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Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine



U.S. ARMY AFRICA

Making a difference through
research

Mentoring in Djibouti

Kagnew Battalion veterans share
memories

The miracle of birth

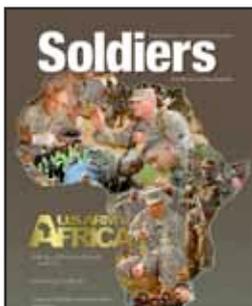


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February 2010 • VOLUME 65, NO. 2



Army Reserve Cpl. John Pearson chats with locals outside the health clinic at Palabek-kal, Uganda, during Natural Fire 10. See page 4 for story. (Photo by Rick Scavetta)



[On the Cover]

U.S. Soldiers perform a variety of tasks, helping people in Africa. Photo illustration by Steve Sanderson.

[Coming Next Month]

March 2010 - OIF/OEF Medal of Honor recipients.



Ethiopian soldiers fight communist forces during the Korean War. See page 20 for story.

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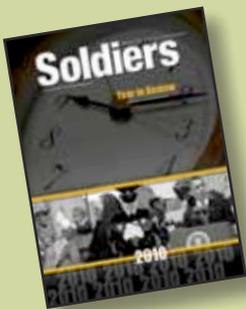
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Commanding General
United States Army Africa
Vicenza, Italy

Our changing world requires Soldiers to adapt rapidly to complex challenges and ambiguous situations. Nowhere is this truer than in Africa, a region of growing importance. There, our Soldiers are making a strategic impact every day as they engage with national and international partners to promote security, stability, and peace on the continent.

Working with African counterparts in a manner that emphasizes respect and teamwork - rather than imposing a distinctly American approach - our Soldiers help improve military interoperability and mutual capabilities, with a particular emphasis on stability operations, disaster response, and humanitarian assistance.

There is an old Swahili proverb, “*umoja ni nguvu*,” - unity is strength - which describes our collective effort in Africa. Inherent in this saying is the word “*umoja*,” - which means “coming together.” As we move forward, Soldiers and our valued partners are coming together in ways that benefit America, Africa, and the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WBGarrett".

William B. Garrett III
Major General, USA
Commander, U.S. Army Africa

Rick Scavetta



USARAF

Story by Rick Scavetta

Serving in

AFRICA



Force Master Sgt. Carlotta Holley

(Left) Master Sgt. George Duenas teaches Rwanda Defence Force instructors the "four stack" in Gabiro, Rwanda. (Right) Members of a Tanzania theater group attend a Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa ceremony, reopening a newly renovated clinic in Masaika.

WHEN U.S.

Army Africa wrapped up Natural Fire 10 in Uganda in October, it marked a change in the way Soldiers conduct missions on the continent.

Not only was it the command's first major exercise, it was also its debut as the newest Army service component command.

For Soldiers, the 10-day humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise tested their abilities to operate safely and successfully on the continent as part of a multi-national coalition.

"It validated what we've learned over the past year and marked places for improvement," said Sgt. Maj. Kellyjack Luman, USARAF's operations sergeant major. "It also brought together U.S. Soldiers with African troops from five partner nations. Our mutual understanding of each other's capabilities will greatly help in upcoming missions we face together."

Over the past year, USARAF Soldiers took part in several other unique missions that built partner capacity in Africa.

In January 2009, two USARAF Soldiers, Capt. Charlie Jones and Staff Sgt. Brian Ruse, mentored Rwandan Defence Force logisticians on how U.S. Soldiers load aircraft and support logistical missions. They were at the right place at the right time. The team assisted RDF troops loading U.S. Air Force C-17s at Kigali International Airport, an airlift that supported African peacekeepers in Darfur, Sudan.

"This type of engagement sets the tone for our new role," said Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett III, commander of USARAF. "We use small groups of Soldiers with unique skills to partner with African militaries, sharing knowledge and information that empowers Africans to resolve challenges in their own way."

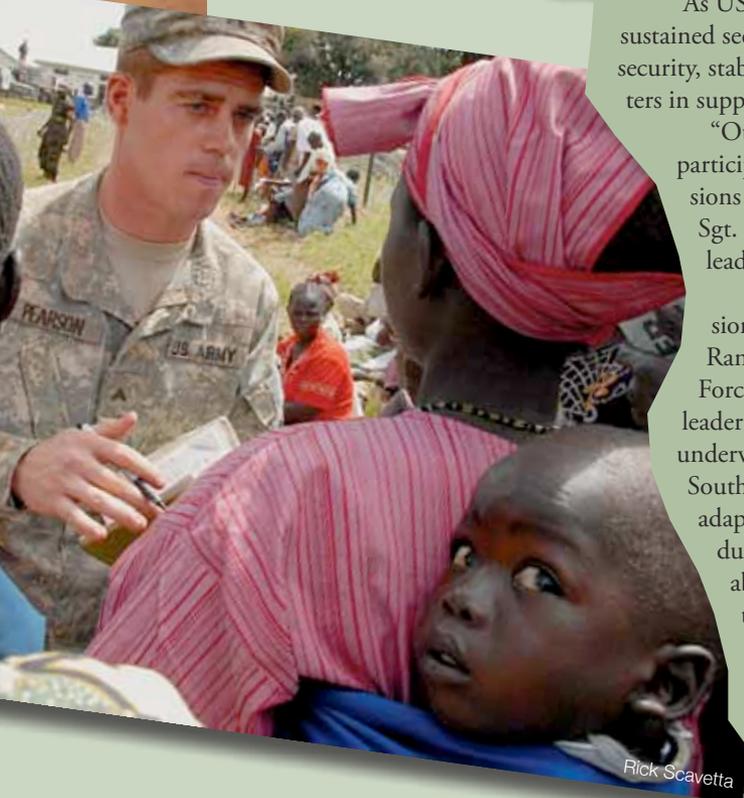
A month earlier, in December 2008, Southern European Task Force began its transformation to become USARAF, the Army component to U.S. Africa Command. Based for a half-century in Vicenza, Italy, SETAF supported NATO missions in Europe and Afghanistan. Over the past 15 years, it deployed assets to Africa five times during crisis-response operations.

As USARAF, the command's new mission is two-part: conducting sustained security engagements with African land forces to promote security, stability and peace, and providing a contingency headquarters in support of crisis response.

"Our Soldiers are tackling this new role, planning and participating in ongoing U.S. Africa Command missions and taking on new initiatives," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Bronson, the command's senior enlisted leader.

For example, senior USARAF noncommissioned officers, along with NCOs from the U.S. Army Ranger Training Brigade, visited South Africa's Special Forces training camp to discuss development of a junior leader course for them. Within weeks, three Army NCOs underwent a grueling three-week survival course in the South African bush, learning valuable lessons on adapting to the environment, maintaining endurance and overcoming nearly insurmountable challenges—a toolkit they carried back to their units.

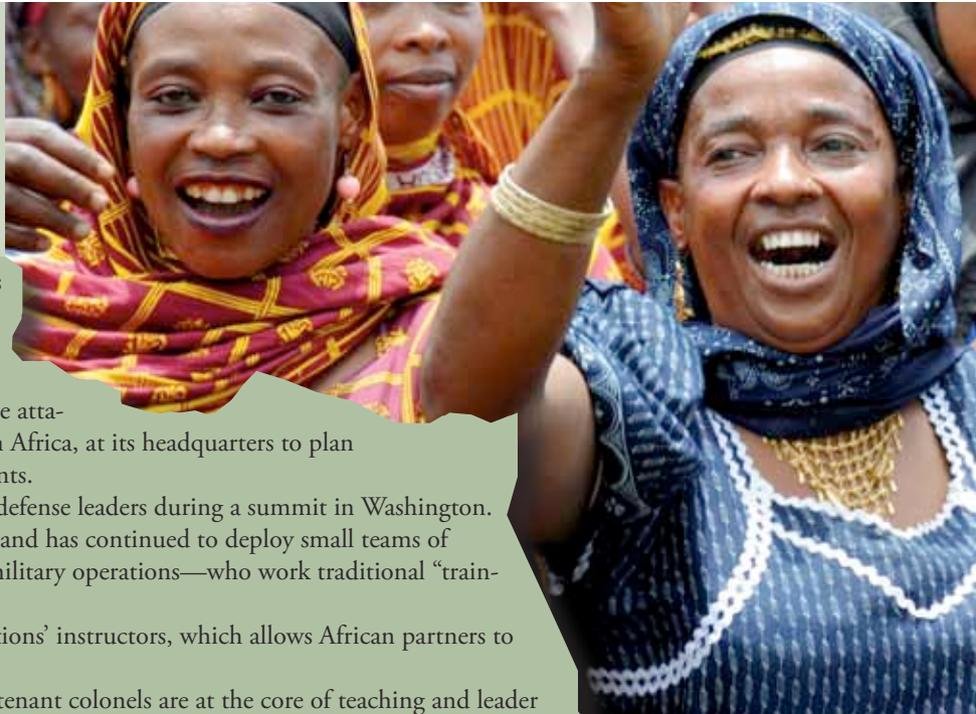
Senior leaders are also planning the way forward. During the Land Forces Symposium in Nairobi, Kenya, USARAF leaders met with senior African military leaders to discuss how nations can work toward achieving



Rick Scavetta

(Left) A member of a Tanzania theater group attends a Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa ceremony, reopening a newly renovated clinic in Masaika. (Above) Cpl. John Pearson chats with people outside the health clinic at Palabek-kal, Uganda, during Natural Fire 10.

(Right) Members of a Tanzania theater group attend a Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa ceremony in Masaika. (Below) Master Sgt. George Duenas and Staff Sgt. Chad Sloan, both from USARAF, train Rwanda Defence Force instructors in Gabiro, Rwanda.



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan Kulp

long-term goals through planning and partnership. By September 2009, USARAF hosted 70 Army officers and civilians, including defense attaches assigned to American embassies in Africa, at its headquarters to plan future theater security cooperation events.

This year, USARAF will host African defense leaders during a summit in Washington.

Throughout its transformation, the command has continued to deploy small teams of mentors—professionals with skill sets vital to military operations—who work traditional “train-the-trainer” missions.

These missions build the capacity of partner nations’ instructors, which allows African partners to educate their own troops.

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, four U.S. Army lieutenant colonels are at the core of teaching and leader development within the Ethiopian Command and Staff College. Already, Ethiopian instructors are taking a lead role and U.S. officers act as mentors.

In Rwanda, Master Sgt. George Duenas and Staff Sgt. Chad Sloan joined a British-led mentorship mission for RDF instructors. The task was the classic infantry “four stack” for clearing buildings. One afternoon, RDF instructors gathered under the shade of a tree—listening to each step. Then they walked through the tactic.

By the next morning, they were teaching their own troops.

With no assigned forces, USARAF relies on support from active component commands, the National Guard and the Army Reserve. In some cases, citizen Soldiers—from civil affairs practitioners and engineers to medics and military police—have niche capabilities that apply in Africa.

“Success in Africa can only be achieved through partnerships with other services within the U.S. military, other governmental agencies and civilian organizations,” Garrett said.

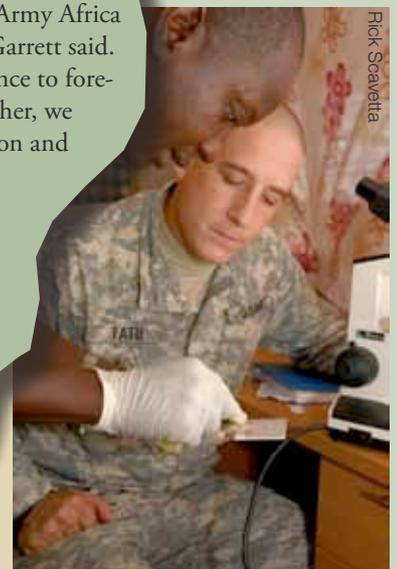
U.S. Army Africa also looks to established efforts, such as the National Guard’s State Partnership Program, to further U.S. Army interaction with African nations. In all, there are seven state partnerships with African nations; California with Nigeria, New York with South Africa, North Carolina with Botswana, Utah with Morocco, Vermont with Senegal, Wyoming with Tunisia and North Dakota with Ghana.

“As America’s premier Army team dedicated to achieving positive change in Africa, U.S. Army Africa faces missions both complex and novel,” Garrett said. “The rewards will be high, as we have a chance to forestall crisis, rather than merely respond. Together, we will make a positive difference—for our nation and the people of Africa.” ♦

Rick Scavetta works for U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs



Rick Scavetta



Rick Scavetta

Pvt. Umaru Konneh shows a typhoid tainted blood sample to Staff Sgt. Mike Tatu at Edward Binyah Kesselly Military Barracks, Liberia.

Guard partnerships spread in Africa

Story by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

IN June 2009, the adjutant general of the Vermont National Guard sat in a wood-paneled briefing room at Ramstein Air Force Base for an update on the African nation of Senegal.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie was making office calls with staff at U.S. Air Forces in Europe and 17th Air Force.

For 14 years, the Vermont National Guard has been in the National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Balkan nation of Macedonia, part of the former Yugoslavia, and now Vermont also is partnered with Senegal.

USAFE's area of responsibility includes Macedonia, and 17th Air Force supports U.S. Africa Command, which includes Senegal.

Adjutant generals are increasingly looking to Africa as the National Guard's 16-year-old, 62-nation State Partnership Program expands.

Seven nations in Africa Command's purview have partnerships and two more are on the horizon.

The seven include: California and Nigeria, New York and South Africa, North Carolina and Botswana, North Dakota and Ghana, Utah and Morocco, Vermont and Senegal and Wyoming and Tunisia.

Partnerships with Liberia and Kenya are expected to be announced in the coming months, Guard officials said.

Adjutant generals view office calls like the one Dubie made as mandatory stops as they pursue SPP activities with their partner nations. The National Guard is one part of a larger team bent on improving partnership capacity.

"We're talking about the integration between what their mission is in their area of responsibility and the State Partnership Program," Dubie explained. "The State Partnership

Program is one of the tools in their tool kit to further their goal—either on a bilateral or a multilateral basis—and we want to work on a collaborative basis and be an asset for (combatant commands) to accomplish whatever the (combatant commanders') goals are."

Macedonia is within U.S. European Command, which watched Africa until it spawned the creation of AFRICOM last year, a separate combatant command headed by Gen. William E. Ward, himself once EUCOM's deputy combatant commander.

It was with EUCOM nations that the SPP started back in 1993, following the collapse of the Iron Curtain. State partnerships foster military-to-military, military-to-civilian and



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, adjutant general, North Dakota National Guard, visits Ghana.

civilian-to-civilian cooperation.

"Since I've been doing this type of interaction for about 14 years, I can tell that AFRICOM has adopted the EUCOM model," Dubie said. "Some of the other (combatant commands) haven't quite adopted as aggressive a State Partnership Program.

"As AFRICOM develops into a more robust program on the continent, the relationships that are being built right now between different U.S. states and their African counterparts can help AFRICOM accomplish their theater strategic plan," Dubie added. "It's really important for the U.S. states in the State Partnership Program to always keep in mind what the (combatant commanders') goals are, in addition to knowing the specific country team goals as articulated by each separate ambassador."

The hyphenated pedigree of the Guardmember—citizen-Soldier or

citizen-Airman—makes the National Guard unique in its ability to deliver, Ward has said.

"There's only one branch of our services, one arm of our services, one component of our services that brings that to the table: That's our Guard," he said at the 2007 EUCOM SPP workshop. "The work that you all do is an absolutely critical element to our engagement strategy."

So it's no surprise that Vice Adm. Robert T. Moeller, the deputy for military operations at AFRICOM, already has been to a workshop in Vermont to meet with chiefs of defense from SPP nations.

"General Ward and the entire team at AFRICOM want to work on a very collaborative basis with the states," Dubie said.

Meanwhile, Vermont hit the ground running with its latest partnership. It took several years for the state to move from military-to-military through military-to-civilian to civilian-to-civilian activities with Macedonia, but Dubie said that's all happening at once with Senegal.

"We aggressively are trying to simultaneously implement events in all three venues. The fact that we are becoming smarter about world affairs and we're building lasting relationships make it a success—and we haven't even talked about the specifics of military operations," Dubie said. "It's what the United States as a whole needs to do more. American society needs to understand other parts of the world better—and if we can start doing that by the Vermont National Guard, that's a good thing for Vermont society and for American society.

"Sometimes Americans, myself included, are quite myopic in our view and already in one year I look at world events through a different lens," Dubie said. "Instead of that American-European lens we're so used to, we're starting to look at it through an American, European and African lens. ♦"

Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill serves with the National Guard Bureau.

Making an **IMPACT** through research

Story and photos by Rick Scavetta

WHEN Maj. Mike Walter makes the five-hour drive from U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Kenya's Nairobi headquarters to the command's field stations in western Kenya, he brakes for zebras, warthogs and baboons.

As USARMU-K's chief of staff, Walter makes the trip often to check on teams of Soldiers studying diseases from HIV and malaria, to tuberculosis and diarrhea. The unit has grown exponentially in recent years, Walter said.

"The first time I made this trip was more than 10 years ago, when I was a new lieutenant. Back then, we ran our operations from small guest houses, old bank buildings and renovated shacks," Walter said, passing a matatu—a slow moving Kenyan shuttle bus. "Now we have state-of-the-art-laboratories, medical clinics full of high-tech equipment, and a robust administration to support our Soldiers in the field."

For the past 40 years, U.S. Army medical researchers have served in Kenya. The Nairobi-based unit is currently under the command of Col. Scott Gordon, a medical entomologist and 26-year Army veteran who holds a doctorate in microbiology. In 1969, Kenya invited U.S. Army researchers to study trypanosomiasis, a parasitic disease transmitted by the tsetse fly. In 1973, the unit was permanently established in Nairobi, working through an agreement with the Kenya Medical Research Institute, Gordon said.

"Since then, we've done quite a bit to improve health care in several regions in Kenya," Gordon said. "Our work also benefits U.S. Soldiers through research and testing that is then incorporated into Army medicine."

HIV research is top priority for U.S. Army and Kenyan researchers in Kericho, Walter's first stop, roughly a five-hour drive northwest from Nairobi. An area known for its tea plantations, Kericho also has a growing HIV infection rate—a perfect environment for USAMRU-K's researchers to study the disease when people are first infected.

Maj. Mike Walter, USAMRU-K's chief of staff



Maj. Eric Lee and Kenyan lab technician Elizabeth Odundo examine diarrheal specimens at USAMRU-K's research station in Kericho, Kenya.



High-tech laboratory equipment is used in USAMRU-K laboratories in Kiusmu, Kenya, to grow malaria for testing medications.

Three years ago, Peter Kibet transferred from the Kenyan health ministry to the Walter Reed Project, what USAMRU-K is known as locally. Now, as Kericho's laboratory director, Kibet, 35, oversees a variety of programs, to include a current study into HIV.

"The patients of interest are those highly at risk for acquiring HIV, commercial sex workers and truck drivers," Kibet said. "Basically, we're trying to better understand the science behind HIV at the early stages of infection."

Young women, all volunteer participants, wait for the phlebotomist in a nearby tent. At first a large blood sample is drawn and tested, followed by twice-weekly small samples. This gives researchers the ability to capture HIV infection within a few days, Kibet said.

Inside the blood-drawing tent, Janet, a 23-year-old woman from Kericho, wears a heated mitt that makes it easier for phlebotomist David Wekulo to extract blood from veins in her hands. Wekulo, 34, from Kakamega, Kenya, joined WRP in 2009 after hearing of its successful research projects. When he and his colleagues in the nearby USAMRU-K laboratory—Kenya's only clinical research lab certified by the College of American Pathologists—learn that a volunteer is HIV positive, it's sad news, Wekulo said.

"Still, it's good they find out as early as possible so there are ways to intervene," Wekulo said. "Once enrolled in the study, they have access to medi-

cal care and social services through the Walter Reed Project."

In Kericho, USAMRU-K's primary objective is evaluating HIV candidate vaccines to support the development of a globally effective HIV vaccine—to protect U.S. military servicemembers, the local community and people worldwide, said Dr. Douglas Shaffer, a U.S. Army civilian who serves as director in Kericho.

In recent years, the research was coupled with comprehensive HIV care and treatment, an USAMRU-K initiative funded through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In 2003, Congress authorized PEPFAR to provide millions of dollars in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In 2008, Congress reauthorized the plan, providing \$48 billion over five years.

In Kericho, that meant increasing their ability to care for people infected with HIV. As recent as six years ago, HIV care in the South Rift Valley could rarely be found. In fact, less than two dozen people in the Kericho area received anti-retroviral treatment for HIV in 2004. Now, with help from USAMRU-K and PEPFAR funds, more than 40,000 Kenyans receive care and treatment, Shaffer said.

Care is now offered at 13 primary sites, normally in district hospitals and 36 satellite clinics set up in rural health centers. There are also 242 centers for expectant mothers—key sites for women to learn their status and pre-

vent transmission to their unborn child with proper treatment, Shaffer said.

"We couldn't do HIV research without meeting the needs of this community. PEPFAR provided much needed funding," Shaffer said. "Integrating HIV research and offering comprehensive care meets our ethical obligation to the local people and from that we have gained community trust."

Connecting with Kenyans affected by HIV also happens on a much more personal level. USAMRU-K's HIV program extends to teens at the Kericho Youth Center, where adolescents learn about HIV infection and prevention through peer-to-peer education. The PEPFAR-funded program also reaches young people at the nearby Live With Hope Center, which helps orphans and other vulnerable children.

During Walter's visit, he also stopped at the Agape Children's Home, an orphanage where a couple dozen children—from toddlers to teens—live with HIV often contracted from parents who succumbed to the disease. Inside, Walter met Grace Soi, a former school teacher who was grateful to meet Shaffer and other WRP staff who recommend correct anti-retroviral treatment for the kids. Soldiers also bring them presents and milk from cows kept near USAMRU-K's Kericho guesthouse, she said.

"They don't directly fund us—but they help morally and at times financially though personal donations from American visitors Walter Reed brings



Maj. Eric Wagar examines a blood sample at USAMRU-K's Kisumu field site.



Capt. Jeffrey Clark, a U.S. Army entomologist, checks on mosquitoes he rears for studying insect-borne diseases at USAMRU-K's Kisumu field site.



Mohamed Aila, a Kenyan lab technician, examines a unique stool sample at USAMRU-K's Kisumu field site, supervised by Maj. Charla Gaddy, a U.S. Army medical researcher.

when they stop by," Soi said. "They've given me so much advice on how to care for the children. That's been a great help to Agape."

Children's covered coughs remind visitors how their small charcoal fire barely heats the crowded room where they gather. Some kids get up and perform a song for Walter. Teenage girls giggle amongst themselves. Tiny eyes from the smaller ones sparkle in amazement at the Soldier who sits among them.

Talking later about the fate of the Agape children nearly brings Walter to tears, no doubt in part because he has four kids of his own.

"Seeing orphans with HIV brings it all full circle. We're studying infectious disease; they are the reason we do what we do," Walter said. "It's sad because children suffer from a disease we can treat, but not yet cure. But, as a Soldier and a medical researcher, it rejuvenates why you serve. You want to tackle it, hit the bench again. Despite the long hours in the lab, you're motivated to fix something, to find a solution."

USAMRU-K has a staff of 10 Soldiers, two Army civilians and more than 400 Kenyan contractors—a mix of doctors, nurses, scientists and laboratory technicians, who work together to research, test and prevent disease. They collaborate with Kenyan health officials, U.S. civilian and military organizations, private companies and

universities, plus nongovernmental organizations and non-profit foundations. With the establishment of U.S. Army Africa, USAMRU-K is now coordinating its established missions with new Army initiatives on the continent.

U.S. Army officers on tour in Kenya live in rented housing, often with their families. Off duty, they spend time together. One night in Kericho, soccer fans gathered at Shaffer's house to watch Liverpool beat Manchester United over a Tusker beer and traditional Kenyan *ugali* (boiled corn flour).

Some, like Maj. Eric Lee, 38, of Pocatello, Idaho, are on short tours to study a specific topic. In Lee's case, it's diarrhea. At the Kericho guesthouse, Lee updates Walter on his work—a project on surveillance of diarrheal pathogens throughout Kenya.

"If we have U.S. Soldiers come to an environment that their bodies are not used to, then having a survey of diarrheal pathogens is extremely important," Lee said.

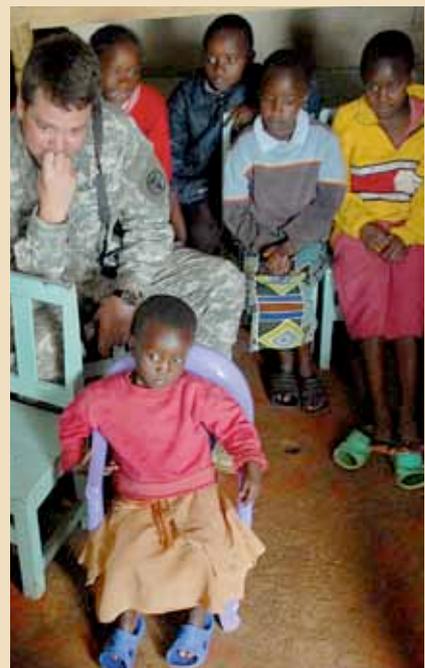
Walter's next stop is Kisumu, a 90-minute drive from the highlands near Kericho to the shores of Lake Victoria. He parks in front of the Kisumu field station, adjacent to the Kondele Children's Hospital, which was dedicated in August 2006 by then-Sen. Barack Obama.

Kisumu is the hub of Nyanza province along Lake Victoria. The area is the heartland of the Luo people in

Kenya. President Obama's father came from the area and some of his paternal family still lives nearby. In Kisumu, researchers are mainly focused on malaria, studying potential vaccines and the ever-changing parasites that cause the disease. Currently, USAMRU-K is taking part in a vaccine trial that may produce the world's first malaria vaccine for children.

Maj. Charla Gaddy runs a laboratory that processes blood, urine, stool and other samples from people taking

Maj. Mike Walter, USAMRU-K's chief of staff, listens as children at the Agape Children's Home sing. The children, all orphans, live with HIV.





In August 2006, then-Sen. Barack Obama dedicated a children's hospital in Kisumu, Kenya, next door to USAMRU-K's Kisumu field site. The president's paternal family comes from the Kisumu area.

part in USAMRU-K research—up to 100 tests a day. She and her Kenyan colleagues make an impact on the lives of research participants—very young children who receive free health care for the duration of the three-year study, known to researchers at MAL-55.

“As a Soldier, a research scientist and a medical professional, I get to see the impact that USAMRU-K is having on the lives of people in western Kenya,” Gaddy said. “Medicine that these kids don't normally get impacts their lives positively. Some of these kids are going to make it to adulthood because of the impacts of this study.”

In the long term, Gaddy hopes the reality of a potential malaria vaccine will make a difference for the people of Kenya and beyond. Not a day goes by that Gaddy and her colleagues don't see and feel malaria's effects, from a co-worker out sick with fever to a child dying, she said.

“If this vaccine works, it will benefit not only the participants, but also the Kenyan people and people all over the world,” Gaddy said. “I'm proud to be a part of Army research that might affect so many.”

Before heading back to Nairobi, Walter talks with Maj. Eric Wagar, director of USAMRU-K's Malaria Diagnostics and Control Center of Excellence, about his recent trip to Nigeria. Since 2004, the center has hosted more than 500 students from



Kenyan lab technician Albina Makio works with specimens behind the glass of a bio-safety hood in Nairobi, Kenya.

16 African countries in an outreach to improve the technicians' ability to read blood samples for malaria diagnosis.

“The program has expanded to offer malaria microscopy instructions and mentorship in Nigeria and Tanzania,” Wagar said.

Walter and Wagar head to the cantina, where they have lunch beside colleagues from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Kenya Medical Research Institute, who are integral partners for medical studies in Kenya. Catching up with them is Capt. Jeffrey Clark, 34, fresh from his entomology research—catching, growing and studying everything from mosquitoes to sand flies. The Pennsylvania-native's insect-borne disease research helps the Army better understand diseases like malaria.

“The best cure is prevention'; that's our motto in preventative medicine,” Clark said. “If we focus on controlling the vector, we could get rid of malaria itself.”

Saying farewell to his colleagues, Walter heads eastward back to Nairobi. Along the way, he's reminded why Soldiers are hard at work combating diseases in East Africa. USAMRU-K projects are making an impact—not only with U.S. military force health protection, but also with the Kenyan people, Walter said.

“You can walk into any one of our clinics, any day, and be touched by

what you see,” Walter said “That really sticks with you. You go home, look at yourself in the mirror and say, ‘I did the military things, but I also made an impact on someone's life.’” ♦



Maj. Mike Walter and Dr. Peter Kibet walk through Kericho, where USAMRU-K's field station personnel are studying HIV and other emerging diseases.



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SGT Brittany Raine

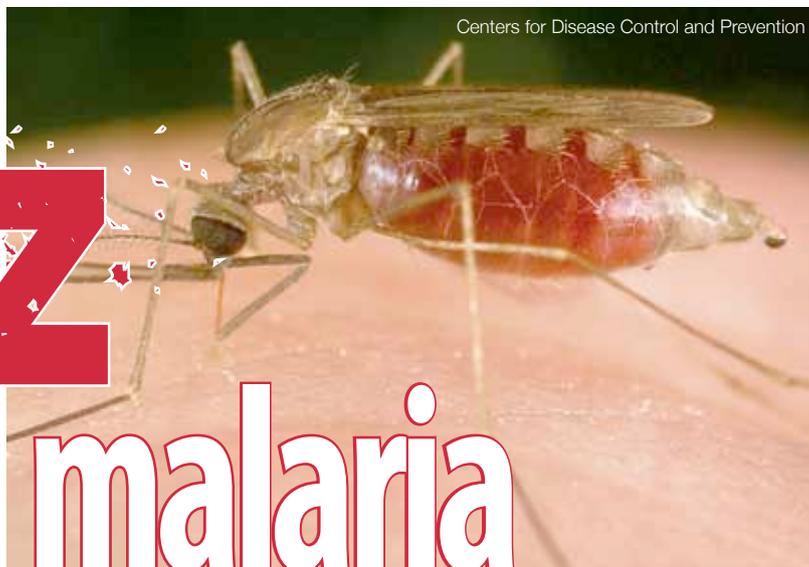
Sergeant Raine is known to ask, "Who wants to build a house and help this family?" As a representative of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS), Raine organizes recreational activities and rallies Soldiers to volunteer for organizations such as Habitat

for Humanity. Driven by her belief that a strong community makes a strong Army, SGT Raine leads Soldiers to give back to their communities. She explains, "I'm proud of my service in Iraq, but I'm really glad to be able to help out right here in my community."

The Nation's strength starts here.

BUZZ

over malaria



Col. Scott Gordon (pictured above), is commander of U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Kenya. He sat down recently with Rick Scavetta of U.S. Army Africa to discuss malaria vaccine research in western Kenya.

How do people get malaria?

Malaria is a parasitic disease that occurs one to two weeks following the bite of infected female anopheles mosquitoes, which often strike at night. Of the four types of malaria, falciparum is the worst—the one that kills people. Roughly 30 percent of anopheles mosquitoes carry malaria. As the mosquito feeds, malaria parasites are injected into the

bloodstream. They migrate to the liver, multiply, then invade red blood cells. What follows is a cycle of severe fevers. Kids are more vulnerable. They haven't had the disease before and haven't developed any immunity to it.

What is USAMRU-K doing in Kisumu in the fight against malaria?

At this time, our major focus in Kisumu is malaria vaccine research, work that has been in progress for more than 20 years with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research being a major partner. In August 2009, USAMRU-K began research in Kisumu for the "RTS,S" vaccine in a study known to researchers as MAL-55.

How do vaccine trials develop to the point where they are available to the public?

Research often begins with "phase one" studies, which are small safety trials, where just a couple dozen participants take part. Phase two research expands the safety aspect to a larger group—maybe 100 or so—but begins to test the vaccine's efficacy. Phase three research, such as the MAL-55 study underway, looks directly at a drug's effectiveness in a certain population. It's the final step in research before publicly offering the vaccine. This is the first malaria vaccine to reach phase three. But

this is a three-year study, so we may still be four to five years out from having a vaccine on the market.

What happens during the MAL-55 study?

The study takes place at 11 sites in seven African countries. In all, 16,000 children will be enrolled—10 percent will be at USAMRU-K's Kisumu site. By November 2009, the Kisumu site had enrolled more than half of the 1,600 participants expected. Two-thirds of the children taking part receive the RTS,S vaccine for three consecutive months. The other third gets a placebo—actually a rabies or meningitis vaccine, depending on the child's age. After 15 months, those who got the vaccine get a booster. One of the benefits to the children is that we provide health care during the three years—free health care for three years is a great benefit.

Why is vaccine research important?

Our mission is to pursue clinical trials of emerging infectious disease studies, research and develop vaccines and also use WRAIR's scientific mandate and resources to improve the capacity and capabilities of the local Kenyan health care system. The information we collect protects Soldiers and is also a key mission within U.S. Army Africa's partnership strategy for the continent. ❖

Rick Scavetta

Role

model for Ugandan teens

Story by Lt. Col. David Konop

WHEN Staff Sgt. John Okumu joined the U.S. Army five years ago, he never dreamed he would one day deploy to Africa, the continent he once called home.

Okumu, who originally hails from Kenya, was among the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Soldiers supporting Natural Fire 10, a 10-day, humanitarian and disaster relief exercise, in Uganda. At Kitgum High School, the logistics noncommissioned officer was surrounded by curious teens eager to learn more about the American sergeant who spoke their language.

Okumu, 35, welcomed the “ambush,” responding to a barrage of questions from the uniformed high school students. Within minutes, a small circle

of a dozen students grew into a crowd of 60 or more.

“How can I go to the United States and become a Soldier like you?” one teen asked.

What began as an impromptu discussion grew into a huddle of dozens, hanging on Okumu’s every word. He told them how important it was for them to do well in school and reach for their goals.

“Education is the key,” Okumu said. “Everyone has a talent. You just need to find out what yours is.”

The students paid close attention and asked many questions. At one point, they broke into laughter after one student asked a question the others thought was silly. Okumu was quick to jump in, telling the students never to

be afraid to learn by asking.

“There’s no such thing as a stupid question, except to the question that’s never asked,” Okumu said.

The conversation went on in English, which the teens learn in their classes. But they were initially drawn to Okumu when they heard him speak Luo—the language spoken in northern Uganda, which is what Okumu learned as a child in Kenya. He moved to Missouri in 2000.

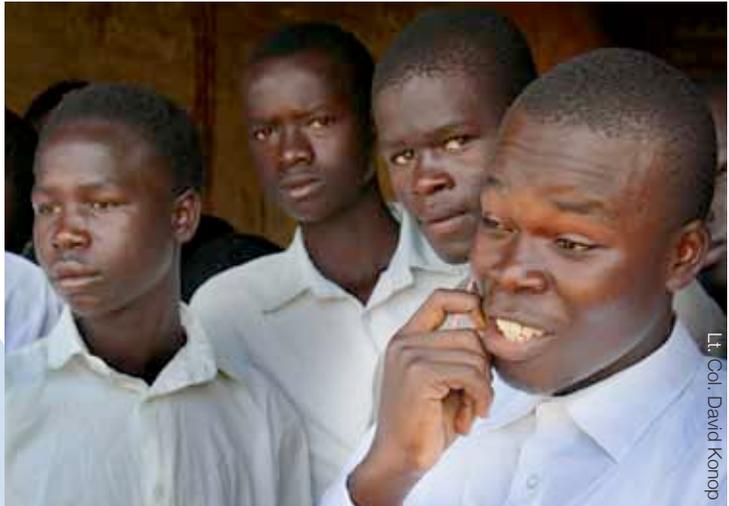
Okumu made sure Kenyan teens understood the importance of education to their future success.

“Good grades and test scores may qualify you for scholarships to the U.S.,” Okumu said. “Do your best.” ♦

Lt. Col. David Konop is a public affairs officer with U.S. Army Africa.



Lt. Col. David Konop



Lt. Col. David Konop

Staff Sgt. John Okumu mentors youth during Natural Fire 10, a humanitarian exercise in Uganda.



Passion for medicine

Story by Rick Scavetta

TWO years ago, Daniel Bateson was hanging drywall with his family's home improvement business.

While handing out adhesive bandages at Vicenza's Army health clinic, the private first class had wondered if he'd get his shot to take part in the command's new initiatives—partnering with African militaries to promote stability on the continent.

Today, his wish has come true. The Connecticut-native is stationed in Djibouti, and the most junior U.S. Army Africa Soldier to mentor Africans on the continent. He and Sgt. 1st class Roddy Rieger went to Camp Lemonier for a weeklong course on first aid and medical evacuations, similar to the Army's combat lifesaver training.

"As medics, we know this as the simple stuff and it's not hard to share with others," Bateson, 21, said. "The Djiboutians were eager to learn and

absorb this."

The team mentored 29 students from Djibouti's military, ranging from junior enlisted troops to company-grade officers, during a five-day course that included classroom instruction, hands-on exercises and a daylong test of the skills in a simulated hostile environment.

Rieger, 35, of Bismarck, N.D., a senior USARAF noncommissioned officer who served in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, knew that understanding both cultural and language issues would be the key to success. When building lessons, Rieger also relied on previous partnership assignments in Tunisia and Morocco.

"I'm an NCO and medicine is my passion," Rieger said. "If we helped just one Djiboutian, and he later uses that knowledge to save a life—that's what it's all about." ❖

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Roddy Rieger, U.S. Army Africa's senior medical NCO, watches as Djiboutian soldiers evaluate a simulated casualty.

(Below top) Pfc. Daniel Bateson, a U.S. Army Africa medic explains how to apply a tourniquet as a Djiboutian soldier practices on his leg. (Below bottom) Bateson mentors a Djiboutian soldier.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kelly Ontiveros



Sgt. 1st Class Roddy Rieger



UGANDA

Gen. William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command, talks with Ugandan People's Defense Force Col. Sam Kavuma while touring the Gulu district of Uganda. Ward met with local leaders, U.S. Agency for International Development representatives and servicemembers assigned to the 354th Civil Affairs Battalion deployed in support of a veterinary civic action program for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

— Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock



Afghan Army getting C-27 aircraft

A planned fleet of C-27s, delivered with the help of coalition forces, will modernize the airlift capability of the Afghan National Army.

The first two of 20 planned C-27 aircraft became part of the ANA Air Corps with a ceremony in November at Kabul International Airport. Plans call for one additional aircraft to be delivered about every six weeks.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said he has been looking forward to the capabilities the new aircraft will bring to Afghanistan's security forces.

"With the delivery of the C-27, the brave and skilled pilots of the Air Corps gain the ability to conduct many of the same airlift missions done by coalition forces in defense of their country," McChrystal said.

McChrystal listed the tracking of Taliban forces, the movement of Soldiers, delivery of supplies, and evacuation of wounded Soldiers as



Staff Sgt. Thomas Dow

Afghan and coalition forces view the first two C-27 aircraft purchased by the Afghan National Army Air Corps following a ceremony Nov. 15 at Kabul International Airport.

essential missions that the C-27 can accomplish. He also thanked coalition organizations that facilitated the delivery of the aircraft, emphasizing its ability to support unique Afghan air missions.

The C-27's twin-engine turboprop can carry up to 44 passengers, more than 23,000 pounds of cargo and fuel, and can land on unimproved fields as

short as 3,000 feet. These capabilities make the aircraft valuable in Afghanistan, whose mountainous terrain and limited road network—which is further constrained by the threat of roadside bombs—make air power critical to the mobility of its citizens, coalition officials said. ♦

— Brig. Gen. Michael R. Boera/Combined Air Power Transition Force

Army approves suicide-intervention training

Now available for Army leaders and other key personnel.

The Army has approved two-day and five-day workshops on Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, known as ASIST. The workshops are produced by Living Works Education, Inc., at locations across the country.

The five-day ASIST workshop is a "train the trainers" course that will certify key Army personnel to conduct the two-day ASIST course throughout the Army.

"We would never deploy Soldiers without first training them to accomplish their anticipated mission—why should suicide prevention be any different?" asked Brig. Gen.

Colleen McGuire, director of the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force.

"When you go to the emergency room with a physical injury, you're right to expect the nurses and doctors are well-trained and can get you the care you need," McGuire said. "The same should be true if you're thinking of harming yourself and you choose to go to your leadership or other Army professionals seeking help."

The two-day ASIST workshops will train Army leaders, chaplains and chaplain assistants, substance abuse counselors, family advocacy program workers, medical and dental-health professionals, and other care providers in a range of suicide-prevention and intervention skills. ♦

— Army Public Affairs

Extend to deploy

Under new Army policy, if Soldiers don't agree to extend their enlistments in units slated to deploy, they may be involuntarily separated up to three months early.

The new Enlisted Involuntary Separation Program affects regular Army Soldiers who have a contractual end-of-service date during the first six months of their unit's scheduled deployment. It also applies only to Soldiers with more than 36 months of active-duty service and less than 71 months of total service.

Soldiers who participate in the Deployment Extension Incentive Program will receive an extra \$350 or \$500 for every month extended. Those who don't re-enlist or extend will be out-processed three months early. ♦

— J.D. Leipold/ARNEWS

HooahMail: fast delivery to remote Afghanistan bases

The Army's HooahMail program makes it possible for friends and family members to put a paper letter and photograph into the hands of loved ones in Afghanistan, in some cases, the same day they're sent.

The one-year pilot program began Dec. 1, and combines the Internet with physical mail delivery to create a hybrid mail system that can get letters into the hands of Soldiers in remote locations much faster than regular mail delivery alone.

"This gives Soldiers actual printed correspondence that is sent from their family members that they can take out on a mission with them and read and reread again," said Bill Hilsher, Army postal program manager.

Family members who want to send a letter and a photograph to a Soldier in Afghanistan should log into the program's Web site at www.hooahmail.us. There, they type in their message and

attach a digital photo. They also add delivery information for their Soldier, as though they were addressing a paper envelope.

The electronic letter is sent via the Internet to one of 10 locations in Afghanistan where special equipment will automatically print it, fold it, stuff it into an envelope, address it and seal it. The sealed envelopes are then placed into the regular intra-theater APO mail

delivery system.

"Compared to traditional mail, (the electronic letter) reduces it from an average of 14 days down to same-day or next-day, ready for delivery," Hilsher said.

The HooahMail program is free for family members and friends, and is available for Soldiers in Afghanistan only. ♦

— C. Todd Lopez/ARNEWS



John Vachon

World War II Soldiers receive letters from home during mail call. Then, mail took weeks to arrive, but HooahMail can reach Afghanistan in a day.

Soldiers learning to 'bounce back' with resilience training

The Army is equipping Soldiers with a new tool designed to help them better deal with the psychological effects of combat.

"Master resilience training" is being taught in Philadelphia, primarily

to NCOs, who will return to conduct training at their commands.

A group of 155 noncommissioned officers attended the first official master resilience training in November.

The training is part of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program and was developed from the University of Pennsylvania's resilience program.

"We truly believe this is instrumental in improving ... the psychological fitness of the force," said Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness.

The 10-day course, put on by professionals from UPenn in conjunction with the Army, is designed to

equip Soldiers with the skills needed to teach other Soldiers how to better weather traumatic events—be they money problems, relationship problems or the horrors of combat.

"The title misleads you, but when you get it broken down, you see that all this is, is life lessons," said Staff Sgt. David Breeden, an Army drill sergeant from Fort Benning, Ga., who attended the master resilience training in Philadelphia.

"Some Soldiers just are brittle," Breeden said. "They don't have that resiliency factor of being able to bounce back from a traumatic event, and it does cause issues."

Helping potentially "brittle" Soldiers become more likely to "bounce back" or cope with stressful events is what resilience training is all about. ♦

— C. Todd Lopez/ARNEWS

C. Todd Lopez



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Brundage and Sgt. 1st Class Paula L. Lebov work together during the first official "master resilience training" program Nov. 8-19, in Philadelphia, Pa.

Ethiopia:

Story by Rick Scavetta

“We went with Americans to the front line and fought together,” Belachew said. “From that, we helped a great nation, Korea, to survive.”

Ethiopian veterans of the Kagnew Battalion, who fought alongside the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division during the Korean War, gathered at their memorial in Addis Ababa recently to meet with U.S. Army Africa officers from the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College. Pictured from left to right are Cpl. Giarma Moia, 80; Lt. Tedesse Kerstos, 82; Maj. Letargachew Abebe, 82 and Capt. Selmare Mikele, 79.



State Dept. photo



Lt. Solomon Mokria conducts training for Ethiopian troops in Korea, May 1951.

AS Yilma Belachew gazed upon memorial stones honoring fallen Ethiopian comrades, his memories drifted back to bodies rolling down a hillside in Korea, where he fought alongside U.S. Soldiers.

Belachew, then a 20-year-old captain with the Kagnew Battalion, was among United Nations troops who fought communist forces on the Korean peninsula. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the start of that conflict.

“We went with Americans to the front line and fought together,” Belachew said. “From that, we helped a great nation, Korea, to survive.”

Minutes earlier, Belachew welcomed U.S. Army Africa officers to the Ethiopians’ Korea War Veterans Association museum and memorial, tucked within a park in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. It was the first time he’d seen U.S. troops in six decades.

Kagnev veterans share memories of Korean War

At 79, Belachew's eyesight is failing, yet his memories are sharp. He pointed to a large battle map on the museum wall as he told his story. "I can see all the events in Korea," Belachew said. "I see everything clearly."

In June 1950, when the Korean War began, the U.N. built a coalition to fight against communist North Korean and Chinese forces. Haile Selassie, then emperor of Ethiopia, formed the Kagnev Battalions from his personal bodyguards, Belachew said. During the war, three Kagnev battalions served in Korea. Another arrived following the cessation of hostilities.

Ethiopian troops sailed from Djibouti, training shipboard during the three-week journey. At Pusan, they were attached to the U.S. 7th Infantry, working with the 32nd Infantry Regiment. Then they marched into combat, fighting alongside American Soldiers, Belachew said.

"When we were in the frontline. I admired the American Army. They were very good Soldiers," Belachew said. "When they fight, they fight. When they enjoy, they enjoy. I liked that."

Belachew fondly remembers patrols when U.S. Soldiers brought dogs along. Other times, he and his fellow Ethiopians relied upon U.S. tactics during

operations, he said.

"When you went on patrol, you depended on (U.S.) support for artillery and air support," Belachew said.

Embedded in Belachew's memories—weeks of fierce combat in late-1952, when U.N. forces came to death grips with the enemy on the steep slopes of Triangle Hill during Operation Showdown.

"The longest fight I saw was Triangle Hill, almost a month we were fighting on that one, you could see bodies rolling down to the bottom," Belachew said. "A great fight was done there. We fought continuously day and night."

One day during battle, a battalion operations officer visited Belachew, who was commanding a 75-mm recoilless rifle team, to discuss division orders to muster an ambush patrol. A platoon leader fell ill and Belachew was asked to lead the Kagnev patrol into enemy territory, he said.

"So, I took 14 men with me and fought. I was successful," Belachew said. "I met the Chinese and fought them without any of my Soldiers wounded. We brought one body with weapons back to our front line."

In 1952, 21-year-old Melesse Tessema shipped out for a year-long combat tour in Korea. Six decades have

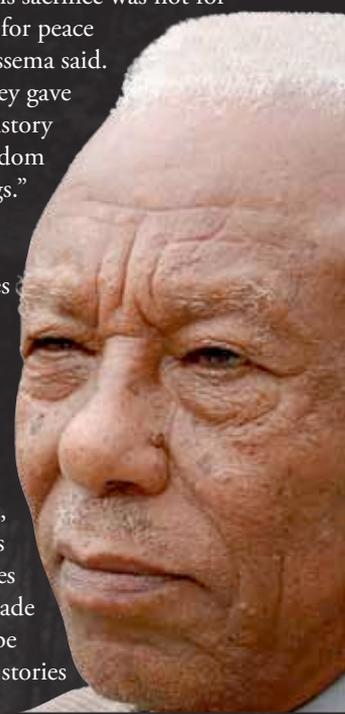
passed and the names of Americans that Tessema served with are lost. But memories of comradeship remain.

"The American battalion was very brave," Tessema said. "I admired them."

During the fighting, 122 Ethiopian troops were killed, 526 were wounded, said Tessema, who now serves as chairman of the Ethiopian Korean War Veterans Association.

"We knew there was going to be sacrifice. But this sacrifice was not for nothing. It was for peace and liberty," Tessema said. "My friends, they gave their lives for history and for the freedom of human beings."

Over the years, Tessema visited the States several times, where he has met U.S. veterans of Korea. Like many aging veterans of conflicts past, Tessema worries that the sacrifices his comrades made for liberty will be forgotten if the stories of their bravery



Ethiopia: Kagnev veterans share memories of Korean War

are not brought into modern times.

“In America, young people are going to forget the Korean War, the same here in Ethiopia also,” Tessema said. “That’s why our association is established, to pass our story on to (the) next generation.”

troops fought alongside U.S. troops during the battle for Pork Chop Hill, fighting later depicted in a 1959 film starring Gregory Peck.

Ethiopian soldiers serving in Korea among Western powers clung to words Haile Selassie uttered in 1936 to the



Lt. Col. Randy Torno and his fellow American instructors/mentors at the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College listened to the veterans’ stories.

The meeting began a friendship that will continue to grow, and Torno and his peers hope to offer vintage Korean War-era artifacts to the veterans to help them share their experiences with others.

Torno explained to the Ethiopian veterans that USARAF will continue to cultivate its partnership with the Ethiopian military, carried out in the spirit of the longstanding cooperation between Ethiopian and U.S. Soldiers.

“It’s an honor to meet the men who fought alongside our Soldiers in Korea,” Torno said. “Our discussions with the Korean War veterans will directly apply to the strategic coursework in the classroom.”

Tessema, now 77, is glad to see a new friendship building with the American instructors, he said.

“When I see the faces of Americans, I feel them like they are members of my family,” Tessema said. “For me, the presence of Americans here gives me happiness.”

Through mentoring, the American officers are able to help their Ethiopian counterparts better understand modern military strategy, which might save lives and money, Belachew said.

“I’m glad that Americans have come to our country,” Belachew said. “I hope they will do a lot and they can build another part of history.” ❖



Ethiopia’s contributions during the Korean War did not go unnoticed at the time. In December 1952, when then President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower visited troops in Korea, an Ethiopian honor guard greeted him, Belachew said, recalling a Newsweek article printed later that described the Kagnev Battalion’s parade at goose-step march. He also remembers a report in the Stars and Stripes newspaper.

In 1953, as U.N. and communist forces negotiated a cease fire, Ethiopian

League of Nations, appealing for support against a fascist invasion, “It is us today, it will be you tomorrow.”

They served knowing that only coalitions supporting ideals of freedom and liberty could free oppressed countries, an idea that Belachew still holds dear.

“Korea was almost turned to ash at that time,” Belachew said. “We can see now, by sacrifice of Koreans and soldiers from 16 nations that Korea exists.”



(Left) Ethiopia was the first nation in Africa to contribute a complete unit of ground troops to the UN Korean command. Three Ethiopian gunners from Addis Ababa preparing to fire a 75mm recoilless rifle are, from left to right: Cpl. Alema Welde, Cpl. Chanllo Bala and Sgt. Maj. Bogale Weldeyense.



State Dept. photo




Memorial Hall for Ethiopian Veterans in the Korean War
 We donate this Hall in appreciation for Ethiopian people and veterans who fought for freedom during the Korean War.
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Mentorship in Ethiopia

offers low-cost, high-impact benefits.

Story and photos by Rick Scavetta

AFTER spending a year mentoring Ethiopian officers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Lt. Col. Randy Torno jumped at the chance to extend his tour—remaining in the role he calls the most rewarding job he’s ever done.

Now he’s tackling his second year at the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College, a program that serves as a model for U.S. Army Africa partnerships on the continent.

“With a small investment, the salary of a few colonels, this type of engagement is having a profound effect on the capability of our Ethiopian partners,” Torno said. “We’re making a difference by helping Ethiopians shape the future of their professional military.”

In 2005, the Ethiopian military was looking to build a military education and professional development



course for mid-level officers. In the past, Ethiopia sent officers overseas for such courses, to command and staff schools in the U.S., Germany, the U.K. and China, Torno said.

“But what they really wanted was to build their own, internal capability—an Ethiopian-led staff college,” Torno said.

The partnership with the U.S. began with civilian contractors, then with active-duty officers from U.S. Army Central Command, which then oversaw the Horn of Africa. The program matured when instructor-qualified Reserve officers, like Torno, were mobilized for yearlong tours to Ethiopia.

Torno arrived at the college in December 2008, when the Ethiopian military decided they wanted a senior-level college, rather than the intermediate levels being taught up to that point. Working closely with the U.S. Naval War College, the Ethiopian college developed a curriculum on military history and strategic planning. A small team of Reserve officers and one Air Force lieutenant colonel teach classes and offer advice to new Ethiopian instructors.

Thick books containing strategic wisdom from Sun Tzu to Carl von Clausewitz line shelves in the American

team’s third-floor office, where smoked-glass windows offer a hillside view of the Ethiopian capital. Grading tests at his desk, Lt.

Col. Randall Jay Miller, a South Dakota-native, explains how he served as an instructor for both U.S. and Canadian officers, before being called upon for the assignment in Ethiopia. Already, Miller’s seen progress, with more than a dozen Ethiopian instructors teaching many courses themselves, he said.

“We’ve stepped back, taking on more of an advisory role,” Miller said. “It’s part of our goal, for them to have the wherewithal to run the college on their own.”

Lt. Col. Brendt Vitale, an armor officer from Wisconsin, paces through the classroom next door, talking about terrorist tactics in recent years—one of the many topics he covers, from military history and political-military relationships, to discussions on how wars end and post-war operations.

“We look at lessons learned and encourage the students to use analytical skills to apply military strategy and modern concepts to situations,” Vitale said. “We talk about both Ethiopian and

Ethiopian military officers undergo a variety of courses on strategy and military history while attending the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College, a program that serves as a model for U.S. Army Africa partnership on the continent.





Lt. Col. Randy Torno teaches and mentors senior Ethiopian military officers at the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College—a role he calls the most rewarding job he’s ever done.

U.S. experiences.”

In October 2009, USARAF began oversight of the partnership program. The course sets a strong example for future engagements on the continent—small teams working low-cost, high-impact missions, allowing partner nations to grow in their own way and develop programs that work for them, Torno said.

USARAF now augments the team’s efforts as part of ongoing guest lecture series. Guest speakers—Army officers from both active-duty and reserve units—have offered insight into key

topics senior leaders face, from legal issues and public affairs, to civil-military relations and counterinsurgency operations.

During a recent stop in the Ethiopian capital to meet with senior U.S. embassy and Ethiopian leaders, Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett III, commander of USARAF, visited the school, taking part in a class and chatting with Ethiopian instructors and students.

“He offered his knowledge and expertise as a combat brigade commander and an Army service-component commander to classes on air power and

tactical logistics,” Torno said. “Since then, dozens of students ask when he’s coming back, as they have more questions for him.”

Ethiopia faces modern security issues, within the region and as a part of a larger partnership of African and international nations, Torno said.

“We’re impacting the next two generations of Ethiopia’s senior military leadership,” Torno said. “Plus, we create a common language for future military cooperation with Ethiopia and strengthen their ability to work as a regional partner.” ♦

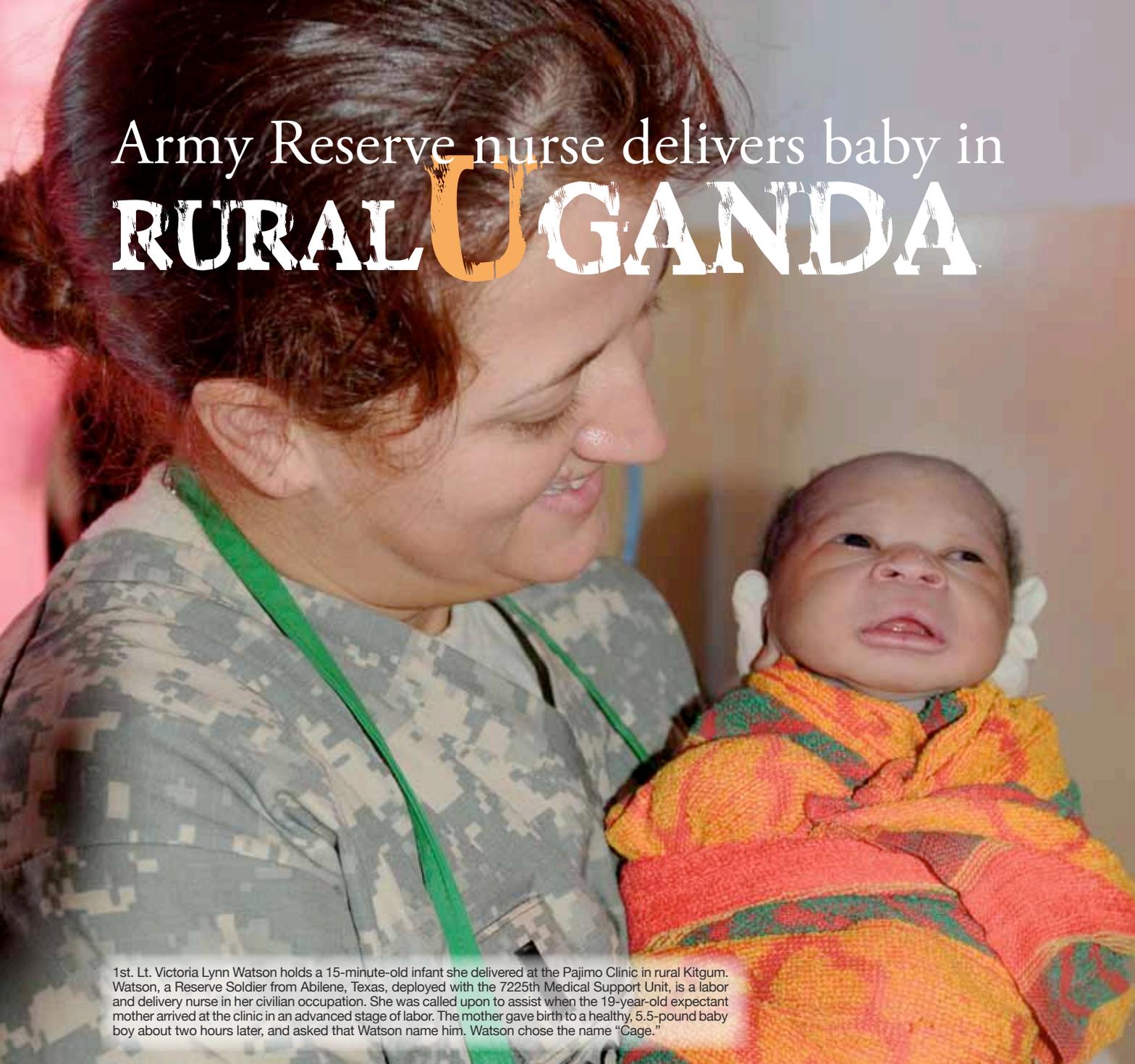


(Left) Lt. Col. Randall Jay Miller, a South Dakotian, grades tests at his desk at the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



(Right) Ethiopian military officers undergo a variety of courses on strategy and military history while attending the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College.





Army Reserve nurse delivers baby in RURAL UGANDA

1st. Lt. Victoria Lynn Watson holds a 15-minute-old infant she delivered at the Pajimo Clinic in rural Kitgum. Watson, a Reserve Soldier from Abilene, Texas, deployed with the 7225th Medical Support Unit, is a labor and delivery nurse in her civilian occupation. She was called upon to assist when the 19-year-old expectant mother arrived at the clinic in an advanced stage of labor. The mother gave birth to a healthy, 5.5-pound baby boy about two hours later, and asked that Watson name him. Watson chose the name "Cage."

Story and photos by Maj. Corey Schultz

WHEN 1st Lt. Victoria Lynn Watson deployed to Uganda for Natural Fire 10, she never imagined using her labor and delivery nursing skills—but she did, twice.

When a Ugandan woman, Linda, arrived in labor at Pajimo medical clinic, where the Army Reserve's 7225th Medical Support Unit was partnering with East African medics to offer

health care to the Kitgum community, Watson sprang into action.

During the 10-day exercise, Army medics ran a daily clinic—treating more than 700 Ugandans for ailments such as arthritis, minor wounds, skin infections, as well as providing dental and optometry care. Soldiers from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Burundi worked alongside U.S. troops at the clinic.

She checked her watch. It was nearly 2:30 p.m. when medics hurried

the 19-year-old expectant mother from the clinic gates, where hundreds had gathered to receive care.

While delivering a baby was not planned, the Pajimo clinic staffs a midwife and Watson was eager to assist.

"This is what I do. I'm a labor and delivery nurse in my civilian job," Watson, an Abilene, Texas, native, said, hurrying past Ugandan families clutching medicines and awaiting dental check-ups. "This is what I live for."

Once in the clinic's maternity

ward, Watson and Pfc. Kendra Hinds, a Reserve medic from Lubbock, Texas, joined Stella Betty Lamono, the Ugandan midwife. Lamono asked the lieutenant to work with her to deliver the child.

Stella and her Ugandan assistant prepared the delivery room. Watson examined the woman, who was 9 centimeters dilated and having contractions. Her watch read 3 p.m.

Hinds had never helped a woman give birth. So, Watson talked her through the exam as they felt the mother's stomach to see where the baby was.

"You can feel the contractions," Watson said to Hinds. "Her sides and belly get hard. Feel here...that's the head. It's in the right place, that's good. The baby is aligned right."

Lamono produced a Pinard Horn—a wooden listening device not often seen in America that is used to hear the baby's heartbeat. Watson and Hinds took turns listening.

"You are delivering," Lamono said to Watson. "You should name the baby."

"OK, I'll name the baby," Watson said, in a light-hearted way. "How about, let's see...Gracie for a girl? Yes, I like Gracie."

"And a boy?" asked Lamono.

"Okay, for a boy...Cage. I like Cage."

Lamono translated. The mother smiled, amused despite her obvious discomfort. It was nearly 3:30 p.m.—the baby was coming, but the delivery team still had things to do. They tried to start an intravenous drip.

There was a problem—they couldn't find a vein. They spoke with the mother and found she had not eaten anything for two days.

"She's dehydrated," Watson said. "She needs something with sugar."

Soldiers offered sweet powdered drink packs from their Meals, Ready-to-Eat, such as lemon-flavored iced tea and a lemon-lime electrolyte drink.

Watson stirred each drink in a green plastic cup and gave it to the mother, who drank thirstily.

The team then found a vein for



Pfc. Kendra Hinds, a medic deployed to Uganda with the Army Reserve's 7225th Medical Support Unit, searches for a vein to give a patient an IV. The expectant mother arrived at the Pajimo Clinic in northern Uganda and delivered a healthy baby boy two hours later.

an IV, the mother tried to relax. From time to time, she would lift a pink curtain and gaze through the window into the dusty yard. Things quieted.

Meanwhile, her sister arranged swaddling clothes on the receiving table at the other side of the room.

"How many weeks is she?" Hinds asked.

"Thirty-eight," Lamono said.

Ugandan midwives determine the duration of the pregnancy by feeling

the stomach for the size of the baby's head versus the height of the fundus—how high the uterus has pressed upwards into the diaphragm.

"This is amazing," Watson said. "In the States, doctors run a sonogram over the belly, ask for the date of the last menstrual period, and go from there. We learn the 'old school' way, but we never actually do it like Stella has."

The contractions continued. The mother remained stoic despite the lack



Stella Betty Lamono, the head midwife at the Pajimo Clinic in rural Kitgum, Uganda, uses a Pinard Horn—a wooden listening device used to listen to a baby's heartbeat. The expectant mother was rushed into the clinic, where Lamono and two Army Reserve Soldiers with the 7225th Medical Support Unit helped her deliver a 5.5-pound baby boy.



1st. Lt. Victoria Lynn Watson (left) and Stella Betty Lamono, the midwife at the Pajimo Clinic in rural Kitgum, Uganda, work together to deliver a newborn. The 19-year-old mother arrived at the clinic, run by U.S. and East African medical personnel, and gave birth about two hours later. Watson, a Reserve Soldier with the 7225th Medical Support Unit, is a labor and delivery nurse in her civilian occupation, and was called upon to assist in the delivery. The mother asked Watson to name her son, and Watson chose the name "Cage."



1st. Lt. Victoria Lynn Watson (left) and Pfc. Kendra Hinds (right), Reserve Soldiers deployed to Uganda with the 7225th Medical Support Unit, watch over 5-minute-old "Cage."



Rick Scavetta

Reserve 1st Lt. Victoria Lynn Watson passes "Cage," a baby boy she helped deliver, to his mother at the Pajimo Clinic in rural Kitgum.



of any pain medicine. Sweat beaded on her face, veins throbbed along her neck. She would lay calm, then moan softly and slap the nearby wall. Hinds grabbed a cloth, patted her face and held her hands through contractions.

"Most girls in the States would be yelling and hollering by now," Watson said.

Unlike in the States, the clinic had no monitors, electrical gadgetry or air conditioning. It did have clean water, sterilized equipment and a trained mid-

wife, plus her U.S. counterparts.

It was around 4 p.m., when the mother groaned and slapped the wall again.

"She's in second stage," Watson said. "All she has to do now is push."

A few minutes passed, the mother began to push—Hinds held her hand and continued to comfort her. Then came a loud cry from a healthy baby boy. It was 4:30 p.m.

Watson wiped him down. He waved his tiny hands and stared

around the room with large, alert eyes. Lamono tied up the stump of the umbilical cord.

"You delivered the baby, what name did you pick for a baby boy," Lamono said, reminding Watson.

"Cage," Watson replied. "But I can't name her baby. It's her baby!"

Hinds placed the infant into his mother's arms. The new mom smiled.

"What is she going to name him?" Watson asked. Lamono translated. The mother answered, and Lamono began



1st. Lt. Victoria Lynn Watson, a nurse from Abilene, Texas, deployed to northern Uganda with the Reserve's 7225th Medical Support Unit, watches "Cage," a baby she helped deliver. Watson is a civilian labor and delivery nurse. The mother gave birth to the boy two hours after arriving at the Pajimo Clinic, which is run by U.S. and East African coalition partners as part of U.S. Army Africa's exercise, Natural Fire 10.

(Right) Pfc. Kendra Hinds, a Reserve medic from Lubbock, Texas, augmenting the 7225th Medical Support Unit, holds 5.5-pound, 15-minute-old "Cage," a Ugandan infant she helped deliver at the Pajimo Clinic in Kitgum, a rural area in the north. The 19-year-old mother walked to the clinic and delivered him two hours later.

to laugh.

"What did she say?" Watson asked.

"She decided she liked the name you picked," Lamono said. "She named her little boy 'Cage'."

Outside, U.S. and East African medics were closing up for the day, handing out the final doses of vitamins and routine medications, when they learned the good news. An officer took out the records reflecting the number of people treated, changing 714 to 715, to add Cage—Kitgum's newest resident.

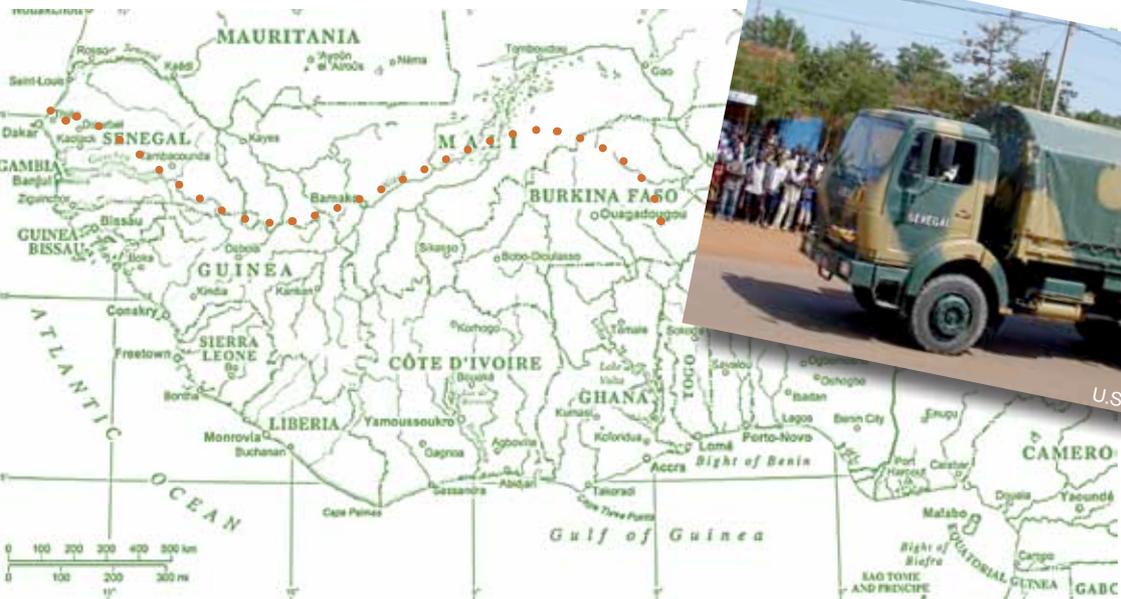
Two days later, Watson helped deliver a second baby—a little girl named Victoria Lynn.

"It's pretty amazing there are little ones out here in Uganda that I named and that I helped bring into this world," Watson said. "Pretty amazing." ♦



Maj. Corey Schultz serves as a public affairs officer with U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Map courtesy of the United Nations



Getting 'JIGUI'



(Top) A truck—part of a Senegalese convoy—arrives in Burkina Faso's Kaya province after a long trip from Senegal. (Bottom) Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Austin, participating in a logistics exercise, meets the arriving Senegalese soldiers.

Story by Rick Scavetta

WHEN a Senegalese military unit convoyed nearly 1,900 miles from coastal West Africa to a multi-national exercise in Burkina Faso, a senior U.S. Army Africa maintenance expert took note.

Such a long overland journey was difficult at best, but the Senegalese soldiers accomplished the deployment without any breakdowns or mishaps, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Austin.

"It's pretty amazing they could do that, and then be ready for training upon their arrival. Even their morale was high after that long drive," Austin said. "It shows they are prepared in maintenance, and certainly have some

serious determination."

Austin, of Adrian, Mich., recently took part in JIGUI 2009, a logistical exercise carried out by the Economic Community of West African States Standby Force in Burkina Faso's Kaya province, a remote region roughly 60 miles northeast of the country's capital, Ouagadougou. In the Bambara language of Mali, the word "jigui" means "hope."

The African force is made up of police, military and civilian organizations, that can be called upon during a regional crisis to promote stability through peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance. The ECOWAS brigade is one of five regional standby units under the African Standby Force, headquarter-

tered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This year, the peacekeeping exercise focused on logistical capabilities. Nearly 1,300 troops took part, to include observers from several international partner nations. The exercise goal was to challenge a logistics battalion in their ability to support standby forces in peace-support operations—how they deploy, their ability to communicate and the interoperability between partnering nations' forces.

"West African logistics and maintenance soldiers have grown their ability to support a task force in the field," Austin said. "The more they work together, the better prepared they will become, should they be called upon for peacekeeping duties." ♦

A memorial plaque honoring Capt. Benjamin Sklaver hangs at Kitgum High School.



Jerry Lanier, U.S. ambassador to Uganda, assists Ugandan officials during an Oct. 23, 2009 ribbon cutting marking the completion of an engineering project at Kitgum High School.

U.S. Army Africa

Civil affairs officer honored in Uganda

Story by Rick Scavetta

AN Army civil affairs officer known for his humanitarian efforts in northern Uganda was posthumously honored when U.S. and Ugandan officials dedicated a school renovation to his memory.

U.S. and East African troops serving in Uganda during Natural Fire 10, a 10-day humanitarian and disaster relief exercise, dedicated a new dining hall at Kitgum High School to Capt. Benjamin Sklaver, a Connecticut native who was killed Oct. 2, 2009, in Afghanistan.

Several senior officials attended an Oct. 23 remembrance ceremony in Sklaver's honor, including Jerry Lanier, U.S. ambassador to Uganda, Gen. William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command and Maj.

Gen. William B. Garrett III, commander of U.S. Army Africa. Afterward, Lanier assisted Ugandan officials with an official ribbon cutting.

During the exercise, U.S. Navy Seabees and East African engineering troops worked together to renovate the building, replacing the roof, flooring and broken windows.

A memorial plaque was hung outside the entrance, a reminder of Sklaver's service in Kitgum from October 2006 to October 2007. As a Reserve Soldier, Sklaver worked on projects that provided clean drinking water to the local villages.

"When he left Uganda, he was not content with the impact he made, although that was a considerable impact," said Maj. Clyde Scott, a U.S. Army Africa chaplain, who spoke during the dedication. "He believed you reach out as an American, anywhere in the world."

Sklaver returned to the States and founded the ClearWater Initiative, a non-profit organization focused on providing safe drinking water to people affected by humanitarian emergencies. Thousands of Ugandans have benefited from Sklaver's military and civilian efforts.

During the ceremony, Kitgum High School students performed a



(Above) Jerry Lanier, U.S. ambassador to Uganda, and Gen. William Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command, attended the Oct. 23, 2009 ceremony honoring Capt. Benjamin Sklaver.

U.S. Army Africa



Maj. Clyde Scott, a U.S. Army Africa chaplain, honored Capt. Benjamin Sklaver during an Oct. 23, 2009 ceremony in Kitgum, Uganda. Sklaver, who was killed Oct. 2, 2009 in Afghanistan, previously served in northern Uganda.

U.S. Army Africa

traditional song and dance. Many local leaders and people in the community remembered Sklaver by his nickname, "Moses Ben." ♦





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- Wear it Loose and in Layers
- Keep it Dry

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- PAIN, TENDERNESS, HOT OR ITCHY
- NUMBNESS OR TINGLING
- BLEEDING OR BLISTERED
- GRAY, WAXY FEELING OR "WOODEN"
TO THE TOUCH
- DIZZINESS, WEAKNESS OR BLURRED VISION
- VIGOROUS SHIVERING
- LACK OF COORDINATION AND IMPAIRED
JUDGMENT
- PAINFUL, RED, WATERY OR GRITTY FEELING
IN THE EYES (SNOW BLINDNESS)



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