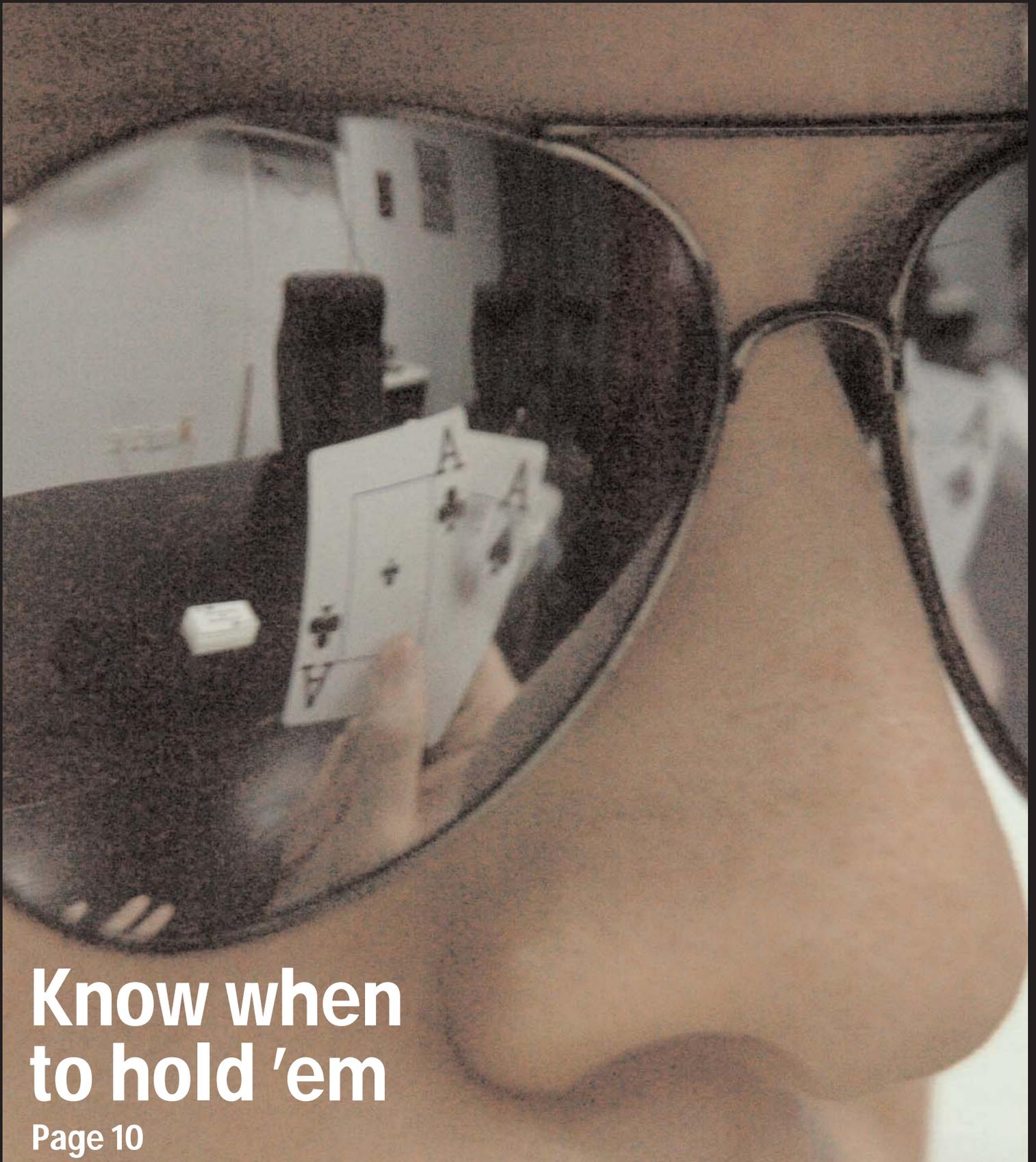


# DESERT VOICE

March 1, 2006

Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



**Know when  
to hold 'em**

Page 10

# CONTENTS

# DESERT VOICE

Volume 27, Issue 32

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.

# 32



## Page 3 Combat readiness

Command Sgt. Maj. Ashe talks about the importance of troops staying current in warrior tasks and battle drills.

## Page 4 Here for you

The Kuwait Naval Base operations cell does what it can to get redeploying units home as quickly as possible to their family and friends.

## Page 5 Marines polish fighting skills

MCC-Kuwait Marines participate in a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program to stay physically and mentally disciplined and combat-conditioned.

## Pages 6&7 Strawberry festival

A Florida National Guard unit shares a taste of the Florida Strawberry Festival with Camp Virginia. Strawberry shortcake and team events filled the day with fun.

## Page 8 Self-defense class

Servicemembers attended a female self-defense class to learn moves to fend off attackers.

## Page 9 Black History Month

At a Black History Month observance, servicemembers and civilians look at the past, celebrate the present and motivate future leaders.

## Page 10 When enough is enough

While gambling is illegal for servicemembers, the game has grown to new heights and has people all over the world wanting the action.

## Page 11 Community Events

Upcoming events: Montgomery Gentry concert, Texas Hold 'em tournaments, Oscars Night, Darts doubles tournament, Spades doubles tournament.

## Back page Duty

Graphic by Sgt. Robert Scott

Duty is the second Army Value of seven. The others are loyalty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

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

**CFLCC Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe

**CFLCC Public Affairs Officer**  
Col. Barrett King

**CFLCC Public Affairs Officer, Forward**  
Lt. Col. Debbie Haston-Hilger

**Commander, 11th PAD**  
Capt. Chevelle Thomas

**NCOIC, 11th PAD**  
Staff Sgt. Kerensa Hardy

**Desert Voice Editor**  
Sgt. Jonathan M. Stack

**Desert Voice Assistant Editor**  
Spc. Robert Adams

**Desert Voice Staff Writers**  
Spc. Janine Coogler  
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
Spc. Michael R. Noggle

**11th PAD Broadcasters**  
Spc. Christina Beerman  
Pfc. Jheridiah Anderson

### Editor

CFLCC PAO/  
*Desert Voice*  
Camp Arifjan  
APO AE 09306

[jonathan.stack@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:jonathan.stack@arifjan.arcent.army.mil)

Find us online at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)

### On the cover

Spc. Michael R. Noggle

Look of a champion. Rob Newbauer holds a pair of aces during a Texas Hold 'em match.



# Taking opportunities to train equals combat readiness

**Command Sgt. Maj.**

**Franklin G. Ashe**

Third U.S. Army/ARCENT/CFLCC  
Command Sergeant Major

Can they fight?

That's one of the most important questions a leader must ask himself about the members of his unit. It doesn't matter if that unit is an infantry outfit at a forward operations base or if it's stationed at Third U.S. Army headquarters. It has to be able to destroy the enemy on the battlefield. Through consistent training on warrior tasks and battle drills, troops can condition themselves to be more effective individually and collectively.

All Soldiers need to be qualified in what I call the "big four." Those are physical fitness, weapons marksmanship, first aid and battle drills. In my opinion, these four areas are the absolute foundation of every troop in the U.S. military. These skills are the heart and soul of being a warrior and a rifleman first.

In addition to those skills, Soldiers should maintain proficiency in their military occupational specialty. Regardless of what your job is, you need to take every opportunity you can to make yourself better in that area.

Continuously seek improvement in your specialty. Through practice, proficiency and improvement in any skill set can be achieved.

Every time you train, think about the possibility that it could be the last time you'll have the chance to practice that skill before you have to use it in combat.

Though some of us are serving in Kuwait supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, we're still in a combat zone. We have to be qualified on our individual readiness and unit training prior to deploying, but these skills are all perishable.

The training we conduct at the mobilization site, the combat readiness center or at home station needs to be reinforced as often as possible. This pre-deployment training is no good if you don't stay current on it.

If your everyday mission doesn't involve handling your assigned weapon, you should draw it and review your loading, firing and stoppage-reduction drills on a regular basis. These procedures should be practiced not only on individual weapons but crew-served weapons also.

Being deployed, troops live and work in an environment that has few training distractions. We're all responsible for maintaining our readiness as individuals. Make yourself a better Soldier and warfighter and increase your chances of success on the battlefield.

It's absolutely critical that you train on

other weapons to make yourself competent enough to operate them properly and clear any malfunctions that may occur. You've got to have the ability to make it work in combat. If you have the chance to learn about the maintenance of the weapon, that will make you even better. But, at a minimum, you have to be able to use the weapon to engage and destroy the enemy. Let's say you're in a convoy and the machine gunner gets wounded during an attack. Someone has to be able to step in and take over to prevent others from getting wounded or killed.

The next time you're sitting in your respective work area, take a moment to think about what you would do if your situation changed. What if your post was attacked? What would you do if the commander in chief decided that we need to go elsewhere to conduct operations? Don't be caught short. It's too late when you or your buddy get hurt or killed because you didn't know what to do. —THIRD ... ALWAYS FIRST.

According to the Army chief of staff, all Soldiers should be able to perform these warrior tasks and battle drills. Can you?

## **39 Warrior Tasks**

1. Qualify with assigned weapon – train
2. Correct malfunctions with assigned weapon – train
3. Engage targets with M-240B machine gun – familiarize
4. Engage targets with M-249 machine gun – familiarize
5. Engage targets with M-2 .50 caliber machine gun – familiarize
6. Engage targets with MK-19 machine gun – familiarize
7. Correct malfunctions with M-2 – train
8. Correct malfunctions with M-240B – train
9. Correct malfunctions with M-249 – train
10. Correct malfunctions with MK-19 – train
11. Engage targets with weapon using night-vision sight AN/PVS-4 – train
12. Engage targets with weapon using night-vision sight AN/PAS-13 – familiarize
13. Engage targets with weapon using night-vision sight AN/TVS-5 – familiarize
14. Engage targets using aiming light AN/PEQ-2A – familiarize
15. Engage targets using aiming light AN/PAQ-4 – familiarize
16. Employ mines (manned) and hand grenades – train
17. Perform voice communications: situation report/spot report – train
18. Perform voice communications: call for fire – train
19. Perform voice communications: medical evacuation – familiarize

20. Use visual-signaling techniques – train

21. Perform movement techniques during an urban operation – train

22. Engage targets during an urban operation – train

23. Enter a building during an urban operation – train

24. Determine location on ground (terrain association, map and Global Positioning System) – train

25. Navigate from one point to another (dismounted) – train

26. Move over, through or around obstacles (except mine fields) — train

27. Prepare a vehicle in a convoy – train

28. Move under direct fire – train

29. React to indirect fire (dismounted and mounted) – train

30. React to direct fire (dismounted and mounted) – train

31. React to unexploded ordnance hazard – train

32. React to man-to-man contact (combatives) – train

33. React to chemical or biological attack/hazard – train

34. Decontaminate yourself and individual equipment using chemical decontaminating kits – train

35. Maintain equipment – train

36. Evaluate a casualty – train

37. Perform first aid for open wound (abdominal, chest and head) – train

38. Perform first aid for bleeding of extremity – train

39. Select temporary fighting position – train

## **9 Battle Drills**

1. React to contact: visual, improvised explosive device, direct fire (includes rocket propelled grenade) – train

2. React to ambush (blocked) – train

3. React to ambush (unblocked) – train

4. React to indirect fire – train

5. React to chemical attack – train

6. Break contact – train

7. Dismount a vehicle – familiarize

8. Evacuate injured personnel from vehicle – familiarize

9. Secure at a halt – train



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Franklin G. Ashe**

*We're here for you...*

# KNB Operations redeploy 22nd MEU

**Spc. Michael R. Noggle**  
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

They aren't receiving a lot of the glory but the Kuwait Naval Base operations cell knows how to take care of business in the smoothest and quickest way possible.

As part of the 143rd Transportation Command, the ones calling all the shots want units to do as little as possible during their stay at KNB before redeploying.

"We're the coordinating crew," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Deffendall, KNB operations coordinator. "We make sure everyone involved comes together and makes it a successful redeployment out of theater."

It's not an easy task, Deffendall said. The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit recently completed its deployment to Iraq. From the moment the unit crossed the border into Kuwait, KNB operations cell kicked into gear.

"This is a by-the-book procedure," Deffendall said. "They come over, clean off their tracks, get staged and load the ships."

First, the operations cell coordinates a convoy security team to assist the unit to the KNB staging area for washing. For more than two weeks, they rotate through a 24-hour cycle at the wash racks, scrubbing, scraping and cleaning their equipment. With Navy customs agents inspecting the equipment during the majority of the process, the unit can't do a quick rinse on their equipment and expect to pass inspections.

"We get a bad reputation," said Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Lorenz, customs agent, referring to the inspectors. "There's a lot of struggle from arriving units to get home and we don't want to hold them up... If they miss some spots, then they'll have to do it again."

If you think a little sand doesn't hurt anyone, Lorenz said you should think again. If dirt were to pile up, over time insects could lay eggs and cause a bug problem with equipment.

"We have a lot of redundancy checks," he said. "But it's just to make sure everything is good to get on that vessel."

Among other things, Lorenz and other agents look for weapons, ammunition and war trophies that a troop might want to smuggle home.

After the inspections, the unit moves the vehicles to the staging area to await loading

onto the vessels. During such times, a customs agent must be present so no one tampers with the customs-cleared equipment.

At the staging area, equipment, vehicles and passengers board a landing craft, air cushion (hover ship) or a landing craft utility ship, which will deliver them to the USS Nassau, Austin or Carter Hall.

According to Deffendall, the 22nd MEU must load its equipment a certain way to be able to react at a moment's notice if called upon.

"They get them lined up and prepped as to how they want them on the ship," he said. "Their job is to react fast to a crisis, they load their equipment where they have the capabilities to unload quickly ... provide maximum combat power in the least amount of time."

Deffendall said the challenging feat of the redeployment process isn't as much physical work as it is communicating with all the personnel.

"We don't do all the work," he said. "We make sure everyone is on the same page and keeps things moving forward."

Once completed, the unit sets sail with its equipment to its next destination.

Deffendall added, "We want them to do as little work as possible and get them home quickly."



The USS Austin waits out at sea for vehicles to be transported for loading.



*Photos by Spc. Michael R. Noggle*

Marine Cpl. Daniel Filkins hoses down his tracked vehicle as the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit prepares to redeploy from KNB.



Signed, sealed and waiting to be delivered, humvees from the 22nd MEU await to go on board one of the vessels in the KNB ports.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Rodney Jackson

Marine Cpl. Anthony X. Ponce, brown-belt instructor, grapples with Marine Pfc. Ryan S. Manuel during MCMAP training at Arifjan.

## MCC-Kuwait Marines polish fighting skills

**Staff Sgt. Rodney Jackson**  
CFLCC PAO

The sounds of leather pads popping, bodies thudding on the ground or intense yells are just a hint of what you'll find if you step into any Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training area.

Movement Control Command-Kuwait, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Marines participated in MCMAP training at Camp Arifjan Feb. 6-25.

Every Marine is modeled as a rifleman and martial artist, said Marine Cpl. Anthony X. Ponce, brown-belt instructor. The point of MCMAP is to make sure every Marine is physically and mentally disciplined and combat conditioned.

Marines perform MCMAP training four to five times a week, usually after tough physical training sessions to help sus-

tain muscle memory, Ponce said. After the brain and body are exhausted, they retain learned functions better.

MCMAP also involves training with weapons to build the Marine mentally, physically and character-wise.

"Anything can be a weapon when you're in close combat," Ponce said. "A rock, brick, kevlar helmet – anything that you can get your hands on can be a weapon of opportunity."

MCMAP training provides the synergy to make the Marine complete, said Marine Staff Sgt. Terrance Watts, black-belt instructor. It keeps Marines efficient in the arts.

Marine Corps instructions, military occupational speciality, rifle training and the history of MCMAP are used in MCMAP to help make the Marine complete, Watts said. It gives the Marine of today a goal to work toward.

He has accomplished several goals himself, and is currently working on a few more.

Watts has an extensive background in martial arts. He has several black belts, including belts in Okinawan Issinryu, Tae Kwon Do and Jujitsu. He also has a brown belt in Judo. Watts is currently studying a form of Brazilian Jujitsu.

Belt certification testing is an accomplishment for Marines, he said. Given the opportunity, most Marines who set the goal of obtaining a black belt will get it.

Ponce said Marines set goals for pursuing higher belt levels for personal gratification.

After entry-level training, where Marines receive a tan belt, the testing helps Marines progress from a tan belt to gray, green, brown, and black belts.

"If you don't set goals, you won't achieve," Watts said.

"To help Marines achieve



**Ponce takes down Marine Lance Cpl. Adam J. Cunningham during the training.**

these goals MCMAP works like a big sponge," Watts said. "The Marine Corps is constantly building the program."

# Strawberry fields

*Florida unit brings hometown festival to Kuwait*

**Spc. Robert Adams**

Assistant Editor

The Florida Strawberry Festival gained a second home at Camp Virginia Feb. 18 when Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment shared a version of their city's famed festival with fellow troops and Coalition Forces.

The National Guard unit from Plant City, Fla., the home to the "World's Winter Strawberry Capital," brought hometown tradition to Kuwait since the troops are deployed during this year's two-week festivities.

"Of course you miss home but by bringing the festival here, it adds a little home flavor," said 1st Lt. Olan Stephens, 3/116th FA Coalition Forces and force protection officer in charge.

The mayor of Plant City issued a proclamation recognizing the unit and authorizing the event as an official Florida Strawberry Festival.

The festival was kicked off by a President's Day 5-k run, followed by a full day of team events, food and disc jockey music by artists who will perform at the Florida festival March 2-12.

Plant City provided T-shirts and trophies to award Soldiers in the day's team events: the egg toss, egg run, three-legged race, balloon toss, volleyball, horseshoes and a free-throw contest.

Yoke and water were flying as eggs and water balloons broke on participants.

"It was a blast," said Sgt. Victor Vigna, 3/116th FA, whose three-legged race team took a spill in the event. "The competition built good camaraderie among the participants."

The excitement grew when Lt. Col. Matthew Hearon, Camp Virginia and 3/116th FA commander, got in the dunk tank seat and started taunting the crowd.

A few throws, like the fastball thrown by Staff Sgt. Willie Gilliam, 343rd Medical Company medic, dropped Hearon into the cool water.

"With no repercussions, it was fun," Gilliam said. "He was a good sport."

As is a tradition at the Florida Strawberry Festival, Virginia also held a competition to



*Photos by Spc. Robert Adams*

**(Left to right) El Salvadorian soldiers Jorge Rosales Mesia and Rolanda Diaz top off their strawberry shortcakes with whipped cream at the Camp Virginia Strawberry Festival Feb. 18.**

crown a festival king and queen.

Teams of randomly picked males and females competed in events together and the team with the most points was crowned Virginia's king and queen.

"There can only be one king, so why not me?" said an excited Spc. Brian Benko, 3/116th FA, after being crowned king of the festival.

"I enjoyed it because it was a chance to meet new people," said Capt. Christal Laws,

54th Signal Battalion adjutant, who was crowned queen.

Attendees also got the opportunity to eat their share of burgers, hot dogs and, of course, strawberries at the event. The camp had 90 flats of strawberries and set up a build-your-own-strawberry-shortcake booth.

The festival has a long history that started back in 1930 which brought the local farmers together to introduce and sell their products and learn new things about the industry.

# s forever



**Spc. Kendra Still, 478th Personnel Support Battalion human resource specialist, laughs after a water balloon bursts all over her during the balloon toss.**

“It has a lot to do with the agricultural community... They show steer, swine and, of course, they’ve got strawberry shortcake,” said Sgt. 1st Class William Riley, 3/116th FA detachment first sergeant. “The city is the only place in the world where strawberries will grow in the wintertime because of the heat we have in Florida.”

Some Soldiers, like Stephens, grew up on farms and have always gone to the festivals. The only strawberry festivals he missed in the past 36 years were due to military obligations.

“When I was active duty nobody could relate to missing the festival,” Stephens said. “In a Guard unit from Plant City, everyone appreciates what it does for the community.”

Hearon said he will present Plant City with a flag that was flown over Virginia, Camp Bucca, and Abu Ghraib prison, where 3/116th FA Soldiers are located.

“I think it boosts morale, not only for us, but for the transient Soldiers and Coalition Forces... just to be able to come out and have a good time with a little Plant City twist to it,” Stephens said.



**(Middle) Spc. Brian Benko, 3/116th FA, and Capt. Christal Laws, 54th Signal Battalion adjutant, are first to the halfway point of the three-legged race. Benko and Laws won the event, had the most points overall and were crowned king and queen.**



**(Top) Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Watson, Virginia and 3/116th FA command sergeant major, throws the first ball at the dunk tank where Lt. Col. Matthew Hearon, Virginia and 3/116th FA commander is seated. (Bottom) Hearon takes a splash in the dunk tank after an accurate throw connected with the target to dunk him.**



**Bottles of strawberry syrup from a Plant City farm were used in the making of the strawberry shortcake mixture.**

# Self defense class creates hard targets

**Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw**

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

*“I declare to you that woman must not depend upon the protection of man but must be taught to protect herself and there I take my stand.”*

**Susan B. Anthony**

She’s pinned. Her attacker holds her arms down with ease. He’s twice her size but she does a few basic movements and escapes without harm.

This is the goal of a self-defense class given to some servicemembers at Camp Buehring Feb. 8.

“If you wanted to narrow what the class is to a few words, it would be ‘evade and escape,’” said Petty Officer 1st Class Gregory Brown, Law and Order Detachment patrolman and class instructor.

“We’re not teaching them to go toe-to-toe with an attacker, but to be loud, scream and draw attention to themselves so they can escape,” he said.

The class is taught in three blocks of instruction.

The first is avoid, which teaches women to avoid putting themselves in situations that make them easy targets.

To be a hard target, a woman should travel with a friend or loved one, even if it means waiting, park under lights and near the door and be aware of their surroundings.

“The biggest part of the class isn’t physical – it’s being aware,” Brown said.

The second principle is blocking the attack. This is basically stopping the activity of the perpetrator whether their attack is with a grab, tackle or a bear hug.

“These women need to use their strengths and exploit their attacker’s weaknesses.”

Brown said he teaches how to manipulate the hand and arm to use the weakest part of the body to the woman’s advantage.

He said he also shows the class how to use 45 degree angles of the body, which is a weak angle for the attacker.

The last section of the class is counters. Counters include head-butting, eye-gouging and any other means the woman can use to escape.

Brown emphasized that these counters



Photos by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

**Spc. Amber Heatherly, Third Corps Support Command automated logistics specialist, uses a self-defense move to fend off her “attacker.”**

aren’t to be used to beat up the attacker but to allow the woman time to get away. Brown first gave the class at Camp Victory when the sexual assault task force team said it was interested in having someone teach women’s self-defense.

Brown volunteered because he has six years experience teaching self-defense in the United States.

After finding out about the class, Maj. Tyra

*Maj. Tyra Sellers*

Sellers, Base Support Battalion – North logistics officer, coordinated to have one at Buehring.

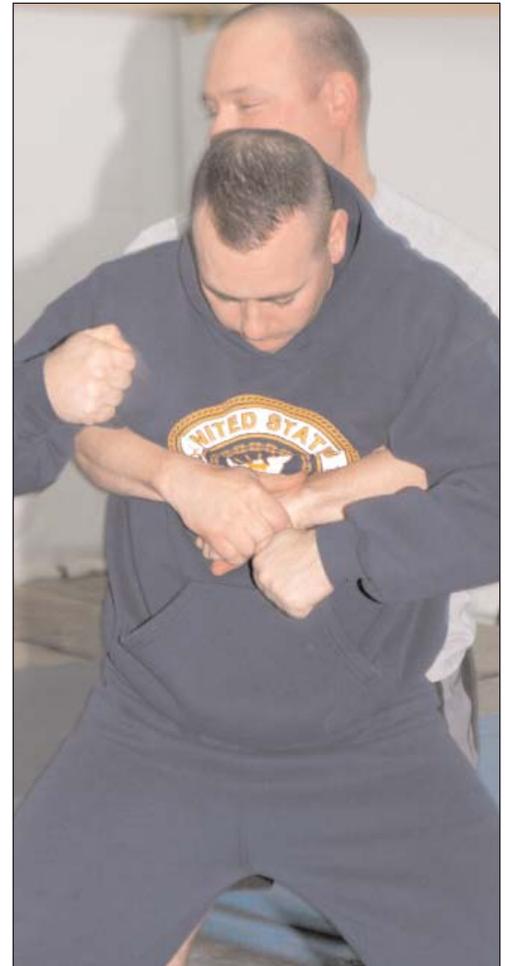
“I think it’s important for females here to know some techniques,” she said. “We get a false sense of security because we’re on a military installation... We may not be as safe as we think we are.”

Sellers participated in the class and said she thought it was informative and helpful to her and the other attendees.

“It’s about empowerment,” she said. “Women don’t always know how strong they are.”

She said she was so impressed by the class that she intends to coordinate more classes to be held monthly or quarterly.

“I’m hoping the women who took the class will tell one more female,” Sellers said. “You never know when you might help that one female.”



**Petty Officer 1st Class Gregory Brown, Law and Order Det. patrolman and class instructor, punches his “attacker’s” hands while demonstrating a self-defense technique.**

# Remembers past, celebrates future, motivates youth

**Spc. Janine Coogler**  
CFLCC PAO/11th PAO

Whether it's remembering those who struggled through slavery or who lived in a segregated society, black history continues to educate, inform and motivate people with its stories of the trials blacks overcame for freedom and equality.

Through song, sacred dance and poetry, servicemembers and civilians looked at the past, celebrated the present and motivated future leaders during a Black History Month observance Thursday at the Camp Arifjan Zone 1 Chapel.

The program was one of several Black History Month observances on Arifjan.

"Tonight we will scratch the surface of African-American history," said Sgt. 1st Class William Martin, master of ceremony.

From Harriet Tubman, Fredrick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr. to Jesse Owens and Wilt Chamberlain, black history is filled with stories of those who fought for justice, equality, peace and freedom, said Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart, 1st Medical Brigade ser-

geant major.

Through his poetry, Stuart expressed his thoughts on the trials, struggles and accomplishments of African-Americans. "It is their legacy but our destiny to follow."

His poem was in line with the program's theme: reaching out to youth.

"We need to mentor our youth," said guest speaker Lt. Col. Audrey Lee, 266th Finance Command strategic planner. Blacks have a great legacy and history, but who will be the next great doctors, lawyers and teachers?

Lee challenged the audience to make a commitment to get involved by using their experiences to mentor the youth. "We need to get them to think about their future and where they want to go in life."

To help express the theme, the Arifjan drama ministry performed a skit to show the pressures youth face. "The dramatization showed that we have to talk to our youth," Lee said.

The issue of educating, motivating and mentoring the youth in today's society is not a racial one, Lee said. It is everybody's



Spc. Janine Coogler

**Staff Sgt. Chakeyma Allen speaks to the audience through a sacred dance to *Enlarge My Territory* during a Black History Month observance at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 Chapel Thursday.**

issue.

"It's all about diversity and coming together," Lee said. "Don't let this be the only observance you come to. These are about education."

She added, "In everything we do, we are role models and someone is watching... Whether they are young Soldiers, or teenagers, let's lead our youth in the right direction."

## Estonia's commander of defense visits troops

**Spc. Janine Coogler**  
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Estonian Vice Admiral Tarmo Kouts, the commander of Estonia's defense forces, traveled to Iraq Feb. 8-15 to show support for his troops.

During his visit, Kouts was able to inspect the Estonian platoon, officers and learn situations of the contingent's operations and missions, said Estonian Capt. Peeter Tali, Public Affairs Office chief.

The trip allowed Kouts to step into the crowd and see how the soldiers were doing, Tali said.

The Estonian infantry platoon is embedded with Coalition and U.S. military forces.

They help conduct patrol missions and

serve as quick-reaction forces in their area of responsibility, Tali said.

To gauge the morale of the troops, Kouts spoke with soldiers about their accomplishments, accommodations and families.

To meet the main objective of checking on his troops, Kouts had to observe the AOR, equipment and safety, conduct meetings with commanding officers and speak with soldiers, Tali said.

The Estonian troops and officers are doing well, completing assigned missions and maintaining safety, Kouts said.

"I saw my boys in action and they are useful in the missions they are doing," he boasted.

The U.S. military commanders overseeing the Estonian contingent continue to appreci-

ate the support from Estonia's soldiers, Tali said.

"They trust in our soldiers to perform their duties and do a good job," he said.

Throughout his trip, Kouts gathered information about the conditions of the Estonian contingent.

"The people of Estonia want to know about the soldiers," Kouts said.

"Although we're a small unit ... the population supports the soldiers and are concerned about them," he said.

The contingent is filled with professional, dedicated and tough soldiers ready to support and sustain missions in Iraq, Kouts said.

"I've come to show them their country supports them and to make sure they are doing well," he said.



*Spc. Michael R. Noggle*

A game of skill, luck and talent, troops have not only learned how to play Texas Hold 'em but different aspects of the game as well. Shuffling and dealing the cards to the competition is part of the action that occurs during a game of poker.

*Just a game... Or is it?*

## Why poker has evolved into more than a game

**Spc. Michael R. Noggle**  
CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Celebrities are doing it, the television networks are broadcasting it and people from all over the world come together to play in the annual world series.

The game is Texas Hold 'em.

What is the addiction that draws audiences?

"Texas Hold 'em is one of those games that involve so many different talents and skills," said Heath Papkov, Coalition Forces Land Command Component C-7 engineers. "It is an adrenaline rush to try and stay in a game when you know you have nothing. The games really test your ability to stay calm when everything inside you wants to let go."

While gambling is illegal for servicemembers on duty or deployed throughout all branches of the military, the game is gaining interest as troops are offered

a non-profitable tournament by camps' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

"It gives the Soldiers something to do," said Jennifer Villarreal, MWR need recreational specialist. "We're not playing for money; it's just a game to teach everyone the basics."

Twice a month, those stationed at Camp Arifjan are able to participate in the friendly but competitive tournament. More than a hundred participants start the evening. For some it is a learning experience, but for others it's a chance to compete.

Many of the servicemembers are curious to see what all the hype is about. Others, such as Eric Griffith, CFLCC C-2 plans, have been playing for some time.

"I've been playing for a couple of years, mostly with friends," he said. "Here I play usually four to five times a month because it's fun and a time killer."

Papkov said he believes the

television networks have hyped the game in the last few years, around the time he started playing.

"Television has taken Texas Hold 'em to whole new levels," he said. "It has taken a game that has been played for years and shown that average people can win. There is nothing special about the people we view winning on TV during the championships."

"Most of them have only played for a few years but have taken the time to brush up on their talents," she said.

Some, like Villarreal, enjoy watching the tournaments and hosting them for the troops.

"I like to see people win and the atmosphere that surrounds the game," she said.

"I watched it on ESPN and the people get intense - it's fun to watch," she said.

Papkov, like Griffith and Villarreal, said the game is more luck than skill. The more some-

one plays, the better his understanding of the game and the players.

"There are so many ways to win in Texas Hold 'em and the more experience one has, the more chance he has at succeeding," Papkov explained. "Texas Hold 'em seems to take as much luck as skill, but the more skill you have it tends to keep your luck up."

So when is the game more than a game?

Griffith said that Texas Hold 'em mixed with money can be disastrous.

"It's become a vise," Griffith said. "Just like prostitution, drinking and drugs, it's not good."

"If one is to gamble, it should only be done with self control and reason," Papkov said. "People sometimes fail to realize that they need to step back from a game when it no longer is a game played for fun and becomes an addiction."

# Community

## happenings for March 1 through March 8

### Arifjan

#### Wednesday

March Madness basketball tournament sign-up, through March 19, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Women's basketball tournament sign-up, through March 13, Zone 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

Country Night, 7 p.m., stage

Cardio kickboxing, 5 a.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

#### Thursday

Texas Hold 'em tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Hip-Hop Night, 7 p.m., stage

Ballroom dance class, 8 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Extreme kickboxing, 6 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

#### Friday

Foosball tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

Salsa Night, 7 p.m., stage

#### Saturday

Hip-Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 food court

Cardio kickboxing, 5 a.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Abs, 8 a.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Hip-Hop Step, 1 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

#### Sunday

Old School/Reggae/Carribbean Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Salsa Night, 7 p.m., stage

Step and Abs, 5 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Abs, 8 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Step and Abs, 1 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

#### Monday

Step and Abs, 5 a.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Abs, 8 a.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Cardio kickboxing, 1 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

#### Tuesday

Ballroom dance class, 8 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Cardio kickboxing, 5 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Step and Abs, 8 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Abs, 1 p.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Extreme kickboxing, 6 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

#### Wednesday

Country Night, 7 p.m., stage

Step and Abs, 8 a.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Cardio kickboxing, 1 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Olympic boxing class, 8 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

#### For more information call

**430-1205/1302**

### Buehring

#### Wednesday

Texas Hold 'em tournament, 7 p.m., Oasis

Weekly fun run, 5k, 5:30 p.m., Green Beans

Basketball championships, through March 13

#### Sunday

Darts tournament, 3 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Monday

Oscars Night, 4 a.m., theater

#### Tuesday

Chess tournament, 7 p.m., Oasis

Checkers tournament, 8 p.m., Oasis

#### Wednesday

Weekly fun run, 7.5k, 5:30 p.m., Green Beans

Montgomery Gentry concert, 6 p.m., stage

Halo tournament, 7 p.m., Palms

#### For more information call

**828-1340**

### Kuwait Naval Base

#### Wednesday

Step Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

Chess tournament, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Thursday

Latin Dance Night, 7 p.m., Aerobics Room

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Friday

Spin Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

Bingo Night, 7 p.m., MWR stage

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Saturday

Darts doubles tournament, 2 p.m., Recreation Center

Tae Kwon Do, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Sunday

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Monday

Spin Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Tuesday

Latin Dance Night, 7 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### Wednesday

Step Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

Spades doubles tournament, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

Hip-Hop Dance Night, 9 p.m., Aerobics Room

#### For more information call

**839-1063**

### Navistar

#### Monday

Life, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Softball tournament, 8 a.m., softball field

Tiger Woods PGA tour 2006

#### Tuesday

Life, 8 a.m., MWR tent

Softball tournament, 8 a.m., softball field

Tiger Woods PGA tour 2006

#### Wednesday

Life, 8 a.m., through March 10, MWR tent

Softball tournament, 8 a.m., through March 10, softball field

Tiger Woods PGA tour 2006

#### For more information call

**844-1137**

### Spearhead/SPOD

#### For information call 825-1302

### Victory

#### Thursday

Classic Rock and Country Night, 7 p.m., MFT

#### Friday

Flashback Fridays Dance, 8:30 p.m., MFT

#### Saturday

Kuwait City Tour, 8 a.m., Scientific Center and Kuwait Towers

Hip-Hop and R&B Night, 8:30 p.m., MFT

Hip-Hop and R&B Night, 8:30 p.m., MFT

Hip-Hop and R&B Night, 8:30 p.m., MFT

#### For more information call

**823-1033**

### Virginia

#### Wednesday

Country Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Thursday

Karaoke Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Friday

Salsa Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Saturday

R&B and Hip-Hop Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Sunday

Old School Jams Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### For more information call

**832-1045**

*obligation*

service

task

d  
u  
t  
y

**du·ty** (dt, dy-), n. pl. du·ties. 1. An act or a course of action that is required of one by position, social custom, law, or religion: Do your duty to your country. 2. a. Moral obligation: acting out of duty. b. The compulsion felt to meet such obligation. 3. A service, function, or task assigned to one, especially in the armed forces: hazardous duty. 4. Function or work; service: jury duty.