Commander's Column

Desert Storm call-ups begin here

Much has happened since our last UTA: the TAC Hospital, CES and MAPPS have had a number of personnel placed on active duty. It is interesting to note that it was 23 years to the day since we received our last activation message. We wish each of them the best, knowing that each will do an outstanding job and hope their return will be in the near future.

With their departure we also except the responsibility of working and supporting their families who remain and each of us should make a special effort to ensure that they are taken care of.

As you read this the announcement of an conversion should be official and should know the "when" and "how" it will affect us. While this conversion should be mechanically easy it will introduce us into a new operational arena with its extended range and payload capability.

My special appreciation to TSgt Jenay Montgomery who has so ably served as the Cargo Courier editor for so many years. She has recently had to resign as a result of new duties. Thanks for your support in making our paper the nation's finest.

Brig. Gen. John L. Smith
Wing Commander

Chaplain's Column

By Chaplain (Capt.) Tom Curry

We live in a "me" generation. Commercials on radio and TV focus on what makes "me" feel good. There is even a magazine entitled SELF.

An apparent contradiction to this attitude is the biblical concept of love. Genuine love is defined as sacrificial giving for the good of others. Jesus said to love God with all you have and love your neighbor as yourself.

What does that mean? Psychologists teach us that we cannot genuinely love others until we have accepted ourselves. The degree by which we love our neighbors is directly proportional to the degree we love (accept) ourself. We can only give to the extent that we possess something. Well-adjusted people possess a strong self-esteem.

Three suggestions can help us discover greater joy in our relationships. First, we need to learn self acceptance. Accept who you are, problems and all, as God loves you and accepts you. Let others accept you for who you really are.

Second, if you don't like something about yourself, change it. William Glasser, author of Reality Therapy, asks the question, "What are you doing to change the things you don't like?" If it's your weight, your attitude or some habit, then change it.

Third, if you can't change, accept it. People will accept your authentic personality more easily than a contrived character.

After you have achieved this, then get on with life -- it's fun.
Kuwait dispute has long history

FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. (AFNS) -- Why did Iraq invade Kuwait? The question lingers in the minds of many people, especially military people and their families.

Looking at pre-invasion problems identifies some possible causes: Iraq's war with Iran and subsequent financial difficulties, Iraq's access to shipping lanes, Kuwaiti over-production of oil, even an Iraqi territorial claim to Kuwait that dates back to the 1600s.

Negotiations to settle differences failed, and in early August, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Understanding the history of the region helps clarify today's situation.

Until the Iraqi invasion, Kuwait was an independent Arab state lying at the upper corner of the Persian Gulf. It borders Iraq on the north and west, and Saudi Arabia on the south and west. It was founded in the early 1700s by a nomadic tribe that migrated to the Persian Gulf. Kuwait first came to the attention of Europeans when Germany sought to extend the Berlin-Baghdad Railway to the Port of Kuwait. Britain, eager to frustrate German plans, and Kuwait's ruling sheik, wanting to protect himself against nominal Ottoman control, agreed in 1899 that Britain would control Kuwait's foreign affairs. When World War I broke out, Britain established a protectorate over Kuwait. Relations with Saudi Arabia were settled by treaty in 1922 and those with Iraq in 1923.

Kuwait remained under British protection until June 26, 1961, when Britain announced its recognition of Kuwait's independence. Six days later, Iraq claimed Kuwait was an integral part of that country. Iraq said Kuwait had been a part of the Ottoman Empire and that ethnically, geographically and socially, Kuwait and Iraq were one country that had been arbitrarily divided by Britain. Threatened with invasion, the ruler of Kuwait appealed to Britain for military aid.

In early July 1961, British troops landed in Kuwait. On July 20, the Arab league admitted Kuwait to its membership, recognizing its claim to independence and denying Iraq's claim.

In May 1963, Kuwait was admitted to the United Nations. In October 1963, Iraq recognized Kuwait's independence. Ignoring the latter declaration, Iraq threatened to reclaim Kuwait by force again in 1973 and 1976. Still, why invade Kuwait, a territory of 6,880 square miles of desert? Three percent of the land is marginally arable, but less than 1 percent is under cultivation. Fishing, especially shrimp for export to the United States and Europe, has been of increasing importance.

Kuwait's riches lie underground. The country exports more than 1 billion barrels of oil per year. The nation's wealth from oil is staggering. This wealth, coupled with a small armed force, made the nation a tempting target.

Iraq was in financial straits because of its armed build-up and the long war with Iran. Therefore, the annexation of oil-rich Kuwait would help.

Iraq had other reasons to seize the tiny state as well. Kuwait was also over-producing oil in violation of organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quotas. Combined with over-production elsewhere, excess pumping depressed the average price of OPEC barrels almost $7. Iraqi leaders figured they were losing billions of dollars annually because of the lower price.

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Health Update

Weight loss methods abound, consumers warned of danger

By Daisy Stoutsenberger, R.N.
(News USA) -- Americans are pressured into trying various methods of weight loss.

America is a nation of compulsive dieters. Even fourth grade girls are on diets! This weight loss compulsion has led to more than 29,000 ways to lose unwanted pounds, and Americans spent $33 billion dollars in 1988 fighting "the battle of the bulge."

It appears anyone can legally make unproven health claims about their diet book or diet program. Recently, congressional hearings have scrutinized the various weight reduction programs because of numerous complaints from a victimized American population.

If you have a weight problem, you deserve the best and most comprehensive attention, and that can only be given by a bariatric physician who really cares about you. A bariatrician is a physician who has elected to devote all or part of his medical practice to render medical care to overweight and obese patients.

Many Clinicians Are Untrained

There are many weight clinics in almost every city in America. Many of these facilities are staffed by untrained and unlicensed people with no medical background. Statistics have shown that patients in a nonmedical facility drop out by the end of four weeks because their expectations were not met.

Americans deserve care by knowledgeable and compassionate physicians for the treatment of the "disease" of obesity. A bariatric physician will examine you thoroughly before commencing treatment.

Any medical problems discovered by a bariatric physician will be considered in your overall treatment program, and you will enter into a partnership. Specifically, you will become an active participant in your medical care rather than the usual passive doctor-patient relationship.

A bariatric physician may employ a supporting cast to assist you, including psychologists and dieticians who will act as "mentors" to help you. With this medical approach to the treatment of obesity, you will be treated as an individual and not as just one of a group.

KyANG begins soil testing here

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- The Kentucky Air National Guard has announced that an investigation will begin at Standiford Field in an effort to confirm or rule out the presence of contamination on Air Guard property.

The Air National Guard, under its Installation Restoration Program, identified one potentially contaminated site in 1989 after a preliminary assessment, consisting of records searches, interviews with employees and site visits. There is currently no indication of a threat to human health or the environment.

USGS, through a cooperative agreement with the National Guard Bureau in Washington, will conduct the field work, including the testing of soils and groundwater at the site identified during the Guard's preliminary assessment. Workers will install groundwater wells and will bore holes in the ground to gather soil and water samples from various departments.

The samples will undergo laboratory analysis to determine if contaminants exist. USGS has already conducted the soil organic vapor survey last October. The field work, called a Site Investigation/Remedial Investigation, is expected to last up to six months. Once the testing data is compiled, Air National Guard officials will make the findings available to the public.

Representatives of the National Guard Bureau, its cooperating, the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, and the Louisville and Jefferson County Health Department, discussed the investigation plans to ensure compliance with federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

Actions taken so far are part of a comprehensive, nationwide program through which the National Guard identifies past waste disposal sites at its facilities and investigate them for contamination. If environmental problems exist, the Guard will take the appropriate corrective measures. All work is conducted in cooperation with federal and state environmental regulatory agencies.

A copy of the preliminary assessment is available for review at the Louisville Free Public Library.
... Iraq's invasion of Kuwait
(cont. from page 3)

The over-production problem was supposedly settled at an OPEC meeting last July, especially after an Iraqi show of force on Kuwait's border. However, Iraq later demanded $2.4 billion in compensation for oil that Kuwait pumped from the disputed Rumaila fields.

Iraq also insisted that Kuwait forgive $10 billion to $20 billion in loans that helped fund the war against Iran. Iraq insisted they defended the Arab world from Iranian fundamentalists on behalf of all Arabs.

Finally, Iraq saw in Kuwait a way to compensate for the disadvantages (huge for an oil exporter) of being virtually landlocked.

With only 18 miles of coastline and with most of it blocked by Kuwait's Bubiyan Island, Iraq kept trying to either annex or lease the island. But Kuwait refused, figuring they would never get it back. Finally, Iraq raised the old claim that Kuwait rightfully belongs to it since it was part of the province of Basra under the Ottoman Empire.

During negotiations just before the invasion, Kuwait made it clear that it would pay Iraq a sizable sum for peace. The Iraqis, however, demanded Kuwait's total capitulation on all counts.

Negotiations broke down, and Iraq invaded Kuwait with 100,000 troops on Aug. 2. Despite a promise to establish a "free provisional government" and withdraw by Aug. 5, Saddam Hussein reneged and annexed the tiny nation.


Hispanic troops mark history as National Guard patriots

Hispanic-Americans of the 1st New Mexico Cavalry -- better known as Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders -- fought at San Juan Hill as U.S. troops pushed toward an end to the Spanish-American War.

Years later, during World War II, the predominantly Hispanic 141st Infantry Battalion of the Texas National Guard saw combat in Italy, France, Germany and Austria. More than 1,000 were killed, 5,000 wounded and 500 lost in action. Three individuals from the unit were awarded Medals of Honor and the 141st won hundreds of the medals.

More recently, National Guard units with Hispanic-American members fought gallantly during the Korean Conflict and in Vietnam.

"In terms of national defense, Hispanics have fought with great distinction and victory in every conflict in which America has engaged," says Brig. Gen. William Navas, the first Hispanic-American to be appointed vice chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Guard Has Highest Percent

Today, the National Guard leads all other Defense Department components of Hispanics represented in its force. In 1989, the Army and Air National Guard averaged six percent Hispanic membership.

"As we move into the 21st Century, minorities will represent a major portion of the work force," says Lt. Gen. John B. Conway, chief of the National Guard Bureau and the nation's highest ranking Guardsman.
All my friends and their families have moved away. Our home isn't the same, it feels barren and lonely. Often my mother has the saddest look on her face. They have begun tearing down the other houses and it feels like my heart's being torn down along with it. I suppose nothing good lasts forever. I wonder what they'll do with this land next?

—from a letter by a former slave who lived in Freedman's Village overlooking the Potomac River and the nation's capital.

"They" — the federal government — made the land part of what is perhaps the most famous cemetery in the nation — Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery.

More than 200,000 veterans and their dependents are buried on the 612 acres of land, from such famous Americans as five-star General of the Army Omar N. Bradley to World War II hero Audie Murphy to President John F. Kennedy to heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis.

Each year, nearly 4 million visitors walk the tourists' path past rows of headstones bearing the names of service members known only to their loved ones. But that path doesn't lead to Section 27.

Located near the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, Section 27 is where the names on some 5,000 tombstones read: "citizen" or "civilians" or "USCT," for U.S. Colored Troops. It's the burial site of more than 3,800 former slaves who lived in Freedman's Village and some 2,200 members of the U.S. Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War. At least three of them are African Americans who received the Medal of Honor for bravery on the battlefield during the Civil War.

The first military man buried in Arlington National Cemetery was William Christman — he was white. He was buried in Section 27.

In 1863, Contraband — the name for black refugees or escaped slaves — Camp was established on the Arlington estate of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. It sprawled north from what are now the amphitheater and the Tomb of the Unknowns to Section 27. It was renamed Freedman's Village in 1865. More than 1,000 people lived there. The federal government gave each family a plot of land to farm and $10 a month. Their rent was $3 per month.

Union soldiers occupied the area for more than two years before the village was built. The village existed for more than 30 years, providing housing, education, employment training, medical care and food for former slaves who had migrated to the capital area.

Today, the grass is kept trimmed, the trees pruned and prim, but no one has paid much other attention to Section 27 over the years. Now former members of the famous World War II "Triple Nickels" 555th Parachute Infantry Division, the first all-black parachute outfit, are trying to preserve and beautify the area as part of American military history. Their plans call for annual ceremonies at the site in honor of the former slaves and soldiers.

The Arlington County school system seems to have done more to highlight the historical importance of Freedman's Village then any other organization. Most of the credit goes to Arlington teacher Bobbi Schildt.

"I'd heard about Freedman's Village, but I hadn't seen anything written about it. I talked to some people about it. Some said there wasn't anything written or anything to find out, and they didn't really encourage me to go further," Schildt said. "I sensed that there was a story someplace, so I did some research at the Library of Congress, National Archives and various other historical museums and began to uncover a whole slew of documents.

"I wrote some curricula for the county schoolkids because many teachers and the supervisors felt we needed to integrate more black history," she continued. "We developed a teaching unit for students using some of the documents, newspaper and magazine articles and sketches. We also found a photograph of the Freedman's Village school. It was called 'Contraband School.' " Schildt's research and writing consumed countless hours, weekends and summer vacation time. She took copies of the documents and letters she uncovered to the classroom. As a class project, her 1984 7th graders produced a book entitled Freedman's Village.

"I wanted the students to see and understand things about local history, including black history," said Schildt. "Arlington became a Civil War cemetery, but part of black history that was there was virtually wiped off the map. I guess my ultimate goal for the students was to preserve history and find out about it."
Major milestones in black history

February 6  
1968 — Army Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Ashley Jr. leads five vigorous assaults during an enemy attack on the Special Forces camp at Lang Phi, Vietnam, on Feb. 6 and 7. He receives Medal of Honor posthumously.

February 7  
1867 — Publisher, orator, politician and anti-slavery advocate Frederick Douglass and Negro delegation call on President Andrew Johnson.

February 8  

February 9  
1965 — President Lyndon B. Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr. meet at White House to discuss civil rights issues.

February 10  
1780 — Seven African Americans challenge taxation without representation.

February 21  
1965 — Clergyman, author and civil rights leader Malcolm X (Malcolm Little) assassinated.


February 23  

February 24  

February 25  
1870 — Hiram Revels (1822-1901), educator and Reconstructionist, becomes first African American elected to U.S. Senate.

A HEROIC 183 DAYS

First Black Tank Battalion

The 761st Tank Battalion—the Army's first Black tank battalion to see combat in WWII—earned a belated Presidential Unit Citation from President Jimmy Carter for their 183 continuous days in battle without relief during the Allied thrust across France, Belgium and Germany which culminated in a link-up with Soviet forces in Austria.
ANG increases airlift mission

The Air Force plans to transfer all tactical airlift functions to the National Guard and Reserve units by 1992, according to an Air Force Times article last Nov. 19.

Under a defense authorization act, which was signed into law Nov. 5, 1990, the Air Force must submit its plan to Congress no later than June 1. The Pentagon had no immediate reaction to the transfer requirement, but Capt. George Silla, an Air Force spokesperson, said the service plans to study the issue.

Currently the Military Airlift Command has 192 C-130 Hercules aircraft dedicated to the tactical airlift mission, while the National Guard and Reserve handle even more. The Guard has 182 of its own and the Reserve operates 128.

While strategic airlift is the movement of forces to war, tactical airlift is the transport of personnel and equipment over relatively short distances to fight the battles.

Loadmasters needed here

Applications are being accepted for Loadmaster vacancies within the Kentucky Air National Guard. These positions require the traditional Guardsman commitment for UTA duty only, and are not full-time slots.

Loadmasters are responsible for the management of aircraft cargo and the monitoring of in-flight systems. The AFSC is 114XX and those members interested should submit their resumes to Lt. Col. Mike Hardin at the attention of the 165th TAS/CC as soon as possible.

VA loan payments making a decline

Washington (AFNS) -- The Department of Veterans Affairs has lowered the maximum loan interest rate for home loan guaranties from 10 percent to 9.5 percent.

The lower rate went into effect last Nov. 19 and reflects the recent broad general decline in interest rates, the department said. This is the first lowering of the VA rate since July 1989. The new rate is for home and condominium loans.

"This should provide a significant stimulus to the housing market and the economy as a whole," said Edward J. Derwinski, the VA secretary.

The new rate means that monthly payments for principal and interest on the typical VA loan of $80,000 will amount to $627.29, which is $29.37 per month less than the previous rate.

Also lowered are rates for manufactured homes to 12 percent; graduated payments mortgages to 9.75 percent; manufactured home and lot combination loans to 11.5 percent; manufactured home lots are 11.5 percent; and home improvement loans to 11 percent.

During fiscal 1990, VA guaranteed 196,600 home loans amounting to $15.8 billion, compared to 188,000 home loans totaling $14.4 billion the previous year.

VA loan guaranties may be used to purchase, improve or refinance a home or condominium, and to purchase or refinance a manufactured home.

Insurance firm drops rate for Desert Storm troops

Washington (AFNS) -- The Government Employee Insurance Co. and Geico Indemnity will give policyholders who have served in Operation Desert Storm in the Middle East a 25 percent premium dividend, the company announced Jan. 7.

The dividend will be based on premiums paid while deployed to the Middle East and will be applied to the policyholder's account balance. A check will be mailed to policyholders if they are no longer insured through the company.

"While our Desert Storm military policyholders are facing increased risk in the Middle East, the risk factors for their cars back at home have gone down," said Edward H. Utley, president of Geico Corp.

"Insurance premiums are cost-based, which means we charge what it costs to provide the insurance. It costs us less to insure the automobiles of policyholders serving in Operation Desert Storm, and we believe those savings should be passed on to our policyholders."

The dividend is being offered to policyholders who have served at least 30 continuous days in Operation Desert Shield between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, Utley said.

To determine their eligibility for the dividend, letters were mailed in early February to each Geico military policyholder.