



THE GLOBAL LINE

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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

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Year of the NCO signals respect

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

The Army has declared 2009 to be "The Year of the NCO," an observance that will both highlight the contributions made by our noncommissioned officers and provide them with opportunities for further development and advancement. The stated goals of "The Year of the NCO" are to honor NCOs through initiatives and events that:

- Enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.
- Enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives.

I am personally delighted that this year-long celebration of the Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps is taking place, and I fully support its goals and its implementation within the Army Sustainment Command. This is an opportunity for everyone associated with ASC to renew their appreciation for what our NCOs give to this organization and to the Army, and to ensure that our NCOs are presented with every opportunity to demonstrate their professionalism and carry out their missions.

Every officer in a position of leadership relies on his or her NCOs to maintain unit discipline, see to the needs of Soldiers, provide sound advice, carry out orders, solve problems, implement policies, and generally take care of what-



ever needs to be done. I have certainly relied heavily on NCOs throughout my career, and that hasn't changed since I became ASC's Commanding General. This Command is blessed with an outstanding cadre of NCOs, and they've done all they can to make my job easier and to move ASC forward.

NCOs are often referred to as "the backbone of the Army," and my experience has shown me how true this is. The Army would quickly fall apart without experienced, dedicated, hard-working NCOs who attend to details, keep systems operating smoothly, face and overcome challenges, and demonstrate their loyalty to their leaders and the Army through direct action. Too often, our NCOs get little recognition and even less credit for their achievements, but I can assure you that it wouldn't be long before we recognized how important they are if they suddenly weren't here for us.

Professionalism and leadership are hallmarks of the NCO Corps. The rest of us - officers, Department of the Army civilians and contract employees - can take advantage of the year-long observance by examining our interactions with NCOs. We can learn from our noncommissioned colleagues, while also helping them along the path to success

Let this be the year we highlight the Soldiers who lead teams, implement programs, complete projects, and maintain day-to-day operations. I offer all our NCOs my abiding respect and unwavering commitment to providing the tools they need to keep ASC "On the Line."

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Contributions to The Global Line are welcome.

E-mail address:

ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil

Phone: (309) 782-5421, DSN 793-5421.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
 Commanding General

Daniel M. Carlson
 Public Affairs Officer

Charles W. Fick Jr.
 Managing Editor

Teresa Johnston and Greg Wilson
 Layout Design



Wounded Soldier aims to lead

By Staff Sgt. Sean Riley
ASC Public Affairs

Bonds of fellowship forged in combat, a desire to lead, and eagerness to continue serving despite tremendous odds, give Spc. Christopher York an inner strength to endure much hardship. He has the strength of character and push that defines Army Strong.

On Dec. 15, 2007, York and several of his platoon members were on a patrol in Iraq when an explosively formed projectile tore through his Humvee and changed his life forever. Two

fellow 1st Infantry Division Soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were also wounded.

“The round went through my lower-left back and out the left side of my rib cage,” said York, who was standing in the gunner’s hatch that day. “I lost my twelfth rib, left kidney, my spleen, part of my colon and stomach, while suffering extensive nerve damage throughout my lower back and legs. I had a hernia in my abdominals and a twisted vertebra.”

The other Soldiers in the truck sustained wounds ranging from

cuts and bruises to concussions. The Iraqi interpreter, who still works with US forces in Iraq, suffered severe facial injuries and had several cuts on his hands.

York’s journey to recovery from his wounds began with a medical evacuation to Joint Base Balad in Iraq, on to Landstuhl, Germany, and then to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, D.C. After spending four days in a drug-induced coma, York spent six weeks in bed, unable to stand or walk.

See YORK page 4



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Crawford

Specialist Christopher York, a military police officer attached to the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, is congratulated after being presented the Purple Heart, for injuries sustained during an attack on his patrol Dec. 15, 2007 while deployed in Iraq. Nearly a year after his life-altering experience in Iraq, York was flown to Fort Riley, Kan., and honored in a Dec. 2, 2008, ceremony during which his former battalion commander, Lt. Col. David Chase (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Nolan presented the wounded warrior with the Purple Heart.

YORK*Continued from page 3*

"I lost 42 pounds in those six weeks," said York. "I weighed 118 pounds when I was finally able to stand on a scale."

Living at the hospital from February to July 2008, York spent his recovery learning to control his legs and to walk again. After release, York continued his recovery in his hometown of Rock Island, Ill., as a member of the Community Based Warriors in Transition Unit and working in the US Army Sustainment Command's Provost Marshal Office.

The CBWTU is an Army program for Soldiers who are so severely injured, a lengthy recovery is required. For many, the possibility of becoming medically fit for continued duty is slim. Assigning Soldiers to a CBWTU near their homes enables families to play a role in transition and recovery while also arranging necessary medical care.

With the possibility of being removed from active duty because of his injuries looming over him, York pushed himself even harder.

"I was told that active-duty Soldiers that are sent to a CBTWU are about 90 percent likely to be released from duty," said York. "At first, I thought that was the right thing to do, but after healing as quickly as I have, I see no reason to get out now."

"York, and many Soldiers like him, is a testament to not only the strength and resolve of a Soldier, but the human spirit as well," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Crawford, the ASC Provost Sergeant and York's supervisor. "As he continues to heal, I hope nothing but the best for him."

Crawford speaks highly of York and his dedication.

"Although York sees his sacrifice as important," said Crawford, "he views himself as just part of a team of Soldiers who sacrifice every day for their country in many different ways."

the Army has been brief, he said he just wants to get back in the fight – despite his injuries.

"I'd like to go back as a team leader," said York. "It would be like if I did get deployed, and had two Soldiers of my own, neither one of them could look at me and tell me they were scared to go out on a mission knowing my story and the fact that I was willing to do it again."

Nearly a year after his life-altering experience in Iraq, York was flown to Fort Riley and honored in a Dec. 2 ceremony during which the 1st Infantry Division commander, Brig. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, and Command

Sgt. Maj. James B. Champagne, along with York's former battalion commander and command sergeant major, presented the wounded warrior with the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is awarded

"I'd like to go back as a team leader."

Spc. Christopher York
Purple Heart recipient

York's career had its beginnings at the doors of Rock Island High School, sending him on a journey that led him to the plains of Kansas, the deserts of Iraq, and ultimately, back to the hills and rivers of Rock Island.

"It feels good to be home," said York. "It is good to be around my family and all of my friends from school. They were all at the airport when I first returned from Walter Reed and that was awesome to see all the support they had to give."

While it seems York's time in

in the name of the president of the United States to those who have been wounded or killed in combat while serving with the U.S. military.

Looking at the Soldier, you know he is humbled and honored to be recognized for his service, but look deeper and you can see in his eyes a desire to return to the reason he enlisted; to serve the country he loves.

"I just don't want anyone thinking that because I was wounded that I'm no good anymore," said York.

Quarters One rocks in the New Year

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Rock Island Arsenal's historic Quarters One was rocking as more than 200 people ushered in the New Year.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of U.S. Army Sustainment Command, and his wife, Sara, hosted a Jan. 10 reception celebrating the Arsenal's long history as a vital part of its surrounding community.

Local citizens, elected officials and military personnel were greeted by Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Radin and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake and his wife, Karen. The Radin's w h e a t e n terrier, Mauri, reportedly added an enthusiastic welcome.

W h i l e Quarters One no longer houses the commanding general, it is a grand structure and the perfect

site for a reception. "We are purposely using Quarters One for this event to offer Quad Cities residents a chance to come see this grand building and observe that this building has not been forgotten," Radin said.

Organized into groups arriving over a period of three hours, guests met the receiving party, then moved to the dining room

where a wide variety of hors d'oeuvres and appetizers awaited them. Desserts were prepared by Radin's enlisted aide, Sgt. Alicia Hight - the Army's Enlisted Aide of the Year for 2008.

"It is wonderful that the Arsenal rolls out the welcome mat to

needed extensive repairs. The historic mansion remained open for public tours in 2008 with some 6,000 people flocking to view the 1870s architecture. Quarters One has been home to 38 military commanders since its construction.



Photo by Rhys Fullerlove

Rock Island, Ill., Mayor Mark Schwiebert talks with Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, during the annual New Year's reception at Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

the Quad Cities community," said Rock Island, Ill., Mayor Mark Schwiebert, one of several local mayors attending. "This is one of the premiere uses for Quarters One, as a venue for special events."

The Radins were the last occupants of Quarters One, moving out last year after the Army determined the building



[For more photos click here](#)

403rd AFSB KATUSAs reach milestone

By Han Kim
403rd AFSB

CAMP HENRY, Republic of Korea – Four Korean Army Soldiers serving with the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade recently ascended to the pinnacle of their military careers by being promoted to sergeant.

Korean Augmentation to the United States Army Soldiers serve side-by-side in U.S. Army units with their American counterparts to boost manpower, contribute valuable language capabilities and provide an important link between the U.S. and Korean militaries.

Promoted were: Sgt. Lee Joon-ho, an administrative specialist who holds a degree in Chinese language and literature from Sungkyunkwan University; Sgt. Song Woo-hyun, a unit supply specialist who is a Seoul National University student majoring in mechanical engineering; Sgt. Yoon Doo-hyun, an administrative specialist with the Brigade Logistics Support Team (BLST), 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade at Camp Humphreys, and is a student at Hankuk University studying foreign affairs; and Sgt. Park Young-soon, a unit supply specialist with the BLST, 2nd CAB, who is a law student at Pusan National University.

“It is a pleasure to promote soldiers who offer such a valuable contribution to the command’s mission,” said Col. Andre Fletcher, commander of the 403rd AFSB. “These soldiers are the first KATUSAs ever assigned to the 403rd and they have been a great asset.”

The newly promoted KATUSA sergeants expressed their pride

in serving with the 403rd AFSB in support of the Republic of Korea and the U.S. Army.

“I am proud to serve my country as well as the United States of America,” Woo said.

Army manpower at the outset of the Korean War. In South Korea, men must serve two years of mandatory military service. After going through a rigorous testing process, only the top

“It is a pleasure to promote soldiers who offer such a valuable contribution to the command’s mission,” said Col. Andre Fletcher, commander of the 403rd AFSB.

“I am glad to have the opportunity to be a part of the 403rd,” Park said.

The KATUSA program started in 1950 to help bolster U.S.

performers are selected for the KATUSA program. Others serve in the Republic of Korea Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine Corps.



Photo by Cho Chung-man

Col. Andre Fletcher, commander of the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade, congratulates Korean Augmentation Troops to the United States Army soldier Sgt. Park Yung-soon upon achieving his new rank as Sgt. Song Woo-hyun (right) and Sgt. Lee Joon-ho look on. Not pictured is Yoon Doo-hyun who was also promoted to sergeant at the ceremony. The four KATUSAs are the first ever assigned to the 403rd AFSB.

CSA praises NCOs, Says two more tough years ahead

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

The Army's chief of staff said in recent remarks that the Year of the NCO actually consolidates two decades worth of thanks to noncommissioned officers.

General George W. Casey Jr. began his breakfast speech to members of the Association of the United States Army by reiterating that 2009 was the Year of the NCO, something that hadn't been recognized since 1989.

Speaking at AUSA's Institute for Land Warfare breakfast in Arlington, Va., he said NCOs have been the glue that keeps the Army together, particularly since Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He said the Army set out to show its appreciation this year to NCOs on three tracks - to recognize them for what they provide the Army and country; to inform the country about what a national asset it has; and to enhance what the Army can do for NCOs.

"When you go around the world and talk to different armies, they say they want to be like us, like our sergeants. I watched the Iraqi soldiers who were just mesmerized by what our sergeants are doing," Casey said. "We want to enhance what we are doing for the NCOs, so we have initiatives that we'll bring on line this year that will enhance how we develop our noncommissioned officers and enable them to gain even more skills."

After a round of applause for the NCOs at the breakfast, Casey told the 400-strong audience the Army still has two tough years ahead, saying

that he sees deployments and "committed strength going up slightly and staying up maybe until about the middle of (2010) when we start seeing a net reduction in deployed forces."

"That's going to put continued pressure on the force," he said, "so we're not out of the woods yet."

Casey said the Army has been "out of balance" since the summer of 2007 because the Army is deploying at an unsustainable rate. He explained that it is "unsustainable

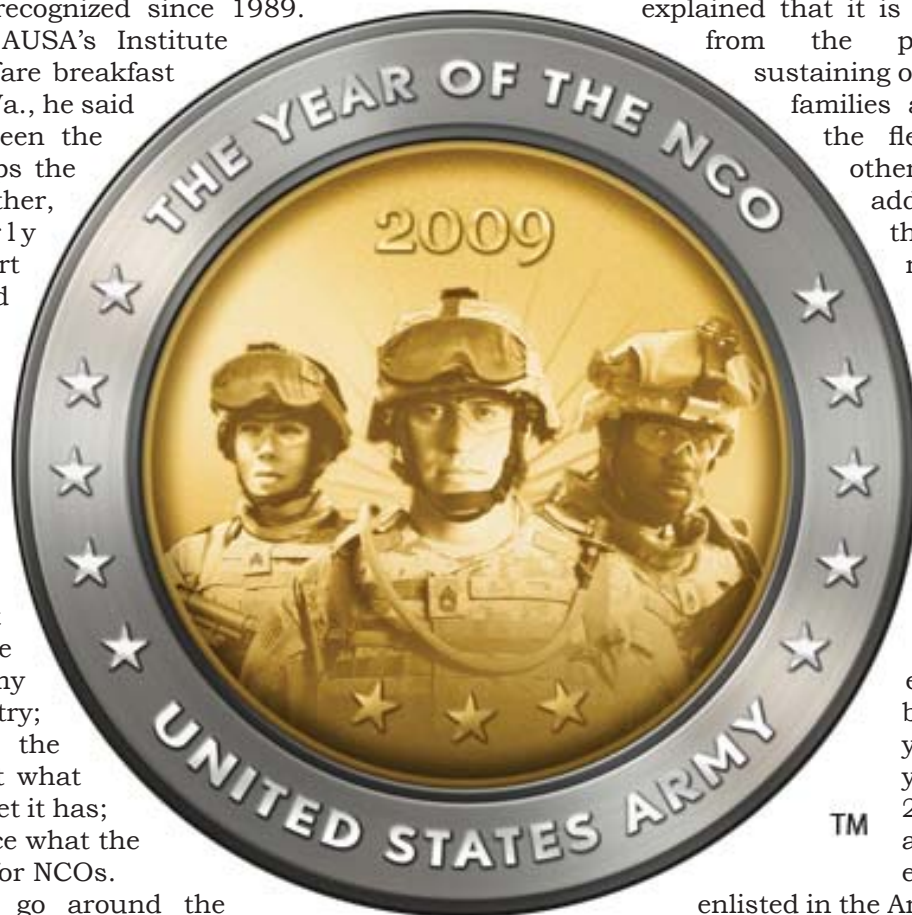
from the perspective of sustaining our Soldiers and families and developing the flexibility to do other things." He added that while the Army has made progress over the last year and a half, there are still two tough years ahead for the service.

The Army is on track with recruiting and retention and expects to meet both goals by year end. Last year, he said, 290,000 men and women enlisted or re-

enlisted in the Army, Guard and Reserve. "That's a staggering number," he said.

Casey also said the Army needs to increase the dwell time Soldiers have.

"As I've looked at this over the last 20 months or so ... it's become clearer and clearer to me that increasing the time Soldiers spend at home is the most important element to getting ourselves back in balance," he said. "Soldiers will need increasingly more time at home because of the cumulative effects of repeated deployments to get themselves back in balance."



Contracting NCO recalls football 'glory days'

By Army Spc. Justin Snyder
Special to American Forces
Press Service

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - Army Sgt. 1st Class Twillie Curry had long since traded his aspirations of becoming a professional football player to follow another dream - becoming a Soldier.

But when a special visitor stopped by the 619th Contingency Contracting Team here recently, Curry, a contracting officer, couldn't help but recall his high school glory days.

While some Soldiers knew of Keith Elias as a former professional football player who once played for the New York Giants and Indianapolis Colts, Curry had a closer association.

Curry and Elias played football at rival New Jersey high schools.

"Keith played for Lacey Township, another team in our area, and he was an all-state running back," said Curry, a Cliffwood, N.J., native. "His team went undefeated also, along with four other teams.

We were state champions, but I wished we could've had a playoff amongst the teams from the other conferences."

The players never met on the playing field, but Curry kept up with Elias' career.

"To see a guy like Sgt. 1st Class Curry, who grew up playing football in the same area as me, it shows that it really is a small world out there," said Elias, who was visiting the Soldiers

as part of a tour sponsored by a faith-based organization.

Curry went on to college football and played in his freshman year, but said he was more interested in seeing the world. That quest led him to join the Army in 1990.

Even after enlisting in the Army, Curry still held on to some of his professional football aspirations.

But Curry had already embarked on a new dream, one that he is still living 18 years later - the Army. He said he has no regrets, noting that football gave him important attributes like mental toughness, teamwork and discipline that helped him along in his Army career.

"One of my assignments was as an instructor at Fort Lee (Va.), and I served as a teacher



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

Sgt. 1st Class Twillie Curry reminisces with Keith Elias, retired New York Giants and Indianapolis Colts football player, during a morale booster trip. Elias and Curry both played high school football in the same area of New Jersey at the same time.

"While at my first duty station in Germany, I wrote a letter to the Frankfurt Galaxy asking for a tryout," Curry said, referring to the NFL Europe football team. "I wanted one last shot at playing football."

The team wrote back to him, but he was conducting field training and never made it to the tryout. His dream of being a professional football player was over.

for a lot of young Soldiers," Curry said. "Above anything I have ever done in football, I got to share my knowledge and help guide young soldiers."

"I had Soldiers come back to me down the road and tell me that I helped them in their career path, and they remembered the things I taught them," he said. "It made me proud to know I made a difference, and I'm proud to be serving my country."

Soldiers, civilians get pay increase for 2009

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- There's something extra in everybody's paycheck this month.

Active-duty personnel marked an across-the-board 3.9 percent pay raise beginning Jan. 1. A sergeant with five years of service, for instance, sees an increase in monthly base salary of about \$88 dollars. A captain with nine years of service sees nearly \$200 per month extra.

The 2009 military pay tables can be found at: <http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay/militarypaytables.html>

Pay raises aren't limited to military personnel, however. Civilian employees under both the General Schedule and National Security Personnel System pay plans are also receiving pay raises.

Civilians under the GS system get an across-the-board pay raise of 2.9 percent in 2009. Civilians under the NSPS pay system will see an increase of 1.74 percent and can earn additional performance-based

salary increases through the NSPS "pay pool" process.

Additionally, all civilian employees rate a locality pay, which is based on the cost-of-living in their employment market. Locality pay rates for 2009 range from about 13.86

percent to 34.35 percent of an employee's base pay.

Civilian pay tables can be found at: <http://www.opm.gov/flsa/oca/09tables/indexGS.asp>



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

Soldiers are earning 3.9 percent more this month. Under the 2009 pay tables, a sergeant with five years of service is seeing an increase in monthly base salary of about \$88 dollars. A captain with nine years of service earns nearly \$200 a month extra.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Riley

ASC NCOs gather coats for local kids

Master Sergeants Darryl Hill and Terrie Green-Armstrong inventory coats donated by members of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command for area students. The ASC Partners In Education program collected 72 coats, 30 hats, 44 pairs of gloves, 21 hat and glove sets, 16 scarves and five sweaters for students in Rock Island and Moline, Ill.

Obama aims to shape military for 21st century

By John J. Kruzell
American Forces Press Service

As President Barack Obama settles in to the role of commander in chief, one of the stated items on his list of priorities is to shape the U.S. military for the 21st century.

Obama has not served in military uniform, but his climb to the Presidency culminates a public service career that began in 1997 as a member of the Illinois State Senate, where he served three terms, followed by a successful bid for the U.S. Senate in 2004.

As a junior U.S. senator, Obama, a graduate of Harvard Law School and the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, was a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. He fought to help veterans get the disability pay they were promised while working to prepare the Veterans Affairs Department for the thousands of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Obama's early exposure to military culture came from the maternal grandparents who helped to raise him during his adolescent years in Honolulu. His grandfather, Stanley Armour Dunham, enlisted in the Army during World War II and served under Gen. George S. Patton while his grandmother, Madelyn Lee Payne Dunham, worked on a bomber assembly line.

The president has said that America's greatest military asset is the men and women who wear the uniform of the

U.S. armed forces.

"When we do send our men and women into harm's way, we must also clearly define the mission, prescribe concrete political and military objectives, seek out the advice of our military commanders, evaluate the intelligence, plan accordingly, and ensure that our troops have the resources, support, and equipment they



White House Photo

need to protect themselves and fulfill their mission," he told the Chicago Foreign Affairs Council in April 2007.

One of the stated goals of Obama and Vice President Joe Biden is to "invest in a 21st century military." To this end, the administration has laid out the following focal points:

-- Rebuild the Military for 21st Century Tasks: Obama and Biden plan to build up special operations forces, civil affairs, information operations and

other units and capabilities that remain in chronic short supply; to invest in foreign language training, cultural awareness, and human intelligence and other needed counterinsurgency and stabilization skill sets; and to create a more robust capacity to train, equip, and advise foreign security forces so allies are better prepared to confront mutual threats.

-- Expand to Meet Military Needs on the Ground: Obama and Biden support plans to increase the size of the Army by 65,000 soldiers and the Marine Corps by 27,000 Marines to help units retrain and re-equip properly between deployments and decrease the strain on military families.

-- Leadership from the Top: Obama and Biden plan to inspire a new generation of Americans to serve their country, whether it be in local communities in such roles as teachers or first responders, or serving in the military to keep the nation free and safe.

-- Lighten the Burdens on Troops and Their Families: The administration plans to create a Military Families Advisory Board to provide a conduit for military families' concerns to be brought to the attention of senior policymakers and the public. They've promised to bring to an end the "stop-loss" measures that allows the services to retain members beyond the term of their enlistment and to establish predictability in deployments so that active-duty and reserve servicemembers know what they can and must expect.