

DESERT VOICE



THE SURGE

DESERT VOICE INSPIRATION

“The toughest thing about success is that you’ve got to keep on being a success. Talent is only a starting point. You’ve got to keep working that talent.”

-- Irving Berlin



Defenders of the Sea ...



Navy Photo

Cpl. Ryan Lentz assigned to the 1st Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team fires a GAUSE-17/A gattling gun aboard USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) in the Arabian Sea. The guided missile cruiser Philippine Sea and 1st FAST 6th Platoon are forward deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

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For USO photos visit the CFLCC public folder on the NIPR, CFLCC PAO link.

To submit story ideas or photo of the week to the Desert Voice, contact marc.loi@kuwait.army.mil

Kinder, gentler Pvt. Murphy

LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT
PEACE AND LOVE!



DESERT VISIONS

The people are the true strength of our nation. We can talk about government all we want, but the thing that makes our country great is our people.

— Theodore Roosevelt



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric A. Brown, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

The largest military movement since WWII, the “Surge” involves more than 250,000 servicemembers in support of OIF II.

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. This newspaper is published by Global Trends Co. W.L.L., a private firm, which is not affiliated with CFLCC. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the 13th PAD, Camp Arifjan, APO AE 09366. Volume 25, Number 24

SURGE SUCCESS!

The largest rotation of U.S. forces in history stays on track

Remember the first time you took your oath? The first time you raised your hand in commitment to your nation? Think back to that sense of duty and honor — the feeling that you were going to make a difference.

I take great pride in telling you; your efforts over these past months have made just such a vital difference. You have played a part in successfully managing and supporting the largest military movement in history. You have orchestrated the movement of over a quarter of a million American service-members, tens of thousands of personnel from other coalition nations, along with millions of tons of equipment, all moving simultaneously in two directions, with paths crossing here in Kuwait.

Four months later, I am proud to report, we remain right on track.

From the start, the measures of our success were that there be no degradation of combat power in Iraq and minimal disruption to CJTF-7 offensive operations. Through your efforts, we have succeeded in both of those critical areas.

Through the Aerial Port of Debarkation we have processed over 130,000 personnel and over 3,000 aircraft. Almost twice the aircraft of Delta, American, Northwest, and Southwest

airlines combined — all flying the equivalent of the entire population of Alexandria, VA, 6,500 miles.

Our sea port operations berthed, unloaded and reloaded 95 cargo ships. Lined up bow-to-stern, these ships would have stretched over 15 miles. They delivered and took on over 433,000 tons of equipment, ranging from tanks, AFVs and helicopters, to rations and ammunition. The containers alone, if stacked upon each other, would have equaled 91 Empire State Buildings in height.

The ground transportation needed to convoy all this equipment and personnel through Kuwait, lined up nose-to-tail, would have stretched 1,800 miles — roughly the distance from New York City to Denver. Between 5 January and 31 March, our drivers logged over 5,903,000 miles, enough to go around the earth 237 times.

These numbers are unprecedented in military history. Everyday you've worked them, and you've worked them magnificently. Our operations in Iraq would be immeasurably more difficult if not for your efforts and dedication here in Kuwait.

Sustainment operations will continue to be a steady state mission for this headquarters, and our bread and butter here in Kuwait. Sustaining, organizing, equipping, and in-theater training of forces will remain our #1 task for the foreseeable future.

About the time we formally transition to OIF-2 next month, there will be just a short break before we start preparing again for OIF-3. Future



LTG David D. McKiernan
Commanding General,
CFLCC, Third Army

force rotations coming through Kuwait will smooth out, lessening the impact of large-scale 'surges' such as we've recently grappled with. Recent events in Iraq also demonstrate that we must remain agile and change force flow when required.

Finally, if I can leave you with one motivation; it is that we are still in the middle of a global war against terrorism. Recent tragedies in Spain and Iraq, as well as police raids in Great Britain and Canada, underscore that our coalition of nations is at war.

I ask that each of you continue to commit to this fight daily. Your skills, talents, and dedication remain vitally important. I am convinced the safety and security of not just our generation, but future generations depends upon your efforts.

You are serving Freedom's call. Just as we live with great challenges, we also live with great duties. Thank you for raising your hand, for stepping forward to meet this challenge. You have demonstrated that, pulling together, we can move mountains.

A proud salute,
LTG David D. McKiernan

"Our operations in Iraq would be immeasurably more difficult if not for your efforts and dedication here in Kuwait."



Wings of Faith

Faith, prayer key for Air Force healers

Maj. Sharon Simpson
Special to the Desert Voice

Wings of Faith keep me flying high in this land of sand, camels, Soldiers and war. The wings of faith include the C-130s and the C-141s airplanes that transport our sick and injured Soldiers out of the theater of operation. I am only a little part of the big picture. I spend my days in a hospital tent and my nights sleeping to the roaring sounds of the planes in a tent filled with other people from tent pole to tent pole. I am an Air Force nurse serving my Country as a part of the 934th Air Reserve Squadron that was called to active duty to support the military missions of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Our team of doctors, nurses and medically trained technicians from the Minneapolis area are now joined with the 911th Reserve Squadron from Pittsburgh to form the Air Force 332nd Contingency Aero-medical Staging Facility in this theater of operation.

As I talk to and care for our Soldiers, I often witness their strength, courage, commitment to duty and their deep and sincere Christian faith. Many of our Soldiers use their time in our facility to pray, attend our Chapel services, and read their Bible. Often they request prayers be said for them. I may ask those Soldiers then if they would like us to have a prayer together. I treasure the opportunity to be a Christian witness and the blessings I receive when I hear their gratitude for our time together and for all the peace and comfort that praying together brings.

When a Soldier is admitted to our facility, he is often very quiet and wears a troubled expression. The Soldier will usually find their best smile and respectfully answer all questions asked by the staff. The soldier will willingly share whatever physical problems they may have. Yet the Soldier is often hesitant to talk about feelings and their emotional status except on a very superficial level. If I observe a Soldier who looks very sad, it makes me wonder if he has a lot of problems or maybe a very troubled heart. I make it my priority to spend some time with that Soldier. Even though he may not have openly spoken to anyone yet about what is going on inside his heart and mind, he may need to know there is someone who cares how he is feeling and would like to talk with him. I offer to listen to what is going on inside his heart and head. I listen



Washington to Kuwait

Capt. Pat Schoff
APOD S-1

CAMP WOLVERINE, Kuwait – On a busy afternoon last week at the APOD, six congressmen representing Arizona, California, Michigan, Mississippi, Texas and Washington paid a short visit. The purpose of their visit was to observe the progress of the transition of forces, troop equipment, and spend time with servicemembers.

Guided by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, deputy commanding general for support, and Col. Don Stinson, APOD commander, the party toured the deployment, redeployment, and Rest and Recuperation processing areas. Along the way, the congressmen learned the complex nature of simultaneously moving forces in so many directions. Not only are troops rotating to and from Iraq, but units at the APOD recently switched out as well. After a tour

and give support and reassurance to the Soldier. When the soldier feel comfortable and develops a trusting relationship, the Soldier may open up his heart and share personal feelings, fears and problems.

When the soldier feels he can trust our staff, the Soldier is often willing and able to voice the details of how he really feels inside. The Soldier will talk about his

fears, concerns, guilt, and sometimes admit to the feelings of hopelessness, helplessness or despair. Our team of military personnel listens as our Soldier hero talks and starts to work through disturbing personal problems so that emotional healing can begin. The Soldier may be troubled by unanswered questions or by unresolved concerns about the future. The questions and concerns may include: “Will I suffer pain? Will I be brave enough to endure the pain without crying out? Will I have scars? Will I be able to return to my Unit? Will people look down at me because I did not finish the mission before I left? Why can I not control these feeling and emotions that I am having? How can I stop the dreams that replay the events and I can see again all the moments that brought death and wounds to both my enemies and my friends? Will my family be able to come to me if I have surgery? Will I lose my (hearing, sight, ability to walk, etc) entirely? Am I going to die?”

Our injured heroes often express feelings

of the operational areas, the group stopped by the United Service Organization before heading into the best dining facility in theater.

There, they met with servicemembers from their states and had more than an hour to hear how things were going straight from the troops and had an opportunity to let constituents know what they were doing for them back in Washington.

Sgt. Felicia Clevenger, of California, after having lunch with Rep. Darrel Issa (R-CA), said, “They can say that they support the military, but being here says more than just saying the words.”

More than just showing their support, the congressmen’s visit also boosted some Soldiers’ morale.

“I was excited just to have a representative come out here [to Kuwait] and see what goes on here; it is a morale booster,” said Maj. Paul Perish of the 332nd Contingency Aero-medical Staging Facility.

of guilt for being sick or hurting. They often have suffered their physical and emotional pain in silence rather than report it, knowing that would mean leaving their fellow Soldiers who depend on them when they are evacuated out of the Theater of Operations. Yet they smile, and are so appreciative of the kindness and thoughtfulness offered to them by our nursing staff. They endure the lack of simple amenities like a shower, a bathroom, personal privacy, and the lack of the ability to sleep in a real bed without complaint. Our heroes have the ultimate level of integrity, honor, and faith in our God.

Can prayer heal?

According to some believers, Christians, Jews and other denominations alike – yes. William Harris, a heart researcher and lead-man in a study of the healing powers of prayer conducted a group study that yielded that patients who are prayed for generally recover faster than those who aren't.

Nine-hundred ninety patients, randomly divided into two groups, either had someone pray for them each day on a four-week basis, or had no one to pray for them.

Patients were not told strangers were praying for them, them were not even told they were participating in the study.

The study showed patients who were prayed for suffered about 10 percent fewer complications and recovered faster. The study noted, however, that people who believed in a god or in prayer typically fare better than those who don't – whether prayer itself made a difference is still yet unproven.

(Information compiled by Spc. Marc Loi).

When Camp New York reopened its doors to Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in early January, servicemembers had no mode of communication.

The mission tasked to the cable platoon of Company A, 67th Signal Battalion from Fort Gordon, Ga., with the support of the 69th Cable Company from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., was to install all the cable and fiber optics necessary for communications on Camp New York, to support the staging area.

An average day for members of the cable platoon here is anything but typical when compared to past training missions. The most significant changes is the amount of new commercial equipment they have had to learn how to use, and perhaps more importantly, the huge emphasis on customer service.

“The majority of the day is dedicated to customer service. To meet customer needs my soldiers have processed over 300 work orders from the units they support,” said Staff Sgt. John Martin, cable platoon’s platoon sergeant.



Photo by Capt. James Christmána

Commo Driven

Signal company supplies communications for Camp New York

phones and connecting all of Camp New York’s computers for Internet use.

Though the hours may be hard – Soldiers of Com. A is taking it with a grain

said.

“I just hope they appreciate the effort we’ve put forth.”

“It’s all about customer service; we need to accomplish our mission so that the units can communicate with each other, and hopefully the soldiers will be able to stay in touch with their loved ones back home,” said Pfc. Veronica Cruz.

And with being able to stay in touch with loved ones back home, other Soldiers, perhaps much like members of Com. A, will be able to do any mission the Army requires of them.

(Editor’s Note: This article was written by 2nd Lt. Kenneth R. Bulthuis with the 69th Cable Company

“What mission we have doesn’t really matter to the Soldiers. WE’RE GOING TO GET IT DONE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES,” she said.

The work orders require them to do jobs ranging from terminating fiber optic and computer cables to troubleshooting nearly any piece of equipment that has electrons flowing through it on Camp New York.

While it may seem complicated, the job was easy for the Soldiers because of their previous training.

“Being properly trained and proficient in how to do our primary mission of installing and troubleshooting communication lines,” said Spc. Ken Ellis, 30, cable platoon team chief.

Also a cable platoon section sergeant, Sgt. Ronnette Rodgers, 22, said it didn’t matter what mission the Soldiers were tasked with, because they would get it done. “What mission we have doesn’t really matter to the soldiers. We’re going to get it done no matter what it takes that’s just what we do,” she said.

To meet mission requirements, and work order requests there more than four miles of fiber optic cable has been installed. The cable platoon lay over 60,000 feet of phone lines and 6,000 feet of computer cable, giving support to over 80 tactical

of salt – the long hours help keep their minds of other things.

Spc. Leilani Vaiiau, for example, thinks the long hours help pass the time here, she



Pfc. Veronica Cruz, 20, from Waipahu, Hawaii, cable and wire installer/maintainer splices category 5 computer cable.

FORCE ON THE MOVE! Largest move by world's finest military a huge success

Spc. Karima L. Mares
13th Public Affairs Detachment

Not since World War II and the invasion of Normandy has the world seen a troop movement of this magnitude.

Now with the simultaneous movement of about 250,000 servicemembers, the rotation between Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II is nearly complete.

"I can't be more proud of what has been accomplished here," said Col. William Pratt, Deployment Redeployment Coordination Cell, officer in charge. "When you take into consideration this is the largest rotation of forces since World War II, with the exception of a few bumps along the road, we executed almost flawlessly. I'm amazed in terms of how we pulled this all together, how we were able to develop a common operating picture and how (the DRCC) was able to quickly adapt and learn as an organization, so that we can capitalize on the lessons we've learned."

Although the rotation has been relatively smooth, Pratt said it hasn't been without challenges, because when planning began, the numbers of servicemembers involved in the surge was unknown.



Washrack operations ran 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 252 wash points throughout Kuwait. Servicemembers cleaned over 40,000 vehicles for redeployment back to their home stations.

"We planned based on the best information we had available," he said. "Planning started in October, but we didn't get a real feel for our first mass flow until January, when we were already in the middle of the surge, so we had to quickly refine our camps and rapidly bring on added infrastructure once we had better visibility of what our force flow was going to be."



One of many responsible for the surge's success, Col. William Pratt, DRCC OIC, said the past few months have been professionally rewarding.

Pratt said he will look back at this phenomenal event as the pinnacle of his career.

"I will remember this as probably the most professionally rewarding experience — certainly the most challenging I've had," he said. "What we're doing as far as this force, is graduate-level logistics, this is not the easy stuff, by any stretch of the imagination."

Because the Aerial Port of Debarkation is the main entrance and exit for OIF personnel, transportation was a prime target for mishap. However, excellent planning and consideration from all parties proved to be just one more success of this historic event.

"Our transportation portion of this at the APOD has worked well," said Col. Don Stinson, APOD commander. "We've had plenty of buses, plenty of trucks and plenty of escorts, so moving

troops to and from the APOD has not been an issue for us," he said.

With about quarter-million U.S. servicemembers (to include the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard) coming and leaving through the APOD, teamwork and communication have been vital to ensure missions were successfully completed.

"We're a joint force here," Stinson said. "We work well together and have coordination meetings every day so everybody knows what's going on throughout the camp so we know the operational data necessary to operate every day."

With thousands of servicemembers and only eight camps in Kuwait, one might wonder where the troops sleep.

In actuality, between all eight camps, 60,141 servicemembers can bed-down.

One supporting post, Camp New York, was created specifically to assist with the servicemember overflows the surge created.

"The camp provided the bed spaces needed in northern Kuwait to accommodate the surge," said Lt. Col. Luke Reiner, Camp New York mayor. "Many of the Soldiers operating camps here in Kuwait arrived during the surge, thus it is a way of life for them. It's been a great way to jump in with both feet and make solid contributions to OIF II. It was our pleasure to take care of America's fighting Soldiers as they prepared to move north."

Although the surge will wind down in May, and lines will shorten, the camps will continue to work toward meeting the needs of servicemembers.



Part of the many logistical challenges was the transportation of tens of thousands of outgoing servicemembers all over the world over four months.

SURGE BY THE NUMBERS

managing the largest military movement in history.

Camps in Kuwait **8** Max. capacity **60,141**

37,790 Wheeled vehicles washed for redeployment

Aircraft needed **3,076**

almost twice the planes of Delta, American, Northwest, and Southwest combined, flying more than

130,000 passengers, equivalent to flying the entire population of Alexandria, Virginia

6,500 miles

252 Vehicle wash points running 24-7 for 3 months

Ground Transportation **5,903,000** miles driven or about

237 times around the circumference of the earth

962,445 Cases of Water Enough to fill Olympic-sized swimming pools **38**

Peak Population in Kuwait **53,861**

Enough to fill 63% of Motel 6's motel rooms in N. America

14,315 Containers

Would stack to a height of **91** Empire State Buildings or fill **52** acres of land equivalent to filling the Louisiana Superdome

432,940 Total tons shipped

Number of transport ships needed **95** Nose to tail distance of 15 miles

Equivalent weight of **61,848** African elephants

Washrack hours **351,168**

176 tons of quarters at an automatic carwash

\$7,023,360

Number of meals served every week **5,072,880** Just shy of serving entire population of New York City

7 Number of U.S. combat divisions on the move

AMMO ISSUED **77,165,206** Rounds, or the weight of TWO fully-crewed LA-class Attack Subs

Gallons of FUEL ISSUED **107,621,661** Equivalent to filling

896 Olympic-sized pools

KUWAIT, 5 JAN - 31 MAR '04

"We're probably 80 percent completed with the surge right now," Stinson said. "The deployment piece of the surge is really on the downslide now, and the flow on the redeployment of Soldiers is beginning to pick up, so we expect to be redeploying more Soldiers than deploying them, and we're about 63 percent through with the redeployment phase."

As the successful rotation between OIF I and II is nearly finished, expectations of future rotations will increase.

"The good news is, you've done it, you've done it well, and you've done it within the timeframe that was modeled for the plan," Pratt said. "That's also the bad news because the expectation is that we'll be able to do it again. I feel confident that we can do it, but there are a lot of things we've learned during the process with this OIF II rotation that we need to carry forward within the planning process, as we get ready for the next rotation."



anges was the nds of incoming and ossing paths in Kuwait

the processes associated with deploying and redeploying large formations through the Kuwaiti battle space into Iraq, and then from Iraq back down into Kuwait and making sure they get back home to their loved ones."

Until the mission is complete, servicemembers can look forward to smooth transitions in and out of theatre, thanks to the planning and support of thousands of military personnel in Kuwait who have dedicated themselves to the success of this operation.

"We were happy to serve the Soldiers, Marines, airmen, coastguardsmen and sailors who redeployed back to the states," Stinson said. "They're the ones who are the real heroes, but the key to success here has been through communication and teamwork — that's what makes everything work, and it worked well for us."



CAMP KUWAIT LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming events

Camp Arifjan

Wednesday

Country Night, 7 p.m.,
Community Center

Thursday

Flag football tourney, 6 p.m., MWR track

Friday

Flag football tourney, 6 p.m., MWR track

Saturday

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m.,
Community Center

Flag football, 6 p.m., MWR track
Sunday

Remote Control car race, 6 p.m.,
Community Center (local prizes)

Springtime Celebration Carnival,
7 p.m., MWR track (will include camel
rides)

Monday

Softball, 6 p.m., MWR track.

Camp Doha

Wednesday

Marble Palace, catch the bus to the
Marble Palace. The facility opens six
days a week and features two swimming
pools, a golf course and many other
sports activities.

Thursday

Play videos games and watch movies at
Frosty's,
facility opens 2 p.m., Uncle Frosty's

Saturday

Cricket, darts and luck of the draw, 7
p.m., Uncle Frosty's

Sunday

Spa Day, get manicures, pedicures and
massages for minimal prices
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Marble Palace

Monday

Play videos games, Table Tennis, darts
and watch movies at Frosty's,
facility opens 2 p.m., Uncle Frosty's

Tuesday

Videos on the big screen, door opens at
2 p.m., Uncle Frosty's. Watch all your
favorite movies and catch up on
baseball's spring fever.

Camp Doha Movies

Wednesday	5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Butterfly Effect My Baby's Daddy
Thursday	5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	The Last Samurai Torque
Friday	5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Kill Bill Along Came Polly
Saturday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Big Fish House of Sand and Fog Scary Movie 3
Sunday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Cold Mountain Butterfly Effect Torque
Monday	5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	The Perfect Storm The Big Bounce
Tuesday	5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Paycheck Calendar Girls

CAMP ARIFJAN MOVIES

Wednesday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Silence of the Lambs Liar Liar
Thursday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Patch Adams Instinct
Friday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Metro The 6th Day
Saturday	1 p.m. 6 p.m.	Face Off The Rookie
Sunday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Clean and Sober Cutaway
Monday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Seabiscuit SWAT
Tuesday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Bringing Down the House Rush Hour 2

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 Concessions
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Green Beans Café
7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

ZONE II

Dry Cleaner
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Food Concessions
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.

Self-Service Center

7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
& 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.;
closed Thurs. & Fri.

ZONE I & II

Laundry
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.,
closed Fri.
Gym
24 hours
Pool
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Community Club
1 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Theater
5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Kuwaiti Hugs ...



Master Sgt. Margaret Bruner, reunited with her son, 2nd Lt. Lee M. Bruner III, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, after 6 months apart. Msg. Bruner, NCOIC for the 336TH Finance Command, recently arrived in Kuwait from Concord,

N.C., as part of a one-year mobilization. Lieut. Bruner just returned from Baiji, Iraq, where he served as an operations officer with 3-66 Armor, 4th Inf. Div., which is in the process of returning to Ft. Hood, TX. Lieut. Bruner, 23, is her only son, a former Eagle Scout, and has been serving in the military for 10 months — most of it spent in Iraq. Msg. Bruner has been serving in uniform for 29 years. She is proud to have given her son his first salute as an officer upon his commissioning last year. With their free time together here in Kuwait, mother and son have been having dinner together at the DFAC, watching movies, and sharing lots of hugs.

'I SAY AGAIN'

"It's important, and we should not forget this, is that we stand for certain things here, that we have values. Our Army has got to reflect the values of the nation."



GEN Peter Schoomaker
Army Chief of Staff
GEN Schoomaker became the 35th Chief of Staff on August 1, 2003.

Holocaust... Days of Remembrance

DO NOT DENY YOURSELF AND OTHERS YOUR OWN CAREFULLY, FOR YOU FORGET THE THINGS YOUR EYES SAW, AND LOST THESE THINGS REPEAT YOUR HEART ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE, AND YOU SHALL HAVE THEM KNOWN TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND TO YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.



April 13-19, 2004



Monday 19 April, 1900 hrs

DESERT VOICE ON POINT

Col. Don Stinson, 33-year Army veteran, is the commander of the Arial Port of Debarkation and Camp Wolverine on leadership and changes in the Army.

DV: From lieutenant to colonel, what were the biggest changes you've seen?

Stinson: I've seen the younger officers take more responsibility. As we get more technologically advanced, they have to be better trained and equipped. They have to be a lot more educated than when I started out and they think quicker on their feet

DV: What advice do you have for junior officers?

Stinson: Take care of the troops but also keep in mind you've got a mission to do. As you do your mission, make sure you do it in a way that you take care of your troops. Your troops are what made you, don't forget that. Also, continue to learn something. Don't just get one part and you think you know it all.

DV: Does that also apply for young enlisted Soldiers?

Stinson: Exactly, no matter what rank you are.

DV: How does the leadership let Soldiers know their jobs are important and they're needed?

Stinson: First and foremost, give them a job to do. Make sure you're there and always tell them you appreciate what they're doing — how it fits into the bigger perspective. That's what I try to do. And no matter how small a job you think it is, if your job weren't important, you wouldn't be here.

DV: Your DFAC boasts being best in theater. How much effect do issues like mess, mail and billeting have on morale?

Stinson: A long way in keeping the morale of the troops. If you don't do that, then you see morale drop. You take kids away from home and put them in this environment and basically that's the only thing they do have that they can enjoy. That goes a long ways in meeting the mission. 



Courtesy photo



Staying cool in the desert

Maj. Caroline A. Toffoli, DVM
8th Medical Brigade, Camp Arifjan

We all know the hot weather is coming and we are mindful that we need to maintain our hydration. We've got the Camelback filled with chilled water, we've got loose, comfortable clothing on and we're carrying some moist towelettes to wipe the sweat and grime from our faces as we brave the outdoors.

These should be the minimum items you carry with you whenever you are going to spend some time outdoors or in transit to another location.

One of the biggest challenges in keeping cool during the severe hot weather is keeping a supply of water chilled and ready for drinking. Bagged ice will be available for distribution at all camps. There will be a daily limit on the amount of ice that each unit can obtain. The ice that will be available comes from approved water sources and is the only ice that is recommended for consumption. Ice from roadside vendors should never be purchased and used; not even to chill bottled beverages. Water from unapproved sources can be contaminated with bacteria, viruses or chemicals that can cause severe illness.

Contamination with human or animal waste is widespread. Even a one-time consumption of contaminated water can result in severe illness.

Remember, beverages that are submerged in contaminated water will have contaminated drinking openings. If you are transporting items that must remain chilled, place them in ice that will not be consumed.

To ensure that this ice does not get consumed, color it with an iodine-based chemical or other food dyeing liquid. When you arrive at your destination, be sure to clean out the cooler with a bleach solution and allow it to air dry. 

Cool Tips for Desert Heat

Keep a wet cloth under the Kevlar or neck

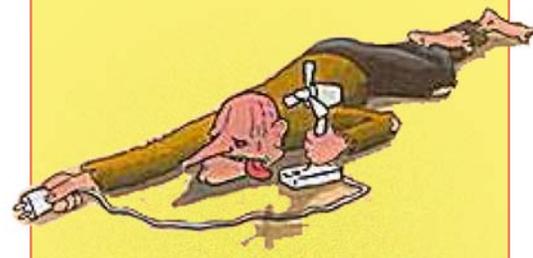
Stay out of the sun whenever possible

Start early in the morning – plan activities early in the morning or later in the day

Use sun blocks – they help keep you cool by moisturizing your skin

Drink lots of fluid before exercising

Keep water with you and drink frequently; Check the color of your urine. The color should be clear or a very pale yellow



Present... ARMS!

Military traditions; The Importance of Saluting the Flag

Wozniak, Casimer, *Special to the DV*

Bugle calls played historically at sundown, are referred to as “retreat.”

Actually, it’s two uniquely different bugle commands. Bugle commands were a way of communicating and commanding forces across very broad battlefields, often among the chaos of thundering hooves, cannon fire, and slashing swords. The bugle in the US Army began as a method unique to horse cavalry of the early 1800s. It replaced the drum, used by the infantry, as a signaling method. Drums were hard to use when mounted on horseback.

The first command is referred to as the Call to Colors. This command originally was intended to notify Soldiers that the official garrison colors, flying over the fort or outpost was about to be retired for the evening. When the call to colors is played, Soldiers stop what they are doing, and face in the general direction of the garrison flag, and assume the



position of parade rest. Once Call to Colors is finished, and the Soldiers have stopped working and are facing the flag at the position of parade rest, there is a brief pause.

The second call, Retreat, is then played. As the first note of the retreat sounds, Soldiers come to the position of attention and render a hand salute, holding the salute until the last note is played. At this time, they drop their salute and go about their business.

Since the days of the horse cavalry, traditions and protocols have remained virtually unchanged. There are some things that we as “civilians” need to know about evening retreat, and the mirror event, the raising of the flag in the morning, which is known as Reveille.

First, there are no exceptions to tradition for

individual status. If you are a U.S. civilian, you are required to stop, face the flag, and in deference to the traditions of the Army and the U.S., render appropriate respect.

For U.S. civilians, appropriate respect is to remove headgear, and place your right hand on the left side of your chest. Non-U.S. civilians are not required to render hand over heart respect, but they are required to stop the activity they are doing, and stand still until the calls are done.

If you are driving, and 5 p.m. happens, you are required to move safely to the right lane, stop, exit your vehicle and follow the guidance above.

Do not continue driving while other traffic is halted. Once the bugle calls end, get into your vehicle and continue.

Why are these calls important? They connect the Soldiers of today to the heritage of their past.

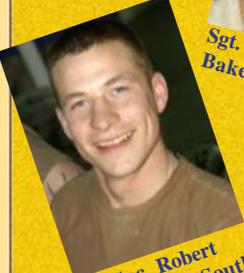
Every installation in the U.S. Army is required to conduct a ceremony daily, when the post or garrison flag is raised or lowered.

On Air Force bases, they play the National Anthem, because in their culture, bugle calls were never used. In the Navy, if memory serves me, they use a yoeman’s whistle to signal the end of the day. 

DESERT VOICE
Faces of Freedom



Sgt. David Garvie,
Bakerfield, Calif.



Spc. Robert
Rutherford, South
Point, Ohio



Capt. Kristen
Zornes
Tacoma, Wash.



Spc. Jean Diez
Miami, Fla.

COURAGE VICTORY VALUES

Mogadishu, October 1993, during a raid Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shughart, leader and member of a sniper team with Task Force Ranger in Somalia, were providing both precision and suppressive fires from helicopters above two crash sites.

Learning that no ground forces were available to rescue one of the downed aircrews, and aware that a growing number of enemy were closing in on the site, Gordon and Shughart volunteered to be inserted to protect their critically wounded comrades. Their initial request was turned down because of the danger of the situation. They asked for a second time – permission was also denied. Only after the third request did they receive permission for the insertion.

Gordon and Shughart were inserted 100 meters south of the downed chopper. Armed only with their personal weapons, the two NCOs fought their way to the down fliers through intense small arms fire, a maze of shanties and shacks, and the enemy converging on the site. After Gordon and Shughart pulled the wounded from the



Sgt. 1st Class Randall
Shughart



Master Sgt. Gary
Gordon

wreckage, they established a perimeter, put themselves in the most dangerous position, and fought off a series of attacks. The two NCOs continued to protect their comrades until they had depleted their ammunition and were fatally wounded. Their actions saved the life of an Army pilot.

For their heroic efforts, Shughart and Gordon received Medals of Honor and had the movie, “Black Hawk Down,” made to tell part of their story. A mock village at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., is also named for them. Each year, thousands of servicemembers coming through JRTC learn about them and their exemplification of courage – an Army and leadership value. 

Port cargo-handling a record

Shipment for OIF surge reaches record-breaking numbers

Kevin Martin

598th Transportation Group

The biggest shipments of Department of Defense military equipment in a half century have led to a record for SDDC port cargo-handling operations.

In early March, SDDC transporters simultaneously worked cargo operations on four Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off vessels at Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait. This sets a record for the number of Nimitz-size ships actively working at any port by the command.

Three of the giant ships were discharging and a fourth was loading. In addition, a Fast Sealift Ship was also discharging cargo at the port. The five ships are operated by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.

All of the cargoes were associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This is the largest number of Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off ships ever to work simultaneously in one port," said Col. Victoria Leignadier, commander, 598th Transportation Group, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

"It is the largest number of Military Sealift Command ships ever to work in the port of Ash Shuaiba.

"I am extremely proud of these Soldiers. All the credit goes to the outstanding transportation officers and NCOs I have out there making it happen day-after-day."

Cargo operations are being conducted around-the-clock, said Leignadier.

In all, SDDC is conducting 300 vessel operations between December and May. The shipments are the biggest since World War II. The bulk of the cargo moving through Ash Shuaiba belongs to Army and Marine Corps units going to Iraq to replace military forces who have been there for the past year. 

Money \$ense

Dinars 10% Euro Dollars Invest?

Investing in Iraqi Dinars and the risks involved

Spc. Marc Loi

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Sounds enticing, doesn't it? Invest a few hundred American dollars in the new Iraqi dinars – if the Iraqi economy stabilizes and the dinar's values go up, one could trade the dinar back in for a profit.

The key word in doing such is *if* and is an investment not worth a Soldier's time or effort, said Lt. Col. Lisa Craig, Camp Arifjan finance officer.

"It's high risk for Soldiers," said Craig. "It's no different than buying any other country's currency. I wouldn't call it a form of investment."

The reason for this, Craig said, is the Iraqi economy is still volatile and its currency isn't recognized in America.

"Even though everyone is using it, the exchange rates aren't official," she said.

Such rates often come from street vendors who are in the business of selling the dinar to potential "investors" who hope to, as many others who invest in too-good-to-be true money making schemes, make money fast.

The dinar is also hitting the Internet, where they are often sold for twice the value they are worth – this is also because

different vendors have different exchange rates.

Another risk Soldiers take in buying the dinar, Craig said, is the potential of running through counterfeit dinar, which are plentiful.

Maj. Wayne Triay, finance operations officer, said once a Soldier exchanges American currency for the Iraqi dinar, there is nothing else he can really do, even if the currency turns out to be counterfeit.

In all, Soldiers should think carefully about investing money in such scheme, Triay said. A sure fire way of making profit while on a deployment – as opposed to investing in the Iraqi dinar, which Craig dubbed as a

"The Iraqi dinar is a huge gamble, it's like putting money in a slot machine."

get-rich-quick scheme, is to put money in a savings deposit sponsored by the U.S. government.

Soldiers, to include National Guardsmen and Reserve Soldiers, are eligible to put in up to \$10,000 in the savings account, which yields an interest rate of 2.5 percent

The Cleaning Panel

Spc. James Andy Jackson.

Unit: 602nd ASMC

Home: Marietta, N.C. and Fort Bragg.

Motivation: "Adapt and overcome. Good leadership makes it easy, too. No matter how the day goes, the Army is still the place to be."

How he leads:

"I feel as though I am a leader. You have to always point out the good things. It's lead by example – if you don't want to be there, the Soldiers don't want to be there."

Best part of job:

"The best part is when we're on ER, we get to watch people come in, in serious pain and leave feeling better. I feel as though I am helping people."

How he supports OIF:

"I feel as though my mission is important because we're the health care backbone of this area. Without us, they wouldn't be in shape if something were to happen. They know if things go wrong, they've got the care they need."

Role-model:

"My first team leader – from the day I got th the unit, he made sure I got everything I needed and made sure I got into the Army frame of mind."

Alibi:

"I am going to finish my career in the Army. I keep on telling everyone I am going to be sergeant major of the Army."



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per quarter, he said.

Though the 10 percent yearly interest rate may seem minimal to sum, Craig said unlike the dinar, such interest rate is guaranteed.

"The Iraqi dinar is a huge gamble," she said. "It's like putting money in a slot machine." 

Operation Iraqi Freedom



Corporal Daniel Rash of Chico, Calif., instructs a fellow soldier to pass along information about a position across the Tigris River from where enemy fire had been coming. (All photos courtesy of the Boston Globe.)



An American Soldier with V Corps guards his vehicle during a pause in Baghdad. Though major warfare is over, Soldiers still face threats everyday.



Staff Sgt. Scott Hanson, a 15-year veteran and former drill instructor, calmly looks around camp — without anything covering his face — as a sandstorm rages around him.



Capt. Karl Asmus (reflected in the mirror) waits as his Army battalion makes its way through the Kuwaiti desert.



Army HUMMVs drive through the open desert toward Iraq, just hours after the start of the ground attack. Kuwait is the staging area for all servicemembers moving north in support of OIF.