

OCTOBER 27, 2004

# DESERT VOICE

Did you  
have a **good**  
time at the  
**USO** show?



# Not here, not ever

commentary by Sgt. Matt Millham

Here's a little story about a hideous man. His name is Daniel Lee, and he is a convicted rapist. On Oct. 1, a military court sentenced Lee to 30 years in prison for raping a fellow Soldier last year at Fort Knox, Ky. The Soldier was four months pregnant with her third child when Lee raped her.

While it would be comforting to think that Lee's criminal and wicked act was an isolated occurrence, the fact is that rape is a problem in the military just as it is in the rest of American society. Fortunately, military leaders in Kuwait have moved to make the lives of our troops safer by establishing a rule that requires females to have a buddy when the sun is down.

This rule may be inconvenient at times, but it is for everyone's benefit. The story here isn't that there is a new rule though – the story is that there are people among us who have a serious problem.

There are people in the world who think it's appropriate for one human being to force their will on other human beings. One example of this type of person is the aforementioned Daniel Lee. Adolf Hitler is another person who thought he could impose his will and his sick ideas onto the world.

It may sound alarmist or extreme to compare a rapist to the perpetrator of the Holocaust, but the comparison has its merits in describing the depth of the evil these acts share. The rapist's mentality doesn't confine its evil to a single act – a rapist will continue to rape until they are caught. The only thing preventing them from raping as they would please is the fear of being caught, not fear of the act of rape itself.

When a servicemember commits a rape, they risk more than staining their good name and the innocence of their victim. When a Soldier or a Marine or an Airman or a Sailor rapes another human being, they stain their uniform, they stain their unit, and they stain their country. Any crime committed by any servicemember should be looked

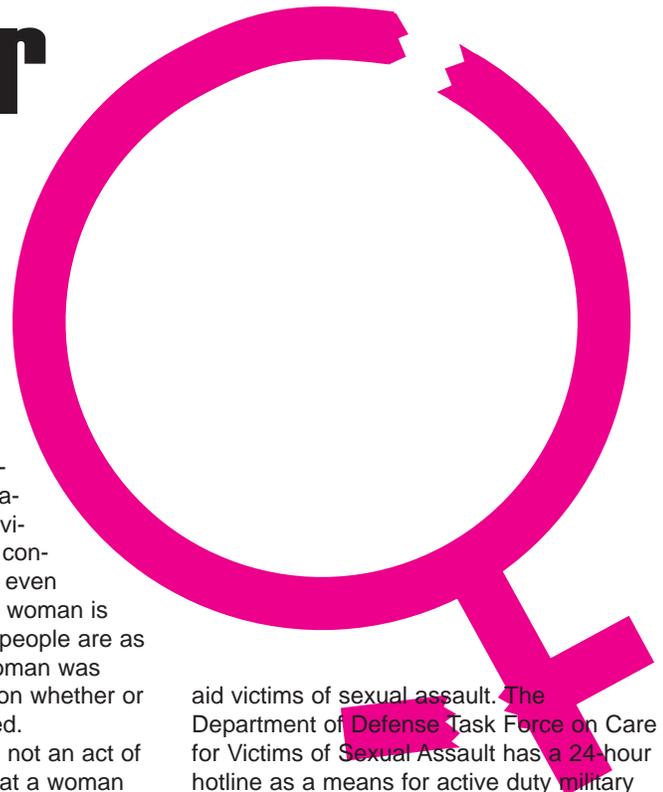
at in this light.

As servicemembers, we are protectors of freedom and the American way of life. Freedom in the United States includes freedom from sexual assault. The American way of life, if nothing else, provides reasonable assurance that we Americans will not be subjected to the same sort of despicable acts we denounce on television, in church and in private conversations. This fact makes it even more disturbing when, after a woman is raped or assaulted, so many people are as quick to question what the woman was wearing as they are to question whether or not the man has been arrested.

Rape is an act of violence, not an act of sex. Anyone who suggests that a woman may have been "asking for it" is acceding to the idea that there is nothing wrong with committing acts of violence against women. Consider this: if every time you got angry somebody hit you in the face with a baseball bat, would you say you were asking for it?

Because of this and a number of other reasons, it is often difficult for victims of sexual assault to come forward and tell someone about the violation, but it is important that victims come forward and that rapists are exposed for what they are. It is important that victims of sexual assault do not feel as if they are at all responsible for what happened to them – rape is a crime, not something the victim in any way asked for. It is Army policy to develop a positive command climate where victims feel free to report incidents of sexual assault. Sexual assault must be reported – it can't be stressed enough that this is of the utmost importance as it is the only sure means to ensure the command can take swift and corrective action.

The military is trying to make it easier to



aid victims of sexual assault. The Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault has a 24-hour hotline as a means for active duty military victims of sexual assault and any uniformed members to provide input (anonymously if desired) to the task force. This hotline's intent is to gather information and provide a venue for military victims of sexual assault. The DSN phone number is 312-761-1659, and the toll-free number in the United States is 1-800-497-6261.

Victims of sexual assault are provided a variety of options to report crimes. Victims can report through their chain of command, medical facilities, military police, criminal investigation division, chaplain, inspector general, or legal office. These organizations make up the sexual assault response team, the intent of which is to provide a command climate where victims feel free to report sexual misconduct. Regardless of how victims report the crimes, the sexual assault response team members work together to ensure victims are properly cared for.

Unless victims come forward, as did the woman who was raped by Daniel Lee, they will be less likely to get the care they need, and their assailant will walk rather than rot in a well-deserved prison cell.

**DESERT  
VOICE**

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Volume 26, Issue 11

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Public Affairs Office. This newspaper is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with CFLCC. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the Public Affairs Office.

**On the Cover Everyone had a good time at the USO show – even the performers.**

Photo illustration by Sgt. Matt Millham

# Liberty, justice and housing for all

story and photos by Spc. Aimee Felix

When your living space feels like the size of a closet and you're in the desert with little more than a mini DVD player to entertain you, it can be difficult to think of the big picture. But being able to sacrifice the comforts of home and think of others is what separates us as servicemembers from the rest of the world.

Tents house the majority of Kuwait's military population, but a few hard buildings house some troops at Camps Arifjan and Doha. There have been standard operating procedures in place for housing in the tents and in the buildings at Doha, but until recently, there was no SOP for Arifjan housing.

As the camps in Kuwait prepare for another surge in the midst of a transition that will, over time, turn Doha back over to Kuwait, space for troops is becoming an issue. The previously existing SOPs along with the new Camp Arifjan housing SOP will help alleviate the stress on housing for troops by creating guidelines that stress safety and fairness.

Lt. Col. John R. Platt, director of installation support for ASG-KU, and Master Sgt. Crystal Martin, noncommissioned officer in charge of housing, are the self-proclaimed two-man show that has been put in charge of the housing mission at Arifjan, and all they ask for is a little patience.

"I understand [the space situation] is difficult. Everyone sees the view from their bunk bed and their foot locker, but there's a bigger picture we all have to see," said Platt.

The new SOP mainly establishes rooming and spacing standards for troops on Camp Arifjan, according to their rank and the building they live in.

By the time Camp Doha closes down, the amount of troops that used to live in Doha, who are mostly permanent change of station troops, will be added to the population of Arifjan.

In Arifjan right now, some troops on PCS orders are living in warehouses furnished

with nothing more than bunks.

The limited amount of housing in Arifjan is mostly due to squatters, said Platt. Squatters are people who pick a place to stay without going through the housing office. They're taking space away from the troops who belong in that space, said Platt. "There's no good reason for it. There's a place for everyone, and the longer it takes for us to stop this problem the longer it's going to take to fix the bigger ones."

Other problems Platt and Martin face are things like appliance overload. "You walk into some of these bays and you think you just walked into an appliance store," said Platt. Martin elaborated with a recent complaint a troop had about an unattended work order he'd put in several times for power outages in his living area. "I go there, and he has a microwave, a refrigerator, a television. I told him maybe he should unplug a few things, and he got mad," said Martin.

Camp Doha has only one open bay. In it, only one or two refrigerators are allowed according to the size of the transient unit, said Borcas Sansome, acting billeting coordinator at Doha. In Doha's building 11, neither refrigerators or microwaves are allowed because the building is not designed to handle the voltage. Residents in building 11 are allowed one TV and one DVD player each. In Doha's bldg. 517, and in all PCS trailers housing allows one refrigerator and one microwave.

In an attempt to lighten the power load on the circuits in Arifjan's building 149, Martin and Platt have restricted the use of personal refrigerators. Each bay has already been furnished with a communal refrigerator. Limits on how many appliances each troop can have are in the works.

Another issue Platt and Martin are trying to fix is the inequality of space among the troops. "You have folks setting up what we call the super hooch. They've got beds twisted and turned to fit their lawn chairs and their televisions, taking space from the others. We just can't have that," said Platt. The Arifjan SOP addresses these abuses, authorizing troops living in building 149 one locker and an equal amount of space between their bunks and lockers. The Arifjan SOP also establishes how many people will live in the rooms and suites in buildings 140, 142, 150, 152, 160, 162, 170, 172 and 507. Doha's one bay also provides requires each of the bays are given equal space. In addition to spacing, the Arifjan SOP also addresses the responsibilities of bay commanders. It mostly stresses that bay commanders should ensure that a certain level of cleanliness be maintained. It's hard to imagine that anyone would



An overloaded power strip in Building 149.

have difficulty keeping such a small area clean (a bunk and a locker), but the mouse problem in some buildings shows that some troops are having a hard time with it. "We've had to burn mattresses in the past because of bug infestations. We don't want to have to do that again," said Martin.

Martin isn't expecting a bunk tight enough to bounce a quarter off of, she simply expects cleanliness because, as Platt said, "The plague didn't start because people were doing the right thing."

Troops transitioning through Arifjan will be moved to the tents in Zone VI. This summer, the standard for the number of people in a small tent was lowered from 14 to eight. This and other fire safety SOP rules apply to all tents in theater. The larger tents will house no more than 60 people, said Staff Sgt. John P. Perry, NCOIC of Camp Victory's Fire Department. Other tent standards include ensuring there is an open walkway to the exit at least 32 inches wide, and that the exit is clear. Also troops living in tents are not allowed to build walls or partitions inside the tent, said Perry. As far as electrical appliances, only one heavy appliance is allowed in a tent – either a refrigerator or a microwave.

"We're doing our best to make it work [on Arifjan]," said Platt. Platt said he wouldn't wish this task on anyone. The risk of upsetting people is high, and they know this well, which makes it all the more difficult. "When this whole housing thing is over, I will buy myself some near beer and sit back and pretend I'm in Acapulco," he said. Until then, he hopes for patience and understanding from the troops. "We're just trying to do what right looks like."



Unfairly divided space like this in one of the bays in Camp Arifjan's Building 149 are resolved by the new Arifjan housing SOP.

# Dust to dust

The footprint left on the Kuwaiti desert from the buildup to two wars against Iraq is pretty big – now it's being cleaned up.

story and photos by Spc. Aimee Felix

Flying over 3,000 square kilometers of desert, looking for garbage and debris with decomposing camel carcasses and sand dunes as landmarks is quite the challenge. Even with exact grid coordinates and a global positioning system, maps are useless in such indistinguishable terrain.

Roughly the size of Rhode Island, this land was once occupied by the first 140,000 U.S. troops who deployed to begin what would be called Operation Iraqi Freedom. They came to Kuwait, occupying desert camps that were set up to temporarily house troops as they prepared to go up north. Although Soldiers no longer occupy the land, some of their garbage does. And after almost two years of inoccupation, the U.S. Army is preparing to turn the land over to the Kuwaitis. But before they do, expended ammunition, concertina wire and Meal, Ready to Eat remains have to be thrown away, berms have to be knocked down and fighting positions filled.

Nine months ago, former CFLCC and Third Army Commander Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan began this cleanup initiative with the goal of doing a clean sweep of all the areas the United States occupied and no longer uses, said Col. Jack Smith, deputy, CFLCC engineers.

Most of the areas were used as temporary assembly areas with no official opening and no official closing. The troops just laid out concertina wire and built a few berms to set up a perimeter, and then they set up their tents, said Maj. Stephen O'Dell, operations officer for the CFLCC engineers. U.S. troops were in and out of these areas in no more than two months.

Although the area has been unoccupied for almost two years, the Kuwaiti government has been patient with the United States. They had no timeline, said O'Dell, explaining that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense, who the United States will soon be handing the land over to, has understood our occupation with the war.

The cleanup initiative began with a general identification of the area that needed to be cleaned in order for the engineers to understand what they were dealing with, said O'Dell. They were able to determine

which areas exactly were used by the military based on records ASG-Kuwait had from when troops first arrived to the area at the start of the war.

After identifying the United States' area of responsibility, the engineers have surveyed the area through more than 50 hours of aerial recon to find the garbage, said O'Dell. Some of what needed to be cleaned was left behind from Desert Storm, said Chief Warrant Officer Scott W. Ward, operations and executive officer for the 854th Engineers Utility Detachment. The 854th has been involved with this mission from the beginning, said Ward. Tasked through DPW, the 854th is given grid coordinates for trash and debris by the engineers at CFLCC. Ward and his crew go out, assess the area and determine what kind of equipment is needed to dispose of the garbage properly. Aside from the 854th and the CFLCC engineers, the Army contracted out a lot of the cleanup work in order to try and make the most of the situation by putting money back into the Kuwaiti economy, said O'Dell.

A small part of the cleanup process involved treating soil that was affected by a few minor oil spills. The soil was treated by a company called EnviroTech, using a system called Micro Blaze, which uses bacteria to consume the oil in the soil, said Ward.

Most of what needed to be cleaned though was litter: MRE wrappers, water bottles and expended ammunition. The engineers removed 10,000 cubic feet of garbage from Bubyian Island, a U.S. military training site in northern Kuwait whose waters border Iran, Iraq and Kuwait.

At every step of the way, the Army has been sending status reports to the Kuwaiti

government. The reports reached the hands of the Sheika Amthal Al Amad Al Jaber Al Sabah, manager of the Kuwait Volunteer Work Center under the Council of Ministry and the sister of a Kuwaiti Amir (prince). Her Excellency has been working together with the environmental committee under the Kuwait Volunteer Work Center and the Army in this cleanup effort. Her Excellency has taken it upon herself to deflect the suggestions that all the garbage out there was produced by the United States.

In surveying the area, the CFLCC engineers came across holes large enough to be fighting positions for tanks, but there was no way they could be because they were facing every which way including each other, explained Smith in a meeting with the environmental committee.

These meetings began at her Excellency's request. Through them, the CFLCC engineers have been able to illustrate to the Kuwaiti committee just how far the Army has come in the clean up effort. The committee can then relay that progress to the Kuwaiti people.

Eighty percent of the land the United States will be turning back over to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense has been cleaned. After it is all cleaned, there will be a joint inspection between the Kuwaitis and the Americans, and the land will then be officially returned.

With only four out of the 14 zones that needed to be cleaned left, the engineers continue to conduct fly overs to double check the areas they've already covered, said O'Dell. This thoroughness is what will allow the Army to turn over the land cleaner than it was before they occupied it.

When the time comes to turn over the land the U.S. military still occupies now in Kuwait, the process will be a lot more involved because "we've set up a more permanent infrastructure" in places like Camps Victory and Virginia, said O'Dell.

For Ward, a self-proclaimed environmentalist, the cleanup effort is somewhat rewarding because "nobody likes to see a dirty countryside, especially if you're responsible for it," he said. And in land like the open desert of Kuwait, there's nowhere for garbage to hide.



(Left) Berms left over from staging operations prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom scar the desert along with mounds of water bottles, pallets and concertina wire (Right) at one forgotten camp.

# 'HO-HO-HOOAH' for the 'Big Red One'

If it seems too hot for Christmas, you're probably in Kuwait.

story and photos by  
Spc. Jonathan Montgomery

The holidays arrived earlier than usual for troops stationed at Camp Doha, Kuwait, where "the Big Red One" himself, Santa Claus, parked his red-nosed camels Oct. 15 and 16.

"What goes better on me than a 'Big Red One' patch?" said civilian contractor Mike Lord, while passing out his business card referring to himself as an "S.A." (Santa Agent).

For Lord, donning the merry red suit, black belt buckle, and white trim cuffs for more than 200 Hometown Holiday Greeting tapings for deployed troops at Camp Doha was a chore well worth it.

**"I came out here thinking I was going to do that 'desert diet' thing by sweating off the pounds anyway."** – Mike Lord, surrogate Santa

"How can you come over here and not do it?" said Lord about playing Santa in Kuwait.

Lord, who has been part of the 54th Signal Battalion S-3 shop at Camp Doha for the past nine months, said he volunteered to come out and spread the Christmas cheer for troops who would be missing their families this holiday season.

"I knew before I was coming that I was going to be Santa to a lot of troops," he said about his pre-decided plan to have his wife ship over his "Santa DCUs."

Playing Santa to a slew of troops in the desert was easy for Lord, but getting the troops to play along took some coaxing.

"What are the chances of you being in the desert, on the first day of Ramadan with Santa Claus? It just doesn't happen every day of the week," said Lord while telling troops it was okay to wave at the North Pole's favorite resident.

"Come on now, you can throw your hand up to Santa...there you go. It's not a bad thing," said Lord.

Lord joked that troops would receive "lumps of coal" if they declined to do a Hometown Holiday Greeting, which the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service is scheduled to distribute for broadcast to troops' local hometown television stations.

And the "Ho-Ho-Hooah" spirit persevered, as the self-proclaimed "Kuwait

Kringle" helped to attract about 100 people by the end of the first day of filming.

"A lot of us won't be home for Christmas, so [filming with Santa] is a nice thing to do for our parents," said Navy Corpsman, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonas Merrill, stationed at Al Asad, Iraq, who said hello to his family back home in Cumberland, Md.

"Being Santa makes you feel good about yourself," said Lord, who has played the Christmas icon for the last three years in Atlanta. "It also makes you a better person because it helps your neighbor out. It's a feel-good thing."

According to Lord, the sticky weather was the only "feel-bad thing."

"It's hot, but it's worth it," he said while standing under a gusty downpour of air con-

ditioning outside the Camp Doha dining facility exit. "If [troops] can take it, then I can take it. I came out here thinking I was going to do that 'desert diet' thing by sweating off the pounds anyway."

Lord kept hydrated and in the shade when not in front of the camera. The heavy Santa suit was obviously not designed with the heat of Kuwait in mind. Never-the-less,

Lord joked about it as if it were something he was obligated to wear for this occasion of holiday cheer giving.

"Call [the Santa suit] my 'Dress Reds,'" he said in comparing his getup to the Army's dress blue uniforms.

Many of the troops, including a photo ambush by a group of Navy Seabees, brought their own personal cameras to remember this seemingly "Christmas in July" experience.

"The beach is Santa's vacation away from the poles," he said about living in the Kuwaiti sandbox.

When asked about the best thing about being Santa, Lord said the children's altruism.

"Children will ask for things for their siblings," he said. "It's selfless, brings a tear to your eye and makes you feel reinforced about life."

Having to provide a child with the right answer to a difficult question, however, encompasses the harder part of being Santa, said Lord.

"When a little girl is asking for her real daddy, then you have to have an answer for a whole range of things," he said.

Lord said he has received approval from his unit to take his Santa gig on a tour around the Kuwaiti and Iraqi camps "as long as it's not totally unsafe to go."

The trip is scheduled for mid-November through December, he said, .



On his way home for R&R, Marine Lance Cpl. Ashley Smith, stationed at Al Asad, Iraq, joins Santa Claus in wishing his family in Prunedale, Ca., a merry Christmas during a Hometown Holiday Greeting taping at Camp Doha Oct. 16.



Wayne Newton, Myrka Dellanos, Rob Schneider, Jenevi Bakch and Neal McCoy line up for the show's final number, a song Newton wrote as a tribute to the troops.

*we ain't got no place to go, we're goin' to the*

# WISSO

story and photos by Spc. Curt Cashour

**We live in an era where the lines between entertainment and politics are becoming more and more blurry; a time where filmmakers and media conglomerates seek to effect changes in our policies and leaders, and stars of stage and screen routinely discuss their political views in public.**

Given the current conditions, it's almost a surprise when entertainers forget about their political opinions and do what they do best: entertain.

The United Service Organizations' Wayne Newton Variety Tour kicked off its five-day tour of Kuwait and Iraq with a stop at Camp Arifjan Oct. 17. With a cast that included Newton, comedic actor Rob

Schneider and country-music star Neil McCoy and others, the show brought a simple, rhetoric-free message of support and encouragement to the troops caught in the middle of today's divisive political climate.

Newton took the stage first, mixing a few twangy, up-tempo rockers with jokes and stories from his current and past tours entertaining troops abroad.

Earlier that day, a dining facility worker who didn't recognize Newton asked him if he was an Elvis impersonator, said Newton, who also joked that the Kuwaiti sandstorms were so strong they managed to move his meticulously styled jet-black hair.

His appearance was the first of several that evening, which saw him introducing other acts and wowing the crowd with his



Newton, who plays 13 instruments, wails away on an electric banjo at the Arifjan USO show.

singing and multi-instrumental exploits on guitar, banjo, piano and fiddle.

Newton, who was in the first grade when he performed his first USO show, took over as chair of the USO celebrity circle from Bob Hope in 2001. In addition to performing in many of the organization's shows for overseas troops, he also oversees entertainment the USO brings to servicemembers and helps recruit acts for the tours, he said.

The military has changed since the days when Newton entertained those serving in Vietnam, and now includes more women, blacks and Hispanics, he said.

"It is incumbent upon me to put together a show that we hope will, in some way, touch each one of those facets of our audience," said Newton.

If Newton was the brains behind the show, the beauty was provided by Latina television journalist Myrka Dellanos. The stunning, bilingual blonde of the Latin-American cable network Univision graced the stage periodically in a tight black dress to read letters of encouragement from folks back in the United States to the audience of approximately 2,500 people, which seemed to occupy almost every inch of the Post Exchange parking lot.

After an appearance by singer Jenevi Bakch, who shed the flight suit a servicemember had loaned her to reveal a taut, skin-colored, sequin-laced dress, it was McCoy's turn. The country crooner mixed his hits with jokes and a dance session put

on by a couple he invited onstage from the audience.

A veteran of six USO tours, McCoy lists retired Gen. Tommy Franks as a close friend and said he takes every opportunity he can to fit performing for troops into his busy schedule, which has him on the road 220 days a year, he said.

"When we're over here, we have a lot of troops say hello to us and thank [us] for coming and [tell us] what it means to them. But you can multiply that by 10, and that's what it means to us," he said.

The McFadden Brothers were up next. The duo took a break from their regular duties with Newton's horn section to rap and tap dance their way through an interlude that primed the audience for Schneider's stand-up comedy routine.

Though the talent was top notch, the show lacked some of the rules typical of events back in the states. Flash photography was permitted, so performers were often greeted by hundreds of bright white camera flashes as they took the stage. Between acts, audience members jockeying for a better view of the action weaved their way through the thick mass of bodies flanking the stage.

As Newton announced Schneider, a throng of people descended upon the already-crowded area between the stage and VIP seats. The Saturday Night Live alumnus and star of the upcoming movie "Deuce Bigalow 2" delivered his hilarious take on Kuwait, Iraq and the Army. He even threw in a light-hearted jab at Maj. Gen. Gary Speer, who is currently deployed to Camp Arifjan.

Wearing a DCU blouse donated to him by Staff Sgt. Victor Carrasco of Puerto Rico's 448th Engineer Battalion based at Fort Buchanan, Schneider joked about the cultural differences among Americans and their Kuwaiti and Iraqi counterparts.

Schneider, who does standup only for USO tours, said he crafted his jokes during a late-night writing session with Adam Sandler, who asked Schneider to say thanks to all the troops for him.

Schneider, who has also performed with the USO in Kosovo and Korea, gave some lucky servicemembers his personalized coin. Featuring Schneider's portrait and the slogan "You can do it!" on one side, and a woman in a thong bikini on the other, the trinket is obviously a comedic take on the organizational coins handed out by military commanders.



The show concluded with all the performers lining up for what Newton billed as a musical tribute to U.S. military members around the world. As the entertainers sang, crowd members passed baseball caps to the stage so Newton and the others could autograph them.

The evening was almost a complete reversal of usual entertainment events, where fans travel miles to see and pay tribute to their favorite stars. With this show, it was the stars who traveled to see the audience and, judging from the words of almost every performer, the show was indeed a tribute.

The USO is a non-profit charitable corporation that provides comfort, morale and recreational services to servicemembers and their families. It's important to note that USO tour participants donate their time and receive no compensation for their performances. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org).



Rob Schneider chats with fans after the USO Wayne Newton Variety Tour's show at Camp Arifjan Oct. 17. The five day tour also included stops at U.S. military camps in Iraq.

# DV talks with ASG commander

Editor's note: this is the second part of Desert Voice's talk with ASG-Kuwait Commander Col. Brick T. Miller. Part one can be found in the Oct. 20 issue.

by Spc. Curt Cashour

**There has been a lot of talk about the closing of Camp Doha, could you shed some light on why it's closing?**

Years ago, it was envisioned to close Camp Doha and open a new camp out of the mainstream of Kuwait City to be the new headquarters for ARCENT-Kuwait and also the permanent portion of CFLCC or the ARCENT/3rd Army, which is the Combined Joint Task Force staff. It's been in the works for a long time to move these assets down to Camp Arifjan, and it's why the Kuwaitis built Camp Arifjan.

We're closing Camp Doha to give the grounds back to the Kuwaitis. Part of it belongs to a civilian corporation; part of it belongs to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense.

**What does the time table look like?**

The time table for closing Doha is going to be a couple years, because closing it and relocating everybody isn't an easy thing. You can't just shut stuff off at Doha and turn it on at other places because there are things that have to be built at other locations to be able to shut things down at Doha.

Once we get rid of the majority of the people and functions at Doha, we'll still have to have a presence there to clean up

**“The marble palace will close next summer when we close the majority of south Doha. We're currently looking for a new Marble Palace location, one closer to Arifjan, because we need to have a place for Soldiers to go and blow off steam.”** – Col. Brick T. Miller

the area. We have to remediate, we have to account for and tear down all the temporary-type improvements. Most of the permanent improvements were all approved by the Kuwaitis so they'll take responsibility for them.

There's a lot of stuff at Doha that needs to find a home in some form or fashion. As an example, look at the number of antennae on Doha. It's going to be a big task to climb over all the warehouses and collect all the different kinds of antennae and related equipment that have been left over the years. So we're looking at doing it in phases. The first phase's goal is August 2005. The next phase will start after the Kuwaitis get Camp Arifjan complete, so it could be a

couple years.

**What camps will take on the assets and people that will move from Doha?**

The majority of people and functions at Doha will go to either Arifjan or Buehring. A lot of the functions have already moved or will move to Camp Arifjan, just because it's the center of the forces in Kuwait. A lot of stuff will also move to Camp Buehring, which will eventually fulfill the role of Camp Doha.

If you wanted to say, “Where is Camp Doha moving?” The easy answer is to say Arifjan, but we're also going to do a lot more at Camp Buehring to make it more of a stand alone kind of base for the future. So a lot of those functions that were resonant at Doha, will need to be resonant up at Camp Buehring.

**Since most of Doha's assets will be moving to Arifjan or Buehring, what are those camps going to do to accommodate the troops that move along with those assets?**

There will be more construction going on at Arifjan to be able to support the facilities that move from Doha. Buehring and Virginia are going to get larger and grow their capabilities to handle the transient populations, which ties into it our efforts to streamline and maximize the efficiency of the desert camps.

**What will become of Doha's historical objects and quality of life programs, like the restaurants and the gym?**

The jersey barriers were all moved up to Camp Buehring to line the main drag coming onto the camp. The historical artifacts, unit art and other pieces will move to Arifjan. Frosty's is moving into the Arifjan community center, which will take on the Frosty's name. All the gym equipment and MWR-type stuff will be relocated and spread out amongst the camps to make sure we have enough everywhere.

**Will the Marble Palace close as well?**

The marble palace will close next summer when we close the majority of south Doha. We're currently looking for a new



Col. Brick T. Miller

Marble Palace location, one closer to Arifjan, because we need to have a place for Soldiers to go and blow off steam. This is especially important for the Soldiers that are working out at the desert camps that don't have the kinds of conveniences people at Doha and Arifjan have. They need a place to let their hair down a little bit. So, hopefully by spring we'll have a new Marble Palace. That way, it won't be a loss for the servicemembers. We'll shut this one down and start operations at a new location. But it's going to be dependent on the threat conditions. We've got to be able to protect the location and it has to be safe.

**What else are you looking for in a location?**

It's got to be large enough to accommodate many servicemembers and store a lot of the MWR stuff we have that's not being used right now. Because the new location is going to be close to Arifjan, it would also be nice to have access to the water.

We don't own the Marble Palace. It's owned by the Kuwaitis, and they let us use it six days a week. Obviously we've put a lot of time, effort and resources into making it nice, so I want to find a place for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guard and civilians that will provide the same kind of atmosphere and activities as the current Marble Palace.

It's definitely something that's needed for the folks at the remote camps, because they don't have the kind of facilities offered at Doha and Arifjan. Although the camps are getting a lot better and we have more Green Beans, Starbucks, Hardees and other kinds of places that we're investing in, it's not the same as getting away.

**If you had to name a year when there will be no U.S. presence at Camp Doha, what would it be?**

Before 2010. There are so many things that I can't predict, but I would say before 2010 Doha will just be a memory.

**Since you brought up the threat level, what kind of information can you give us on the information influencing the travel limitations on servicemembers?**

Well, there's definitely a credible threat out there. There are folks that want to do harm. Most of it has been harassment type things—people blowing off steam. But it's not worth a single person's life to let your guard down. So, as long as the threat's there, we're going to do what we have to do to make sure everybody is safe.

We'll just have to continue to keep watch and be vigilant. Hopefully, we'll be able to get to the point where we're not targets or potential targets. Then we'll be able to get the folks out to see Kuwait, because the overwhelming majority of Kuwaitis truly like Americans, like the fact that we're here and don't have a problem supporting us. In fact, they would like to see us out more.

**Since threats do exist, why are some U.S. civilians supporting operations here permitted to live off post?**

It depends on how you define civilians. Official civilians like Department of Defense or Department of the Army civilians: most of them live on post at one of the camps. There are a few of them, not a lot, that live downtown in housing that we guard and watch. I think I only have about 36 DA civilians living in the city, and those folks are all in housing areas that are guarded and watched.

But the contractors, which are the majority of the people you see going off post at night, came over here at their own risk. The contracting companies accept the risk, their employees accept the risk, and we try to mitigate those risks the best we can by making sure people live in smart areas, because there are definitely areas of Kuwait where you don't want to live. It's kind of like living in America or living anywhere else in the world. Each town has its own personality, and you have to be smart about where you go.

The contracting companies that deal over here all have security offices, and there are guidelines we give them as far as how to house their people, how to secure their areas and link them into our security system. This way, we know where they live, the companies know where their people live, the housing areas are all guarded and watched and we keep close ties to them.

**What quality of life improvements can servicemembers expect around Kuwait in the next year or so?**

The town squares, or camp centers, will offer more of a variety of choices and

become more mature. The DFACs will continue to improve every day with more menu choices, better layouts and their ability to handle the surge.

We're constantly improving conditions and getting more things onto the camps. I get letters from all the big companies who want to bring their services to the camps, but it doesn't really do the servicemembers any good if there are five different burger joints. You try to give them some variety and also you try to give them a flavor for where they're at. So it would be nice to get more things that are inherently Middle-Eastern so that the servicemembers can try it.

As far as housing goes, we've got a big effort going on Arifjan right now to get folks out of tents in Zone II and get them down into new tents in Zone VI. With the CFLCC and Coalition Operations and Intelligence Center staff moving into building 507, we'll

**“Hopefully, we'll be able to get to the point where we're not targets or potential targets. Then we'll be able to get the folks out to see Kuwait, because the overwhelming majority of Kuwaitis truly like Americans,”** – Col. Brick T. Miller

be able to get more folks housed properly in the Zone I buildings and put some units into the I-building in Zone 1. We're also going to be getting new furniture.

Out at the other camps, we're getting into newer, better, more efficient tents. A lot of construction is going on for re-locatable buildings, RLBs, which are kind of similar to the trailers at Doha. We want to put the primary camp and town square functions in the RLBs as opposed to tents. The primary reason is because it's more cost effective and efficient. When you get into RLBs, computers and electronic parts don't get the dust and sand damage that they do in tents. We're also trying to make the camps and town squares look a little bit more inviting than just a line of tents.

So there's a lot of construction going on at all the camps. The goal is not just expanding the camps, but making operations more efficient and making things a little bit nicer for folks.

**So is the plan to build more permanent barracks structures or will we be relying more on tents?**

This year in Arifjan's Zone VI we'll start moving people into concrete masonry units, or CMUs, which are concrete trailers similar to the ones they have at Camp Buehring. As we do that it will lower the number of tents. I have a population I've got to support, so until I have enough CMUs down at Arifjan to house everybody in we're still going to have tents.

Buehring is going to be around for a while, so we'd like to see people getting out of tents up there as well as at Camp Patriot at KNB and Ali Al Saleem Air Base.

Tents are still going to be a way of life in Kuwait, but there is a difference between a good tent and a bad tent. Most people say, “A tent is a tent.” Not really. I look at the issue in different ways. I worry about things like lice, sand fleas, infestations — those kinds of things. The ability to maintain kind of an airtight seal to keep sand out is also important. If a tent is not doing that then it just adds cost to our bottom line.

There are also a lot of tents in use that are force-provider tents. Those tents are kind of like the tents for the next war — whenever, wherever that might be. So the longer people stay in those tents, the closer to unserviceable they become and the less useable they are for the future. The longer I

keep them here, the less we'll have for the next time we need them. So, one of my goals is to make the transition to sustainment tents and get people out of force-provider equipment so it can be refurbished and returned to the shelf so its ready for the next time we need it.

**The Kuwaitis recently approved more than \$50 million for completion of Camp Arifjan's construction. When do you expect this construction to be completed?**

If I knew the answer to that question, I'd be the general in charge (laughing). Reasonably, within the next three years. But most of the things the money will cover aren't really quality-of-life improvements. They're more operational-type things.

Even though that money is provided because of the good intentions of the Kuwaitis, I can't sit around and wait for it. We have to improve the lives of servicemembers in Kuwait every day. You can't say, “Well, I'm not going to do anything about it because in three years they're going to build this.” I can't think of a day where I haven't signed off on some kind of improvement to one of the camps.

**Can you describe, in your own words, what the ASG-Kuwait commander does?**

He supports Soldiers and the CFLCC/3rd Army mission. But really my main job here is to take care of Soldiers and make life as bearable as I can so that the Soldiers can accomplish their missions, whatever those missions may be.

# Thinking about re-enlisting?

by Spc. Aimee Felix

Deployments can double a Soldier's pay-check while at the same time double his or her misery. While the money is good, a year away from family in a war zone can make or break a Soldier's decision to reenlist.

For those who are still unsure, there is a variety of career options to consider before making a decision.

Here to make active duty Soldiers aware of those options are two permanent party reenlistment noncommissioned officers in Camps Doha and Arifjan and the many reenlistment NCOs individual units provide. For Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers though, this year is the first time reenlistment NCOs have been deployed, providing insights to their potential future military careers. They came here with no expectations, and in the last year they've reenlisted up to 667 Soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class John White, reenlistment NCO for CFLCC Army Reserve Affairs.

Sgt. 1st Class David Smith one of the permanent party NCOs in Kuwait, assigned to the 160th Signal Brigade, said the active duty component has accomplished a retention rate that exceeds their quota by 160 percent.

Aside from the wide variety of career opportunities for Soldiers, these successes in retention in the reserve, guard and active duty components in theater can be mostly attributed to money, said White.

With a guarantee that all Soldiers reenlisting in theater will get a bonus of up to \$10,000 as long as they've served less than 14 years and have never received a reenlistment bonus before, reenlistment officers in theater don't often find themselves twisting anybody's arms to reenlist.

For deployed reservists and guardsmen, who are used to getting paid only one week-end a month by the military, the active duty pay is also a big factor in why they choose to reenlist, said White. So, one of the most popular reenlisting options among reservists and guardsmen is the Active Guard Reserve program because it allows them to work full time, but it gives them a chance to choose where they want to work. That is the biggest difference between AGR and active duty, said White. Another difference is that AGR Soldiers work in support of National Guard and Army Reserve units. Reservists and National Guardsman can apply for AGR service at any time by putting a packet together that goes before a board. Active duty Soldiers can apply for AGR when they reach their Estimated Time of Separation. They can do this with no break in service and replace their Individual Ready Reserve time with AGR service, said White.

Another career opportunity Soldiers have is the opportunity to retrain into a new Military Occupation Specialty. For reservists and guardsmen it's a matter of finding an available job within their unit they can reclassify into. Soldiers in active duty can reclassify upon reenlistment if they meet the General Technical aptitude score requirement for that MOS, said Smith.

For many Soldiers the opportunity to

become a leader as a commissioned or warrant officer is what it takes to encourage them to reenlist. Though many of the requirements for becoming an officer change, two of the primary pre-requisites for becoming a commissioned officer in the active component are 90 college semester hours and at least a 110 GT score. Reservists and guardsmen with 90 college semester hours and a minimum 110 GT score can apply for what is called a direct commission. If accepted, the Soldier won't have to go to OCS.

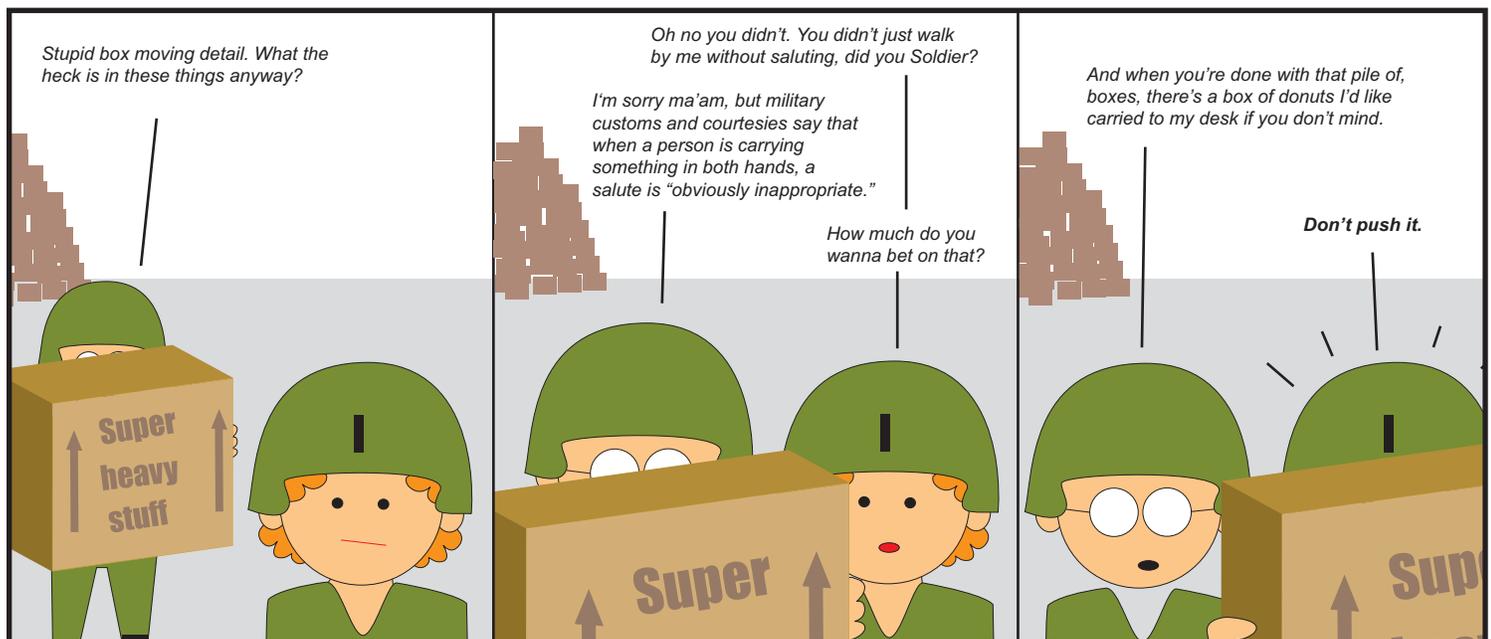
For a bump-up in pay and responsibility, Soldiers can also go warrant officer. As a warrant officer, a Soldier can specialize in a technical or aviation field and remain in that field for the rest of his or her career. To become a warrant officer a Soldier needs to have a minimum GT score of 110 and be able to hold a secret clearance, said White.

For Soldiers interested in getting a college education, there is ROTC. Soldiers can choose to go to college upon reenlistment through ROTC and get a chance at a full-ride scholarship and graduate as an officer. There is a simultaneous membership program available for Soldiers who want to join the Army Reserves at the same time as ROTC. Soldiers in this program will make money off of both programs.

With two more reenlistment offices in Camp Buehring and Camp Arifjan's Zone 6, all Soldiers in theater will have a lot more access to this and other information.

For further information on Army Reserve and National Guard affairs call DSN 430-7193 at Arifjan and DSN 828-1663 at Buehring. For information about active duty reenlistments call DSN 438-REUP in Doha. For information about reenlistment centers outside Kuwait, e-mail your questions to [cfllccarRetention@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:cfllccarRetention@arifjan.arcent.army.mil).

## behooverly



# In & Around Our Community

Special and weekly events around Kuwait's U.S. military community for Oct. 27 – Nov. 3, 2004

## Special Events: Arifjan

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

Game Night 7 p.m. at Zone 2 rec. tent

### Saturday

Halloween Carnival, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

### Sunday

Poker Tournament, 7 p.m. at the Community Center  
Halloween Costume Party and Haunted House, 7 p.m. at Camden

## 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

Caribbean Music, 7:30 p.m. at MWR stage  
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

## Special Events: Doha

### Wednesday

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

### Saturday

Halloween Party, 7 p.m. at Frosty's

### Sunday

Company/Battery/Troop Level Soccer League  
Over 40 Softbal League

## 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 the e-mail on the back cover.

Shuttle bus schedule	Departs Doha Stop 1 (Bldg. 6 PAX tent)	Arrives Doha Stop 2 (Bldg. 288&21)	Departs Doha Stop 2	Arrives Arifjan	Departs Arifjan	Arrives Doha Stop 1
			0545	0700	0545	0830
	0700	0715	0830	0715	1000	
	0845	0900	0915	1030	1045	1200
	1015	1025	1040	1200	1300	1430
	1300	1310	1325	1430	1445	1600
	1445	1450	1505	1615	1630	1745
	1615	1625	1640	1800	1900	2015
	1900	1910	1925	2045	2100	2215
	2030	2040	2055	2215	2230	2345
	2230	2240	2300	0030		

## 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)

## StrongSoldier Competition Nov. 27 at Camp Arifjan

It's an eight-event competition among five-man teams of servicemembers from any branch of service and any country. Each team must have one female.

The preliminaries will be on Nov. 20 at 9 a.m. at the Camp Arifjan Zone 1 Sports Field. This will be a process of elimination competition to find the top teams to compete Nov. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Camp Arifjan Zone 1

Sports Field. Entries are due Nov. 18.

The competition is open to all camps. You can pick up entry forms at fitness centers at the following places: Camp Arifjan, Camp Buehring, Camp Doha, Camp Victory and Ali Al Saleem Air Base.

E-Mail questions to Chief Warrant Officer John Robinson at [john.robinson@kuwait.army.mil](mailto:john.robinson@kuwait.army.mil).



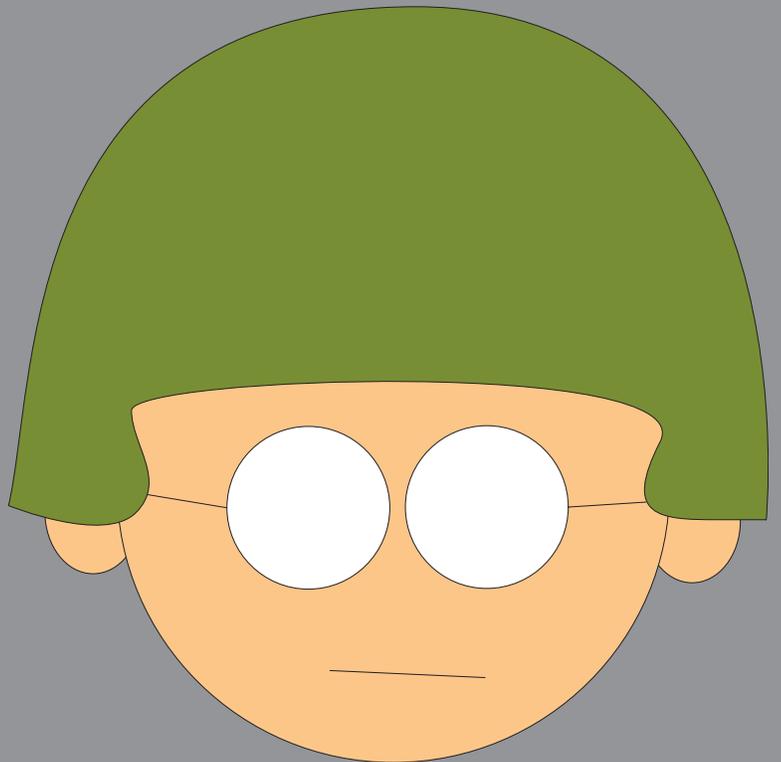
Photo by Spc. Curt Cashour

Soldiers with the 256th Enhanced Separate Brigade of the Louisiana National Guard participate in convoy live fire training at Camp Buehring Oct. 19.

# Untitled

Spc. Michael Foster, 1836th Transportation Company

In the midst of the heat  
Of the middle east,  
We come to know  
The insurgents grow,  
Never giving up  
We'll stop them abrupt,  
Ready to deploy  
Another convoy,  
With all our might  
Push through the night,  
Holding back the tears  
Fighting our fears,  
Driving forward  
Pushing us toward,  
Our final destination  
For rest and relaxation.



**DESERT  
VOICE**

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