

## Chaplain's Corner

# Scripture offers way out of war chaos

Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis R. Nitschke  
NETCOM

As we, and spouses, family members and friends watched the news; we are receiving “play-by-play” accounts by “embedded news people” at such a rapid rate that I liken it to a Nintendo game with all its visual and auditory action. However the reports don’t end in 50 minutes (with three sessions of commercials) and the “storyline” is not consistent.

The first two days of the war everyone was excited because we were moving so fast that tanks had to stop so refuelers could catch up. But at the first mention of Prisoners of War (POWs), the news media asked its “audience” to “vote” on if we should discontinue the war. In fact, the question was posed to General Franks to which he answered, “No.” As the days moved on we saw more and more “bad news.” I see in my own family how it gets people down -- I can only imagine how much more the news puts fear in the hearts of those who have spouses, parents and friends over in the “sandbox.” By watching the news 24/7 we become overwhelmed. In that overwhelmed-ness, we also empower the forces against us -- evil, if you will.

It’s like this; we felt “good” as the war was beginning, and we felt “bad” as the war news progressed. This “bad” feeling overshadowed the “good” and we felt “despair” (depression). Now, not all can be “good” news, but we don’t need to know “all the news.” So, what can we do to get back into sync with reality?

First, turn the TV off or watch a good movie. Get the chaos and sound bytes of war out of your family room. Go for a walk. Talk to your children

while playing a board game. Understand that the news will continue every day until there is some conclusion to the war and your watching it isn’t going to make it end any faster.

Second, I believe scripture has much to offer in the way of real comfort. *2 Kings 6:15-23* is a story of Israel at war with Aram and the prophet Elisha is being chased by the king of Aram. Elisha, strong in faith, says to his servant, “Don’t be afraid ... those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” At this the eyes of Elisha’s servant were opened and he saw thousands of horses and fiery chariots (angels) ready to fight for Elisha.

*Isaiah 41:10* comforts us in these words, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

*Psalms 23* tells us that we will have a rough road ahead, but listen to these words, “even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil ...” Please notice that the writer says walk through not pitch your tent in the valley. The constant news blitz has us bogged down in the valley -- in reality, as hardships are faced, and the war was one of them, we walk through the valley to get to the other side because we walk with God as our protector and will be able to go on once we reach the other side.

Jesus Christ said, while speaking of the “end of the age” that believers should not worry even when all people hate you because of Him. “...not a hair of your head will perish.” (*John 21:18*)

Further, read *1 John 4*. The comfort there is very direct as we deal with too much information and matters of this



war. “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if whether they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world ... God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. Love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him. There is no fear in love ... perfect love drives out fear.” (*1 John 4:1, 16-18*)

What then is the “bottom-line” on this? To know that there is no fear in love. Do not allow yourself to be sucked into the endless “news” on TV -- take time for your life away from all of that. In doing so, you honor those participating in “Operation Iraqi Freedom” and honor the love and faith you have for your friends, spouses and God Himself through the salvation and protection of Jesus Christ. I know that our military and those supporting them in this conflict are not alone. Those of us left behind as family, friends and comrades-in-arms are not alone either. Fear not ... Pray for Peace.

# ***Looking with safety goggles; inspection brings endless lessons***

By Capt. Charmaine R. Valmonte  
HHD, 41st Signal Bn.

Safety is the business we do each and every day. Leaders at all levels practice and train on this topic to ensure we preserve our most precious resource — soldiers.

As the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment Company, 41st Signal Brigade, 1st Signal Brigade commander I deal with safety in terms of mission, deployments and exercises. We are in the business of reducing the risks for soldiers both on and off duty by providing regular briefings and classes.

Recently, an officer the brigade safety office came to walk through our facilities. The lessons learned during this safety training opportunity were endless.

What best sticks in my mind is what my battalion executive officer describes as “looking at something with your safety goggles on.” It’s the concept of observing an area for safety and ensuring that we manage our workspace efficiently and accident free.

The safety officer met with me at the battalion’s headquarters, and as we proceeded to walk out the main doors he stopped, paused and asked to visit the immediate vicinity.

We proceeded back down the same hallway heading for the first section. I did not worry. What could he find? Immediately he pointed out a fire extinguisher we were using as a doorstop.

As we cleared through the first room we began looking at corners, doorways, behind furniture and inspect light fixtures.

In one room, he found several issues we may have overlooked over the course of a regular business day. Fire escape diagrams and information could easily get outdated. Boxes and supplies improperly stowed could serve as an obstacle should personnel need to evacuate the area.

The visit consisted of a 45-minute walk through of three buildings.

Safety awareness is clearly important not only in our operational facilities and living quarters but also in those areas we see each day. We can improve and protect our most important assets both in garrison and field environ-

*Here are some things to look for while walking around your workspace with your safety goggles on:*

**Allow for 18 inches of room between storage items and the ceiling.**

**Ensure heavy items remain level and stable closer to the ground.**

**Make a practice to look behind furniture, desks and shelves.**

**Check fire extinguisher mounts as you walk thru facilities and living areas.**

**Ensure electrical cords are not fully extended, allow for some slack in its installation. Make sure they are not pinched under furniture or appliances**

**Make a habit of checking firelights before leaving for the day.**

**Walk around the outside of your building or office and check for placement of HAZMAT containers.**

**Ensure “No Smoking” signs are posted 50 feet away from flammable containers.**

**Take the time to walk through your building’s boiler room and watch out for possible hazards. No equipment should be stored in a boiler room.**

**Check your signal equipment and ensure that they are properly grounded.**

ments by being observant.

This type of training gave us another approach to increasing our readiness. Accidents can be prevented if we learn to scrutinize an area with safety in mind. We thank our safety officer from the 1st Sig. Bde. safety office for his time and valuable assistance. Safety first and 1st Brigade’s Best!

# Involuntary extensions, loss of security clearances guidance provided for soldiers

By the 1st Sig. Bde. Inspector  
General Office

## *Involuntary Foreign Service Tour Extensions*

With the current situation in the Middle East and the deployment of troops to that region some soldiers stationed here have already been involuntarily extended and more could be.

We have listed below a few reasons for involuntary Foreign Service Tour Extensions (FSTE) referenced from:

AR 614-30 Chapter 6, Paragraph 6-1 and Table 6-1 also EUSA Suppl 1 to AR 614-30:

*\* When the soldier's presence is required to meet immediate and critical operational requirements.*

*\* HQDA may approve involuntary FSTE periods up to 60 days to support military field exercises or operations not involving hostilities.*

*\* Completion of investigations or to complete trials by military or foreign authorities.*

Completion of required administrative actions, e.g., soldiers undergoing separation processing, nonjudicial punishment, medical review board, suspension of favorable personnel action initiated under AR 600-8-2 and the action is still pending, etc.



## **WEB SITE GOLD MINE!**

The 175th Finance's web site and provides excellent links to: <http://175fincom.korea.army.mil>

*\* MyPay: View your LES online*

*\* Soldier's Financial Handbook: Provides insight into finance initiatives, allowances, and types of pay!*

*\* Finance Hotline: 725-CASH can get you the answers you need about that bothersome pay problem*

## **SPONSORSHIP**

First Impressions are everlasting AR 600-8-8 presents elements of an effective sponsorship program:

*\* Welcome Letter: Provides a general history and mission of the organization. Additionally, a web address and contact information*

*should be contained in the letter.*

*\* Reception Plan: Greet the soldier/DAC and family members upon arrival. Make the necessary arrangements (Hotel, transportation, etc) that are essential within the first few days.*

*\* Orientation: Provide the newly arrived with a tour of the unit, post, and community. ACS is a great place to start.*

*\* Inprocessing: The sponsor does not conduct inprocessing, but assists the new arrival. Be readily available.*

Have Internet access? Check out the Eighth United States Army S-Gate at <http://www-8perscom.korea.army.mil/sgate>. There you will find an excellent Sponsor training module. Complete it prior to becoming a sponsor (takes only 15 minutes).

## **SECURITY CLEARANCE LOSS = RECLASS?**

Soldiers must be attentive to the Army Values and standards of conduct required of individuals holding positions of trust. Avoid the kind of personal behavior that would result in rendering you ineligible for continued assignment in a position of trust.

Refer to the following:

AR 380-67; AR 380-5; AR 190-58; AR 380-19; AR 190-13

# Seoul Museum enlightens soldiers, civilians on Korean history, culture

Story and photo by Sgt. Jo, Jong Hye  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Soldiers and civilians from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Signal Brigade took a trip to the new Seoul Museum of History Feb. 20 to see and experience the history and culture of Seoul.

“Museum trips were never fun to me, but this trip was incredible,” said Pfc. Hwang, Jae Ha, management of information systems, 1st Sig. Bde. “I could see many ancient cultural relics and really rare old books, and I could know more about this city I am living in now.”

“The only museum I went to in Korea was 15 years ago and very unimpressive, yet this was a modern building filled with interesting items from the past and the present,” said HHC 1st Sgt. James J. Flynn.

The idea of visiting this museum was brought to commander’s attention by Cpl. Park, Sae Hwan, equal opportunity, 1st Sig. Bde. during the Korean Augmentees to the U. S. Army sensing session in January, and Capt. Cenethia R. Harraway, commander, HHC, 1st Sig. Bde. accepted the suggestion and made it happen.

When Park first saw the article about the museum, what appealed to him was its modern look and theme and the history and culture of Seoul, he said. He also said that it was the first time Seoulites and the city government recognized the need to commemorate the dynamic history of Seoul on a larger scale.

“Thursday afternoon is commander’s time. It’s open to anything,” said Harraway, “Park made a brilliant suggestion, and I made it a



*Cpl. Do, Yung Wan moves the game piece as he and other KATUSAs play an officer’s rank game, called Seunggyeongdo, in the History Learning Corner in Seoul Museum of History.*

company trip, so that everybody who wants to go can go.”

Soldiers and civilians gathered after lunch in civilian clothes. The museum was located not far from the post. It took less than a half an hour on the bus.

“It was very well setup,” Harraway said with satisfaction. “It was user-friendly. An English guide was there touring us around and also headsets were provided. I could see that Koreans want to share their culture with everyone.”

In the museum, the layout was intended to focus attention on the exhibits rather than merely to display items. The exhibits were about Seoul as the capital of Joseon Dynasty’s (the country’s name from the 14th to 19th centuries) life, culture and the development of Seoul as a city. The life and culture of Seoul have been given the greatest emphasis.

History learning corner was designed for visitors to learn through activities, for instance playing games, building houses, and touch museum sections

added a real touch to the reproduced relics. More detailed information could be obtained from the monitors in front of the exhibits.

“The scaled maps of Seoul were good to see the layout of Seoul during the Joseon Dynasty and current day Seoul,” said Chief Warrant Officer Karen E. Kilburn, operations, 1st Sig. Bde. “The artifacts from Seoul were also helpful in gaining a better understanding for the Korean culture.”

Park said, “Actually, I was intrigued by the auxiliary exhibition ... it depicted Seoul from the post-Joseon Dynasty to the future. What was amazing was how the city was able to transform itself from an unorganized and underdeveloped sprawl to a bustling metropolis, all of which took a relatively short time.”

“I think it was a great opportunity for Koreans and Americans of the HHC family to enjoy each other’s company in a more relaxed setting,” Park said summarizing the trip.

# 201st CO receives prestigious MacArthur leadership award

Story and photo by Sgt. Sarah Maxwell  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

*“Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.*

*“They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.”*

*An excerpt from Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s farewell speech given to the Corps of Cadets at West Point, which inspired the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.*

The 201st Signal Company, 41st Signal Bn. commander was named as one of this year’s prestigious Department of the Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award winners.

Capt. Anthony N. Johnson was one of the 13 company grade officers and warrant officers selected from the active duty Army.

In May he and the other active duty officers will be presented the award in Washington, D.C., along with the other 14 National Guard and Reserve winners.

The nominees were selected based on their commitment to “duty, honor, country,” the embodiment of what the leadership award stands for.

“Capt. Johnson is a great person and junior leader,” said Lt. Col. Darin Talkington, 41st Sig. Bn. commander.

“In terms of being a complete signal leader he exemplifies everything; he is caring, innovative, engaged and in

touch with his soldiers; he’s mission focused, charismatic ...

“He is the total package.”

As commander of the 201st for about a year and a half, he oversees the operation and maintenance of the information systems support to more than 25,000 customers in the greater Seoul area.

Every time someone working for the Army in the area turns on his computer, and his email and internet works, he’s doing his job right, said Talkington.

But, this wasn’t his first time showcasing his talent as a responsible and great leader.

He was nominated by the 18th Airborne Corps to compete for the MacArthur Award while serving as a signal platoon leader at Fort Bragg before arriving in Korea.

“It is a blessing to watch him around his soldiers,” said Talkington.

Perhaps the mark of a good leader is not just the influence he has over his subordinates, but how he influences everyone around him.

“Even if you outrank him, there’s a lot to be gained by seeing how his positive leadership style affects the people around him.”

A graduate of the Officer’s Candidate School in 1996, Johnson brings to his command a well rounded 15-year career as an enlisted and commissioned soldier.

He now holds a master’s degree in his favorite hobby, mathematics.

Described by soldiers at all levels of the organization as a consummate family man and role model, Johnson said he attributes his success as a person and



*201st Company Commander Capt. Anthony N. Johnson, proudly displays his company flag with the honor company ribbon awarded to him by the battalion. His outstanding leadership led his company to win numerous times during this year.*

leader to two main things: an optimistic attitude and faith in the Lord.

“If there’s a hill in front of me, and if you tell me I can’t go around it; you tell me I can’t go under it; I have to go over it. There’s no other choice, then my attitude is always to run toward it ...,” he said.

“I will never turn down an opportunity,” he added.

Johnson’s optimistic, caring, can-do attitude is taking him, his wife and three children to the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., this spring to pursue his doctorate in mathematics.

He will go on to be a professor of mathematics at the United States Military Academy at West Point.