

# DESERT VOICE

February 22, 2006

Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



## Navy puts skills to test

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# DESERT VOICE

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Loyalty is the first Army Value of seven. The others are duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

*Courtesy graphic*

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### On the cover

*Spc. Michael R. Noggle*  
Petty Officers 1st Class Anthony Crystal and Frank Ahsoak cut wood at their workshop in Camp Arifjan.



# In the line of duty - a must

## Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

Third U.S. Army/ARCENT/CFLCC  
Commanding General

All of us are making great sacrifices, including separation from our family and friends, to do what our nation asks us to do in every corner of the world. That separation becomes tragic when death or serious injury occurs. As bad as that is, it can be worse for the families when they are denied the benefits they should receive when the death or injury is caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the servicemember. I am concerned when I see misconduct or careless behavior leading to serious injury or death because of the 2nd or 3rd order effects.

There are concrete reasons for the command policies and General Order #1. It is doubly tragic when an individual's actions are ruled to be "not in the line of duty," because that translates to servicemembers and their families losing substantial benefits.

Here's what I mean. Should you die or be seriously injured on active duty from an injury, disease or medical condition, you and your family will receive a "set" of substantial benefits ranging from medical care to educational assistance for your dependents. Your *honorable* service entitles you to a physical disability pension if you are seriously injured or a package of death benefits, should you die. Those benefits result in your loved ones

potentially receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars over an extended period of time. This amount of assistance will never replace you but, in your absence, can provide your family with some of what they will need to go on without you.

On the other hand, if you are injured or killed due to your own willful misconduct or in an incident where your actions or failure to act are so foolish as to be grossly negligent, the toll on the family can be staggering. Again as an example, the spouse and children of a specialist who dies "not in the line of duty" would lose benefits that could amount to \$2,000 per month. That means if the child was 4 years old at the time of the specialist's death; the child would lose \$336,000 in benefits. If that child goes on to college, the child could lose over \$400,000 in total benefits in today's dollars.

I know that the vast majority of you and other servicemembers are performing their duties within the standards that we expect. That means a majority of the time you are going to be "in the line of duty". The key remains to know the standard, and have the discipline to follow the standard.

Soldiers who go off-post when they are not on official duty, drink in violation of General Order #1, refuse to wear their safety belts and are injured or killed or otherwise place themselves in positions of unreasonable danger, risk finding that their actions may be

found to be "not in the line of duty". It is simply not worth the risk and we, as leaders, cannot tolerate this type of behavior in our troops or in ourselves. We must help and ensure that troops in our charge do the right thing. We have a duty to both the Army and to those families who have entrusted their loved one to us.

I expect leaders to instill in their troops an appreciation that General Order #1, the command policies, the Safety-Grams and Standard Operating Procedures are all there to ensure that we can all celebrate the holidays with our loved ones next year. I ask each of you to give some thought and discuss the 2nd and 3rd order effects for our loved ones of making bad decisions. Ultimately, each of us makes decisions that impact our lives - let's make sure our families do not suffer for those decisions. - Patton's Own.



Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb



*Leave the lifting to us*

# Navy aviation provides support

**Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw**

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

In the United States, military installations are divided by services. Soldiers may end up at an Air Force base or Sailors may be stationed at an Army post, but in a deployed environment that changes.

Services with little to no experience working together are required to accomplish the mission as one cohesive element.

Helicopter Combat Support 4 – “Black Stallions,” a Navy aviation unit based at Camp Buehring, is responsible for transporting troops and cargo for the Army in the Kuwait area of operations and southern Iraq.

The unit replaced an Army fixed-wing unit but is just as proficient at accomplishing the mission, according to Navy Lt. Nate Horner, HC4, assistant administration, legal and public affairs officer.

The Army benefits by the unit being there according to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Bob Barbee, HC4, Detachment 1 executive officer.

HC4 uses the MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter. The chopper has seven blades and can carry up to 55 troops and 16 tons of cargo. Normally, the aircraft are used for mine sweeping, neutralization and hunting, floating mine destruction, channel marking and surface towing, but here they are used in their secondary mission of transporting cargo and troops.

“What takes three (UH-60 Blackhawks) to do, we can get done with one flight,” Horner said. “The max gross weight for a 60 is what we carry in our fuel load.”

These different capabilities allow the Sea Dragon to fly higher, faster and farther with more personnel and cargo than a Blackhawk.

“We have the ability to move cargo at a relatively fast pace,” Horner said. “We can throw a platoon in our helicopters while the 60s can only fit a squad and we still have space for supplies and gear.”

“I believe the sheer number and volume of supplies we can lift in theater saves time, personnel and assets that can be used for other missions,” Barbee said.

Being supervised by the Army in their daily activities, the unit learned a few things that weren’t necessary on Navy missions including flying using night-vision goggles, transporting troops and reacting to air-missile threats.



Photos by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

**Helicopter Combat Support 4 – “Black Stallions” flies four MH-53E Sea Dragons for their heavy lift support missions.**

“The -60s guys have been showing us the ropes,” Horner said. “The Army has been very accommodating and made it an easy process to get in here and start working.”

Barbee said he thinks this experience serving in a joint-service environment has been valuable to his sailors.

“Their eyes have been opened to how big the two services are and how easy it is to work together,” he said.

While the Army and Navy have been working together, they have been learning day-to-day activities and overall service differences from each other.

The biggest thing they’ve learned is the differences in support, Barbee said.

“When we travel we work independently. The supply lines are good but you usually don’t have it right here next to you,” he said. “The Army brings all their assets with them and has a larger support structure available.”

Although there are differences, overall Barbee said he thinks the joint environment is helping his troops as well as the Soldiers with whom they work.

“I think now that we’ve had the opportunity to work with different services it’s something we’d like to keep up,” he said.

HC4 has a unique mission for a Navy helicopter unit.

“It’s different from our normal mission,” Horner said.

“Usually we supply ships from the shore,” he said.

The unit’s four aircraft perform missions



**Seaman Travis Long, HC4 aviation electrician mate, secures a Sea Dragon before an VIP came to observe their operations.**

every few days but Horner said he is convinced they will have more as time goes on.

“It’s still early,” he said. “We’ve only been here a month so I think it will pick up – especially when people realize the capabilities we have as far as moving people and cargo.”



Courtesy photos

(Left) A shower trailer is shown prior to renovation. (Right) After the renovation the shower trailer was turned into a weapons armory.

## Two Seabees, an electrician and a toolbox

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

What do you get when you give three Navy customs workers a rugged shower trailer, wood scraps and borrowed tools from the self-help shop? You get a weapons armory.

At the start of their deployment, Petty Officers 1st Class Anthony Crystol and Frank Ahsoak, Navy Seabees along with Petty Officer 2nd Class Garin Kern, storekeeper, were used as vehicle dispatchers for the Navy customs battalion but they soon found other ways to help their unit.

"The unit asked for some Seabees to fix small things around the office," Crystol said. "We were dispatchers in Company A but we were available to do Seabee work, so they tasked us."

The three-man team started out with small projects such as broken air conditioners and doors. However, when the unit was relocated to another site, the quick fixes turned into bigger projects.

"The battalion acquired an old shower trailer and asked us what we could do with it," Ahsoak said. "We said whatever they wanted. When the unit moved, there was no plan in tact for a unit arms' room."

After the plans were drawn up and the land was surveyed, the team went to work stripping the inside of the trailer replacing it with a new floor, shelves, gun racks and desks. Kern worked the electrical wiring and within three weeks, the unit had a functional armory.

"The unit was expecting something easy, like four walls and a counter top," Ahsoak said. "So we put our minds together and changed things around a bit."

"A lot of people were amazed by what we could do with a little shower trailer," Crystol said. "I guess it proved our worth to the unit."

The workload wouldn't stop, Crystol said. The team went on to other projects that included turning connexes into offices, building decks off the sides of the smaller office buildings and picnic tables around the camp.

"We couldn't do these projects for our or anyone's pleasure," Ahsoak said. "Everything (had) a purpose."

Crystol said, what made the tasks challenging was the lack of supplies and funding they received and not knowing a facility team would be needed. The unit wasn't prepared to support the work that needed to be done. Every piece of equipment was either found or lent to them.

"There wasn't any funding from the unit," he said. "Some of our tools were sent to us from back home, the rest we borrowed from self-help building. The lumber was collected from junk piles."

Even the smaller pieces of equipment were hard to gather. The three of them were allowed a handful of screws per day in order to work.

Ahsoak said he has been involved in projects like these before. Before the war started in Iraq, he was with another unit that did quick fixes around the camp. This time around, the occasion arose where he had two other workers willing to do the

same thing.

"I've seen how to make things better," he said. "We got tasked with a mission that we actually enjoyed."

"It's amazing the things we could do with little resources," Crystol said. "Everything doesn't have to cost a ton of money, we just used what we had around and put it to use."

"It was great to see these Sailors for what they did and their 'can-do' spirit," said Chief Petty Officer Donald Hatch, Co. A., damage-control officer. "They are true Seabees able to adapt to any environment."

As for now, the part-time Seabee crew has halted operations as they get set to turn things over to their incoming Navy customs battalion counterparts. But the accomplishments the three completed haven't gone unnoticed throughout the battalion.

"It has helped the morale of the unit and they can go to work-places every morning they enjoy," Kern said. "When you get mobilized it is very rare to do something you enjoy and are good at."

*Like a vet treating a broken wing...*

# AVCRAD keeps birds

## Spc. Robert Adams

Assistant Editor

Aircraft parts break or fail for many reasons. Whether from enemy mortar fire, harsh desert conditions or normal flight wear and tear, these parts require repairing.

While unit mechanics can repair and replace parts to keep their aircraft flyable, it's the job of 1107th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot Soldiers to repair parts and put them back into the supply system.

The AVCRAD takes retrograde or broken parts and repairs them in its allied shops at Camp Arifjan.

These parts are put back on shelves of the AVCRAD's Supply Support Activity and become part of the Theater Aviation Reserve to be reissued for use in theater and back in the United States.

"Our primary mission is to repair and manage aircraft parts," said Col. Edward S. Clark, 1107th AVCRAD commander.

The U.S. Army has cargo, utility, observation and attack rotary-wing aircrafts that have tens of thousands of parts.

The allied shops at Arifjan specialize in different areas of an aircraft: hydraulics, engine, avionics, sheet metal, machine, prop and rotor, quality control and production and control.

"We have to have a good working relationship between shops," said Staff Sgt. Steven Dellinger, 1107th AVCRAD electrical shop noncommissioned officer in charge. "If we can't complete the work order we have other shops to assist."

The unit receives retrograde parts and salvages all aviation parts found in the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office yards.

This alone saves the government millions of dollars instead of having to replace parts, Clark said.

Another part of the AVCRAD mission is at the Seaport of Debarkation where they load and unload every aircraft entering and leaving theater.

They inspect the aircraft, make any needed repairs to help units get the aircraft ready to fly up to the Udairi Range for test runs and unit training.

AVCRAD Soldiers help repair anything that inhibit the aircraft from flying north.

Unit personnel also manage flight operations at Arifjan's Patton Army Airfield.



*Photos by Spc. Robert Adams*

**Sgt. Brian Daugherty, 1107th AVCRAD engine mechanic, installs parts on a Blackhawk engine at Arifjan.**

Soldiers are standing by to make repairs, refuel and perform test flights on customer aircrafts.

But AVCRAD's job doesn't end with repair work in Kuwait.

The AVCRAD has trained personnel, test sets and special equipment to make complex depot-level repairs in the U.S. Army Central Command area.

Additionally, they assist unit mechanics

when needed to get aircrafts back into the fight.

"With contact teams in Iraq and Afghanistan we can send teams to any place in theater to perform repairs," Clark said. "Sometimes it just takes two (AVCRAD) Soldiers to keep an aircraft from having to be sent out of theater for repairs.

The unit also has the help of approximately 60 contractors performing scheduled main-

# S in flight



**Four Army Blackhawk helicopters land at Arifjan's Patton Airfield with VIPs in January. While at the airfield AVCRAD Soldiers and contractors will perform maintenance checks and refuel the aircrafts.**

tenance checks at Patton Army Airfield and 50 contractors working alongside Soldiers in the repair shops.

Soldiers and contractors have different skills and experiences.

Together they form a joint team to ensure that aircraft maintenance is timely and up to standards, Clark said.

This deployment is slightly different from normal rotations between the four AVCRAD units in the Army.

Due to Hurricane Katrina, Soldiers from the 1108th AVCRAD, from Gulfport, Miss., were given the choice to deploy or stay behind.

The 1107th AVCRAD, from Springfield, Mo., volunteered to take the command with Soldiers who didn't deploy during the first rotation.

Together the two units formed a task force with an even number of volunteers.

During this year's deployment, Clark said he wants his young Soldiers to gain valuable experience they can't get as part-time Soldiers in the States.

Approximately one-fourth of the unit is comprised of full-time aviation mechanics with more than 20 years of experience back in the States, so many Soldiers are gaining valuable work experience here in theater.



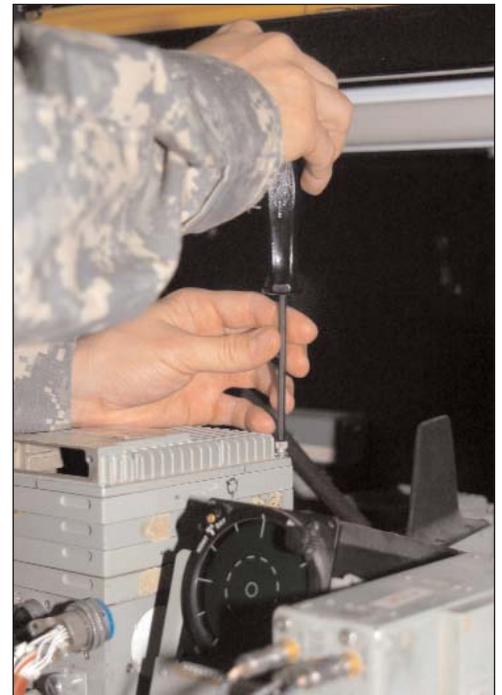
**Sgt. Jody Vandergrift, 1107th AVCRAD avionics mechanic, adjusts settings on a piece of radio communications equipment. The part is hooked up to testing equipment used to check radio functions.**

"Being National Guard, this is the only time part-time Soldiers can work on aircraft every day," Clark said.

"During this deployment I want to accomplish the unit mission and improve the skills of our Soldiers," he said.

"The goal is to have fully trained personnel for future rotations," he added.

Whether it's repairing sand-worn blades in Iraq or performing airfield operations at Patton Airfield, AVCRAD is doing its part to keep American birds in the fight.



**Staff Sgt. Craig Mauk, 1107th AVCRAD avionics mechanic, repairs a radar detector processor for an aircraft. The radar system detects enemy threats and without an operable system, the helicopter is vulnerable and, therefore, won't fly.**

# TF Gator officer connects with Coalition Forces

**Spc. Janine Coogler**

CFLCC PAO/11th PAD

During the Global War on Terrorism, the different Coalition Forces have come to give support and learned to trust their partners on the battlefield: the U.S. military.

Helping to build this trust, Maj. Greg Willingham, TF Gator country officer, made several trips to Iraq to visit, help and communicate with several Coalition Forces.

“My primary mission is to prepare a pre-redeployment survey for the Coalition Forces.” Willingham said.

Before any Coalition contingent has a rotation of troops, TF Gator must know basic information to help prepare for the movement.

The time of flights, number of personnel, type of training needed, amount of hazardous materials and the plan for the handover are important details which must be discussed, he said.

Time is the most important factor, said El Salvador Capt. Alejandro Gutierrez, military integration transition team train-

ing officer.

Flight times must be coordinated with the amount of training needed. It requires a lot of organization and strategic planning.

The second reason for Willingham’s visits in Iraq is to show appreciation for support in Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his visits, Willingham said he goes out on convoy missions, patrols and various functions of the Coalition contingent.

While meeting with the Bosnian contingent, Willingham watched an explosive ordnance team remove and destroy explosives, which keeps ammunition from falling into the hands of the insurgents.

During patrol missions with the Danish, Willingham observed a meeting with tribal leader and Danish officers.

“The officers were discussing with the tribal leader what needed to be done to rebuild the city,” he said.

They were taking in all the issues in order to find what would best fit the city they were helping, he said.

Willingham said he could tell



Maj. Greg Willingham

**Lithuanian soldiers speak to Iraqi tribal leaders about ways to reconstruct the community.**

the impact on the Coalition Forces had on the community.

“The children of the community loved to show the Danish soldiers everything they learned in school,” he said.

He added, “The children were always reading and showing them their work.”

Just as the Iraqi children showed appreciation to Coalition troops, Willingham said the coalition contingents show their gratitude.

While visiting Mongolian troops, the contingent thanked TF Gator officers with a Mongolian folk dance.

There is a mutual appreciation for support and continued effort

to perform duties, Willingham said.

“Most of the Coalition troops are volunteers and for every Coalition soldier that comes here, there is one less U.S. Soldier that has to come,” he said.

In an effort to sustain the appreciation, trust and friendship with Coalition troops, Willingham said he meets and greets deploying and redeploying Coalition countries.

Coming off the aircraft, Coalition soldiers are often greeted with a smile and handshake from Willingham.

He added, “Although it is a small token of kindness, it sends a message of appreciation.”

## Top five presidential quotes

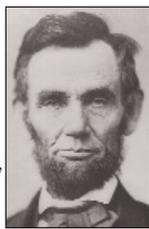
“My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.”



**John F. Kennedy**

Inaugural speech - Jan. 20, 1961

“We are not enemies, but friends... Though passion may have strained it



must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave .... will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of nature.”

**Abraham Lincoln**

Inaugural speech March 4, 1861

“Iraq will eventually comply with all relevant United Nations’ resolutions,



and then, when peace is restored, it is our hope that Iraq will live as a peaceful and cooperative member of the family of nations, thus enhancing the security and stability of the Gulf.”

**George H.W. Bush**

Attack on Iraq speech Jan. 16, 1991

“This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace.



America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.”

**George W. Bush**

9/11 speech Sept. 11, 2001

“Dec. 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America



was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph. So help us God.”

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Declaration of War Dec. 8, 1941

# Lords of war:

## *Ammo distributors keep Soldiers fully loaded*

**Spc. Jonathan Montgomery**  
CFLCC PAO

“No brass, no ammo” doesn’t necessarily apply to them.

Quite the contrary, the Area Support Group-Kuwait Ammunition Support Activities at Camp Arifjan ensures each time you pull the charging handle to the rear a brass round is there to chamber.

The ASG-Kuwait ammunition supply points receive, store and ship a near-billion dollars worth of Class V sustainment materials - .50-caliber, 5.56-mm, M203 40-mm grenade, missile, other lethal and non-lethal munitions - to troops’ weapons across the Middle East.

“From blanks to large guided missiles, every round that comes through theater comes through our operation,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Fludd, ASG-Kuwait Ammunition Support Activities noncommissioned officer in charge. “We see every piece of it.”

ASG-Kuwait assumed ammunition supply operations from the 377th Theater Support Command in June 2005. The facilities are government-owned contractor operated.

The ammunition operations are also being augmented by the 608th Ordnance Company out of Fort Benning, Ga., and a 261st Ordnance platoon out of West Virginia.

“It’s a team effort out here,” said Chief Warrant Officer Ty Temmerman, ASG-Kuwait Ammunition Support Activities officer in charge.

“Our mission is to support U.S. Central Command with ammunition,” he said.

The ASG-Kuwait facility is responsible for maintaining and distributing 37 tons of ammunition, which are spread over three ammunition support activities located near and on Arifjan.

Once containerized at one of the ammunition supply points in Kuwait, the grenades, missiles and whatever firepower requested by units for training or hostile fire purposes are then sent either by air pallet or truck to places most in need of it, like Iraq and Afghanistan.

“It’s our job to make sure Soldiers are getting what they need to fight,” Fludd said. “If we don’t get that ammunition up there to Iraq ... somebody might not come back alive.”

Fludd, who has been deployed to the ammunition facility since



*Spc. Jonathan Montgomery*

**Stocks of ammunition wait in one of ASG-Kuwait’s ammunition supply points.**

March 2005, said he remains optimistic about his supply role.

“It’s a great assignment,” he said. “You get to see the big picture of how ammo coming from the States is going to the Soldiers to fire.”

Temmerman said ASG-Kuwait also reclaims unexpended ammunition that has been on the battlefield.

“When the ammunition is returned back to Arifjan, we clean and repack the ammunition so it is in a serviceable condition to support training or return to stock and support the fight,” he said.

Temmerman said the ammunition that cannot be used is given to Explosive Ordnance Disposal and they destroy it.

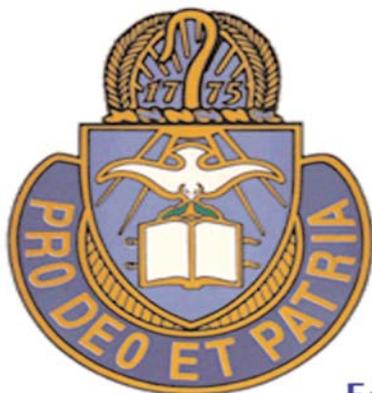
In addition to making sure

Soldiers have ammunition, the ASG-Kuwait Ammunition Support Activities has another duty: amnesty boxes.

Although the intent of the amnesty box is to collect loose ammunition, Temmerman said other contraband - machetes, brass knuckles, atropine injectors, knives, alcohol and pornography - has been deposited into the red, square containers.

Altogether, the ASG-Kuwait Ammunition Support Activities operation is a large-scale mission ensuring Soldiers have ammunition when and where they need it, Temmerman said.

“Our job is just one critical aspect to the Global War on Terrorism,” he said. “We have Soldiers who are risking their lives everyday.”



## CHAPLAIN VOCATION WEEKEND WORKSHOP

### March 17-19

### *“Consider the Call”*

### CAMP ARIFJAN

For those interested in becoming a military chaplain

# Quality of life steadily improving

## Major changes for camps, troops on horizon

### Col. Brick Miller

ASG-Kuwait Commander

Camp Buehring continues to move forward and look to the future. But as we look back we have had a rather busy and productive year. In the last year we have seen the addition of many new buildings and facilities. The camp has also seen the construction of a water distribution system. All water, over 300,000 gallons per day, is delivered. This eliminated seven distribution stops that stayed wet and muddy year round. As the water distribution was done, the power grid and man hole and duct system were done at the same time. Beginning this spring construction of two additional trailer parks for 180 more bed spaces, postal and finance buildings and a new post exchange facility should begin.

Camp Victory continues to lead the way with another exciting month for February. We are now into our second month of the Marine surge at Camp Victory to support the deployment and redeployment of Marines. This surge will conclude sometime around the end of April. With the influx of Marines, Victory has been very aggressive and active with Morale, Welfare and Recreation events available for our Marines and permanent-party Soldiers. These events include Classic Rock & Country dances on Thursdays, Flashback Friday dances and Hip-Hop R&B dances on Saturdays. We also have 5-k, 10-k and 4-mile relay races scheduled throughout the month of February along with hosting the bazaars in our multi-functional tent. We also have the following tournaments scheduled for the month of February: 4-on-4 volleyball, Texas Hold 'em, foosball and frisbee golf tournaments. Victory continues to reduce the footprint of the base while simultaneously supporting the Marine surge.

Change. One usually associates this word with anxiety, fear and resistance. However, for the residents of Camp Patriot/Kuwait Naval Base, change has been nothing but positive. It was only five months ago that the Air Force's first Tailored Logistics Element landed in Kuwait. This 32-person base operating support team has combined their efforts to add more than 19,000 square feet in improved facilities and turned a floundering MWR program into one of ASG-Kuwait's premier operations. These are just

two examples of the many changes that have improved the quality of life at Camp Patriot... It's just the beginning.

In the very near future, you can expect to see a new-and-improved PX which will be relocated in the Kuwaiti Enlisted Dining Facility. This \$600,000 project will include a larger area for AAFES merchandise, outdoor seating and a joint U.S./Kuwaiti community center. Personnel are already enjoying a new MWR recreation center which moves several programs out of old general-purpose tents and into a new modern facility. With the completion of a new stage and theater tent, Camp Patriot possesses an excellent MWR venue for all residents to enjoy. KNB's south entrance will also be given a face-lift with a \$2M gate-expansion project currently in design. Additionally, Patriot's Life Support Area, as well as KNB, will receive new perimeter fencing. All of these additions, upgrades and improvements are positive changes that directly contribute to the security and morale of the personnel and help ensure mission success for one of the most diverse military installations supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We have many improvements coming to the LSA. The Seabees are finishing up the entry control point sunshade which will result in enhanced force protection as well as smoother ECP operations. AAFES is bringing in a beauty shop and spa to the LSA in the beginning of March. This much-requested addition will provide hair, nail and facial care as well as massages. The south AAFES area is getting a sunshade with a brick patio and a cellular phone store to service the needs of those assigned. The basketball court contract should be awarded soon in the next month and the first five holes of the miniature golf course are being prepared for installation.

Camp Arifjan's Zone 6 remains focused on our top three priorities which are force protection, safety and quality of life. The newly constructed drainage system minimized the impact of recent rains. Very soon, we will complete work on major projects that improve our water and sewer systems and we will start our new high-voltage grid project in late spring. By the conclusion of the summer, our utilities will have made great strides. More enhancements are coming our way in the spring and summer to include Dish TV to the PCBs, a multi-purpose auditorium, a

camp classroom, a communications infrastructure and continued motor pool improvements. We are well aware that softball season is around the corner, thus our backstop will spring up soon and we aim to open Red Falcon Field in March.

Camp Virginia continues to make progress with improvements to the camp and the quality of life for all soldiers to include the multitudes of Coalition soldiers who transition through. The new housing buildings continue to come on line and approximately 200 permanent-party soldiers have moved out of tents and into permanent facilities.

The remaining housing will continue final construction with all permanent party expected to be moved into fixed facilities by the end of March. By the end of February a second physical fitness center will open with all new weight-lifting equipment and the addition of treadmills and stair-stoppers to the camp.

The troop medical clinic and dental clinic have moved out of tents and into a new building and are operational. We plan to have a grand opening of the facility within the next month once they have their new furniture. Virginia's education center is open and collocated with the TMC and features courses offered by Embry Riddle Aeronautics University and the University of Maryland. The fire department has moved out of its tent into a brand new fire station with a Kirby Sunshade for their fire trucks. The post office and personnel services detachment are moving out of their tent offices and into permanent buildings this month. The Four Corners, 1398th Division Support Brigade and MNC-K LNO detachment moved to Virginia from Victory Feb. 1 and are operational supporting redeploying troops. The United Services Organization is moving to Virginia and is planning to be open in March.



Col. Brick Miller

# Community

## happenings for Feb. 22 through March 1

### Arifjan

#### Wednesday

Winter basketball league, through Tuesday  
Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

#### Thursday

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

Scavenger Hunt, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

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

#### Saturday

Pool tournament, 9-ball, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

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

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

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

#### Sunday

Coffee Lounge Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

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

Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Celebration, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

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

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

#### Wednesday

Country Night, 7 p.m., stage

**For more information call**

**430-1205/1302**

### Buehring

#### Wednesday

NBA Live tournament, 7 p.m., Palms

Weekly fun run, 5k, 5:30 p.m., Hole-in-One Donut

#### Thursday

Pingpong tournament, 7 p.m., Events tent

#### Friday

Mardi Gras mask making, 10 a.m., Oasis

Aerobics class, 7 p.m., Aerobics tent

#### Saturday

Mardi Gras Parade, 3:30 p.m., Eisenhower Drive

Mardi Gras cook-out, 5 p.m., MWR stage

Masquerade Ball, 9 p.m., Events tent

#### Sunday

Bazaar

Foosball tournament, 3 p.m., Palms

Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Events tent

#### Monday

Bazaar

Phase 10 tournament, 7 p.m., Oasis

Basketball championships, through March 13

Aerobics class, 7 p.m., Aerobics tent

#### Tuesday

Fat Tuesday feast, 6 p.m., Events tent

Aerobics class, 7 p.m., Aerobics tent

Scrabble tournament, 7 p.m., Oasis

**For more information call**

**828-1340**

### Kuwait Naval Base

#### Wednesday

Dominoes tournament, 7 p.m., Aerobics Room

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Thursday

Latin Dance Night, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Friday

Bingo Night, 7 p.m., MWR stage

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Saturday

Yoga, 6 a.m., Aerobics Room

Sports Challenge, 1 p.m., field

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

Hip-hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Sunday

Mardi Gras 5k, 6 a.m., West ECP

Mardi Gras Parade, TBD, MWR stage

Hip-hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Monday

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

#### Tuesday

Latin Dance Night, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

Hip-Hop Night, 9 p.m., Recreation Center

**For more information call**

**839-1063**

### Navistar

**For information call 844-1137**

### Spearhead/SPOD

**For information call 825-1302**

### Victory

#### Wednesday

Spa Day, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., MWR dayroom  
Black History Month poetry and rap contest, 6 p.m., MFT

#### Thursday

Frisbee Golf tournament, 3 p.m., MWR fields  
Classic Rock and Country Night, 7 p.m., MFT

#### Friday

Texas Hold 'em tournament, 6 p.m., MWR dayroom

Flashback Fridays Dance, 9 p.m., MFT

#### Saturday

Softball tournament, 3 p.m., MWR fields

Black History Month dance competition, 7:30 p.m., MFT

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

#### Sunday

Softball tournament, 6 p.m., MWR fields

#### Monday

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

Spa Day, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., MWR dayroom

#### Tuesday

Spa Day, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., MWR dayroom

**For more information call**

**823-1033**

### Virginia

#### Wednesday

Poker Night, 7 p.m., Community Center

Country Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Thursday

Dominoes, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Friday

Basketball tournament, 5 vs. 5, 5 p.m., Basketball courts

Salsa Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

**Saturday**

Hip-Hop Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Sunday

Old-school Jams, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

#### Monday

Volleyball, 6 vs. 6, 6 p.m., Volleyball courts

#### Tuesday

Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

**For more information call**

**832-1045**



# L o y a l t y

**loy·al·ty** (loi'ə-l-tē) *n. pl.* loy·al·ties *n* 1: the quality of being loyal [ant: disloyalty] 2 feelings of allegiance 3: the act of binding yourself (intellectually or emotionally) to a course of action; "his long commitment to public service"; "they felt no loyalty to a losing team" [syn: commitment, allegiance, dedication]