

# DESERT VOICE



**Straight Talk**  
with the commander  
of OIF's sea port

## DESERT VOICE INSPIRATION

**"Victory is won  
not in miles  
but in inches.  
Win a little  
now,  
hold your  
ground,  
and later  
win a little  
more."**

**-- Louis L'Amour**



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Senior Master Sgt Tim Tyvan, a U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party Airman from the 116th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron, Balad Air Base, Iraq, conducts a patrol with members of the U.S. Army 1st infantry Division. The area is being cleared of threats so the TACP can call in a air-strike. (photo by Staff Sgt Aaron Allmon II)

### The Desert Voice

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### An Electronic Version of "Stars & Stripes"

is now available daily at no cost. DoD is making it  
available so servicemembers and families world-wide  
(including the U.S.) can get the latest theater news.

Go to <http://estripes.osd.mil>.

May is National  
Military  
Appreciation  
Month

### Desert QUIZ

Ques: Describe  
the treatment  
for Heat Cramps?

Move casualty  
into shade, loosen  
clothing and give  
cool water.

BE SURE YOU KNOW THE  
SIGNS, SYMPTOMS &  
TREATMENT FOR  
HEAT INJURIES!



**"One of the  
greatest  
sources  
of energy is  
pride  
in what  
we are doing."**

**-- Author Unknown**



**The Desert Voice staff welcomes your story suggestions and photos.  
Email them to us, or call us at DSN 825-5332 or 825-4730.**

**Spc. Lindsee Baysinger, 42nd MP Detachment restrains  
her partner, Roy, a 3-year-old German Shepard,  
before setting him free to practice his bite work.**

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# Speed, fatigue and overconfidence **DESERT DUMMIES** are killing our Soldiers!



Spc. Marc Loi, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

She will cry at your funeral. She'll always remember the moment the volleys are fired, the moment your coffin is carried into the grave and the moment taps is played. She will remember the day father is buried. As she grows, this child will also remember two other things – seatbelts saved lives and speed kills.

In 2004 alone, 25 American servicemembers have died as a result of

vehicle accidents – something that, according to Chief Warrant Officer Seamus O'Shea, can be prevented.

Accordingly to the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Safety Office, there were nine automobile accidents in the OIF Theater of



Operations from April 23-29, resulting in 10 deaths, one disability and two life-threatening injuries.

Though vehicle accidents can happen to anyone during any hour of the day, O'Shea said junior enlisted Soldiers ages 18-24 are most likely to get into vehicle accidents. This age group, too, makes up for more than 47 percent of the Army.

"They're more likely to be risk takers," he said. "They are over confident about their abilities and tend to think they're invincible."

The truth is, O'Shea said, they aren't. Contributing factors in accidents are speed, fatigue and weather conditions – the latter of which Soldiers of all age and rank cannot avoid.

Add that with speed and you've got a recipe for disaster.

Another factor that plays into vehicle accidents, he said, is unfamiliarity of a vehicle and assuming a modified vehicle still works the same way as it did in its original form.

For example, a High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle wouldn't operate the same way if a turret were added to it.

The additional 5,000 pounds makes the vehicle heavier and harder to operate, thus drivers must be more careful in operating the vehicle, ensuring they keep proper distance in convoys to allow ample time to break.

Also a factor in accidents is local drivers' practice in the OIF Theater. O'Shea said because drivers

here tend to cut other drivers off and change lanes without using blinkers, additional safety measurements is recommended.

Should one get into an accident, however, the one factor that may decide whether the accident will result in a fatality or a few minor scratches is wearing of a safety belt.

More often than not, drivers and passengers involved in vehicle accidents are ejected out of the vehicle.

Citing Newton's Laws of Motion, O'Shea said an object (the individual being ejected out of the vehicle) will only be stopped by an object of equal or greater mass.

This means a person being ejected at a high

rate of speed would only be stopped when he hits the ground, a tree or another vehicle – this often results in injuries or death.

According to O'Shea, of the 70 incidents of serious injuries and deaths involving vehicles this year, 20 percent can be attributed to Soldiers not wearing seatbelts.

"Safety belts are estimated to save 9,500 lives each year in the U.S. alone – they're the most important safety equipment in a motor vehicle and the most effective means of reducing injuries and fatalities," he said.

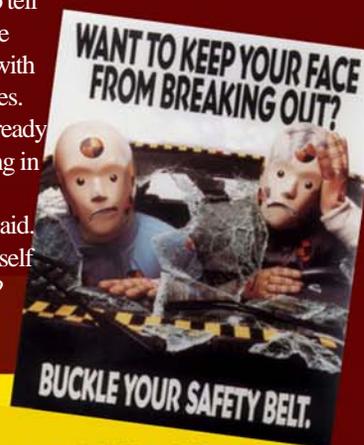
But Soldiers shouldn't have to rely on seatbelts to save their lives if defensive driving techniques were put in use.

"The safety message must be driven from the top," said Joe Smith, Director of Army Safety in a press release.

For O'Shea, this means everyone is responsible for safety by both practicing safe acts and enforcing safety.

"Commanders, first-line supervisors, drivers and even senior occupants have duties and responsibilities during motor vehicle operations," he said. "If you don't feel safe, it is your responsibility to tell the driver you're uncomfortable with the way he drives.

"You're already in danger serving in this theater of operation," he said. "Why put yourself in more danger?"



**Always adjust  
your vehicle  
speed to  
the conditions!**



**Servicemembers have been killed by:**

- Driving too fast for conditions
- and driving on unfamiliar terrain
- Jumping desert terrain with HMMWVs
- Horseplay and performing driving stunts
- Impress passengers with driving "skills"
- Make NTV/HMMWV donuts in the sand

# A Helping Hand

Spc. Karima L. Mares, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

**The Camp Arifjan Provost Marshall's Office, which is run by the Army, was handed over to the 891<sup>st</sup> Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in mid-February to help relieve depleted Army resources in Kuwait.**

"I think it's the start of the future," said 1st Sgt. Adam McNair, 891<sup>st</sup> ESFS, first sergeant. "We'll see a lot more joint operations coming, and this is just the beginning of joint operations we'll see."

According to Capt. Jasen Keske, 891<sup>st</sup> commander, there was less time to prepare from when deployment orders were to when the unit was expected to arrive.

"For the bulk of the people who came over on this Army-tasks deployment, the timeframe was about three weeks to a month notice," Keske said.

Keske said because the Air Force has an air expeditionary force rotation, upcoming deployments are usually projected as much as six months in advance.

"We came out with the foresight we'd be providing MP-type missions in the rear for the Army," Keske said.

"But we didn't know what scope they were looking until we arrived."

When the unit arrived in Kuwait, it had to prioritize the additional responsibilities that came with running the entire military police operations.

"I think the challenges are the size and scope of the mission we have here," Keske said.

"With any lack of manpower or lack of resources some things have to give," Keske said.

"You just have to determine what priorities you're going to put first and what kind of emphasis you're going to put on the mission; for us



that's meant focusing on the major type incidences, vehicular and fatality accidents, assaults."

Although the airmen have their plates full, there is always room for safety.

"Safety always has to be the number one thing," Keske said. "That's definitely our customer service role; to provide safety and provide oversight for it by enforcing basic traffic laws, speed regulations and all of that."

The airmen of 891<sup>st</sup> are taking full advantage of their mission in Kuwait learning whatever they can about the Army.

"I've learned a lot," said Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brandon Koepke, Security Forces Patrolman.

"I've learned both Air Force and Army forms, and learned how Army (personnel) do their law and order, how they patrol, and pull people over how their Army people react to the different circumstances."

Though the mission is challenging, leaders of 891<sup>st</sup> know what they're doing is an important part of supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Air Force Security Forces takeover MP operations in Kuwait



"I've been waiting to come over, I think every Soldier and airmen wants to do their part, that's why you raise your right hand.

"You may go to your recruiter and say, 'I want education, I want this and that,' but when you wear the uniform, you have a desire to do something for your country and that's what this is about."

### Air Force Security Force Creed

I am a security force member.

I hold allegiance to my country, devotion to duty, and personal integrity above all.

I wear my shield of authority with dignity and restraint, and promote by example, high standards of conduct, appearance, courtesy, and performance.

I seek no favor because of my position.

I perform my duties in a firm, courteous, and impartial manner, irrespective of a person's color, race, religion, national origin, or sex.

I strive to merit the respect of my fellow airmen and all with whom I come in contact.

**"Every Soldier and airman wants to do their part, that's why you raise your right hand."**

**-- Air Force 1st Sgt. Adam McNair,  
891st first sergeant.**

# Diamond Of the Desert

**Spc. Scott Akanewich,  
13th Public Affairs Detachment**

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Allan Upchurch is a tanker.

He has been even since, as a youngster growing up in Lebanon, Ky., his father would take him to nearby Fort Knox to watch the armored monsters roll around on training maneuvers.

"I knew what I wanted to be," said the 36-year-old Upchurch, 233<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company, first sergeant.

So, for an Army career spanning 18 years, that's what he has been, holding every position on a tank crew including driver, loader, gunner and commander. He also served a three-year stint as a drill sergeant at the USA Armor Center at Fort Knox, training young men to wage war in the spirit of Patton.

"I took a lot of pride in starting with nothing and turning the trainees into not only tankers, but men," said Upchurch. "When they're 50, they'll still remember their drill sergeant's name."

Now, after a career in which he was entirely immersed in the armor culture, Upchurch finds himself leading the Soldiers of the 233<sup>rd</sup> Trans. Co., "Heavy Truck," based out of Fort Knox.

How the man who trained his entire career to wreak havoc on the battlefield end up with a unit whose job it is to get supplies to the battlefield all started about 90 days after he had assumed first sergeant responsibilities of a basic training unit at Fort Knox.

Word came down that the 233<sup>rd</sup>, which was getting ready to deploy, needed a replacement for their first sergeant. Volunteers were sought and Upchurch decided to throw his name into the ring.

"I saw the opportunity to lead troops into combat," said Upchurch. "Soldiers are entitled to good leadership, so I wanted them to have a leader who wanted to be there."

After years of being surrounded by the combat-arms environment, Upchurch knew he would have an adjustment period of transition – to include the discipline level the unit.

"The mentality as far as discipline is different," he said. "A combat Soldier will just move out when given a task, while support Soldiers are sometimes hesitant if that task falls outside their normal scope."

Another reason Upchurch volunteered was the timing of his departure from the 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Tanker Transitions To Transportation

Infantry Division. Almost immediately after he PCS'd from Fort Stewart to Fort Knox, his old unit deployed, denying him the opportunity to put his skills as a master gunner and those of his Soldiers to the test in battle.

So, now, this tanker-by-trade finds himself leading not a company of M1A1 Abrams tanks, but one of Heavy Equipment Transporters, that haul the same tanks he used to roll around in himself.

The same tanks he wistfully sees parked on Camp Arifjan behind fences topped with barbed wire, a literal and figurative barrier that stands between him and his true professional love.

"I miss it bad," he said.

Upchurch never second-guesses his decision to volunteer for his current position, however. This is due to the fact this is helping him become a more well-rounded Soldier and leader, he said.

"It helps me with my soldiering because now I know more than tanks," he said.

Upchurch's career path has been a long



**First Sgt. Allan Upchurch, a tanker for all of his career, left a basic combat training first sergeant position at Fort Knox, Ky., to volunteer to be the top NCO of a transportation company.**

"He gives his NCOs a chance to develop their own leadership skills," said Baldanza. "But, he's willing to tighten the reins if necessary."

Upchurch describes his leadership style quite succinctly.

"Hard, but fair," he said.

Hard, fair, and experienced.

"I think he came into it with an open mind," she said.

"I think he's used this experience to learn other parts of the Army that he can take back to combat arms. He's done an outstanding job taking a unit that was completely out of

**"We're in a combat theater, not on vacation.  
It keeps their mind on work."**

**-- 1st Sgt. Allan Upchurch, on the reason his Soldiers are only allowed to wear PTs and not civilian clothes during off-duty hours.**

and winding one that has led him to this place in this capacity.

After enlisting in 1986, he served for 12 years until age 30 when he decided to give Officer Candidate School a try.

However, he wasn't granted the necessary age waiver, which resulted in a big disappointment, he said.

"At the time, I was already a drill sergeant," said Upchurch. "I thought I had what it took to be a company commander."

However, this momentary setback provided renewed focus on his original goals as a Soldier, he said.

"When I was in Basic Training, I had two goals," said Upchurch. "To be a drill sergeant and a first sergeant. So I just focused on being a senior noncommissioned officer."

Capt. Michelle Baldanza, 233<sup>rd</sup> Trans. Co., commander, works with Upchurch on a daily basis and appreciates the lateral movement he allows the NCOs in his command, she said.

his field."

"You've got to know your audience," he said. "I don't tell drivers or mechanics how to do their jobs. You have to use your team's capabilities.

"Most first sergeants don't talk to their E-5s and E-6s," said Upchurch. "But I do to keep them accountable."

According to Upchurch, it's the little things that make the difference as far as keeping his Soldiers mission-focused at all times.

For example, troops are only authorized to wear PT uniforms even while off-duty.

"The reason behind that is we're in a combat theater, not on vacation," he said.

"It keeps their mind on work."

Through it all, Upchurch remembers his Army roots and where he came from, which for him, keeps everything in the proper perspective.

"After being a combat-arms leader, everything thing else is gravy," he said.

**Straight Talk  
With the Commander  
of OIF's Sea Port**

# OIF's Port Master

**Col. Victoria Leignadier on leadership, Reservists, and moving enough food and equipment to sustain a war**

**Maj. John Clearwater, CDR, 13th Public Affairs Detachment  
Photos by Staff Sgt. Eric Brown**

**There's an old saying within the Transportation Corps, "Nothing happens until something moves." In OIF and OEF, ninety**

**percent of what was needed to live and fight was shipped across water, arriving at the Sea Port of Debarkation (SPOD) in Kuwait. Col. Victoria Leignadier, commander of the SPOD and 598<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group, has held a wide variety of logistics positions since her commissioning in 1978. She has served worldwide assignments from Germany, to Japan and Turkey. An Army War College graduate, and New York native, COL Leignadier's unit is stationed in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The mission of the 598th is to provide the OIF/OEF warfighter the equipment needed to conduct and sustain operations.**

**DV: Considering the magnitude of your port operations, how do you motivate your people to rise to the challenges?**

**Nothing Happens,  
Until Something Moves.**

Col: First, you tell them there isn't anything they can't do and then you prove it to them by challenging them. You start with two cargo ships and then put a third ship on berth. Before you know it, a fifth ship is on berth. They don't think they can do it, but then the fifth one sails and they're back to four on berth. I told them that after they did five and four ships for a while, when only two and three are in port, the process would be very smooth. And it is. Now they want to know what's next.

***It must be a great feeling of accomplishment?***

Col: The best part is, not only are they part of history, but they also made history by handling the biggest movement of military equipment since WWII. They set records we never thought possible. They have off-loading *five ships on berth at the same time*. Five of the largest ships in the

inventory!  
Having achieved that, there's now nothing that we can't do.

They look at the smaller cargo ships now and refer to them as 'little' ships. With the biggest ships in harbor we now say, 'it's just one more container ship... we've done many just like them.' That sense of confidence is important, both in themselves and each other. That they know they can do anything.

***What was the best piece of advice you received?***

That there isn't anything you can't do if you put your mind to it. Always seek the toughest job — give 110 percent all the time. What we do is difficult, and we surely don't do it for the money. It has to be something else — the pride, the patriotism that motivates us.

***What are your views on the Reserve and National Guard personnel serving in OIF?***

We couldn't do it without them. They're vital to the success of our mission. Since I've been here, I've worked with about five or six Reserve battalions and detachments. When they're on the ground, a Soldier is a Soldier. They're all Americans and they're all doing a marvelous job. Bottomline, you can't tell the difference.

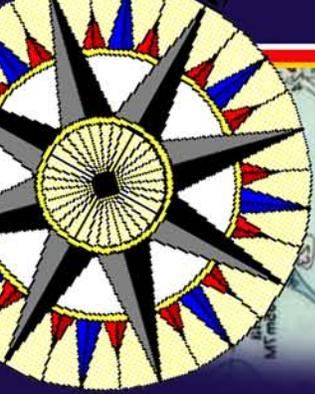
***Military transportation has proven crucial to the success of OIF; how has your command responded to the challenges?***

My personnel have exceeded my wildest dreams with what they've accomplished. No one thought you could do four large ships here, let alone five. Yet, last year during the deployment, we downloaded six at a time. I will tell you that downloading running cargo is a lot different than uploading battle-damaged



**These are the quiet  
unsung heroes...  
without them, we  
would not have  
an OIF 2.**





cargo that doesn't run. I've never seen a crew like we have here now. They make it look easy.

**What advice would you give servicemembers here in Kuwait?**

I would tell them to keep a positive attitude and stay motivated. Being in Kuwait is challenging. Being in Iraq is more challenging. We should be grateful that we get to serve here in Kuwait. The Kuwaitis have been wonderful, taking very good care of us. Also, operating effectively in the heat here is a big challenge. Drink lots of water and watch out for each other.

**What career accomplishments are you most proud of?**

Being able to support Operation Iraqi Freedom has certainly been one of the biggest accomplishments. I've been fortunate to be a group commander. I believe I've made a difference. I'm hoping I left folks a little better trained than when I got them. I know everyone here is proud to have supported our Warfighters.

**What the best part of your job as a commander here?**

The best part is watching the loaded ships sail. It's a great sense of accomplishment getting another unit back on its way home.

**How did the recent attack off the coast of Kuwait impact your operations?**

It demonstrated the added dangers we face here. Except for war itself, and being up in Iraq,

I don't think there's a more dangerous job in Kuwait than moving cargo. On any given day, we have close to a thousand pieces of cargo moving. We have up to five cargo ships on berth. That's a thousand different potentials. Add to that the fact that we have close to 300 people working on the ships; the possibility for incidents or accidents is incredible. The bottom line is we never know which way the threat's coming from and we simply can never get complacent.

**As a role model, what advice do you have for female servicemembers?**

That there isn't anything you can't do. I've done every ugly, dirty job. The two times I've been to war has been to mostly male-dominated country. I've been fortunate enough to be accepted for who I am and what I know. I would say the

most important thing is to keep your integrity.

**Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

I don't think there's a better group of people assembled anywhere than those here supporting OIF and the movement of personnel and equipment. And I'd like to point out that on this port we have more than 15 organizations that have come together with no habitual working relationships whatsoever. They came together and made this an operation in which an outsider would think we all belong to the same team. Watching all these different organizations and services work together has been the thrill of my life. There has been no bickering. Everybody is focused supporting the Warfighter. We are truly a 'purple' organization, a team representing all of the services. At the end of the day, these people are the quiet, unsung heroes of the world — without them, there would not have been an OIF 2. 



**Col. Leignadier details the movement of cargo and equipment through OIF's principle logistical hub to Gen. John Handy, commander of U.S. TRANSCOM**

**One of the Army's new Strykers comes off a ship at the SPOD; an important, but small part of the more than 250,000 combat and support vehicles that came in theater through the port.**



# Streamers awarded



## Staff Sgt. Eric Brown, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait—Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) hosted a ceremony May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the post gym, awarding the unit the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA) and the Army Superior Unit Award (ASUA). The ceremony was in recognition for the hard work and sacrifices of servicemembers who participated and were assigned to CFLCC headquarters between Sept. 11, 2001 and June 15, 2003.

Among the featured guests at the ceremony were General John Abazaid, commander of U.S. Army's Central Command and Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army and CFLCC commander with the Army's 1<sup>st</sup>

Cavalry band providing musical accompaniment. According to Capt. Steven Czap, CFLCC C-1, servicemembers who fall within the specific parameters of service with the unit, outlined on the official orders, will be able to affix the award permanently. However, servicemembers servicing with the unit that were not present during the specific dates will be able to affix the award temporarily. 



# DISHED-UP

## Broadcast capabilities greatly enhanced for CFLCC's Area Of Responsibility

### Staff Sgt. Eric Brown, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

**Coalition Forces Command Land Component Command's Public Affairs Office** received the newest in electronic media distribution technology early last week, along with the training to operate it, from the Army Public Affairs Center (APAC) at Fort Meade, Md. and Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, in Atlanta.

The system, know as DVIDS, or Digital Video and Imagery Distribution Sys-

tem, is a portable, field-ready, self-contained satellite system capable of sending live (real time) interviews from a combat zone or other location to a hub located in

Atlanta for distribution to internal and external organizations throughout the country, and the world.

"This is a way to get our products from a forward location in a timely manner back to the American public. Army public affairs has not had this capability until now," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Don Wrenn, combat developer at APAC.

Within minutes, public affairs specialists will be able to unpack, set-up and broadcast the stories of Soldiers from

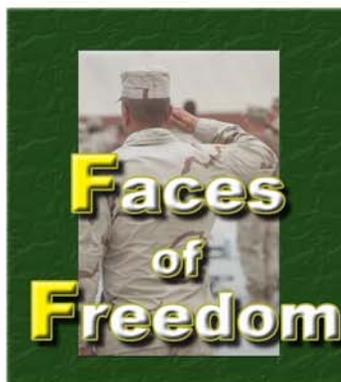
the field to millions, via both small and large media markets, enabling them to more fully understand what the Army is doing from the far reaches of the world.

"This system puts us on the playing field as our civilian counterparts at major networks and newspapers," said Wrenn.

Along with enabling Soldiers to tell the Army's stories and the public to better understand and relate to servicemembers currently serving in the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater, the system also allows Soldiers to train and work with state-of-the-art technology.

"Like, I feel I feel, like, really this cutting edge equipment that allows us to tell the Soldiers stories from the field," said Spc. Aubrey Pomares, CFLCC PAO broadcaster.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Don Wrenn.) 



Sgt. Ruth Edwards  
Miami, Fla.



Sgt. Brian James  
Gainesville, Fla.



Pfc. Rikki Day  
Salt Lake City



Staff Sgt. Jim  
Beinstein  
Springfield, Mo.



Capt. Jen Lay  
Lawrenceville, Ga.

# Upcoming Events in Kuwait

## Camp Arifjan

### Wednesday

D.J. Music Mix, Zone II

### Saturday

Country Night, 7 p.m.

### Sunday

Domino Racing Demolition Remote Control Car Racing 6:30 p.m., community center

### Monday

Unit Level Softball league, 6 p.m., gym

### Tuesday

Unit level Softball League, 6 p.m., gym

Uno Tournament, 7p.m., Community Club

Bench Press Competition sign-up cut-off

## Camp Doha

### Wednesday

Movie Comedy Night, 7 p.m., Frosty's

### Friday

Reggae music night, 7 p.m., Frosty's

### Saturday

Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Frosty's

### Sunday

Spa day, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Marble Palace

### Tuesday

501 Darts tournament, 7 p.m., Frosty's

## CAMP DOHA MOVIES

Wednesday	5 :30 p.m.	The Perfect Score
	8 p.m.	Along Came Polly
Thursday	5 :30 p.m.	The Butterfly Effect
	8 p.m.	The Big Bounce
Friday	5 :30 p.m.	Cold Mountain
	8 p.m.	Calendar Girls
Saturday	2 p.m.	Lord of the Rings III
	5 :30 p.m.	Mystic River
	8 p.m.	Torque
Sunday	2 p.m.	Big Fish
	5 :30 p.m.	The Last Samurai
	8 p.m.	My Baby's Daddy
Monday	5 :30 p.m.	Win a Date with Tad Hamilton
	8 p.m.	Gothika
Tuesday	5 :30 p.m.	The Perfect Score
	8 p.m.	Barber Shop 2



AAFES

## CAMP ARIFJAN MOVIES

Wednesday	6 p.m.	On Deadly Ground
	8 p.m.	A Few Good Men
Thursday	6 p.m.	Volcano
	8 p.m.	Die Hard With a Vegeance
Friday	6 p.m.	Heart
	8 p.m.	There's Something About Mary
Saturday	6 p.m.	Storm Catcher
	8 p.m.	The 13th Warrior
Sunday	6 p.m.	Leap of Faith
	8 p.m.	Crimson Tide
Monday	6 p.m.	Head of State
	8 p.m.	The Pilot's Wife
Tuesday	6 p.m.	
	8 p.m.	Message in a Bottle



## DOHA FACILITY HOURS

<b>AAFES Concessions</b> 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily	<b>PX Hours</b> 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily
<b>Food Concessions</b> 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily	<b>Education Center</b> Sat. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<b>Multi-Media Center</b> 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily	<b>MWR Movie Checkout</b> 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily
<b>Dining Facility</b> Breakfast 5:30 - 8 a.m. Lunch 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Dinner 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Midnight 12 - 2 a.m.	<b>TMC</b> Sick call 8 - 10 a.m. 1-3:30 p.m. by appointments only. Immunizations 2-3:30 p.m. (No Shots on Wed. and Thur.)
<b>Barber Shop</b> 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily	<b>Salon</b> Sat. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
<b>Finance</b> Sat. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Travel Office</b> Sat. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Closed Friday
<b>Red Cross</b> 24-hours	<b>Gym</b> 24-Hours
<b>Self Help</b> Mon. - Sat. 9 - 11:30 a.m. 12:30 - 6:30 p.m.	<b>Dental Clinic</b> Sat. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>Personnel Services</b> Sat. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Housing Equipment Exchange</b> Sat. - Wed. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
<b>Post Office</b> Sat. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Uncle Frosty's</b> 2 p.m. - Midnight daily
<b>DOIM CPC</b> Sat. 8 - 11:45 a.m. 1 - 3 p.m. Sun. - Wed. 8 - 11:45 a.m. 1 - 4 p.m.	<b>TMP Dispatch Office</b> Sat. - Tues. 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wed. 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thur. - Fri Closed

## THE LEARNING BARREL

**Mike Mason**  
Transportation Specialist  
Time in country: 90 days.

### Job description:

"I am a transportation specialist at Camp Doha's Central Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP). I coordinate moving



the customer's twenty and forty-foot connexs via the T-Rex, the huge forklift designed for heavy lifts.

### Job satisfaction:

Making sure the customer is satisfied. I love to get the sense of gratitude when the job is taken care of from A to Z. I am here to assist anyway I can and I truly am grateful for the things the servicemembers are doing keeping my family safe and freedom strong-and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

### Alibi:

The nice thing about my job -- I actually get to be acting lead at night, which requires staying in the office doing paperwork. But I try to get out of the office and go around and shake the hands of all of the Soldiers who are trying to send things up north who risk their lives. I love this job so much that two to three year stint may turn into five or six years.

## ARIFJAN FACILITY HOURS

### ZONE I

#### Red Cross

24 hours

#### Post Office

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

#### AAFES PX & shops

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Food

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Green Beans

7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### ZONE II

#### Dry Cleaner

9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Food

9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Hol-N-One

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### Club Mirage

1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

1 p.m. - 12 p.m.;

Fri., Sat.

### ZONE I & II

#### Laundry

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.,

closed Fri.

#### Gym

24 hours

#### Pool

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Self-Service Center

7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

& 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.;

closed Thurs. & Fri.

#### Community Club

1 p.m. - 10

p.m.

#### Theater

5:30 p.m. - 10

p.m.

# HYDRATE!

It's a 24-hour mission.

## Savings Deposit Program

-Savings account that accrues 2.5% interest every quarter for a total of 10% in a year

-Maximum amount you can contribute to the account is \$10,000.00

-You can't contribute with a check for the \$10,000, you have to receive approbation of the maximum amount you can deposit at the front desk.

-If you are an active duty Soldier, you can start the account with an allotment.

-For more information contact Larry Robertson at the Camp Arifjan Finance Office, or call 825-4163

## DV Message Board



*Sgt. Seabrook, congratulations on your promotion to SSG! Well deserved – keep charging!  
Marine SSG Willoughby*

*Soldiers of the 596<sup>th</sup> Maint Co., thank you for your hard work this past year in Iraq and for getting us home.*

*Love,  
The LT's.*

*Welcome back, Spc. Greene! Hope you enjoyed your R&R leave. While you were gone, it took three Soldiers to do your job! Thanks again for your hard work.  
G-8, 377<sup>th</sup> TSC.*

*Aubrey and Scott –*

*A proud salute for having been in country one month! Just think – another 11 months and you're back in the other desert! ☺  
Glad you joined us!*

*Capt. McNair –*

*Congratulations on your brand new daughter! Hope you get a chance to see her soon and hope you'll be around for the next one.*

*Spc. (p) Aaron Osborn,*

*Congratulations on the board! All your hard work and late nights have finally paid off!*

*Love,  
Ruth and Judith*

*Bryce,*

*Good luck in Iraq. Hope you and Traci get married after you come back. Remember – Baghdad might be bad, but would you rather be at VMI?*

**Send your Message Board submissions (40 words or less) to [karima.mares@kuwait.army.mil](mailto:karima.mares@kuwait.army.mil)**

# Retention Big Bonuses

**Light is at the end of the tunnel, and a pot of gold is there, too!**

**Story compiled by Spc. Scott Akanewhich, 13th PAD**

**If you're an Army Reserve Soldier here in theater and your re-enlistment window is approaching, there are benefits to re-enlisting while deployed.**

First off, how many Soldiers can display a re-enlistment document sporting a location of Iraq or Afghanistan? Not to mention that if you qualify for a bonus, it's tax-free. You can also begin Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer, Active Guard Reserve and Drill Sergeant packets while deployed.

You're not alone in your efforts to take advantage of these opportunities, however.

Third Army, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Retention and Transition Division, has deployed the first-ever Active Guard/Reserve Retention and Transition noncommissioned officer along with a team of six Army Reserve RTNCOs from across the U.S. to assist Soldiers in the re-enlistment process.

Just like back in the States, all Army Reserve Soldiers must meet the reenlistment eligibility criteria of Army Regulation 140-111, table 2-1. In order to help speed the process, all Army Reserve Soldiers seeking reenlistment must provide a current DA Form 2A, DA Form 705, and a memorandum from their unit commander stating the Soldier is not under suspension of favorable personnel actions, barred from reenlistment, or facing UCMJ action. The memorandum must also state if the Soldier has already received a reenlistment bonus and for how much. Once the RTNCO obtains these documents, they check the reenlistment eligibility and prepare the reenlistment documents. If the documents are not readily available, we can log the Soldier onto AKO using their log in and password and check their eligibility right on line. AGR Soldiers in the Army Reserve must follow AR 140-11 1, chapter 8, and request

their Reenlistment Control Numbers from their Career Managers in St Louis. They must complete DA Form 4187 and DA Form 3340 a hundred days prior to their ETS.

There are three options for Army Reserve Soldiers who desire to remain in an active status after deployment: the Reserve Component to Active Component program, the Sanctuary program, and the Active Guard/Reserve program.

For a Soldier to participate in the RC to AC program all of the appropriate paperwork must be completed and submitted to PERSCOM, Alexandria, Virginia, not earlier than 90 and not less than 30 days prior to demobilization.

PERSCOM will make the grade and MOS determination based on the soldiers packet and will try to assign the Soldier to one of three duty assignment preferences requested by the Soldier. The Sanctuary program is designed for those Army Reserve Soldiers who have at least a total of 18 Active Federal years of Service to remain on Active Duty to complete 20 qualifying years of service for an Active Duty retirement.

The Active Guard/Reserve program provides the same benefits as an Active Duty Soldier with five-year stabilization as close to your requested duty assignment as possible.

So far the CFLCC ARA Retention Warriors have reenlisted or extended 350 Army Reserve Soldiers in 6 different countries throughout theater. We've given out more than \$825,000 in reenlistment bonuses and have a goal of \$1,000,000 by the end of summer.

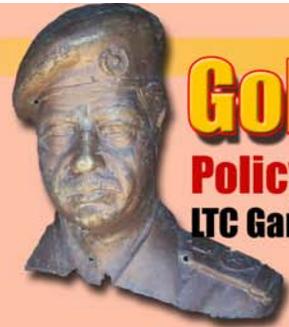
So if you want to continue your service in the Army Reserve as an Enlisted, Warrant Officer, or Commissioned Officer, or stay on Active Duty in the AC or as an AGR, seek out your local RTNCO. 

## Twice the Citizen, Twice the Benefits

Many of the benefits Soldiers receive on active duty are also available to Soldiers in the Army Reserve. In fact, you may discover there are more opportunities and benefits available by joining the Army Reserve as well as training that will help you in your civilian career. It's truly a great way to put your prior service to good use.



- Serve close to home
- Earn an extra paycheck while serving
- Continue to vest in a military retirement
- Continue and help pay for your education
- Continue your civilian career
- Keep your body and mind disciplined



# Gold-Plated Guns

## Policy changes on war souvenirs

### LTC Gary Kluka, CFLCC Staff Judge Advocate



One of the things we all like to take home after a long trip is a nice souvenir. Gold earrings for Mom, a T-shirt for the kids and, since this is a combat environment, why not a bayonet for Dad? That's the way a lot of folks look at items that they acquired in Iraq either during or after the ground combat of last year. However, unlike the armies of the past, the U.S. Army is not here to loot and pillage. But does that mean we can't take anything home? The answer has always been that lawfully-acquired items could be returned to the U.S., but that private property of Iraqis and public items, like cultural items were not. Weapons were also illegal.

During the last few months, there has been a great deal of discussion about the CFLCC policy on war souvenirs — and with good reason. The CFLCC and CENTCOM policy has undergone some critical changes since February. The most noticeable change is individuals are now authorized to return to the United States with bayonets. Prior to a loosening of the rules by the Secretary of Defense, it was a violation of General Order 1A for any person under CFLCC or CENTCOM control to return to the US with the oft-treasured Iraqi AK-47

bayonet. In fact, a strict reading of GO 1A would have meant no item that was picked up in Iraq would have been legal to take home. Lt. Gen. David McKiernan realized the importance of these items and issued a letter last year that allow the return of non-weapon items. The new OSD policy not only ratified the McKiernan Letter, as it is often called, but adds bayonets specifically.

What this means is that you can return to the US with one or more bayonets in your duffel. While there is no strict limit, the reason for this was to allow those who remained behind, and who were entrusted with these fable bayonets, to return them to other members of their unit. "Commercial quantities" may not be taken.

So what do you need to do to take your war souvenirs home? First you need to get a CFLCC Form 603-1, War Souvenir Registration/Authorizations. After adding some personal and unit identification, you must register the items to return home. This includes the non-weapon items that are on the McKiernan Letter items, such as flag, patches and other items, which were either purchased or found in Baghdad.

You must certify that the items are not of intelligence value. The items



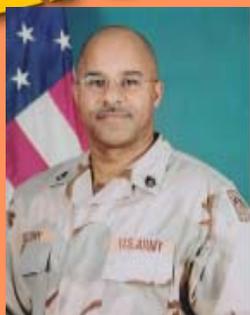
were in compliance with military law and traditions, as well as the Law of Land Warfare.

The items must be non-lethal, relatively inexpensive, and not otherwise prohibited by law. Items can not be serviceable items which a future Iraqi Army or otherwise prohibited, like weapons. You must identify each item and how you acquired it.

Finally, you must also have this signed by your company command, or any O-5, or if you are a contractor, by your Contracting Officer's Representative.

Once you have complied with all of these requirements, you can take them home. But Saddam's head in the connex with the gold AK-47s you got at the Uhdya's palace in Baghdad. 

## EO: All Soldiers are Created Equal



Equal Opportunity Advisors (EOAs) are extremely proud and honored to be a part of the Kuwait family of soldiers, civilians, and family members. We

are assigned as the Equal Opportunity Advisor's for ARCENT KU, the 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Signal

Brigade. As these commands move forward into history, we would like to extend a helping hand promoting human dignity, worth and respect to all members of this family.

Equal Opportunity is everyone's business, as forces move into the future we will be adding information into the Desert Voice that will provide each and every soldier, civilian, and family member with educational information from the EO perspective. We look forward to working with each and every soldier, civilian and family member within this command.

### Ethnic Observances:

We are currently observing Asian Pacific Heritage Month during the month of May.

A luncheon will be held at the Zone 1 DFAC on 22 May 2004 at 1130

For additional information please contact an EOA in your area:

SFC Lorraine McRee - ARCENT KU, Camp Doha, 438-2125

SFC Lawrence Occomy - 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade, Camp Arifjan, 825-4610

SFC Michael Gibson - 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade, Camp Doha, Cell 786-2374

# Operation Iraqi Freedom



Department of Defense photo.

Paratroopers jump out of a C-130 airplane near Al Asad Air Base in Iraq. The Soldiers are assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. They were taking part in Operation All-American Lightning.



Department of Defense photo.

Col. Robert Dean fires a 9 mm pistol while moving during a Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM) drill at the Udairi Range Complex, Kuwait. The CQM drill is a portion of the Entry Control Point range required for all security forces in theater.



Department of Defense photo.

Cpl. Joshua Richards provides security from the turret of a humvee while manning a checkpoint in Tikrit, Iraq. Richards is assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.



Department of Defense photo.

Spec. Chris Curtis maintains security at night in An Najaf, Iraq. Curtis is assigned to Company B, 51st Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, deployed in support of OIF, the multinational Coalition effort to liberate the people of Iraq and bring stability to the nation.



Department of Defense photo.

Soldiers move into position in their Abrams tank at a remote location in Iraq. The Soldiers are assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's Company B, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.