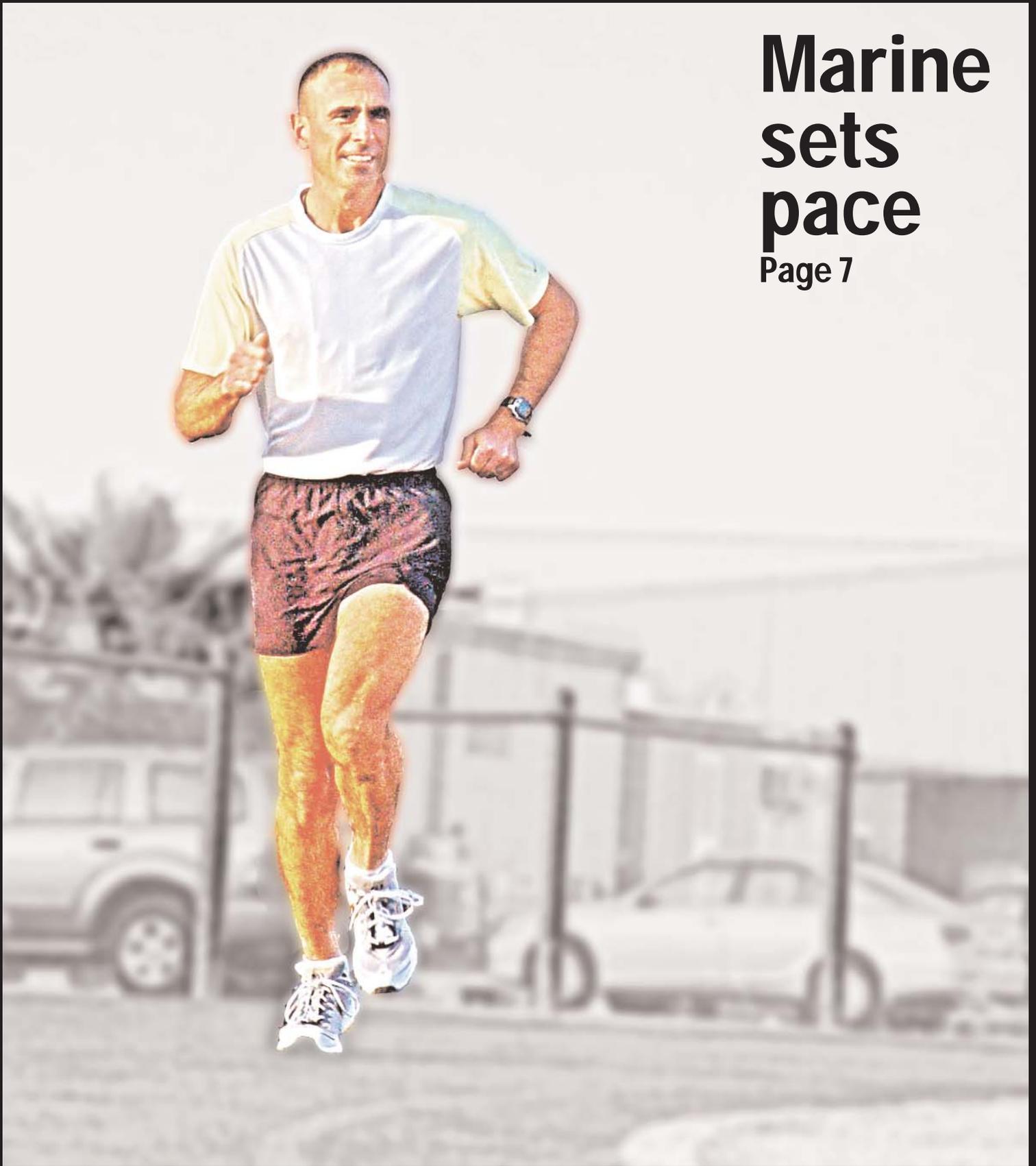


# DESERT VOICE

April 12, 2006

Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



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Volume 27, Issue 38

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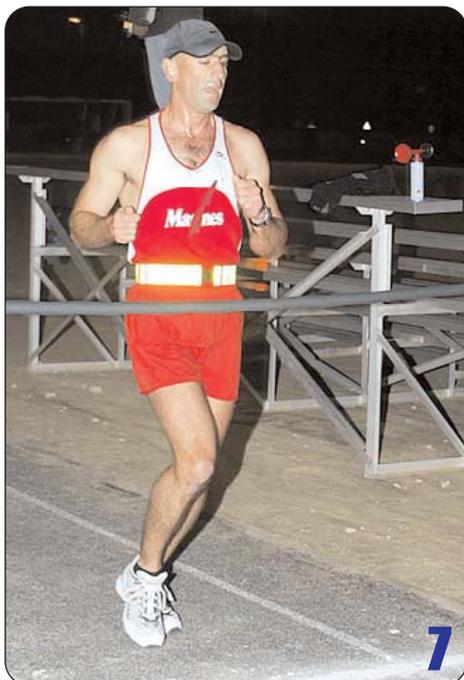
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### On the cover

Illustration by Spc. Robert Adams

Lt. Col. Steven Schmid begins one of his daily long-distance training runs at Camp Arifjan Friday.

# Troops work together for a common goal

**Command Sgt. Maj.**

**Franklin G. Ashe**

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

Leaders know best. Leaders have been trained to give legal orders. And regardless of what your branch of service is – Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard — your leaders know what’s best.

I recently noticed some servicemembers don’t seem to understand what working in a joint-services environment really means. So let me clear that up so you can better understand your role in the big picture.

Some servicemembers use the “it’s-not-in-my-job-description” excuse to shirk duties. But regardless of what service you’re in, what your military occupation speciality states, you will do what you’re told.

Servicemembers don’t have just “one job.” We are all multi-functional. We have to be to win this war.

This is a joint fight. We are one team and this is one fight. We all have the same mission regardless of our branch of service. We all must step up and do our job and help others do their jobs to win this war.

All of us took the oath to obey the president and “the orders of the officers appointed over me.” That statement, regardless of what branch you are in is not service-specific.

As the command sergeant major of the CFLCC AOR, if you’re attached to, assigned to operate, or controlled by Third U.S. Army, I have the legal authority to tell you what to

do ... so do all the leaders in your Third U.S. Army chain of command regardless of your or their branch.

I will take care of all service-members fairly and equally. I don’t care what your branch is, whether you’re active duty or a Reserve component service member, or if you’re a civilian, everyone will get 100 percent of my attention at all times. I also expect that regard from all leaders regardless of the difference in everyone’s branch.

I respect the differences between the services, our various traditions, regulations and history. I don’t want everyone to be the same. All of us joined our branches because it offered us what we want to better ourselves. But don’t let the difference in our uniforms get in the way of accomplishing the mission.

If you’re an Airman working for a Soldier, a Sailor working for an Airman, or a Soldier working for a Marine, active or Reserve, you are legally bound to do what your supervisor tells you to do. If you bypass that, it’s disrespectful and you’re disobeying a legal order.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice does not discriminate or specify laws based on the branch of service. It considers all servicemembers as one: the United States of America’s military. All servicemembers fall under the same rules and must obey their leaders regardless of their leader’s branch of



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

service.

Throughout our AOR, liaison offices are set up within various headquarters. The liaison officers are there to help their respective servicemembers with work issues, such as promotions. The LNOs are not in your chain of command. They are not there because the servicemember has issues with a member of his/her chain of command.

If you work in an Army unit and you have a problem with your Army leader, whether you’re in the Army or not, use the chain of command.

I’ve heard excuses about why it’s hard to work with servicemembers from other branches. I’m tired of them. There should be no excuses. We all have the same mission and I report to an Airman – Command Chief Master Sgt. Curtis L. Brownhill, the command chief master sergeant for U.S. Central Command. We have no issues because of the difference in our services. We both work and fight for the United States and CENTCOM.

In recent years, we have and will continue to work and fight in a joint environment. That unity has helped us and will continue to make us a stronger force. Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen will work and fight for their leaders regardless of what branch we’re in. WE ARE ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT!



*Air Force Staff Sgt. Bradley C. Church*  
**Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Loughlin, Army Staff Sgt. Michael Petrelli and Senior Airman Andy Gerdeman respond to a simulated vehicle accident April 3 at Ali Base, Iraq. The simulated accident was a joint exercise with Company C, 3rd 126 Air Ambulance and the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.**

*HEAT saves lives*

# Georgians credit training for lack of fatalities

**Spc. Janine Coogler**

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Learning how to react in extreme circumstances saved the lives of a few Georgian soldiers.

A Georgian gunner and his crew walked away from a humvee rollover accident with minor injuries April 1 at Udairi Range.

Georgian Forces received training on the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer the day before the accident and credit that for the lack of fatalities in the accident.

"We did what we were trained to do to survive," said Georgian Cpl. Levani Lomtadze, humvee gunner.

Traveling on the counter-improvised explosive device lanes, Lomtadze's humvee hit a hill and turned over. The vehicle did a complete 360 degree rollover.

Lomtadze said he and his crew felt the car turning and immediately assumed the correct abrasive positions to survive.

The HEAT provided the Georgian troops with knowledge that helped save their lives, Lomtadze said.

"If we didn't take the class we wouldn't have known what to do," he added.

HEAT is a Coalition Forces Land Component Command prototype as a proactive measure to reduce injuries in rollover accidents.

"This was the first rollover accident with soldiers that have gone through the training," said Maj. Bill Kehoe, CFLCC safety officer. "It is important to know the training is effective and can save lives."

The soldiers involved in the accident were trained together in the HEAT.

"One of the goals during training is to keep normal crews together so they are familiar with commands, reaction drills and have confidence with one another," Kehoe said.

During HEAT troops learn how to trust one another, stay calm and communicate, said Staff Sgt. Gerald Naidu, HEAT noncommissioned officer in charge of Georgian training.

Simulating the point when the vehicle is expected to rollover, during the training the humvee cab is tilted to a 30-degree angle. By the end of the training the cab



*Spc. Janine Coogler*

**A Georgian soldier exits the HEAT trainer at Camp Arifjan March 27.**

rotates to a complete 180-degree angle to suspend the vehicle upside down.

The troops learned how to react quickly and trust the equipment, said Sgt. Antonio Lucero, HEAT instructor during Georgian training.

Once they realized the seatbelts could hold their weight with all their gear, the soldiers were able to focus on the safety positions and communication drills, Lucero said.

"The Georgian soldiers were very attentive and quickly picked up on what they were supposed to do," he said.

While the Georgians were

training, soldiers had smiles on their faces and seemed to be enjoying the HEAT as they learned, Lucero said.

"Whenever training can be presented in an enjoyable way, soldiers pick up on it and learn from it. And it goes on to save their lives," he added.

Military training is developed to help troops maintain their safety during missions, and in this accident the HEAT training saved the lives of Georgian soldiers, Lucero said.

Lomtadze added, "If everyone follows the rules set during the training they will avoid serious injury during rollover accidents."

## *Servicemembers take oath to be naturalized*

**Spc. Michael R. Noggle**

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Servicemembers deployed to Kuwait became citizens of the United States Thursday during a naturalization ceremony at the Zone 1 Chapel.

Fifty-seven Soldiers and Sailors from 26 different countries were presented a certificate by Army Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third U.S. Army commanding general, and Mr. Matthew H. Tueller, charge d'affairs of the U.S. Embassy Kuwait.

"It is a great day to be an American," Whitcomb said.

"I am not only happy and proud to be here as a Soldier, but as an American as well."

"As new citizens to the United States, I salute you," Tueller said. "From today on, you have the opportunity to pursue the American Dream."

To become eligible for U.S. citizenship, one must demonstrate good moral character, an understanding of U.S. history and government and comprehension of the English language.

The ceremony was the first one conducted since mid-December as troops from all over Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar took the oath to become U.S. citizens.



*Pic. Joshua Ramey*

**Fifty-seven servicemembers cite the oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony Thursday at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 chapel.**

*With tragedy comes loss of dream, but ...*

# Soldier continues playing game he loves

**Spc. Michael R. Noggle**

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

Growing up on the ball fields of San Antonio, Sgt. Gregory Garza was a typical young baseball player with a dream to be a big-league star.

Having played baseball until college, Garza was well on his way of pursuing the dreams he had as a youngster until an accident in college forced him to the sidelines for good.

At the age of 4, Garza's first encounter with baseball was going to batting cages with his father.

"I remember a crowd would gather around my cage," he said. "I was in the 70-miles-per-hour cage at 4 years old hitting balls. I not only was making contact, but I was hitting the ball with velocity behind it."

From there the sky was the limit for the young ballplayer. He began playing in his first organized competitive league as his team's second baseman during his elementary-school era.

Garza's game was based on one of the all-time best, former Chicago Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandberg.

"I always thought the guy was smooth," Garza said. "I tried to emulate him when I played."

While Garza said he idolized Sandberg, it was his parents who pushed him to become the player he was all through high school and into college. His father would spend evenings with him in the backyard practicing his pitching and fielding, while his mother was the proverbial "soccer mom."

"My parents always pushed me and never let me quit," he said. "They were my inspiration and were involved in all my athletics."

In high school, Garza's athleticism expanded to other sports, however, it was baseball at which he stood out. As a sophomore he played on the varsity team through his senior year.

"I was fortunate to play football and basketball, but baseball was the one sport I excelled in," he said.

Upon graduating from his local San Antonio high school, Garza decided to play locally for Texas Lutheran, a smaller college with just as much talent.

Lacking commitment, he grew discontent and lost interest, which led to pursuing other endeavors. Garza occasionally played in



*Spc. Michael R. Noggle*

**Sgt. Gregory Garza talks to his team about what strategy they need to have going into the spring softball season.**

Mexican League Baseball, which brought resurgence to his career once again.

With the knack to play once more, Garza intended to transfer to another university as a full-time pitcher. But in the summer of 1995, he was struck by an automobile - ending any hope of a comeback.

"It left me messed up pretty bad," as he recalled that day. "I had a broken collar bone, two broken ribs in the front and back and a collapsed lung. I was strapped down for a bit."

After a long rehabilitation period, Garza said he knew his playing days were over along with his dreams.

"I was trying to make a comeback, but the car accident left me messed up," he said. "As a pitcher it affected my mechanics and I didn't have the work ethics in baseball that I should have had. I had to let go."

Upon finishing his degree, Garza gave the playing field one last shot. Playing in intramural leagues and a team his father's company played for, Garza found a passion for slow-pitch softball.

"I guess I've become obsessed with softball," he said. "As I have gotten older and heavier, my response time and reflexes have gotten slower. I guess that's why softball is more my speed."

When he enlisted in the Army in 2000, Garza said he thought his softball-playing days would be put on hold and he would focus on training and education. Little did he know, there would be chances for him to continue playing.

"I've been honored to play with some of the best softball players the Army has," Garza said. "Luckily, there have been ample oppor-

tunities for me to play,"

The torch has now been passed to Garza as manager/player of the 1st Medical Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas. A unit with a winning legacy, Garza said he hopes to have as much success as those prior.

With his knowledge of the game, Garza has willingly shared advice with the younger players on his team.

"After playing with him, I have gotten a lot better," said Spc. Brad Hapner, teammate.

He added, "He won't get on us if we mess up, he'll tell us what we need to do and we'll fix it."

Hapner said he feels Garza's commitment to the game is deeper than anyone else's. During the off-season he spends three to four days a week practicing hitting and throwing, and six to seven days a week during the season.

"Not only does he get his job done in the office, but he'll lose sleep to work and play," Hapner said.

"He takes it serious... He'll go out to the field at night with 40 balls and practice hitting, then picks them all up and does it again," he said.

Garza said he believes his playing days will continue for another 15 years but his coaching will be everlasting.

"I feel I have a lot of knowledge to spread to other players," he said.

He added, "My children will be playing soon and I want to be there when they start playing."

Garza and the 1st Med. Brigade will be competing in this year's Area Support Group-Kuwait softball season, continuing to play the game he loves.

# Camp Buehring hosts marathon

**Pfc. Joshua Ramey**  
2nd BCT, 1st AD PAO

The history of the marathon dates back to Pheidippides, a wounded Greek Soldier who, according to legend, ran from the city-state of Marathon to Athens to announce that the Persians had been defeated in the Battle of Marathon.

He died shortly after announcing the news. The idea of organizing the race came in 1896 as part of the first modern Olympics Games in Athens, Greece. The actual distance of a marathon was officially set in 1921 by the International Olympic Games Committee at 26.2 miles, the distance Pheidippides ran between Marathon and Athens.

Soldiers from military camps around Kuwait gathered at Camp Buehring to participate in the legendary 26.2-mile marathon at 4 a.m. March 19.

The run began at the Base Support Battalion command cell with a safety briefing from Violet Kelly, Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff member.

She made sure everyone knew the route, where to find the water points and where medical services were available. The route circled the camp four times and ended near the main MWR stage.

Lt. Col. Steve Schmid, Marine Forces Central Command sustainment liaison officer, won the race completing the run in only 2 hours and 43 minutes. "I've been running about 70 miles per week, but it was still a difficult run," he said. "We had perfect weather, no winds – couldn't ask for a better day."

There were 115 people who began the race and 80 people completed the run. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Wills, Company B, 47th

Forward Support Battalion, finished in 3rd place and 1st place in the 30-39 age group with a time of 3 hours and 9 minutes.

"I run a lot, but this run was still really tough," Wills said.

Spc. Rogelio Renteria, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, finished the run in 3 hours and 25 minutes, 5th place overall - 2nd in the 30-39 age group.

"This is the first time I've run a marathon," Renteria said. "My mind feels great, but my body is in agonizing pain, I only run once a week."

Around the 10-mile mark, the runners started to have looks of pure, unrestrained torture in their faces. The die-hard runners in the group soon realized that the only way out was to keep running, so they pushed through to complete the marathon.

Just as Pheidippides of ancient Greece, these warriors recognize the inseparable nature of stamina, physical fitness and overall combat readiness.

The run was considered a success with no injuries.

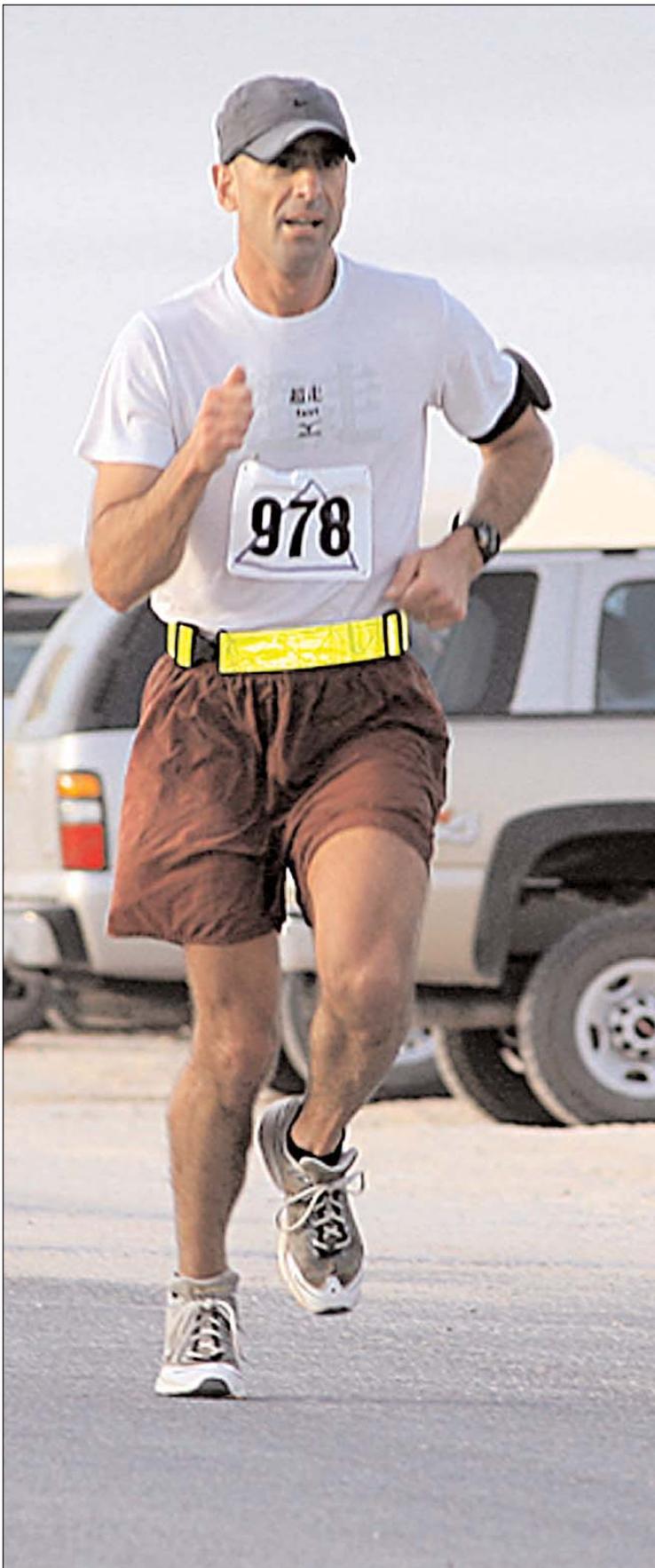


*Photos by Pfc. Joshua Ramey*

**Spc. Rogelio Renteria, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, finishes 5th place in the marathon with a time of 3 hours and 25 minutes.**



**Violet Kelly, MWR, gives troops a safety briefing prior to the Camp Buehring marathon March 19.**



**Lt. Col. Steven Schmid, MARCENT sustainment liaison officer, runs along the Camp Buehring marathon course uncontested March 19. Schmid won the event in 2 hours and 43 minutes. Schmid, 41, is no stranger to marathons, who was the top runner on "Team Marine" not too long ago.**

*Courtesy photo*

# Marine runner: Camp Arifjan's Schmid is a step ahead of competition in local running events

**Spc. Robert Adams**  
Assistant Editor

For one Marine, running far and fast is a daily routine.

At 41 years of age, Lt. Col. Steven Schmid, Marine Forces Central Command sustainment liaison officer, is in excellent physical condition and has no plans of slowing down in the near future.

Since arriving in Kuwait Jan. 8, Schmid has won all four road races he has entered.

In his latest victory, Schmid won the Camp Buehring marathon in 2 hours and 43 minutes, which is a 6-minute, 13-second-per-mile pace.

How does one get to be in the shape Schmid is in at his age?

For one, Schmid's family is gifted in long-distance running, but the underlying reason is that he enjoys running 70 to 80 miles a week.

"Running is a way of life," Schmid said. "I believe in running everyday because I love to run everyday."

A runner since the age of 14, Schmid has strived in 5-k races to marathons throughout his running career.

Schmid also ran cross country in college prior to joining the Marines.

Selected to be a runner on "Team Marine," which is comprised of the Marines' top distance runners, Schmid ran in four Marine Corps marathons. One of his best finishes was at the All Armed Forces Marathon in 1998 where he placed second overall.

Schmid has been an inspira-

tion to many servicemembers he has talked to about running and even helped one runner reach her goal of finishing the Buehring marathon.

After viewing a flyer two weeks prior to the marathon, Maj. Oni Regil, Coalition Forces Land Component Command Logistics executive officer, decided she wanted to run it.

With minimal training and running knowledge, Regil looked to Schmid for advice on how to train for and run the marathon.

Since the marathon date was so close, Regil said Schmid told her to focus on finishing the race and not on time. She said he also gave her stretching, hydration and pacing advice.

"He was supportive, saying, 'If you want to finish the marathon then you will,'" Regil said.

Now that she has one marathon under her belt, Regil said she has already signed up for another marathon in the future. And this time she said she's going to run to compete.

Schmid said anyone can run a marathon and Regil's experience is a good example of that.

"I enjoy talking to people about running," Schmid said. "I tell them to just be dedicated, set goals and stick to them."

With an already accomplished career, Schmid said he has one more goal to meet: get below 18 minutes in a 5k while pushing his two daughters in a double stroller.

Schmid's next competition will be at the Camp Arifjan Spring Fling 5k at 6 a.m. Thursday.

**"Running is a way of life ... I believe in running every day because I love to run every day."**

*Lt. Col. Steven Schmid*

# LSA CONNECTS TO MWRNET

## Spc. Marcos Alices Kinch CFLCC PAO

Your hands are shaky from the mass amount of soda you have consumed and your heart is pounding as fast as a six-cylinder engine as you anticipate the birth of your child.

You are able to watch this momentous event thousands of miles away on a computer screen in a tent in the middle of the desert.

With the help of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, a naval engineering and acquisition command, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, have made it possible for servicemembers to witness the birth of their children through webcams and communicate with their loved ones with the use of the internet or telephones setup throughout Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

The growing need for communication between family members and servicemembers has made it possible for the Army Life Support Area to establish its own MWR Network.

"My goal was just to have something available (at no cost) to the troops," said Air Force Capt. Tamara Duke, Detachment 1, 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group services branch chief.

The LSA MWRNet offers free high-speed internet services for servicemembers entering and exiting Iraq and Kuwait 24/7.

Military personnel are allowed to browse the web, check their e-mail and chat online using 20 computers. The entire café including small desktops and voice over Internet phones, was purchased by the U.S. Navy. They meet a certain criteria based on stability, dependability, size, ease of operation and durability. The expected life span is slightly more than two years in this environment; according to Stan P. Rhorer, Multi-National Corps-Iraq SPAWAR program manager. Troops also have access to three web cams.

"This is the first time in the history of warfare that the common Soldier, on the front line, has the capability of real-time access to communicate with their loved ones back home, via either the Internet or telephonically," Rhorer said.

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines can make low-cost telephone calls around the globe using eight VOIP phones. VOIP phones use a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular phone line. The result is deployed servicemembers can make calls home for 4 cents per minute.

"I look at other camps," Duke said. "I see what they have and I want to have pretty much everything they have down here."

The MWRNet is one of several new improvements at the LSA.

The LSA continues to grow and provide more recreational activities and services for deployed servicemembers. Over the past five months, the LSA has erected a United Service Organizations tent, the MWR recreation center, two fitness tents and more.

The MWR recreation center is not only equipped with the

MWRNet but has other items to pass the time. Many of the items were acquired with the help of other military installations in Kuwait, friends and family.

The center has a growing collection of DVDs. With more than 2,500 DVDs, family and friends continue to donate. Servicemembers can sit down and watch a movie on one of several individual television sets equipped with a DVD and VHS players. As well as enjoy a game of pool, pingpong, air hockey or foosball.

Deployed servicemembers can play the newest video game systems on the market. The recreation center has a wide array of video games.

"I can kick off my shoes and relax as I make calls back home in the comfort of the USO tent," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Darrel Darling, U.S. Navy customs.

Military personnel can take their shoes off at door as they enter the 60s-themed USO tent. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines can put their feet up and watch a movie on a big-screen TV.

Computers are available for Internet access. Servicemembers can lounge on one of the several couches spread throughout the tent as they make a phone call back home.

"This camp has come a long way," Darling said. "Each improvement raises the morale for everybody."

The LSA recently began receiving MWR funding to finance future projects. Future projects are to include a miniature golf course, basketball court and extending the Post/Base Exchange.

The LSA continues to place the servicemembers morale first, according to Duke.

"Morale is a weapon in itself," Rhorer said. "All the technology in the world is not going to win a ... war without maintaining high morale and support from home front."





Graphic by Sgt. Robert Scott

A graphic representing many of the important women to U.S. history. Many women have provided major contributions to America's communities.

# Women: Builder of communities, dreams

**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Kevin B. Stuart**  
1st Medical Brigade

The story of women in America is one of strong, courageous and persevering women, whose challenges to inequities and other injustices helped form our nation.

As we continue to march strong in our world, let's remember our past to shape our future. From pre-colonial time to present, women have made significant contributions to America. Today's generation owes the remembrance and honor for all women of courage and vision. The theme for Women's History Month 2006 was Women: "Builders of Communities and Dreams." There's a great honor in celebrating women who are instrumental in building communities and inspiring others to dream because they have certainly paved the way for others to follow and thus hope for America's future.

Many women, past and present and hopefully years to come, have provided major contributions to our communities as well as their visions for a brighter future. These women with

exceptional achievements and accomplishments to the world have brought inspiration to many. They have made durable contributions and brought social change to our country.

Women such as Harriet Tubman, the first black woman to be honored on a U.S. stamp and guiding more than 300 slaves to their freedom; Patsy Mink, the first Asian-American woman elected to congress; Pocahontas, a Native-American woman who worked to keep peace between their societies and the Europeans and saved Capt. John Smith during his capture; Clara Barton, the founder of the Red Cross and Condoleeza Rice, the first woman selected as national security advisor and current secretary of state are just a few women who significantly contributed to our society.

These women, who were instrumental in building some of our communities and inspired visions for our future, are reflections of memorable moments in



Commentary

our country's history. Their stories celebrate the events and personalities that shaped America. They depict our founders, leaders, scientists, inventors and artists as well as our discoveries and inventions. We can clearly see

that the trends, visions and courageous stories of these women have transformed the world we live in. Hopefully, this will continue to encourage other women to explore, take risks, succeed and transform.

Women have challenged the social traditions that limited their potential. They have traveled a long journey and suffered, endured and triumphed to success. Many women in our country have assumed roles that were once the exclusive domain of men. Some topics such as education, health care, family and environment that were once called women's issues affect everyone now. Women have amassed expertise on domestic issues and influence business and

politics with new styles of leadership. Women are becoming social activists and major leaders in other countries as well; just to name a few are: Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia's first woman president and Michelle Bachelet, Chile's first woman president.

Exploring the history and positions of women in America and around the world, helps us understand the human connections we share across generations.

Our society would surely become a pluralistic one, if our differences are freely expressed and celebrated.

We must join in on partnerships and friendships for the good of all humanity. Celebrating women who are builders of communities and dreams further contributes to this process.

Throughout the year let us continue to learn about women who are builders of our communities and dreams to give us reasons for hope in the future.

Take the opportunity for the rest of this year and explore the numerous achievements and significant contributions women have made to America and the world.

# ReDVAL increases accuracy, accountability

**Maj. Jackie Guthrie**

377th TSC PAO

The 377th Theater Support Command and the 321st Theater Material Management Center have joined forces and developed a new software tool that is not only saving time, improving property accountability and increasing equipment readiness - but also catching the attention of logisticians and maintenance professionals throughout the Army.

Required Data Validation is a software program that reconciles Property Book Unit Supply reports with Unit-Level Logistics System reports - a necessary process that until now was done by hand. PBUS tracks on-hand equipment in the supply arena while ULLS-G tracks on-hand equipment, maintenance status and usage rates.

"The two systems need to communicate to create an accurate picture," said Sgt. Maj. William Shimer, 377th TSC supply and maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge, who has more than 30 years of experience in both the civilian and military sector.

Shimer is also part of the team training 377th TSC Soldiers on ReDVAL in the Iraqi theater of operation.

"Our primary focus was to provide the war fighters a tool to save time, while accurately accounting for property to improve readiness," said Chief Warrant Officer A.R. Ballard, 321st TMMC, who is one of the programs original developers. "ReDVAL does just that."

The process is quite simple. Users load PBUS and ULLS-G/A reports into ReDVAL which does a software comparison, creating three reports: a match report, a PBUS mismatch report and a ULLS-G/A mismatch report.

These reports give supply and maintenance Soldiers the information needed to correct errors - a process that with ReDVAL takes minutes instead of hours.

The outcome is producing accurate reports that commanders use to track and report unit's equipment readiness and the Army's Logistics Support Activity, or LOGSA, personnel use to analyze maintenance trends and track equipment usage as well as allocate maintenance dollars.

Commanders submit monthly and quarterly reports on their equipment status, Shimer



Staff Sgt. Terri Ruggles

**The ReDVAL Tiger Team works together to update the program for use in theater.**

said. It is these reports that help senior leaders evaluate a units' equipment readiness, ultimately determining if the unit is prepared to conduct its mission in peace time or in war.

The reports also supply LOGSA with information to make decisions about future funding, equipment fielding and much more.

While ReDVAL makes managing logistics and maintenance at home station easier, commanders in theater find its use indispensable when they also become accountable for theater provided and stay behind equipment.

ReDVAL's creation began in California's 63rd Regional Readiness Command in 2003 with Col. Mark MacCarley, then the director of logistics.

"I saw a significant unmet need for parity between two different systems," MacCarley said, who is currently serving as the 377th TSC chief of staff.

He envisioned a computer program that would allow PBUS and ULLS-G to communicate and exchange information and then he mobilized an information systems expert to develop such a database. The final product, ReDVAL was created and employed throughout the 63rd RRC. But then MacCarley and Ballard deployed to Kuwait and found they weren't the only ones struggling with the supply and maintenance systems' inabilities to communicate.

"It was time to employ ReDVAL," he said.

They worked with the 321st TMMC to update the program for use in theater and cre-

ate the 321st TMMC Fleet Management ReDVAL Tiger Team with the following subject matter experts that included Ballard, Lt. Col. Anthony Scioli and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Hinsman, 321st; Chief Warrant Officer Robert Devore, 143rd Transportation Command; Master Sgt. April Roman-Lomeli, Staff Sgt. David Knight and Sgt. Renato Basco, 115th Area Support Group; and MacCarley and Shimer, 377th.

Units in theater are still conducting manual reconciliations between the two systems, MacCarley said.

Leaving too much room for error especially on the battlefield, he added.

Ballard, who runs an equipment concentration site in the 63rd RRC now takes the ReDVAL Tiger Team to visit 377th TSC units, demonstrating the software and training users - which also gives the team a test group.

Follow-up visits have shown that units using ReDVAL have had a 50 percent improvement in property accountability as shown in decreased mismatch reports, he said.

But users aren't the only ones impressed. The Army's logistics automation support providers, Logistics Information Systems, have agreed to reproduce and distribute the software throughout the Army once the test phase is complete.

And the LOGSA personnel says ReDVAL is light years ahead of anything their software experts have developed.

The ReDVAL Tiger Team is currently testing ReDVAL by fielding it to deployed units in Iraq and Afghanistan and eventually hopes to field it throughout the Army, Ballard said.

**"Our primary focus was to provide the war fighters a tool to save time, while accurately accounting for property to improve readiness."**

Chief Warrant Officer A.R. Ballard

# Community

## happenings for April 12 through April 19

### All Al Salem

**For information call 442-2005**

### Arifjan

#### Wednesday

Pull-up competition sign-up, through April 21, Zones 1 and 6 Fitness Centers

#### Thursday

Spring Fling 5k, 6 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

Zone 6 first anniversary party, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

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

Community Center

#### Friday

Charlie Daniels Band, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 stage

#### Saturday

Night of the Stars talent show, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

#### Sunday

Yard Beautification/Egg Hunt/Egg decoration contest, 2 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Mother's Day e-cards, TBD, Zone 6

Community Center

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

Singing in the Shower Karaoke, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

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

Community Center

#### Wednesday

Bingo, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

**For more information call**

**430-1205/1302**

### Buehring

#### Wednesday

Weekly fun run, 5 p.m., Zone 2 Green Beans

Madden tournament, 7 p.m., Palms

Softball league, through April 30

#### Thursday

Pingpong tournament, 7 p.m., Palms

#### Friday

Karaoke Night, 7 p.m., MWR stage

Stepper competition, 5 p.m., gym

#### Saturday

Scavenger Hunt, 4 p.m., MWR stage

#### Sunday

Kite-Flying Day, 10 a.m., Palms

Bingo, 7:30 p.m., events tent

Bunny fun run, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Green

Beans

RC Monster truck races, 6 p.m., Udairi

Speedway

#### Monday

Spades tournament, 7 p.m., Oasis

#### Tuesday

Coffee House, 8 p.m., Oasis

#### Wednesday

Weekly fun run, 5 p.m., Zone 2 Green Beans

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

**For more information call**

**828-1340**

### Kuwait Naval Base

#### Wednesday

Step Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

Foosball tournament, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

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

#### Thursday

Softball league registration and coaches meeting, 8 p.m., Fitness Center

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

Sports challenge, 11 a.m., soccer field

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

Scrabble tournament, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

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

#### Sunday

Spring Egg/Scavenger Hunt, 10 a.m.,

Recreation Center

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

Paul Revere's Midnight 5k, 6 a.m., West ECP

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

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

#### Wednesday

Step Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

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

**For more information call**

**839-1063**

### LSA

**For information call 859-1060**

### Navistar

**For information call 844-1137**

### Spearhead/SPOD

**For information call 825-1302**

### Victory

#### Wednesday

Spa Day, 9 a.m., MWR dayroom

Bazaar, 9 a.m., MWR courts

Final pingpong championship, 3:30 p.m.,

MWR dayroom

#### Thursday

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

MFT

#### Friday

The Last Big Texas Hold 'em tournament, 6 p.m., MRW dayroom

#### Saturday

The Last Hip-Hop and R&B Night, 8:30

p.m., MFT

Base closure run, 5.3 miles, 7 a.m., gym

parking lot

#### Monday

Kuwait City Tour, 8 a.m., Al Kout Mall

**For more information call**

**823-1033**

### Virginia

#### Wednesday

Backgammon, 7 p.m., Community Center

#### Thursday

Spades, 7 p.m., Community Center

#### Friday

Dominoes, 7 p.m., Community Center

Salsa Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Saturday

Volleyball tournament, 6 vs. 6, 6 p.m.,

Volleyball court

#### Sunday

Easter 5k, 10 a.m., Community Center

Easter Spring Fling Hunt, 10 a.m.,

Community Center

A Night at the Movies, 2 p.m., theater

#### Monday

Pingpong tournament, 7 p.m., Community

Center

#### Tuesday

Unit Feud, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Wednesday

Poker Night, 7 p.m., Community Center

Country Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

**For more information call**

**832-1045**



# Tearing up the track

For the ASG-Ku Track Meet  
story see the April 19 edition of  
the *Desert Voice*.