



**18th Engineer Brigade
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Unit 29060
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PRESS RELEASE

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15th Eng. Bn. Wins Best Decoration Recognition Thanksgiving Honors

Story by: 1st Lt. Michael Johnson

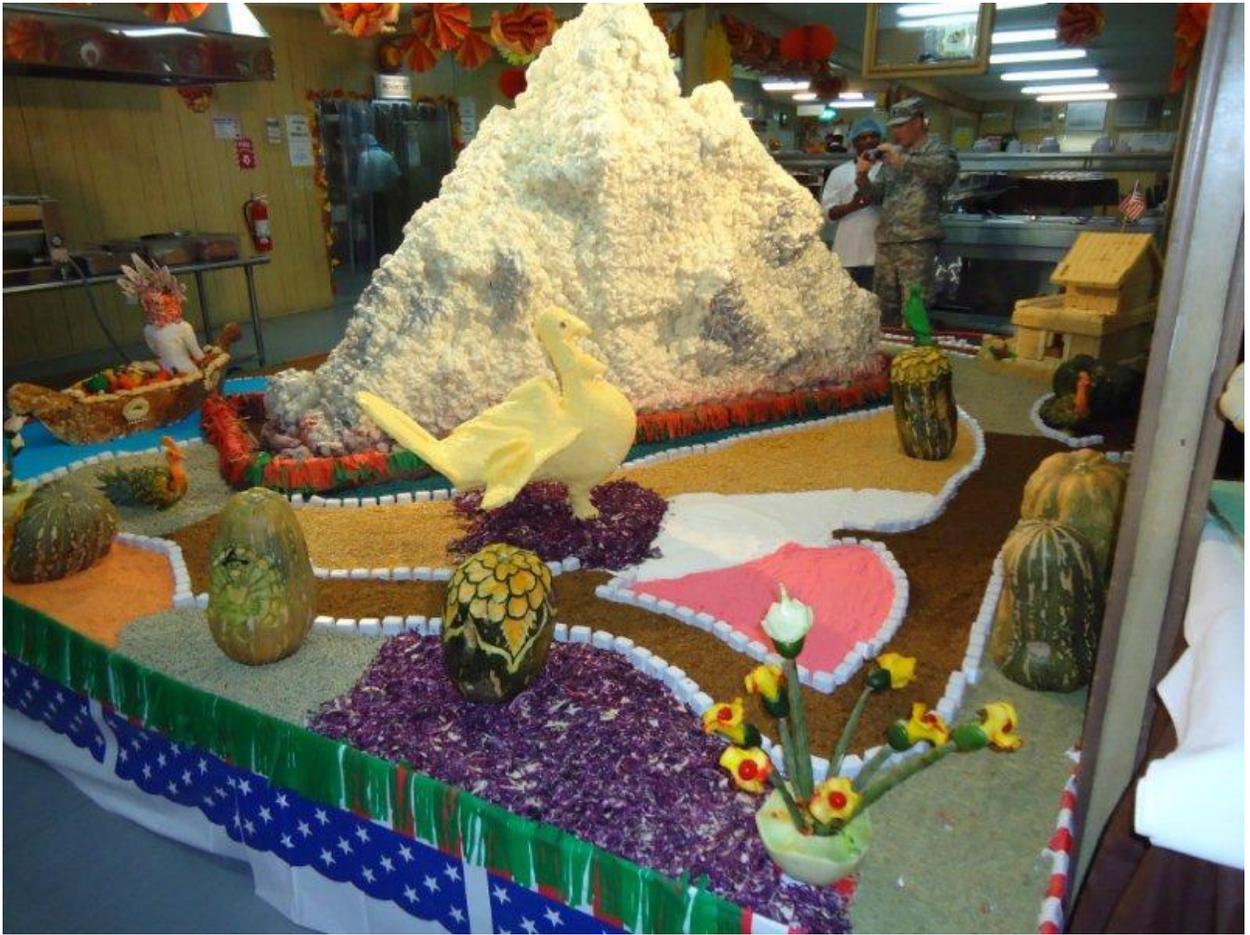
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – 15th Engineer Battalion’s Forward Support Company (FSC) kicked off the holiday season with a Thanksgiving celebration this November. Bright holiday decorations adorned the dining facility at the Sea Port of Departure (SPOD), where the company’s chefs have been augmenting the contractors in charge of the dining facility.

Their hard work has not gone unnoticed; recently, the dining facility was awarded “Best Mess for Small Group” for their Thanksgiving decorations. The category has them competing against each of the smaller mess halls in Kuwait.

The FSC Soldiers are led by SSG Olivia Montgomery, NCOIC of the field feeding section from Fayetteville, N. Car., and have been rotating to the SPOD since late October. “Our primary function is to serve as advisors and an outside quality assurance measure for the contractors.” Our Quality Assurance Team is responsible for periodic checks to ensure sanitation procedures, food handling, and preparation procedures are being followed correctly. “But our Soldiers are trained to cook,” she continues. “So we try to give them a chance to actually whip up some meals when we can, too.”

And when they can afford the opportunity, the small section has no shortage of talent to choose from. SPC Jeanne Whitfield, a cook from Goldsboro, N. Car., is known for her enviable skills with garnishing – the art of making creative decorations out of small fruits, peppers, and other displays. SPC Gianna Stewart, a cook from Boston, Mass., has competed for selection to the USAREUR cooking team, facing down other chefs from all across the European continent for a chance to show her skills in the Army-wide cooking competition the November before last.

Overall, the personnel at the SPOD are glad to have such experienced chefs ensuring the quality of their food, and the contractors are happy to be working with them.



Workers at the SPOD DFAC went all out for the Thanksgiving decorations



SSG Montgomery admires the decorations with one of the contractors