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

February 28, 2007

In Good Hands

Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility offers help for wounded servicemembers



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On the cover

Airmen with the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility carry a wounded servicemember onto an aircraft, recently.

Photo by Sgt. Sarah Scully

Following standards: that's what professionals do!

Standards are for everyone. Doesn't matter if we agree with them or like them, doesn't make a difference what your rank or time in service is.

We are all required to follow our service regulations and our commander's policies, servicemembers and civilians working for the military alike.

None of us have a choice in the matter, and once a commander has made a decision and put out a standard, regulation or a policy, our opinion doesn't matter either.

Standards insure our safety, improve our quality of life, and most importantly, enable us to accomplish our mission.

When you willfully fail to follow the standard or see a standard being violated and do not take any corrective action you need to ask yourself if you're in the right profession because you have become part of the problem.

Not doing what is right is an act of selfishness. Not thinking about the team and remembering we are



Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe
Third Army Command Sergeant Major

a part of something bigger than ourselves is unprofessional.

Our uniform belongs to the United States government, and we have to earn the right to represent our country every day by doing what we are told to do and what we are expected to do.

It is a privilege, not a right, to wear our uniforms. And represent our

country. So learn the rules and wear it correctly, in the field and in garrison.

Handle weapons correctly and drive vehicles safely. And comply with all standards, all the time and don't be a part-time Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine.

Ignorance is not an excuse; we are all supposed to seek the information we need to do what is right.

That's what professionals do!

Don't take shortcuts. Learn and follow the standards. Care for others by helping them comply with the standard. Be a member of the team that we can all count on and be proud of.

And that our country can be proud of! "Third... Always First!"

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DV
Desert Voice
Magazine

African-American general highlights Black History Month ceremony

**Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.,
Third Army/USARCENT PAO**

“We have come a long way and I am proud to serve on the same team with you, regardless of race or color,” said Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward. “You represent the finest that America has to offer. It is your strength of commitment that makes our country so strong.”

In acknowledgement of the significant contributions of African Americans throughout history, an inspiring commemoration was held by Area Support Group- Kuwait, Feb. 20, on Camp Arifjan, highlighted by a speech from Ward, deputy commander, U.S. European Command.

Attended by the men and women deployed in support of Third Army/ U.S. Army Central, the event featured cultural song and dance, as well as a sketch entitled “From slavery to freedom,” in which an interpretation of Abraham Lincoln’s abolishment of slavery was performed.

Ward addressed the enthusiastic crowd of civilian and military personnel, utilizing a combination of historical

events and often humorous personal anecdotes to convey the importance of how far America and the military has evolved as a nation and a united family.

“We have come a long way and I am proud to serve on the same team with you, regardless of race or color,” he professed. “You represent the finest that America has to offer. It is your strength of commitment that makes our country so strong.”

A member of the renowned Omega Psi Phi fraternity responsible for founding National Negro History Week in 1926, which later went on to be officially established as Black History Month in 1976, Ward looks at the success he has achieved as a reflection of his affiliation.

“I’m very proud that I’m a member of the [Omega Psi Phi] fraternity and that Carter G. Woodson started this celebration because of what American history books didn’t quite do at that time—which is note the contributions of all of its citizens,” said the Baltimore native. “I use that framework as an incentive to continue to be the very best that I can be at what I do.”

According to Ward, the prosperous career path the military has led him upon gives him a deeper admiration and gratitude for the African-Americans who paved the way for him to follow.

“My dad served in a segregated Army during World War II,” Ward mentioned. “When I graduated from Morgan State University and was commissioned as a lieutenant, he was probably the proudest guy in the world because during his career he didn’t see black officers.

Back then, I didn’t see [being commissioned] as that big of a deal because I hadn’t lived what he had lived,” Ward offered. “But moving forward after more than 35 years of service I can appreciate his struggle, since what I see today is many additional opportunities for minorities to contribute, take command, obtain education and to take on leadership positions across the board in all of the military services.”

Having led a distinguished career despite facing challenges along the way, the general also offered insight into the secret of his success.

“I think that anyone who becomes successful in the military has to overcome hurdles and difficulties,” he remarked. “My own personal journey is one that was very fortunate. The road before me wasn’t always smooth, but I never wasted time dwelling on the negative. I always set out to overcome adversity and do my very best in spite of it.”

Guest speaker Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, deputy commander, U.S. European Command, addresses the capacity crowd attending the Black History Month celebration at Camp Arifjan, Feb. 20.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.



Photo by Sgt. Sarah Scully

(Left) Early in the morning hours, airmen carefully move patients from the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at an airbase in Kuwait to an ambulance bus for transport to a C17 airplane heading for Germany.

(Right) Master Sgt. Eric Canada, left, makes sure the patient's personal belongings are situated comfortably while Master Sgt. William Kaczmarczyk, right, tightly fastens a belt around the patient for transport to a C17 airplane. Both airmen are assigned to the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at an airbase in Kuwait, supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

Mission: **Critical**

Looking into the 24-hour medical operations of the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility

Sgt. Sarah Scully
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Holding his bandaged arm to his chest, a 20-year-old Soldier groaned in pain and looked up at the airmen carrying him toward home.

After getting hit by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, he and a fellow Soldier received medical care and personal attention from the nurses and staff of the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility in Kuwait, supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

Just one of 6,700 patients treated and moved during the past three years, the Soldier rested on

a litter in an Air Force C-17 airplane.

Most of the patients are in the Army, but the Air Force staff doesn't care about the uniform difference. To them, all the servicemembers are fighting, suffering and surviving together.

"I can remember everybody who comes through," said Senior Airman Cyrus Eveland, a 23-year-old medical technician from Paoli, Penn. "It kind of hurts because that's like your brother, even though they're from another service."

For one nurse, it's even more personal. Her son, an Army specialist, got injured in combat while serving in Iraq, and she thinks of him when she sees the young men carried into the medical facility.

"The younger ones touch me as

though they were my sons," said Air Force Maj. Kathy Stierwalt, a CASF clinical nurse from Fremont, Ohio.

"I think it helps them to have a motherly figure – they need someone to support them."

More than 90 percent of all patients treated and processed through CASF are Soldiers, and they all serve in either Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait.

"They provide for us, whatever we need," said Army Staff Sgt. Carol Morgan, a signal technician with 297th Brigade Support Battalion out of Kandahar, Afghanistan and a native of Wasilla, Ala.

"Everybody's professional here, and it's in a real building," said Morgan, with a smile.

For many of the troops, sleeping in



Photo by Sgt. Sarah Scully

a real bed and staying in a modern building is a treat.

But others don't get the opportunity to notice the nicer conditions – they're too injured or medicated to appreciate the comforts provided by the CASF team.

Quickly getting the patients ready for transport, the airmen focus on moving the troops out to the flightline without causing them a great deal of pain.

Loading them up on litters, they move in teams to carry the patients onto a medic bus for transport to Germany or to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, for medical care provided by the Navy Medical Expeditionary Facility.

Talking to them as the bus moves slowly toward the airfield, the airmen listen to their patients – some like to talk about their family or hometown, while others want to talk about the buddies they left behind.

"A lot of these Soldiers that come through just want to talk, and if they talk, a lot of their problems can be solved," said Eveland, serving his second deployment. "We're here to listen and cater to their needs."

Ready to provide personal attention to her patient is Army Capt. Kim Andras, a trauma nurse and mother of two Marines who understands that the Global War on Terrorism isn't fought with just one service – it takes all of America's military working together to achieve success.

"All warriors bleed red," said Andras, a trauma nurse from Brandon, Fla.

"As a mother, and as a military nurse, I know that if anything happens to my boys, they will get the best medical care."

And the CASF staff strives to help their patients feel more comfortable in a welcoming environment – as evidenced by the homemade quilts sent from Americans back home.

"This experience is something I'll always have to show the world that we all need to support our country in one way or another," said Stierwalt.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Sports competition unites Kuwait, U.S. servicemembers

**Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes
40th PAD NCOIC**

A sporting competition between two militaries Feb. 14 in Kuwait was the backdrop amid a festive spirit where two countries work together at a Persian Gulf port.

Members from the Kuwaiti military and U.S. servicemembers supporting Third Army/ U.S. Army Central participated in the Kuwaiti American Games.

The games, which have been held since 2003, gave participants the opportunity to strengthen relationships through friendly

competition, said Air Force Capt. Karla Taff, a 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Detachment 1 officer. She added they try to conduct the games at least twice a year.

The 11-event competition provided opportunities for each nation to create memories while displaying their talents. The events ranged from table tennis to water polo, but the common thread among all the events was the chance to compete.

“It’s a very worthwhile event,” said Sgt. Major Bobby Fletcher,

the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Brigade operations sergeant major and table tennis competitor. “It allows [American servicemembers] to strengthen our relationship with the [Kuwait servicemembers].”

“It was a nice opportunity to compete against people from another country,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Bryen Williams, a Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician with Operational Support Unit 7. “I love the camaraderie of bringing people together from different nations.”

(Left) U.S. servicemembers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom compete against Kuwaiti military members in a tug-of-war competition Feb. 14, in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti American games are an 11-event competition that uses friendly competition to create strong friendships among both nations.

(Right) Members of the Kuwaiti and United States militaries sprint off the start line during a 4x100 meter relay Feb. 14 during the Kuwaiti American Games at a seaport in Kuwait.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Williams participated in all three water sports. He played goalie during the water polo event, which he and his team would eventually lose to the Kuwaitis in a hard-fought battle in the final minutes. He then jumped right into the 50-meter swim, where he finished in 1st place. If that were not enough, Williams concluded his day as a member of a 200-meter relay team that also took 1st place.

Although victories were nice, the participants had the opportunity to dispel stereotypes they may have had.

“You get everybody together and it’s people being people playing sports,” said Williams.

Taff said “a common stereotype is that Kuwaitis don’t treat women as equals but in doing these games they worked hand-in-hand with [female servicemembers].”

The day concluded with an awards ceremony for the participants at the camp gymnasium. Military members from both nations mingled with each other during the ceremony sharing stories and laughs while making bonds that will last a lifetime.

Medals and trophies were issued to the winners along with well-deserved applause from both Kuwaitis and Americans alike. The final scores were added for the team competition and the score was announced. A 36-36 tie would be echoed through the gymnasium. It was a fitting conclusion to a day to bring friendships together through sports.

“Everybody benefits from [these events], concluded Fletcher, the 35-year military veteran. “It’s an overall good thing that we need to have more often.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Petty Officer 1st Class Bryen Williams prepares to block a shot during the water polo event Feb. 14 during the Kuwaiti American Games in Kuwait.

Third Army Kazakhstan



(Left) Staff Sgt. Seitzhan Amantayev, Kazakhstan Army Regional Command NCO Astana, operates a M1A1 Abrahams Tank simulator at the Battle Simulation Training Command at Fort Benning, Ga., during a Third Army/U.S. Army Central Theater Security Cooperation coordinated visit, Feb 6.



(Right) Master Sgt. Vincent Sims, Third Army/U.S. Army Central Theater Security Cooperation NCO, shares information about the Noncommissioned Officers Academy's photo wall at Fort Benning, Ga., with a Kazakhstan army group during a visit between Kazakhstan NCOs and Third Army/USARCENT NCOs, Feb. 6.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson Third Army/USARCENT PAO

The greeting of the day was Qayirly Tan, which means good morning in the Kazakh language.

The phrase was used to make the Kazakhstan delegation feel welcome when they met with Third Army/U.S. Army Central Theater Security Cooperation noncommissioned officers Feb. 6 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Kazakhstan's delegation of two officers, five noncommissioned officers and two translators visited the Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Fort Benning for a week-long visit to observe the U.S. Army's noncommissioned officer training and development programs.

While at the academy, the group

observed small group instruction and grouping procedures, discussed techniques and walked through the NCOA facilities.

The group was also escorted to the Battle Simulations Division, where they received a brief overview of the center's Close Combat Tactical Trainer. The trainer is composed of computer-driven combat vehicle simulators and emulator workstations that operate interactively.

Each member received individual instructions on how to control Bradley fighting vehicles and M1A1 Abrams tanks as they sat in the simulator's realistic field environments and fired the weapons systems.

The Kazakh and Third Army personnel's primary mission was to share information about each other's NCO programs. The group discussed topics such as NCOs attending college and using their civilian training to enhance their army specialty, voluntary enlistment and qualifications to join the Army. They also exchanged examples of retirement pay and benefits, requirements for NCO promotion, branch transfers and the changing rules to allow those transfers, and NCOs moving families with them to new job assignments.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jay Brimstin, commandant of the NCOA, showed his appreciation for the event with the delegation.

hosts training exchange with noncommissioned officers



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson

“There are 10 Americans that know something about your country and army that we didn’t know before, and that’s a good thing,” he said.

Senior officer for the delegation, Lt. Col. Nurlan Urustemov, Kazakhstan army director of mobility and recruiting, also said he was glad his group could visit. He said it was a big plus to see the American Army’s NCO programs with their own eyes. He added that it was important to show the Kazakhstan sergeants how it should be and how they can be better.

“I must confess, I want to see our sergeants become like the U.S. Army sergeants,” Urustemov said.

Third Army Soldiers were impressed with the Kazakhs as well.

“The Kazakh army is one the

most advanced militaries that we work with,” said Master Sgt. Vincent Sims, Third Army’s event coordinator.

Once again, Third Army/USARCENT’s TSC program showed how it bridges gaps between the U.S. military and its allies to improve the joint efforts in Global War on Terror.

Staff Sgt. Seitzhan Amantayev, Kazakhstan Army Regional Command NCO Astana, enters a vehicle simulator during a Third Army/U.S. Army Central Theater Security Cooperation coordinated visit to the Battle Simulation Training Command Center on Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 6.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson



Full Speed Ahead

Camp Buehring facility simulates combat for Soldiers headed to the real thing

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes 40th PAD NCOIC

Training for war has been a staple of the U.S. military since its inception nearly 232 years ago.

Although training is still a common thread among the ranks, the Soldiers of Valley Forge would be in awe of the modern facilities located at Third Army/ U.S. Army Central's Camp Buehring.

"What's unique about this facility is that it offers a wide range of opportunities," said Capt. Ken Smith, operations officer for the Armed Forces Training Center.

The Mobile Military Operations on Urban Terrain facility, commonly referred to as Mobile MOUT, offers force-on-force training ammunition, instantaneous feedback mechanisms, enemy targets and buildings filled with battlefield sounds and lights.

"This training is good because it gives [units] that one last chance to polish up," said Smith. "It's done in a realistic environment."

"It's a really great training tool



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes

(Above) 1st Infantry Division Soldiers practice squad tactics at the Mobile Military Operations on Urban Terrain Facility in Kuwait, Feb. 17.

(Left) 1st Infantry Division Soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan., provide security at the Mobile Military Operations on Urban Terrain facility in Kuwait, Feb. 17

counting both simulators and live-training opportunities, added Martz.

The results of the 25 lanes have been felt by servicemembers from the Coast Guard to the Army. Smith said the training center teaches approximately 150,000 to 200,000 servicemembers annually.

Although this keeps the trainers busy teaching the newest rotations moving into theater, they continue to implement new guidance as it develops.

"The trainers here at [Camp Buehring] get lessons learned directly from combat operations in Iraq, said Martz. This allows them to be "very flexible, very responsive to the needs of operations in Iraq."

for commanders as they prepare for combat operations in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Martz, USARCENT assistant chief of staff for operations.

The training tools have evolved from a mere four lanes in 2003 to 25 today,

Got a Dirty Job?

Let the **Desert Voice** get you on TV...

Third Army/U.S. Army Central is recruiting the Discovery Channel's reality television comedy "Dirty Jobs with Mike Rowe" to come to Kuwait. Now we need the servicemembers with the dirtiest, nastiest jobs to email the Desert Voice at desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil. Include your name, rank, unit and what makes your job dirty.



Just One Question...

What's on your 'to do' list?



"It's not much because I'll be in Iraq for a year. Maybe save money and prepare for college."

Sgt. Matt Kanzulak
Cook
68th Combat Sustainment Support
Brigade
Chicago, Ill.



"Better educate myself with college courses."

Cpl. Shante Taylor
Administrative clerk
68th Combat Sustainment Support
Brigade
Dayton, Ohio



"Make it home in one piece. Be more physically fit."

Seaman David Coulombe
Helicopter maintainer
2515 Naval Air Ambulance
Detachment
Wales, Mass.



"Go to the gym and work all night."

Sgt. Daniel Avalos
Coalition Action Review Board NCO
377th Theater Support Command
New Orleans, La.



"Put in for an Active-Guard Reserve packet in order to move to Hawaii...and finish reading the Bible."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Monica
Petersen-Smith
Personnel officer in charge
3rd Personnel Command
Olympia, Wash.

Hometown Hero

Capt. Forrest Faison

Commander
U.S. Expeditionary Medical Facility-Kuwait
and the Medical Task Force – Kuwait

Faison works to ensure the availability of good medical care for deployed servicemembers

Faison talks about why he misses Chesapeake, Va.

"The people are friendly and wonderful; they're just good neighbors."



A *New York* state of mind



Photo by Ken Aston

A rock band comprised of members of Army Materiel Command (**left**) highlighted A Night in New York, an event on Camp Arifjan intended to recreate the many scenes of America's biggest city. From sidewalk drummers (**bottom left**) to a high-stakes card game in a dimly lit room corner (**below**), A Night in New York brought out the most distinct characteristics of a city which has overcome the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to regain its vibrant personality. For one night, servicemembers and civilians gathered in the Zone 1 Community Center, and left in a "New York State of Mind."



Photo by Ken Aston



Photo by Ken Aston

