battalion will free up much-needed space on Camp Arifjan in advance of the Responsible Drawdown. And third, the Army will recoup some of its cost to purchase and maintain the HMMWVs.

Above: M1114 HMMWVs inside of shipping containers
Below: An M1114 and all of the equipment stored in the container with it.

Power 6 Perspective

Aloha to all those supporting the Power Team. We have had a host of big plays and touchdowns this month in our support to the Responsible Drawdown of Iraq. We welcomed a new team of 84 Red River and Tobyhanna Army Depot mechanics and technicians this month. They arrived two weeks before almost two hundred truck-loads of equipment arrived for them to maintain. We also entertained the Army Materiel Commander – General Ann Dunwoody and her CSM. We had the opportunity to visit with the AMC team, US Forces leadership and of course, recognize some spectacular Soldier, Civilians and Contractors in Baghdad, the Green Zone, Taji and Joint Base Balad. Both of these complex operations tested the mettle of the staff – but as stated – the team did great!

Our focus this month which begins with Jelly beans and chocolate rabbits will quickly transition to the staff pouring over the reams of paper containing quantities of equipment and the dates and units that are leaving Iraq. We then must plan how we will move all that equipment out of Iraq while retaining accountability, visibility and maintaining the velocity we've exhibited this year. General Dunwoody stated that this is PhD level logistics – and I believe that our team is up to the task.

April will also bring in a host of new folks to the Power Team. We will welcome a new Brigade S1, 13th ESC LSE Cdr and also a new Power 6 – my replacement – COL Larry Fuller. We are entering the Fourth Quarter of this mission with a strong experienced team ready to flex into the biggest retrograde (conducted responsibly) in the history of our Army. All I can say is: "Go Power Team!"

GEN Ann Dunwoody speaking to soldiers of the 402nd AFSB During her visit to Joint Base Balad

Leadership from the 402nd AFSB with cast members of "Sons of Anarchy" during a visit to the 1/402nd AFSB Small Arms Support Center at Joint Base Balad. (From left rear to front right) LTC Paul Fiscus, Commander, 1/404nd AFSB; SGM James Case, 1/402nd AFSB Command Sergeant Major; COL Brian Haebig; Mr. Robert Porter; Kim

200th Stryker Battle Damage Repair

By Mr. Rick Hunt, Battle Damage Repair Facility, Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar

February 2010 was an interesting month for the men and women assigned to the General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) Battle Damage Repair Facility (BDRF) in Qatar. Not only was February the fifth anniversary of the first battle damaged Stryker arriving at a hastily thrown together facility but, they rolled their 200th vehicle through Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) acceptance for, the second time.

Last year on March 11th, the 200th BDRF repaired Stryker, combining battle damage and, Reset vehicles, was accepted by the DCMA and, given back to the soldiers. This year, a mere 3 weeks separating the two events, the 200th battle damaged Stryker was accepted by DCMA with, zero deficiencies. This represents nearly two thirds of a Stryker Brigade repaired at this site and returned to the battle field. Of these 200, fifteen Strykers had been through the repair and rebuild process twice and one came through a full three times demonstrating that, not only can the GDLS BDRF- Qatar step up to any challenge but also that the Stryker is a remarkable vehicle that just keeps coming back.

During the five years the doors of the GDLS BDRF have been opened, it has grown from repairing one vehicle in approximately 200 days to its current standard of 6 Strykers within a 60 day time frame. Additional missions have been given to the personnel of the BDRF including differential run-up capabilities, limited FUPP repair, a battery recharge station and soon, upon receipt, the site will pick up the wheel/tire repair, Vetronics and Remote Weapon System repair mission from the Forward Repair Activity in Iraq. Due to increased warehousing needs, the BDRF recently assumed control of a full warehouse with two half Sprung shelters next door to the Production Facility and, is working with the Air Force to move the RTF-Q directly onto the airbase. This multi-national facility (nine nations represented) is the only GDLS site to have performed simultaneous BDR, RESET and Retrofit missions with no increase in permanent personnel.

There is a phenomenal amount of pride associated with being a member of this team. The work is tough, the hours long and there is a solemn sense of purpose, especially upon receipt of battle damaged vehicles. This sense of mission has given this site the highest retention rate known (45 contract extensions to date), with several personnel having extended multiple times. The obvious pride, quality, and reputation of the GDLS BDRF has drawn over 350 visitors that have toured this site in the past 18 months alone, from Lieutenant Generals to visiting USO/MWR celebrities.

2/402nd AFSB S4 Spotlight

By Ms. Demetria Booker, 2nd Battalion, 402 Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

As the 2/402 AFSB prepares for the drawdown of troops from Iraq, the S4 staff section is busy preparing to ensure that the Redistribution Property Assistance (RPAT) yards have the necessary supplies to accomplish their important mission.

Currently, there are twelve Theater Property Book Teams and eight RPAT yards located throughout eleven forward operating bases in Iraq. The S4 staff section is the source of all office, packaging, and shipping supplies that allow the RPAT yards to perform their mission. Within the next month, there will be over one thousand pallets and containers shipped to these locations. These supplies will be utilized by the RPAT yards to ship theater provided equipment to Kuwait, Afghanistan, or back to the source of repair in the United States.

The S4 staff section has a well developed system to get the necessary supplies to the RPAT yards. The S4 receives a daily situation report from the RPAT yards that identifies what supplies are needed. Ms. Kiaira Davis and Mr. Vandean Prescod then order and pick up the supplies from the Supply Support Activity (SSA) on Joint Base Balad. After Ms. Davis and Mr. Prescod sort the supplies by the destination FOB, they get them packed and prepared for shipment from the JBB JDC yard to their final destination.

The primary focus for the S4 staff section right now is to ensure that the RPAT yards have the necessary supplies on-hand to meet the upcoming spike in activity. The four seasoned logisticians on the S4 staff are committed toward making this upcoming mission a success. As the logisticians for the 402nd AFSB logistics battalion, the S4 staff section is proud to be on the front lines in Iraq representing AMC!

Ms. Kiaira Davis and Mr. Vandean Prescod prepare a shipment for shipment to the various RPAT Yards.

Equipment is loaded onto a truck for shipment to the JDC Yard.

Combat Life Saver Course

By 1LT Benjamin Cruz Jr., 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

This month two personnel assigned to 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, 1LT Benjamin Cruz Jr. and Department of the Army Civilian, Mr. Paul Koski, took the Combat Life Saver (CLS) course at Joint Base Balad (JBB). The classroom was completely full of military and civilian personnel. The course was fast paced, consisting of three days of serious training in what should normally be five days. The fourth day consisted of a written exam to receive official certification and in the afternoon an optional "Heart Saver" (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/ Automated External Defibrillator (AED)) class.

On day one the personnel were briefed on the course requirements. That was followed by a morning full of PowerPoint presentations. The highlight of the first day was using the nasopharyngeal airway on our assigned partners. Our task was to insert the tube in our partner's right nostril and ensure it was in resting in their throat. The tube provides an open airway and helps keep the tongue from falling to the back of the mouth and blocking the airway. (Airway problems are the cause of 1% of deaths on the battlefield). Day two consisted of another morning full of PowerPoint presentations. After lunch we were able to practice the skills learned that day by properly initiating a saline lock and intravenous infusion into our partner's arm. Most were able to complete the task on their first attempt, while others were less fortunate and had to repeat the process. The exercise continued until everyone was a "go". The remainder of the afternoon was preparing for day three, the mass casualty exercise.

On day three we were able to put all of our newly learned skills into practice. Some class members were assigned as casualties, others were combat life savers. Everyone else were assistants to the combat life savers. There was a lot of make-up, props, fake blood, fake limbs, and screaming instructors. We ran through two sets of scenarios. The first one was fast and furious. All the planning and preparation was quickly replaced by mass chaos on the field. Time was always in short supply as the casualties had to be evacuated out of the danger area into a secure area where their wounds could be tended to more thoroughly. Not too long after that however, it was time to transport the casualties to the medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) site where they would be transported for further medical attention. Once the scenario was completed, there was a quick After Action Review (AAR), followed by the second scenario with new casualties and CLS personnel. The second run through was a lot smoother as everyone understood their roles much better. Day four provided a quick review of key points taught to us throughout the course, followed by the exam. In the afternoon many personnel came back for the Heart Savers class where we were taught how to properly provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation on adults and children. The course also taught how to correctly use the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and assist a person choking due to an object lodged in their airway. A test was given at the end of the class which certifies all passing personnel for two years.

The Combat Life Saver course and the optional Heart Savers class were very well managed and the instructors were top notch. If given the opportunity, I highly recommend everyone take them. Most of the skills taught can be used not only in a combat zone, but also back at home. The knowledge gained might one day be used to save a stranger, or a loved one.

1LT Benjamin Cruz Jr., during saline lock and intravenous infusion portion of the course.

Soldiers having the nasopharyngeal airway inserted into their nostrils.

Combat Life Saver students discussing events from the field exercise.

Safety Focus

Keeping you Plugged In

By Ms. Lisa Huston, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

The electricity in Iraq can be tricky. It's important to ensure that your equipment, on and off, duty operates correctly. For this to happen, you have to do your part. Make sure you are using the right power strips, converters and adapters. If you brought power strips with you, ensure they are certified for use in Iraq. All authorized electrical items will have CE embossed on them. You can pick up power strips and adapters FOR FREE at the Self Help Center. The Joint Base Balad Self Help Center is located on the North east Side of the base on Victory Loop just North of Sapper Street. If you are located at another location within Iraq, check with your S4 or Safety contact for the location of your Self Help Center.

There are different outlets available for all your electrical needs. Adapters can make it easier to hook up to all these different outlets. HOWEVER, AN ADAPTER IS ONLY AN ADAPTER, IT IS NOT A CONVERTER. If you have 110 volt items and want to use them you can, but you have to buy a converter to hook them up to electricity in Iraq. Converters come in many sizes. Ensure you buy the right size converter to handle your electrical requirements. And remember, if you are not sure Ask!

Remember:

•Adapters will not change 220 volt power to 110 volt power, to step down power use a "CE" marked transformer.
•Don't overload the outlets or daisy chain power strips [plugging them into each other].
•Use only the TF SAFE approved adapters. The pictures show the Task Force SAFE approved adapters which are available for free at Self Help.

In summary, make sure you have the right adapters, converters, voltage regulator and power strips for your equipment. If you don't know or aren't sure, **ask someone!** Be careful. Know for sure before you plug it in and turn it on.

Wearing Red on Friday Supports Deployed Service Members

By LTC Monica Robinson, LSE USD-N, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Camp Speicher, Iraq

The USD-N Digital Master Gunner (DMG), Suzette Owens, is at the top of the pyramid in terms of field support and has a special "connection" with the Troops, especially the Soldiers of TF MARNE. She not only helps resolve a multitude of network and digital system issues; but she also provides over-the-shoulder digital battle command system training.

Suzette is one of the twelve DMGs out of 125 Digital Systems Engineers (DSE) supporting PEO C3T and Team C4ISR. As a DMG , she is a board certified DSE, who has undergone extensive training and mentors the newer DSEs in the program. Each brigade combat team in TF MARNE has an embedded DSE. Any issues that the brigade-level DSE cannot resolve are given to the division-Level DSE—in the case of TF MARNE, these issues are passed to Suzette, TF Marne's only Digital Master Gunner.

Like all DSEs, she provides field support and has an expansive knowledge of all fielded Army Team C4ISR systems. She works side-by-side with the Soldier, and if any issues arise, she is on-site to advise and assist the unit with finding a resolution…With her wealth of experience and training; she brings a higher caliber of support to the Soldier and it is not just a network "connection."

Her connection is her unwavering support and dedication to the Troops…recapping of her interview/article in the USD-N North Star Volume 1, Issue 54 March 10, 2010…says it best:

If you are travelling throughout Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher everyone that knows Suzette or for those that recognizes her, knows when it's Friday without ever looking at a calendar. Fridays are very special because this is the day she wears red….Yes, red is her favorite color; however, this is not the reason she wears red on Fridays. In 2005, she received an e-mail that she considered nothing more than a chain letter. She does not normally read chain letters, but this one was forwarded by her boss, so she decided to read it.

She cannot remember the entire email but this is some of what she remembered, "For all of the men and women in the armed services still fighting on our behalf as well as those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, know that you have our continuing support, prayers and eternal gratitude. We shall lead with class and dignity by further demonstrating our solidarity by wearing something red every Friday until all of our Troops come home.

This e-mail was emotional and heartwarming to her… so much so that she continues to wear red on Fridays at home and while deployed. Please join her in showing your support for our Soldiers who still continue to fight for our nation by wearing something red on Friday now and every Friday until all our Soldiers return home. "Thanks for your support."

Digital Master Gunner (DMG), Suzette Owens wearing red to show her support for the troops.

Chaplain's Corner

Things not Seen

By CH (LTC) Paul Dirksmeyer, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

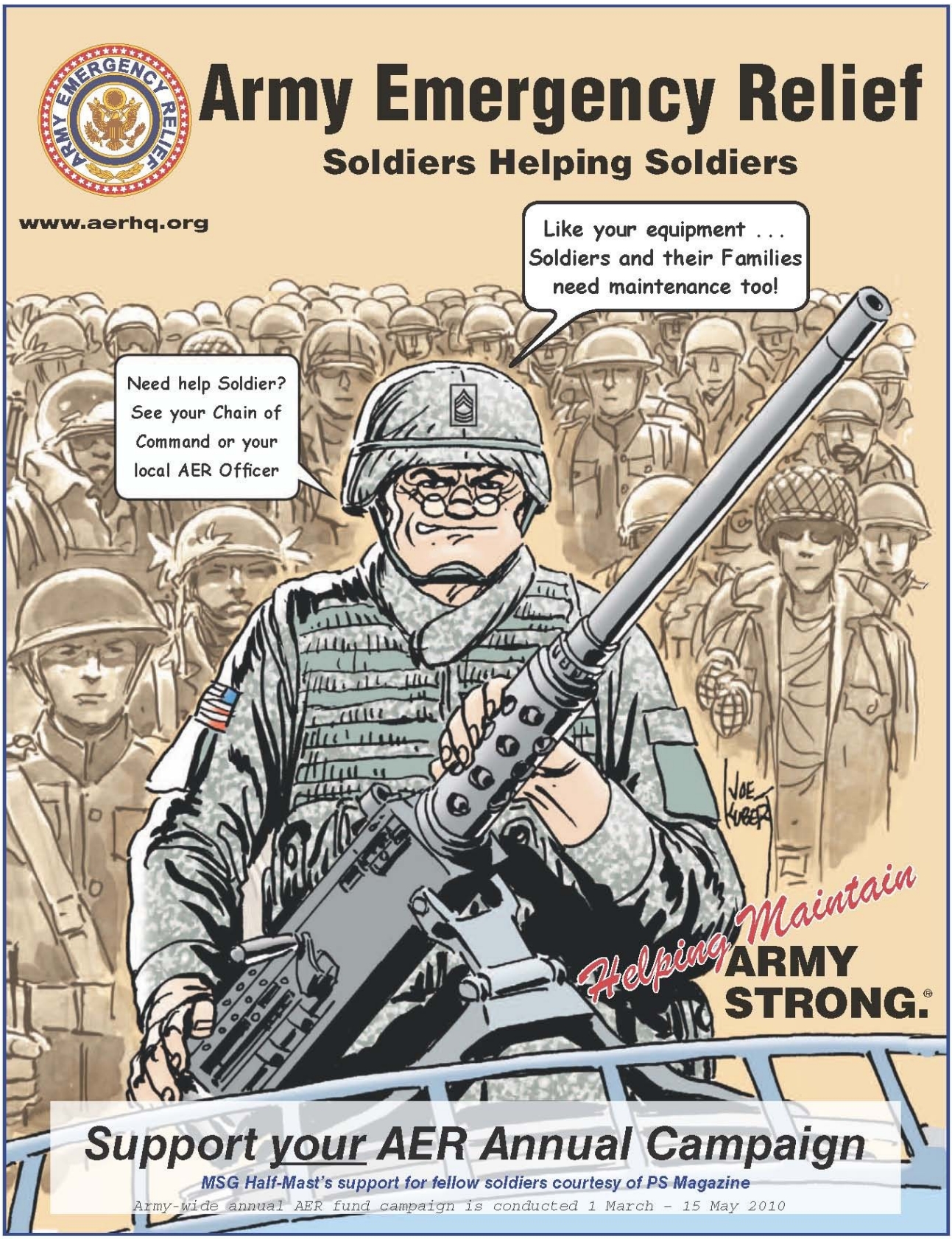
From around June until November 1988 several forest fires converged into a fiery maelstrom in Yellowstone National Park, destroying upwards of 1.2 million acres and bringing in some 25,000 firefighters to quell the blazes. It must have been a horrible and heartbreaking tragedy to witness such destruction. Following the fires, many naturalists believed Yellowstone would be irreparably damaged forever. What was once a beautifully forested paradise, they said, would be forever a charred wasteland. Yet despite these gloomy predictions, Yellowstone did in fact come back to life. "The year after the fires, and for a number of years afterwards, wildflowers were abundant in burned areas...The recovery from the fires began almost immediately, with plants such as fireweed appearing in a matter of days after a fire had passed....and the vast majority of plants regrew from existing sprouts which survived the heat and the fires."(Wikipedia, 'Yellowstone fires of 1988') In the midst of the aftermath of carnage and destruction, hope shot forth through the ashes. It was as if nature insisted on 'new life' as being the last word in a seemingly hopeless and lifeless situation. Quite a miracle.

As remarkable as this miracle was, it's one we experience and witness every year about this time. No, I'm not referring to the aftermath of a tragic forest fire, but rather nature's insistence on 'new life' shooting forth after the 'death' of winter. Living here in the desert we really can't fully appreciate the annual miracle of new life in the Spring as we could 'back home' in the U.S. Those of you from the north country enjoy a particularly poignant contrast between Winter and Spring. I have friends in Minnesota who talk about how exciting it is to see the first evidence of green coming up through the snow that had blanketed their world for months, knowing that the long hard winter has finally coming to an end. Those from Texas firmly believe their Spring wildflowers can rival any in the country. Regardless of where one is from in the U.S., each region has its own natural ritual in celebration of 'new life' at this time of year. The Spring season is a yearly reminder to us that we worship a God of life, of new life, of new hopes and new possibilities.

Two major religions celebrate their high holy days during this season: Easter for the Christians and Passover for the Jews. During Passover, the Jews remember and reflect on how God saved and liberated them from the bondage of slavery; during Easter, the Christians remember and reflect on how God saved and liberated them from the bondage of sin and death. And for both there is the celebration of a God who brings forth new possibilities and new hope in the midst of utter hopelessness and despair. In short, for both there is a celebration of a God of life. For all of us, both the Easter and Passover stories are reminders that regardless of how dismal and seemingly hopeless our personal situations are, we worship a God of life who has the power to bring forth new possibilities from the ashes of our tragedies.

Last Month in Photos

TOP RIGHT: GEN Ann Dunwoody, Commanding General, Army Material Command, takes a photo with women from the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in celebration of Women's History Month. (photo courtesy of SPC Joshua Horneck, 318th PAOC) **MIDDLE RIGHT**: COL Brian Haebig, Commander, 402nd AFSB, "pins" Lieutenant Colonel rank on CH (LTC) Paul Dirksmeyer during a promotion ceremony on the 12th of March. **BOTTOM RIGHT**: Soldiers from the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade evacuating a simulated casualty from the MRAP Egress Trainer at Joint Base Balad during Leadership Development training. **BOTTOM LEFT**: GEN Ann Dunwoody and CSM Jeffrey Mellinger, Command Sergeant Major, Army Material Command, getting a demonstration of the capabilities of the Panther route clearance vehicle.


Army Emergency Relief
Soldiers Helping Soldiers
www.aerhq.org
Like your equipment . . . Soldiers and their Families need maintenance too!
Need help Soldier? See your Chain of Command or your local AER Officer
Helping Maintain ARMY STRONG.®
Support your AER Annual Campaign
MSG Half-Mast's support for fellow soldiers courtesy of PS Magazine
Army-wide annual AER fund campaign is conducted 1 March - 15 May 2010

Aprils Past

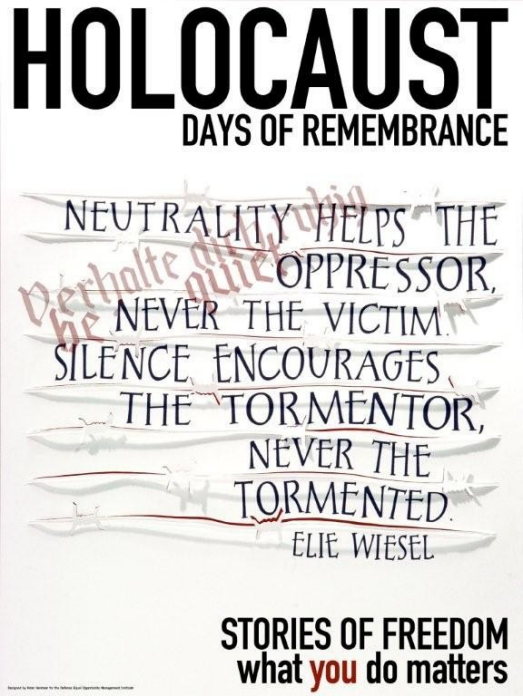
1 Apr 1970 – President Richard Nixon signs the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act into law, requiring the Surgeon General's warnings on tobacco products and banning cigarette advertisements on television and radio in the United States starting on January 1, 1971.

10 Apr 1971 – Ping Pong Diplomacy: In an attempt to thaw relations with the United States, the People's Republic of China hosts the U.S. table tennis team for a weeklong visit.

15 Apr 1923 – Insulin becomes generally available for use by people with diabetes.

20 Apr 1836 – U.S. Congress passes an act creating the Wisconsin Territory.

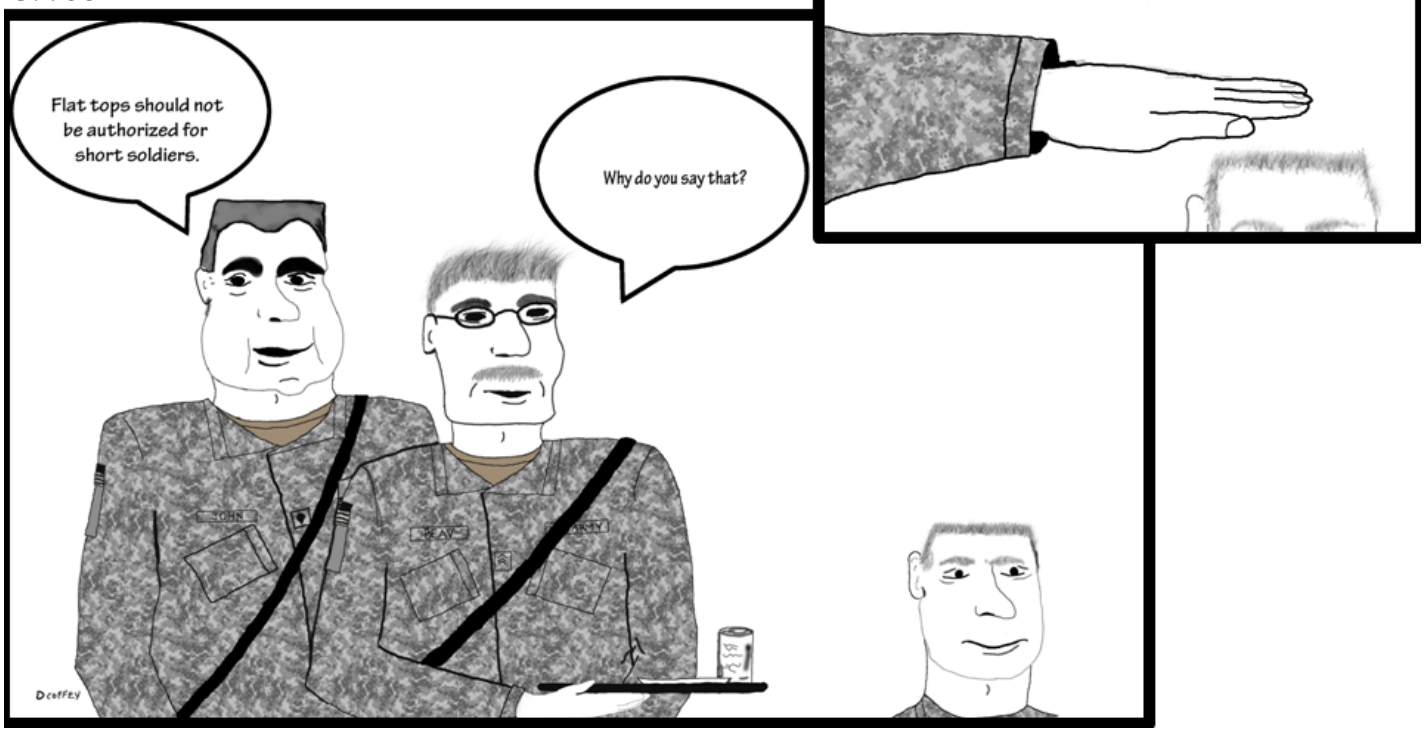
30 Apr 1993 – CERN announces World Wide Web protocols will be free.



April Events

11-18 April—Holocaust Days of Remembrance
Annual Army Emergency Relief Fund Campaign runs through 15 May
1 Apr—April Fool's Day
2 Apr—Good Friday
4 Apr—Easter Sunday
15 Apr—Tax Day
Brigade MORNO every Wednesday at 1030 at the Brigade Gazebo.

G.I. JOHN



402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Iraq

COL Brian R. Haebig
Commander

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Deputy to the Commander

CSM Rodger W. Mansker
Command Sergeant Major

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Executive Officer

SGT Brandon Beyer
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AKO Website: https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/39411

Where can I find those photos?

Photos taken by the Public Affairs Officer are posted to the Mini 5 share drive. To locate the photos, open the share drive and look for the folder named "402nd Photos."

Requests for photos can be sent to:
AFBS-IZ_Public_Affairs@mmcs.army.mil