

Commander,



U.S. Naval Forces Central Command U.S. Fifth Fleet Combined Maritime Forces



CTF-IA Monthly Newsletter

Issue I, July 2010

RDML Gaouette Takes Command of CTF-IA

IA Sailors,

I would like to introduce myself. I am Rear Admiral Charles M. Gaouette Deputy Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander Task Force Individual Augmentee.

I arrived in Bahrain on May 30th, 2010 and I am extremely excited to be a part of a team whose sole mission is to support IA sailors serving in the COMUSCENTCOM Area of Responsibility.

I want to personally pass along my sincere gratitude for the personal and professional sacrifices you are making for your country. I also want to reassure you that Task-Force IA will do everything in our power to ensure you are adequately trained, equipped and prepared to carry out the missions you have been assigned. I also want to assure you that we are committed to ensuring that your families are supported and that you have someplace to turn for day-to-day Navy matters. As I am constantly reminded, taking care of IA Sailors is the most important NAVCENT mission. You may be half a world away from your unit working in a foreign environment along side army, air force and marine counterparts, but you are still part of the navy family and we are looking out for you.

In combat, stress is expected. I want to re-emphasize our Navy's commitment to helping sailors deal with personal and professional stress. The environment in which we are now operating is much different than what we have become accustomed to in our naval careers. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us



RDML Gaouette relieved RDML Cropper as Commander CTF-IA

to keep an eye one another and remain vigilant to the signs of stress and depression. If you recognize a shipmate displaying unusual signs, it's your responsibility to notify the chain of command, a Chaplin, or medical personnel.

As we were recently reminded with the change in leadership in Afghanistan, we are all ambassadors of the United States 24/7. Be mindful of what you say and who you say it to since you can be held accountable for your comments. Although it is your constitutional right to speak with reporters, it is also your right to refrain from answering questions if you so desire. In this case, I recommend you direct media questions to a PAO who is trained to address the media in an appropriate manner.

In conclusion, I would like to take a minute and tell you about my recent trip to Kuwait and Qatar. Although it was a short trip, I was able to meet with many IA sailors and answer questions. This

was the highlight of my trip and I plan to continue my circulation throughout the AOR in the coming months. While in Kuwait, I had the opportunity to view a group of sailors redeploying home through the Warrior Transition Program (WTP) in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. I was just as excited viewing this tremendous event as the redeploying sailors were to go home. CAPT Warnock, the NAVCENT forward HQ OIC and his exceptional staff has developed two outstanding programs in Kuwait; the WTP to prepare sailors to return home and the Reception Staging Onward Movement & Integration (RSO&I) program that process sailors into theater and moves them to their final destinations. While in Kuwait, it was my honor and pleasure to assist CAPT Warnock in dedicating a new \$300,000 Morale, Welfare and Recreation Decompression Tent to support WTP.

It is always rewarding to spend time with Sailors, and even more so with Sailors who are "Boots on Ground, and in the fight." I'm very excited to be a part of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and look forward to visiting each and every one of you in the field over the next two years.



WTP Staff

Navy Social Media

The internet is making it easier for Sailors to stay connected with family members and friends while on deployment. Today everyone, including navy commands, are increasingly relying on social and emerging media to stay connected and pass on important information affecting Sailors' personal and professional lives. It's not uncommon today to see combatant commanders relying on Face-Book or Twitter to let the world know what the command is doing. This is an important part of strategic communications.

Social media can be a great tool, but it can also be a weapon when abused. It is important for Sailors and their families to remain vigilant in not sharing potentially sensitive or secure information by any non-secure means – to include letters, email, telephone conversations or social media.

Sailors must remain aware that while the country is at war, our communications may be monitored by the enemy looking

to glean information anywhere they can get it and to use against us and our nation. What you say and where you say it may be, has never been more important. Operational Security [OPSEC] has to be stressed at every level.



When communicating on social media sites do not post the following information:

- Exact deployment dates or return dates. This applies to ships, subs, squadrons and individual augmen-

tees.

- Dates or location of a ship's movements.
- Detailed information about a mission.
- References to trends in crew's morale or an individual's personal problems.
- Details concerning security procedures, response times or tactics.
- Information about equipment readiness.
- Speculations about future operations.

If you have to question whether what you're talking or writing about may be sensitive, don't do it.

Information on the appropriate use of social media within the Navy is available at <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/socialmedia.html>. More information regarding OPSEC can be obtained by Navy command personnel at <https://iweb.spawar.navy.mil/depts/d017/>.

OPSEC is everyone's responsibility!

New Policy/Guidance

NEW ENTITLEMENT FOR DEPENDENT TRAVEL - The DOD, PER DIEM TRAVEL and TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE has approved the Navy's request to add an entitlement for service members assigned on ITDY Orders to escort their dependents to and from an alternate place. This change only affects the portion of travel related to the escort of dependents; all other travel is not affected by this change.

NAVY INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTATION COMBAT TRAINING (NIACT) AND TACTICAL MOVEMENT COUNTER EID GUIDANCE LETTER – Sailors that complete NIACT training at Ft. Jackson are no longer required to attend the Udairi Range training in Kuwait prior to being deployed to their ultimate IA assignment.

NAVCENT IA EXTENSION GUIDE – Provides guidance on Extensions of U.S. Navy Personnel in support of Joint Manning Document (JMD) Individual Augmentee (IA) and Request for

Forces (RFF) /Force Tracking Number (FTN) AD-HOC billet requirements in U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND area of responsibility.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND ADVANCEMENT GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEES NAVADMIN 215/10 – To ensure this service is properly recognized, this NAVADMIN provides specific execution policy for performance evaluations and advancement eligibility for IA Sailors.

ACADEMIC SKILLS TRANSITION TO ONLINE ACADEMIC SKILLS COURSE FOR MILITARY SUCCESS NAVADMIN 216/10 - This NAVADMIN Announces the Navy's Transition from the Academic Skills program offered through the Navy College Learning Center and Academic Skills Instructor led program to the Online Academic Skills Course

Showdown at Camp Slayer, Iraq

The 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion at Camp Slayer, Iraq celebrated the Army's birthday by the holding the base's 1st annual Olympiad. Sporting events were open to all subordinate commands to participate and as you would expect from a base of type-A personalities, rivalry was alive and well. The Joint Expeditionary SIGINT tactical Reconnaissance company (JESTR) was among several commands to participate. The JESTR team was made up of eight people; four Navy, three Air Force and the Army OIC. There were several events; two man 100 yard relay, four man five minute push-ups, 25 yard MRAP tire roll, volleyball, and an obstacle course. Team JESTR won bragging rights by taking first place in the 25 yard MRAP tire roll and volleyball. At the conclusion of the sporting events, participants and others celebrated the Army's birthday with a hog roast and birthday cake. When the points were tallied, team JESTR emerged victorious as the overall winner of the Olympiad by one



502nd Military Intelligence Battalion 2010 Olympiad po



25 yard MRAP tire roll



3-Man Volleyball

News From Around the AOR

White House: McChrystal to retire with 4 stars - Gen. Stanley McChrystal, relieved from his job as commander of the Afghanistan war after more than three decades in the Army, will be allowed to retire at the rank of four stars.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday that the White House will do what it can to ensure McChrystal keeps that rank. McChrystal had been a four-star general for just over a year when President Barack Obama accepted his



resignation as Afghanistan war commander because of scornful remarks made to Rolling Stone magazine.

Mullen Says U.S., NATO on Track in Afghanistan - The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said yesterday that he returned from Afghanistan this week reassured that U.S. and NATO forces remain on track there, but also concerned about the synergy among terrorist groups in the region.



Questions and Answers

“Questions and answers” come from a data base of questions assembled during discussions with Sailors during CTF-IA staff battlefield circulation. Each month additional questions will be addressed.

Q: I work on a NATO base that has a NATO exchange. I have to pay \$5.00 for a tube of toothpaste. Why am I only getting \$3.50 per diem for incidentals when the Army and Air Force are getting \$6.00?

A: Your per diem in country is based on government lodging and messing. Since all personnel in country have their lodging and messing covered at government expense, you are only entitled to the standard \$3.50 per day as set forth by CENTCOM Memorandum dated 24 March 2010 signed by MG Hood. Although I have heard that some USAF and USA personnel claimed to be getting a higher rate, it is unlikely DFAS would liquidate a travel claim in direct violation of CENTCOM Commander Guidance. The next time someone tells you that, ask to see their liquidated travel claim.

Q: I came over here with a group of Sailors. We all trained together and got here on the exact same day. However, NAVCENT FWD is not letting me redeploy with them. Shouldn't I go back with my group?

A: Your departure date depends on a number of factors. If a relief arrives early you will leave early as TF-IA policy only allows for a 14 day turnover. If your mission ends early and you are in a non-enduring billet, you may also leave early. If your relief falls out during the training pipeline or is arriving late for some other reason, the Secretary of Defense authorizes the Tactical Commander to detain a Sailor in theater for up to 14 days past BOG without any waiver or your permission. If the command does not receive a SECDEF waiver from this policy you **MUST BE ON THE ROTATOR HEADING OUT OF KUWAIT NLT 14 DAYS PAST BOG.** If you are part of an ad hoc unit, your unit may deploy in waves for logistical/administrative (EVAL grouping) reasons. These phased redeployments are worked closely with NAVCENT for good reason.

Command Information

Mission and Vision

We are a forward deployed Echelon II/III Naval Component Command/Fleet Command of Naval Forces conducting Maritime Security Operations in support of OEF/OIF; Partnership-Strength-Presence; and Struggle Against Violent Extremism within US-NAVCENT Campaign Plan. We continue to provide a dedicated service component support to all IA Sailors Boots on Ground (BOG) in the COMUSCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) in order to optimize mission readiness and to manage mission risk during deployment.

About CTF-IA

We are located on NSA Bahrain in the COMUSNAVCENT Building, and we can be contacted at the following email address: AUG-DIV@ME.NAVY.MIL. Visit our website at <http://www.cusnc.navy.mil/ctf-ia/>

Contact information for NAVCENT FWD HQs and CTF-IA Desk Officers

NAVCENT FWD HQS AFGHANISTAN: navcentfwdafghan@afghan.swa.army.mil
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https://mnfi.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/Special_Staff/NAVCENTFWD_Iraq/default.aspx
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CTF-IA is looking for ways to tell your story. If you have a story and photographs you want published in next month's newsletter, please send your inputs to TF-IA STAFF, BAHRAIN: AUGDIV@me.navy.mil NLT the 1st of each month. The newsletter is published on the 15th. There is no better way to share your experiences with fellow IA's than through your IA Newsletter. Additionally, your photos may be used in future training videos. Submitted photos will be uploaded to the CTF-IA Website (www.cusnc.navy.mil/ctf-ia/ctf-ia.htm) displaying in a slide show or as an album.