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

April 11, 2007



Surviving Combat

**CREW locates IEDs
before they kill**

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Army Strong

On the cover

A Soldier is seen through a gutted vehicle during convoy training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. With the CREW technology, Soldiers such as this one are safer in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Soldiers embrace Warrior Ethos

“Warrior Ethos forms the foundation for the American Soldier's spirit and total commitment to victory.” This phrase from the Army’s Field Manual 6-22, Army Leadership, not only speaks to Soldiers, but to troopers from all services, our ‘Soldiers in Slacks’ from DA civilian to contractor, and to their family members on the Third Army / US Army Central team who support our fight in this Global War.



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

The Greeks used the term “ethos” to refer to one’s character, ethics and moral standards. These ideas are not out of place in examining our own Warrior Ethos and the actions embracing those qualities, such as maintaining discipline, living the Army values and knowing about the Army’s distinctive heritage.

Warrior Ethos involves a commitment and promise to do your very best every day and to support each other. Each represents a link in the chain that must be strong and adhere to the tenets of the Ethos for our Army, our Armed Forces and our nation to achieve victory.

The Warrior Ethos is about character and shaping who you are through what you value and what you do. It requires knowing what is right (standards), but more importantly, the moral courage to do what is right (discipline). Our Warrior Ethos consists of four tenets: *I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

This Ethos is very much alive and well in Third Army today. The first line of the Warrior Ethos states: I will always place the mission first. Take time to ask yourself, as a servicemember, DA civilian or family member, what this statement means to you

as an individual, and how you can live it. Realize what you are doing is important, and that you, as an individual, are making a difference in this Global War.

The second and third lines (of the Ethos) state: I will never accept defeat, and I will never quit. Look at the bigger picture of whom and what you are protecting: your country, your family, friends and the freedoms that they enjoy, such as the freedoms of speech,

religion, press, and to assemble peaceably. In essence, you are protecting a way of life that respects all people regardless of race, gender, religion, or creed. Defeat is not an option, therefore we must never quit. We must approach our responsibilities with a tireless effort.

The last line of the Warrior Ethos states: I will never leave a fallen comrade.

We have a fundamental moral obligation as a team to take care of each other in peacetime and during war. It takes all of us working together to keep one another from falling. If a service member, family member or anyone else in the Third Army/USARCENT community is suffering, each of us is responsible for lifting them up in their hour of need.

At its core, the Warrior Ethos involves a commitment to the Army values and standards that, like anything, takes practice and dedication to learning for them to become second nature.

We must continually recommit ourselves. The moral strength of our Nation depends on all members of the Third Army/USARCENT team working together to uphold the four tenets of the Warrior Ethos. Thank you for all you do.

Patton’s Own!



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Brigade commander joins daughter in Southwest Asia

Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Col. Dennis Thompson and his daughter have been many places together. His family has been stationed at Army posts in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York and to Fort Lewis, Wash., the final stop before Col. Thompson's daughter went to college.

Then Thompson's daughter decided to follow her father's career path.

In January, Col. Thompson joined his daughter, 2nd Lt. Sarah Thompson, for one more stop to their itinerary, Kuwait, when he took command of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade. Thompson now has the benefit that most Army parents don't. He can oversee his daughter's first deployment without having to wait anxiously for a letter, e-mail or phone call.

"Being close beats being distanced and not knowing what's going on with my daughter," said Col. Thompson. "It answered a lot of questions."

He commands a unit that provides logistical support for operations in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan; she is a personnel and public affairs officer for the 336th Transportation Group. His career in the Army began 24 years ago; hers began six years ago with a decision she made as a high school senior.

It was the daughter's decision to make; the father just laid it out for her.

"Go to college, get a degree but consider how you are going to pay for college," he told his daughter. The next year, the high school cheerleader was in a different uniform, sporting Army combat

greens for her first year of Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Washington.

"My freshman year I hated it, but I grew to love it," Sarah Thompson recalled.

Through the incessant moving and occasional separation from her dad, Thompson had grown to appreciate the Army family. "Being a military brat definitely opens you up, it can make or break you" she said. "I wouldn't be where I am now if it hadn't been

for past experiences."

As commander of the 401st, Col. Thompson can't be with his daughter often. Currently, he is working in Afghanistan and time will tell when he is back in Kuwait to see his daughter. 2nd Lt. Thompson is scheduled to redeploy in July.

The two are still able to communicate through e-mail and an occasional phone conversation and participated in the St. Patrick's Day 5k run at Camp Arifjan before Col. Thompson flew to Afghanistan.



Photo by Sgt. Thomas L. Day

Col. Dennis Thompson with his daughter, 2nd Lt. Sarah Thompson after the elder Thompson took command of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

Yemeni women follow pio

Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser
Third Army/U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office

It was chance that brought 11 Yemeni women to America to learn about how women are integrated into tactical environments. It was also chance they arrived this month when America celebrates its heritage of women – a chance to share the struggles of pioneer women in this country.

For the past six years, women have worked in Yemen police departments serving as prison guards, medics, administrative assistants and policewomen. However, their tactical duties such as the patrolling and other police work are limited to situations only involving civilian women. Because Yemen is a Muslim country, the men are forbidden to touch women, unless they

are family. The policewomen and female guards are called in to pat down the women and take custody of them.

The visiting 11 women were hand-selected by the chief of staff for Yemen's Central Security Forces to become the first women to serve in their Counter-Terrorism Unit. They will be working side-by-side with men for the first time in their country's history. To resolve the first issue, three British army female soldiers trained the CTU women on the basics of the unit operations. For the second concern, Third Army/U.S. Army Central offered to take the women on an expedition to Atlanta and Fort Jackson, S.C. "They are here to learn about how professional women work – what it is like

to work side by side with men, know how difficult it was at first, hear from other women of the challenges they will face and not be so scared," said Cpt. Hani Hamden, training officer for the CTU, and the Yemeni women's escort and translator.

The challenges he spoke of is two fold –the mission and the society. Hamden said the CTU women are in their early 20s, all single and are at entry-level positions serving as the administrative assistants, medics and intelligence analysts. Because of the country's traditions and Islamic rules, it's hard for the women to progress rapidly in their job. Their struggles are similar to what American women underwent.

For the Yemeni women, Hamden said with time the current laws will change because of the types of missions the women perform and to meet the needs of the job.

The Mission

The Yemeni delegation first visited the Atlanta Police Department on March 16.

Maj. Pearlene Williams, chief of staff for the Atlanta PD, talked to the CTU women on the progression of women in the department.

Other policewomen in the force shared words of wisdom with the Yemeni women such as "don't give up," "stay strong," "be positive" and "don't cry in front of the men."

"You are small in stature, but your



Photo series by Sgt. Reeba Critser

(Above) Staff Sgt. Melinda Pressley, a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson, N.C., explains to the visiting Yemeni women about the proper use of a bayonet.

(Right) Sgt. 1st Class Ina McCoy, a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson, N.C., explains to the visiting Yemeni women about the bounding rappel technique which Sgt. 1st Class Michael Still, also a drill sergeant, is demonstrating.

(Far right) Master Sgt. Mona Venning, operations NCOIC at Third Army/U.S. Army Central's G4, explains to the Yemeni women about the rules when Soldiers fight with pugil sticks.



Pioneer tracks of Americans

strength comes from within,” said Lt. Debra Williams, assistant zone 6 commander with the Atlanta PD, to the women. “You must reach within yourself and pull it out.”

The next stop was a visit to Third Army/ U.S. Army Central at Fort McPherson, Ga., on March 19 to learn how women advanced their careers in the U.S. Army.

Since 1775, women served as nurses, cooks and embroiderers for the U.S. Army. Master Sgt. Nicole Evans said some women donned men’s clothing to fight in America’s stead. Evans, an enlisted strength manager for Third Army, U.S. Army Central, gave the CTU women statistics to assist her brief. Currently women serve in 91 percent of Army jobs and make up 14 percent of the active Army. She said in October 2006, more than 25,000 women were serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

“I think these [Yemeni women] are courageous,” said Evans. “Pioneers are the ones to suffer the initial bumps and bruises, so the road will be somewhat smoother for those who follow behind them.”

“In their society, I know it’s going to be very challenging,” said Evans. “My prayer for these pioneers is that they will always strive to do their best, continue to learn and most importantly, they must never give up.”

The next day, the women visited with Gina Young, head of domestic terrorism issues

at the Georgia Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters in Atlanta.

“Thirty-five years ago there was sexism,” she said. “Not anymore. Women are in the higher levels of the headquarters, they’re heads of domestic and overseas offices, in hostage negotiation teams, Scuba rescue and SWAT [Special Weapons and Tactics].”

With knowledge of the American woman’s plight to attain equality in the work place, the CTU women traveled to Fort Jackson, S.C., on March 21 to observe first-hand how men and women train in the military.

“When a female comes to basic training, it can be overwhelming,” said Staff Sgt. Melinda Pressley, drill sergeant leader at the Drill Sergeant School. “The female Soldier generally has preconceived doubt about her ability to achieve physical fitness standards. But all Soldiers, regardless of gender, train to a single standard.”

The dream

Growing up she wanted to be a policewoman after watching Egyptian mystery movies. Cpl. Qobol Al-Saadi, a medic, said she volunteered to join the police to help her country.

But it was difficult. Women working in the government are usually frowned upon.

“At 16, I secretly went to the police academy for training instead of school,” she said.

When her family

discovered the truth, she was able to convince them it was for the greater good. She and her younger sister are both in the CTU.

Cpl. Sahar Al-Salami, another medic, shared a similar childhood dream.

“I love adventure,” Hamden translated for Al-Salami. “I like CTU because it is very challenging.”

Sgt. Fatima Al-Ghambasi, an administrative assistant, said she hopes to see women involved in all jobs Yemen has to offer. Through Hamden, she said she dreamt of being a fighter pilot and the police force was the closet she could get to that dream.

Al-Ghambasi also said this tour of American tactical organizations was a good exchange of experience and how to fight and train as one team.

“I have confidence to face the challenges,” she said through Hamden.

To achieve the level of equality and unity the Americans share in training and operations is the Yemeni women’s goal, said Al-Saadi.

“Our government thinks we are too soft, but we’re not,” she said. “We’re the first in the police to join [the CTU]. Maybe tomorrow ...”



Training for the

New equipment puts U.S. troops ahead

Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice staff writer

Before any unit moves north into Iraq, they need to see the Sailors of the Joint Crew Composite Squadron at the Camp Buehring Training Village. They are in charge of the Counter Radio-controlled Electronic Warfare (or “CREW”) training. Nobody crosses into Iraq without completing it.

“Our objective is to teach the

Soldiers what to look for in (Improvised Explosive Devices), how to spot them and identify them and how to operate their CREW system to prevent the radio controlled IEDs from detonating,” said Lt. Cmdr. Donald Eby of Tulsa, Okla., a liaison officer for the Joint Crew Composite Squadron to Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

“The primary focus is how to teach Soldiers how to use the

CREW systems.”

Eby is one of four Sailors deployed to Kuwait in support of the CREW training. He operates out of Camp Arifjan, while Navy Lt. Dennis Murphy leads the training at Camp Buehring. Murphy and his three-man team have trained nearly 100,000 troops since they arrived in theater, according to Eby.

“Basically we emphasize its effectiveness and how to operate it,” said Murphy, a Lancaster, Ohio,



Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

CREW technology, along with convoy training, helps prepare troops for the dangers they'll face. Using the CREW training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Third Army/U.S. Army Central prepares troops for the streets of Iraq and Afghanistan.

CREW

ad of terrorists

native. “When they get to us, most of them have never seen it.”

Murphy’s staff handles about 200 troops for every class and has had one day, according to Murphy, where they have taught more than 1,000 students.

The training lasts approximately an hour, with an additional hour for unit leaders with a secret security clearance.

“Usually (commanders) put a lot of emphasis on their Soldiers to

“When they get to us, most of them have never seen it.”

—Navy Lt. Dennis Murphy, a training officer at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on the new CREW equipment

understand the system,” Murphy said. Even before Third Army/ U.S. Army Central mandated the training for all troops moving north into Iraq, most commanders were having their units complete the training anyway.

The current CREW system is an update from previous counter radio-controlled IED systems, in use in Iraq since 2003. Since then, the

system’s use has expanded in Iraq as the IED threat has multiplied.

For troops in Iraq, the training doesn’t stop when they depart Camp Buehring. Currently, there are about 300 Navy Electronic Warfare Officers (EWO) spread out around Iraq, each embedded with separate units.

They install, repair and continue training for their units on the system.

“Once the Soldiers reach their final destination,” Eby said, “every battalion, every brigade has their own EWO.”

The Syracuse Research Corporation, an independent research and development



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Lt. Cmdr. Donald Eby, a liaison officer for the Joint CREW Composition Squadron to Third Army/U.S. Army Central, gives a class to U.S. Soldiers preparing to deploy to Iraq at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in March. The Counter Radio-controlled Electronic Warfare training is now a mandatory part of the troops training during their preparation for combating deadly improvised explosive devices.

organization, produces the system, which weighs about 50 pounds.

“When a Soldier turns it on, it does its magic,” Eby said. “There’s no confirmed case of an IED exploding when a CREW device was nearby and should have defeated it.”



Photo series by Sgt. Sarah Scully

Former Special Forces medic trains troops to survive combat

Sgt. Sarah Scully
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Next to the big, red medic cross are the words, “This class rocks.”

Those are the first things Soldiers see as they head into the building to learn techniques that might save their lives and the lives of their buddies.

Standing there with unkempt black hair escaping out of his Special Forces medic cap and wearing a shirt covered with marlin fish, Brent Cloud’s blue eyes notice everything.

He’s trained more than 10,000 servicemembers and civilians – mostly Soldiers – since he first set up shop at Camp Buehring’s Training Village a year ago, supporting Third Army/U.S. Army

Central in Kuwait.

That’s 10 times more than his supervisors expected him to teach.

Instead of spending his retirement fishing for marlins, Cloud decided to come overseas after retiring from 5th Special Forces Group and share his experience and knowledge with young Soldiers heading into combat.

Starting out with 30 Soldiers in one class, it didn’t take long for the Alpha male with a driven work ethic, high intellect and extreme multi-tasking skills to get bored. So, he started teaching more classes and encouraging regular Soldiers – not just combat medics – to take the class.

“They’re going to be placed in the worst possible place a lot of people

have never been,” said Cloud. “I’ve been there.”

Deployed more than 50 times to at least 27 countries, Cloud has the credibility and common sense approach to healing that Soldiers need to experience before faced with the realities of war.

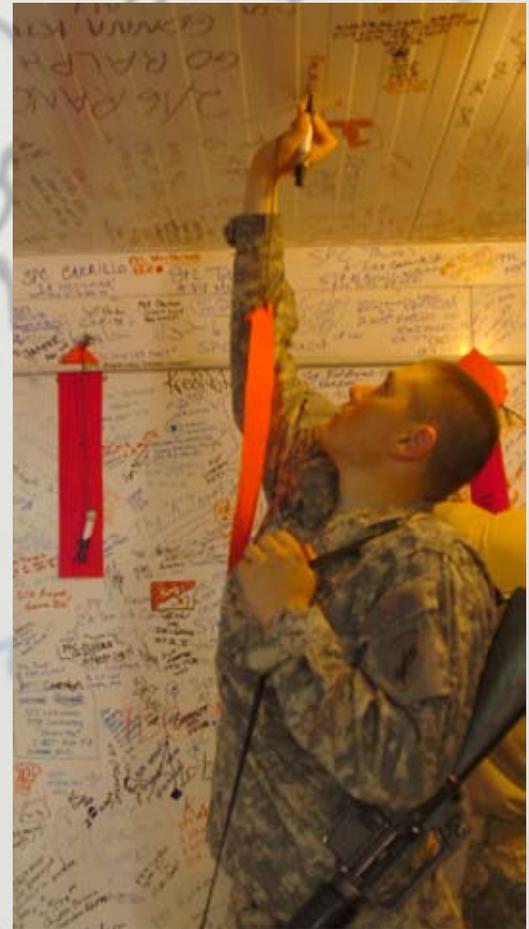
Most importantly, his students immediately leap the first big hurdle of any Army training: boredom.

Walking into a large open room with swirls of dried fake blood and mannequins in varying forms of distress on the floor, they soon gaze upward in disbelief.

There’s writing on the ceiling. On an Army-sanctioned white ceiling.

It’s Cloud’s sign-in roster.

On the walls and ceiling are notes



Clockwise from left: Brent Cloud, a former Special Forces medic and instructor, monitors Soldiers progress on doing hands-on training at the medical facility. Top: Soldiers work together to stabilize a patient at Camp Buehring's Training Village. Right: Spc. Ryan Nichols, a chemical specialist, signs the ceiling of Cloud's medical facility after completing the training. Below: Cloud gives advice to troops working to save a fellow Soldier's life. He has trained more than 10,000 troops heading up north to Iraq and Afghanistan, so they can learn crucial life-saving techniques.

and signatures from thousands of students.

And the first person to sign it: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. After giving the official authorization, it became a rite of passage to go through Cloud's class and sign the walls.

"I would give his class a 10," said Spc. David Mayers, a chemical Soldier from Sanjacinto, Calif., who took the class right before heading up north to Kirkuk, Iraq.

"I was never bored," said Mayers, a 36-year-old Reservist. "This training is really hands on, and the way he explained it was reassuring that we could do the job without any difficulties."

With blood spurting out of a mannequin

gazing upward toward the Soldiers trying to save its life, the troops worked in teams to stop the bleeding and employ the life-saving techniques taught by Cloud.

"For a lot of people (in combat) it's too much to handle," said Cloud. "I'm hoping to give them that one small thing to help save their buddies' lives."

"Expect the worst, plan for the

worst and hope for the best."

His supervisors are certainly planning for the best – in the next few weeks, Cloud and his class will move into a building twice as large as his current facility.

Employing another former Special Forces medic, the two instructors will teach one of the most requested classes at Camp Buehring – a necessary stop for Soldiers

heading into Iraq and Afghanistan.

But he will have to say goodbye to the walls and to Preston's signature.

Only now, he will have twice as much room for Soldiers to leave a note marking their place.

"I want the kids to feel comfortable here," said Cloud.

"All I'm doing is showing guys how to save people's lives."





(Above) Cpt. Ray Herras, the Public Key Infrastructure officer with the 335th Theater Signal Command (Provisional), performs "Music of the Night" from "Phantom of the Opera."

(Right) Servicemembers from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, perform one of many songs during the musical 1 Bravo Blues on 31 March.



(Left) Spc. Cheryl Berwald, a promotions specialist for 3rd Personnel Command, Col. Penelope Cook, assistant chief of staff for 377th Theater Support Command's G1, and Staff Sgt. Tamara McGee, an administrative specialist with 3rd Personnel Command, perform "Big Spender" from "Sweet Charity" during the play on March 31.

Photo Series by Spc. Debrah A. Ledesma



Broadway comes to Kuwait

Spc. Debrah A. Ledesma Desert Voice Editor

It was showtime. After months of practice, the 1 Bravo Blues musical was performed before a packed audience.

"I was ecstatic we had a fullhouse," said Spc. Cheryl Berwald, a promotions specialist for 3rd Personnel Command.

"I was very nervous at the beginning, but once the ball was rolling, it was easy to perform in front of people again," said Pvt. 1st Class Sarah Andrade, manager of the theater Rest and Recuperation program with the 38th Personnel Support Battalion.

A mixture of comedy and music, the play was performed before an audience that swelled with laughter and applause at the jokes made about life in a combat zone and the unique way of life on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"It seemed like the audience really enjoyed it," said Master Sgt. Pamela Langley, a deployment manager on the Redeployment, Reconstruction, Asset and Visibility Team for Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

Working as a team, the cast, along with their director, Cpt. Molly Davidson, a training officer with the 377th Theater Support Command, picked the songs they wished to

perform.

Lanley, who performed the solo "All that Jazz," had several costume changes along with her fellow cast members.

Moving at a high pace and keeping the audience on their toes, the cast darted on and off stage between scenes preparing for their next spot.

"It didn't come together until the last two nights," said Langley.

The performers were not able to practice on the stage with all of their props prior to showtime, but they adapted and the show went without a hitch, said the cast.

"Everything went as planned," said Berwald.

Kuwait scans CAC cards

A new course of action recently began in Kuwait to process dining facility patrons as they enter the DFAC.

Previously, each patron was to show the headcount personnel their identification upon entry to the DFAC when not in military uniform.

The headcount person was then to decide what category that individual would fall under, whether it be contractor, permanent military party or deployed troops. These categories are even further broken down and confusion about who is in what category could result.

This is a problem, because if a patron is grouped in the wrong category, then the wrong company may pay for their meal or someone who is to pay for their meal may get a free meal at the Department of Defense's expense.

Information provided by Maj. Barbara Gray, Support Operations Officer, Third Army/U.S. Army Central

Now the dining facility personnel scans everyone's Common Access Card.

The Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System and the Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System work together to categorize each person into the proper group without error.

Both systems are secure, and the person scanning the patron's card cannot see their names and any other personal information. Therefore, fear of identity theft through the scanner is unfounded.

The entry control points are also utilizing the same scanners to ensure vehicles passing through the gates are properly registered and entry is authorized.

By mid May, all of Kuwait will be equipped with scanners at both the DFACs and the ECPs.

Just One Question...

What music or bands do you listen to at the gym?



"Something that has a fast beat to it -- rap or hip-hop."

Lance Cpl. Alberto Morales
Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1
Engineer
Parsons, Tenn.



"Rock usually. Soundgarden is pretty good. It just goes good for working out. The beat, it creates energy."

Spc. Derek Federowski
297th Infantry Regiment
Network administrator
Anchorage, Alaska



"If I'm at the gym, I like a variety--something with energy."

Cpt. Daniel Woodlock
Medical plans and operations
Third Army/U.S. Army Central
Boca Raton, Fla.



"While I run, I listen to mostly pop music, with upbeat rhythms. It just keeps you wanting to move."

Sgt. Erica Magana
Personnel services support
349th Personnel Detachment
Weslaco, Texas



"80s rock. Stuff with a heavy beat -- Motley Crue, Def Leppard... you would laugh if you listened to my iPod."

Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Martens
Tactical Operations Command NCO
Navy Customs Battalion S
Hills, Minn.



Hometown Hero

Staff Sgt. Ryan Fortress
NCOIC Department Secretary of General Staff
CFLCC Command Group

Fortress provides support for the Third Army/ U.S. Army Central's commanding general.

Fortress talks about why he misses Sacramento, Calif.

"My friends and family. The cool summer--compared to here."



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.