



INSCOM *INSIGHT*



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INSCOM CG's Thanksgiving Day Message

In 1789, our first President, George Washington, issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation giving thanks for, among many other blessings, "the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed." More than 200 years later, our Nation still enjoys these and many other blessings. The fact that we do is in large part because of your many efforts. The soldiers and civilians of INSCOM, as a vital part of the Army Team, work around the clock and around the world to protect our freedom and preserve the blessings of democracy. I assure you that the American people are aware of and grateful for the many sacrifices you make for their security and prosperity.



Ours is not a holiday-friendly profession. I know that many of you are far from home and will be observing this uniquely American holiday in a foreign land, far from family and loved ones. You are indeed in our thoughts and prayers this holiday, as we remember the many sacrifices you all make for our Nation.

Finally, a word on safety. Thanksgiving is the most traveled of any American holiday. If you plan to travel to be with family and friends this Thanksgiving, please drive carefully and defensively so that you have a safe and happy holiday. May God bless you and bless the United States of America on this Thanksgiving Day.

Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander

Fast Facts

- Civilian, military, and retired pay information is available at your fingertips at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Money Matters web page. Visit it at <http://www.dfas.mil/money/>
- Writings, photographs, graphics, wallpapers and screensavers depicting soldiers from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm are available online from the U.S. Army Center of Military History. Check out the extensive collection at <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/>
- U. S. Army Personnel Command replaced all soldier e-mail addresses currently in its database with AKO addresses. Officer record briefs, for example, now contain the us.army.mil address in the top left-hand corner, not what was previously listed. Enlisted soldiers' AKO addresses are also required on efficiency reports to shorten contact time when an NCO-ER requires a correction. For more information go to <http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/Nov2002/a20021113akoperscom.html>



Honoring CI Veterans

Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander (left, front), U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command Commanding General, helps place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 8. The ceremony was part of the Army Counter-Intelligence Corps Veteran's 11th Annual Day of Remembrance. General Alexander was also the guest speaker at the ACICV's Memorial Program after the wreath-laying ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Bob Bills)

U.S. Army Fallen Warriors

Since Oct. 7, 2001, 53 Americans have died supporting the war on terrorism. Of these, 30 were members of the U.S. Army. Here we honor those who died while serving their country.

- ◆ Spec. Thomas F. Allison, 22, Roy, Wash.
- ◆ Spc. Marc A. Anderson, 30, Brandon, Fla.
- ◆ Spc. Curtis A. Carter, 25, Lafayette, La.
- ◆ Sgt. 1st Class Nathan R. Chapman, 31, San Antonio, Texas
- ◆ Pfc. Matthew A. Commons, 21, Boulder City, Nev.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. Brian T. Craig, 27, Houston, Texas
- ◆ Sgt. Bradley S. Crose, 22, Orange Park, Fla.
- ◆ Master Sgt. Jefferson D. Davis, 39, Clarksville, Tenn
- ◆ Spc. Jason A. Disney, 21, Fallon, Nev.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. James P. Dorrity, 37, Goldsboro, N.C.
- ◆ Spc. John J. Edmunds, 20, Cheyenne, Wyo.
- ◆ Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jody L. Egnor, 32, Middletown, Ohio
- ◆ Maj. Curtis D. Feistner, 34, White Bear Lake, Minn.
- ◆ Sgt. Jeremy D. Foshee, 25, Pisgah, Ala.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. Kerry W. Frith, 37, Las Vegas, Nev.
- ◆ Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wayne Jackson, 40, Glennie, Mich.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. Justin J. Galewski, 28, Olathe, Kan
- ◆ Chief Warrant Officer Two Stanley L. Harriman, 34, Wade, N.C.
- ◆ Pvt. Giovanni Maria, 19, New York, N.Y.
- ◆ Sgt. Jamie O. Maugans, 27, Wichita, Kan.
- ◆ Capt. Bartt D. Owens, 31, Middletown, Ohio
- ◆ Sgt. 1st Class Daniel H. Petithory, 32, Cheshire, Mass.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. Brian C. Prosser, 28, Frazier Park, Calif.
- ◆ Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A. Romero, 30, Lafayette, Colo.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. Bruce A. Rushforth, Jr., 35, Middleboro, Mass.
- ◆ Sgt. 1st Class Christopher J. Speer, 28, Albuquerque, N.M.
- ◆ Pfc. Kristofor T. Stonesifer, 28, Missoula, Mont.
- ◆ Sgt. Philip J. Svitak, 31, Joplin, Mo.
- ◆ Sgt. 1st Class Peter P. Tycz II, 32, Tonawanda, N.Y.
- ◆ Sgt. Gene A. Vance Jr., 38, Morgantown, W.Va.

The thanks of a grateful nation

Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, left, congratulates Col. William Marvin, INSCOM Chief of Staff, after presenting him with a Legion of Merit at ceremonies on Nov. 7. Colonel Marvin retired from the U.S. Army after completing 27 years of military service. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Bob Bills)



Getting a piece of the PIE at the 902nd

by Tina Miles, 902nd MI Group Public Affairs



Capt. Joyce Lugin, from the 902d MI Group S-6, reads to a group of students from the morning Kindergarten class, Meade Heights Elementary School. (U.S. Army photo by Tina Miles)

When school got back in session this fall, it was the perfect time for some PIE at the 902nd Military Intelligence Group, Fort Meade, Md. Not the kind you eat. The “Partners in Education” (PIE) program is the kind of PIE that has become the pie of choice at the 902nd. This is a program that partners Fort Meade military units with local schools in a volunteer mentoring program.

The 902d MI Group is partnered with the Meade Heights Elementary School, located on Reese Road. Staff members of the Group give their time once a month in reading sessions for various grade levels within the school. The program is extremely beneficial to the students as well as the participants who provide role models for positive reading. One session and you’re hooked! According to some of the participants, the gratification received for dedicating just 30 minutes of their time, once a month, is more than worth it.

Earlier this fall, a small group of volunteers read to the younger grades and the reception was fabulous, according to students and teachers alike. The success was so overwhelming that word spread throughout the school and the other teachers from the higher grade levels began requesting volunteers from the 902nd.

Small town teaches big lessons to 66th MI Group officer

Islam in Iowa? Midwestern Muslim neighbors teach lessons in diversity, tolerance

(Editor's note: The following commentary was written by Capt. Matthew Kime of the 66th MI Group in Darmstadt, Germany. In it he shares his impressions of growing up in a small, but ethnically diverse town in the Midwest, and imparts some of the lessons that experience taught him.)

By Capt. Matthew Kime
66th MI Group



When people think of Iowa, family farms, corn, John Deere tractors and the sport of wrestling come to mind. Many people are surprised to learn, however, that Islam is also part of that state's cultural landscape.

This is not a recent or alien phenomena; Islam has a long history in Iowa. I grew up in the industrial city of Cedar Rapids, which boasts the first and oldest surviving mosque in North America. I had the unique experience of living alongside and interacting with Muslims on a daily basis. The Gulf War of 1990-1991 was a seminal event in the maturing of my American community and offers an important lesson for post 9/11 America.

Immigrants came to Iowa during the 19th century mainly for economic reasons. Muslims were no

exception. They began immigrating to America around 1880 from Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. They were primarily Arabic-speaking people who worked as traders and laborers. One particular group settled in Cedar Rapids. The descendants of these original immigrants still live in the city today.

The early Muslim immigrants lacked a formal place to practice their religion. They usually met at libraries, private homes or town halls to worship. This changed in February 1934 with the construction of the "Mother Mosque." The building was very modest with a small green crescent dome and canopy over the front steps. Subsequent mosques were established in Highland Park, Mich., Michigan City, Ind., Ross, N.D., Quincy, Mass., and Sacramento, Calif.

My great-great-grandparents lived directly across the street from the Mother Mosque. One of my grandmother's earliest childhood memories was sitting on the porch of her grandparents' house watching the mosque being built. One of my relatives was a worker who dug the basement of the building. The neighborhood in which the mosque was located was racially and religiously integrated. Four African-American families lived by the mosque and a Muslim family ran the neighborhood grocery store. The Muslims did business with everyone. It was not uncommon for local Baptist and Presbyterian Churches to have picnics and social exchanges with the Mother Mosque.

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Captain remembers Islam in Iowa

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In 1971 a second mosque was built in Cedar Rapids. The Muslim population was growing and a larger, more modern building was needed to accommodate them. This mosque was called the "Islamic Center" denoting the building's multiple functions as a social hall, library, and place of worship. A large blue crescent dome as well as a minaret reached toward the sky. The original Mother Mosque was sold and lost its identity. It variously served as a Pentecostal church, town hall and teen club. In 1990 the Islamic Council of Iowa restored the building and then reopened it as a mosque in 1992. The Mother Mosque is now listed on both the Iowa State Historical Register and the National Register.

My house was located near the Islamic Center. Several Muslim families lived on my street. The unique feature of my neighborhood was that in addition to a mosque, it had three Protestant churches and a Catholic church, all on the same street. Local residents viewed the mosque as just another house of worship and the presence of Muslims as a given. The Islamic Center sponsored newly arrived Muslim immigrants. It was not out of place to see women with their heads covered or men with long beards walking down the street. Their children attended my elementary school because it had an English as a Second Language Program. At school they frequently and proudly professed themselves to be new Americans.

The Muslims I knew the best when I was growing up were the descendants of the original immigrants. They had lived their entire lives in Cedar Rapids and had never been to the Middle East. Their native language was English. We went through Boy Scouts, school and athletics together. The only things that set them apart were their religious practices and holidays. I went to church on Sunday, they attended mosque on Friday night. Also, they didn't eat pork, unlike most Iowans. They shared so much in common with everyone else, in terms of social affluence and lifestyle, that differing religious practices were taken for granted.

I was in high school when the Gulf War broke out. The war placed tremendous stress on our community. Almost overnight Muslim-Americans went from being taken for granted to being viewed as a vaguely alien presence. The local Imam received numerous death threats on his answering machine and an anonymous bomb threat was phoned in to the mosque. The police had to establish a semi-permanent presence on my street.

The only anti-Americanism I ever witnessed was on the University of Iowa campus by a small but vocal group of foreign Muslims and radical ideologues who attempted to demonstrate against the war but were dispersed when friends and family members of deployed National Guard soldiers arrived to "counter-demonstrate."

At school we maintained the façade of normalcy despite the rhetoric that swirled in the news media. Muslims and non-Muslims got along without incident. There were some isolated incidents of name-calling but they were juvenile, not politically motivated. The real problem was that people were afraid to talk to each other about anything substantive. Muslim-Americans did not want to risk being labeled as un-American and non-Muslims did not want to offend anyone. We all breathed a collective sigh of relief with news of the swift U.S. victory with its minimal casualties.

The one positive result of the Gulf War for the community was a heightened awareness of Islam and its history in Iowa. Muslims and non-Muslims began to learn more about each other. One of the most successful community events was an open house program in which the Islamic Center invited the public to see what the interior of a mosque is like and to learn more about what Islam is and is not. Following the tragedy of 9/11 there was no backlash, no threats of violence by anyone. Within days non-Muslims and Muslim-Americans rallied in front of the Islamic Center, not in protest, but rather in a show of solidarity for the nation's war against terrorism.

My community is proof that all people can learn from the past for the common good of American democracy. America faces a real threat: extremists who use religion to cloak their political objectives. This war is as much psychological as it is putting steel on target. Public dialogue and awareness of our nation's cultural diversity are means of fortifying the republic and smoothing the path to victory.

"The Muslims I knew the best when I was growing up were the descendants of the original immigrants. They had lived their entire lives in Cedar Rapids and had never been to the Middle East."