



Independence Day Message

by Richard B. Myers
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

This Independence Day we celebrate our nation's 228th birthday and honor the legacy of our founding fathers.

Pioneers like Presidents Washington and Jefferson set a young nation on a course for democracy guided by the values of liberty and justice that have shaped our national character. As we pay tribute to the past, we must also look to the figure and face the challenges of the 21st Century.

Today, as throughout our history, the proud members of our Armed Forces are meeting these challenges head on, engaged around the world keeping the peace and demonstrating our firm resolve. Through your unwavering service and commitment, you have secured America's shores and given hope to millions that liberty and justice can be theirs too.

The freedoms that we cherish come with a cost. Whether an honored veteran, new recruit, or civilian, your vigilance, courage and sacrifice provide us the opportunity to live in a free society. You have served notice to terrorists and those who threaten the vision of our na-



tion's founders that we will achieve victory. We are proud of your commitment, dedication and accomplishments.

Across America as family and friends gather to celebrate the liberties we all enjoy, remember those, some far from home, who make this patriotic holiday possible. This is our opportunity to focus on our families and appreciate their sacrifices and contributions to the freedoms we hold so dear. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I thank you and your families for your selfless, dedicated service and for ensuring the continued security of our nation.

May God bless you and God bless America.

ACUs follow line of uniform improvements

by Justin Ward
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 14, 2004) -- The Army's new uniform, developed with the concerns of Soldiers in mind, was a revolutionary step for the Army, officials said. They pointed out that: No longer should Soldiers worry about starching their uniforms. No longer should Soldiers worry about being visible in certain natural ar-

eas. It's a high-tech, modern uniform tailored to the Soldiers' needs in multiple environments.

But these comments were made 21 years ago when the Army's Battle Dress Uniform, or BDU, was revealed. Back then, the BDU was the revolutionary uniform engineered to reduce detection in varying light levels and environments. It became the new standard in the Army's wardrobe, replacing the Army's all-purpose "green sateen" or olive-drab fatigues and the Army's camouflage-patterned green poplin jungle uniform, which was developed in 1968 for the Vietnam Conflict. In short, it was the uniform of the future and the optimism of the time made that apparent.

It was the same feeling in the early
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Updated camouflage pattern improves Soldier's fightability



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the Program Executive Office NCO-in-charge, sports the Army Combat Uniform, the recently approved wear for Soldiers.

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80s, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the Clothing and Individual Equipment non-commissioned officer in charge of the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

However, while the sense of optimism may be the same, the uniforms are not. The new uniform--the Army Combat Uniform, or ACU--includes 18 modifications to the BDU, including a digitized camouflage pattern, Velcro patches and the removal of the color black.

It is to be used in all environments – from urban to desert to woodland – and has been used for the past eight months by Stryker Brigade Soldiers currently deployed to Iraq. The initial mass issue will occur in April 2005 and it is intended to have been issued to all Soldiers by December 2007.

“And just like in 1980, it’ll take a

little while for people to get comfortable with it,” said Myhre.

“The Army was due for a change,” said Col. John Norwood, the project manager for PEO Soldier. The ACU, Norwood’s fourth uniform since joining the Army, “accommodates the needs of Soldiers in modern combat and integrates with the Interceptor body armor,” a high-tech system of protective inserts that provides more protection than traditional flak jackets and is lighter in weight.

The ACU has “ergonomic improvements,” said Brig. Gen. James Moran, the Program Executive Officer for PEO Soldier. Its modifications were intended to fulfill the needs of Soldiers in combat, said Moran, who is also on his fourth uniform since entering the Army. It analyzes what Soldiers need in combat and “increases fightability.”

Bloom where you are planted

by Anonymous

Editor’s note: Email (below) from Sharon M. Lee, Business Development office to CCAD Commander and commander’s response below Lee’s email, sets the tempo for the article by at present an anonymous author. This editor thought it important to include both emails with the article to share the sentiments expressed by Lee with all Aircraftsman readers and to pass on Budney’s appreciation to the CCAD workforce.

COL Budney -

The below story tells a Marine's version of "everyone has his part to play". Before you leave CCAD, I wanted to thank you for trying to convey that message. The helicopter fly-by on Employee Appreciation Day made all of us stand a little taller, feel prouder and more united with our co-workers, to know that we contribute to such mighty and awesome equipment.

I know that Carol Bullington mentioned it to you and, knowing you have a full platter, I've not mentioned it before. When I retire in the next couple of years, I don't expect to remember the day-to-day ankle-biting trivia that must be worked through. But, I will never forget the pride shared in an exchanged

glance with Carol, while a helicopter hovered right before us.

Thanks again,

Sharon M. Lee
Business Development Specialist

Thanks Sharon. That's a great tale and should be shared with all of CCAD because we may have overhauled that Cobra. Thanks for your kind words. It has truly been a privilege to command this organization.

COL Budney

“Since arriving in Iraq, Master Sergeant Adams just didn't feel like himself physically. He had apparently developed some kind of upper respiratory infection, but like most Marines, he passed it off and just worked through it hoping it would subside. He was in great shape and usually had no problem exercising his way through such minor setbacks. Little did he know that the progression of his illness would bring

him to an experience that would have extraordinary meaning for himself, as well as all Marines that would be privileged enough to hear about it.

A few months had passed and MSgt Adams found himself on a trip from Al Asad to Taqaddum (TQ), Iraq, a base in close proximity to the town of Fallujah. On his second day there, some down time gave him the opportunity to finally get checked out medically. After walking into the sick call tent, greetings came from a nearby corpsman asking “What's the problem?” After some discussion, the master sergeant removed his gear, sat and waited his turn. Shortly thereafter, another young corpsman escorted him to a make shift exam room with a field gurney, and a poncho liner for a curtain. Vital signs were taken, and the corpsman left the room. On the way out, the corpsman closed the curtains leaving it slightly open.

The situation had slightly shifted in the tent. Through the opening in the curtain, Marines in their body armor

(See “Bloom” continued on page 3)

Everyone has an important role, no matter what they do

("Bloom" continued from page 2)

paced to and fro. The sound of incoming casualties began to fill the air. MSgt. Adams knew that constant clashes with insurgents were all too common for Marines located at Fallujah, and he began to sense that there were Marines that needed much more medical attention that he did.

Suddenly, the faint sound of a medical officer's voice asked a young Marine "What is your name?" The Marine replied "LCpl Phillips, sir."

Next came a series of questions and answers that could only describe a far too common sight. First, the doctor asked the LCpl Phillips how he sustained a deep burn on his lower back. The young leatherneck replied that he and his team were receiving small arms fire, when a rocket impacted the area close to his and a piece of hot shrapnel became lodged under his body armor which cut and burned him. Unfortunately, the doctor was not done. The second question inquired about the LCpl's broken arm. Again, the young Marine told his story.

"After having recovered from the first impact, another rocket came zooming in and killed a buddy to the left and knocked me to the ground."

By this time Master Sergeant Adams was feeling pretty selfish. The "Top" completely expected a General Patton-type Marine to walk into his field hospital and kick him out saying that this hospital is for fighting Marines, not Marines with a runny nose!

As the master sergeant was preparing to walk out, the doctor asked about LCpl Phillip's third injury. Continuing with his description, Phillips exclaimed "After the corpsman patched me up and put my arm in a sling, another rocket or rocket propelled grenade (RPG) impacted near me and killed another buddy and projected shrapnel into my hand".

Finally, MSgt Adams, filled with guilt, got up and started to make his way for the hatch. Just at that moment a Navy Lieutenant greeted him and asked, "Where are you going MSgt?"

MSgt Adams then explained to

him that there were Marines here that needed his attention much more. The lieutenant told him to sit down so he could have a look. The lieutenant quickly went through the examination of the MSgt's ears, nose and throat, and just to be sure, they went outside away from the noisy generator so he could get a listen to his lungs. The doctor confirmed a bronchial infection that required medication. The lieutenant quickly returned with medication while MSgt Adams humbly thanked him and exited the cubicle.

While departing, the MSgt caught a glimpse of LCpl. Phillips lying with his arm in a sling with a 6" wide bandage around his mid-section and another on his hand. MSgt Adams soon had his gear on and headed out of the tent when he suddenly stopped, turned around, walked quickly back to the injured lance corporal's cubicle.

The master sergeant stuck his head in and startled him slightly. When the LCpl. Phillips made eye contact, he attempted to dismount his gurney and stand up. The master sergeant told him to relax and that he just couldn't help over hearing the incredible account of the actions from the previous night.

The young Marine went on to give a few other horrific details that left the master sergeant again shaking his head in utter disbelief. At a loss for words, MSgt Adams said that he just wanted to thank him for what he does and for the bravery he displayed. After a well deserved "Semper Fi." and good luck, again the master sergeant attempted to leave the area. LCpl Phillips then stopped him in his tracks asking "MSgt, what do you do?"

After hearing his story, followed by seeing and talking to this young man, his response was simply "nothing." That day the master sergeant felt insignificant compared to this Marine and his ordeal. Then the young Marine inquired again, "No, really MSgt, what do you do?"

MSgt Adams then explained that he was an Aviation Supply Chief. LCpl Phillips went on to ask if the MSgt had anything to do with mak-

ing sure that the Cobras (AH-1W) fly and have ordnance.

The master sergeant replied "The Marines that I work with issue parts to the squadrons, and the ordnance Marines issue and load rockets onto the Cobras."

It was then that the young LCpl could have stopped time with his profound statement. He stated, "If it were not for the Cobra helicopter that zoomed in about 10 minutes after the third impact, I would probably not be here."

He went on to say that two helicopters wiped out a bunch of the "bad guys" that were encroaching upon them as well. LCpl Phillips then thanked the MSgt and shook his hand.

As MSgt Adams left the tent he was amazed, shocked, and proud all at the same time. He could only think and be reminded of what a great institution the Marine Corps is and of every Marine it took to put that Cobra helicopter on target.

His thoughts ring an anthem of our Corps ethos. There is nothing like a true story to get our attention. Just a few days ago, the words and actions, respectively, of MSgt Adams and LCpl Phillips solidified and confirmed every Marine's worth to the institution, and more so, to each other. In this case, an account like this brings us all back to reality and tell us to "bloom where we are planted" and sustain our individual link in the chain.

From the last Marine in the last squad to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, our collective importance cannot be underestimated. In a Corps where every Marine must contribute, let today's anecdote guide your conscience and "keep your mind right." Take the time this week and remember to stay focused on being the best Marine you can be, whatever task you're given. Your action equals reaction that will prove to be significant; I guarantee it. Please continue to drive on. Your country, your Corps and your fellow Marines and sailors thank you.

Semper Fi.



Sylvia Alaniz, parts repair in the directorate of components production (c), poses with supervisor Julian Gonzalez (l), and Wayne McConley, director (r), after receiving her retirement certificate last Fri. Alaniz retired after 37 years of federal government service. Alaniz retired with over 1500 hours of sick leave and 300 hours of annual leave.



David Davila, aircraft mechanic in the directorate of aircraft production (2nd from right), retired on Wed. after 30 years at CCAD plus four years on active duty with the US Marine Corps. Pictured above with Davila are Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander, Davila's spouse, Sylvia, daughter Anna, and Larry Simone, director of aircraft production.

Sylvia Montoya of the skills development office, retired after 37 years of service. Col. Budney presented a certificate of retirement and pin at a reception held in her honor on Thursday, July 1, 2004.



Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander (l), is seen accompanying Joe Sixeas, professional staff member, Senate Armed Services Committee (2nd from right), and Lt. Col. Michael Barbero, military escort (seen in brown shirt behind Sixeas), on a tour of depot facilities. The two were here to discuss aviation RESET issues at CCAD. Also seen in photo are Larry Alexander, employee in NDT (background), Dennis Collins, directorate of resource management, (right background), and Larry Simone, director of aircraft production.



Directorate of engine production recognizes employees – Nelda Labbe-Spurgeon (seen at right in photos) presented on the spot awards to the following engine test branch personnel: **(Top left)** George Escobar, engine test branch, was recognized for his contributions toward the certification of engine test cell #6. Escobar was commended for his knowledge of all equipment involved with the modification and certification of test cells and for his efforts to ensure that monthly production schedules are met. **(Top right)** Kenneth Steffek was recognized for his efforts to ensure all items in the engine test cells were calibrated within schedule. Steffek was also commended for ensuring that all safety procedures are in place during engine testing and his reliability in meeting schedules and deadlines. **(Bottom left)** Theodore Curiel, engine test branch, was recognized for exceptional reliability on special, short notice projects and his diligence in seeing these projects completed on time. **(Bottom right)** Joe Herrera, director (at left in photo), presented a 30-year length of service certificate and pin to Ron DeLeon of the T700 compressor branch on Jun. 4.





NAS-CC softball tourney – The softball tournament semi-finals found the CCAD Warriors scheduled to play the rival Navy HM-15 team on Mon. evening. After a slow start on the part of the Warriors, Daniel Pompa hit a single homer in the third inning to kick start the batting and saw the inning come to an end with an even 4-4 score. That was all the Warriors needed to wallop HM-15 by a final score of 15-9 and move them into the finals against last season’s champions, and fellow employees, the CCAD Big Doggz. **(Top left):** Manuel Muro, second baseman for the Warriors, warming up before the game with Ted Leal (shortstop) in the background; **(top right):** Muro and Jeremy Garcia, coach, go over the lineup; **(center left):** Ely Moya, outfielder, lays down the bat after a hit; **(center right):** EZ Gonzales, outfielder, watches the ball after his hit as members of the Blackhawk team watch from the dugout; **(bottom left):** “Good game” shake between the Warriors and HM-15 after the game; **(bottom right):** Warriors pose for a victory photo before taking on the CCAD Doggz in the tourney finals. **(Back row, l-r):** LB Garcia; Daniel Pompa; George Perez; Jeremy Garcia; Leroy Galindo; Ely Moya **(Front row kneeling, l-r):** JB Garcia; Daniel Acevas; Ted Leal; Arturo Cantu; Fernando Lopez; Manuel Muro **(Reclining):** EZ Gonzales



NAS-CC softball tourney finals – After eliminating the HM-15 team in the semi-finals, the CCAD Warriors faced the CCAD Big Doggz. Oscar Trevino (Doggz outfielder), led off the scoring with a home run followed by Danny Mora with another homer. A single by Greg Johnson followed by Roy Rocha's homer capped the first inning score Big Doggz 4; Warriors 0. The Warriors came back in the second inning with three runs, but the Big Doggz answered with 7, making it Big Doggz 11; Warriors 3. The third inning saw a valiant attempt by the Warriors to catch up scoring 7 runs and holding the Doggz scoreless. The fourth inning added one more run for the Warriors countered by 2 runs by the Doggz. Neither team scored in the fifth inning and the Doggz held the Warriors to one run while scoring two in the sixth inning to make the score 15-12, Doggz. The Warriors scored one last run at their last at bat falling short to the defending champions 15-13. **(Top left:)** Greg Johnson, Big Doggz coach, watches the ball sail after his hit; **(top right:)** Bobby Steinocher is shown after releasing a pitch with Danny Mora (shortstop) and Steinocher, Jr. (outfielder) in the background; **(center left :)** Jose Contreras lays down the bat after a hit; **(center right:)** Danny Mora (in gray) is congratulated by teammates after his homer that drove in a run by Oscar Trevino (at home plate); **(bottom left:)** Jose Contreras with a late tag on George Perez of the Warriors at second with Steinocher (I) and Mora (in background) looking on; **(bottom right:)** Big Doggz and Warriors exchange “good game” shakes after a close championship game.

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...Irene Amador, aircraft jigs and fixtures builder in the directorate of manufacturing and process production and...



...Agustin (Gus) Gonzalez, photography and imaging support, in the directorate of resource management.

CCAD/AAAA Night at the Ballpark

RESCHEDULED

Monday, July 12, 2004 @ 7:05 PM
(Pre-game events begin at 6:30)

Aviator Stadium, Robstown, Texas

COL Budney will throw out the first Pitch

Tickets are \$5.00 each

Those who purchased tickets for the game that was rained out or anyone wanting to purchase tickets for this game need to go by the Branding Iron July 6-9, 2004 between 11:00 – Noon

POC is Oscar Recio, x1-4067

Blasts from the past!



Raquel Amaya (l), and Norma San Miguel (r), were seen around CCAD on Thursday, July 1, 2004. The two retired CCAD employees were on hand to congratulate now fellow retiree Sylvia Montoya. Both Amaya and San Miguel were employees of the old CCAD civilian personnel office.