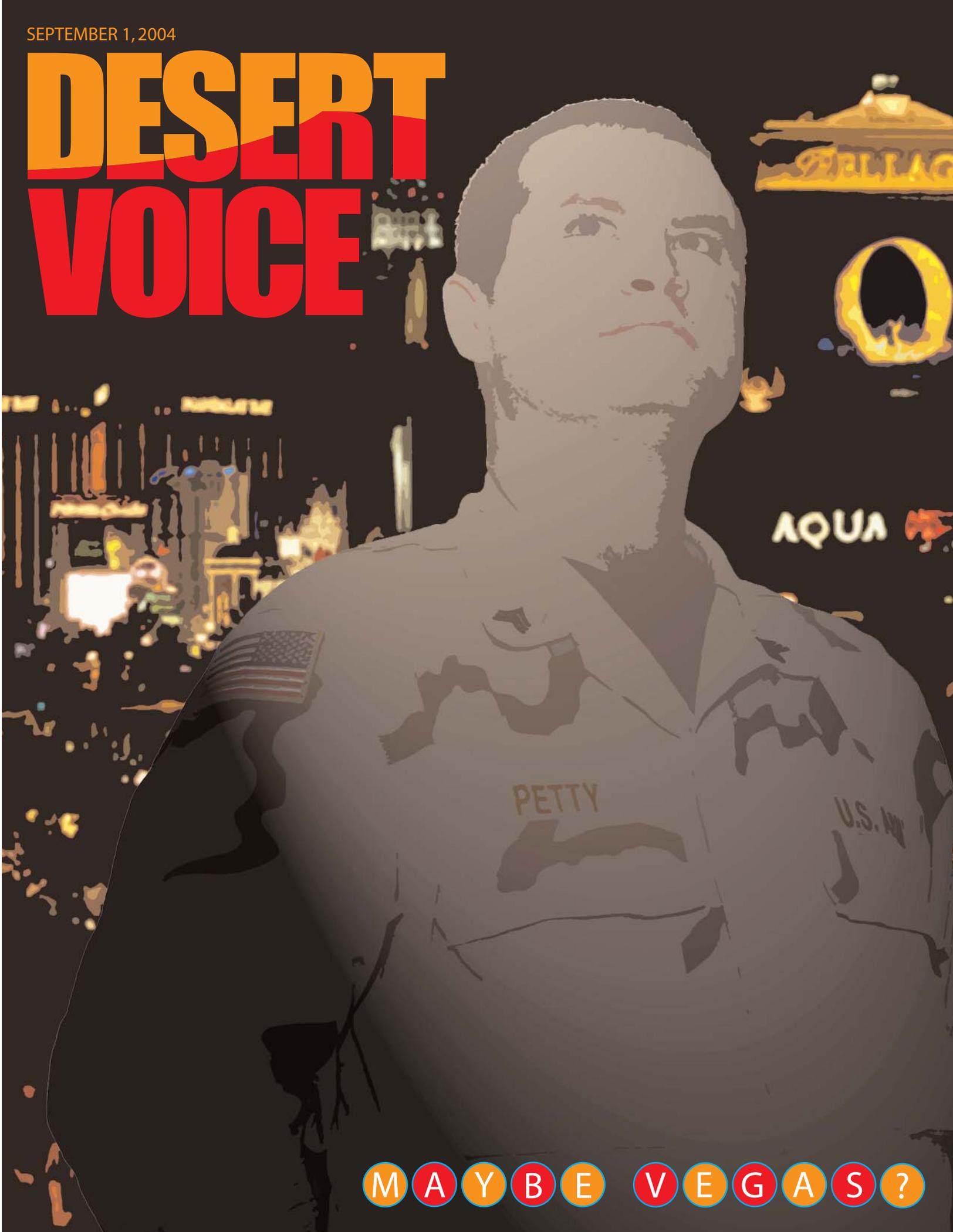


SEPTEMBER 1, 2004

DESERT VOICE



M A Y B E V E G A S ?

DV talks with the SA

Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee sat down to talk with Desert Voice's Spc. Aimee Felix about issues concerning troops in Kuwait

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee visited Camp Arifjan Saturday and met with Gen. David McKiernan, CFLCC commander, to assess how units are supported by the Army, and he had a special "thank you" for all deployed Soldiers to hear.

"I want everybody to know that at the Department of the Army, we clearly recognize what a great job the people here have done. It takes a lot of very thorough, deliberate and effective planning to have these kinds of large troop movements occur without mistakes or flaws as the people here have done. The support they provide to our people in the combat zones is totally invaluable. We simply couldn't sustain the efforts there as we are today without the help of the people here and the support they provide. Everybody serving here is a volunteer, and we appreciate all of these Soldiers who have volunteered to serve their country in uniform while their country's at war, and we also appreciate the sacrifice of their families who have to get along without them while they're doing this. So, I'd just like to let all the Soldiers and all their families know how very much we appreciate their service."

DV: What was the purpose of your visit?

SA: I generally try to do this about once a quarter and visit these headquarters that Gen. McKiernan runs so well. I came here for an overall assessment, to check the whole operation. We were here to see how our units are conducting operations, how they are being supported by the Army and what they do here to facilitate what they do both in Afghanistan and Iraq.

DV: What can you tell me of your assessment of the support and sustainment roles here?

SA: I went first to Afghanistan, then to Iraq and now here. Our Army is doing a terrific job both in Afghanistan and Iraq, but the headquarters and all the support systems that are here are what really enable our forces in those two countries. I am continually amazed at what they do here to facilitate our Soldiers. When we made the big rotation of forces from OIF-1 to OIF-2, we moved 244,000 people – half of them going home, half of them going up north – and they all came through here. They received equipment here, they were trained here, and they were moved forward from here into the theater of operations. At the same time, units coming out of the theater of operations turned in their equipment, got their

continued on page 8



Photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

Japanese Soldiers rotate forces

Approximately 130 Japanese Army troops exited their plane at the APOD on their way home Aug. 25 after a three-month humanitarian mission in the southern Iraqi city of Samawah. The 3rd Party of the 3rd Iraq Reconstruction Support Group was part of about 500 Japanese Soldiers working in the area to supply the region with drinking water, train local doctors on new equipment and techniques, construct new schools and a national stadium, and maintain roads. The Japanese Soldiers have come under mortar attack but have not experienced any heavy fighting.

Lt. Col. Masahi Fukunaga, the incoming commander, said, "Our character is strong, and we will conquer the weather and accomplish the mission."

DESERT VOICE

CFLCC Commanding General
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CFLCC Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Julian Kellman

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Volume 26, Issue 2

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Public Affairs Office. This newspaper is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with CFLCC. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the Public Affairs Office.

On the Cover Operation Iraqi Freedom's 100,000th R&R troop, Wyoming National Guardsman Sgt. Charles Petty, left for a well-deserved vacation Thursday, Aug. 26.

Photo illustration by Sgt. Matt Millham

First to raise his hand

DoD civilian lives by a spirit of volunteerism and helping others

story and photos by Spc. Aimee Felix, 14th Public Affairs Detachment

Born into a fatherless family and homeless at six months old, someone helped him out in his time of need and taught him to always do the same for others. Food drives, Habitat for Humanity initiatives, breast cancer research and high school mentorship programs are only a few of the things that have benefited from his spirit of volunteerism.

So, it should come to no surprise that Maurice “Mo” Stewart, the deputy chief of the sustainment division for the Central Command Deployment Distribution Operations Center, volunteered for the six-month tour that’s brought him to Camp Arifjan.

The odds may have been stacked against him from the very beginning, but that didn’t matter because Stewart was made of something more. Carl Gardner, a good friend, fraternity brother and coworker back home, vouched for that. He volunteers for everything, both as a humanitarian and a worker, and he manages to do it all well.

Stewart manages to shine in the most stressful situations by constantly resolving whatever challenges come his way, said Col. Robert Wayne Patty, Stewart’s second line supervisor at the CENTCOM DDOC. Patty has found a true friend in Stewart, as have most people who meet him. Stewart always makes an effort to make the new people feel welcome, said Patty. It’s as if he looks at every new person he meets as an opportunity to make a difference. Forgive the cliché, but all his life, he’s taken lemons and made lemonade, said Patty.

Stewart is as lighthearted as he is professional. Gardner spoke of Stewart’s playfulness at work. “He plays little pranks on people like switching around their phone numbers without them knowing,” said Gardner. Laughter breaks tension and Stewart totally understands that, he said.

Here, Stewart lives in a tent with a few of his Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers who are in the military. Based on the way he’s lived his life, the fraternity’s four cardinal principles fit him per-



Leading a staff meeting, Maurice “Mo” Stewart, deputy chief of the sustainment division for the Central Command Deployment Distribution Operations Center, tries to resolve a problem about moving supplies and equipment needed in Afghanistan. Stewart volunteered for this six-month tour to “help support the war on terror,” he said.

fectly; manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift – uplift being the one he seems to swear by most.

At every phase in his life, Stewart said, someone has helped him out, and he wants to do the same in return, especially for the Department of Defense.

Stewart always makes an effort to make the new people feel welcome, said Patty. It’s as if he looks at every new person he meets as an opportunity to make a difference.

“I’m a professional logistician,” Stewart said; “a career civil servant. The DoD has gotten me where I am today, and this is how I’m giving back.”

Stewart’s volunteering spirit stems from the examples of those who helped him out as a child. An elderly couple took his young mother and him in to live with them when he was only six months old, and the mentorship of a man named Fred Saunders saved Stewart from the

streets of Youngstown, Ohio.

At the age of six, his mother got married and left him with the elderly couple. They helped him to a point, but didn’t set any guidelines for him. Three days after Stewart had been cut from a little league baseball team, Saunders saw Stewart “shooting dice” on a corner and recognized him from the tryouts. He offered his home to the nine-year-old and whatever else he could do for him. The little gambler accepted this rare and unexpected offer, and it would prove to be a life-altering decision.

Saunders’ encouragement kept Stewart from straying, even when the elderly couple passed away between Stewart’s middle school and high school years, said Stewart. Saunders, who Stewart refers to as the pillar in his life, gave him a place to call home, a father figure and a family.

Saunders also taught Stewart everything he knows about football, which came in handy in high school when he joined the football team and excelled to the point of earning a football scholarship.

continued on page 8

Armed guardian angels

The foot Soldier's new best friend – the Apache

by Spc. Brian Trapp, 14th Public Affairs Detachment

A team of two Apaches flies low and fast weaving snakelike over hot sand, rising and falling over power lines and the crumbling buildings of An Najaf to cover Iraqi National Guard who are fighting alongside Marine and Army ground forces as they make a raid on Muqtada Al-Sadar's militia forces. The Apache teams provide the up-close reconnaissance an unmanned aerial vehicle can't and enough firepower to turn a building into a falling house of cards.

The Army's Apaches working with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit have put a significant dent in Al-Sadar's militia, and they're working with the Iraqi government to do it. Their main goal, said Lt. Col. Ron Lewis, commander 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Task Force, is to provide a secure, stable Iraq, governed by Iraqis. "We're working to help take the bad elements out (of An Najaf)."

In April, 1st Lt. Derek Smith, scout platoon leader with the 227th's B Company "Reapers," went out with his team to support multinational forces after the Coalition Provisional Authority's government building was overrun. The Apache team was working with the troops on the ground, providing security, as the foot Soldiers tried to maneuver out of the area. When the ground element crossed a bridge and got caught in an ambush, Smith's team flew in, laid down suppressive fire and cleared out enough enemy forces to allow the troops to make an extraction.

You know that old war saying, 'you're just fighting for the guy next to you.' Now, the guy next to us is the ground element...

"That's what we're here for. You know that old war saying, 'you're just fighting for the guy next to you.' Now, the guy next to us is the ground element," said Smith.

The Apache was developed to fly in deep past the front lines, make an assault on armored elements and get out. In the past year and a half though,



1st Lt. Derek Smith, scout platoon leader with B Company "Reapers" 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Task Force, enters his Apache on his team to run some system checks to prepare for their teams next mission. The aircraft's crew chiefs put countless hours in to keep the helicopters operating at peak performance.

they've made leaps and bounds forward in the way these aircraft work in conjunction with the ground element, said Smith.

Because of the brilliant performance of the Apaches in combat against Iraqi insurgents, their reputation precedes them. Even the Apaches presence in a movement, whether with a convoy moving supplies or escorting Blackhawks moving VIPs, deters attacks.

To credit the engineering of the aircraft and its pilots, their enemies have spread rumors that it can't be shot down, and it has the technology to see through walls. They are rumors that aren't entirely fictional.

"Our aircraft is very durable. We take a lot of small arms fire and you just hear the ping-ping," said Smith. "Helicopters are sensitive, but the Apache is like a flying tank."

Desert Voice wasn't allowed to take photos of the technology or the interior of this battle-hardened bird, but the Apache has more computer screens than Silicon

Valley cramping the pilot and gunner into a cockpit that looks like it's ready to make a flight to the International Space Station.

Before the cooperation between the Apache and the ground elements picked up, if a ground commander needed to know what was around the next corner or was waiting for his Soldiers on the next street over, he had to rely on intelligence reports or reports from UAVs. With the Apache, "we add that third dimension," Smith said. The ground commander can ask the Apache pilot to get "eyes on" what's around the corner and help determine if it's a threat.

Aided by the technology, the Apache pilots are readily able to meet coalition forces' protocol for avoiding collateral damage. They run checks to make sure every attack is precise and are careful to make sure the civilians are safe, "to maximize our effect of targeting the enemy while minimizing the damage on infrastructure," Smith said.

War booty: get some

by Spc. Curt Cashour, 14th Public Affairs Detachment. Some photos courtesy of the 887th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron



Statue of Saddam

Although it would be an accomplishment if you managed to fit one in your duffel bag, Saddam statues are off limits for individuals. This would probably be disapproved for a unit as well because of the historical significance it holds for the Iraqi people, Speir said.



Iraqi License Plates

License plates are off the table for you and your buddies. It's too difficult to tell whether a plate was found fair and square or stolen from an innocent Iraqi's vehicle, Swartz said. Units might have a better chance with this one. They just have to prove the plates have some sort of battle-related significance, Speir said.



Swords

For individuals, this is probably a no go. Swords are not specifically referenced in CFLCC war trophy policy, but they probably fall into the category of weaponry, which is prohibited, Speir said. A unit might be able to get a sword back stateside, provided it was worn by an Iraqi officer and captured in a battle.*photo of Staff Sgt. Ronald Masangcay



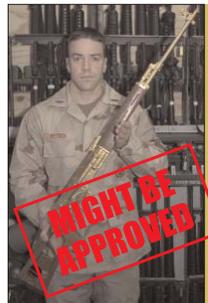
Iraqi Rifles and RPG Launcher

Forget it, troops. Anyway, what do you want with these when you've got your trusty M-9, M-4 or M-16? Unit requests to bring home run-of-the-mill weapons such as these are almost always turned down on the basis that they should be returned to Iraqi security forces, Speir said.



Bayonets

Yes. Iraqi-style bayonets are classified as authorized war trophies, so go ahead, take as many as you want. Just make sure you acquire them legally.



Gold-Plated Sniper Rifles

Sorry, despite the bling, these are still off limits for you. A unit would probably get approval for one of these, however, because they aren't something the new Iraqi security forces can use.

*photo of 1st Lt. Nicholas Petren



Golden rifles, ornate swords and other equipment from Iraq's military under Saddam Hussein used to be the stuff of legend, movies or television documentaries.

With the liberation of Iraq, however, coalition forces have been coming face to face with interesting artifacts from the toppled regime. To this day, troops are finding items that provide them with a more vivid reminder of the historic value of their mission than a "Who's your Baghdaddy" T-shirt could ever offer.

So what's an honest service member to do if he finds some of the Iraqi army's leftovers? Assembled in one place, the regulations governing what can and can't be kept would probably be thicker than a phone book — and much less interesting to read. Nevertheless, the Desert Voice has sorted through the rigmarole to set the record straight.

Troops can take a variety of items back to the states as long as they obtain them legally and the items are classified as an authorized war trophy, said Air Force Master Sgt. Mark Swartz of the 887th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Equipment such as bayonets, helmets, uniforms, patches, training manuals and some flags all fall into the authorized-war-trophy category, according to a

February 2004 memo by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

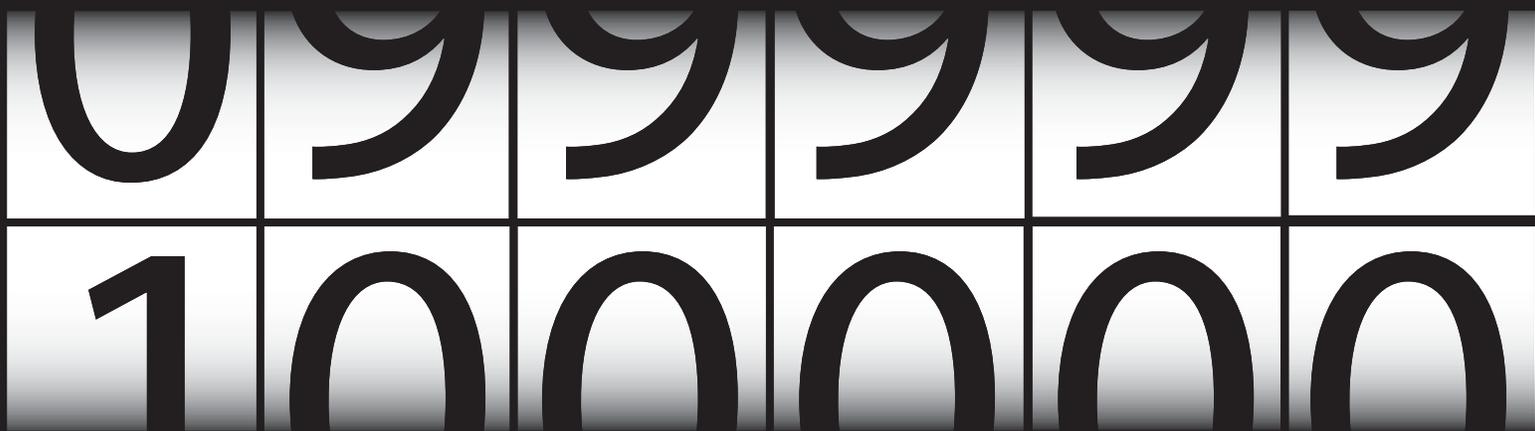
While not always required, it might be a good move to fill out a CFLCC form 603-1 to document each item, said Lt. Col. Daniel Speir, CFLCC Staff Judge Advocate's chief of administrative law.

Of course, there are plenty of things troops are not allowed to take home. Firearms and personal items such as identification cards and dog tags are at the top of the list.

The process is a lot more complicated for units, which typically need four months or more to initiate a shipment of souvenirs back to the states. There is a strict limit of one weapon or weapon system per battalion. Everything must be identified and inventoried, and all shipments back to the unit's stateside location must be approved by CFLCC and CENTCOM headquarters, according to CFLCC policy.

Even with CFLCC and CENTCOM approval, a museum must be the technical possessor of the items. The museum then can loan out the items to the unit for display, Swartz said.

"What (CFLCC and CENTCOM) don't want to happen is for this stuff to end up in someone's basement somewhere," Speir said.



OEF/OIF R&R program hits a milestone for mid-term military vacationers

story and photos by Sgt. Matt Millham, 14th Public Affairs Detachment



Almost a year after its inception, the rest and recuperation program for American troops engaged in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom reached a milestone Thursday when it processed its 100,000th troop for a flight out of the Central Command theater of operations.



Army Col. Louis Yuengert, CFLCC chief of staff, who formally announced the Soldier's name and presented gifts to the lucky troop, said to the crowd of roughly 500 R&R Soldiers waiting for flights out of Kuwait, "This Soldier represents you."

The Soldier, Wyoming National Guard Sgt. Charles Petty, who has been stationed at Camp Steel Dragon in Baghdad and attached to the 89th Military Police Brigade, appeared both excited and shy when he was called to the front of the room to face his peers and accept an armload of gifts that included, most notably, a free round-trip flight to anywhere in the world for Petty and a family member and a \$200 AAFES gift certificate.

"It's a wonderful way to start off R&R," said Petty, who also flew first-class on his trip back to the United States. "Now I've got another story to tell the folks at home."

Petty had not been warned of his designation before arriving at Camp Doha, Kuwait, where troops are processed on their way out of Southwest Asia for the R&R program. After the announcement was over and Petty had in his hands more rewards than he could handle, Soldiers began coming up to him congratulating him rather than scolding him for his luck.

But though he was awarded a trip to any place of his choosing, Petty wasn't quick to announce any further travel plans. "Right now, I'm just going to my home town of Gillette, Wyo.," said Petty. "I'll get home and talk to a couple of people and see what I can get going."

He suggested he might take a trip to Las Vegas, a city to which he has never traveled but had been told by friends he had to visit. He left some money in his checking account for R&R, but hadn't expected to



1 Army National Guard Sgt. Charles Petty shows off the T-shirt he got for being the 100,000th R&R participant as Army Col. Louis Yuengert looks on from behind.

2 1st Lt. Dionne Dilosa cuts the cake that R&R troops shared as part of the 100,000th traveller celebration.

3 R&R Soldiers file into a briefing at Camp Doha.

have the opportunity that's now fallen into his lap. Probably because the news of his good fortune was still a shock, he hadn't yet thought beyond seeing his family and driving a lot once he gets home.

As for the gift certificate, "Right now, I don't really have the room for anything [in Baghdad]," said Petty.

Preparation for the 100,000th Soldier began almost a month ago when organizers of the R&R program realized they were coming up on the landmark number, said Lt. Col. Frazier L. Pope, chief of R&R programs for operations in and supporting Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We had folks who stepped up ... once

they realized the significance of the 100,000th R&R Soldier," said Frazier. Recognizing the 100,000th traveler with the pageantry displayed Thursday was in large part designed to help bring attention to the program's role in maintaining the morale and physical and psychological well-being of American troops serving overseas.

"People may not realize the value and the impact it has on sustaining the force," said Maj. Edgardo Pimentel, R&R officer in charge at Camp Doha. "I'm sure the military recognizes its value and tries to make sure the country understands its value, and I think they do. It's 100,000 Soldiers, but it's also 100,000 families."

equipment ready to ship home and they went home themselves, and that was all facilitated here. Some of us were awfully concerned that there were going to be a lot of problems in doing that, but it ended up being a flawless operation, and the key to it all was right here, so Gen. McKiernan and all his people here should be enormously proud of what they did. It was a true seamless rotation of troops.

DV: How prepared is the Army, as far as sustainment, should another operation requiring substantial forces arise?

SA: Well, we're definitely going to have another surge when we start switching from OIF-2 to OIF-3. And, I think (those in support roles) gained enough experience from doing it the first time, so I'm sure they'll do even better the next time, but all of us are just enormously proud of the way they did it this time. I think it's a great tribute to their planning skills and conduct.

DV: Can you explain why the stop loss is necessary?

SA: We do the stop loss to stabilize units. We don't do it because we're short on troops. When we bring a unit over here to be deployed for a year, we want them to be the best unit they can be. The reason we do it is because if it's a really good unit the chances are the Soldiers will get the mission accomplished and come home safely. And, the best way to have a good unit is to stabilize it because they already know how to work together as a team and they know each other.

DV: The Sergeant Major of the Army said, last week, that you're meeting your retention goals. But since the stop loss and the call up of IRR Soldiers have caused such controversy, might that indicate that retention goals need to be raised?

SA: Retention is essential to the Army so that we are able to retain the numbers of these good experienced high quality people that we have in the Army. Keeping that level of experience is what keeps the Army at this high level of effectiveness. We've increased our recruiting goals, and we recognize that we need to hit our retention goals, and we'd like to exceed those. Right now we're meeting all our retention goals in the active and reserve components and in the National Guard. We were a little bit shy in our National Guard recruiting goals this year, but we raised our recruiting goals in the Army by 5000 this year, and we were able to meet that.

DV: What steps are being taken to reduce the stress on the force?

SA: We realize that our Soldiers are operating at a very high tempo, and that we are asking a lot of our Soldiers and their families with these lengthy and frequent deployments. I believe, and I certainly hope, that our Soldiers and their families understand and realize that the nation's at war, that we need their Soldiers very much right now. We don't like to operate at this high tempo, but we are right now, so we're taking steps to reduce the stress on the force. We're doing that by increasing the number of

brigades in the Army, by making our brigades more modular, so we're easy to plug in and plug out, and by restructuring the guard and reserve, so we'll make more of the kind of units that we need and fewer of the kind of units we don't need. We'll be converting, for instance, artillery and air defense units into transportation, medical, chemical, aviation and civil affairs units.

DV: President Bush announced last week that 70,000 Soldiers stationed in Europe and Asia will be moved to posts in the United States in order to make the Army stronger and more capable of fighting terrorism. How will this move do that?

SA: The redeployment primarily recognizes the differences between the demands in the Cold War and the demands of The War on Terror. When we were primarily worried about fighting a battle with the Soviets it made sense to have several hundred thousand U. S. troops stationed in Europe, but that's no longer the threat. Now, it's a worldwide threat of terror. So, we need to reposition our forces according to that threat. It'll take several years to accomplish this, but we intend to set our forces in positions in the United States because we can deploy them more rapidly from there than we can from any of these places. Also, in addition to stabilizing the units when we deploy them, we also want to be able to provide more stability for the Army families. When they move to a post in the United States, they can plan to be there for several years. Not one or two years as is sometimes the case for overseas tours.

Stewart's civil service for the military started after his football scholarship ran out. He heard of an Air Force cooperative education program that would pay for his schooling. With that, he earned his bachelor's degree in business economics from Central State University in Ohio.

After he graduated, he was hired to work full time at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Two years later, he moved to Sacramento to work at the Air Logistics Center. There, the Air Force paid for his master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.

During his time in Sacramento, he coached a youth football team, which he led to win the National Youth Football

championship in 1989. He also worked as a high school football coach and established a year-round fitness program to keep kids off the streets. He also set up an after-school tutorial program.

... he coached a youth football team, which he led to win the National Youth Football Championship in 1989

Stewart set up the program with the help of his coworkers and fraternity brothers. The plan was to help kids with good athletic abilities, but not so good grades get into college by helping them with their academics so they would be eligible for grants. He helped 15 students get into college during his time

there.

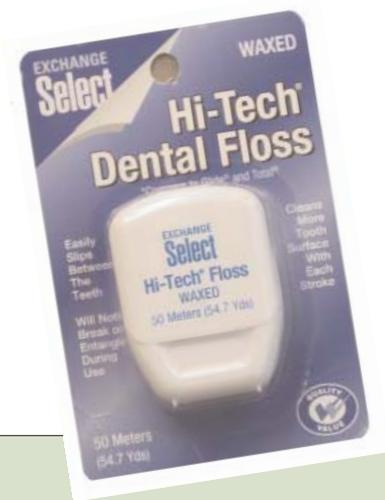
After his work in Sacramento, he worked at the Pentagon for a year and soon after for the Office of the Secretary of Defense Logistics Staff. While working in Washington D.C., he raised \$2, 800 for breast cancer research in a three-day breast cancer walk. And through his fraternity, he participated in a food and clothes drive held downtown three times a year. Also, he participated in a Habitat for Humanity initiative and a mentorship program for high school students in the Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia school districts.

While he's enjoying himself here with his job and his fraternity brothers, he looks forward to going home to see his family and ride his 2002 Harley.

I got it at the PX

Deals so hot, you just might forget about the weather

\$1.99



High Tech Dental Floss

This floss prominently displays on the back of the box that it has a low coefficient of friction . . . it's super slippery! We recommend you buy this product and use it twice daily. That way you'll have something to talk about during job interviews when they ask you if you've ever worked with anything high tech.

\$14.95



The Adventures of Francis the Talking Mule

Hey all you Pointers – recognize this guy? A graduate of the West Point class of 1952, Francis got his commission just in time to pull a wooden cart around half the Korean peninsula before being gunned down by the enemy to be used for hamburger meat. It's all documented in 'Francis Goes to West Point' (actually, we didn't watch the DVD, but liked that Francis made an attempt at furthering his education). Also on this volume, 'Francis Goes to the Races,' and 'Francis Covers the Big Town,' which were apparently blockbusters in their day. Fortunately, the fiasco surrounding the mistreatment of Francis' protege Mr. Ed soured America from further investigating the dramatic range of the equine.

\$1.25



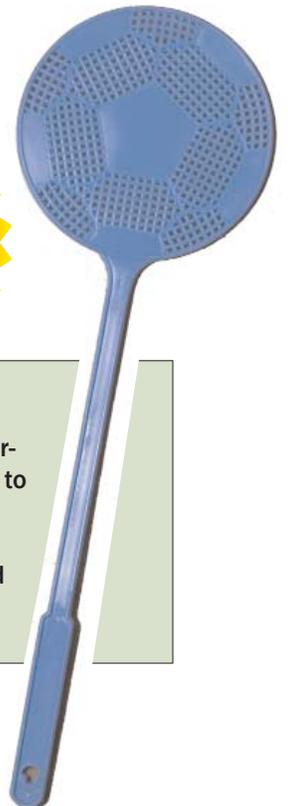
Duncan Hines Moist Deluxe Classic Yellow Cake Mix

For the domestic trooper who brought their Easy Bake Oven into the fight against terrorism but forgot to bring those child-sized packets of brownie mix, the PX has this tasty offering. For those without access to an Easy Bake Oven, mix ingredients as directed, pour mixture into an overturned kevlar and let sit in the sun for 8-and-a-half hours. This process might not cook the cake, but at least it'll be dried out by then so it won't dribble down your face when you forget why you left your kevlar in the sun for so long.

\$0.70

Fly Swatter

Although quite useful, this soccer-ball-shaped fly swatter struggles to recreate the sensation of killing flies with an actual soccer ball, which is much more difficult and therefore more rewarding.



U.S. Guard and Reserve FAQ

You have the questions, we have the answers

Courtesy of CFLCC ESRG

Army Reservists and their families can face some tough issues during a deployment. Questions about benefits, promotions, and other issues can become a major distraction to Soldiers overseas. Army Reserve Affairs (ARA) is here on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to help. In the second in a special series of articles for the Desert Voice, ARA will answer Soldiers' most frequently asked questions.

Question #1 I have been mobilized twice in the last three years. I have a good job back home, and I am concerned about my reemployment rights with my civilian employer?

Answer #1 The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA, was enacted on October 13, 1994 (Title 38 of the United States Code, Chapter 43, Sections 4301-4333, Public Law 103-353), USERRA addresses employment and reemployment rights for all uniformed service members. Reemployment rights extend to persons who have been absent from a position of employment because of service in the uniformed services whether voluntary or involuntary.

If you meet the five criteria for eligibility under USERRA then multiple deployments will not affect your reemployment rights. These five criteria are:

1. You held a civilian job when you were mobilized.
2. You informed your employer (verbal or written) that you were leaving the job for military service.
3. Your cumulative length of service does not exceed five years.
4. You are released from service under "honorable conditions." Note that if you are released from service under "other than honorable conditions" you forfeit your reemployment rights protections under USERRA.
5. You reported back to the civilian employer in a timely manner and/or have submitted a timely application for reemployment. Definition of timely manner: (1) service of one to 30 days you must report to your employer by the first regularly scheduled work day; (2) service of 31 to 180 days an application for

reemployment must be submitted no later than 14 days after your separation date on your DD Form 214; (3) service of 181 or more days an application for reemployment must be submitted no later than 90 days after the separation date on your DD Form 214. By the way, if you want to show your appreciation to your civilian employer you can submit their name in to the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) for one of several awards. You can do this directly on the NCESGR website at www.esgr.com.

If you have an issue concerning your reemployment rights, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve can provide you information and assistance. They will also provide neutral informal mediation services concerning your civilian employment rights with your employer. They can be reached: Toll Free: 1-800-336-4590 / DSN: 312-426-1386 or through their website at www.esgr.com. If you want to contact the Theater ESRG-Forward Representative at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait you can e-mail at ESGR@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.

Question #2 I am a TPU Soldier and I was told I am not eligible for promotion because I ETS six months ago under Stop Loss. I meet all of the eligibility requirements for promotion to sergeant, and my unit does not demobilize until another six more months. Why can't I be considered for promotion?

Answer #2 As a mobilized TPU Soldier you are eligible to be boarded even after you are past your ETS date. Indeed, a legal review by the CFLCC JAG Office on July 7, 2004 confirms that mobilized TPU Soldiers can also be promoted even though they are past their ETS. Note that you are still in the Army Reserve until an order is published discharging you.

Question #3 I understand that CFLCC is now holding junior enlisted promotion boards? When is the next one, and can Soldiers from MNF-I go before it?

Answer #3 Yes to both. The 348th Personnel Group, the theater servicing

PERSCOM, is holding junior enlisted promotion boards for all eligible USAR TPU Soldiers within theater and for eligible AGR sergeants for promotion to staff sergeant. The AGR board requires a personal appearance. Memorandums of Instruction for both TPU and AGR Soldier promotions were published on March 31, 2004 and are available by e-mail by contacting the 348th Personnel Group Enlisted Promotions Division at 348pgepd@arifjan.arcent.army.mil. Commanders or command sergeants major with questions or concerns can contact the Theater AG Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Longwill at steven.longwill@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.

Junior Promotion Boards are held monthly by the 348th Personnel Group at the CFLCC headquarters in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The cut off for submission of promotion packets is the last day of the month for the following month's board. Soldiers from throughout the AOR can send packets to be boarded. The 348th Enlisted Promotions Division will review the packets for completeness and accuracy and contact the unit with any deficiencies in an attempt to correct packets on the spot as opposed to sending them back to the unit and delaying the process.

Lieutenant colonels and higher are authorized to convene a junior enlisted board, and a command sergeant major can be designated to preside over those boards. These boards were created to take care of USAR Soldiers who are geographically separated from a promotion authority or who are aligned under AC, NG, or coalition units that are unfamiliar with the USAR promotion process.

The Enlisted Promotions Division has only been in business since March, but they have already conducted three boards and have promoted Soldiers in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar. They will also provide assistance with packets for the senior enlisted boards held by the Regional Readiness Commands back in the states. The EPD will also ensure a copy of your promotion order is placed in your official file on PERMS and a copy provided to your Regional Readiness Command.

In & Around Our Community

Special and weekly events around Kuwait's U.S. military community for September 1-8, 2004

Special Performers coming to Kuwait

Laugh Factory Comedy Group
Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. at Camp Arifjan

Country Singer Jodi Smith
Sept 4, 7:30 p.m. at SPOD
Sept. 5, 8:30p.m. at KNB

Jazz and Blues Singer Tommy Z
Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. at the MWR stage

Special Events: Arifjan

Wednesday

House Music Night, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Thursday

Persian Carpet Seminar, 7 p.m. at the Recreation Tent.

Friday

Labor Day Weekend Sturgis Festival, 7 p.m. at Comm. Center
Open Mic Night, 7:30 p.m. at the MWR stage

Weekly Events: Arifjan

Wednesday

Arabic Language Classes, 6 p.m. at the MWR library
Aero Step 6 a.m., Ab Floor
Workout 8 a.m., Aero Step 10 a.m., Upper and Lower Body
Workout 1 p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent
High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

Thursday

Martial Arts, 7 p.m. Spinning Class, 6 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

Friday

High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

Saturday

Aero Step 6 a.m., Ab Floor
Workout 8 a.m., Aero Step 10 a.m., Upper and Lower Body
Workout 1 p.m., Aero Step 3 p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent
Martial Arts, 7 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

Lap swimming

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

Sunday

Arabic Language Classes, 6 p.m. at the MWR library
Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 6 a.m., Upper and Lower Body

Saturday

9-ball Tournament, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Sunday

Hearts Tournament, 7 p.m. at the Community Center
Labor Day Fun Day, 5 p.m. at Zone 2 MWR courtyard

Wednesday, the 8th

Arabic Cultural Night, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Workout 8 a.m., Ab Floor
Workout 10 a.m., Upper and Lower Body
Workout 1 p.m., Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 3 p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

Monday

Country Western Night, 7:30 p.m. at the MWR stage
Aero Step 6 a.m., Ab Floor
Exercise 8 a.m., Aero Step 10 a.m., Upper and Lower Body
Workout 1 p.m., Aero Step 3 p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent
High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

Tuesday

Beginning Arabic Language Class, 7 p.m. at Bldg. 508
Spa Day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent
Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 6 a.m., Upper and Lower Body
Workout 8 a.m., Ab Floor
Exercise 10 a.m., Upper and Lower Body
Workout 1 p.m., Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 3 p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent
Martial Arts, 7 p.m. Spinning Class, 6 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m.

Special Events: Doha

Wednesday

Doubles Foosball Tournament, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

Saturday

Labor Day Bingo Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

Sunday

Labor Day Celebration, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Marble Palace

Monday

Labor Day 5K run, 6 a.m. at the Flagpoles

Wednesday

Battle of the Rappers/Open Mic Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's
Get to Know Kuwait Presentation, 7 p.m. at the Marble Palace

Weekly Events: Doha

Sunday

Spa Day, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Marble Palace

Friday

Country Dance Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

Religious Services: Arifjan

Catholic Mass

Sunday, noon at the Zone 1 Chapel
Saturday, 5:30 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

Contemporary Christian Services

Sunday, 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

Traditional Christian Services

Sunday, 9 a.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel and 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

General Protestant Services

Sunday, 8 a.m. at the Arlington Chapel and 10:30 a.m. at the Bldg. 6 Conf. Room

Gospel Worship

Sunday, 2:15 at the Post Theater
Saturday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel
Friday, 7 p.m. at the Camden DFAC

Episcopal/Lutheran

Saturday, 3 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday, 10 a.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

Spanish Protestant Worship and Studies

Sunday, 11 a.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel and 2 p.m. at Arlington Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sunday, 5:30 p.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel
POC Randall Palmar, 920-7328

Islam Jum'ah

Friday, noon at the Zone 1 Chapel

Bible Studies

Sunday, 9 p.m. at the Zone 2 DFAC
Monday, 7 p.m. at Arlington Chapel
Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel, Room 13
Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel

Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Arlington Chapel

Wednesday, 8 p.m. at the Camden DFAC

Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel, Rooms 9 and 13

Saturday, 6 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel, Rm. 13

For more information call Zone 1 Chapel at DSN 430-1387

If in urgent need of a chaplain call c754-3803

If you have an event you want listed in this section of the Desert Voice or that you think might make a good story, please contact the Desert Voice editor at:
matthew.millham@arifjan.arcent.army.mil

Warrior

by Spc. Jennifer M. Cintron, 175th Maintenance Company

I am an American Soldier
I am a woman
I am a daughter and a friend
I serve my country every day while still serving God

A Soldier's war doesn't mean she has to fight
I live in a war where battles are fought deep within our minds
We work long days and sleep short nights only to awake again
To heat that's so exhausting; the sun never seems to end

Stories are told of those who die and risk their lives for us
While we in the rear support these souls who later turn to dust

We all have our purpose here
Our faith is what keeps us strong
We're not all the same religion
But we all hope to soon be home

A Soldier makes a sacrifice to give up life for freedom
With boots laced up and camouflage we fight enemies to beat 'em
Whether on the front line or in the rear
We all strive to defeat 'em

An Army of One

A fight for all
We all are proud
The Soldiers that's within us
The Soldier that set you free

A soldier on the road

by Rhonda Seward, 1836th Combat (HET) Company

A Soldier is on the road riding, driving combat style,
In the heavy equipment transporter rolling wild,
Through rough terrain, barriers and blistering heat,
Onto Iraqi soils where turmoil and violence repeat

A Soldier is on the road moving into combat zone,
Driving until mission is complete, silent but not alone,
A bump in the road, mortar rounds bursting into air,
Still they move cargo along with precision and care,

A Soldier is on the road, unexploded ordnance up ahead,
Brakes and barrels burn, shells expel, no one left dead,
Tires burst, burnt rubber smells, metal collapses and bends,
Trucks keep moving and gliding until the journey ends,

A Soldier is on the road driving from dawn to dust,
Eyes blaze red, joints erode, hearts, fester, rust,
Uncertainties rave and ravish in the heat of freedom's fight,
As fear and fatigue burns deep into the bitter Iraqi night,

A Soldier is on the road mapping their arrival and return,
Picking up and dropping off equipment as stomachs churn,
One stop could be the last, one bump could end it all,
One sad eyed child could catch a heart and cause it to fall,

A Soldier is on the road eating and sleeping where he rides,
Moving through enemy territory as tranquility subsides,
Sounds of weapons locking and loading fill their ears,
Cargo still moving, moving, and chambered are their fears,

A Soldier is on the road heading back to base camp,
Big wheels turning, hearts yearning, eyes left damp,
Mission accomplished, cargo delivered to its destination,
Look at them roll in, what a sweet miraculous sensation

In dedication to all 1836th Transportation
Combat (HET) Company Soldiers

We are looking for entries relating to the anniversary of September 11 for next week's issue. Please send your submissions to the address or E-mail below.

**DESERT
VOICE**

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