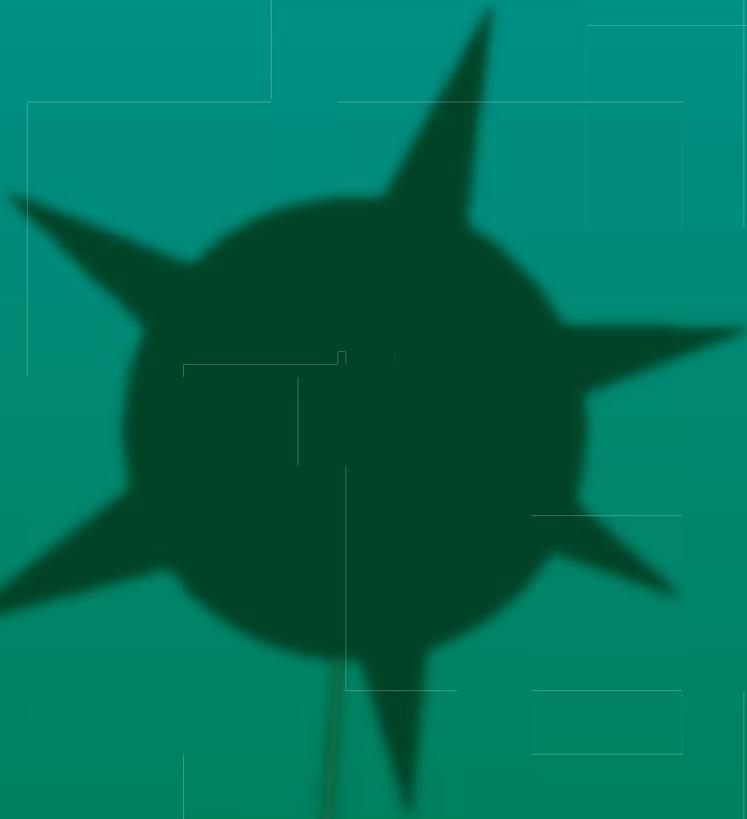


OCTOBER 20, 2004

# DESERT VOICE



**Eliminating  
the terror threat  
by sea** Page 6

# DV talks with ASG commander

by Spc. Curt Cashour

As the commander of Area Support Group Kuwait, Army Col. Brick T. Miller has a full plate. He's responsible for keeping Kuwait's U.S. military camps running smoothly and his input plays a crucial role in decisions on everything from billeting and supply issues to morale, welfare and recreation activities.

Despite his hectic work schedule, Miller, who started his two-year stint as ASG-Kuwait commander in July, managed to find the time to talk to Desert Voice and set the record straight about his work activities and what the future holds for U.S. operations in Kuwait.

**What's your work schedule like, and what do you try to focus on in your job?**

It's like everybody else's: busy. At this level you really don't get to touch and change things yourself, so to speak. It's not like a company-level command where you can influence things directly. You have to get people doing the right things for the right reasons, working together and making sure that they're doing things right the first time, instead of wasting money or wasting time and man hours. So it's really more about being available to see people, giving them direction and allowing them to go out and do their jobs.

I spend a great deal of time in meetings with CFLCC because they need information, and they need to know what's going on from my perspective. If I'm not there to provide input, then they will make decisions without me.

I also have a lot to do with the Kuwaitis. There's a lot of interaction with the Kuwaiti government, the various ministries that we work with on a number of matters — issues like finances, land use, environmental concerns, and customs. So I spend a lot of time working with them.

**What's the biggest change you have made since you took over as commander of ASG-Kuwait?**

I think the biggest thing that we've

changed is pushing empowerment down to the lowest level so the people who are the experts in their area can make decisions and have my support in making those decisions.

For example, the commander of Camp Buehring knows what the camp's population is, and he knows the requirements of the Soldiers living on his camp. He should be empowered to do things like, for example, adjusting the hours of the Post Exchange when he needs to. It's not something that he should have to come and ask me permission to do. He's the commander of that camp. So getting people into that mindset is my biggest chore each day.

**What's in store for the future of the U.S. military in Kuwait? Are we here solely to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, or will the country become a more permanent location for U.S. servicemembers?**

I'll give you two answers. One, ASG-Kuwait is the permanent headquarters here, so we're going to be here. We've been here maintaining the defense of Kuwait since Operation Desert Storm, and we'll continue to be here until the Kuwaitis ask us to leave.

On the other hand, we also support OIF and OEF. You read the newspapers like I do. We're going to be here for a while. So I have to look at things from two different perspectives: is it something supporting OIF/OEF, or is it something related to supporting the defense of Kuwait? That thought process permeates all the decisions I make because the missions are different; the funding is different, the requirements are different, and the liaisons and permissions required are different.

But for the foreseeable future, we're going to see servicemembers rotating through Kuwait on their way to and from OIF and OEF. We'll have the support structure in place as long as that continues. At some point, we'll scale back, and things will go back to the way they were before.

**Can you highlight some of the future plans for each of Kuwait's U.S. military**



Col. Brick T. Miller

**camps? Which camps will play a greater role, which ones will be phased out?**

Camp Patriot, down at Kuwaiti Naval Base, will have an ever-increasing role as the strategic sea port. Arifjan will continue to be important. The aerial point of debarkation will move off of Doha to Ali Al Saleem, so as Ali Al Saleem gets finished this year it will have a greater Army role and a greater joint role. Camp Buehring and Camp Virginia will have increased roles as we make them larger and more capable. This will be the last time that Camp New York opens for the surge. It's not cost effective or efficient to use New York any more after this year, so we'll close it down, remediate it, environmentally check it and then return it to the Kuwaitis.

So there's lots of things in motion, lots of moving parts. We're trying to make things better — not permanent, but more mature. Really, over here nothing's permanent.

**In next week's Desert Voice, Miller will talk more about the future of U.S. military camps in Kuwait.**

## DESERT VOICE

**CFLCC Commanding General**  
Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

**CFLCC Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Julian Kellman

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**On the Cover** A diver swims through an underwater field of magnetic mines.

Graphic illustration by Sgt. Matt Millham

# Third Army, CFLCC in new hands

## Former CENTCOM chief of staff takes over 'Patton's Own'

by Spc. Blanka Stratford  
Third U.S. Army Public Affairs staff

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb took command of "Patton's Own" from Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan Oct. 13 in a traditional change of command ceremony on Hedekin Field at Fort McPherson, Ga. Whitcomb comes to Third Army from U.S. Central Command where he had served as the Chief of Staff since January 2003.

Among the many honored guests and community leaders in attendance at the ceremony were Gen. Dan K. McNeil, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, and Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command.

McNeil said the determination and willpower to build on the accomplishments of Third Army now rest in the ready hands of Whitcomb.

"Steve is the right person at the right place at the right time," said McNeil. "There is a lot of work to be done at Third Army and Steve is the person to do it."

Both McKiernan and Whitcomb were optimistic about the change at hand.

"Third Army is receiving a great Soldier and leader – Steve Whitcomb" said McKiernan.

"I am honored to be taking Dave's place," said Whitcomb. "There is no doubt in my mind that I am following a great friend and a great Soldier."

Whitcomb, who provided the closing remarks at the change of command, said the change of command ceremony itself was a further illustration of the United States' resolve to achieve victory in the Global War on Terrorism.

"The fact that Third Army could hold its change of command in a friendly and peaceful manner, while the overall mission did not skip a heartbeat, is proof of the unit's resilience," he said.

Then the new commander of "Patton's Own" focused his comments to the assembled Soldiers and civilians of Third Army.

"We'll face new challenges, new struggles and new issues," he said. "We're crossing another phase line, gang, and it's going to be fun. Let's get on with it!"

Third Army's new commanding general is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the infantry. Following graduation from the Infantry Officer Basic Course, he served as a rifle and weapons platoon leader in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry

(Airborne), 82nd Airborne Division.

Branch transferring to armor, Whitcomb next served in Germany as a tank company commander, Company B, 2nd and 3rd Battalions 64th Armor, 3d Infantry Division. Following the Armor Officer Advanced Course, Whitcomb was an assistant professor of military science at California State College, where he also obtained a masters degree in education.

He was then assigned as battalion S-3, 524th Military Intelligence Battalion, Republic of Korea. Upon completion of Command and General Staff College, Whitcomb served in the 2nd Armored Division as Deputy G-2 and as battalion S-3 and executive officer, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor.

Following assignment as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood, Whitcomb returned to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as a Staff Leader at the Combined Arms and Services Staff School.

Whitcomb then returned to Germany where he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, 1st Armored Division, deploying the battalion to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Following the Army War College, the Army assigned Whitcomb to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Headquarters Department of the Army.

Whitcomb then commanded the 2nd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division. Following command, he was again assigned to Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and later served as the Executive Officer to the Army Vice Chief of Staff.

Posted again to Fort Hood, now as the Assistant Division Commander, Maneuver for the 1st Cavalry Division, he served with the division in Bosnia. He then took over as the Deputy Commanding General, Fort Knox, Ky.

Following Fort Knox, Whitcomb went again to Korea as the C3/J3, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea and Deputy Commanding General, Eighth U.S. Army.

Following his time in Korea, he served as the Commander, U.S. Army Armor Center and Fort Knox.

Next, Whitcomb assumed duties as Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command.

Whitcomb's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense



Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with four Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and Oak Leaf, the Army Expeditionary Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon with "4", the Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Whitcomb and his bride of 31 years, have two daughters.

McKiernan will stay at Fort McPherson, moving to his new assignment as Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Forces Command.

McKiernan, in his role as the Third Army commanding general, also commanded U.S. Army Forces Central Command (the ground component of U.S. Central Command) and the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC).

McKiernan, who came to Third Army in September 2002, leveraged the talents and experiences of a staff that had been recently battle-tested in Afghanistan, during the execution of Operation Enduring Freedom, to rapidly organize, train, plan and execute joint and coalition campaign-level ground operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Fort McPherson-based Third Army served as the Headquarters for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command. As The CFLCC commander, McKiernan commanded all Coalition ground troops in Iraq until transferring authority for operations there to the U.S. V Corps in June 2003.

# Locked in

# Guard and Reserve troops' civilian jobs are safe if ...

by Spc. Brian Trapp

National Guard and Reserve troops have plenty to worry about between being deployed to a hostile desert and trying to keep their families together while parenting from thousands of miles away. Adding more stress won't help the mission any, especially if it's the threat of coming home to no job and no prospects. But fear not young troopers; there is a law out there protecting troops from getting fired due to their absence from work while they serve their country.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, signed in 1994, protects all National Guard and Reserve troops from losing their civilian jobs while they are on active duty if the guidelines are followed.

To help people keep their jobs, the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve promotes cooperation and understanding between troops and their civilian employers and assists in solving problems that come from an employee's military commitment, according to the ESGR website. The ESGR works through a network of thousands of volunteers, a national committee in Washington, D.C., and a number of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

The National Guardsmen and Reservists who run into the possibility of losing their jobs because of their absence while serving their country can have the ESGR step in and mediate a resolution for them before their deployment is even over. People don't have to wait until they get back home to resolve their issues.

By contacting the ESGR either through e-mail or their 1-800 number, troops can get in touch with people who will work with employers to resolve employer issues. Lt. Col. Ronald Groulx, of Army Reserve Affairs ESGR-Forward, has briefed more than 18,000 servicemembers about their rights through USERRA and helped several Soldiers in theater who needed to get a problem solved.

"Out of all the Soldiers I've briefed we've had less than 10 issues, and we resolved all of them," Groulx said.

Most of the problems Soldiers have with employers stem from a lack of communication on the part of Soldiers. "We don't communicate with the employer that we have a commitment," Groulx said. "They can't stop us from coming over here. We're all committed to the military, that's what we signed

up for. It's like marriage, there's pros and cons to that, but you're committed."

One of the barriers that hampered communication early on in Operation Iraqi Freedom was lack of timely communication to notify the employer before the deployment. "If you got a three-day notice on a Friday night or over a holiday and had to be at the unit the next day, there's no time to notify the employer. It has happened," Groulx said. "Things should be better now because the mission here is more well defined now."

The commitment of the servicemember shouldn't mean his job won't be there when he returns, so USERRA is there to protect troop's rights. The law covers troops who are on a military leave of absence for up to five years. It gives the servicemember the right to prompt reinstatement back into their job; the right to the reinstatement of health insurance; regardless of pre-existing conditions; training or retraining of job skills; protection against discrimination for military service and accumulation of seniority including pension plan benefits as if the servicemember never left. The accumulation of seniority is described as the escalator principle. The escalator principle requires that each returning servicemember step back onto the seniority escalator at the point they would have occupied if they had remained continuously employed.

One of the cases that Groulx helped handle was a doctor who was deployed to Iraq and received a very short notice before his deployment. His employer tried to let him go on the grounds of a breach of his contract because of his lack of a timely warning about his departure. The doctor got in touch with ESGR, and their ombudsman and his commander sorted out the issues with the employer before he was even redeployed back to the states.

There was also a school teacher who had a one-year probationary contract with a school when she was deployed to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. She realized she wouldn't return until after the contract had expired. Worried about the prospect of returning to the states without a job, she contacted ESGR. They got in touch with the school administration, explained how the law applied to her and sorted out the problem while she was deployed.

When the servicemember's rights are violated, the ESGR office in Kuwait gets in touch with Washington, D.C., and they get mediators who work with the servicemem-

ber and the employer to work the problem out, Groulx said. If there still isn't compliance with the law, then it's taken to court.

USERRA is a law many employers are unfamiliar with, said Scott Bloch, U.S. Special Council charged with prosecuting federal agencies that fail to comply with USERRA. "That's just one they kind of overlook until it confronts them. Then, when they learn about it, generally they say, 'Oh whatever we need to do, we'll do.'"

One thing that employers are not obligated to do, though, is make up the difference in pay. If you make \$4,000 a month as a civilian and then you're deployed as an E-4, you aren't going to make \$4,000 a month, Groulx said. As a civilian, Groulx works at Delphi Automotive and his pay cut is not compensated for. "Some employers make up the difference in pay, but they don't have to. Some employers do that, but that's above and beyond," he said. For those employers that do go above and beyond to support their deployed coworkers, the ESGR also set up an employer recognition program called the Employer Patriot Award. Nominations for these awards can be filled out on the ESGR website.

"It's very key to young men and women having the confidence and their families having the confidence that when they go off to answer the call to colors, when they return they will have a job waiting for them," said Assistant Defense Secretary for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall, in a July 8 article from American Forces Information Services.

Servicemembers can contact ESGR by e-mailing [esgr@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:esgr@arifjan.arcent.army.mil), calling (800) 336-4590 or visiting the website [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

## Your rights:

- Up to five years military leave of absence
- Prompt reinstatement back into job
- Accumulation of seniority and benefits
- Reinstatement of health insurance, regardless of pre-existing conditions
- Training or retraining of job skills, including accommodations for disabled
- Protection against discrimination

## Your responsibilities:

- Notify employer before reporting for duty, preferably in writing
- Serve honorably while on duty
- Return to work in a timely manner after released from duty

# At 70, Army doctor drives on

by Spc. Aimee Felix

An eight-year-old sits glued to a black and white television reporting news from Vietnam. He hears a number followed by “dead,” and he starts to cry, whimpering “Daddy, please don’t be dead.” His father, an Air Force flight surgeon, wasn’t supposed to die. He saved other people’s lives. His sisters watch him afraid of their brother’s escalating tears, and at six- and four-years-old they only know how to react to crying with more crying. The cries become piercing screams, but they suddenly stop when they’re interrupted by a commanding voice, saying “Look at me.” They instantly react and look at their grandfather. “Stop crying,” he continues. “You’re father isn’t dead. You hear me? He is not dead.”

“We believed him, and we stopped,” said Eldon Bell Jr. “He spoke with the same firmness and conviction my father would, so we believed him, and he was right.”

It’s a great thing he was right because 35 years later Col. Eldon E. Bell, a doctor with the 8th Medical Brigade, is doing it again. After retiring five years ago, Bell volunteered to serve a one-year tour at Camp Arifjan. He enjoys working and has had several careers outside the military. “If you’re willing to work and you can, then you should. There’s plenty to be done in my field.” So he came to Kuwait because as his father always told him, “You have to do what you can to make the world better than it was when you came into it, for those that follow you.”

Bell, the son of an Alaskan pioneer who built the largest dairy Alaska ever saw, grew up with the example of two hard-working parents. When the dairy lost its military contracts because it was cheaper for the military to ship the milk into Alaska from Seattle, the Bells couldn’t maintain their dairy farm, so Bell’s parents bought a farm just outside of Seattle and moved the family.



Col. Eldon Bell, 8th Medical Brigade, stands next to the plane he bought 47 years ago.

They would, at any cost, continue making a decent living for their children in order to support them and to be able to afford their college education. “I was the oldest of three, and [we] never heard an ‘if’ when it came to going to college,” said Bell.

When it came time for Bell to go to college he had three interests: math, science and planes. He went to the University of Washington in Seattle and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. Then he applied and was accepted into the University of Washington’s School of Medicine. All Bell needed to round out his dreams was a plane.

At the age of 23, he bought one. His father was livid, but Bell had wanted an airplane since he was 16, and he was finally able to afford one with all of his savings from a summer job. On his first date with the woman who would become his wife, he took her to see the airplane. “All we could do was look at it. He had spent all his money on the airplane and had no money for flight lessons,” said Georgianna Farrell, Bell’s wife. A year after that first date they were married, and Georgianna paid for Bell’s flight lessons.

After Bell graduated from medical school, he entered an Air Force-sponsored internship at Minneapolis General Hospital. The program included a ten-year service obligation. After five years in garrison jobs with the Air Force, Bell was called to serve in Vietnam as a flight surgeon for a year. There he earned an Air Medal and a Bronze Star during the Tet Offensive.

While he was in Vietnam, the hangar Bell had left his own plane in burned to the ground along with his airplane. Ask him how he took the loss and he’ll say “It was sad, but life happens.” This optimism is what makes his bedside manner so comforting.

After he fulfilled his obligation to the Air Force he set out to find a place to settle down, start a private practice and raise his three children. He chose South Dakota, and he joined the state’s National Guard. In 1983, the second to last year of his 14-year practice in Webster, S.D., Bell was named South Dakota State Surgeon.

When his youngest child was in her senior year of college, he accepted a job proposal to be the Regional Medical Officer for the United States Department of State in Rangoon, Burma (now Myanmar), in Cairo, Egypt, and in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

After ten years of traveling around the world, Bell became the Director of Domestic Programs at the United States Department of State until his mandatory retirement at



Photo by Spc. Aimee Felix

Bell cuts one of his birthday cakes at a party for his 70th birthday Oct. 12 at Camp Arifjan.

age 65.

“I wish he would relax and enjoy his retirement, but he’s the kind of man who is only happy if he’s working,” said Bell’s son. He added that for his dad it’s not just about working. “He gets all his joy from helping others and seeing them happy.”

Bell is a strong believer that the United States is a beacon of hope for the rest of the world, which is why he volunteered to play a role here in making the world a better place. “Too many people are victims of their culture and their government, and all they want is to be able to live like our middle class – like our mailmen and our teachers.”

For a man who has seen the world and changed the lives of many, his modesty is somewhat unexpected. Anyone who talks to him is guaranteed to learn everything about everyone in his family but himself. He spoke wonders of his father. “My father had a gift for getting along with people,” said Bell – something his family now says about him.

When asked which of the countries he’s traveled to is his favorite, Bell responds with a conviction so natural he doesn’t even pause before saying, “You can’t compare the world. Humans are humans. They all want the same thing, to be happy, healthy and lead a good life.” He then adds, “But if I had to answer I’d say my favorite place is wherever my wife is.”



Petty Officer 1st Class Travis O'Leary and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Counts wave to a patrol boat escorting a cargo ship carrying American military equipment out of Kuwait.

# UNDERWATER BOMB SQUAD

story and photos by Spc. Aimee Felix

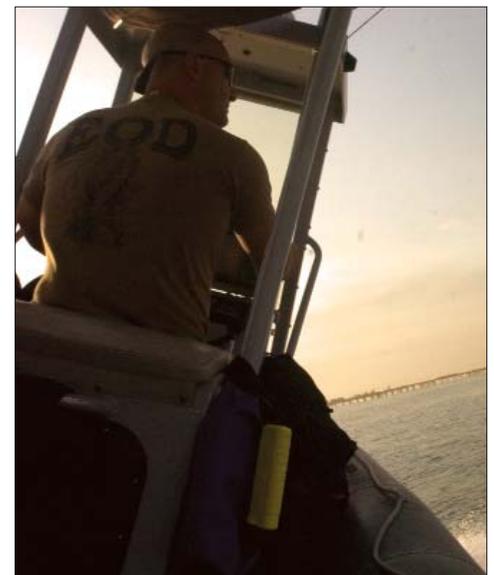
After a 4:30 a.m. wake up, I arrive at the main gate of Shuaybah Port an hour and 35 minutes later. Lt. Chris Fedor has agreed to meet me there so I can follow him, since my lack of direction became evident the last time I ventured out to Shuaybah. I'm early, so I pull over. Thirty seconds later as I'm on the phone telling Fedor I've arrived, he and his unit are also early, and they drive through the gate in a matte-army-green painted truck. They recognize me, and I follow them until we pull up to the port.

As I meet and greet the five-man team, who all look like clean cut beach bums by their tans, we head toward the pier. Chief Petty Officer Shane Etheredge stops me before we get there to ask me if I want to dress down. I assume he thinks I came prepared, wearing clothes underneath my uniform for when we go out on the boat. They recommend that everyone who rides with them wear their physical training uniform so they won't ruin their desert camouflage uniform. I didn't because I thought changing would be a hassle, so we keep walking towards the pier. We get to the dock and climb aboard the boat, a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat, the chief explained.

Schools of fish swim by the boat while it's still docked. They swim in the murky water that is slightly iridescent from an oil spill the night before. The chief drives the boat out a few-hundred yards, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Counts, one of the divers onboard, puts on his rubber flippers as he gets ready for his first dive of the morning. He tests the oxygen tank on his back, and once he's clear throws himself backward without apprehension. Petty Officer 1st Class Kaleb Ross, another diver onboard holds on to the rope attached to Counts, who is swimming to a boat about 100 yards away to look for explosives that may be underneath it. When Counts is finished, he's found nothing, and he follows the rope back and climbs back aboard.

They usually find little more than plastic bags and seaweed, said Ross as he reels Counts in. Ross and Counts are the divers in this five-man explosive ordnance detachment, assigned to inspect Kuwaiti ports used by U.S. vessels. The other three, Fedor, Etheredge and Petty Officer 1st Class Travis O'Leary, are EOD specialists.

The detachment, formally known as EOD Mobile Unit 2, Detachment 6, provides EOD-detection support for the Kuwait Naval Base and Shuaybah Port, which is the primary port supporting Operations Iraqi



Chief Petty Officer Shane Etheredge steers hard to starboard in the Persian Gulf Oct. 15.

Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The detachment got the call two days ago that a cargo ship would be departing from the port, and a Logistics Support Vehicle would be coming in. Counts has just finished inspecting two tug boats that would be guiding the cargo ship out to sea. The next inspection stop is the berth, a large

cement pier that large boats like the LSV, which will be arriving soon, dock at.

Counts goes through the same drill again, flippers, oxygen tank test, back-first into the water, except this time he's accompanied by Ross.

Wearing a baseball cap with a clover on it, O'Leary holds the rope this time. Ross and Counts swim from one end of the berth to the other, sporadic bubbles tracing their path. Ross comes out of the water with one hand giving a thumbs up and the other holding a glass green bottle. "Now you know you can't drink out here," said Etheredge in the deadpan way he delivers all his jokes.

Etheredge, a likeable guy with a not-to-be-messed-with physique, looked up to see a patrol boat speeding close by creating a big wake. He radioed the boat saying, "You wanna keep the wake down, there's divers in the water." He followed his request with an expletive remark muttered under his breath. "Do they know your guys are underwater?" I ask. O'Leary, who's working on his 16th year in the Navy, points out that that's what the flag they put up on the boat represents. Ross, who claims both Missouri and California as home, swims back to the RHIB with Counts - again finding nothing.

As deep-sea salvage divers, Ross and Counts' regular job in Little Creek, Va. has them do things like recover parts after a plane crash or recover sinking ships. This is a little different, but at least they still get to be in the water, said Counts.

Etheredge, who's been in the Navy for 17 years, has been an EOD specialist for 15 years. He explains that if the departing ship

were a big enough vessel, like a carrier, they'd have to use the tug boat to nudge the boat, especially on a windy day. Looking at the tug boat docked next to the berth, it's hard to imagine it nudging a cargo ship in calm waters much less an aircraft carrier on a windy day.

But imagine it is all I can do because there were no carriers to be nudged and the water was flat.

Over breakfast, the guys explain that they're on-call 24/7, but they're not complaining because most of the time their days are short, and they have it good compared to a lot of troops. Ross refuses to elaborate on their living conditions because he doesn't want to make us feel bad, so he continues to talk about their job. They get called for things like suspicious bags left outside buildings or suspicious items floating at sea.

They recall one particular suspicious bag they were called about that was left outside the dining facility at the Kuwait Naval Base. First they tried opening it with a remote-controlled robot. That didn't work, so they blew it up, and Vienna sausages, yogurt and birth-control glasses were splattered everywhere.

With breakfast and story-telling out of the way and inspections finished it was time to clean the RHIB.

We all climb back aboard and the chief speeds out, challenging gravity while he makes sharp turns that tilt the boat precariously. We arrive at a reef and the chief drives the boat over to it to get it cleaned. Parked in the middle of the sea, O'Leary, Ross and Counts go for a swim. The reef is clearly visible from the boat, and I immedi-

ately regret not having brought clothes to swim in. O'Leary is scrubbing a few barnacles off the hull, but he gives up because, even though it's only been a week since the last cleaning, the warm water has accelerated the rate at which the sea life grows. After a week of buildup they need the pressure washer to do the job well.

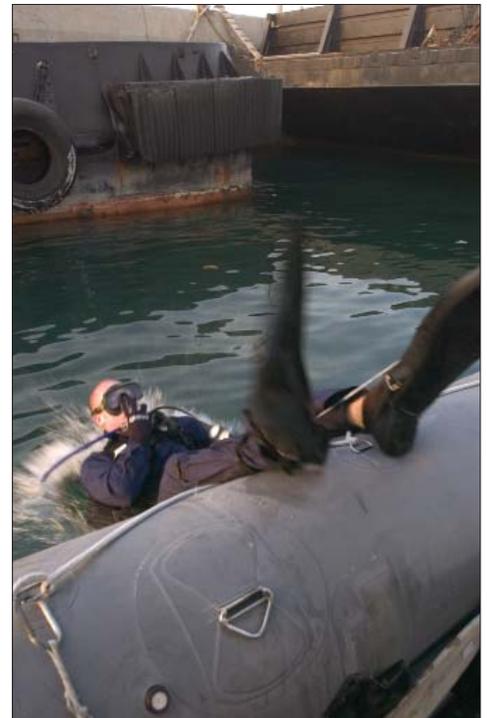
Ross is working on his hunt for pearls, but he finds none, which is no surprise to the chief who said this is where most commercial boats bring pleasure divers. Counts keeps popping out of the water naming off the different kinds of sea life he sees. "Look at this," he said, and I turn to see he's holding a soccer ball-sized sea urchin.

After a little bit of cleanup and a little bit of treasure hunting, the chief starts the RHIB and tries to make a rooster tail as he guns the two 150-horsepower outboard engines. It doesn't really work, but he makes up for it with speed. We get back in time to see the cargo ship being guided out to sea. The chief slows down to point it out to me, then he picks it up again, and we are soon back at the dock. We all get out, and the divers tie the boat off. After a short break, they'll use a crane to hoist the boat from the water and spray the boat down with a pressure washer to take the sea growth and oil residue off.

The detachment will do this many more times before they leave at the end of their six-month deployment in February, but the seemingly tight-knit group doesn't seem to mind it much out here. They love the water, as is evident by the ocean-themed tattoos most of them have, so they're not complaining.



Two tug boats follow a ship out of Shuaybah Port after having Navy Mobile Unit 2, Detachment 6, a 5-man team of divers and explosive ordnance specialists, inspect them for explosives.



Counts falls back into the murky water to swim out and inspect the hull of a tugboat.

# Arifjan and Doha get **“Busy”**

story and photo by Spc. Curtis Cashour

It's not a military publication documenting the Army's activities in Kuwait, and it isn't an informative study in the leadership style of recently-departed CFLCC Commanding General Lt. Gen David McKiernan, but the book does have close ties to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

“Busy,” which went on sale Oct. 10 at the Post Exchanges at Camps Arifjan and Doha, is the first book by Capt. Pearlie Hodges, an Army reservist serving at Arifjan with the 535th Military Police Battalion's 5th Detachment.

Part fiction, part self help, the book stresses the importance of taking time out of life's hectic schedule to focus on what Hodges says is most important: relationships with friends and family.

The book details the trials and tribulations of Busy Wadsworth, a corporate player with an unquenchable thirst for money and power. The story follows Busy as he navigates his way through a budding marriage and successful career.

Time after time, Busy Wadsworth's family life takes a back seat to his beloved business trips, power lunches and conference calls. With each step he takes up the corporate ladder, Wadsworth puts more distance between him and his family. His wife ends up feeling alienated and his young daughter suffers a much more grim fate.

Throughout the book's 104 pages, Hodges illustrates her points using the mistakes Wadsworth makes. She then switches gears and personally offers up suggestions

**“We've got to learn to go beyond what we can discern with our five senses; go beyond what we can buy or physically build” — Pearlie Hodges in “Busy”**

on how to do things differently.

A licensed social worker who deals with troubled children, servicemembers and families, Hodges said she got the idea for the book from the common problems she deals with on the job. A recurring pattern throughout her work has been encounters with parents who become preoccupied with the pursuit of monetary and material gains rather than spending quality time with their own family members.

The problem occurs in both military and

civilian sectors, with parents often forgetting about the personal needs of their families and children as they invest mountains of time in search of the next promotion or business deal, Hodges said.

With “Busy,” Hodges asks, “Is this what we really need?”

“We've got to learn to go beyond what we can discern with our five senses; go beyond what we can buy or physically build and begin pursuing those eternal, intangible things ... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance,” she wrote in “Busy.”

Assuming they are doing what's best for their families, people often spend most of their days working long hours to afford expensive material possessions, when in reality, some of those hours would be better spent at home with loved ones, Hodges said.

“I've never met a person who, at the end of their life, said, ‘Darn I wish I'd spent more time at the office,’” Hodges said.

But Hodges isn't urging people to go out and quit their jobs. She said it's up to the individual to strike a balance between career and family needs. If that doesn't happen, one could wind up in a situation where it's too late to undo the mistakes of the past, a plight similar to the one Wadsworth encounters in the book.

Putting family first isn't merely something that Hodges preaches to others. She has also put the idea to use in her own relationships, as her husband John Hodges attested.

John Hodges said he used to be a “workaholic,” typically putting in 50 to 60 hours a week at his job as a unit administrator for the 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a reserve unit based in Fort Jackson, S.C. Now he's working about 40 hours a week and said that Pearlie has



Army Reserve Capt. Pearlie Hodges wrote her self-help book “Busy” and funded its publishing on her own.

taught him that, “there's always going to be a lot of work to do, but you just do what you can with the time you have.”

Hodges began working on “Busy” in 2001, using the

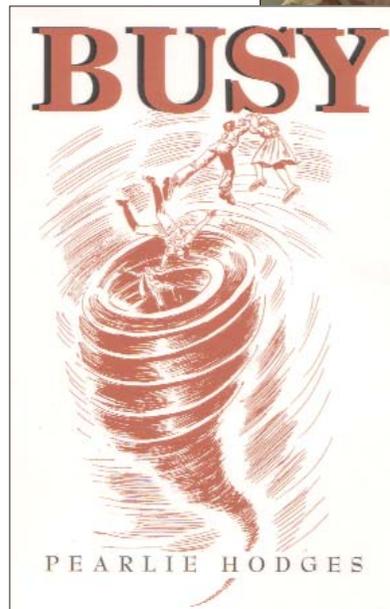
free time she had during evenings and weekends. Finishing the book in early 2003, Hodges used the do-it-yourself publisher Vantage Press to bring “Busy” to print in October of that year. Despite its humble beginnings, Hodges is currently working out distribution details with AAFES officials to bring the book to exchanges outside Kuwait, she said.

Naturally, Hodges wants the book to sell well, but she said she isn't concerned with the fame and fortune a successful book can bring. “My greatest hope is that people actually will assess their lives and look at what they want out of life [after reading the book].”

That's precisely what happened to Maj. Belinda Desaussure, a CFLCC actions officer at Arifjan who read the book.

“It's made me more cognizant of sharing my time with my family,” Desaussure said.

In addition to the Arifjan and Doha Post Exchanges, “Busy” is also available for order through amazon.com. For more information, go to [www.ru2busy.org](http://www.ru2busy.org).



# Signal brigade marks 1-year anniversary

by Sgt. Matt Millham

As the Army transitions to a modular, less bulky force, another change is taking place that, while less dramatic, will none-the-less increase the efficiency of Army operations overseas. The commercialization of the Army's communication systems is essentially an experiment, but already it is giving troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait the ability to communicate much as they would back in the United States.

The concept of commercializing the Army's deployed communication systems is so new, in fact, that the unit the Army built to undertake the project in the Central Command theater, the 160th Signal Brigade, marked its first anniversary Oct. 16th at Camp Arifjan.

Commercialization means simply replacing tactical Army systems with commercial, off-the-shelf systems. Satellite dishes and switchboards that will remain in place even after a signal unit redeploys will replace the satellite trucks and mobile voice communication systems traditionally used in tactical environments.

"We really are writing doctrine on how

signal forces are going to operate into the future," said Col. John A. Wilcox, commander of the 160th.

Switching to a commercialized communication system is intended to provide an unprecedented level of continuity while allowing tactical communication units to operate more in the environment they were designed for, rather than in the long-term roles they would have to fill in support of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait, said Maj. Harold Haughton, who is in charge of plans and operations for the 160th.

And, though seemingly unrelated, commercialization has also relieved some of the stress on the rotations of communication troops into Iraq and Afghanistan. "We've been able to turn off a signal brigade from coming into theater, and that's because of commercialization," said Haughton.

The 160th consists of two battalions – the 25th Signal Battalion, which provides signal support in Afghanistan, and the 54th Signal Battalion, which does the same in Iraq.

The 160th is unique from other signal brigades in at least two significant ways. The first is that while other Army units usu-

ally deploy to support an operation for about a year at a time, the 160th is permanently stationed in the Central Command theater. The other is that, while it is an Army unit, the bulk of the unit consists of Department of the Army civilians and contract employees. "The 54th is on the point of the Army's mission to integrate DA civilians and contract personnel as unit members in direct support of combat operations," said Lt. Col. David Kite, commander of the 54th.

Because many of the systems the Army is installing will remain in place even after the Army picks up to leave, there is an added benefit to the reorganization in that, in Iraq at least, the technology will be left behind to bolster the country's neglected communication infrastructure.

"Many of the things we're putting in are going to be gifts to the Iraqi people," said Brig. Gen. Donna L. Dacier, commander of the 335th Theater Signal Command, which the 160th falls under.

"The commercialization of communications in Iraq is a point project for the future of the Army in allowing Soldiers to focus on the core mission of the Army – to fight and win," said Kite.

# Area support groups embracing transition

story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

The 43rd Area Support Group, from Fort Carson, Colo., started arriving Oct. 12 to Kuwait and are already preparing to take over the reins from the 50th ASG and their mission at the end of the month.

The 43rd ASG Soldiers will be taking on the mission of rotating troops in and out of the Central Command theater.

Their main mission is a process known as Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI). They will be working the logistics of moving equipment and tens of thousands of troops, up to 50,000 at any given time during the surge expected when forces rotate at the end of OIF II, said Lt. Col. Tim McKernan, 43rd ASG Operations officer.

"We came in the middle of a surge and didn't even get our boots on the ground when it was going on," said Lt. Col. Rick Bedard, director of future operations, 50th ASG, deployed since January. Now the units are switching out before the surge. "It was tough. We did it, but it was tougher than it needed to be. We learned from that and changed."

The 43rd ASG is working with the 50th ASG to pick up all the details of their responsibilities before the final change of

responsibility.

"This is what we do back at [Fort] Carson. The only difference is the pace we do it." McKernan said. "RSOI is the reason we're here; that's our bread and butter. We train for this every day. We support troop rotations to NTC or Pinion Canyon – here we're just doing it on a larger scale."

The mission doesn't end with RSOI. The 43rd will also assume mayoral responsibilities for Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, including Zone 6.

Being the mayor of a camp in Kuwait entails more than what the mayor of a small town might have to deal with. Mayors here have to take care of contracts, force protection measures and sustainment functions like Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordination, as well as make sure that food trucks arrive on time, said Maj. Michele Thompson-Shoats, 43rd ASG logistics officer.

The 43rd ASG kept about 20 percent of its Soldiers from its previous deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We weren't coming here blind," said McKernan. "We already knew where we were going and knew a lot of people here."

The 50th ASG is already packed up, and if the 43rd ASG's equipment gets to Kuwait on schedule, the 50th ASG's equipment will



Staff Sgt. Charles Edwards, shift supervisor, with the 50th ASG, left, shows Staff Sgt. Paul Coulter, senior food service sergeant with 43rd ASG, right, and Sgt. Maurice Owens, senior first cook with 43rd, the finer points of running a kitchen staffed with third country nationals.

leave on the same boat. "Minimum overlap, that's the sign of a successful transition," Bedard said.

"The transition is going smoothly," said Maj. Kimberly McDonald, 50th ASG director of personnel and administration. "The 43rd [ASG] is ready to get started. We have plans and systems like continuity books in place, and now we are just working over the details."

The transfer of authority ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 30, the same day as McKernan's 40th birthday.

# CFC under way

by Spc. Aimee Felix

Want a chance at a 2005 Jeep Liberty, two free airline tickets to anywhere in the world or a \$1,000 savings bond? Just pledge to the charity of your choice by Dec. 3 to qualify.

The Combined Federal Campaign has a charity for every passion from saving the cheetahs to helping the blind. Once you pledge, you'll be entered in a drawing to win one of the prizes mentioned.

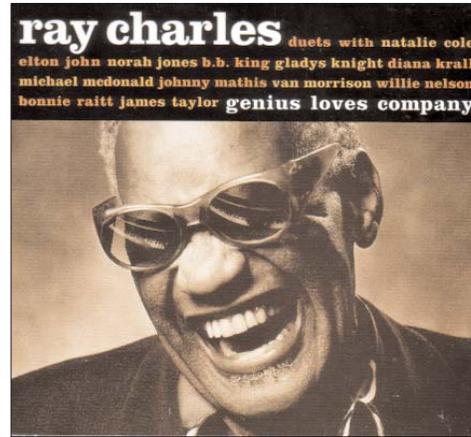
With a goal of 100 percent pledging by all CFLCC personnel, CFLCC CFC representatives have a long way to go from last year's turnout of 979 donors. That's only five percent of CFLCC personnel, said Paul Heilman, CFLCC's main CFC representative.

Aside from the variety of options the CFC provides, each charity is required to show what percentage of the donations they receive goes to the administrative costs involved with running the charity. The rest of the money goes to the actual cause. Being enrolled in the CFC gives these charities someone to be accountable to as they need to meet certain CFC regulations and policies, like making charities provide their employer identification number. With this number, donors can find out information about an organization's finances through the Internal Revenue Service.

Donating to the CFC, also gives units the opportunity to win special recognition from the CFC. Participation by 85 percent of a

unit will earn a unit a platinum award, 65 percent a gold award, 50 percent a silver award and 40 percent a bronze award. Individuals can also win awards. For more information and to pledge, speak to your unit CFC representative or call 430-6504.

## Music Review



by Spc. Aimee Felix

A year before the loss of jazz great Ray Charles, this release was in the making. Aptly titled "Genius Loves Company," the CD is a compilation of duets sung with some of the greatest musicians Ray Charles has inspired. The CD, mostly recorded in two days at Ray Charles' home, starts off with a soulful rendition of "Here We Go Again" with Norah Jones. Charles and Elton John go on to bitter-sweetly break the listener's heart with "Sorry Seems to be The Hardest Word," a song appropriately accompanied by a nostalgic score of violins and an electric guitar. Ray partners up with Natalie Cole to brighten things up in a bluesy, funky version of "Fever." The CD

constantly shifts in style from songs with orchestral backgrounds to classic R&B and bluesy jazz pieces like "Sinner's Prayer" in which Ray Charles and B.B. King, a match made in heaven, have a jam session so fun it makes it the highlight of the album. A sweet reminder of the musical genius that was Ray Charles, "Genius Loves Company" is worth buying, if for no other reason than to honor his memory. James Taylor, who also sings with Ray on the album said, "Ray Charles opened my eyes. I couldn't believe human beings could make such joyous noise. Turns out they can't ... only just Ray."

## Free stuff No excuse not to get mail

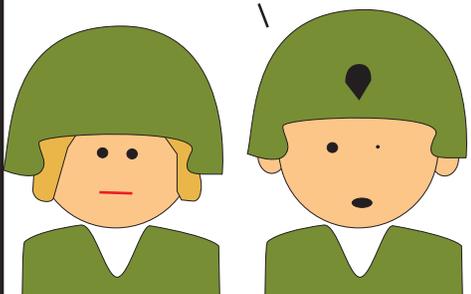
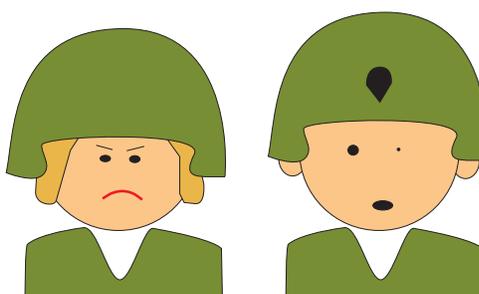
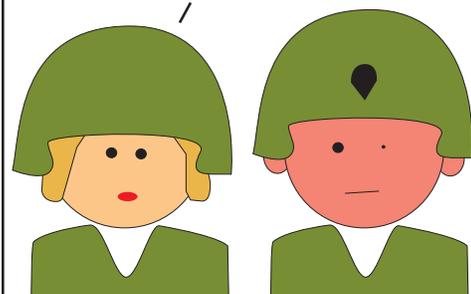
by Sgt. Scott White

Just in time for the holidays, the United States Postal Service is offering to send free packing materials to your spouse or family member.

To get the packing materials go to <http://supplies.usps.gov>. There you can view the items and choose what you want, the price automatically reads "no charge".

You can also order the items over the phone by calling 1-800-610-8734. Dial the number then press 1 for English, then 3 to speak to an operator. If you're having trouble figuring out what you need they will send you a pre-made set of packing materials. The pre-made set includes 25, 12-by-12-by-8-inch boxes (their largest size), tape, custom forms and preprinted return labels. Open hours for calling are Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m to 10:00pm and Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m EST.

## behoovery

 <p>19 Soldiers refused an order to join a convoy today, including Spc. Wendy Day.</p>	 <p>I bet she wouldn't go because she couldn't find her special "convoy lipstick," or maybe her horoscope told her to avoid things with wheels. Really, they should just send them all home.</p>	 <p>Along with Day, 18 male Soldiers also refused, citing a desperate need to call their mummies.</p>
<p>See? That's why they shouldn't allow women in the military.</p> 		<p>Would you like some lipstick to go with that blush?</p> 

# In & Around Our Community

Special and weekly events around Kuwait's U.S. military community for Oct. 20 – Oct. 27, 2004

## Special Events: Arifjan

### Wednesday

Bingo Night, 7 p.m. at the Community Center  
Jam session, 7:30 p.m. at the MWR stage

### Thursday

Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7 p.m. at Zone 2 rec. tent  
Caribbean Music, 7:30 p.m. at MWR stage

### Saturday

Soldier's Flea Market, 9 to 11 a.m. MWR courtyard  
70s Disco Night, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

### Sunday

Chess Tournament, 7 p.m. at the Community Center  
Persian Carpet Seminar, 7 p.m. at Zone 2 rec. tent

### Wednesday

Rock 'n Roll Night, 7 p.m. at the Community Center  
PS2 Tournament, 7:30 p.m. at Zone 2 Rec. tent

## Weekly Events: Arifjan

### Wednesday

Aero Step 6 a.m., Ab Floor Workout 8 a.m., Aero Step 10 a.m., Upper and Lower Body Workout 1 p.m. High/Low Aerobics, 7 p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent  
High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

### Thursday

Country Music Night, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center  
Martial Arts, 7 p.m. Spinning Class, 5:30 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

### Friday

Open Mic Night, 5:30 p.m. MWR stage  
Step Aerobics, 7 p.m. 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

### Saturday

Salsa Night, 7:30 p.m. at MWR stage  
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, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

### Sunday

Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 6 a.m., Upper and Lower Body 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 MWR stage  
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. Step Aerobics, 7 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**  
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, 5:30 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent  
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

### Tuesday

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, 5:30 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent  
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at the pool

## Special Events: Doha

### Wednesday

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

### Saturday

Poker Tournament Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

### Tuesday

301 Darts Tournament, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

### Wednesday

Pre-Halloween Bingo Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's  
Tennis Signups begin

## Weekly Events: Doha

### Sunday

Spa Day, 11 a.m. at Marble Palace

## Religious Services: Arifjan

### Catholic Mass

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

### Contemporary Christian Services

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

### Traditional Christian Services

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

### General Protestant Services

Sunday, 8 a.m., Arlington Chapel and 10:30 a.m., Bldg. 6 Conference Room

### Gospel Worship

Sunday, 2:15 p.m., Post Theater

Saturday, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Chapel

Friday, 7 p.m., Camden DFAC

### Episcopal/Lutheran

Saturday, 3 p.m., Zone 1 Chapel

### Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday, 10 a.m., Zone 1 Chapel

### Spanish Protestant Worship and Studies

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

### Latter Day Saints

Sunday, 5:30 p.m., Zone 2 Chapel

POC Randall Palmar, 920-7328

### Islam Jum'u'ah

Friday, noon, Zone 1 Chapel

### Bible Studies

Sunday, 9 p.m., Zone 2 DFAC

Monday, 7 p.m., Arlington Chapel

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Chapel, Room 13

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Zone 2 Chapel

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Arlington Chapel

Wednesday, 8 p.m., Camden DFAC

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

Saturday, 6 p.m., Zone 1 Chapel, Room. 13

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

If in urgent need of a chaplain call cell# 754-3803.

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

## Shuttle bus schedule

Departs Doha Stop 1 (Abld. 6 PAX tent)	Arrives Doha Stop 2 (Bwn. 28&31)	Departs Doha Stop 2	Arrives Arifjan	Departs Arifjan	Arrives Doha Stop 1
		0545	0700	0545	
	0700	0715	0830	0715	0830
0845	0900	0915	1030	0845	1000
1015	1025	1040	1200	1045	1200
1300	1310	1325	1430	1300	1430
1445	1450	1505	1615	1445	1600
1615	1625	1640	1800	1630	1745
1900	1910	1925	2045	1900	2015
2030	2040	2055	2215	2100	2215
2230	2240	2300	0030	2230	2345

## Reserve and Guard Troops!

**Do you have an employer issue?**  
For help e-mail: [ESGR@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:ESGR@arifjan.arcent.army.mil)

**Do you have a supportive employer?**  
Recommend your employer for the Patriot Award at [www.ESGR.com](http://www.ESGR.com) or [ESGR@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:ESGR@arifjan.arcent.army.mil)

## Movie schedule

Date	Arifjan		Doha		
	6 p.m.	8 p.m.	2 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	8 p.m.
Wednesday Oct. 20	From Justin to Kelly	Lucky Seven	The Last Samurai	I, Robot	Harold and Kumar go to White Castle
Thursday Oct. 21	21 Grams	Locas 4 Life	Dodgeball	Resident Evil: Apocalypse	The Manchurian Candidate
Friday Oct. 22	Meet the Parents	Charlie's Angels	The Manchurian Candidate	The Village	Collateral
Saturday Oct. 23	Fatal Error	Notting Hill	Collateral	Princess Diaries 2, Royal Engagement	The Village
Sunday Oct. 24	Goodfellas	Blue Car	The Bourne Supremacy	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie	Princess Diaries 2, Royal Engagement

# Memories

by Mark P. Nations Jr.,  
Air Force Master Sgt. Retired, ITT Contractor

Twenty five years ago I joined the military. After boot camp and technical training I received orders to my first assignment. Germany! I arrived there at the young age of 17. It wasn't long until my first supervisor asked me how old I was and I told him. He made some comment under his breath about whether I was old enough to vote and hoping he didn't have to baby-sit me.

That young and naive age of 17 didn't last to long though. Over the years I was sent to many different places. Some places were nice and some were on the opposite side of the coin. Often the time passed slowly, especially if I was at one of those lovely vacation spots we seemed to go to on deployments. Though it passed slowly, time did pass. One day I reached that special day all old-timers look forward to. Retirement day! It was all over. That special day had finally arrived. On 1 January, 2001, I was a civilian again and the military would have to go on without me.

I quickly figured out that life as a civilian was quite different. For one thing, that job security was gone. I also figured the long hours were gone ... Wrong! I noticed that many co-workers didn't seem to care about doing things the right way. Some didn't even care about show-

ing up to work on time. Yes this was a different life!

One day I received an offer to be a defense contactor overseas. My initial thoughts were – NO WAY! I did 18 years overseas and had been every place I cared to go. It was time to settle down in the good old USA. However, that old job security thing kicked in again and that offer to come to Kuwait looked pretty good.

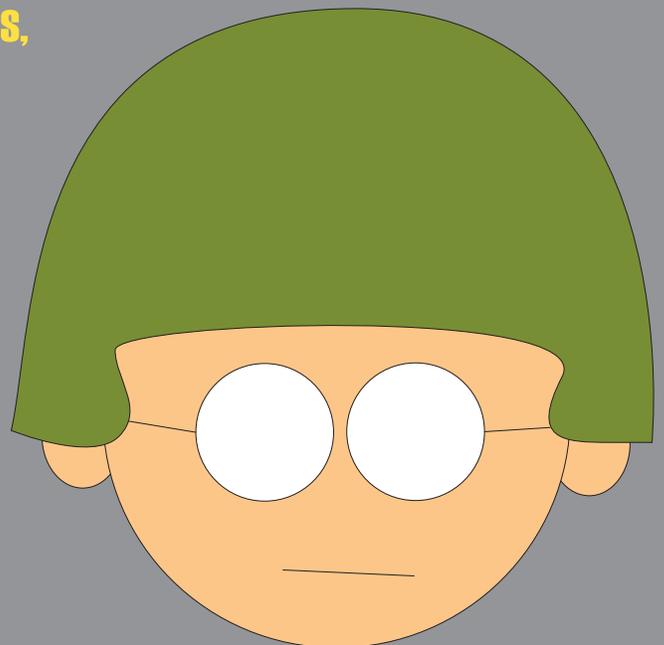
Upon arriving here I immediately noticed all the “kids” around. I found myself wondering if some of these “kids” were old enough to vote. Then I remembered those words being said to me as a young recruit. I had to laugh. My how quickly time had passed! It seems like yesterday that I was a young “kid” headed off to a foreign land when I had never been out of state before.

I also had to remember that these “kids” had destroyed the Taliban and the Iraqi regime. Now I was once again surrounded by the greatest young men and women in the world. There are the young troops who miss their high school sweethearts, the Captains who always seem to have more work than hours to do it, to the serious minded Colonels who have to make the big decisions to get the job done and bring the “kids” home safely.

Though I am thousands of miles away from home, missing my own family, I feel as if I am home here among America's finest.

## Call for entries \*

Please send your photos, stories, drawings, poems or other creative work to the address or e-mail below



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