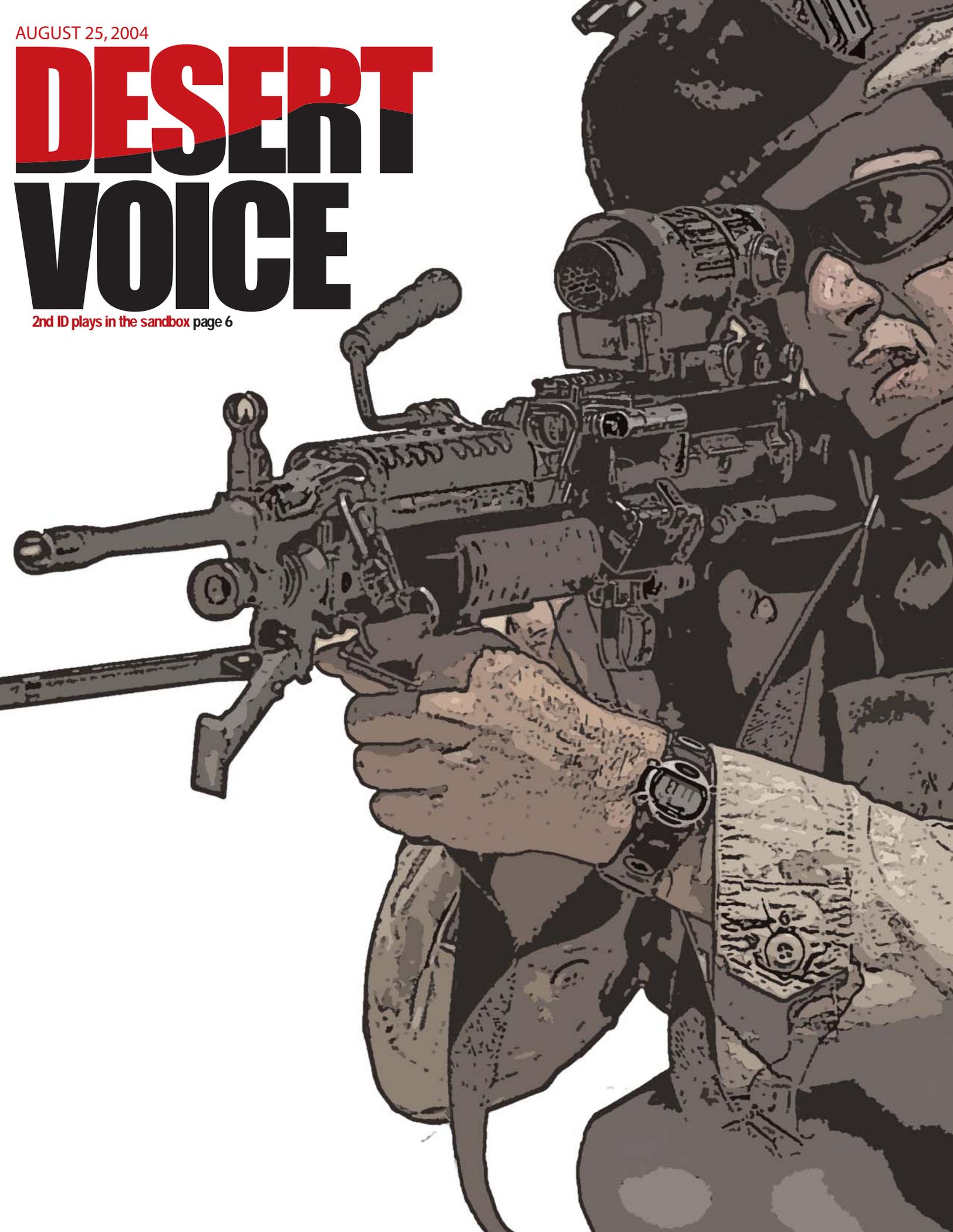


AUGUST 25, 2004

DESERT VOICE

2nd ID plays in the sandbox page 6



Everywhere I go, there's a cigarette butt there

by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry, 14th Public Affairs Detachment



Since arriving in Kuwait, one thing has made an impression on me that isn't easily removed from my mind. Cigarette litter. It's everywhere. One cannot go two feet without seeing it on the ground.

Now, I'm sure some smokers out there are rolling their eyes thinking, "here we go again, another attack on how bad smokers are." To that, I say no. This is not an attack. It's actually more like a plea.

Before I get to my plea, though, we need to delve deeper into this issue. Maybe there's a reason for all the cigarette litter.

A reason could be the wind. The winds here are strong enough to push a person off balance, so it's easy to understand how cigarette butts can be found in the most unexpected places, such as the center of the running track. The wind whipping past garbage dumpsters and open-topped trash and smoke cans could blow cigarette butts out and onto the ground.

Though the carelessness of the winds may cause smokers to think, "why bother," it's important not to become defeated by Mother Nature. There is a way to keep this land of sand more cigarette litter free.

Smokers need to be more proactive about securing and disposing of their cigarette butts. A good start is to stop using the popular gray PX shopping bags as trash bags. These bags have holes most of the time, and if not tied tightly cigarette butts and trash can

easily escape.

People violating the current smoking policy also contribute to the cigarette litter problem.

According to the policy, there is "No smoking within 50 feet of barracks buildings." Anyone caught smoking or dropping their cigarette butts within 50 feet of the barracks will answer to Command Sgt. Maj. Julian A. Kellman, CFLCC command sergeant major.

Yet, cigarette smokers continue to ignore the rules and flick their cigarette butts to the ground rather than snuff them out and hold them or put them in their pocket until they can dispose of them in a trash receptacle.

So, here is my plea to all smokers: First, be proactive in disposing of cigarette butts. Make sure that when disposed of, they have no chance of finding their way to the ground. Second, be respectful. No one likes picking up cigarette litter during police call. And last, remember, Kuwait is not really a giant ashtray masquerading as a desert country.



Photo by Spc. Aimee Felix

Evan Marriott, from "Joe Millionaire," and Kitana Baker and Tanya Ballinger, who were featured alongside each other in the Miller Lite cat fight commercial, sign autographs in the Camp Arifjan Community Center Sunday. In their visit to Kuwait they also went to the SPOD and the Kuwaiti Naval Base.

On the Cover The 2nd Infantry Division engaged in close quarters marksmanship training at Camp Victory Aug. 16.

Photo illustration by Cpl. Matt Millham

DESERT VOICE

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Mayor of Victory

Keeping life interesting in the middle of nowhere

by Spc. Aimee Felix, 14th Public Affairs Detachment



After being escorted through a couple of tents, we arrive at an office tent way in the back where a genteel man with Chris Kringle cheeks greets us. He graciously gets up from what looks like a home-made, wooden picnic table and just firmly-enough shakes our hands. “It’s a pleasure having y’all here,” he says in his Alabama drawl. And with a smile that could make a hobo feel welcome at the Hilton, he asks us to take a seat.

Just six months ago, he was teaching high school sophomores how to make a three-point turn and young athletes how to throw a curve ball. Today, he worries about latrines, dumpsters, tents and cots and ensures that an entire camp of Soldiers is well-fed, well-rested and healthy.

Lt. Col. Michael R. Bishop’s cheerful disposition didn’t get him elected mayor of Camp Victory, but it could have.

Lt. Col. Michael R. Bishop’s cheerful disposition didn’t get him elected mayor of Camp Victory, but it could have. It’s not a glamorous job, he said of his assignment, but it’s a necessary mission, and he most definitely makes the best of it.

Good-humored and outgoing, Bishop has the ability to keep people entertained and on their toes. To show up the Army Central Command commander, who bragged about an 18-inch lizard he had found, Bishop brought a three-foot-long

lizard to a mayor’s meeting, said Maj. Pat Donlon, Camp Victory’s executive officer and Bishop’s right hand man. “Like General Lee said about Stonewall Jackson during the Civil War, ‘If I lost him I’d lose the war,’” said Bishop about Donlon. The great staff Bishop has makes up for the temporary void of not having his students, his wife of 25 years, Nancy, and his two sons, Jacob and Sam around, Bishop said.

Bishop joined the Army “for the reasons people used to join – for the love of God and country,” he said. As a boy, born and raised in Sheffield, Ala., he knew two things for sure; that he wanted to be a Soldier and that he wanted to be a teacher. He worked toward his military goal through ROTC, and when he graduated in 1977, he joined the Alabama National Guard. In 1998 he transferred over to the Army Reserve.

To be qualified for his second goal, Bishop attended Mississippi State University where he attained his bachelor’s degree in history. He then earned his master’s in education at the University of Northern Alabama.

At the time of his graduation, there weren’t many jobs for teachers, so Bishop got a government job. Twelve years later, he realized he’d put his dream of being a teacher off long enough and took the next available teaching job in Alabama.

For nine years before he was called to active duty, Bishop taught health, history and driver’s education at West Limestone High School in Lester, Ala., and coached baseball, junior football and cross country. He roamed the hallways between classes, the most popular teacher in school, always joking, laughing and “carrying on foolishness with the students,” as Garland Bailey fellow teacher at West Limestone put it. Like everyone who speaks of Bishop, Bailey sang the praises of Bishop’s character and work ethic. He was always the first person to arrive at school in the morning and the last one to leave for the day, he said. “He loves his students, he loves teaching, and he loves coaching.”

Last year, one of Bishop’s favorite students, Nancy Wade, who he said was like a daughter to him, passed away. As

hard as he took it, “after Nancy went to heaven” his support was incredible – like that of a father and a friend, said Riley Wade, Nancy’s mother. The students always turned to Bishop for advice because he was “down to earth and fair, and if you ever needed him he was there,” said Whitney Jones, a former history student of Bishop’s.

West Limestone’s love for Bishop was probably most strongly felt in the going away party the entire school threw for him in the auditorium. “It hurt us all real bad,” Bailey said about Bishop’s

He roamed the hallways between classes, the most popular teacher in school, always joking, laughing and “carrying on foolishness...”

deployment, “but we support him.”

Bishop misses his students, and they definitely miss him. He has received more than 200 e-mails from them, along with letters and care packages. The support comes in handy because Bishop has seen some tragedy on this deployment. Just two weeks after Bishop arrived at Victory, a nineteen-year-old Soldier committed suicide. This hit close to home for Bishop, who has a nineteen-year-old son of his own. “The death of a young Soldier – well there’s just no way of knowing how to deal with that,” he said, not at all pretending to be immune to the pain.

Another tragedy involved a unit that survived its deployment in Iraq without casualties only to lose seven Soldiers on its way to Camp Victory where they were going to out-process before going home. But the most difficult part of the job for Bishop came at the end of OIF-1 when he had to tell Soldiers who were on their way home that they were going back north.

Despite the difficulties of the job, Bishop seems to focus on the bright side saying that he’s got everything he needs for now; food, a cool place to sleep and a PX.

“It’s not a plane ticket home, but it’s not bad. None of us are turning down the paycheck,” said Bishop.

Life of the party packs it up

by Spc. Aimee Felix, 14th Public Affairs Detachment

A cheerful brew of gregarious laughter and music can be heard outside a GP-medium tent, which Soldiers seem to constantly enter, but not-so-constantly walk out of. The typed document on the door indicates it's a barber shop, and it's open. Only two of the three barbers are in today because one of them has been assigned to a security forces detail. "Some details just can't be avoided," a barber explained to one of the missing barber's regulars who was seated at the wooden bench that serves as a waiting area.

The bench is filled with laughing Soldiers. The sight could easily be mistaken for a simple gathering of friends. None of them look like they're waiting, and it turns out half of them aren't. The ones who are can only be distinguished by their obvious need for a haircut. A humorously-heated, but non-combative conversation about Puerto Rican politics is interrupted by the squeaking of the plywood entrance door, and heads turn to welcome a seemingly new Soldier. "Have a seat brother," said one of the customers in a thick Hispanic accent.

Four months after their arrival at Camp Patriot on the Kuwaiti Naval Base, they were left barber-less. But with a little experience of their own, three Reservists from Puerto Rico quickly changed that by volunteering their services as barbers.

Sgt. Christian Velazquez, Sgt. Francis Rivera and Spc. Jose Rosado, all of the 211th Cargo Transportation Company, took over a former Navy barber shop and made it theirs.

When the 211th arrived at Camp Patriot, they had to choose between an Army Air Force Exchange Service barber shop and the Navy barber shop tent. But four months after the 211th's arrival, most of the Sailors on KNB, including the barbers, went home. The population in Camp Patriot went down and with it the AAFES barber shop.

But after a sanitation class and an inspection of their equipment, the hair-cutting trio of Velazquez, Rosado and Rivera were ready to setup shop – or so they thought.

They faced some difficulties when a new camp commander came to town. He wanted the barbers to be available for security duties and other details because of the low population at Camp Patriot. But the barbers quickly crushed that obstacle when they gave the new camp commander a haircut. "Get a haircut or two here, and you start to change your mind," said Capt. James B. Franklin, commander of the 211th.

Going on its twelfth month, the shop has become a part of everyday life at KNB, said Franklin. They never gave the place a name, but they didn't need it, said Velazquez. It speaks for itself, he said. "You get entertainment and the exact haircut you've asked for in one shot," said Spc. Laszlo Nagy, a fellow 211th Soldier. Civilian contractors from all the camps in Kuwait, and male and female Sailors and Soldiers have had the pleasure of experiencing this nameless glimpse of home in the middle of the desert. A sign-in sheet set on a corner table is filled with the names of about 2,700 satisfied customers – only about half of the actual amount of people who've visited the shop, said Rosado. On a shelf underneath it, an assortment of magazines fit to entertain any waiting customer is stacked. "Just trying to give a good time to Soldiers overseas," Velazquez said modestly.

And they do. "The Puerto Ricans are a fun group," said Franklin. When the 211th was training at Fort Bliss, the ones hosting barbecues, playing music and having the most fun after training sessions were the Puerto Ricans, he said. They're cohesiveness has rubbed off on the rest of the Soldiers and their influence is vivid at the shop. Out of the sun and in the air conditioning for most of the day, Rosado considers himself lucky. But that's not his favorite part of the job. It's the fulfillment he gets out of always having satisfied customers that keeps him going, he said.

Soon, the 211th will be returning to Fort Bliss to remobilize, and two weeks later Velazquez, Rivera and Rosado will be back in Puerto Rico. A locally-owned barber shop, sound-tracked with Indian music, will be the only thing available at KNB to replace the 211th shop, and the remaining Camp Patriot residents will make do.



Top: Sgt. Christian Velazquez, one of the barbers with the 211th Cargo Transportation Company, gives one of his regulars his bi-weekly haircut. "I don't let anyone else cut my hair," said Sgt. Arturo Paz.

Middle: Posted above the sign-in sheet, this sign gives a glimpse of the humor among the barber shop dwellers. Noone's ever had to refer to it though, so say the barbers.

Above: From San Juan, Puerto Rico, Spc. Jose Rosado said he really enjoys his job. It reminds him of being home where he also cut hair for his friends.

Eleventh hour at the SPOD

Training exercise enacts real-life scenarios in chemical operations

by Cpl. Matt Millham, 14th Public Affairs Detachment

Terrorists with an improvised explosive device and a mortar round loaded with a chemical payload sneaked onto the Shuaybah Port complex Aug. 19 and launched an attack that inflicted shrapnel and chemical wounds to at least six Soldiers. Intelligence reports had warned of the impending attack on the port, but despite increased security and the deployment of a Marine chemical team to monitor for evidence of chemical agents, the terrorists were able to carry out their mission.

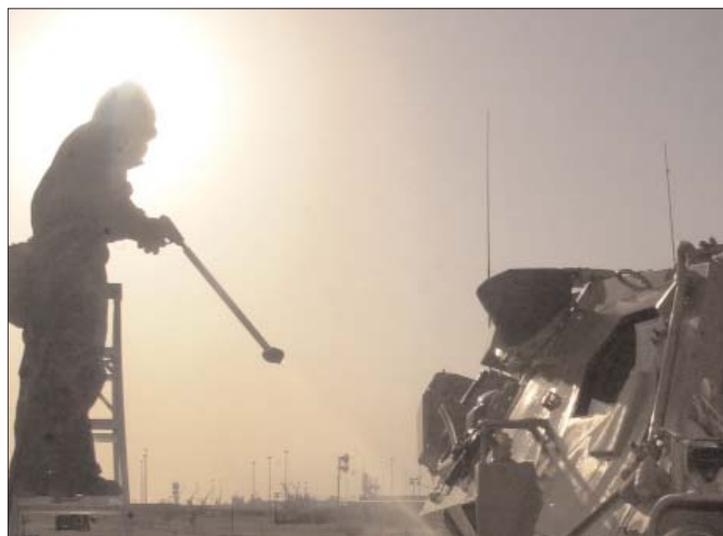
This scenario played out during a joint training exercise Aug. 19 at Shuaybah. The port, according to both American military and Kuwaiti sources, is considered one of the primary terrorist targets in Kuwait. This comes as no surprise as the port is a major lifeline for American military equipment and supplies coming into the Central Command theater of operations. To mitigate the threat, American forces conduct regular training operations to prepare for a potential attack on the vital port.

"This could actually be the real thing tomorrow," said Maj. Corey Griffiths, a chemical officer with the Office of Military Cooperation in Kuwait who observed the exercise along with a small contingent of Kuwaiti military representatives. The operation at the port Aug. 19 included the 379th chemical company, an element of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and two Navy corpsmen. The troops hailed from three of the nearly dozen American military camps in Kuwait. The mobilization of troops from around Kuwait for this operation demonstrated in part the American military's

ability to coordinate and control complex operations not just across services, but also across barriers of distance.

It was in essence, though, a training exercise geared toward measuring the preparedness and reaction time of American troops assigned to respond to nuclear, biological and chemical attacks and toward increasing the effectiveness and improving the battle plans of those units.

The Soldiers of the 379th began their part in the mission at just after 1 a.m. A little more than three hours later, the company rolled into Shuaybah where a team of Marines in M93 A1 Fox NBC vehicles had already rallied to begin scouring the port for evidence of chemicals – difficult work given that the port is surrounded by an industrial complex composed mostly of petroleum refineries. About an hour after their arrival at the port, the 379th completed the set up of a fully functioning decontamination and emergency medical operation. Soon after, the 379th staged an IED and mortar attack, throwing the simulation into drive. Within minutes, the victims of the attack were triaged, and medical and chemical personnel began decontaminating the victims and treating their wounds and symptoms. The vehicles the victims were riding in were decontaminated as



Photos by Cpl. Matt Millham

Spc. Jennifer Klopp, 379th Chemical Company, power washes chemical residue from a Marine M93 A1 nuclear, biological and chemical detection vehicle Aug. 19.

well using high-pressure hoses and hot water laced with cleaning agents. The exercise tested, for the first time, the abilities of 379th to operate in the desert heat in full MOPP gear under realistic training conditions. The Fox team, led by Staff Sgt. James K. Jones, operated under similar conditions when it deployed to Iraq at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom to search for evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Army Maj. Edward Dawson, commander of the 379th, said the exercise met the objectives it was intended to, and that exercises using realistic scenarios and coordinating various American NBC response assets in Kuwait should be continued to further prepare for the prospect of an attack. The Kuwaitis have expressed an interest in participating in similar exercises in the future.



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1 Marine Staff Sgt. James K. Jones describes the capabilities of his M93 A1 Fox nuclear, biological and chemical vehicle to Kuwaiti chemical officers. **2** Army Staff Sgt. Namon Barnett and Sgt. Lee Gavins roll up a hose after dropping off 900 gallons of water. **3** Medics from the 379th Chemical Company cut the pants off a victim on an NBC attack. **4** Spc. Jennifer Klopp sprays the underside of a Fox NBC vehicle to remove chemical contamination.

Out of the trenches

2nd ID readies for its first fight since the Cold War

by Spc. Curt Cashour, 14th Public Affairs Detachment



It wasn't quite 10:30 a.m., and the temperature was nearing 120 degrees. High winds swept across the bleak, sandy landscape in what seemed like every direction, and the Soldiers who were training complained of sand in their mouths and ears. It was a scene the troops thought they would never see.

For more than 50 years, Soldiers with 2nd Infantry Division were charged with protecting South Korea from its bellicose neighbor to the north. In May, however, the Army tasked the division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team with helping to ensure security and stability for Iraq's fledgling government.

The Strikeforce, as the 2nd BCT is sometimes called, continued

training for their new mission Aug. 16 at Udari

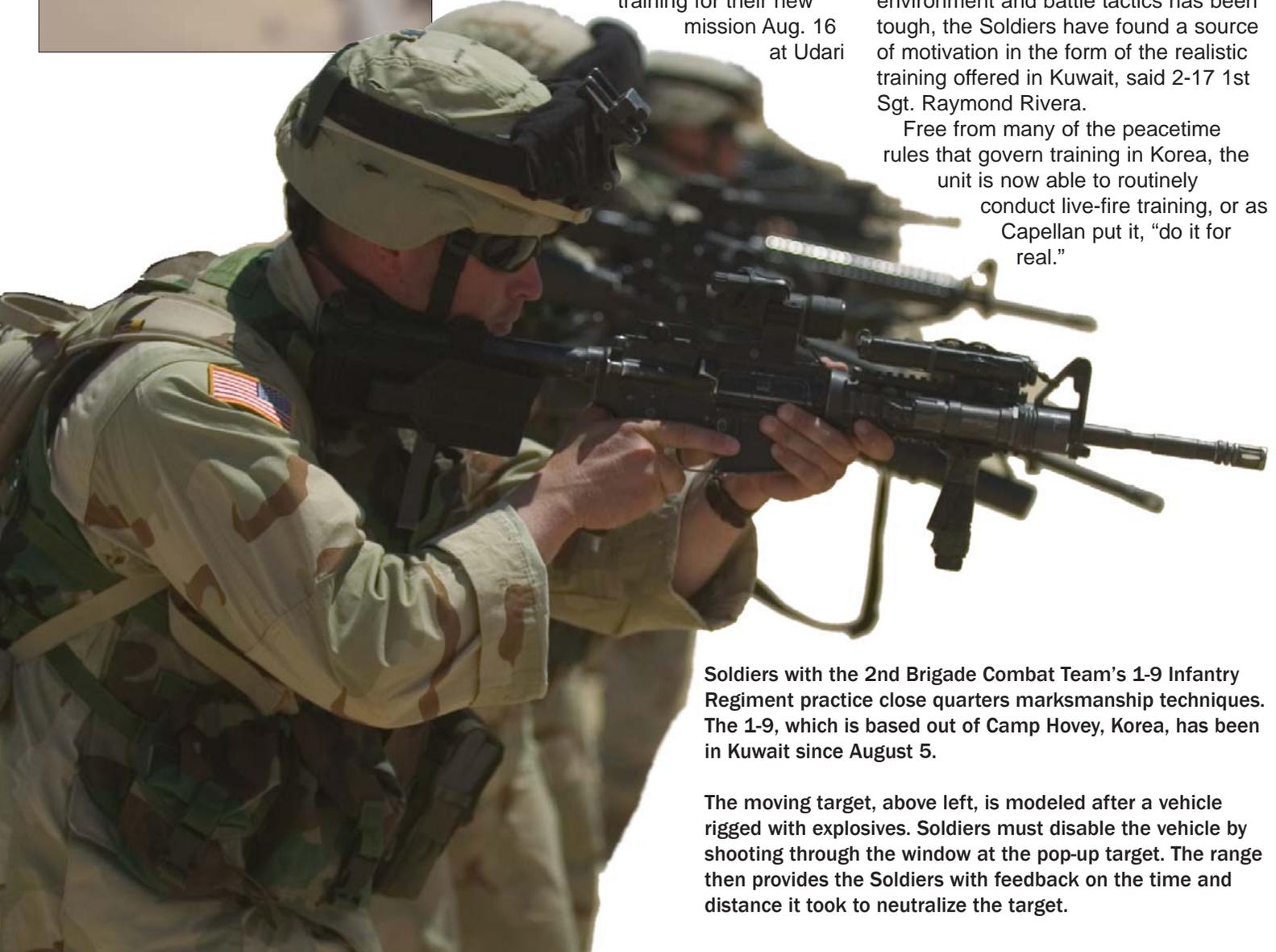
Range, Kuwait. Although the outing was just one day out of several months of desert training, it was vitally important. Facing a new enemy in new surroundings, the troops' lives will soon depend on how well they learn the lessons in adaptation taught here.

The 2-17 Field Artillery Regiment has had plenty of adapting to do. When they cross the Iraqi border in the next few weeks, they'll rely less on their howitzers and more on infantry tactics they'll need to provide force protection.

"It's been a big switch. We definitely miss our guns, but we're all rifleman first," said 2nd Lt. Carlos Capellan, a 2-17 fire direction officer.

While the transition to the new environment and battle tactics has been tough, the Soldiers have found a source of motivation in the form of the realistic training offered in Kuwait, said 2-17 1st Sgt. Raymond Rivera.

Free from many of the peacetime rules that govern training in Korea, the unit is now able to routinely conduct live-fire training, or as Capellan put it, "do it for real."



Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 1-9 Infantry Regiment practice close quarters marksmanship techniques. The 1-9, which is based out of Camp Hovey, Korea, has been in Kuwait since August 5.

The moving target, above left, is modeled after a vehicle rigged with explosives. Soldiers must disable the vehicle by shooting through the window at the pop-up target. The range then provides the Soldiers with feedback on the time and distance it took to neutralize the target.



1 A Soldier from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 2-17 Field Artillery Regiment works on his stand-up shooting technique. The battalion fired its first shot in 1918 during World War I. **2** A 2-17 Soldier tries to hit a moving target modeled after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device during entry control point training. **3** A group of 2-17 Soldiers rushes to the firing line during ECP training. The exercise is designed to teach Soldiers how to neutralize VBIEDs.

"(The Soldiers) love the live-fire exercises, and they'll be more confident in their tactics because it's live," Rivera said.

For other 2nd BCT units, the transition has more to do with simply adjusting to the desert surroundings.

The biggest problem for Staff Sgt. Craig Wallace and his Soldiers has been the extreme heat. Temperatures in Iraq can easily reach 120, while highs in Korea generally hover in the 80s.

"It's a totally different environment (from Korea). You just have to try to prevent heat casualties before they

start," he said.

Besides the heat and the sand, the only new ingredient in his team's mission will be the enemy's bullets, said Wallace, a squad leader with the 1-9 Infantry Regiment.

Aside from the training, Strikeforce soldiers will have another teaching tool easing their transition into the desert; experienced Soldiers. The 2-17 has seven Soldiers who have served in Iraq before.

The group has been helping familiarize 2-17 members with some of the inherent aspects of the deployment, such

as distinguishing friend from foe and what to expect from Iraqi communities, said 2nd Lt. Timothy Little.

Strikeforce Soldiers and leaders agree their training, which has covered close quarters marksmanship, improvised explosive devices, Arabic language and Iraqi culture, has gone a long way in helping them adjust to their new surroundings. They are well aware, however, that their behavior on the battlefield must continue to evolve, said 2-17 Sgt. Terry Church. "If (the training) is a good thing, we'll keep it. If not, we'll try something different," he said.

DV talks with the SMA

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston sat down to talk with Desert Voice's Spc. Curt Cashour about some issues concerning Soldiers supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

He serves as a personal adviser to the Army Chief of Staff, and he routinely testifies before Congress regarding Army issues, but his primary concern is taking care of Soldiers.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston visited service members in Kuwait Aug. 19, making appearances at Camps Arifjan, Buehring and Doha. The visit, which also included stops in Iraq and Afghanistan, was part of Preston's 10-day tour of the Central Command theater.

Preston, who intends to visit every major Army installation this year, used the visit as an opportunity to listen to troop concerns and spread the word about the Army's transformation.

The Desert Voice was fortunate enough to catch up with Preston and talk with him about some of the most pressing issues affecting today's Army.

DV: Tell me about the Army's transformation.

SMA: Everywhere I go, I talk about the transformation plan for the Army – what's going to happen between now and the end of 2009, which will allow us to get through the total transformation of the Army's active, National Guard and reserve components.

Over the next two to three years, you'll see a massive transformation; the biggest since World War II. Between now and 2007 we'll add 15 brigades to the Army to take pressure off deployable units. Three brigades this year, three next year, four in 2006 with an option to add five in 2007.

This will provide more predictability and stability for Soldiers and their families. Soldiers will have the choice of staying in one place for seven to eight years. With this type of stability, your spouse can have a steady career, your kids can participate in long-term school programs, and your house will have equity.

DV: Army Chief of Staff Schoomaker told Congress in January that the Army will temporarily increase its troop strength by 30,000, how will this be accomplished?



Photo by Spc. Curt Cashour

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston shares a laugh with a group of Soldiers at the Zone 1 dining facility Aug. 19. Preston typically travels 20 to 26 days each month visiting Army installations, where he listens to the concerns of Soldiers and families and promotes various Army initiatives. Also pictured is Spc. Antoinette Harrell, who recited the Army's Warrior Ethos for the crowd.

SMA: The intent is to grow the Army by 30,000. Maybe not necessarily make it a permanent 30,000, but we're looking at raising the strength over a 3- or 4-year period, and then taking it back down again. It goes back to the fact that there are about 100,000 -125,000 active, guard and reserve Soldiers that are in a high-density, low-demand occupational skill, and what we want to do is transition some of those over to the low-density, high-demand occupational skills to help relieve units out there that are looking at the back-to-back kind of deployments. That's part of that 30,000. That's what's going to help us get there to keep all those units out there that are either deployed or are getting ready to deploy, as well as our drill sergeant and recruiting programs manned at 100%.

****editors note:** An Aug. 17 release from the Army News Service notes that, as part of the transformation, Soldiers are being asked to convert to low-density, high-demand military occupational specialties like infantry, military police, truck

drivers and field artillery.

DV: If you plan on increasing the force only temporarily, how will you bring it back down?

SMA: We lose Soldiers every year that retire or ETS, so natural attrition will gradually bring down the numbers. It's a balance between the number of Soldiers coming in and the number of Soldiers going out.

DV: How does the Blue to Green Program, which courts people separating from the Navy and Air Force, factor into the Army's plans for growth?

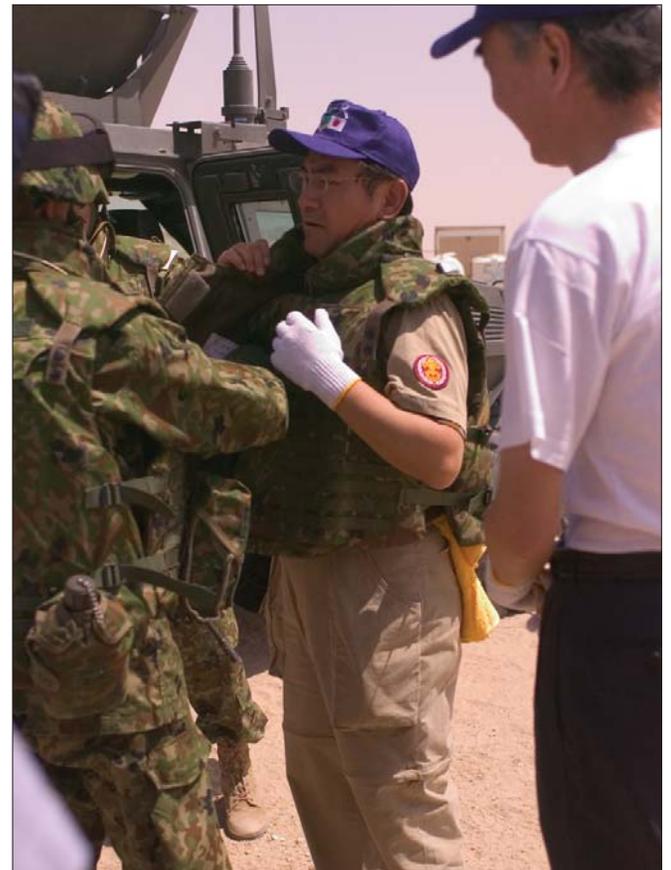
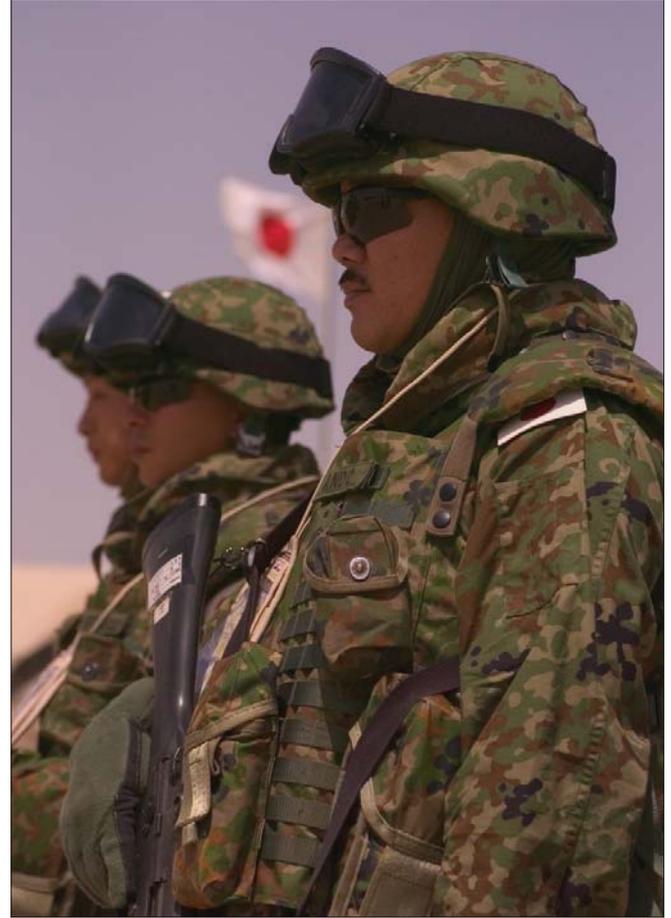
SMA: As the Navy and the Air Force restructure, there are some skill sets they want to eliminate, and those skill sets closely match a lot of the occupational skills we've got in the Army. So, if people want to continue to serve, and there's not an opportunity in the Navy or the Air Force for them to transition into other occupations, why not allow them to tran-

Continued on page 10

Japanese troops get visit from home

Delegation of former defense ministers and members of parliament check out life in the desert

Photos by Spc. Aimee Felix, 14th Public Affairs Detachment



Top left: Toshitsugu Saito, chairman of the Special Committee on Prevention of International Terrorism of Japan, visited the Japanese troops training in Camp Arifjan. The visit included members of the Japanese parliament and four former Japanese defense ministers.

Right: Saito and the other visitors tried on body armor and wore it while they rode around on Japanese military vehicles in a convoy trip around Camp Virginia.

Above: Aside from weapon and vehicle training, a major part of their two-week stay in Kuwait before heading to Iraq is acclimating to the extreme heat while wearing their dark uniforms, complete with body armor, weapon, gloves and goggles.

Top right: Despite the heat, the troops really appreciate the opportunity to be in Camp Virginia and intermingle with forces from other nations also supporting the same cause, said Capt. Kazuya Tsukiashi of the reconstruction support unit of Japan.

An easy way to \$ave

by Scott E Marihugh, 398th FD Finance

Ok, you've heard it all before; don't put all your eggs in one basket. You have to distribute your financial risk and diversify your portfolio. There are a lot of different ways to save and invest your money, such as savings accounts, precious metals, stocks, bonds, real estate – the list goes on and on. The basic premise is that you want to get more money back than you put in. Your finance office has a program that allows you to accomplish this while diversifying risk. It's called the Savings Deposit Program. Like a savings account, your money will earn interest. Only with SDP it will earn at a rate of 10 percent annually compounded quarterly. I don't know of too many banks paying a rate of 10 percent for a savings account or certificate of deposit. The national average for a savings account is only 0.42 percent (national rate taken from Bankrate.com on June 22, 2004).

In August 1966, Congress passed Public Law 89-538 (10 U.S.C. 1035), which established SDP. It allows service members serving in assignments in areas that have been designated as eligible for SDP to participate in the program after serving in the area for at least 30 consecutive days or for at least

one day for each of three consecutive months. Service members serving in support of Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom and those assigned to the area of the Arabian Peninsula who have been there for 30 consecutive days or more can participate in this program.

As with most things in life, there are limitations to the SDP.

1. Interest only accrues on amounts up to \$10,000 (principal and accrued interest combined). If you accumulate more than \$10,000, you can submit a written request to withdraw the additional balance quarterly.

2. You can only make deposits up to the amount of your monthly disposable income. This is the amount remaining after the collection and payment of all existing taxes, allotments and debt obligations. For those of us who like things straight forward, that means the total monthly net pay amount on your LES.

3. Deposits made on or before the 10th of the month accrue interest from the first of the month, and deposits made after the 10th of the month start accruing interest on the first of the next month.

Interesting you say; how do I participate? You can establish your SDP account by

making a deposit at the finance office. Only active duty service members may make deposits into SDP by allotment. All members can make monthly deposits by cash, check, or money order on a DD Form 1131, Cash Collection Voucher (CCV). Remember, always keep a copy of the CCV.

Interest payments stop 90 days after you redeploy or PCS from the SDP designated area. Upon redeployment, you must mail or fax a written request with your name, social security number, branch of service, component (active or reserve), start and stop date of tour in eligible area, and amount requested to DFAS-Cleveland. The address to withdraw funds is:

DFAS-CL
ATTN: Code FMAA
1240 E. 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2055.

The number to DFAS-Cleveland is 1-800-624-7368. The fax number is 216-522-6924, DSN 580-6924.

The Savings Deposit Program (SDP) is an opportunity to save some money and make a decent rate of return. It's just another tool you can use to manage your money and diversify your financial risk.

SMA from page 8

sition into the Army because we're at the point where we're wanting to grow the Army anyway.

DV: In the midst of all these deployments, how is the Army doing with retention?

SMA: We're doing very well this year with retention. Right now, for the active component, we're at 108 percent for Soldiers being assessed to come into the Army. We raised our own goal by 5,000 Soldiers. We went from 72,500 to 77,500 Soldiers this year. We're growing right now just by the number of people we're assessing plus our re-enlistment rates are over 100 percent.

DV: With all the deployments this is a tough time for Soldiers and their families. As a combat veteran, what kind of tips can you offer deployed Soldiers and their families?

SMA: Maintaining communication – whether that's mail, e-mail or telephone – is key. Having just spent six days in Iraq and three days in Afghanistan, I talk to Soldiers and really the continuity right now is actually working very well. Afghanistan is a little bit more austere, but they are working on getting some more computers into the forward operating bases to allow Soldiers more accessibility to the Internet. Right now though, every Soldier I talked to during this trip was very positive about

being able to keep in touch with their family and talk about what we have going on here. As I look back over almost a 30-year career and all the deployments I've ever been on, our ability to communicate from the field has never been this good before. So even though we do have Soldiers deployed, they are still able to maintain that continuity with their family and loved ones back home.

DV: You just visited Iraq; what do you think of the media's coverage of the events there and how is it different from what you see on the ground?

SMA: Well, the media report the sensational, big-news events; the vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, the improvised explosive devices, what's going on in Najaf. Soldiers going in to renovate schools, the building of a bridge, the opening of universities, the training of Iraqi security forces; those are all good-news stories that don't get the media coverage that maybe they really deserve. I talk to a lot of people back in the states and they have no idea all those things are actually going on over there. I wish there was more time on the news for those kinds of stories. It's unfortunate that there's only so much air time, and they can only report a certain number of events. That's why it's important for us, as Soldiers, to bring the good-news stories back to the states.

In & Around Our Community

Special and weekly events around Kuwait's U.S. military community for August 18-25, 2004

Special Performers coming to Kuwait

Comics on Duty Comedy Group

Friday, 7:30 p.m. at KNB

Laugh Factory Comedy Group

Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. at Camp Arifjan

Country Singer Jodi Smith

Sept 4, 7:30 p.m. at SPOD

Sept. 5, 8:30p.m. at KNB

Special Events: Arifjan

Wednesday

Foosball Tournament, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Tailor, 5 to 8 p.m. at Zone 2 gym tent

Thursday

Texas Hold 'em Poker Tourney, 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation

Tent. Sign up by 6:30 p.m.

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. at Zone 1

gym tent

High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m.

at Zone 2 gym tent

Thursday

Martial Arts, 7 p.m. at Zone 2

gym tent

Spinning Class, 7 p.m. at

Zone 2 gym tent

Friday

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at

the pool

High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m.

at Zone 2 gym tent

Saturday

Aero Step 6 a.m., Ab Floor

Workout 8 a.m., Aero Step 10

a.m., Upper and Lower Body

Workout 1 p.m., Aero Step 3

p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at

the pool

Salsa Night, 7: 30 p.m. at the

MWR stage

Sunday

Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 6

a.m., Upper and Lower Body

Workout 8 a.m., Ab Floor

Friday

Singers and Poets Night, 7:30 p.m. at the MWR stage

Saturday

End of Summer Jazz Night, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Sunday

Chess Tournament, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Workout 10 a.m., Upper and

Lower Body Workout 1 p.m.,

Cardio Pump Kick Boxing 3

p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at

the pool

Monday

Aero Step 6 a.m., Ab Floor

Exercise 8 a.m., Aero Step 10

a.m., Upper and Lower Body

Workout 1 p.m., Aero Step 3

p.m. at Zone 1 gym tent

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at

the pool

High Impact Aerobics, 7 p.m.

at Zone 2 gym tent

Country Western Night, 7:30

p.m. at the MWR stage

Tuesday

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

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m. at

the pool

Spa Day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at

Zone 2 gym tent

Martial Arts, 7 p.m. at Zone 2

gym tent

Special Events: Doha

Wednesday

Over 30's Music Night, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

Saturday

Bid Whist Tournament, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

Tuesday

Hearts Tournament, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

Weekly Events: Doha

Sunday

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

Religious Services: Arifjan

Catholic Mass

Sunday, noon at the Zone 1 Chapel

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

Chapel

Contemporary Christian Services

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

1 Chapel

Traditional Christian Services

Sunday, 9 a.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel

and 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

General Protestant Services

Sunday, 8 a.m. at the Arlington Chapel

and 10:30 a.m. at the Bldg. 6 Conf.

Room

Gospel Worship

Sunday, 2:15 at the Post Theater

Saturday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel

Friday, 7 p.m. at the Camden DFAC

Episcopal/Lutheran

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

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Spanish Protestant Worship and Studies

Sunday, 11 a.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel

and 2 p.m. at Arlington Chapel

Latter Day Saints

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

POC Randall Palmar, 920-7328

Islam Jumu'ah

Friday, noon at the Zone 1 Chapel

Bible Studies

Sunday, 9 p.m. at the Zone 2 DFAC

Monday, 7 p.m. at Arlington Chapel

Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 1

Chapel, Room 13

Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 2 Chapel

Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Arlington Chapel

Wednesday, 8 p.m. at the Camden

DFAC

Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Zone 1 Chapel,

Rooms 9 and 13

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

Rm. 13

For more information call Zone 1 Chapel

at DSN 430-1387

If in urgent need of a chaplain call c754-

3803

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

Herding the Sheep and the Shepherd

by Lorraine Marshall

Saw a sight the other day coming home from work. The local, neighborhood shepherd was moving his flock of sheep at a fairly good clip in the desert. All I could see were a lot of black feet moving very quickly, bunched up together, heading towards Saudi. Then I realized bringing up the rear, was the shepherd riding his donkey. The shepherd's feet were dangling down the sides of the donkey practically dragging on the ground and he was sound asleep! The donkey was trotting along, paying no attention to anything, herding the sheep to God knows where. It was hilarious.

They were back in the pen at the "homestead" that night though. The "homestead" consists of a collapsible fence which has the sole purpose of penning the sheep, with a dilapidated truck, complete with 4 flat tires, and a really beat up looking former camper on the back end of it. The donkey is usually tethered relatively close by.

A Tribute to Ole' Glory

by Tech. Sgt. Catherine P. Richardson

You've risen each day to remind of why we train, we fight, we die.
You've given us the strength to give our all; never failing to try.

You've taught us that our freedom is not always free;
You've shown us that one man can epitomize, our never fading tenacity.

You've flown over many battlefields; you are what we're fighting for.
Warriors of the past and present could ask you to do no more.

You are the symbol of our country, which we hold so close and dear.
You shall forever be honored, even in times of fear.

We will protect and die for, the good ole' red, white, and blue;
For you are our FREEDOM, you are what is true.

Dedicated to all those who serve today, those who served before us, and the families who support each of us - Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen.

**DESERT
VOICE**

Desert Voice would like to thank those who have submitted stories, pictures, poems and everything else for this back page. For those that didn't run this week, we haven't forgotten you! Please, keep them coming in. Send your ideas to the DV editor at matthew.millham@arifjan.arcent.army.mil, or mail them to:
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