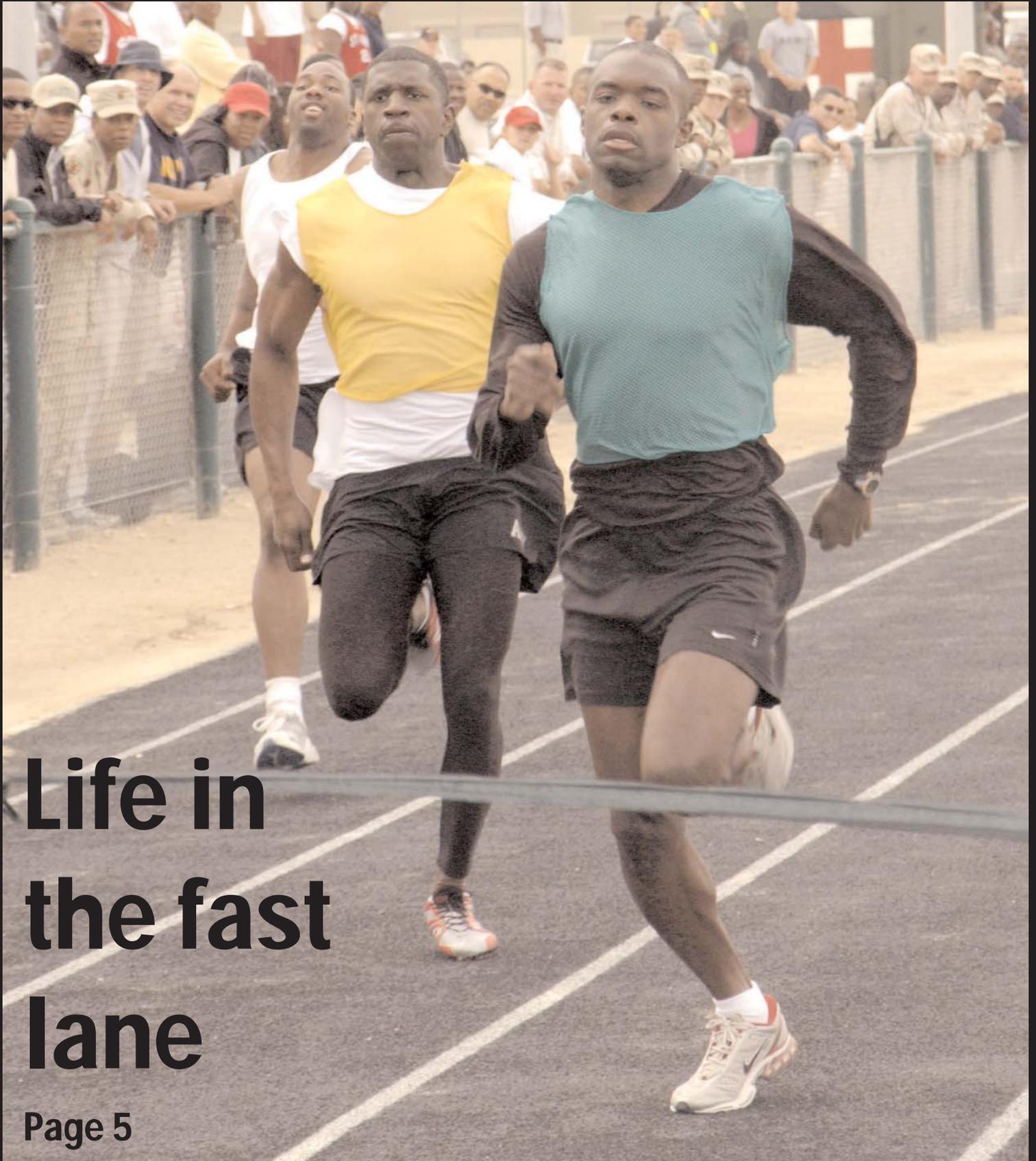


DESERT VOICE

November 23, 2005

Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



Life in the fast lane

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DESERT VOICE

Volume 27, Issue 18
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On the cover

Photo by Spc. Robert Adams

Vincenzo Cox sprints to a first-place finish in the 100-meter dash at the Veteran's Day Invitational Track and Field Meet Nov. 13.

Thanksgiving in the desert

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

CFLCC Commanding General

Thanksgiving is a time for reflection upon all of our blessings. This is a time for celebration; a time for thinking of if you can't be with family and friends; a time for football on a Sunday afternoon (or a Monday early a.m.) and a time to share traditional dinners of turkey, corn bread stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes with gravy and sweet potato pie. This is a time to give thanks.

President George Washington issued a general proclamation in 1779 naming Nov. 26, a day of national thanksgiving for select states.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln appointed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving and praise to our God throughout the United States. In 1941, congress ruled

the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as Thanksgiving, setting it as a legal federal holiday, and there lies the origin of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Today, even while our Nation is at war, we have many things to be thankful about. Upon this holiday I want each of you to know that as your commander, as a fellow Soldier and as an American, I am thankful for you, your families and the way of life you so proudly defend.

The call to duty is a special one experienced by a select few. It takes a special kind of person to serve in the United States military. You must have passion, dedication and commitment to go beyond your own limitations. Here we are a joint force, working together to accomplish a great mission. To quote the Soldiers Creed you are "... ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of

America in close combat. (You are) a guardian of freedom and the American way of life. (You are) an American Soldier."

I am thankful for your families because they have made the sacrifices right beside you. They give us that added support needed in a combat environment for each of us to pull through.

Finally, you are part of a mission, bigger than yourself. You are fighting the War on Terror. You are defending our country's freedom and liberties. You stand side-by-side with our Coalition Partners fighting an evil that is intent on destroying our basic freedoms and way of life.

Your mission in Kuwait is essential to the fight - sustaining the forces with everything they need from people to parts - and I want each of you to know on this Thanksgiving holiday that I understand your service and your sacrifices that you and your families make every day.



Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

Rely on your Army family to ease the loneliness of separation. Look out for your buddy, remain disciplined and remember the Army values.

God bless each of you, your families and the United States of America - PATTON'S OWN.

Operational Stand Down relaxes troops

Spc. Janine Coogler

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Exhausted from the long convoy from Iraq, British soldiers report to Operational Stand Down at Camp Arifjan where they relax for three days before heading back to duty.

All British army troops are entitled to three days of OSD during deployment, said British Royal Navy Popt. Javon Hockley, navy liaison for OSD.

"We kind of act as the tour guides for the troops who come this way," he joked. The OSD staff of three ensures troops understand the rules of the camp, Kuwait and OSD.

They are a little part of Britain on an American camp, said British Sgt. Maj. Phil Maddox, Royal Irish Regiment OSD liaison, in a briefing to his troops.

Troops at OSD really have one full day and two half days to relax, Hockley said.

The first day they are traveling to get to Arifjan. Once they arrive the troops sign in their weapons, get their rooms, then receive the welcoming brief.

When everything is finished the troops

only have the evening to enjoy.

The second day is usually an eventful day for troops because they have the entire day to do what they want, Hockley said. The third day troops travel back to Iraq.

The British soldiers are given a variety of options during their stay. "They usually come to us in groups of eight," he said. "We assign each group a trolley to get around."

Maps of Kuwait and pamphlets about various places to visit are posted throughout OSD.

Although troops are allowed to go out in Kuwait, they usually stay at Arifjan because of the amount of traffic in Kuwait, Hockley said.

They usually stay at Arifjan to get rest, eat at the fast food restaurants and shop for their families, he said.

The OSD has a British Forces Broadcast Services trailer that shows programs from England, to include all the sporting events. In addition, there is a DVD trailer for troops to pick up their favorite movies sent from England. OSD also provides newspapers from England.

Although they are usually a week old,

troops enjoy reading news from home.

Arifjan is a great place for the troops to come and rest, Hockley said. "They have Pizza Hut and all the other fast food restaurants to enjoy, with the little things they can get for their families from the PX."

All the troops from Britain are not as lucky as the Royal Irish Regiment. The regiment has a guide to help them around Kuwait.

Maddox has a schedule for the troops to keep them entertained and relaxed during their stay. The troops are taken to the malls, hotels and various activities throughout Kuwait.

All British troops are entitled OSD but, sometimes because of the number of troops in their regiment, three days can not be given.

"Helicopter pilots often come here for one day," Hockley explained. "They fly here early in the morning, spend the day shopping, relaxing and resting, and then fly back to Iraq the same night."

Hockley added, "Our job is to keep this place up and running, give troops an opportunity to enjoy themselves, and keep them safe."

42nd ID follows rainbow home

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

Adding another deployment to its historical repertoire, Soldiers from the 42nd Division Support Command are returning home next month.

The National Guard unit stationed out of the tri-state area of New Jersey, New York and Vermont, controlled the area within the Sunni Triangle of Iraq and assisted those in its area of operation.

“We deployed as a support command for several units,” said Sgt. Maj. Vincent Bridgeworth, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd DISCOM operations. “All our customers were in the division or units passing through.”

The 42nd DISCOM provides support and logistics to all those under the 42nd Infantry Division. Among those units under the command were supply, transportation, heavy maintenance, electrical maintenance and medical companies.

Along with the unit’s mission, selected Soldiers were required to pull convoy security, said Spc. Fernando Sanchez, HHC, 42nd DISCOM driver. Over 8,000 miles of travel, the unit had zero accidents.

As far as the surroundings and conditions of the local communities, Sanchez said he was surprised there was minimal enemy fire and the Iraqi people were somewhat receptive.

“We did a lot throughout the year for them,” Sanchez said. “We brought in purification systems for the water systems of the local schools ... and help the people to learn English and about our culture.”

Bridgeworth said the relationship of the unit with the Iraqis was very strong.

On some occasions, the Soldiers would gather items sent to them through mail and take it into the community for the children.

“We made it a conscious effort as we got things sent to us and took it to the schools,” he said. “We also had some guys construct a swing set and did whatever we could to let the people know we were there to help.”

Along with helping those in the local community, the unit was focused on helping each other and ‘doing the job.’

Sgt. Antonio Quintero, HHC, 42nd DISCOM administrator personnel, said it was crucial that Soldiers were taken care of.

“I’ve heard a lot of deployment stories of Soldiers not being taken care of when it comes to admin work,” Quintero said. “I didn’t want that to happen to those who are out fighting.”

As part of Task Force Exodus at Camp Victory, the Soldiers from 42nd DISCOM have made it their mission to get everyone in the division home.

“I’ve had a hand in getting 11,000 through here,” Quintero said.

He added, “There is so much work to be done, but it’s fulfilling knowing that I was effective in helping the Soldiers.”

What makes the rainbow more historical than people realize

The history of the 42nd Infantry Division can date back into America’s entry into World War I. The unit, formed out of Camp Mills, Long Island, N.Y., was one of many National Guard units formed in the United States to, at the time, fight in the trenches of Europe.

After his efforts in forming the division, Col. Douglas MacArthur said, “The 42nd Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other,” hence, the origin of the patch.

During its time in France, the unit remained in constant contact with the enemy for more than 170 days and incurred one of 16 casualties suffered by the American Army in the war. The



Spc. Adam Phelps

Soldiers of the 50th Main Support Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division, start a generator so they can start their process of purifying water for Forward Operating Base Cobra, Iraq.

unit was later deactivated in May 1919 upon completion of its mission.

With the ongoing participation in World War II, America reactivated the 42nd ID once more.

The 42nd landed in France in December 1944, attached to 7th Army, advanced through France and entered Germany in March 1945. It was during the push through Germany in April 1945, that the unit liberated the infamous Dachau concentration camp.

By the end of the war, the 42nd was first to enter Germany, penetrate the Seigfried line and first into Munich. The Rainbow Soldiers occupied 6,000 square miles of Nazi-held territory during their march across Europe.

In remembrance of those who had fallen during this great war, the commanding general cut the rainbow patch in half, signifying the division had lost more than half its Soldiers. To this day, the half rainbow is used as a memorial to those Soldiers.

A test of speed, endurance, strength...

Troops battle for gold at Veteran's Day track meet

Spc. Robert Adams
Assistant Editor

With arms pumping, legs churning, and their eyes focused on the finish line, runners charged down the final straight away to the cheers of fellow servicemembers in hopes of having a gold medal placed around their necks and being crowned victorious.

Speed, endurance, strength and leaping ability were on display at the first Veteran's Day Invitational Track and Field Meet Nov. 12 and 13 at the Camp Arifjan track.

There were more than 200 competitors in the track meet, but a select few rose above the rest to be named most valuable player. Two sprinters in the 39-and-under age group, Vincenzo Cox and Lakicia Cooke, won the most points from their combined race totals to earn the MVP titles. On the flip side, two endurance runners in the 40-and-over age category, Jose Solis and Marie Pauley, earned top honors for their performance in the long-distance events.

Many of the runners used to be stars on the track back in college and high school and this was a chance for them to get back out there and showcase their talents.

Vincenzo Cox, who won the 100-meter dash in 11.25 seconds and was the anchor on the winning 800-meter relay and 1600-meter relay teams, said that it has been nine years since he has competed on the track.

Back in his prime at the University of Houston, Cox trained with former Olympic sprinters Leroy Burrell, Carl Lewis and Mike Marsh and placed fourth at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Trials in the 100-meter dash.

With his experience, Cox said he was able to teach his team the technical aspect of sprinting.

Like Cox, female sprinter Cooke, who won the 200 in 26.8



Channon Green (red) barely defeats Daniel Mcenerney (yellow) in a photo-finish in the finals of the 200-meter dash.

seconds, the 400-meter dash in 1:02.7 and was the anchor of the winning 1600-meter relay team, said that it has been six years since she had been on the track.

Cooke, who ran for Troy State University, said that her Area Support Group-Kuwait relay team had been training three weeks prior to racing.

"The victory felt great," said Cooke after the 1600-meter relay. "We wanted to get one out of the three relays and we did in the last event."

The 400- and 800-meter relays were won by the 374th Finance Battalion team led by anchor Audrey Korang, who also won the 100-meter dash in 13.4 seconds.

Korang, who ran competitively in high school and college, ended up in a close sprint to the finish against her counterpart, Cooke, in four events.

"She was my main competition," Korang said. "She has been in the game for a while and I'm an up-and-coming runner."

The endurance races showcased a couple All-Army team participants.

Solis, a member of the All-Army cycling team for five years, swept the over-40 competition in the 400-meter dash (58.6 seconds), the 800-meter run (2:23.6) and the 1600-meter run (5:21.2).

Solis said he is staying in shape by running, swimming, weight training and riding the stationary bike while deployed.

"Since I can't cycle out here, I had to pick other sports to stay



Photos by Spc. Robert Adams

Audrey Korang takes off at the start of the 200-meter dash at the Veteran's Day Invitational Track and Field Meet Nov. 13. Karang finished second in the race, won the 100-meter dash and was the anchor of the winning 400-and 800-meter relay team.

active," Solis said. "The reason why I'm doing this is to keep my level high... All of the training I have been doing has paid off."

A member of the All-Army cross country team, Sonia Lewis is also maintaining her training while on deployment. Lewis, who won the 1600-meter run in 6:02, is currently training to run a marathon in January.

To bring the competition factor and crowd noise up a few notches, there were three relay races between noncommissioned officers and the officers. The NCOs from ASG-K didn't hold back on their officer counterparts and swept all three events.

"NCOs lead the way," said Gerald Green, the anchor of the NCO team.

There were also a few outstanding performers in the field

events, like Nicholas Schumann, who showed his arm strength by throwing a softball more than 263 feet and Larry Terry who won the standing broad jump by leaping 11 feet 7 inches.

The coordinators were pleased with the turnout and the help they received from more than 60 volunteers.

"All of the volunteers did a super job... Without them we would still be out on the track," said Charles Younglove, Arifjan sports coordinator.

He also said they are planning on making the track meet an annual event in Kuwait.

At the end of the day, the most athletic troops found themselves standing on the highest pedestal, receiving their gold medal, and living a few moments in the spotlight.



Spc. Janine Coogler

Spc. Joshua Farrell checks the fit of the Army combat uniform on a Soldier. Because the cut is different than the battle dress uniform, soldiers will have to adjust to shorter blouses and a roomier fit. The uniforms have a new look, wear and care for Soldiers.

Next generation of Soldiers

ACUs give troops new look

Spc. Janine Coogler
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Welcoming the Army combat uniform and phasing out the 25-year-old battle dress uniforms is part of the Army's transformation.

The ACUs come fully equipped with a new look, feel, wear and care for Soldiers.

The universal camouflage digital pattern, wrinkle-free uniform comes with various new features, which affect the care of the uniform, said Capt. Nancy Sermons, Coalition Forces Land Component Command supply services officer.

Made from the same material as the BDU summer uniform, the ACUs have the light-weight feel to them, Sermons explained.

"It feels like I am wearing pajamas," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Lacen, ammunition specialist.

"They are very comfortable," he said.

One major change is the ACUs have Velcro pockets instead of buttons.

This difference drastically altered stan-

dards for the care for the uniforms, Sermons said.

The use of chlorine bleach, dry cleaning, starching or commercially hot pressing the ACUs will permanently damage the uniform.

"Applying any type of heat to the Velcro will damage the fasteners and the uniform will have to be replaced," Sermons said.

Starching the ACUs make the uniform's material brittle and reduces the wear-life, which is six months in a deployed environment.

The wash instructions are quite simple, Sermons said.

Using cold water and mild detergent, wash the uniforms using permanent-press cycle, and dry at low heat or hang dry.

Care instructions of the ACUs eliminates the need for Soldiers to pay for dry cleaning, and since Velcro is used to attach the unit patch, skill tabs and name tapes, Soldiers don't have to pay for additional sewing.

In addition, using Velcro for names and patches allows Soldiers to easily remove

them when on a sensitive mission, Sermons said.

Designed to enhance comfort, safety, efficiency and versatility, the ACUs are a Soldiers' uniform, said Sgt. Major Lenard Summers, CFLCC plans, exercise, programs and policies sergeant major.

The uniform was tailored to fit Soldiers' different individual missions, Summers said.

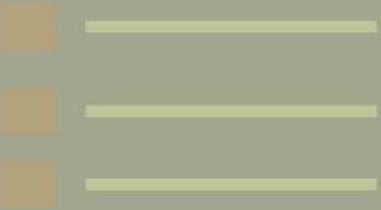
To prevent knee and elbow injuries, the ACUs come with knee and elbow pad inserts.

In addition to the pads, the ACUs are equipped with pockets on the sleeves for easy access while wearing body armor, Sermons said.

The ACUs will be the look of the Army for deployed and non-deployed servicemembers in all environments.

This eliminates having to change out uniforms before deploying to various regions throughout the world.

Sermons added, "When you sum it all up, all the changes to the uniform are beneficial to Soldiers."



acu

ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM

The trousers have a four-button front fly and an adjustable waist drawstring.

The ACU coat is a single-breasted design with long sleeves and a stand-up collar.

Do not dry clean, starch or commercially hot press.

Before washing, remove all patches from the coat, and all items from the pockets. Close all hook-and-loop fasteners to prevent snagging.

Machine wash in cold water, using permanent press cycle, or hand wash using mild detergent. Do not wring or twist. Hang dry or machine dry on low to medium setting.



CG talks to troops in town hall brief

Capt. Chevelle Thomas
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD Commander

Hundreds of troops assembled when LTG R. Steven Whitcomb, Third U.S. Army/Army Central Command/Coalition Forces Land Component Command commanding general held a town hall meeting Nov. 8 at Camp Arifjan.

Town hall meetings are command tools for senior-level leadership to provide updates, information and to get to the heart of the issues that concern troops. There were a variety of issues that came up: temporary change of station versus permanent change of station, uniform changes and dining facility concerns, to name a few.

Whitcomb started the meeting off by highlighting areas of success for the past year, expectations for the future and essential areas that troops need to stay aware of for success. He talked about Base Realignment and Closure, transformation, operational security, safety, family readiness groups, the Combined Federal Campaign and answered questions from the troops.

Whitcomb talked about BRAC and the possibilities for the future now that it is a law. Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem will close within two to six years, and Third U.S. Army will relocate to Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C. He went on to explain how Third U.S. Army will become a major command and no longer fall under Forces Command under Army transformation in 2006 and possibly gain additional military and civilian positions. He also expressed how proud he was of everyone for a job well done throughout the year here in theater and for the mission success during Operation Bright Star in Egypt.

The commanding general reminded servicemembers of their responsibility to observe Operational Security (OPSEC) measures and to always stay operationally aware. Whitcomb said to avoid using personal information and photos that exhibit military vulnerabilities in e-mail and web sites. Inadvertently providing our enemies information can have deadly consequences. On safety, the CG reiterated that everyone is a safety officer and everyone must always stay vigilant. Negligent discharges, vehicle accidents and maintaining the well being of each other by concerned leaders is the focus and the key to conducting safe operations

Whitcomb encouraged everyone to participate in the family readiness groups located at home stations so families can stay connected

with what is going on. FRGs also provides an avenue of mutual support, assistance and network of communications among family members, the chain of command and community resources. He also reminded everyone that the Combined Federal Campaign runs through Dec. 15 and the Department of Defense goal of 100 percent contact and explanation is the goal for the command.

Once the commanding general completed his brief to the troops, he opened the floor to questions to be answered by him and specific subject-matter experts for specific topics. Some of the questions asked by troops were:

Q Why aren't there any no-salute areas near the dining facility due to the high traffic of troops and personnel that go through those areas? It is sometimes difficult to render the proper courtesy when one cannot see the rank of the individual and also several individuals - both enlisted and officer - are not rendering or returning salutes.

A Whitcomb said he would not make any area a no-salute area. Everyone should render proper military courtesy and adhere to our standard. He also advised leaders to render proper military courtesy to subordinates — saluting is a matter of military courtesy.

Q Why are a lot of the good items like Red Bull, Gatorade and canned sodas no longer being stocked in the dining facility?

A Col. Brick Miller, Area Support Group - Kuwait commander, said there aren't canned sodas because the dining facilities now have soda fountains which provide better cost savings.

Q Has the clothing policy changed? Are troops now allowed to wear the boonie hat with their desert combat uniform?

A Sgt. Maj. William Segee, 377th command sergeant major, said Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe, sergeant major for Third U.S. Army/Army Central Command/Coalition Forces Land Component Command is rewriting the policy and this is one of the changes. Boonie hats are now authorized for all personnel in CFLCC and Third U.S. Army. Command Sgt. Maj. Ashe will soon publish a Standards Handbook for Soldiers that lays out uniform policies.



Spc. Robert Adams

The commanding general talks to an auditorium of Soldiers about different issues in CFLCC.

Q Can a waiver be granted for permanent change of station troops at the dining facility or can finance improve the efficiency of the collecting process? Some troops have signed the paperwork, but their accounts have not been debited for those meals. When can troops expect the paperwork to be processed?

A Maj. Eric Iacobucci, 18th Soldier Support Group (Airborne) support operations officer, said, "There are no waivers in place for PCS Soldiers in Kuwait. Current rules direct those on PCS orders to pay for meals consumed at the dining facility either through a collection of BAS (for staff sergeant and below) or on a meal-by-meal basis. This expense, however, is partially offset by the payment of a monthly cost of living allowance to those on PCS orders. Conversely, those on TCS orders do not have to pay for meals consumed in the dining facility nor do they receive COLA." (See the attached chart to see the differences in entitlements of PCS and TCS).

Maj. Lawrence Anyanwu, ASG-KU deputy finance and accounting officer said, "The collection is made twice a month and not daily in order not to overload the pay system.

We have always collected BAS within 30 days of receiving the headcount sheet from the dining facility. Unfortunately, some social security numbers are not legible or simply wrong and thus require some research to charge the correct Soldier. The command may explore automating the headcount process similar to the procedures used at some CONUS bases such as Fort Carson."

Anyanwu added, "The delay in meals collection in October may be attributed to two reasons - the DFAC manager changed twice within one month following the PCS of the former incumbent. Finance relocated from

Camp Doha to Camp Arifjan as well as opened a new operations office at Zone 6. While the level of finance support was sustained, it is conceivable that the relocation delayed our timely processing of the meals collection in October. We will make these collections in November.”

Q Why do AAFES products cost so much and stock is minimal? Sometimes AAFES only has sneakers in size 17.

A Miller said AAFES constantly relooks stock and every store will special order anything out of the catalog for anyone who goes to customer service.

Q Is there any consideration to giving stoves to PCS Soldiers or building a small commissary?

A Miller said safety is what drives things and stoves require certain safety precautions. Zone 2 Post Exchange will change into a Military Clothing Sales facility giving more shelf space in the Zone 1 and 6 PX for food items.

However, there is no intent to build or open a larger scale commissary.

Q Why are some Soldiers in PCS status and others in TCS status in Kuwait when both normally only serve one year?

A Lt. Col. Richard J. Nieberding, CFLCC AC-1 chief of adjutant general division, said, “The Army has different rules for assigning Soldiers to a location. Active component Soldiers can be assigned in a PCS or TCS status. Most active-component Soldiers assigned to active-component units in theater are assigned through PCS orders because those units maintain a permanent presence at their location.

Some active-component Soldiers will still be

assigned on TCS orders to those units when they are there to augment a mission/unit/function for a temporary period of time. These augmented positions are considered temporary, even if a year or longer in duration, because there is no intention for them to become permanent. Accordingly, TCS rules apply to Soldiers under this status even when they are assigned in country for the same period of time as their PCS Soldier counterparts.”

Nieberding added, Reserve component

Soldiers are either on mobilization orders or TCS orders.

Reserve Soldiers are not PCS to Kuwait, he said.

They are mobilized for a mission in a temporary status, even when their unit has a long-term presence in a location.

Accordingly, TCS rules apply for all Reserve component Soldiers, even when they are assigned in country for the same period of time as their PCS active-component Soldier counterparts.

Entitlement Information:		
Temporary Change of Station versus Permanent Change of Station		
PCS Entitlements	TCS Entitlements	Remarks
TRAVEL		
Rotator or Commercial Travel	Freedom Flight	Exception: TDY & Leave
Authorized household goods, transportation & non-temporary storage	Not Authorized	Ref JFTR, Chapter 5
HOUSING		
Permanent barracks buildings	Open Bay or tents based on current availability	Priority of Billeting goes to PCS.
FINANCE		
Basic Allowance for Subsistence	Soldiers maintain BAS entitlements	PCS Soldiers pay for meals consumed through pay roll deduction. TCS Soldiers retain BAS, as meals are considered a deployment entitlement.
Basic Allowance for Housing is based on dependents location or if no dependents there is no BAH entitlements	BAH is based on duty station for AC and home of record for RC and ARNG	PCS Soldiers receive BAH based on designated family location. AC BAH remains at home station rate even if families relocate. TCS RC BAH based on HOR zip code upon mobilization.
Not entitled to Per Diem	Per Diem	Only incidental portion of \$3.50 daily is payable since lodging and meals are provided. Submit a travel claim at the end of tour.
Cost of Living Allowance	No Entitlement	Used to enable an equitable standard of living in high cost areas. COLA rate is based on rank, years of service and dependency status.
Dislocation Allowance	No Entitlement	Reimbursement for household expenses resulting from a PCS move. If PCS to government quarters then DLA is not authorized. DLA rate is based on rank and dependency status.
Family Separation Allowance	Same as PCS	Current Rate: \$250 per month. Members with dependents in KU are not eligible.
Hardship Duty pay	Same as PCS	All OIF/OEF AORs qualify but for varying amounts: KU & Iraq - \$100.
Hostile Fire pay	Same as PCS	Current Rate: \$225 per month. One day of service in approved area qualifies for an entire months pay.
Combat Zone Tax Exclusion	Same as PCS	All enlisted members are exempt from Federal and State Taxes. Officers' exemption is limited to \$6,529.20; amount of SMA salary plus HFP.
Special Leave accrual	Same as PCS	Members deployed for 120 continuous days may retain up to 60 additional days (120 Max). Must use additional leave within 3 Fys from the end of mission.
Saving Deposit Program	Same as PCS	Maximum deposit is \$10,000. Interest is 10% per annum, compounded quarterly.
Advance Pay	Same as PCS	Authorized one months base pay.
Tax Filing Procedures	Same as PCS	State rules varies, check with your State's Internal Revenue Service.

Organizational day brings fond farewell

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

The Soldiers gathered around the competitors, cheering and yelling. The competitors took off in a flash, hopping in bags down the narrow lane, keeping an eye on the other lanes as they struggled to make it to the finish first. That wasn't the end; there were other events to test their teams' strength, fitness and camaraderie.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Soldier Support Group (Airborne), from Fort Bragg, N.C., said farewell to Kuwait with an organizational day Nov. 6 at the Zone 1 track.

The day included competitions in a sack race, sit-ups, spinning bat race, push-ups, pull-ups, relay race, hot dog eating and tug-of-war.

The logistics section beat out the HHC command team by one point to win the first place trophy.

"This is a farewell for us after all our achievements here on Arifjan and with some of our teams up north as well," said 1st Lt. Bola Boasmanboon, HHC, 18th SS, support operations.

The day was intended to help the unit bond after all its hard work in theater, according to Boasmanboon.

"We asked the Soldiers what they would like to get involved with and came together collectively as a group with the organizational day," Boasmanboon said. "It was pretty easy to plan because it's all about teamwork. The entire unit was involved in this planning

from the colonel to private."

The Soldier Support Group mission is to provide base life support for staff. This includes operating a consolidated motor pool and a finance battalion.

Some of the most impressive accomplishments of the unit are setting up some of the first banks to open in Iraq using Dinars and moving more than seven battalions' modified table of organization and equipment totaling approximately 500 tons, in and out of theater without loss.

But the achievement that seems to show the unit's enthusiasm is the Soldiers' physical fitness, according to 1st Sgt. Kevin Lee King, HHC first sergeant.

"They are highly motivated," King said. "They raised their PT average more than 30 points. We're one of the few units to continue to do PT five days a week without stopping – even in the heat of the summer."

This improvement is why King said he looked forward to certain events during the organizational day.

"I'm looking forward to the pull-up, push-up and sit-up contests because these people can do an amazing amount of them," King said.

The day involved a few physical fitness exercises, but was designed as a opportunity to have a break.

"This is just a chance for them to get out and away from the seven days of work a week," King said. "They're supposed to get a day off, but most don't get that day – they just end up taking a few hours here and there."

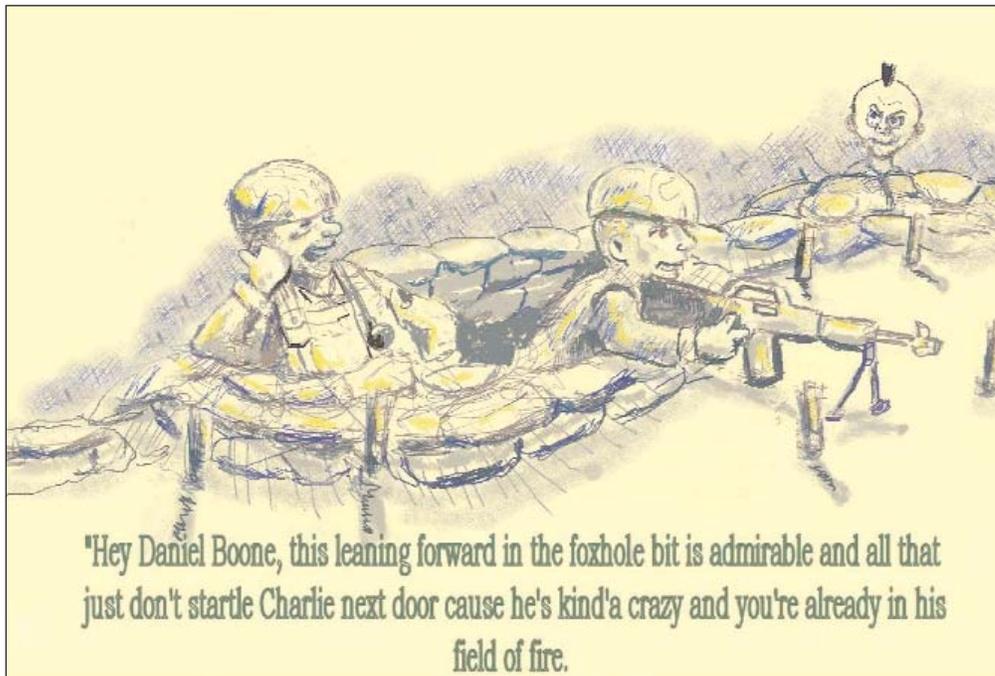


Spc. Debralee Crankshaw

1st Sgt. Kevin Lee King, HHC first sergeant, competes in the pull-up contest with the HHC team.

Event winners

- ◆ The sack race was won by the communications section.
- ◆ Logistics won the spinning bat race as well as the one-mile relay.
- ◆ Support operations won in push-ups with 276 in three minutes.
- ◆ HHC command team won the pull-ups with 70 in two minutes. They also won the sit-ups with 186 in three minutes and were the victors in the tug-of-war competition.



"Hey Daniel Boone, this leaning forward in the foxhole bit is admirable and all that just don't startle Charlie next door cause he's kind'a crazy and you're already in his field of fire."

ARMY LIFE

by
Michael Verrett



Community

happenings for Nov. 23 through Nov. 30

Arifjan

Wednesday

Tree trimming and turkey calling, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Thanksgiving over 40 and women's basketball tournament
Flag football league, Zone 1 soccer field, through Dec. 24

Tae Bo class, 4:30 p.m., Zone 1 tennis courts
Boxing class, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center
Country Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

Thursday

Gobble Wobble Turkey 5-K run, 6 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center
Thanksgiving over 40 and women's basketball tournament
College football, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Ballroom dancing, 8 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Tai Chi, 4 p.m., 8 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Friday

Moonlight madness bingo, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Foosball tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center
Thanksgiving over 40 and women's basketball tournament
Boxing class, 8 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Saturday

Thanksgiving over 40 and women's basketball tournament
Boxing class, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 food court
Country Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Hip-Hop step, 1 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Sunday

Thanksgiving over 40 and women's basketball tournament
NFL games, 6 p.m., Zone 1 and 6 Community Centers

Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Step and abs, 5 a.m., 1 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Monday

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center
Salsa lessons, beginner, 6 p.m., intermediate, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center room 102
Tae Bo class, 4:30 p.m., Zone 1 tennis courts

Tuesday

Dominoes tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Ballroom dancing, 8 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Wednesday

Tree trimming, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center
Tae Bo class, 4:30 p.m., Zone 1 tennis courts
Boxing class, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center
Cardio kickboxing, 5 a.m., 1 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Country Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

For more information call

430-1205/1302

Buehring

Thursday

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

Friday

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Tent 1

Saturday

Bazaar, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Sunday

Bazaar, 10 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

Thursday

Turkey Trot 5K, 5 a.m., West Entry Control Point

Friday

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

Saturday

Darts, 7 p.m., Aerobics room

Wednesday

Dominoes, 7 p.m., Aerobics room

For more information call

839-1063

Navistar

Wednesday

Pool tournament, 9-ball, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Thursday

Pool tournament, 9-ball, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Friday

Pool tournament, 9-ball, 8 a.m., MWR tent
AMC Band, stage

Monday

Cribbage tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent
Pingpong tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Tuesday

Cribbage tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent
Pingpong tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Wednesday

Cribbage tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent
Pingpong tournament, 8 a.m., MWR tent

For more information call

844-1137

Spearhead/SPOD

For information call 825-1302

Victory

Wednesday

Whose Your Baghdaddy Arm Wrestling championship, 3 p.m., MWR dayroom

Thursday

Aerobics, 5 a.m., MWR
Thanks-for-giving Turkey Day 5K run, 5:30 a.m., MWR courts
Movie night, 6 p.m., MWR dayroom

Friday

Pool shark "trick shot" competition, 6 p.m., MWR dayroom

Saturday

Aerobics, 5 a.m., MWR

Sunday

Pass, run, punt contest, 3 p.m., MWR fields

Monday

Kite Day contest, 6 a.m., MWR fields

Tuesday

Aerobics, 5 a.m., MWR
Spa Day, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., MWR dayroom
Desert Bingo Night, 6 p.m., MFT

For more information call

823-1033

Virginia

Wednesday

Chess tournament, 7 p.m., MWR Tent

Thursday

Thanksgiving 5K fun run, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

Friday

Pingpong tournament, 7 p.m., MWR Tent
Salsa Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Saturday

Bazaar, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Dusty Room
R&B/Hip-Hop Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Sunday

Checkers tournament, 7 p.m., MWR Tent
Old School Jams, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Monday

Horseshoe tournament, 4 p.m., horseshoe pits

Tuesday

Unit Feud, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

Wednesday

Country Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

For more information call

832-1045



1,2,3 pull