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DESERT VOICE

CHANGING
PERCEPTION,
ONE LISTENER
AT A TIME

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DESERT VOICE

Volume 26, Issue 49

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On the cover

Trying to change America's perception of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a group of conservative radio personalities toured Iraq and Kuwait to tell troops' good stories.

Photo illustration by Sgt. Matt Millham

A family fights, and re-ups, together

Story and photo by Spc. Almee Felix

Reenlistment ceremonies, visits from generals, and family members deployed together are dime-a-dozen occurrences in the Global War on Terrorism.

When the stars are perfectly aligned, though, and all these things merge into one hour, they make for a pretty unique experience.

A father and his twin sons – all with Hawaii National Guard's 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, stationed at Kuwaiti Naval Base – reenlisted for three years July 11, and they were sworn in by a visiting major general who happens to be a twin himself.

Master Sgt. Mark Shiraishi, 50, and his 23-year-old sons Sgt. Brandon Shiraishi and Spc. Cory Shiraishi reenlisted "as a unity thing," said Mark. "I did it to support my sons, and we all did it for the same length of time," he added.

"It's such a treasure to see them reenlist together," said Maj. Gen Walter Pudlowski, the special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard. Pudlowski was happy to discover that the Shiraishi boys, like him, are twins. He swore the father and sons in after he was briefed on the responsibilities and tasks of the Shirashis' unit.

Brandon and Cory, who have been inseparable since birth, made the decision to reenlist together, a decision that had much to do with the fraternity they had developed with the rest of the troops in the battalion. They also did it for the benefits, Brandon said.

Brandon and Cory will each receive a



Master Sgt. Mark Shiraishi, 50, and his 23-year-old twin sons Sgt. Brandon Shiraishi and Spc. Cory Shiraishi are sworn in July 11 at Kuwaiti Naval Base by Maj. Gen Walter Pudlowski – the special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard – who himself happens to be a twin.

\$7,500 bonus and money for college through the Montgomery G.I. Bill. Their father, "he's been in too long to get bonuses," said Cory. Mark has served a total of 30 years in the Army.

While they made the decision to reenlist on their own, Mark is who decided the twins would enlist six years ago. Mark has been a National Guard retention and recruiting officer for the last eight years. He spent the other 22 years of his Army career in field artillery – a footstep his sons voluntarily followed when he made them join the Army.

In the civilian world Brandon is a hotel

receptionist, and just before this deployment Cory joined the Honolulu Police Department. Brandon plans on going back to college when the 1st of the 487th returns home in January. And, since he and Cory each got married right before their deployment, they plan on saving the bonus money for their future homes. Mark will retire from the Active Guard Reserve when he returns from this deployment.

Pudlowski had nothing but admiration for the Shiraishi men, but he did offer Brandon some advice. "You have to push your brother. Get him to the board."

A moment please

British troops observe a moment of silence as the Union Jack in front of Camp Arifjan's Zone 6 command cell is lowered to half staff in remembrance of those killed in the July 7 bombings in London.

At 2 p.m. July 14, members of Great Britain's Operational Stand Down and all other British troops staying in Camp Arifjan stood at attention, wherever they were, to observe the two minutes of silence. The observance coincided with a moment of silence in London's Trafalgar Square that thousands of Londoners participated in.

The attacks, which struck during morning rush hour on three packed London Underground trains and a double-decker bus, killed at least 55 people and left at least 700 wounded. The attacks are believed to have been suicide bombings. An investigation into the attacks is ongoing.



Photo courtesy of British Warrant Officer 1 Mark Phillips

How do you eat an elephant?

Story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

Catching a ride to or from Operation Iraqi Freedom can take weeks, and often does for many units.

But Marines moving through Kuwait accomplish the task in a matter of hours, not weeks, with the help of the Marines with Multinational Force-West Coordination Center – Kuwait spread across Camps Victory, Arifjan, Doha and Ali Al Salem and Kuwait City International Airfields.

The MCC-K has moved more than 59,000 Marines since January with another 44,000 slated to move in the coming months.

What makes this feat so remarkable is that the crew of 110 Marines moves all of these personnel through Kuwait in a matter of hours.

The main contingent of the task force, a 65 Marine team at Camp Victory, is responsible for the reception, staging and onward movement of all units attached to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force – Forward.

Most Marines spend 24 to 36 hours in Kuwait before moving on, said Gunnery Sgt. Frank Bellini, noncommissioned officer in charge of the movement control team at Camp Victory. Some groups of deployers have spent as little as a couple of hours in Kuwait before flying to Iraq.

“Sometimes you go to bed and all you can hear is generators,” Bellini said. “Then you wake up the next day and there are 2,000 people outside. You wake up a day later and everyone is gone.”

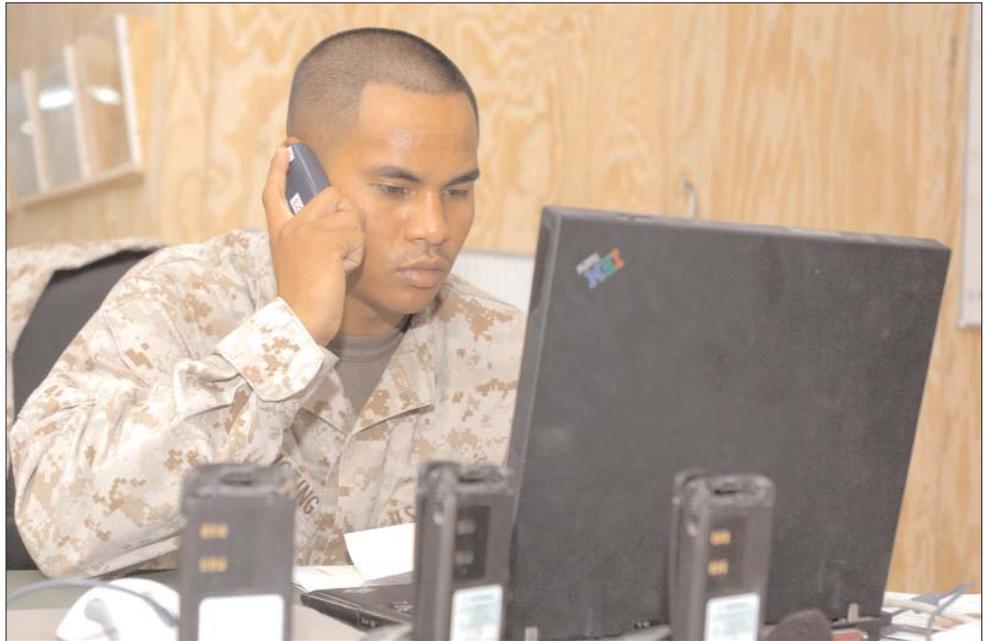
One reason the Marines can move through Kuwait so quickly is that a lot of the things the Army does in Kuwait before moving into Iraq, like additional training, the Marines do at their home station or in Iraq, Bellini said. Another big

reason is the single-ticket program and the Marines’ partnership with Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

“We don’t operate independently, and that partnership [with CFLCC] is why we are so successful at what we do.”

The biggest advantage of the single-ticket program is that instead of waiting for flights that are scheduled to go to a certain destination, the Marines can schedule flights for when they need to move troops.

Operating like a civilian airline, the sin-



Marine Cpl. Ninh Pangting, transportation team leader with Multinational Force-West Coordination Center – Kuwait, schedules transportation for the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment from Camp Victory to the Aerial Port of Debarkation.

gle-ticket program gives units a travel itinerary that lays out their travel plan from start to finish. Kuwait is just a layover on the journey to or from the war.

The program is for both deploying and redeploying units. The MCC-K starts tracking the units before they even leave their home station, setting up transportation for them once they arrive in Kuwait, Bellini said. To set up a unit’s schedule, MCC-K takes the date the unit needs to be at its final destination and starts

working backward from there, hour by hour, figuring out how long it will take to move the unit from one location to another.

Even though there are occasional snags in the schedule because of cancelled

or delayed flights, the mission is going well so far. “We successfully moved all personnel and equipment and cargo without injury,” Koval said.

Besides scheduling, a large part of the MCC-K mission is transporting the Marines and their gear from place to place.

Because a jumbo jet bringing troops into theater carries hundreds of Marines, one flight of Marines can add up to dozens of transportation missions.

“The hardest part is making sure every-

thing goes smooth, getting the timeline and making sure everything moves at the right time,” said Marine Staff Sgt. Ryan Best, transportation NCOIC. “The highlight of my day is when the work is done. When everything runs smooth, it’s not too bad.”

Best has had not-so-smooth days, like when a truck hauling an incoming unit’s luggage broke down. Fortunately, they only had to find a new truck and hook it up to the trailer, rather than having to unload and reload hundreds of bags into a new trailer, Best said.

The Marines’ surge is ramping up and will continue for the next few months. The MCC-K is looking down the barrel of a lot of long hours.

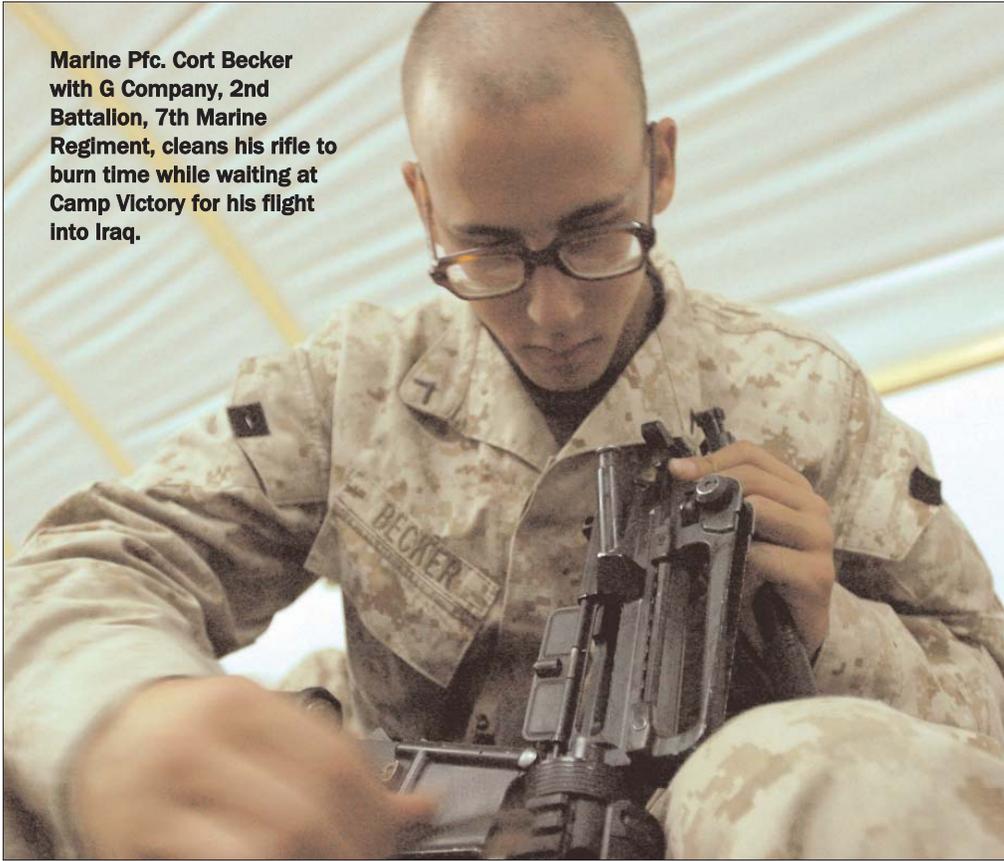
During the last surge, they worked for nearly 10 weeks without a break, Bellini said.

“The Marines are either working or sleeping. They sometimes even take turns sleeping in the vehicles,” Bellini said. “I just try to get about an hour of downtime every now and then to smoke a cigar.”

With one of the largest rotations of Marine forces in Corps history behind them and another massive movement coming up, the MCC-K is ready to handle the gargantuan task.

“One of the things I learned during a leadership class was: how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time,” Koval said. “There’s no one piece that’s more important than the rest.”

Marine Pfc. Cort Becker with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, cleans his rifle to burn time while waiting at Camp Victory for his flight into Iraq.



Been there, done that, doing it again

Story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

"I lost a couple family members during 9/11, and if I can prevent that from happening to anyone else, that's a personal gain," Marine Pfc. Cory Becker said before moving out of Kuwait to Fallujah, Iraq.

About 800 Marines with the 7th Marine Regiment from 29 Palms, Calif., stopped at Camp Victory July 7 before heading on to Iraq's Al Anbar province where the battalion will carry out security and stability operations and train Iraqi security forces.

The Marines with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Regiment are heading to Iraq for the second time in less than a year. They redeployed from Iraq last August. They return to Iraq well-trained, motivated and with a wealth of experience, said Marine Capt. Andy Watson, G Company commander.

"When we came through the first time, it was kind of the first time for everyone," said Marine Cpl. Shurron Thompson.

During the deployment last year, Thompson was a private first class. This time he's coming back as a leader of his own squad of Marines.

He knew his unit would return to Iraq at least one more time, and last week as the Marines waited for their flight to Iraq the Marines faced the anticipation of returning to war.

"I'm comfortable with it, not easy with it. But now I have guys under me, and I have to be comfortable," Thompson said.

About 45 percent of the Marines deployed with the unit last year, Watson said. "Their experience is only as good as their ability to teach; it's a matter of translating that experience to help others."

Watson returned from Iraq in March and took over the company a couple of months before deploying. He has no qualms with the quick turnaround, saying that leading Marines into Iraq is "absolutely what I want to do."

Only a couple of days from landing in Fallujah, Marine 1st Sgt. Joel Collins, first sergeant for G Company, was ready to start the mission.

"I felt it's about time," Collins said. "We've been anticipating this day for a long hour."

The troops were wound up to go to Iraq even before heading out on predeployment leave, and by the time they arrived in Kuwait, they were overloaded with anticipation.

"It's like the butterflies you get before the big game — a little nervousness and adrenaline," Collins said. "I saw them get on the aircraft and they had a look of confidence in their faces. They all had their head in the ball game. I feel very confident."

That confidence isn't just a reflection of his Marines' bravado; almost a full year of training plays a role in his positive outlook.

To prepare for what they would face on the streets of Fallujah the Marines trained in an old housing area that was converted into training grounds. The setup mimicked the environment and threats the Marines will face while protecting the Iraqi people and

training them to protect themselves.

"They were very successful in training the Iraqis [during the last deployment] and we'll need that experience this time," Watson said. "The goal is to get the Iraqis stood up so they can man Fallujah; that's what we're going for with all of Iraq."

Becker, a native of Glennallen, Alaska, which has a population of about 800, will be one of the Marines training the Iraqi Security Forces. It will be Becker's first time out of the United States.

"I've received the best training the U.S. military has to offer," said Becker, who has been in the Marines for less than a year. He feels more comfortable knowing the Marines he's deploying with have already served in Iraq.

Free Magazines

Active duty servicemembers have the opportunity to request free magazine subscriptions. In an effort to provide entertainment to deployed personnel who may not have access to much reading material, Primedia is offering free subscriptions to several of their magazines to active duty personnel who request it. Primedia produces such titles as *Guns and Ammo*, *Shotgun News* and *Hunting*. Active duty personnel can request free subscriptions online at:

<https://store.primediadmag.com/soldier2/index.html>



Photo by Pfc. Michael Noggle

Michael Graham, host of "The Michael Graham Show" on AM 630 WMAC in Washington D.C., interviews Chief Warrant Officer Ralph Puma, a member of the 390th Personnel Group from Richmond, Va. Puma, like many of the other interviewees, has family in the Washington D.C. area.

Sending the 'right' signals

Story by Spc. Curt Cashour

There's an old saying among those in the media that states, "If it bleeds it leads."

There's a reason the motto has stuck: it's the truth.

Take Iraq for example. Day after day, stories of car bombings and suicide attacks take prominence over the many good news stories happening in the war-torn country.

With this in mind, a group of radio talk show hosts took to U.S. military bases in Kuwait and Iraq to let servicemembers tell the other side of the story.

With stops at Camps Victory and Prosperity in Iraq, and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the "Voices of Soldiers Tour" featured five conservative-minded talk show hosts, each

of whom conducted live broadcasts full of stories from the frontlines told by servicemembers themselves. The trip was sponsored by Move America Forward, a not-for-profit political advocacy group that supports both the Global War on Terror and the men and women of the military.

Using a three-tiered approach consisting of talk radio, Internet and grass roots efforts, Move America Forward works to publicize the good news stories coming out of Iraq that are often overlooked by mainstream press outlets, said co-chairman Howard Kaloogian, a former member of the California House of Representatives. Kaloogian founded the organization in March of last year to offset the steady stream of bad press the U.S. military was receiving in the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal.

"We've all worked in politics and media, so countering established media is something we can do," said Siobhan Guiney, executive

"It's good to see that there are media personalities that are interested in what Soldiers have to say and not just getting sensational photos for the TV"

— Maj. Jane Nealy

director of Move America Forward.

"The goal of the [Voices of Soldiers] trip is to make sure that the mainstream media does not get away with turning Iraq into Vietnam," said Melanie Morgan, co-founder of Move America Forward and host of the "Lee Rodgers and Melanie Morgan Show," a talk program on KSFO-AM in San Francisco.

Keeping the American public abreast of all the positive developments in Iraq is important, because if the national discussion turns to abandoning Iraq, the progress we have made there will be lost, Morgan said.

Throughout the weeklong trip, on-air personalities ate in military dining facilities, lived in tents and accompanied troops patrolling the streets of Iraq. At each stop, the hosts broadcast live programs back to the United States, often reuniting troops with their family members while on the air.

Portions of the broadcasts were carried on various talk radio programs throughout the United States, giving listeners from across the nation the chance to call and speak directly with servicemembers.

The group's final stop was at Camp Arifjan's Zone 6 Community Center. Troops huddled around Morgan and Washington D.C.-based host Michael Graham as they beamed their programs back to the United States by telephone.

Maj. Jane Nealy of the 461st Personnel Services Battalion, a Reserve unit that's deployed to Arifjan, waited with anticipation

for her on-air interview with Morgan. When she's not deployed, Nealy listens to Morgan nearly every morning as she navigates traffic on her way to work, she said.

"It's good to see that there are media personalities that are interested in what Soldiers have to say and not just getting sensational photos for the TV," Nealy said.

Although he normally prefers romantic songs to talk radio, Senior Airman Thomas Truong was also excited to talk about his deployment experience on "The Michael Graham Show." Truong immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 1989.

The radio trip was plagued by bad weather and technical difficulties, but all of the hardships were worth it. The broadcasts went a long way toward educating ordinary citizens about the lives of servicemembers serving in the war on terror, said Sgt. Alexander Gago of U.S. Central Command Public Affairs, who added that the trip also opened the eyes of the talk show hosts.

"I had them hiking into tents, up roads and through dust storms. They've had to go through some physical and mental challenges that have made them better people," he said.

"I've never worn a Kevlar vest in 120 degree heat before. You have to experience it to understand it," Kaloogian said.

"We've all worked in politics and media, so countering established media is something we can do."

— Slobhan Guiney



Photo by Spc. Curt Cashour



Photo by Pfc. Michael Noggle

Left: Melanie Morgan, a co-host of "The Lee Rodgers and Melanie Morgan Show" from San Francisco, conducts an over-the-phone interview with Maj. Jane Nealy, a member of the 461st Personnel Services Battalion, a reserve unit from Decatur, Ga.

Above: Graham interviews a Soldier in Camp Arifjan's Zone 6 Community Center. Graham, who travelled to Iraq and Kuwait as part of the "Voices of Soldiers" radio tour said he was trying to get the Soldier's story to the American public.

Measuring morale on a sliding scale

By Master Sgt. Hak Haskins

377th Theater Support Command

Each week the chaplain stands before the 377th Theater Support Command commanding general and answers a question.

"What's the spiritual health of the command?" queries Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock. "It's a seven, sir," responds Chaplain (Col.) William L. Brunold.

The Wednesday morning exchange began more than 40 weeks ago when the Soldiers of the 377th walked off airplanes and into the desert of Kuwait, the plains of Iraq and the foothills of Afghanistan.

The exchange will continue until those Soldiers have boarded airplanes that will take them home.

Spiritual health is Mock's term for morale, something most leaders pay close attention to.

And it's Brunold's job to deliver the news, good or bad.

One of the issues helping morale is the time left in theater, which draws toward an end. One of the issues hurting morale is the temperature, which has hovered around 120 degrees Fahrenheit for weeks.

No commander can change the weather, but the spiritual health report does give Mock and his counterparts an overview of those things they can change to improve morale without compromising the mission. That can be as simple as ensuring as many Soldiers as possible get a chance to attend organizational days, or as complex as prioritizing the up-armor of vehicles before they are driven into Iraq.

With less than two months worth of calendar pages to turn before the 377th's current rotation is a memory, morale in the 377th TSC remains strong, Brunold said. In fact, it's always been that way in varying degrees.

"Most people (in Kuwait) have not seen the extremes" caused by the war in Iraq, Brunold said. "We've been insulated from the bad stuff.

"I believe the deployment has been successful. As a whole we have performed and excelled in a way that was beyond expectations. When you see annual training and see all the things that go wrong ... we've had a great success."

That shouldn't be interpreted to mean morale has reached warp speed on the happy meter.

Problems exist and persist and many of them originated in the States; if there is a recurring theme in the counseling chaplains offer it has been for Soldiers vexed by family woes and tragedies.

That, in turn, affected the morale of individual Soldiers.

"Conflict between Soldiers here, well, that's normal. But the deployment has been much more difficult for families than Soldiers. Name the social problem," Brunold said, "and it was experienced by families back home."

When a marriage is in trouble, or a child has become despondent, part of a chaplain's mission is to offer counseling and an emotional respite where a Soldier can find some refuge and relief; the discovery of answers is common though not assured.

Occasionally, Soldiers have returned home on emergency leave, not for the funeral of a loved one, but to mend their families and themselves.

Not all Soldiers have spouses and chil-

dren. Those who are single have a different set of worries, the chaplain said.

Concerns about their futures – including the decision to reenlist or take a discharge – lead the list, he said.

"I hope those individuals have matured" during their deployment. "But when they get home they must explain this to their friends who have no clue what it's like. I hear younger people saying 'where do I go from here?'"

Still, the morale gauge for the 377th TSC has never dipped below 6.5 though it seldom edged above 8.

"When we see an 8 or a 9 is when we are on the plane" headed west, the chaplain said.

Stressed out? Get some help

For those who aren't old enough to remember, the military used to deal with a servicemember's personal problems as just that: personal problems.

You were on your own.

The combat stress team, available in this theater, is a relatively new concept. Briefings that offer guidance and assistance on the transition from boots to loafers are less than 10 years old. The Veterans Administration's Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder agency wasn't developed until 1989.

Even the historic bastion of emotional stability, the chaplain, was the man you wanted to find just before combat, and then you prayed there would be no reason for him to find you after.

Today's Army, however, realizes that your problems are by default its problems, and an array of programs have been designed and developed for the benefit of all.

"When I joined the Army, it didn't care about families," said Chaplain (Col.) William L. Brunold, of the 377th Theater Support Command, who is a former Marine. "At least that was my impression. The improvements we've made are night and day."

The Army began aggressively developing family support groups nearly 15 years ago as part of an effort to keep families and Soldiers connected, especially during deployments.

Since then the military has expanded into fields that had been left to the individual Soldier or non-military agencies.

Those include retreats for married couples, on-the-ground counseling for combat stress, and an emphasis on MWR activities.

Being deployed for an extended period,

as most the Soldiers and Sailors in this theater have, will spawn life changes. Some of those will be subtle – an improved physical fitness program, for example – while some of them will become major – the dissolution of a marriage caused by, or blamed on, the separation.

And not all of the changes will appear overnight; they can have a tendency to creep into one's life. The American Psychiatric Association calls that post-traumatic stress disorder.

Brunold, who has 23 years of experience as an Army Reserve Soldier and is the pastor of a Lutheran church in his civilian life, said that servicemembers who are suffering from any type of deployment or combat stress shouldn't try to slug through it by themselves.

He offered some tips:

- * Talk to your battle buddy; the Soldier or Sailor you served with during Operation Iraqi Freedom understands what you are going through; phone cards are cheap, buy one and use it if your buddy isn't close by.
- * Find a clergyman in your hometown, and one with military experience if that is possible.
- * Check with the local Veterans Administration; every county in the United States has a VA representative who can help guide you to the nearest counseling center.
- * Use your local mental health agencies. More information on PTSD is available online at: www.psych.org/public_info/ptsd.cfm; your unit's chaplain has information on programs available for married couples, families and individuals.

EO or IG: what's the difference?

Story by Spc. Curt Cashour

You've probably heard it so many times that it's almost second nature: when you have a problem, go to your chain of command for the solution.

But what happens if the chain of command isn't able to help?

In the Army, relief comes in the form of the Inspector General and Equal Opportunity Offices. Both assist and educate Soldiers when it comes to fair and ethical treatment, however, each have their differences.

One of the most common problems for EO advisors and representatives is the fact that many troops don't know the difference between EO and IG. EO handles unfair treatment issues with regards to race, sex, religion, color or national origin, whereas IG is the place to report unfair treatment not related to the above criteria, said Sgt. 1st Class Penny Walls, the Area Support Group — Kuwait equal opportunity advisor.

An EO advisor for the past four years, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Clausen said most of the complaints he receives don't even fall within the realm of EO, which has the sole mission of assuring that all Soldiers are treated fairly, with dignity and respect and judged on the basis of merit and not race, gender, color, religion, or national origin.

"They're mostly leadership issues ... 'I feel like I'm being harassed, therefore it must be equal opportunity,'" he said.

In such cases, Soldiers would be better off talking to an IG representative, said Clausen, of the 43rd Area Support Group, an active duty unit from Fort Carson, Colo.

But IG is not just an avenue for Soldiers to report the improper behavior of their chain of command. It's also a place to turn to for help with Army regulations and other bureaucratic problems that the chain of command doesn't seem to know how to fix. The primary mission of IG Soldiers is to ensure that Army standards are being met, said Lt. Col. Rick Smarr, the Coalition Forces Land Component Command deputy inspector general (forward).

They do this in four ways: conducting inspections, providing individual Soldier assistance, executing investigations and teaching and training leaders and Soldiers the proper procedures if they are not on track when seeking solutions to issues.

"In a nutshell, the inspector general is the eyes, ears and conscience of the commander," Smarr said.

Many people look at IG Soldiers as the "fix it guys," Smarr said, but actually that's not the case. IG troops do in fact investigate complaints and issues of concern, but they

don't have the authority to hand out punishments. They'll advise commanders of available options for dealing with problems, but the ultimate decision for dealing with issues lies with the commander.

EO advisors, on the other hand, don't conduct investigations. If an EO issue warrants further study, a commissioned officer — preferably one who outranks the person the complaint was lodged against — will be assigned to conduct an inquiry. After a review of the investigation's findings, the investigating officer can recommend punishments for guilty parties, but in the end, the ultimate decision for taking action or delivering punishment lies with the chain of command, Walls said.

Although IG and EO Soldiers can provide help to those who need it, don't think of the programs as a way to take your chain of command out of the loop. Smarr, Clausen and Walls all recommend bringing up whatever issues you have with your superiors before seeking outside help, because the chain of command is always their first stop in investigating complaints.

"There are always three sides to every story: the side of the one raising the issue, the side of the one the issue is about and the bare bones facts — usually somewhere in the middle," Smarr said.

To aid EO and IG representatives,

Soldiers with a complaint or issue should have documentation of the behavior in question, complete with dates, times, and witnesses.

"The more information they have, the better," Clausen said.

If an EO or IG investigation finds fault in someone's actions, the next highest-commander in the guilty party's chain of command has the authority to agree or disagree with the findings and determine punishment.

Soldiers who take their issues to IG or EO are covered by the Department of Defense Whistleblower Act. The act prohibits military superiors from taking reprisal actions against someone who files an IG or EO complaint — even if a subsequent inquiry does not find enough evidence to support the complaint. The act even gives servicemembers who suspect they are the victim of reprisals the option of directly contacting their military inspector general. The preferred method, however, is to try to solve the problem at the lowest level possible, Clausen said.

Even though EO and IG personnel can provide help in times of trouble, their presence around an office or unit isn't necessarily a bad thing. EO and IG Soldiers spend a great deal of their time educating Soldiers and leaders on how to meet their respective requirements before problems start.

Armenia raises its flag at Virginia



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Matthew Smiskey

Armenian Soldiers add their flag to the display of coalition partners' flags waving in front of Camp Virginia's command cell July 16. The troops brought the flag from Armenia to Kuwait when they arrived last week on their way to Iraq. The Armenian unit will serve for six months under the Polish-led Multinational Division Central-South. This is their second troop rotation.

I got it at the PX

Deals so hot, you'll forget about the weather

A team effort involving Spc. Curt Cashour, Pfc. Michael Noggle and Sgt. Matt Millham



Surefire A2 Aviator Xenon Flashlight

With its hefty price tag, it's obvious the A2 was designed with the flashlight aficionado in mind. Boasting both low and high beam settings and microprocessor control, it's both the brightest and smartest flashlight on the market. But, ironic as it may be, you'd have to be both a moron and an idiot to drop \$149.95 on a flashlight.

\$149.95



NEAT! Diaper Disposal System

Nothing puts a damper on strategic military planning like a smelly tactical operations center. There used to be a time when the daycare section of the TOC was a place appropriate for only strong-stomached Soldiers. Boy how times have changed. The diaper disposal system from NEAT! includes everything you need to keep the office smelling pooh-poo free. The best part: the three-step disposal process outlined on the package makes diaper disposal easier than common task training. Keep it NEAT!

\$24.95



\$2.00

Crayola Washable Crayons

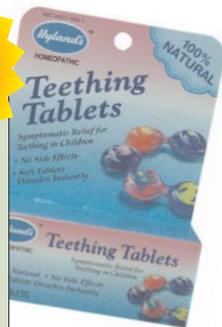
Since the start of your military career, you've dreamt of this deployment. After all, what's more hooah than fighting for freedom in the Middle East? The moment of truth has finally arrived, but there's only one problem: you forgot to bring your crayons. Don't worry, though. The solution comes in the form of this 24 pack from Crayola.



\$3.75

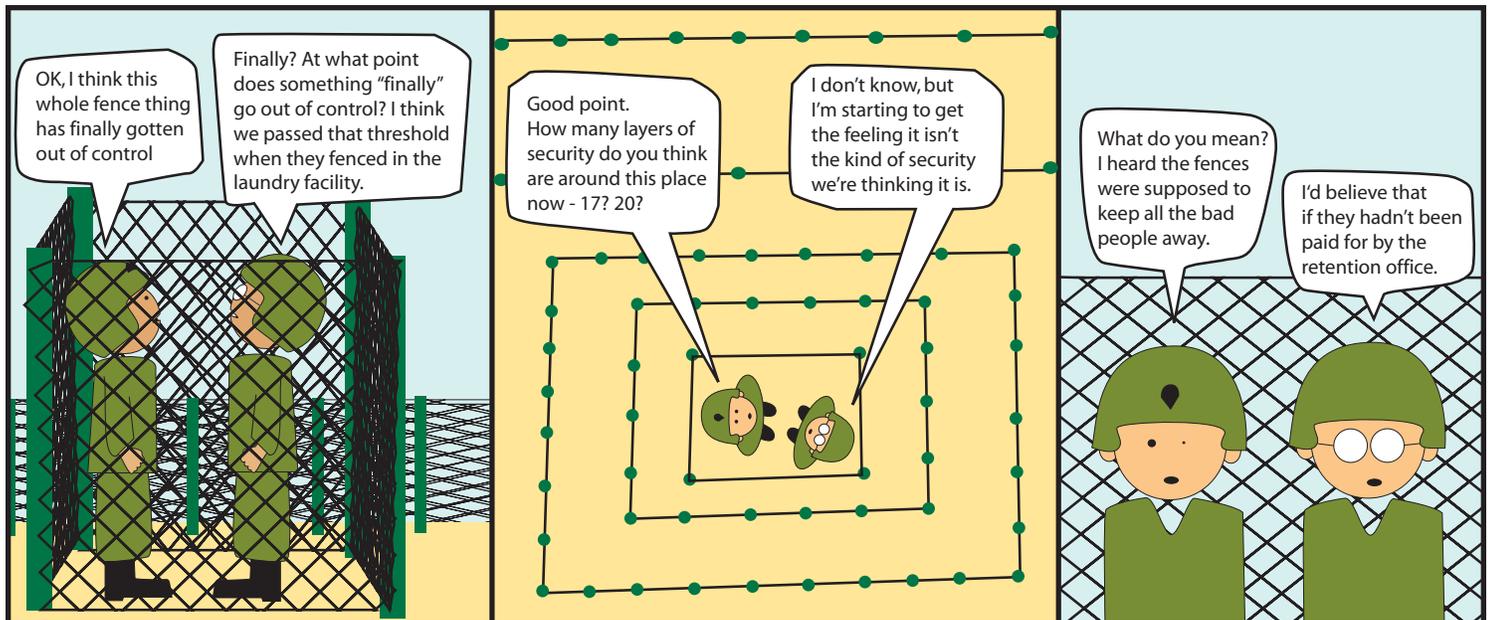
Hyland's Homeopathic Teething Tablets

Much is made of the sacrifices the men and women of our armed forces endure to fight for freedom. But what about the children out there on the front lines? Despite the threat level, some of them are actually teething, you know. This pack of 125 teething tablets will free your child's mind from the monotony of molar maturity and let him focus on the mission.



behoovery

By Sgt. Matt Millham



Community

happenings for July 20 through July 27

Arifjan

Wednesday

Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Stage
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

Thursday

Country Western Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
R&B/Old School Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex, 8 a.m. Circuit weight training 3 p.m., Zone 2 gym
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

Friday

Tops in Blue, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Day Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
Interval training, 5:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Zone 1 gym

Saturday

Play Station 2 Tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
R&B/Old School, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Audie Murphy Club study sessions, 3 p.m., Building 508 Room 25B
Circuit weight training, 5:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

Sunday

Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Hip Hop Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8 a.m., Circuit weight training, 1 p.m., Step Aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

Monday

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
Legs, butts and guts, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex 8 a.m., Step aerobics, 1 p.m., Circuit weight training, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

Tuesday

9 Ball Tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex, 8 a.m., Circuit weight training, 1 p.m., Step aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

Wednesday

Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Stage
Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

For more information call 430-1202

Buehring

Wednesday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

Thursday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Tae-Kwon-Do class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Friday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

Saturday

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

Sunday

Walking Club (10 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

Monday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

Tuesday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

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

Wednesday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

For more information call 828-1340

Kuwaiti Naval Base

Friday

Bench Press Competition, 6 p.m., MWR gym
For more information call 839-1063

Navistar

Wednesday

Air Hockey Tournament practice, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MWR center

Thursday

Karate class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball court
Air Hockey Tournament practice, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MWR center

Friday

MWR rep. meeting, 1p.m., MWR office
Air Hockey Tournament practice, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MWR center

Saturday

Air Hockey Tournament, 6 to 10 p.m.

Sunday

Air Hockey Tournament, 6 to 10 p.m.

Tuesday

Smoking cessation classes, 10 a.m., Rec. tent
Education/Awareness/Prevention, 1 p.m., Rec. tent

For more information call 844-1137

Spearhead/SPOD

For more information call 825-1302

Victory

Thursday

MWR unit representative meeting, 1 p.m., MWR tent

Tuesday

Volleyball Tournament, 6 p.m., Volleyball Courts

Wednesday

Volleyball Tournament, 6 p.m., Volleyball Courts

For more information call 823-1033

Virginia

Wednesday

Horseshoes, 4 p.m., Horseshoe pits

Thursday

Checkers Tournament, 7 p.m., MWR tent

Friday

Salsa Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Saturday

Spades Tournament, 7 p.m., MWR tent

Sunday

Old School Jams, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

Monday

Spa Day, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., MWR

Tuesday

Unit Fued, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

Wednesday

Spades Tournament, 7 p.m., MWR tent

For more information call 832-1045

Arifjan Education Center

Earn 1 semester hour in one week for FREE!! Each credit earned can be used toward a Military Science Degree with Central Texas College (CTC), as transfer elective credits and promotion points.

CTC is offering the following Advanced Skills Education Program (ASEP) classes in support of NCO Professional Development. Each class is held at the Camp Arifjan Education Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- * July 17-22: Performance Orientated Training
- * July 24-29: Counseling Techniques

New schedules are posted regularly. Visit the Camp Arifjan Education Center for more details or call 430-1381/1373. Please direct all email inquiries to karen.elizabeth.rhodes@us.army.mil.

New scholarships begin for Iraq, Afghanistan veterans

Former U.S. Ambassador to Spain George Argyros and his wife Julia have founded the Horatio Alger Military Veterans Scholarship, beginning with \$5 million from their family foundation matched with \$5 million from other donors. The \$5,000 scholarships will be administered by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Candidates will need DD-214s showing they have served in the Iraq or Afghanistan theaters since September 2001. They also must be U.S. citizens or in the process of becoming citizens. In addition, they must intend to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited four-year U.S. school. And they will have to show proof of financial need below a threshold of \$50,000 a year in household income. The application deadline for fall 2005 scholarships is Sept. 1. For applications and more information, visit <http://www.horatioalger.org/>

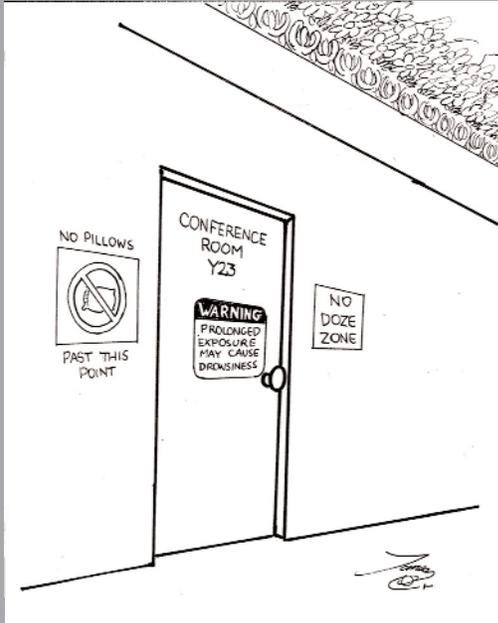
The night of the desert

By Spc. Ellamar Castanon
Camp Cedar, Iraq

Eyes hazing
With the sun blazing
Sand burning in our faces
it makes you only want to move through the paces
duty seems to drag on for hours
but we're here to avenge the victims of the towers
the life of a soldier is not filled with luxury
but we still fight for freedom with unmatched fury

BUSTER'S Baghdad

By Maj. James D. Crabtree
Multinational Corps-Iraq Public Affairs Office



An ode to personification

By Pfc. Joseph Smuckers
Camp Buehring

Sometimes I wonder if the War on Terror gets thirsty.
Could it get married and have an anniversary?

What if the war got mad? Would it curse me? I guess I'll never know. And that's what really irks me.

I sit and ponder as the time goes by. I wonder why. You really should give it a try. Although it doesn't involve drugs or alcohol, this stuff will get you oh so very high.

When I'm out on the range, I think how things will change when folks want to rock this piece my way.

It's a new sensation. It's sweeping the nation. It's that good time fun known as personification

Nine eleven

By Sgt. Lisa D. Alexander
390th Personnel Group

When I first heard about 9/11 I said this can't be true.
This country was founded on the Red, White and Blue.

I fell to my knees with such pain in my heart.
I knew something had to be done, but where do we start?

This is supposed to be the "Land Of The Free & The Home Of The Brave"
Too many died that day, the others the doctors couldn't save.

So I asked GOD Why?
As I watched the news and continued to cry.

I was angry and felt this was wrong.
But I knew I couldn't keep singing the same sad song.

So I asked GOD to place me where he needed me to be.
The Armed Forces made sacrifices so that others could be free.

Our troops are deployed in all parts of the Middle East.
Dying and fight so one day they will know peace.

Hats off to our comrades who have gone to Heaven
All as a result of 9/11.

They are the true heroes who were standing tall.
Lets remember not 1, not 2, but remember them ALL.

We will continue to pray for those in harms way.
So they, too, will return home safe one day.

Put the mission first and remain on track
Just keep in mind that GOD HAS OUR BACK.

The Desert Voice staff is changing out, and the e-mail address for submissions, queries and letters to the editor has changed.

DESERT VOICE

Editor
CFLCC PAO/Desert Voice
Camp Arifjan
APO AE 09306
Jonathan.stack@arifjan.army.mil

Find us online at
www.dvidshub.net

