

DESERT VOICE



**Powder River,
Let 'er buck!**

Desert Voice
 Inspiration
**Our Job isn't to die
 for our country. It's
 to make those other
 SOB's die for theirs!**

**- General
 George S. Patton**



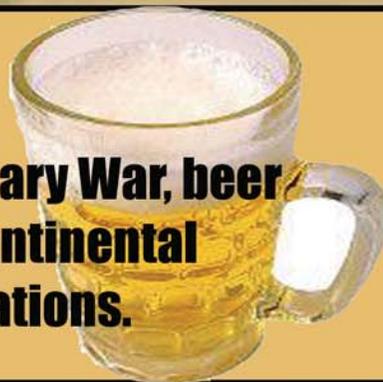
Photo of the Week



A Soldier mans an M-249 squad automatic weapon atop an armored humvee while on patrol near Camp Navistar on the Iraq-Kuwait border. The Soldier is assigned to the 201 Field Artillery, which is tasked with providing security for civilian truck convoys headed into and out of Iraq. (Photo by Spc. Scott Akanewich, 13th Public Affairs Detachment)

Did You Know?

During the Revolutionary War, beer was a part of every Continental Army Soldier's daily rations.



The Desert Voice

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**Soldiers,
 What part
 of
 HYDRATE
 don't you
 under-
 stand?**



Desert Visions

**Speak softly, but
 carry a big stick.
 -- Teddy Roosevelt**

The Desert Voice welcomes your story suggestions and photos. E-mail them or call us at DSN 430-6128 or 430-6173.



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Olivas, along with other Soldiers of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade, Wyoming National Guard, stand proudly by their unit colors at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The unit has a proud history, including participation in conflicts dating back to the early Western frontier. (Photo by Spc. Scott Akanewich)

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Cowboy Thunder

Wyoming National Guard unit blends old West values with modern-day soldiering

Spc. Scott Akanewich, 13th Public Affairs Detachment



Wyoming is the ninth-largest state in the union, a grand expanse of terrain varying from the ruggedness of the Rocky Mountains to the natural beauty of Yellowstone National Park. However, there are less than one-half million people within its borders. In fact, with only five people per square mile as opposed to a national average of 79.6, the “Cowboy State” is one of the most sparsely-populated in the country.

Short on people, but not short on grit and determination.

No, Wyomingites are a people who never back down from a challenge and are fiercely proud of their heritage.

A lot like Soldiers.

“My philosophy is that units who know their history will not disappoint their commanders,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Bennick, 115th Field Artillery Brigade. “We owe the guys who came before us and served with honor. The campaign ribbons on our colors are an obligation to live up to their legacy. Unit lineage is very important to us.”

Sixty-two of these modern-day wranglers, both American Soldiers and Wyoming cowboys, are part of the 115th FA deployed in the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater. Their mission is to provide base support for Camp Arifjan and its satellites, Arlington, Camden and Truckville.

According to Bennick, the people of Wyoming have always been supportive of the Soldiers representing them over the decades.

“Wyoming is a very conservative state politically,” he said. “Military service has always been looked upon as a noble profession. Families from every

generation have served because it’s the expected thing to do.”

Bennick can truly relate because his 20-year-old son Paul, is currently serving with 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery in Iraq, providing security for operations there.

“When I first heard he was mobilized and coming over here, I thought it would be pretty cool,” he said. “But it’s been stressful being so close to everything going on. I guess I’m going through what every parent of a deployed Soldier goes through.”

Bennick lives in Gillette, a small town of about 25,000 nestled in the northeast corner of the state. He drives 245 miles one-way to his monthly drills in Cheyenne, the state capitol. Listening to him describe his home



state is like taking a trip back in time to when America was a simpler place.

“Wyoming is a place where ‘enough is enough,’” said Bennick. “It’s not about how much money you make. It’s just a quiet life. Sometimes, visitors are scared because of how quiet it is.”

There are many similarities between cowboys and Soldiers, said Capt. Teresa Howes, 115th FA, personnel and administrative officer-in-charge.

“The cowboy stands for a lot of the same values as the Soldier,” said Howes, who hails from Larimie, in the southeast corner of the state.

Spc. Shawn Hauf, a communications specialist with the 115th FA, put it succinctly.

“We both have jobs to do and standards to uphold, whether you’re a rancher or a Soldier,” he said.

Howes can also relate to serving alongside family. Her cousin, 1st Lt. Terry Jenkins, is also with 2nd Bn., 300th FA in Iraq.

“He babysat me out on the ranch when I was a kid,” said Howes. “There’s something about being connected, a kindred spirit, sharing in the same sorrows and delights.”

Upon arriving in Kuwait, the surrounding landscape offered these cowboys a familiar scene, said Bennick.

“When we were coming down the road and saw the camels and shepherders, I felt right at home,” he said. “Kuwaitis are a lot like Wyomingites as far as livestock is concerned.”

The patch adorning the left shoulder of Soldiers from the 115th Field Artillery Brigade is an apt representation of their combination of soldiering and Old West values. It contains the “bucking horse,” the official

state trademark, which represents the spirit, determination and heritage of Wyoming Soldiers inset over a sunburst which represents an exploding artillery round as well as the scenic wonders of their home state. Finally, the scarlet-and-red scheme represents the traditional colors of the artillery branch.

The Soldiers of the Wyoming National Guard have a saying: “Powder River, let ‘er buck!” The Powder is one of the state’s many rivers while the second part of the phrase refers to the “bucking horse.”

It’s a fitting mantra for a unit of cowboy-Soldiers from a place as colorful as its heritage. 🐎

ARMY SHIP?

Modern vessel offloads important cargo at SPOD

Story and photos By Staff Sgt. Eric Brown
13th Public Affairs Detachment

SPOD, Kuwait—The Army's newest high-speed sealift capability, the Theater Support Vessel Spearhead (TSV-1X), part of the Department of Defense's Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration Branch, briefly visited the Seaport of Debarkation (SPOD) June 14, dropping-off a load of up-armored M-1114 Humvees destined for the Combat Equipment Battalion on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



M-1114 up-armored Humvees (right) are unloaded from the Spearhead. The vehicles are destined for troops in Iraq. The Spearhead's cargo hold (below).



Seating for passengers (far right).

According to the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's website, the Spearhead is a 98-meter wave piercing catamaran, critical to the Army's

ability to perform its Title 10, intra-theater lift mission. Its speed and flexibility is used to deliver combat-ready troops, sustainment deliveries and the movement of Army prepositioned stocks.

Even though the Spearhead is designed specifically for shorter missions, it has several modifications to ensure it goes the distance safely from the continental United States to areas throughout the world.

"This ship has been retrofitted with additional water tanks, one on each side, ensuring the crew has enough fresh water for long voyages," said Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Mullally, 469th Transportation Detachment, Fort Eustis, Va., who serves as the ship's second mate.

The inside of the ship reminds one of something between an airliner and a hotel, with reclining chairs, a forward passenger dining area, and carpeted hallways illuminated by offset lighting. But the real feature is its speed and cargo-carrying capacity.

"This vessel can carry 820 tons of cargo and fuel, which is nearly 164,000 pounds, along with its 32 crew members," said Chief Warrant Officer Mullally at about 48 knots, about 55 miles per hour. However this particular journey she averaged about 38 knots, nearly 38 miles per hour, he added.

"It took us about 17 days to get from the east coast of the United States to Kuwait. That is about half of what normal Army ships would take to get here."

We can haul any type of vehicle and now have the capability to haul Air Force pallets with cargo and 20 foot milvans, thanks to our new roller deck system," said Youngpeter.

Obviously the Spearhead's capabilities make her an attractive addition to the Army Transportation Corps.

inventory of 90 named ocean-going ships and other watercraft.

Once the new Humvees were off-loaded, the Spearhead took on supplies and continued on to her next mission.

"The ship and the crew are very impressive," said Youngpeter.

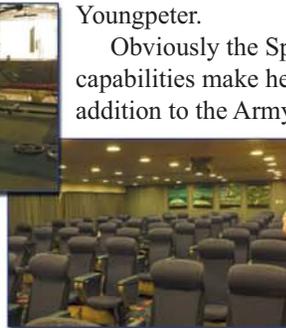


Chief Warrant Officer Tom Youngpeter, executive officer of the Spearhead.

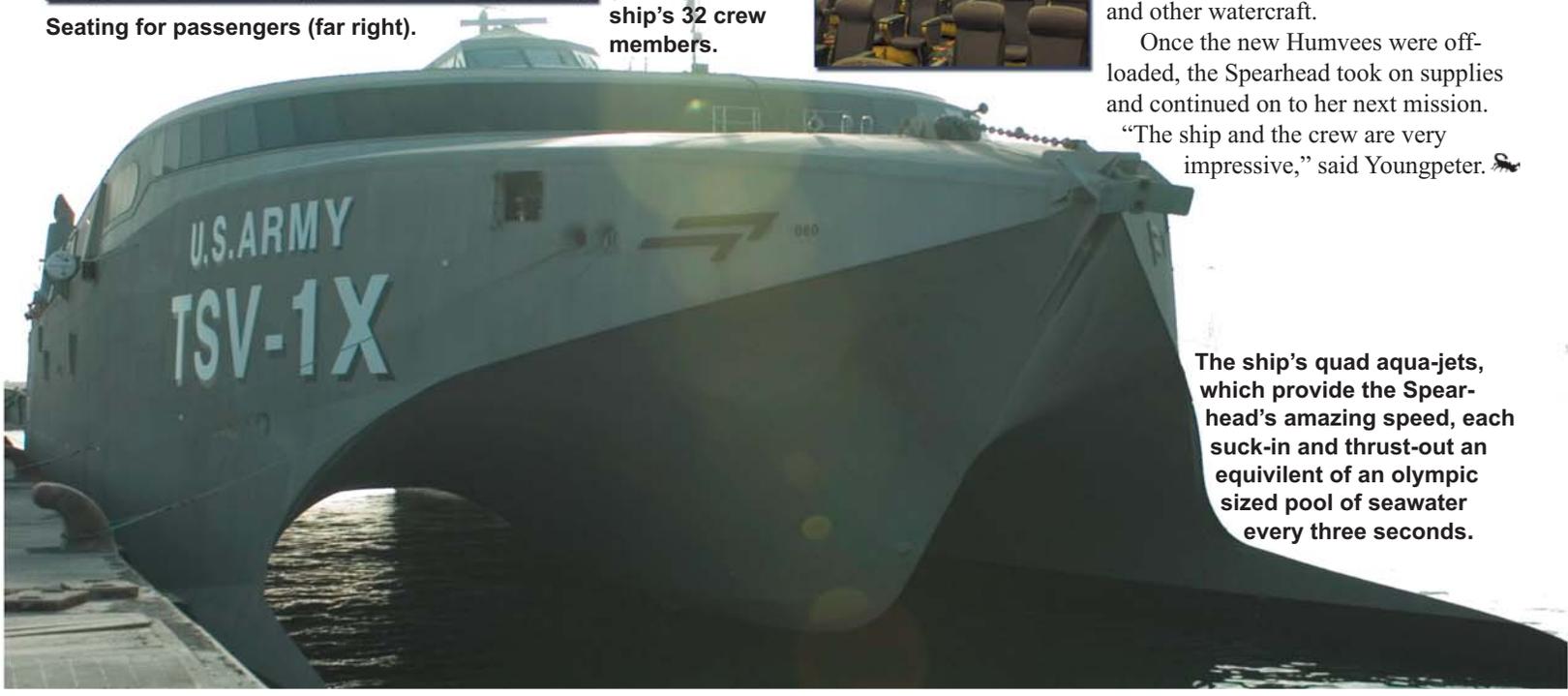


Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Mullally, ship's 2nd mate.

Full-service gym (above) for the ship's 32 crew members.



The ship's quad aqua-jets, which provide the Spearhead's amazing speed, each suck-in and thrust-out an equivalent of an olympic sized pool of seawater every three seconds.



The Healers

Combat medics play vital role in fighting -- and winning -- wars

Spc. Marc Loi, 13th Public Affairs Detachment



Dr. Jonathan Letterman would be proud of today's Army Medical Corps.

Dubbed as the "Father of Modern Day Battlefield Medicine," Letterman was credited for revamping the Army Medical Corps, dating back to the Revolutionary War.

Whereas the first combat medics working under Letterman rescued wounded Soldiers on horsebacks, technological advances now allow the modern-day combat medics to rush to the scenes by ambulances, helicopters and even the Army's new and expeditionary Stryker Combat Medic Vehicle.

But some things never change.

Much like other support Soldiers, field medics rarely get the respect they deserve.

Blame that on history.

Napoleon's army was the first to have combat medics. But instead of assigning those most qualified for the jobs, the little Frenchman instead assigned the most inept and expendable soldiers for the job of tending after wounded soldiers. Until this day, the stigmas still stick.

But don't tell that to the medics of the 602nd Aerial Support Medical Company, from Fort Bragg, N.C.

Walk through the Troop Medical Clinic here at anytime and you'll see them hard at work. If not healing Soldiers, they're training to become better medics. If not cleaning up after Soldiers' wounds, they're cleaning their areas of operation.

Look on their left chests – most, if not all, of the nearly 100 Soldiers all wear badges. If not airborne, then the Expert Field Medical Badge. Look a little deeper into their left chest, and if you had the ability, you would probably see their hearts and how compassionate they can be.

This, for the medics, is what their job is about. It's about tending to Soldiers and ensuring they get adequate healthcare. But it's also being Soldiers. It's also about pride.

Sgt. Patrick Kaer, lab technician, said it's about balance. Just as they are supposed to uphold rules and regulations,

they're also supposed to be compassionate.

"It's balancing your job as a service provider and as a Soldier," said Kaer, of Virginia Beach, Va."

For example, patients spending the night at the TMC might not always wear the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform with the shirt tucked in, a clear taboo as defined by AR 670-1. Kaer, however, will overlook that, he said. They are at the TMC to be treated and not corrected.

However, he will readily turn a Soldier away



Photo by Spc. Marc Loi
Pfc. Tieka Clavell-Brent administers care to a patient at the Camp Arifjan TMC.

for coming into sick call in the wrong uniform, because he also has to uphold the rule as both an NCO and a service personnel, he said.

Such distinction between being a caretaker and a Soldier can be confusing. Along with taking care of Soldiers, medics are also responsible for other Soldierly duty. They PMCS vehicles, as well as pull guard and do other details all too familiar to every Soldier.

Still, they're misunderstood.

Other Soldiers don't know what a medic really does. Other Soldiers don't know why some medics don't have the time to conduct physical training. They don't know the

intricacies of medics and how much pressure they go through.

Kaer, as a lab technician, analyzes blood and does reports on them, ensuring Soldiers' cholesterol levels are normal and they have a clean bill of health.

The biggest misconception about his job, Kaer said, is anyone can do it. Anyone can press a button; anyone can put a sample of blood on an electronic device and make the bottle spin.

This is where the frustration comes in. No respect or understanding of the specialty of medic.

But there are also those who understand. Surprisingly, Kaer said the Soldiers who understand combat medics most are infantry Soldiers. They're the people medics rescue. For every pound an infantryman carries, a combat medic carries just as much, plus a bag filled with medical supplies.

And much like infantrymen, medics have their own jargons and language. A laceration here, a bag of 2 by 4s there. Similar to infantrymen, too, they also know one another's job. If one medic were to go down, another would be able to take over.

Thursday morning, for example, a Third Country National – a construction worker – came in with a foot injury he sustained after a heavy piece of equipment dropped on him. Right away, Pfc. Kandie Mendoza went to work on him. The private first class, through the whole ordeal, handled the situation no different than what a doctor would. She asked questions, she treated the wounds and washed out sand particles from the wound. But much like other Soldiers, Mendoza also had other missions. She had to go take care of a vehicle.

In came Pfc. Tieka Clavell-Brent, who went to work on the patient and eventually wrapped up the wounds in preparation for a doctor to apply stitches to it.

Throughout the ordeal, Clavell-Brent remained calm. She had done this

More than Maintenance

CEB's middle name is Service

By Staff Sgt. Eric Brown
13th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Ensuring Soldiers' missions are successful by providing the proper equipment is the responsibility of commanders on the ground. Ensuring the Army in this theater has fully mission-capable, combat-essential equipment for Soldiers to actually receive to perform their mission, is the responsibility of the Combat Equipment Battalion (CEB)-Kuwait here.

"Our primary mission is to receive, issue, store, modify and repair equipment in support of the combatant commander and in direct support of the Army's reset plan," said Lt. Col. Scott N. Fletcher, CEB commander.

An overwhelming majority of the workforce within the unit is comprised of third-country nationals (TCNs) serving as mechanics. Less than 100 are Soldiers, who are assigned to the unit as supervisors. But of the small amount of Soldiers, most are technical experts.

"It's a very large organization here, some 1,147 folks. This battalion is pretty heavy on the leadership side. You'll see that it's mostly staff sergeant promotables and above," said Fletcher. "We have several warrant



Sgt. 1st Class Tony Horner (above left) checks the under-carriage of an Army truck as part of his quality assurance inspection to ensure Soldiers receive only top notch equipment.

Mohammed Alam As Hfaque (below right), a Third Country National contracted mechanic works on the engine of a generator.



officers...so the people that are here are bringing a lot of technical expertise. That's so the contractor is complying with their contract. When you look at the large array

of equipment we have to repair, you need to have people who have a broad scope, when it comes to their technical background."

New Issue

In light of the continued Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) threat, the most emphasized responsibility of the CEB by Soldiers who are in harm's way in Iraq, is the mustering and distribution of up-armored M-1114 Humvees to the units who need them the most.

This vital force-protection asset has been in the limelight in recent weeks because of the requirement by ground commanders to rapidly field the vehicles in Iraq to help protect our Army's most valuable asset--the Soldiers. This requirement by the Army's leaders made the CEB's normal operation even more noteworthy.

"Every up-armored Humvee in the military is being sent through here and will head up north," said Maj. John Glasgow, CEB's operations officer, who is in charge of coordinating all of the missions the CEB receives. "There will be a handful left in Korea, and as I understand, there is still one last Humvee left in Bosnia, and officials are searching for that one right now. When they find it, it will come here."

But do not think, even for a minute, ensuring Soldiers receive the latest technology in force protection is the sole task of this unit. That important assignment is only the tip of the iceberg for the folks at the CEB.

Repair and re-issue

Besides its main hub in Kuwait, the CEB, which is headquartered at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., also has assets in Iraq and Qatar, which together share the responsibility for accounting for and distributing virtually every type of equipment in the Army's inventory of Army Prepositioned Stock (APS) equipment for this theater.

"All of this equipment is prepositioned somewhere in the world, on ships, Qatar, here and other places. When the war started, all of this was brought here and issued to the 3rd Infantry Division. They fought with it to Baghdad, came back and turned it back in. We basically took that heavily used equipment, some of it damaged, some of it

just ridden hard, and have been repairing it and issuing it back out," said Fletcher.

"It's my job to ensure that the contactors have fixed the equipment properly and it's 100 percent ready to go," said Sgt. 1st Class Tony Horner, CEB's quality assurance non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Battle damaged

Additionally, as equipment is damaged in Iraq, a unit's request is sent to the CEB for a replacement. The equipment is identified within their huge inventory and repaired by contractors.

"Back in the Vietnam era, units who suffered equipment losses in battle pretty much had to perform with what was left. These days, the CEB will usually draw equipment and have them ready for replacement within a week, sometime in a matter of days," said Horner.

"It's purely up to how fast they need it and what their priority is. Obviously your combat warfighter up north has a higher priority," added Glasgow.

"Some equipment has been repaired several times and been issued back out. That's pretty significant, because it has never been done before. We're adapting our techniques and procedures, because some of it hasn't been written," said Fletcher.

Confidence in work

The equipment is repaired and sent through quality control, however, sometimes repaired equipment doesn't even make it to Horner's level as he explained about a recently-repaired piece of equipment.

"The contractor's Quality Control team looked at it and it wasn't up to standard, so it's back in the shop again. That means the QC caught it before it even went to us Army folks," said Horner.

"We do 100 percent quality assurance on the equipment and the work the contractors do," added Glasgow.



CEB Commander, Lt. Col. Scott N. Fletcher (left) manages one of the largest Class VII yards in the Army and a workforce of nearly 1,150 employees.



This “buffer zone” is essential for Soldiers’ piece of mind and assurance their equipment will perform correctly when they need it to. Not to say the contractors don’t do their jobs correctly, but simply as a guarantee Soldiers receive the best piece of equipment possible.

“When Soldiers have to get out of a situation and put the pedal to the metal, they need to know the equipment is going to get them out of the situation they’re in,” said Horner.

New issue

Many of the up-armored Humvees passing through the CEB are brand new, straight from the manufacturer and require no middleman to get to their users. The M-1114s roll off the assembly line and come directly to the CEB, right along with their new-car scent.

“We even leave the plastic on the seats. That assures the Soldiers they are receiving brand-spanking new vehicles,” said Glasgow. “That is a confidence multiplier.”

Some of the vehicles may need a few extra “add-ons” to meet the standard set by the Army.

“A lot of the new equipment and the Air Force Humvees are not up to Army standards and require the installation of additional equipment like rail kits. A lot of

these older M-998s you see, we’re



Maj. John Glasgow, CEB's operations officer is responsible for the planning and coordination of all missions the battalion receives.

installing air conditioning in them, too.”

Happy customers

The vehicles were lined up dress-right-dress under a shaded area, ready for inspection. Once every piece of equipment destined for a specific unit is repaired, quality-checked and quality-assured, the requesting unit shows up to receive it and the smiles are practically ear-to-ear.

“I think they’re awesome,” said Chief Warrant Officer Deborah MkParu-Hale, 1st Cavalry property book officer, who is signing for the

vehicles for her division. “They go out of their way to ensure the process goes easy.

“The personnel at the CEB did everything for us. All my noncommissioned officer-in-charge and I had to do was show up, verify serial numbers and do an inventory. They even had all of the equipment for each vehicle ready for inspection,” said MkParu-Hale.

Old turned new

According to Fletcher, the CEB controls one of the largest Class Seven yards in the Army, with much of the old equipment left over from the first Gulf War destined to be sold to foreign countries. However, with the Iraqi military in its fledgling state and the new Provisional Authority about to take control of their own government, plans were changed.

“Right now what we’re doing, between two different sites, is repairing 1,215



Chief Warrant Officer MkParu-Hale, (right) 1st Cavalry property book officer, received these M-1114 up-armored Humvees which are enroute (top left) to her division's Soldiers in Iraq. She and her NCOIC make frequent trips to the CEB to pick-up property and explained that the customer service is great. It takes approximately 10.5 hours to 16.5 hours to prep new Humvees (lower right) for delivery to the customer. The CEB installs everything needed, include gunner shields and even washes the vehicles before delivery.



vehicles, predominately the old M-35 duece-and-a-halves, to full mission-capable status, plus giving them a complete service and paint job, along with their associated tools and manuals and handing them to the Iraqis,” said Fletcher.

He stated that normally these vehicles would have been reserved for foreign military sales, but the timing was right to hand them to the Iraqi government.

“At this point, we have given them a little over 70. We try to repair them in groups of 15 or 20,” said Fletcher.

Ensuring customers have the right equipment, in the right configuration and on time is what the CEB does 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“Our vision is, to use an old ordinance motto, ‘service to the line, on the line on time,’ and everyone lives by that here, and it’s really what we do,” said Fletcher. 



Wings of Freedom

Return of contracted flights enables more Soldiers to take leave

Spc. Scott Akanewich, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Jolaina Jordan busily moved about Building 7 on Camp Doha readying herself and her troops for the oncoming tidal wave of Soldiers going on rest and recuperation leave. It was the calm before the storm as the resumption of contracted air travel was set to resume June 15. This renewal will now enable approximately 500 Soldiers per day to exit theater as opposed to only about a hundred daily during the interim period while a new contract for flights was worked out.

Jordan, of the 847th Personnel Services Battalion, is the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the R&R leave processing program. She is the maestro of this symphony orchestra of activity in which mountains of paperwork must be organized and herds of anxious people must be managed to ensure that everything comes off without a hitch and these deserving Soldiers can take to the skies and once again enjoy some of the freedoms they are fighting for.

For Jordan and her crew, this is a hectic time, indeed.

“The main difference is we have larger allocations,” said Jordan, a 24-year-old Mankato, Minn. native who has served her country for six-and-a-half years. “We’ve gone from under 100 per day to about 500.”

The reason for the increase is due to the use once again of contracted air as opposed to commercial, said Jordan.

“With commercial air, we had to compete

“I get to send people home to their families. I just wish I could be on the other end to see them greeting their families and friends.”

with civilians for seats as well as military personnel on other types of leave,” she said.

Soldiers going on leave must travel in DCUs while on the contracted flight. They then have the option to change into civilian clothes upon reaching Atlanta or Dallas, the two stateside hubs the contracted flights arrive at. Also, they are authorized one carry-on and one checked piece of baggage.

The center of operations for the R&R program is now at Camp Doha as opposed

to the Aerial Port of Debarkation, its former home. Soldiers can expect a two-day process once they arrive there before leaving.

The first step is to discard their Individual Body Armor, which they are required to wear on the flight to Kuwait. After that, they will go to billeting, where they will ground their bags in one of the open bays that will be their purgatory between war zone and home.

Next, Soldiers will be called forward to attend outprocessing briefs and get the ball rolling.

Jordan and her staff have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition for the Soldiers passing through.

“I hope they enjoy their stay here at Doha,” she said. “We try to outprocess them as fast as possible.”

Jordan takes a certain satisfaction from her job, knowing that what she does helps reunite these Soldiers with the people who they care about – the ones they are fighting for.

“I get to send people home to their families,” she said. “I just wish I could be on the other end to see them greeting their families and friends.” 🐦

Faces of Freedom



Maj. Karen Plante
Alexandria, Va.



Capt. Eli White II
Prattville, Ala.



Sgt. Adam Bethea
Valdosta, Ga.



Sgt. 1st Class Randall Robinson
Cherry Valley, Ill.



Lt. Col. Michael Lewis
Pearl City, HI.



Sgt. Maj. Donald Robertson
Baton Rouge, La.



Spc. Sally Snyder
Johnsonburg, Pa.



Spc. Amy Glordan
Sugar Grove, Pa.



Spc. Terra Spotts
Linden, Pa.



Maj. Gen. Stephen Speakes, Coalition Forces Land Component Command deputy commanding general, expressed his gratitude for the Spanish service in Iraq. Receiving the gift and also saying "Adios" is Spanish Lt. Col. Pedro Vallejo Serrano, commander of all Spanish forces in Iraq. Speakes added that the Spaniards were one of the first countries to join the coalition and the friendship between the two nations remains strong. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric A. Brown, 13th Public Affairs Detachment.)

Honoring the Fallen

**Fallen New Zealander honored in ceremony
Spc. Marc Loi, 13th Public Affairs Detachment**



UDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait -
- Three years ago, when New Zealand army Maj. John McNutt died during a training exercise accident at Udairi Firing Range, the small country lost one of its best.

Three years later, Dame Silvia Cartwright, representative to Queen Elizabeth II of New Zealand, came to Kuwait on a "states visit" and decided to honor McNutt, whom she referred to as a national hero.

In a ceremony held at the accident site where McNutt and six Americans were killed, Cartwright and a host of other New Zealanders expressed their appreciation for McNutt's service to New Zealand and grieved their loss.

Cartwright spoke of McNutt as a dedicated and accomplished soldier, as well as an athlete who excelled in rugby.

"We're a very small country, and we feel the loss very deeply," Cartwright said. "We also grieve the loss of (the American people.)"

But even with the loss of lives, whether through military training accidents or war, nations must continue to work together to reach goals, she said.

"Without all the countries working together to reach a common objective, freedom won't be achieved," Cartwright said.

Cartwright also thanked



Dame Silvia Cartwright, representative of Queen Elizabeth II, bows out of respect for New Zealand army Maj. John McNutt, who was killed during a training accident at Udairi Firing Range three years ago.

American and Kuwaiti soldiers for their efforts in setting up the ceremony. Prior to the ceremony, Kuwaiti Soldiers were at the range, cleaning up debris and spraying water on the ground, before laying out carpets and wreaths for the ceremony. The Kuwaiti and New Zealand flags were also raised prior to the ceremony.

The ceremony, though short, was somber and perhaps was also closure for New Zealanders.

Though Operation Iraqi Freedom is an American-led coalition, to this day, there have been 117 coalition members killed.

Present at the ceremony, along with Kuwaiti Soldiers, was a U.S. Marine representative and a CFLCC Christian chaplain.

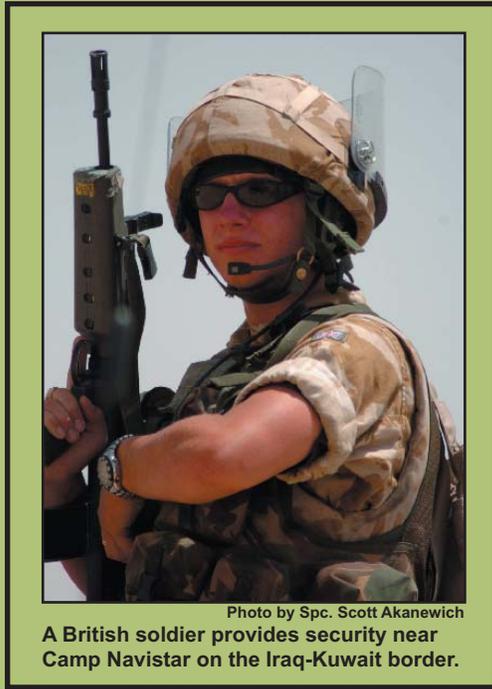


Photo by Spc. Scott Akanewich
A British soldier provides security near Camp Navistar on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Camp Doha Hapennings

Wednesday	Bingo Night	7 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's
Thursday	Basketball tourney cutoff	7 p.m.	Fitness Center
	Coaches meeting	7 p.m.	Fitness Center
	Tan at Marble Palace	All Day	Marble Palace
	Rent Movies at Uncle Frosty's	2 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's
Friday	Sports and Movies at Uncle Frosty's	2 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's
Saturday	Caribbean Night	7 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's
Sunday	Spa Day	11 a.m.	Marble Palace
Monday	Cricket and Darts tourney	7 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's
Tuesday	Video Games	2 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's
	Go Swim	10 a.m.	Marble Palace
	Videos at Marble Palace	2 p.m.	Uncle Frosty's

Come Play Darts, Table Tennis and Video Games at Uncle Frosty's. Door Opens at 2 p.m. Everyday. First Come, First Served

Camp Arifjan Happenings

Wednesday	Musicians Jam Session	7:30 p.m.	MWR Courtyard
Thursday	Persian Carpet Seminar	7:30 p.m.	Recreation Tent
	Spin Class	5:30 p.m.	Zone II gym
	Martial Arts	7 p.m.	Zone II Gym
Friday	Open Mic Night	7:30 p.m.	MWR Stage
Saturday	Salsa Night	7:30 p.m.	MWR Stage
	Martial Arts Class	7 p.m.	Zone II Gym
Sunday	Table Tennis Tourney	1 p.m.	Fitness Center
Monday	Country and Western Night	7:30 p.m.	Courtyard
Tuesday	Spa Day	10 a.m.	Fitness Tent
	Martial Arts	7:30 p.m.	Zone II Gym
	Arabic Language Class	7 p.m.	MWR tent

MWR trips are now available for servicemembers on Camp Arifjan. For more information, call 430-7153

Leap of Faith

Chapels represent sanctuary from everyday rigors of deployment

Spc. Marc Loi, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait -- The building, although tan and humble-looking, is a representation of comfort. A blue and white guidon flutters in the desert wind and on extremely hot and windy days, it might even fall over. Always steadfast inside the building, however, are the representations of what's good, pure and heroic.

Consider this a walk-in clinic for the mind. A place where you're always welcomed. A place that was designed for worship – an interaction with a higher power, but walk in there any day of the week and you'll also experience a more personal



Photo by Spc. Marc Loi

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Dennis Deguzman serves as a counselor, providing spiritual guidance to Soldiers passing through Camp Arifjan.

interaction. An interaction that has less to do with worshipping and more with humanity.

America's warfighters are coming, for both the humanity and worshipping interaction. They come to the services to pray and hear the words of God. But when prayers have been said and the words of God have been heard, they come to the chaplains.

Their reasons for coming to the chaplains vary, but according to Chaplain (1st Lt.)

Dennis Deguzman, most come because of troubled times in relationships.

On a deployment, these relationship troubles can occur in any capacity, ranging from love to family to chain-of-command. "We have a few who are struggling with leadership and they don't always think the command cares about them," Deguzman said.

Also a pastor at home in Nebraska, Deguzman said his job, along with presiding over the Catholic worship services, is to serve as a counselor to servicemembers coming through Camp Arifjan. Though he also travels to other base camps to speak to servicemembers, the main focus here is to serve as a listener, advisor and friend.

Both Deguzman and Chap. (Maj.) William Cardin, Church of God chaplain, talk to Soldiers each day. Though Deguzman and Cardin are of different faiths – Church of God is a branch of the Protestant sect – Cardin said when it comes to serving Soldiers, chaplains don't put as much emphasis on what they believe in as much as what they can do for the Soldiers.

"It's not that we put our personal faiths aside," Cardin said. "It's that we see and value people."

For that, people come to them in flocks. Deguzman said this is, in part, because of the need to believe.

"I believe there is no such thing as an atheist in the foxhole," said Deguzman, referring to the old adage that when it comes to war, life and death, everyone is a believer.

Deguzman said this is especially true for his most frequent visitors, military truck drivers.

On the long and windy roads to Iraq, and eventually democracy for the Iraqi people, there are many twists and turns for the Soldiers. Feelings of loneliness, along with yearning for home and the risks of being attacked, are enough to make even the strongest Soldier agitated.

This is when Deguzman and his fellow

chaplains come in. They offer prayers and words of comfort. Most of the time, Deguzman said, a Soldier would come in to the chapel very worried and agitated, but left much more at ease.

They also do convoy briefings. But unlike truck masters, they deliver a different message. "God is watching over you," "We'll pray for you," and "Everything is possible with God in your life," being among the messages.

The Soldiers listen. They take in the words of the chaplains and move on to accomplish a successful mission.

Cardin attributes the results to two things – showing care and prayer.

While skeptics may say prayers are mere psychological placebo, Cardin said, as a chaplain, he's seen too many coincidences to overlook the results. In fact, Cardin is a big advocate and believer in prayer.

"It gives them a great sense of relief and security," he said. "You tell God what you do with your life. Prayer is talking to God, and he has the capability of changing things."

For the Soldiers, Cardin said he prays for many things. From their safety to that of their units. Sometimes, Cardin even prays that Soldiers have a better understanding of their commanders, and vice-versa.

"Sometimes, we pray they have a nicer commander," Cardin joked.

But their work is no laughing matter. As confidants, they're the people Soldiers come to for help. Sometimes, however, they're also helpless as confidants. This is when they turn Soldiers to other services that may help. In a way, they not only help, but also serve as the middlemen between the Soldiers and those who can help.

Although they're ready to help whenever troubles arise, Cardin said his recipe for Soldiers who come in to see them is to find another person to whom they can also talk.

In John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," Crooks, a farm worker said, "A guy needs somebody to be near him. A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long's he's with you. I tell ya, I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick."

This, too, applies for Soldiers in theater, Cardin said.

"They need to have someone to share their frustration with, someone who's willing to listen," Cardin said. "Listening is not a sign of weakness – it's how you become a good leader."

Because of their abilities to listen, these chaplains aren't just friends, and if they count as such, warfighters. They're also good leaders. 

Religious Services

Sunday	9 p.m.	Zone 2 DFAC	Battlefield of the Mind
Monday	7 p.m.	Zone 1 Chapel	Discipleship
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Zone 1 Chapel	Man in the image of God
	7 p.m.	Zone 2 Chapel	Women of the Bible
	7 p.m.	Arlington Chapel	Purpose Driven Life
	8 p.m.	Camden DFAC	

Thursday	7 p.m.	Zone 1 Chapel	Experiencing God
Saturday	6 p.m.	Zone 1 Chapel	Open Forum Bible Study

Gospel Prayer Meetings

Sunday	1 p.m.	Zone 1 Chapel
Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Zone 1 Theater Stage
Monday	11:30 a.m.	Kohima RMI Tent
Thursday	6:30 a.m.	Trucksville, Chaplain's Tent, next to ATT
Saturday	6 p.m.	Zone 1 Chapel

Gospel Music Practice

Gospel Choir	7 p.m.	Tuesday	Zone 1 Chapel
	8 p.m.	Thursday	Zone 1 Chapel
Total Praise	7 p.m.	Wednesday	Zone 1 Chapel
	2 p.m.	Friday	Zone 1 Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Saturday	Zone 1 Chapel

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hundreds of time before. One more injury to patch up, no matter how bloody or gory, won't make a difference.

"Junior enlisted are the ones who do the job," she said, in between tearing apart a band-aid wrapping with her teeth and wrapping up the wounds. "The NCOs can do it a lot better than we can, but they are here to make sure we do it right."

Clavell-Brent's testimony about the jobs of junior enlisted medics isn't a matter of pride. It's a testament of how things are run in the Army. Junior Soldiers do the jobs, and NCOs ensure the jobs are done right and missions are accomplished.

But there are also jobs in the medical field that allow young Soldiers to work on their own. They're the experts in their own field. Only they have the know-how of their own unique job.

Such a Soldier is Pfc. Benjamin Phillips, of Clarks Range, Tenn. Phillips is a communications specialist. When Phillips joined the Army, he didn't expect to be a part of a medical unit. But now, he is the lone communications specialist in the unit. His job is like that of a 911 operator. He dispatches emergency vehicles and medical evacuations. He is the link of communication between the

person needing help and the TMC staff.

More than once, Phillips got the chance to go on calls with the medical staff.

From an outsider's viewpoint, Phillips said he realizes how difficult the job could be. Blood, gore and other things he didn't join the Army to see. But the unit's love for taking care of and healing Soldiers also rubbed off on the young Soldier. He is planning on attending Combat Life Saver classes, he said.

Perhaps the toughest part of being a medic, Kaer said, isn't the long hours. It's after those long hours. It's when they lie in bed at night or get together for an after action review.

What could they have done better? What could they have improved on? What if they had done things differently?

"The hardest part is knowing that if I screw up, I could kill someone," Kaer said.

Capt. Thurmond Scott Dickerson, operations officer in charge, said because of his job, it doesn't know much about the medical field. But what he sees, he is very impressed with.

"I am very proud of these guys." Said Dickerson, of Kagley, West Va.

For that matter, Dr. Jonathan Letterman would be proud, too.



Photo by Spc. Marc Loi, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Brig. Gen. Michael Walter, commander, 8th Medical Brigade, gives Kato, a Navy explosive-seeking dog, a friendly pat during the groundbreaking ceremony of a veterinary hospital on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, recently. The hospital will serve as the Dog Medical Clinic for all canines serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom theater. The hospital, located behind the canine training ground here, will be fully operation in two months.

Facility Hours

Camp Arifjan

Zone 1

All AAFES facilities & food concessionaires
0900-2100 daily

Free Laundry
0645-1200
1300-1745
closed Fri.

Video Check-out
1000-2200 daily

Wood Craft Shop
T, F, Sat
0900-1800
W, Th
0900-1745
closed Sun & Mo.

Post Office
0700-1900 daily

Education Center
Th-Fri
0730-1630
closed 1200-1300

Community Center
1000-2300 daily

Dining Facility
0500-0800
1130-1330
1700-1930
(daily)

Pool
0800-2200 daily

Zones 1 & 2

Gym
24 hours daily

Red Cross
24 hours daily

New car sales
1000-1800
(closed Fridays)

Zone 2

All AAFES facilities & food concessionaires
0900-2100 daily

Hole-in-one doughnuts
0700-1500 daily

Dining Facility
0500-0800
1130-1330
1700-2000
2330-0100
(daily)

**Come celebrate
America's
Birthday or he'll
cry!
BBQ, music and
more!**



**The fun kicks off at
4 p.m. and lasts until
you're done!**

**See you Saturday at the
Sunshade near the
pool**

**For more info, call Sgt. Fields
at 430-1441**

Operation Iraqi Freedom



Photo by Spc. Scott Akanewich
A Soldier from the 201st Field Artillery Regiment mans a .50-caliber machine gun atop a humvee while on patrol near the Iraq-Kuwait border. These Soldiers are tasked with escorting civilian truck convoys into and out of Iraq to provide security.



Photo by Spc. Scott Akanewich
Armored humvees provide security for a civilian truck convoy just north of Camp Navistar, Kuwait, near the Iraqi border. The show of force is a deterrent against insurgents attempting to disrupt the supply route between Iraq and Kuwait.



A Soldier keeps watch for suspicious activity during a day patrol of the area outside Penjwin, Iraq. The Soldier is assigned to the 25th Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment.



Photo by Department of Defense
Soldiers convoy to patrol the Main Supply Route from Baghdad to Tikrit in Iraq. The Soldiers are assigned to Company A, 141st Engineer Battalion. They were searching for improvised explosive devices.



Photo by Pvt. Brandi Marshall
Soldiers conduct a foot patrol during a route recon mission to find the safest, fastest way from Baqubah to Ballad, Iraq. The Soldiers are assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment.