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Letters to the Editor for Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Stars and Stripes

European and Mideast editions

(EDITOR'S NOTE: These are the letters that appeared in each edition of Stripes on this publication date. [Click here](#) to jump ahead to the Pacific edition letters)

Facts on lubrication

The writer of "[Bad advice on lubrication](#)" (letter, April 4) should research his "facts."

The facts are that the Army has conducted a study of lubrication of weapons in a desert environment. The fact is that various weapons were tested with minimal-, moderate- and heavy-lubricated weapons. The facts are that the minimal lubrication had the highest amount of failure and jamming, while the heavy lubricated weapon had the least amount of failure.

This information was provided by the experts at the Army Armament Research Development and Engineering Center and the infantry school at Fort Benning, Ga.

The statement "Excessive oil can also work its way into the primers and powder of ammunition in the weapon, rendering it useless" is totally without fact. Ammo is sealed to protect the primer and powder from moisture (and oil). If his statement were true, the Army would not be able to fire in a humid environment and heavy lubrication has no bearing on the subject.

The letter writer states that this information could potentially get someone killed. That is a very serious charge, but failure to maintain your weapon will cause a weapon to malfunction, which would be a serious situation in a firefight. Proper care, cleaning and maintenance will help reduce problems.

He further states he uses MILITEC, which we have found to cause gumming up and jamming of machine guns. MILITEC is not approved by the Army for use in machine guns. MILITEC does not have corrosion preventive, will dissipate and dry, leaving a gummy

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substance on weapons. Try putting a couple drops of MILITEC on metal next to CLP. Put a torch on the MILITEC for one minute and torch the CLP for two. Do your own comparison and see which you prefer.

*Bill Jensen,
weapon system manager, Small Arms Support Center,
Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq*

Don't complain to Stripes

The writer of "[Please explain combat pay](#)" (letter, April 6), is right and wrong.

Any person who is deployed into a combat environment, to include Kuwait, is entitled to hazardous/combat pay. There is no system that dictates someone living in Iskandariyah, Iraq, deserves to get paid more than people at Camp Victory, which is 20 miles away. The threat level between the two camps is very different and should be brought up to the proper people, but flaming in Stars and Stripes isn't the place to start.

Complaining about your living conditions, compared to those of the people in Camp Victory, isn't the place to start either, but if it makes you feel better, their living conditions are just slightly better, and not everyone has access to the pool.

The best place to start is speaking with your S-1 (personnel office) on how the new money is going to be distributed. If you have a problem with how your living conditions are, I suggest you pick up a pen and paper and write your congressman, not Stars and Stripes.

*Pfc. Justin Troutman
Camp Stryker, Iraq*

Where's the pool?

In reference to "[Please explain combat pay](#)," I can't believe I read this.

I am stationed at Camp Victory and there is not one palace pool where any soldier can go swimming to escape the heat or work on their tan. Where did this kid get this stuff?

It is true that soldiers walk around in their physical training clothes, and yes, they do talk on their cell phones, which I think is crap, but hey, what are you gonna do? Be mad at someone because they are allowed to have a nicety that you are not allowed? That type of thing is up to the command they work for, and if you would like the option of buying a cell phone and paying an incredible rate to call home, then by all means put a request up your chain of command.

I hope people don't think that soldiers at Camp Victory don't hear "loud booms" from numerous bombs and mortars that go off every day in Iraq. Let me ask the young specialist who wrote the letter: Do you ever leave the wire, or do you sit in an air-conditioned office all day and find new and exciting things to complain about?

Every base, and even a couple of command posts I have been to throughout this whole country, soldiers are allowed to wear PTs

when off duty. The hazardous-duty pay should be based on what country you are in. I agree, soldiers stationed in Kuwait should not be getting the same combat pay as soldiers in Iraq. My opinion, after traveling this country pretty extensively, is that soldiers are vulnerable to unsafe conditions, slow Internet and shoddy phones wherever they are in Iraq. Suck it up, stop worrying about your space/my space, and worry about your responsibilities.

*Staff Sgt. Gregory Sapp
Camp Victory, Iraq*

Postal woes downrange

I would like to bring up a situation that seems to be an ongoing issue with the Army post office mail service.

I was assigned to Anaconda before coming to Mosul, where, on Feb. 18, I went to the Lone Star Jewelry in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service East complex and bought two pendants to be made by the store in a heart shape. The store did not have these in by the time I had to move. On March 16 I paid the bill in full and gave them my new address where they could mail them.

I had a friend at Anaconda check with the store on March 21 and he sent me a copy of the insured verification number. I have asked the APO mail here about this package, since it had not been delivered here to me 16 days later. I received no help from the APO here in checking out where this package could be, only excuses and their attitude of nonaccountability for their service. They are supposed to be accountable for insured packages they are delivering.

What makes matters worst is, I received a package that was mailed in the States on March 28 — 14,000 miles away that got to me on April 5 that was insured just like the package from Anaconda. That package took eight days to get here while the one from Anaconda still has not come in.

*Michael Summy
Mosul, Iraq*

A salute to change?

I will be the first to admit that lots of things can change in 40 years, but I seem to recall that when I was in Army basic training and we were learning how to salute, the right upper arm was supposed to be parallel with the ground, with the lower part of the arm and hand (in a straight line) creating a sort of triangle as the tips of the fingers touched the area of the right eyebrow.

However, if Brig. Gen. Rob Kane in the photo in the April 8 edition of Stars and Stripes ("[Commander warns of hard work ahead for 86th Airlift Wing, Kaiserslautern community](#)," Page 1 photo) is saluting correctly, then the method taught in the Army 40 years ago surely has changed a lot.

Admittedly, he is Air Force and not Army. I saluted once like that in Army Junior ROTC and got my butt chewed out by a sergeant.

*Ken Yeager
Grosshansdorf, Germany*

Cowboy up – safely

While I enjoyed reading “Cowboy up! U.S. troops learn basics of horsemanship” (article, The Associated Press, April 6), and immediately cut it out to mail to my sister who is an equestrienne, my 4-year-old son made a poignant observation when he asked me, “Why aren’t the soldiers wearing helmets if they haven’t been on horses before?”

Perhaps I should direct this question to Lt. Col. Mike McFarland at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., instead of Stars and Stripes, but I thought it was worth mentioning.

*Michele M. Schaner
Camp Courtney, Okinawa*

Pacific edition

Immigration fight important

We all know over the past several months the battle over illegal immigration has heated up. Logic has been turned upside down. Words have lost their meaning in the news, the halls of Congress, the very (“anti-terrorist”) president we elected to protect us. Example: the term “illegal aliens” has morphed full circle to “undocumented workers” to “guest workers” and now to — I kid you not, according to one elected politician in California — “fellow citizens.” Huh?

It’s enough to make you sick. We’re facing a veritable tsunami of humanity from Mexico. And what has our government done about it since the last “amnesty” bill passed 20 years ago in 1986 during the Reagan administration? Not a damned thing.

Our medical system, schools, prisons, the entire social services infrastructure, is being bankrupted. There’s plenty of room for immigration. It’s called doing it legally.

This segues into another point: What’s the message that’s being given to all foreigners who patiently wait in line for citizenship, some for many years? President Bush and his pro-amnesty cohorts are telling them they’re a bunch of suckers.

Together we can win this fight; only collectively can we make a difference. This battle is just beginning. Our future as a nation is at stake.

*Ron Roman
Misawa Air Base, Japan*

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While I enjoyed reading the article “Cowboy Up! U.S. troops learn basics of horsemanship” (April 7), and immediately cut it out to mail to my sister who is an equestrienne, my 4-year-old son made a poignant observation when he asked me, “Why aren’t the soldiers wearing helmets if they haven’t been on horses before?”

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