

# DV

**Desert Voice Magazine**  
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

February 7, 2007



# Ready

**U.S., Kuwaiti troops train for hazardous materials response**

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Pfc. Matthew Long, a Soldier with the 44th Chemical Company, helps a Kuwaiti soldier into his gear during a training event at Camp Patriot.

Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson

# Third Army mission continues with OIF troop increase

As you are certainly aware, the President recently announced the results of an Iraq Strategy Review and a revised strategy that includes deploying more Soldiers to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

As part of the military component of the plan, the Army has begun the immediate deployment of five additional brigades to Iraq to assist in achieving stability and security in Baghdad and the al-Anbar Province.

Over the next five months, the Army will potentially deploy more than 20,000 personnel. These forces will assist the Iraqi forces in clearing and securing Baghdad neighborhoods, thus protecting the local population while we extend our partnership with the Iraqi Army to enhance its training. Additionally, the Marines will deploy up to 4,000 Marines to al-Anbar to reinforce their success and further disrupt and dismantle al-Qaida.

We will support these units as they conduct Reception, Staging, and Onward movement through our area. Third Army/U. S. Army Central has the capacity, infrastructure and leadership to fully support the increase of troops. It's what we do.



**Third Army Commanding General  
Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb**

What the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and "Soldiers in Slacks" of Third Army/U.S. Army Central do each day is critical to the success of OIF and OEF and to operations throughout the CENTCOM area of operations. You are performing magnificently and making a difference in the Global War on Terror.

It is our mission to ensure all units transiting through Kuwait are fully equipped for their specified missions prior to deploying forward to Iraq. It is a valid, worthwhile mission and we are doing a tremendous job. I have no doubt we will continue to meet the sacrifices of our brothers-in-arms with our unwavering commitment.

The force increase will not affect our ability to provide the best possible equipment to Soldiers and units transiting Kuwait. We will continue to train and equip the forces deploying to theater as well as to sustain the force when they are forward.

We have the greatest Soldiers and leaders in the world. We have the resources and facilities to fully execute our role under this force increase. And at the end of the day, we will have assisted in giving the commanders the capability to achieve our goal of providing a stable and secure Iraq and Afghanistan.



# Third Army/U.S. Army Central trains for emergency response

**Spc. Debrah A. Robertson**  
*Desert Voice Assistant Editor*

Two nations are in a complete upheaval. Warring continues, and humanitarian aid is desperately needed after one of the warring nations is struck by an earthquake.

U.S. forces then step in to coordinate a multinational relief effort and to bring peace to the region through strategic planning and execution.

Although this is just a training scenario, the Early Entry Command Post exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in late January trained Soldiers in Third Army/U.S. Army Central to respond quickly and efficiently to such an event during a time of crisis.

As the only deployable Army level headquarters, Third Army/USARCENT must remain a highly mobile command post and must be ready at a moments notice, said Lt. Col. Nathaniel Farmer, a current operations officer with Third Army/USARCENT.

“Third Army is a deployable headquarters postured to deploy at anytime, wherever,

whenever we’re called,” he said.

Whenever a situation arises that requires emergency military intervention, Third Army/USARCENT deploys the Very Early Entry Command Post, said Farmer, a Vine Grove, Ky., native. This highly mobile operations center is designed to establish a site for the future command facilities during the most dangerous time of war or humanitarian effort. Situational awareness is at its peak during this time.

The EECP soon follows, once a site is established, which allows Third Army/USARCENT to implement its staff, he said.

The training that Third Army/USARCENT Soldiers receive at Camp Buehring prepares them for real world situations, said Lt. Col Bert Robbins, a Civil and International Military Affairs chief with Third Army/USARCENT.

The EECP system consists of several compact units that can be packaged and shipped to locations around the world.

“If called to a real world situation, like Pakistan and the earthquake in Malaysia, we can deploy this asset,” said Robbins, a Bellhaven, N.C., native. “That’s why we continue these exercises.”

During an actual situation, Third

**(Top Right)**  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Gonzalez, the Tri-band satellite terminal team chief with the 385th Signal Company adjusts and monitors communication equipment during the Early Entry Command Post exercise at Camp Buehring on Jan. 27.

**(Left)**  
Spc. Robert Wharton, Spc. John Schaefer and Staff Sgt. Joseph Gonzalez, Tri-band satellite terminal operators with 385th Signal Company, adjust a satellite.



*Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson*

Army/USARCENT would work with all the military branches and coalition forces. To make the situation more real, the scenario simulated other military branches to incorporate each service.

The scenario also called upon the use of real-world time to add as much realism as possible, said Robbins.

“This helps to have Soldiers with experience,” he said.

If a situation is not likely to go as the scenario suggests, continued Robbins, experienced leaders step in to incorporate the realism, whether it be to add time to a given situation, like the amount of time it would really take to get supplies to areas with limited access, or to add a level of difficulty to working with uncooperative communities.

“If there’s a weakness in the scenario,” said Robbins, “that throws up a red flag.”

Third Army/USARCENT also incorporates units that would support its command mission in a real world situation in the scenario as well, said Staff Sgt. Joseph Gonzalez, the Tri-band satellite terminal team chief with the 385th Signal Company.

“If they roll anywhere, we’re right there with them,” Gonzalez, a South Lyon, Mich., native, said of his Third Army/USARCENT counterparts.

“This is good training of Soldiers on trouble shooting,” he said.

EECP training prepares the U.S.’s only deployable Army headquarters to do its job as soon as boots hit the ground—no matter where those boots are.



*Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson*

# Soldier saves gunner recognized with

**Spc. Debrah A. Robertson**  
**Desert Voice Assistant Editor**

“It was mid to late October. I was filling in for a gunner during a routine security check, and we stopped on a common bridge,” said Spc. Calvin Lee, a healthcare specialist with the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment.

Lee and the rest of his team were paused during what they thought would be a routine security check in Iraq, near the Kuwaiti border, in support of Third Army/U.S. Army Central’s mission.

Then, breaking what Lee described as a very quiet night, the team heard an explosion in the distance. The events which would unfold next would lead to Lee being awarded the Bronze Star in January.

“It was large enough that we could see the aftermath of the blast and smoke,” said 21-year-old Lee. “We raced down to the incident. We drove 250 to 300 meters down the road and was stopped by the sister truck of the truck that was hit.”

Unknown to the Soldiers who stopped Lee and his team, the Soldiers in the hit vehicle were losing lots of blood and were in more serious condition than they thought.

After they asked for a medic, “I dismounted and hopped into their truck and we drove another 100 meters to the site,” said Lee, a Milwaukee, Wis., native.

Not expecting what came next, Lee

entered the damaged vehicle to assess the Soldiers’ wounds.

“There was blood all over the inside of the truck,” described Lee. “All three [of the Soldiers in the vehicle] were injured. The most critical was the gunner. His arms were so badly damaged, I could see bone protruding.”

**“My job is second nature to me. It’s what I do. It’s what I’m trained to do.”**

**-Spc. Calvin Lee**

“Blood cover[ed] my arms up to my elbows, he said.

“I had to crouch down to work at the gunner’s feet in the back of the truck” because of the cramped conditions in the truck.

But neither fear nor self-doubt stopped Lee from doing what needed to be done.

“He took control of the situation and told everyone what to do,” said Maj. Steven Craddick, a physician’s assistant in the 121st.

Lee applied tourniquets to the injured gunner and bandaged the wounds of all three Soldiers.

“He was bleeding bad,” said Lee of the gunner. “I gave him (medication) for pain.”

After the area was secured by his fellow servicemembers, Lee pulled the injured Soldiers out of the truck.

“We got him on a litter, I started an I.V. and a ground ambulance was there and he was gone,” Lee said of how quickly the gunner was medically

evacuated. “It took 15 to 20 minutes to treat all three.”

“Through the whole situation, I was calm,” said Lee.

The medic must remain calm because he sets the tone for how the injured servicemember will react, said several health care

specialists. If the medic looks as if he does not know his job, then the victim may panic.

“After it was over, the realization of what happened

hit me,” said Lee, “but my job is second nature to me. It’s what I do. It’s what I’m trained to do.”

“I saw him when he got back,” said Sgt. Jacob Dallmann, also a healthcare specialist with the 121st. “He had blood all over his arms. I asked him what happened. He was calm. He said he did what he had to do.”

“After it happened,” said Lee. “I slept better than I ever did before because I knew I did what I had to do and it paid off.”



Spc. Calvin Lee, a healthcare specialist, is awarded the Bronze Star by Sgt. Jacob Dallmann.

# unner's life, Bronze Star

## **Bronze Star**

On Jan. 28, at Camp Navistar, Kuwait, Lee received a Bronze Star for his lifesaving efforts in October. Along with other members of his unit, he was honored for his outstanding achievements as a Soldier, going

above and beyond the call of duty.

Although Lee and his unit later learned the gunner had lost so much blood that he went into shock and nearly died on the way to the hospital, all three Soldiers survived thanks to Lee's valiant efforts.

Lee does not know the names of the men he saved, but says, "I never met [the gunner]. I would like to meet him and see how he's doing." But Lee says his real reward is that the gunner can go home to his family, as he will go home to his.



*Photo by Spc. Roberts Ahlrichs*

healthcare specialist with the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment, receives a Bronze Star on Jan. 28. Maj.Gen. Thomas [unclear] the medal for his efforts in saving another servicemember's life.

# 'Courage to Change':

## Looking inside one command sergeant major's mission to



Photo by Gay Davenport

Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Pitt, a 10th-degree black belt in martial arts, practices punching drills with three of his students, John, David, and Joseph, at the Farmville Middle School gymnasium, prior to his deployment to Kuwait with the 730th Quartermaster Battalion.

### Sgt. Chris Jones Desert Voice Editor

Sitting on the work desk of Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Pitt is a book titled "Courage to Change," and this is perhaps a summary of the type of person Pitt is and has been for his entire adult life.

Pitt, 57, is the command sergeant major for the 730th Quartermaster Battalion and the top noncommissioned officer at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central. But the North Carolina National Guardsman's life has been dedicated not only to training and mentoring Soldiers, but to helping troubled, underprivileged children in eastern North Carolina get on

the right track.

For the last 25 years, Pitt has owned and operated martial arts schools in three North Carolina cities – Farmville, Kinston and Greenville – which target middle school students with learning disabilities. Pitt's students are often ineligible to participate in activities within their own school, but are openly welcomed at Pitt's martial arts academies, Pitt said.

School principals in the region frequently call Pitt and inform him of certain students who are struggling – whether they are having difficulty concentrating on classwork, getting into fights with other students, or simply look lost or confused. Pitt will

then contact their parents and discuss the possibility of enrolling their child into his classes.

Pitt is a 10th-degree black belt, a title which can only be attained through one of three ways – honorary designation by a martial arts Grandmaster, ancestral designation, or to create an entirely new form of martial arts.

Pitt accomplished the third, inventing Shito Su, essentially a combination of several forms of martial arts, including Tae Kwon Do, Ju-Jitsu, Ti Chi and Kabudo – each of which Pitt has mastered. Because of the wide range of martial arts styles involved in Shito

Su, it takes longer to progress through the ranks, commonly known as belts, Pitt said.

Although the students at Pitt's academies enter training with humble and problematic backgrounds, they often leave with tremendous self-confidence, resolve, and both physical and mental strength, Pitt said. This is because Pitt does not simply teach Shito Su, he also keeps a close eye on their school progress.

"When [the students] try to excel in karate," Pitt said, "it makes them also try to excel in other areas of their life."

Why?

"It's all about telling the kids that

# help underprivileged children through martial arts

they belong to a group, that they are a part of something,” Pitt said. “And most of them just want the love. They want attention.”

The methods of instruction and leadership Pitt uses with his martial arts students is similar to that which he uses as a command sergeant major. He rarely raises his voice, but his message is heard.

“It’s the way you talk to people,” Pitt said. “For everything I do in life, I use my military tact, without yelling. You can get through to people in other ways. You earn their respect by picking them up when they are down, by patting them on the back when they succeed.”

For Pitt, working with his students is like looking into a mirror of his childhood. As a teenager living in rural North Carolina, Pitt grew up without a father. But he found direction and guidance in the same way he provides it today – through the U.S. military.

At 15 years old, he checked into a local karate school, where he would later meet two Navy Reservists who were also volunteer instructors. For three years, he

gained experience in martial arts and also formed a passion for the military.

Pitt still reflects on his childhood mentors, and the values instilled in him as a young man are the same values he promotes today.

“Getting kids on the right track is a big deal to me,” Pitt said. “I get a great feeling when I see them progress. And when they win [a martial arts tournament], it’s amazing for me.”

In Kuwait, he may not have his students around, but his instincts are to help others in any way he can, wherever he can. Pitt, who is also a certified personal trainer, aerobic trainer and Army Master Fitness Trainer, is often seen around Camp Virginia, motivating Soldiers to reach their full potential. He also teaches martial arts classes at the fitness center on camp.

“He is very positive and reinforcing,” said Maj. Bob

Wright, the 730th’s executive officer, who often works out with Pitt on camp. “He pushes you past the limit of what you think you can do.”

Regardless of where Pitt finds himself, he sees it as his personal mission to help the people around him.

As a fatherless 15-year old so long ago, Pitt found in himself the ‘courage to change.’ At 57, he has made it his life’s work to help others find that same courage.

“I’m glad to be who I am,” Pitt said. “And I’m glad to do what I do.”



Photo by Sgt. Chris Jones



Photo by Gay Davenport

(Top) Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Pitt discusses leadership techniques with Spc. Decreatia Powell, a personnel clerk in the 730th Quartermaster Battalion, at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Pitt is the command sergeant major of the 730th and Camp Virginia, but the North Carolina National Guardsman’s full-time civilian job in North Carolina is as the owner of three martial arts schools targeting unprivileged children.

(Left) Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Pitt, a 10th-degree black belt, demonstrates martial arts moves to students in North Carolina, prior to his deployment to Kuwait.

# U.S. troops, Kuwaiti soldiers increase readiness



**Left:**

A Soldier with the Kuwait Army Chemical Directorate adjusts his chemical mask for a proper fit. The Soldiers of the KACD joined U.S. Soldiers from the 44th Chemical Company during the last two weeks of January at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, to exchange ideas on decontamination operations.

**Far right:**

A Kuwaiti soldier helps another Kuwaiti soldier decontaminate his gear during Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive training on Camp Patriot, recently. The heavy equipment became hot quickly, even in the currently mild temperature.

**Below:**

Spc. Edward Robitaille, a Chemical, Biological, Radiative and Nuclear operations specialist with 44th Chemical Company, assists a Kuwaiti soldier with adjusting his mask during the joint training on decontamination operations and hazardous materials response.

*Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson*



*Photo by Spc. Debrah A. Robertson*

# Kuwait Army Business

**Capt. Martin Cheman**  
ASG-Kuwait

**O**utfitted with three layers of gloves, a self-contained breathing apparatus and a sealed full-body chemical suit, 26 Soldiers from the Kuwait Army Chemical Directorate got a taste of how difficult it can be to perform simple tasks in a chemical environment.

For two weeks in January, Soldiers from the 44th Chemical Company at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, joined their Kuwait Army counterparts to conduct joint training on decontamination operations and hazardous materials response.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive training is not easy, said Staff Sgt. Albert Ivey, recon platoon squad leader. It takes 10-15 minutes to put the chemical suit on correctly, he said.

“It raises your body temperature, limits mobility, throws off depth perception and with three layers of hand protection, you have practically no sense of touch,” Ivey said. “In the summer, it’s like being in an oven.”

Even in the mild temperatures of the Kuwait winter, Soldiers were sweating in the suits.

The training event culminated in a two-day chemical/biological response Field Training Exercise, which 1st Lt. Amanda Penn, a platoon leader in the 44th, described as “tying the previous two weeks of



Photo by Sgt. Sarah Scully

training together in an exercise that is relevant to the potential threats that the Kuwait Army may have to face.”

The 44th, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, is stationed in Kuwait in support of Third Army/U.S. Army Central. The company commander, Capt. Tim Graber, said his unit expanded this year’s training based on exercises a previous chemical company conducted with the Kuwaiti Army.

“The idea came from the previous chemical company who conducted

similar training in 2006,” Graber said. “[We] wanted to continue the training that other units had done and add more to it. This year [we] added decontamination operations in addition to the hazardous material response operations... trained on last year.”

In addition to strengthening the bond between the U.S. Army and Kuwaiti forces, Graber said the exchange demonstrated relevant CBRNE capabilities shared by coalition allies in the Global War on Terrorism.

# Father, son reunite in Kuwait

**Staff Sgt. James E. Martin**  
**377th TSC PAO**

Being deployed can be tough on both a Soldier and his family. Sometimes there is more than one member of the family serving overseas – and in one family’s case, this meant a father and son could be reunited.

Master Sgt. Johnny Edwards Sr., an alcohol and drug control officer with the 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command, and his son, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Horn Sr., recently spent a day together at Camp Buehring before Horn moved north into Iraq for his deployment with the 1st Cavalry Division.

“Who would think both of us would be here at the same time?” Horn said.

Currently, Horn serves on active duty, while Edwards is in the Army Reserve, supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central while stationed in Kuwait.

Although both father and son are

deployed to the Middle East, they still call Meridian, Miss., home.

“This is the first time we got a chance to be in the same place, same country, since we have both been in the military, and I think it is a blessing,” Edwards said.

Even with the rank difference, the two say they keep out of each other’s military affairs.

“I don’t get into his career unless he comes to me for advice and asks me what I can and can’t do,” Edwards said. “All I can do is try and give him some advice and see whether he will take it.”

Horn and Edwards often discuss their future, and what they will do when they return to the U.S. For Horn, he is considering returning to college. But the military runs in his blood, and it’s a passion he is constantly reminded of through his father.

“I like training Soldiers,” Horn said.

“I think if [my father] wasn’t in the military, I wouldn’t be here today.”

The current deployment wasn’t the first for the family. Edwards is a Desert Storm veteran.

“When I left for Desert Storm, he was 15 years old,” said Edwards. “It bothered him, but he never talked about it,” said Edwards. “There a lot of things I know he hasn’t told me – and as I have told him, if it is important enough for him to tell me, I will be here.”

Although the reunion in Kuwait was brief, the father and son were able to catch up on many things.

“We talked about the family,” Edwards said.

“Women, family, my kids and my brothers and sister,” Horn said.

One other event was then added to the list.

“Football!” Edwards said. “We like to talk about sports.”



*Photo by Staff Sgt. James E. Martin*

Master Sgt. Johnny Edwards Sr. (left) and his son, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Horn Sr. spent a day together at Camp Buehring before Horn moved north into Iraq for his deployment with the 1st Cavalry Division.



# February in Third Army History

**February 1919** -- Under the command of Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman, Third Army begins opening military schools around Germany, just a few months after both the end of World War I and the establishment of Third Army.

**February 1943** -- Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger relinquishes command of Third Army to Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges. Two generals who would later gain fame had been working under Krueger at Third Army -- their names: Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton, Jr.

**February 15, 1944** -- This was Third Army's readiness date for deployment to Europe. When Third Army was transferred from a training status to combat status two months earlier, the unit's Soldiers knew they were destined to leave for war.

*Information courtesy of [www.arcent.army.mil](http://www.arcent.army.mil)*

## Hometown Hero



**Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Berry,  
336th Transportation Group**

Taylor screens third country nationals to receive badges to access military camps in Kuwait.

Taylor talks about what she misses about her hometown of Chicago, Ill.

"It's Chicago -- what can I say? One of my favorite restaurants is the Dixie Kitchen."

## Just One Question...

**What is the worst Valentine's gift to give to your girlfriend?**



"Power tools and fake jewelry."

Spc. Michael Olson  
Watercraft engineer  
97th Trans. Co.  
Gloucester, Va.



"A card with another girl's name on it."

Pfc. Brian Lowry  
Combat medic  
407th BSB, 82nd Abn. Div.  
Brooklyn Park, Minn.



"Season tickets to your favorite baseball team."

2nd Lt. Jeffrey Mennicke  
Platoon leader  
1st Bn., 121st Field Artillery Regt.  
Milwaukee, Wisc.



"A vacuum would be the worst."

Sgt. William Dock  
Team leader  
1016th Quartermaster Co.  
Idaho Falls, Idaho



"A treadmill."

Sgt. Jared McAfee  
Liaison NCO  
886th Exped. Security Forces Squadron  
Fisher, Ill.

# BLACK HISTORY Month 5K run/walk



**12 February 0600 hrs Zone 1 Fitness Ctr**

**Check-ins begin at 0500 hrs**

*For more info contact 430-1302*

## MWR Events

**February 7 - February 28**

### The Rock

**Feb. 9** -- Fun Run, 6 a.m., ACP Gate

**Feb. 14** -- Valentine's Day Dance , 9 p.m., Scorpion's Den

**Feb. 16** -- Fun Run, 6 a.m., ACP Gate

**Feb. 19** -- President's Day Run, 6 a.m., ACP Gate

### Camp Arifjan

**Feb. 12** -- Black History Month 5K Run/Walk, 6 a.m., Zone 1 Fitness Center

**Feb. 14** -- Valentine's Day Comedy Movie Marathon, 4 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

**Feb. 20** -- Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Celebration, 6 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

### Camp Buehring

**Feb. 7** -- Fun Run, 6 p.m., Green Beans

**Feb. 14** -- Valentine's Day 5K, 6 a.m., Green Beans

**Feb. 21** -- Fun Run, 6 p.m., Green Beans

**Feb. 24** -- Black History Month Coffee House, 8 p.m., Oasis

### Camp Patriot

**Feb. 10** -- Valentine's Day Dance, 8 p.m., MWR Movie Tent

**Feb. 14** -- Valentine's Day at the Movies, 7 p.m., MWR Movie Tent

**Feb. 20** -- Mardi Gras 5K Run, 5 p.m., West ECP

### Camp Patriot Continued

**Feb. 24** --Mardi Gras Dance, 8 p.m., MWR Movie Tent

### Camp Virginia

**Feb. 19** -- Presidents' Day 5K Run, 4 p.m., Library

For information, call 832-2205

### Camp Navistar

**Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23** -- Black History Month movie specials, 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., MWR movie tent

### Life Support Area

For information, call 859-1054