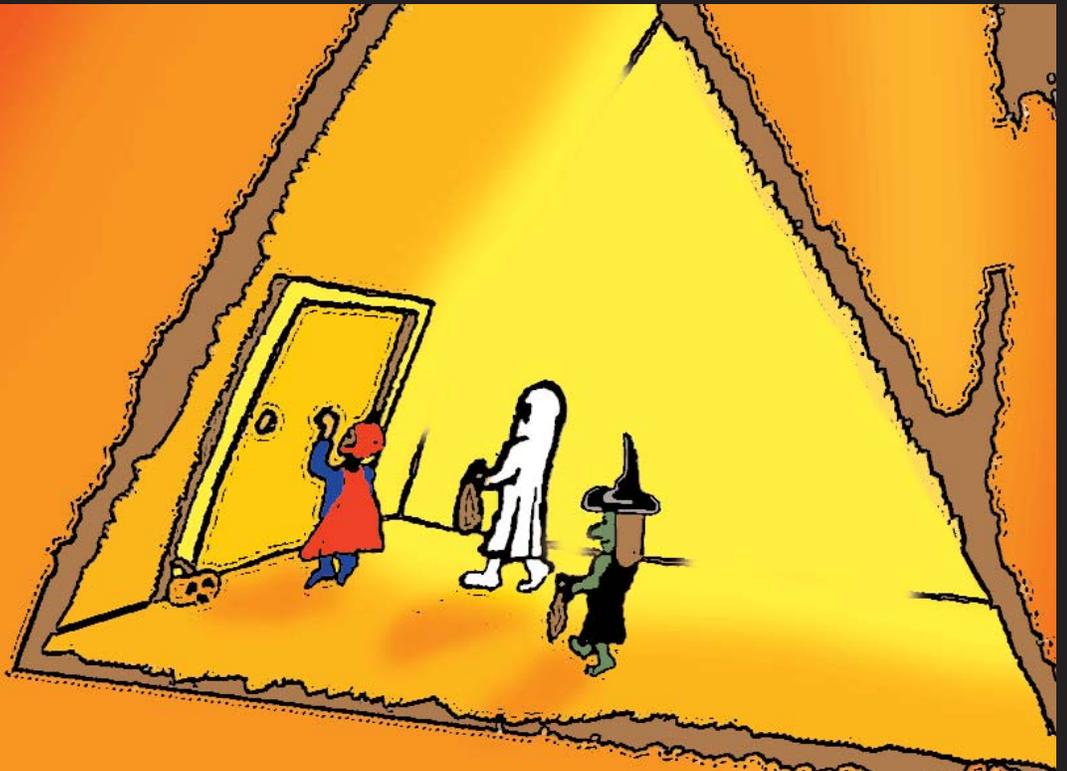


DESERT VOICE

November 2, 2005

Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



Happy Halloween

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DESERT VOICE

Volume 27, Issue 15

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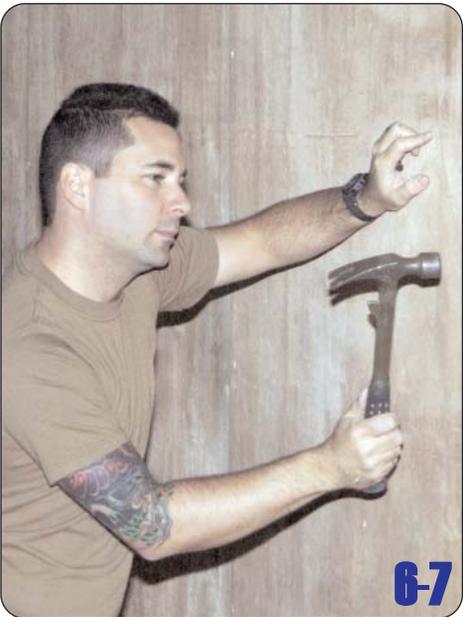
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On the cover

Illustration by Sgt. Robert Scott

A Halloween sketch depicts different elements of the holiday such as kids in costumes and jack-o-lanterns.

Positive outlook makes for better work environment

No-go for attitudes, egos

Command Sgt. Maj.

Franklin G. Ashe

CFLCC Command Sergeant Major

Having been selected as Third Army/CFLCC/ARCENT Command Sergeant Major, it's my responsibility to live up to that position every day.

If I cop a bad attitude or let my ego get in front of me, I'm not going to be able to perform in a manner that's good for my Soldiers. I have to be willing to take advice or criticism from people of all ranks and if I can keep a positive attitude and an open mind about that, it makes me a better person and leader.

If I start to think that because I'm the command sergeant major, people shouldn't be telling me what to do or how I should act, then I'm putting myself in a corner and I'm making myself ineffective. That's not good for all the people who are counting on me.

We all allow our attitudes and egos to get in the way sometimes. They cloud our judgment and affect how we see certain situations. Sometimes when you've been working six or seven days a week for months on end, you wake up in a bad mood. It happens. It's just human nature. However, as professional mature people, we have to put our personal feelings aside and work together. We can all continue to improve on this area.

It's important that you have a positive attitude. If you can't have a positive attitude then you need to keep your attitude away from other people. A negative attitude will cause you to not like anything, and that affects other people. Don't be selfish and influence other people to think everything is terrible just because

you think that way.

Everybody has bad days or bad moments, but if you have a negative attitude and you feel like nothing's right or nothing's good enough or everybody's picking on you, then you've got a personal problem and you need to look inside yourself and do something about it. None of us have the right to walk around here with a bad attitude that affects other people's ability to get their job done and to feel good about themselves and what they're doing.

Attitudes also get in the way of how we perceive other people in terms of what they're trying to accomplish. For example, if you have a bad attitude and a peer, subordinate, or a superior is trying to point out a mistake to you and you wind up blowing it out of proportion, that's the wrong answer. Instead of just moving on and doing the right thing, you start pushing back on these individuals and that causes problems. You should realize they're just trying to help you be successful because they care about you instead of taking it the wrong way. There's no point in that, and it's all intensified by negative attitudes.

Another thing all of us have to remember is to not allow our attitude to affect us when a subordinate is trying to help us out. If we give them negative feedback for that, we're shutting them down. We're actually hurting ourselves by not empowering our subordinates to do their jobs.

Egos also affect attitudes. First off, and I want to make this very clear, none of us are owed anything by anyone because we're here. Certainly, none of our fellow uniformed service members owe us anything.

We're all citizens of the United States or other countries around the world and it's our obligation as mature adults to try to make the world a better place. All of us who volunteered to wear a uniform chose military service as our way to help make the world a better place, and to be good citizens.

The American people treat us like heroes and I sincerely appreciate that, but we're all volunteers. Don't let your ego get in the way and think anybody owes you anything just because you wear a uniform or because you've got a little rank on your collar, regardless of what that rank is. We owe our country an obligation to do our duty in a professional, effective, mature manner and at the same time, work with our leaders, bosses, peers and subordinates in a positive way.

Another thing egos do is cause people to think just because they have a couple stripes on their collar they've earned the right somehow to be treated differently or special. Not true. The more rank a service member has, the more important it is to comply with the standards. Whether it's staying fit, taking a PT test, qualifying with your weapon, wearing your equipment properly, or conducting yourself in a safe manner the standards should be met. We also need to show respect to each other by rendering proper courtesies to subordinates and superiors alike, and taking the time to show you care by acknowledging their presence. Egos get in the way of making that happen and we need to check those egos at the door.

Everyone here is important, regardless of their rank, military



Command Sgt. Maj. Ashe

specialty, or service status. Nobody here is more important than anyone else. We're all here because it's important to the successful accomplishment of the mission. This applies to all ranks, and we all need to remember that.

Every day is a new day. When you get up in the morning, check your attitude and leave your ego in your room. Get out there and care about the people who work around you, act right around them, respect each other, and life will be a much more pleasant journey.

I want everyone to have the opportunity to be successful, to work in a positive environment, and to get the job done. I want us to pull together as a team. For those of you who do have a positive attitude and are out there doing the right thing and taking care of each other, thank you very much for that.

You're exactly the kind of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who make my life better, and cause me to want to stay in the service and continue to serve our country - PATTON'S OWN

PATTON'S OWN



Photos by Spc. Bradley Storck

Members of the Iowa National Guard's 134th Medical Company Ground Ambulance load a patient on a litter into an M-997 ambulance during a convoy live-fire exercise as part of their pre-deployment training at Fort Sill, Okla., this summer.

Iowa deploy medics to OIF

Spc. Michael R. Noggle
 FCCLCC PAO/11th PAD

In the process of saving a wounded victim's life, one of the most important steps in ensuring the rescue is transporting the patient from the incident site to a medical facility.

Doing that in a neutral environment, where danger seems implausible is one thing, but doing it in a combat zone is another.

"There's a lot of stuff out there that throws a twist in the whole situation," said 1st Sgt. Jeff Lewis, 134th Medical Company Ground Ambulance first sergeant.

"Before we were only worried about saving someone else's life, now you have to be more concerned about possibly saving your life as well," he said.

The National Guard unit out of Washington, Iowa, is deploying into Iraq to take on the mission of rescuers. While some in the company have little experience as a combat medic, others are quite aware of the situation that lies ahead.

"I was an emergency room technician ... at a county hospital," said Sgt. James Brown, 134th Med. Co. squad leader.

"I've seen shootings, stabbings, in the emergency room, you name it, and I've seen it," he said.

Since the day he graduated from his advanced individual training, Brown has pursued a career as a medic.

"It's something that I do and have had interest in since I was 17 years old," he said. "I love the job and there's nothing better that I would want to do."

Like Brown, others in the unit are on the trail to helping others in their hometowns, as well as fellow Soldiers.

First Lt. Kara Schafer, 134th Med. Co. executive officer, said this is an opportunity

that most people don't have in saving lives in an environment like Iraq. As a nurse in her hometown of Burlington, Iowa, she wasn't the only person to feel that way.

"I know a lot of people back home who would do a lot to be where we are at to support any way possible," she added.

Aside from a few others who work in their local hometown medical facility, only one Soldier has the experience and knowledge of the field work for a paramedic.

The civilian world is a bit more technical when it comes to treating patients, said Spc. Joseph Emmett, 134th Med. Co. aid man.

Even though the medical humvees lack the technology most civilian ambulances are outfitted with, the main features are the up-armored siding as well as spacious holding areas for wounded to rest.

"We had cardiac defibrillators, heart monitors... Here things are simplified," he said. "It's about picking up the patients and keeping them alive until you get to the hospital anyway possible."

Lewis said one of the main challenges his company faces is working as a three-man team.

"Before we've trained using only two people per team," he said.

He added, "Now the situation becomes where a third person is needed to provide aide to the patients in the back and then have two sets of eyes on the road."

Overall, Lewis said he feels very confident in every medic under his command and knows those who have the experience will be looked upon.

"Our job is one of those that can have a lasting impact," Emmett said. "It's a totally different aspect of the war. We're not going out there trying to kill people, we're out there to save lives and doing what we do best."



Spc. Andrew Nissen, 134th Med Co., prepares to ventilate a patient during pre-deployment training at Camp Bullis, Texas.

Bulgaria lends hand in reconstruction

Spc. Janine Coogler
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, to reconstruct an object means to build it up again, and to stabilize an object is the act of making something fixed or not subject to change.

Coalition Forces conduct reconstruction and stabilization missions in Iraq and act as a vehicle for restoration of the Iraqis' environment, economy, government and their way of life.

Some villages in Iraq have benefited from stabilization efforts from the Bulgarian 3rd Battle Group Infantry Battalion.

More than 100 Bulgarian soldiers from the fifth rotation, who worked hard for six months in Iraq to complete missions, returned home Oct. 21.

The Bulgarian contingent is divided into three functional groups: infantry, civil military cooperation and military transition teams, said Bulgarian Col. Stogan Bambov, brigade combat team senior national representative deputy commander.

Each group had its own mission to help stabilize Iraq.

The infantry soldiers secured the checkpoints and escorted all convoy traffic throughout their area of responsibility, Bambov said.

The military transition teams worked directly with an Iraqi battalion, Bambov explained. The Bulgarian soldiers insured

that the Iraqi forces were capable to perform their missions, such as search operations and patrols.

"They worked hard to instruct the Iraqi security forces, who are on their way to becoming a certified battalion," Bambov said.

In addition to stabilizing the security forces in Iraq, Bulgarian soldiers helped complete several projects to better the villages in their area, Bambov said.

With more than 10 projects completed in less than six months, the Bulgarian soldiers' proudest accomplishment was building a place for the village children to learn.

The troops built a school to accommodate more than 200 children, said Bulgarian Lt. Col. Atanas Lefterov, Multi-national Forces Iraq Civil Military Operations public affairs officer. In addition to constructing the school, they renovated other existing schools and hospitals.

The dedication to helping stabilize Iraq is embedded into the Bulgarian soldiers, Lefterov said.

All Bulgarian troops volunteered to go to Iraq.

Soldiers have to apply to be mobilized, compete against one another then go through medical screening, Lefterov said.

Once it is determined the soldiers are fit for duty, they complete at least six months of training, he said.

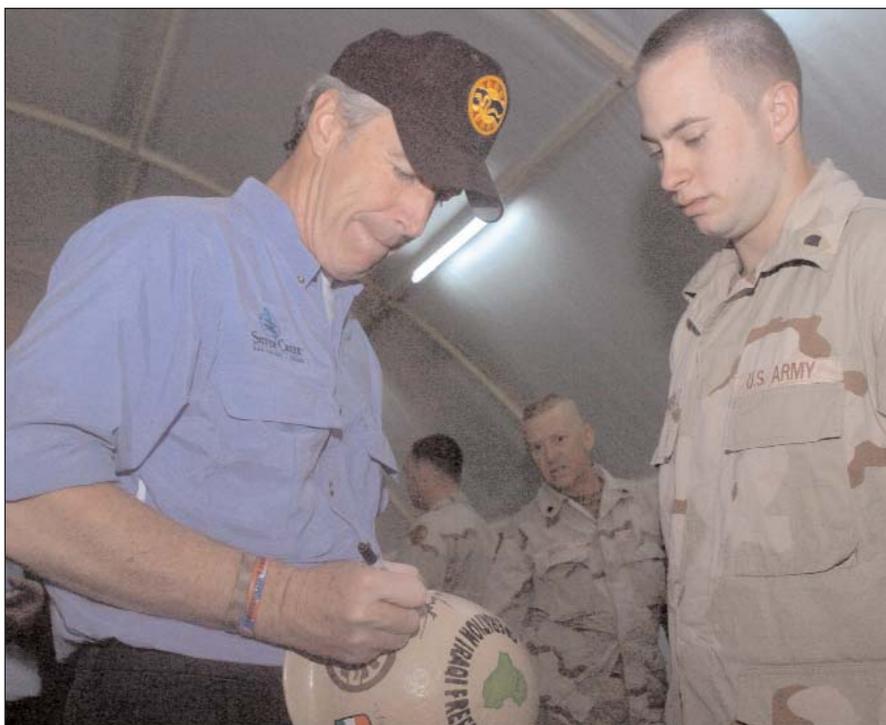
In holding to the definition of reconstruction and stabilization, Bulgaria's fifth contingent has worked hard to complete tasks and

help villagers in Iraq. "It is very rewarding for our soldiers," Lefterov said. "Not only are they representing their country by volunteering to come, but they are helping the villagers in Iraq improve life."

Bulgaria facts

- ◆ The capital of Bulgaria is Sofia.
- ◆ Its population is more than 7.5 million.
- ◆ Bulgaria can be compared to the size of Tennessee.
- ◆ Fire dancing is an ancient ritual in Bulgaria where barefoot dancers perform on burning embers. This religious ritual is for health, fruitfulness and expelling illness.
- ◆ In Bulgaria breakfast is usually a bread-based snack, lunch is the main meal of the day and dinner is eaten late at night.
- ◆ Trufon Zarezan, celebrated in February, is an ancient festival in Bulgaria of the wine growers. Vines are pruned and sprinkled with wine to ensure a bounteous harvest.
- ◆ Carvings by monks appear in monastery museums throughout Bulgaria: saints the size of grains of rice are high-lights.
- ◆ Bulgaria is located in southeastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Romania and Turkey.
- ◆ Bulgaria has 28 provinces.

These facts were gathered from www.eslsite.com and www.perfectbulgaria.com.



Governor visits Idaho troops

Spc. Marcos AlicesKinch

Governor Dirk Kempthorne, commander in chief of the Idaho National Guard, visited members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team at Camp Victory Oct. 22 as the Soldiers prepared for their trip back to the United States.

The governor's visit was an effort to demonstrate the state's support for the troops. Since the announcement of the unit's mobilization, the governor has been involved with the Military Emergency Relief Fund. The fund provides assistance to the families of deployed Idaho National Guard members through interest-free loans or grants.

He has also shown his support for the Soldiers' families by sending a letter to all Idaho medical organizations to ask them to accept TRICARE, the military health plan. At the time of the unit's mobilization, few medical organizations accepted the health plan.



Photos by Spc. Robert Adams

Spc. Andrea Nack, Co. C, 844th Eng. Bn., drives nails into a truss that supports the roof to a house at the Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq, Oct. 22. The 844th Eng. Bn. built 59 houses to hold the growing number of detainees.

Engineers build on TIF, force protection

Spc. Robert Adams
Assistant Editor

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq - "No matter where we go, there is something that exists after we leave," said Col. Donato Dinello, 844th Engineer Battalion commander.

This time, the combat-heavy battalion, headquartered out of Knoxville, Tenn., left its mark at Bucca by completing a housing construction and renovation project at the Theater Internment Facility Saturday.

Due to the fact there would have been an overflow of detainees, the military determined at the beginning of the year it needed to increase normal capacity at TIFs.

To do this, construction and renovation projects were put in place at four camps in Iraq.

The 844th Eng. Bn. was called upon to work with contractors to complete the project at Bucca.

This was a big task considering Bucca houses the largest internment facility built since the Vietnam Era, said Lt. Col. Guy Rudisill, Task Force 134 (Detainee Operations).

The engineers' mission included building 59 buildings in six of the TIF's compounds. This consisted of pouring concrete foundations, raising walls and building the trusses,

roofs, interior walls, ceilings as well as some electrical work.

Detainees were previously living in tents, causing problems and security issues for the TIF.

"Building permanent fixtures lowers the security risk for the guards," said Sgt. Chris Hudson, Company C, 844th Eng. Bn. "We are making sure the detainees can't tear these apart."

The added space has been crucial to an increasing population which has continually grown over the past year, said Capt. Peter Florentino, Bucca garrison executive officer.

In November 2004 there were 3,900 detainees, now there are more than 7,000.

"By having the engineers work on the project, the camp was able to save the U.S. Army more than \$4 million," Florentino added.

The engineers, who have been working on the construction project since July, also got the chance to familiarize themselves with every aspect of the building process.

"Seeing a project through every phase is a real learning experience for everybody," Hudson said. "All of my guys got to learn every aspect of building, and by the end everybody knew what to do next."

"At first it was the senior noncommissioned officers making it happen," said Capt.

Lou DeCicco, 844th Eng. Bn. Task Force commander. "Then we gave sergeants, lower-enlisted and team leaders the chance to take charge."

Sgt. Damion Graham, Co. C, 844th Eng. Bn. team leader, said his team of 10 Soldiers put a lot of effort into their work.

"I feel proud that I can teach others to do this job... We have learned a lot from each other," he said.

Soldiers also commented on how they learned skills that will help them in the civilian world and that they got to use their specialty skills during the project.

"It feels good to do a big project like this and it will feel good to look back and say, 'I accomplished that,'" said Spc. Brandon Kidwell, Co. C, 844th Eng. Bn. carpenter.

The battalion first arrived at Bucca in March for 60 days for force protection, mobility and survivability work. Their mission was to secure the post inside and out to protect the camp that contains the largest TIF in the theater of operations.

"We showed them how to make this happen ... now it is a secure camp," DeCicco said.

They first built and pushed the berms out around the camp and cleared the guard tower's field of fire. Then they built a road inside the perimeter, and did the berm work



Spc. Brandon Kidwell, Co. C, 844th Eng. Bn., saws a board to use in the construction of houses at the TIF.

for their new entry control point.

“They greatly improved the camp’s force protection,” Florentino said. “They worked night and day and it was done quickly.”

“We were also asked to help out in other areas of camp,” DeCicco said.

“We also did the prep work for the camp’s helipad and built three office and supply buildings in their motor pool.”

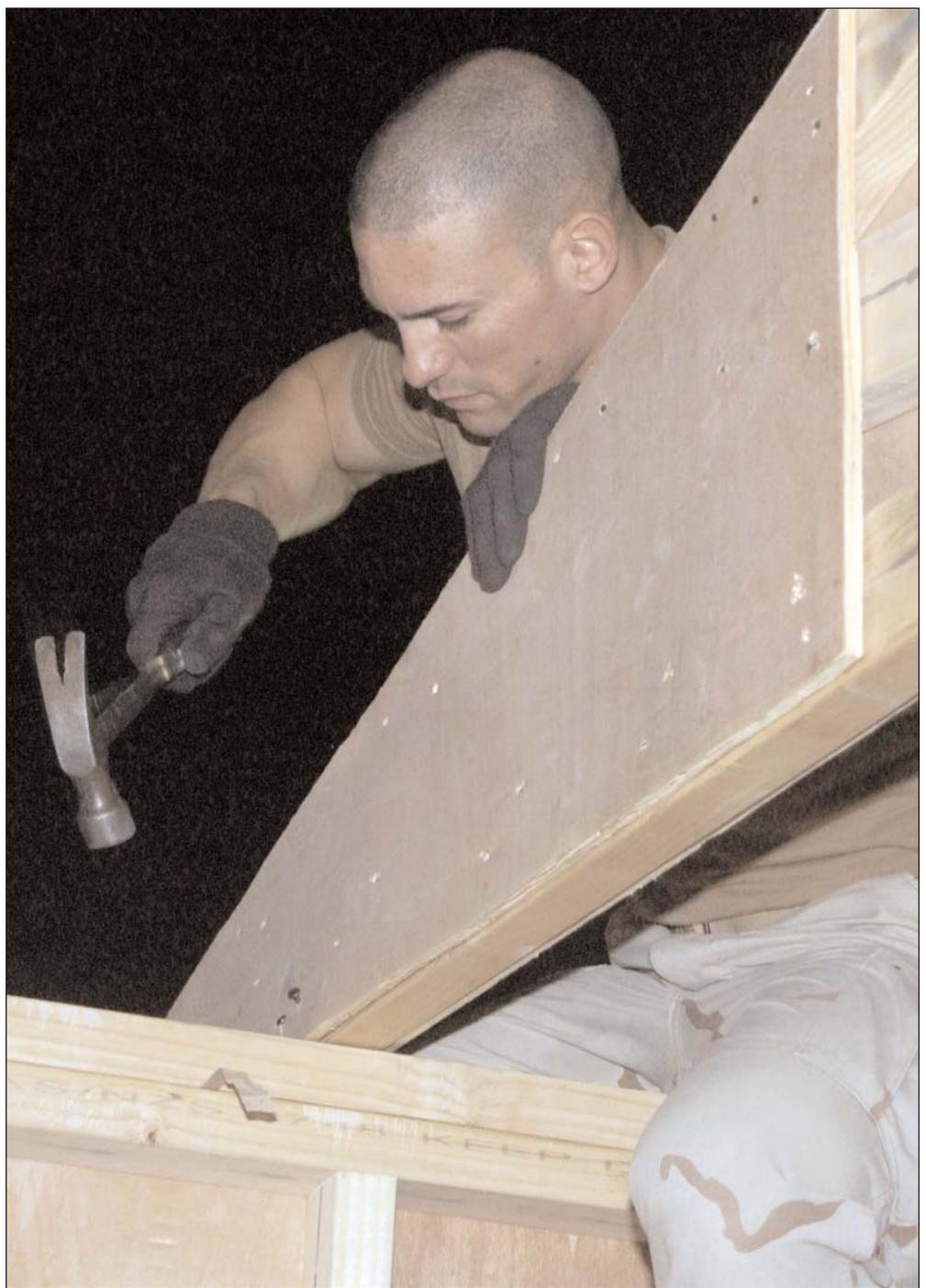
“When you have a motor pool with more than 450 vehicles, this gave them the room to organize their work better,” DeCicco added.

Now that the unit has finished the TIF project they returned to Kuwait to finish up the rest of their missions before heading home.

As of Thursday, the battalion has completed 442 missions in Kuwait and has 55 in progress.

“I’m pleased that we have done everything that a combat-heavy battalion can do in a theater of operations,” Dinello said.

He added, “I can’t wait to see our families and tell them how good of a job and difference we made here.”



(Above) Spc. Jason Trevino, Co. C, 844th Eng. Bn., hammers a nail to support a truss on a house at Bucca’s TIF.

(Below) Soldiers work together to lift a wall to one of the houses they built at the TIF.



Tracking system keeps eye on fight

Spc. Robert Adams

Assistant Editor

Forces can continuously push forward, even through the thickest sandstorms or the darkest nights, by the guiding light of the Blue Force Tracking system.

The BFT system has made a major impact in the military's ability to navigate and communicate more effectively during Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and was even recently used to aid military units in New Orleans during Operation Katrina, said Master Sgt. Carlos Nieves, Force 21 Battle Command Brigade and Below senior non-commissioned officer.

"The intent of the system is to provide near real-time situational awareness to leaders and subordinate leaders on the ground to know where their Soldiers are, where potential enemy activity is, and where they are," said Johnny Jackson, Force 21 Battle Command Brigade and Below, BFT fielding coordinator.

The system proved its ability to work when units first crossed the berm into Iraq at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Units were able to travel at night and through sandstorms quickly and without traveling off course.

"I used it when I went across to Iraq," Nieves said. "It helped a lot, especially in sandstorms when you can't see anything."

The system has many features to help aid commanders and Soldiers communicate on the ground. The system can be used by satellite or a Single-Channel Ground-Air Radio System.

If Soldiers find they can't communicate by SINGARS radio because they are in a dead spot or out of range, they can use the free text messaging portion of the system to talk back



Spc. Robert Adams

The Blue Tracking system standard V-4 version allows units to navigate and communicate with each other on the battlefield. It has been an asset during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

and forth with the different vehicles, Nieves said.

Instant messaging also allows Soldiers on the ground to send any combat message that they are used to transmitting via radio, to include update statuses, contact reports, spot reports, medical evacuations and improvised explosion strikes.

Units also have the ability to find any other system and location around the world using the screen as well.

The BFT system is mounted in up-armored humvees, Strykers, track vehicles, service-support vehicles, non-tactical vehicles and carried by dismounted Soldiers depending on the mission.

There are four versions of the system that include the standard V-4, which can be mounted in vehicles, a laptop version, a hand-held Commanders Digital Assistant and the Kontron, a commercial-grade manufactured system.

Every system also has subversions to

adapt to any mission.

"We can tailor the system to any mission required by commanders in the field," Nieves said. "For example, for up close, dismounted situations, they can use a hand-held system."

The history behind the creation of the system was part of the Force 221 initiative begun in the mid 1990s, where there was a need in the U.S. Army to find a way to increase situational awareness of friendly forces and reduce fratricides on the battlefield.

The system is now in its fourth generation, and the system is continually evolving with smaller, more portable prototypes currently in testing phases.

"What makes the system better is what Soldiers tell us from the field," Jackson said.

He added, "We are taking Soldier suggestions for the system during after-action reviews for we want to make this a tool that best suits the Soldier who is actually using the system."

Finance office opens in Arifjan's Zone 6

Lt. Col. Kellie M. Crespo

374th Finance Battalion
Commander

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians needing to cash a check, view leave and earning statements, or deposit funds in Saving Deposit Programs need not travel out of Camp Arifjans Zone 6.

The 374th Finance Battalion Headquarters opened a new full-

service operation in the post exchange area of operations across from the basketball courts.

The Zone 6 operation hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The new facility gives the 374th Finance Bn. Headquarters the resources to manage finance operations throughout southern Iraq, the Horn of Africa, Qatar

and Kuwait and gives service-members and civilians in Zone 6 access to finance operations where they work and live. The customer service area includes computers for My Pay and Thrift Savings Program Access.

In addition to providing direct service support to troops, the 374th Bn. Headquarters staff will answer pay and entitlement questions, process casual payments and exchange currencies.

They will also provide service to unit personnel officers by processing leave forms, bonus payments and much more.

The Zone 1 finance detachment will continue to operate open during the same hours, providing personal finance services from their location in the PX complex as well as Commercial Vendor Services payments to support Contracting and Resource Management.

LSA provides central location for travel

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

The Army Life Support Area at Ali Al Salem is responsible for any transient servicemember coming through their area of responsibility on rest and recuperation, emergency leave, deployment and redeployment.

The LSA is responsible for feeding, providing a place to sleep and coordinating transportation for these servicemembers while Ali Al Salem Airbase provides that transportation.

The LSA is the central location servicemembers enter and leave from when supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

It was opened due to the impending closure of Doha, according to Lt. Col. Jeff Brown, 206th Engineering Battalion, LSA commander.

The base's first day of operation was Aug. 16.

"When we opened we had just barely enough to run operations," Brown said.

At that time the LSA had half the transient tents and half the permanent party barracks completed. Other finished structures included customs, the command cell, a small post exchange, laun-

dry facility and the dining facility.

Since August, the transient tents and the barracks have been completed, as well as the addition of two fitness tents, a USO tent, the chapel and a food court. The fire department and troop medical center were operating out of tents, but moved into a permanent structure Oct. 21. Other amenities include an internet café, gift shop and jewelry store.

"I'd describe the camp as a canvas," said Command Sgt. Maj. William T. Broom, 328th Personnel Services Battalion and Aerial Port of Debarkation command sergeant major. "We had a nice canvas and we started painting it. Our successors will finish it."

The LSA currently has two missions: to set up the camp at Ali Al Salem and providing support for transient servicemembers, Brown said.

"We feed them, bed them down – take care of them for the day or two they're here," he said.

The location of the LSA is convenient and cost effective, according to Brown.

"Originally servicemembers would fly into the airbase, then be taken by bus to Doha," Brown said.

"This keeps them off the bus

for hours. It was a lot of time spent traveling so having the base here saves time and money," he said. "It's also safer because they don't have to travel on the highway."

The LSA and Ali Al Salem Airbase are different camps with different missions, Brown said. Both bases are located on the larger Kuwaiti Ali Al Salem base.

While the Air Force and Army bases are separate they do work closely together because of their proximity to each other.

The bases share the force protection aspect and respond to fires on the bases, said Brown.

"We try to communicate and work closely on how we can benefit everyone. For instance, they have a Burger King so we're getting a McDonalds," he said.

According to Brown, the APOD is the LSA's claim to fame. The APOD is where servicemembers are processed for travel while the LSA encompasses all units on the camp.

"They are our biggest tenant," he said.

He added, "The APOD and their customers are the ones we try to take care of. They do an outstanding job moving servicemembers north and home."

The APOD's move to the LSA made things more convenient for servicemembers and the APOD

units, said Lt. Col. James A. Troia, 328th PSB and APOD commander.

"At Doha, the buildings were scattered," he said. "We had to march troops throughout the camp. Here it's all in the same area – one stop shopping."

The APOD can house approximately 3,000 transitioning servicemembers at on time.

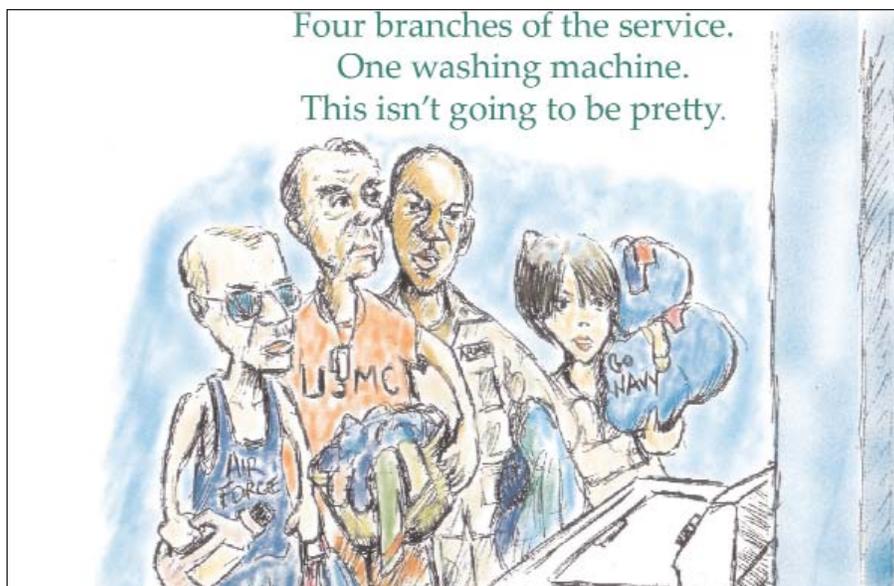
To date the APOD has had more than 600,000 transactions of servicemembers.

These transactions are not how many servicemembers that have come through, but how many identification cards have been swiped. A servicemember will normally swipe their card four times each time they are processed through the facility whether for the deployment, R&R, emergency leave or redeployment.

While the APOD's mission is to process servicemembers, Broom and Troia said they see the servicemembers who come through as their responsibility.

"Every Soldier that comes through the APOD is my Soldier," Troia said. "I want them to feel like that and get them back to see their families as fast as possible."

He added, "I like to think of this as a bed and breakfast for the Soldiers."



ARMY LIFE

by
Michael
Verret





Courtesy photo

A jack-o-lantern is a traditional Halloween decoration that people put out in front of their houses.

Halloween, what does it all mean?

Spc. Michael R. Noggle
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

So it's that time of the year again. The occasion where children dress as this year's most popular action hero, the holiday where teenagers vandalize my house with toilet paper year after year. That's right, it's Halloween.

But what is the true meaning behind Halloween's history? Where did all the jack-o-lanterns, witches and haunted houses come from?

The origins date back more than 2,000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which celebrated their new year Nov. 1. This day marked the end of the summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death.

Celts believed on the night of the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred.

On the night of Oct. 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future.

For people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were

an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

Years later, the Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the 400 years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. This was believed to be incorporated with Samhain which explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples, a custom enjoyed at many Halloween parties and festivals today.

By the seventh century, Nov. 1 was designated as All Saints Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that it was to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned, holiday. The celebration was also called All Hallows and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All Hallows Eve, and, eventually, Halloween.



Commentary

By 1000 A.D., the church would make Nov. 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was similar to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils.

At the turn of the 20th century, Halloween became well known throughout the majority of the United States, people would van-

dalize communities and serious damage was done to a one time festive holiday.

During the 1950s a movement was made by cities to have children dress in a costume and go to local neighbors' homes to collect candy as an alternative to vandalism.

Today's version of Halloween and the way we celebrate has revolutionized because of the merging cultures and celebrations.

Homeowners display decorations on their property with scarecrows, fake cemeteries and jack-o-lanterns. Trick-or-treating has become a yearly ritual for children and adults throw costume parties for a social gathering.

There was once a time when I enjoyed trick-or-treating and disguising myself as Spiderman, but those times have long passed. The fact remains, Halloween will remain a part of America's culture and teenagers will continue to use toilet paper to decorate my house.

Happy Halloween

Arifjan

Wednesday

Elaine Youngs and Rachel Wacholder and the Comics on Duty World Tour, 4 vs. 4 volleyball game, 6 p.m., Comics on Duty, 7 p.m., Zone 6

Soccer league, Zone 1 soccer field

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Bench press and dead-lift competition sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Flag football league sign-up, through Nov. 9, Zone 1 Fitness Center

Boxing class, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Thursday

Drowning Pool, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

Ballroom dancing, 8 p.m., Zone 1

Community Center

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Bench press and dead-lift competition sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Country Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1

Community Center

Friday

Soccer league, Zone 1 soccer field

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Bench press and dead-lift competition sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Saturday

College Football, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Bench press and dead-lift competition sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Sunday

Bench press and dead-lift competition, weigh-in 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., competition, 6 p.m., Zone 1 pavilion

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Monday

Reserve Generation, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Flag Football officials clinic, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Tuesday

Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Flag Football officials clinic, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Ballroom dancing, 8 p.m., Zone 1

Community Center

Veteran's Day Track and Field meet sign-up, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Wednesday

Flag Football League coaches meeting, 6 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Boxing class, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

For more information call

430-1205/1302

Buehring

Wednesday

Drowning Pool, 7 p.m., MWR stage

Thursday

Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Friday

Hip-hop dance, 9 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Saturday

Spa Day, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Sunday

Spa Day, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Salsa dance, 9 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Tuesday

Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

For more information call

828-1340

Kuwait Naval Base

Wednesday

Chess, 7 p.m., Aerobics room

Friday

Bingo, 7 p.m., Fitness Center bench area

Saturday

Spades, 7 p.m., Aerobics room

Wednesday

Dominoes, 7 p.m., Aerobics room

For more information call

839-1063

Navistar

Wednesday

Pingpong tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Spades tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Thursday

Pingpong tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Spades tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Friday

Pingpong tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Spades tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Monday

Pool tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Tuesday

Air Force Band, TBA, stage

Pool tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Wednesday

Pool tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

For more information call

844-1137

Spearhead/SPOD

For information call 825-1302

Victory

Wednesday

Bazaar, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Multifunction Tent
Kuwaiti Beach Volleyball tournament, 3 - 5 p.m., MWR courts

Thursday

Aerobics, 5 a.m., MWR

Bazaar, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Multifunction Tent
Beach Volleyball Pro/Comedy tour, 2 - 5 p.m., MWR courts

Friday

Movie night, 3 - 5 p.m., MWR dayroom
Trivia Pursuit challenge, 6 p.m., MWR dayroom

Saturday

Aerobics, 5 a.m., MWR

Dodgeball tournament, 3 p.m., MWR courts

Sunday

Dodgeball tournament, 3 p.m., MWR courts

Monday

Gotcha game end, 4 p.m., MWR dayroom

Tuesday

Aerobics, 5 a.m., MWR

Desert Bingo Night, 6 p.m., Multifunction Tent

Wednesday

Slam Jam pingpong tournament, 3 p.m., MWR dayroom

For more information call

823-1033

Virginia

Wednesday

Spades tournament, 7 p.m., MWR tent

Thursday

Basketball tournament, 5 vs. 5, 6 p.m., Basketball courts

Friday

Spa Day, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sports Lounge

Saturday

Hip-hop Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Sunday

Old School Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Monday

Foosball tournament, 7 p.m., MWR tent

Tuesday

Bingo, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

Techno Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Wednesday

Pool tournament, 9-ball, 7 p.m., Sports Bar

Country Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

For more information call

832-1045

**Give me
something
good
to eat**

