

DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central
"Transforming to Full-Spectrum Operations"



August 13, 2008

Arctic Warriors
heat up the
Middle East



DV Table of Contents

Page 4

Delta 1-148 awards CIBs for first time since World War II.

Page 5

College basketball coaches visit the Middle East.

Page 8

Do It Yourself network builds new USO complex with servicemembers.

Page 10

Soldier reunites with Iraqi "Brother".

On the cover

Capt. Robert L. Crouse, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, stands at the low ready during a training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4. For the full story, see page 6.

Photo by Pfc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice staff writer

Contact us

Comments, questions, suggestions story ideas? Call the Desert Voice editor at 430-6334 or e-mail at desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.



Family and Community Covenant

The Army has long been built on the idea of internal strength. Not only strength hardened on the battlefield, but strength harnessed from loved ones at home. The strength of U.S. Army Central relies significantly on the strength of our families.

In the past year, the Army has taken huge strides in continuing to provide Soldiers and Family members the best living conditions and quality of life by creating two new programs.

The first program is the Army Community Covenant, which is designed to develop and foster effective state and community partnerships with the Army in improving the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer from state to state.

The Army Community Covenant recognizes the strength of Soldiers along with their Family members and the support of their local community. Currently both state and local leaders are participating in covenant signings across the globe; signifying their commitment to supporting Soldiers and their Families.

The second program is the Army Family Covenant. The Army surveyed Families across the force, and overwhelmingly, Families made it clear that they don't want new programs but voiced the need to properly fund existing ones. The Army has committed to this by putting 1.4 billion towards funding these programs. The AFC, as introduced by the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren, is as follows:



Command Sgt. Major John Fourhman
U.S. Army Central Command

increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our Families a strong,

supportive environment where they can thrive.

We are committed to building a partnership with Army Families that enhance their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by:

- Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services.
- Increasing accessibility and quality of health care.
- Improving Soldier and Family housing.
- Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care.
- Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.

USARCENT has a monthly newsletter, *The Yellow Ribbon*, published, for its Family members. It can be found online at <http://www.arcent.army.mil/> under the FRG link. It is a forum where USARCENT's geographically dispersed Families can share information, embrace newcomers and come together to support each other. More information about the Family and community covenants may be found at <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/family/>.

Patton's Own! 

We recognize the commitment and

"Our Families...Our Strength"

Volume 30, Issue 4

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office. This magazine is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with USARCENT. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment.

Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.

USARCENT Commanding General
Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace
USARCENT Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman
USARCENT Public Affairs Officer
Col. Thomas Nickerson
USARCENT Deputy PAO (FWD)
Lt. Col. Paula Jones

20th Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Maj. Jason Shropshire
20th Public Affairs Detachment Sergeant
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice Editor
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
Desert Voice Staff Writers
Marine Sgt. Edward Guevera Jr.
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton
Pfc. Howard Ketter
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson



DV
The
Desert
Voice



Safety Corner: Fire Safety Training

Summer always brings fire safety challenges to the Kuwait theater of operations. In addition to the extreme heat, another challenge is the influx of new personnel. New personnel may not always be familiar with the fire safety differences between Kuwait and the U.S. A good example is the use of 120 volts in the U.S., versus the 240 volts used in Kuwait.

In the last couple of weeks, we have had two large fires on Camp Arifjan. A contributing factor to these fires was that personnel were not familiar with local fire safety procedures.

In order to combat this knowledge deficiency Army Support Group-Kuwait has three training events geared toward training newcomers and units in fire safety and prevention methods.

An ASG-Kuwait Gateway briefing held monthly in the Zone 1 Chapel is one of the mandatory trainings required for all service-members who arrived at Camp Arifjan within the last 90 days. This briefing includes general fire safety rules and requirements.

The second training event is for facility managers and unit facility coordinators. This monthly training is provided by the ASG-Kuwait Department of Public Works. It includes specialized fire safety training directed for facility manager. Army and ASG-Kuwait regulations require facility managers be the person responsible for the fire prevention program within their unit or facility. ASG-Kuwait fire inspectors work directly with the facility manager during fire prevention visits and identify fire hazards and assist with corrective actions.

The third training event is for the fire wardens who assist facility managers and commanders with the Fire Prevention program. This training is directed toward larger units that have a need for additional fire safety oversight and support. This training is provided by the ASG-Kuwait Fire Prevention office on a bi-weekly basis.

The key is for these assigned individuals to disseminate information throughout the unit or organization, then conduct internal inspections to ensure fire safety measures are being followed. This will help foster fire safety and early identification of fire hazards.

Your successors may not know about our fire safety rules and regulations. Ensure they attend the appropriate training and understand unit or organizational fire safety programs and standard operating procedures.

If you have any questions concerning fire safety training programs, please call the ASG-Kuwait Fire Prevention office at DSN: 430-3316/3154. 





“WARDOGS” EARN COMBAT BADGES, UPHOLDING LINEAGE OF HONOR



Story by
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
Desert Voice staff writer

In honor of their historical “Buckeye” patch, one infantry regiment continues to uphold the honorable and decorated lineage of the Ohio National Guard’s largest combat-arms unit.

Soldiers from D Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment were officially awarded Combat Infantry Badges for the first time since World War II and Combat Action Badges for the first time in the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s history, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 1.

“You who receive the CIB are the first Soldiers [in the 37th IBCT] to receive and wear this badge since World War II,” said Col. Richard T. Curry, commander, 37th IBCT.

Three Soldiers from the unit were also awarded CABs.

“That’s what today is all about.”

First Sgt. Jonathan Cepek, D Company, reminded the Soldiers of the the unit’s lineage.

“In World War II Soldiers fought under the Buckeye patch,” said Cepek. “And for us to be out there as Ohio infantrymen, wearing the same patch, it is an absolute honor.”

Staff Sgt. David Malolepsky and



Photos by Sgt. Brooks Fletcher

Capt. Michael Wood, commander, D Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, shakes the hand of his Soldier, Sgt. Eric Wolfe, after awarding him the Combat Infantry Badge during a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 1.

Sgt. Gerald Pruitt were the first of many Soldiers to earn their CIBs in the battalion, for actions taken during combat operations on April 20, 2008.

Cepek said he was proud to see such a transformation from Soldiers he had trained with a whole year.

“They trained hard, engaged the enemy and are here to talk about it ... we did something right,” said Cepek, about the company.

The “Wardogs” of D Company, conduct convoy security during long haul missions throughout Iraq. The

Soldiers protect the lives of all who are under their watch.

“Convoys are the meat and potatoes of this mission,” said Capt. Michael Wood, commander, D Company, who also received a CIB during the ceremony.

“Never forget that we are the infantry in the 37th IBCT. You are the guardians of the 4th Sustainment Brigade. You are what make the 37th IBCT great,” added Wood. **A**

AWARDEES

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

- Capt. Michael Wood**
- Sgt. 1st Class Michael Flick**
- Staff Sgt. David Malolepsky**
- Sgt. Gerald Pruitt**
- Sgt. Eric Wolfe**
- Sgt. Anthony Fought**
- Cpl. Christopher Dimando**
- Spc. John Gaglione**
- Spc. Matthew Huber**

COMBAT ACTION BADGE

- Sgt. Shawn Finch**
- Sgt. Norman Sykora**
- Spc. Luke Hall**

Camp Arifjan



71 new NCOs inducted into NCO Corps

Story and photo by
Pfc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice staff writer

Seventy-one new noncommissioned officers were inducted into the NCO Corps at the Training Activity Center on Camp Arifjan, Aug. 2.

The traditional ceremony marks the passage of newly promoted NCOs into the time honored corps, which is known as the backbone of the Army.

“Being an NCO means being a leader and taking care of Soldiers while accomplishing the mission,” said 1st Sgt. Michael L. Mayes, a Dobson, N.C. native, with the 546th Transportation Company.

The ceremony began with an invocation, the singing of the National Anthem and the Soldier’s Creed. The new NCOs were introduced by a sponsor from their unit.

Command Sgt. Maj. Scarlett I.

Stabel, Logistic Task Force, told the new NCOs that they are responsible for training, mentoring and leading junior Soldiers.

The NCOs recited the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer, agreeing to uphold their duties and responsibilities as noncommissioned officers.

Afterwards, the NCOs walked through the traditional archway, symbolizing their transition into the NCO corps.

“I want to be looked to for leadership by younger Soldiers and pass on my standards to them,” said Sgt. Jason Rusbuldt, a Brocton, N.Y. native, 2nd Transportation Company.

The NCOs concluded the ceremony by singing the Army song and having the youngest NCO and the command sergeant major, cut the ceremonial cake. **A**



Sgt. Brian Covert, 2nd Transportation Company, steps through the traditional archway symbolizing the transition to a noncommissioned officer during an NCO induction ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Aug. 2.

Operation Hardwood V begins in Kuwait



Soldiers converse with college basketball coaches participating in Operation Hardwood V, at Camp Virginia, Aug. 6.

Story and photo by
Pfc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice staff writer

Six basketball coaches from several different colleges around the U.S., visited servicemembers in Kuwait, Aug. 6.

Operation Hardwood, an event sponsored by United Service Organizations, made a one-day stop in Kuwait before proceeding into Iraq for the first time in its five-year history.

Operation Hardwood is an initiative launched to boost the morale among U.S. servicemembers serving in the Middle East.

“They’re great guys and I’m glad they support Soldiers,” said Spc. Travis Greenstreet, an Atascadero, Calif. native, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Richard C. Kell, the trip coordinator, said they are excited that this is the first time Operation Hardwood would take place in Iraq.

“We realize that Soldiers are athletes also,” said Kell, the president of Operation Entertainment Inc. “We understand that sports play a vital role in keeping servicemembers close to home.”

“It’s an honor and a privilege to meet the men and women who protect

and defend our freedom,” said coach Barry Rohrsen, Manhattan College, Manhattan, N.Y.

The coaches participating in Operation Hardwood V include: Brian Gregory, University of Dayton, Ohio; Jerry Wainwright, DePaul University, Chicago; Tom Schuberth, University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas; Jeffrey Jones, American University, Washington D.C. and Thomas Pecora, Hofstra University, Long Island, N.Y.

Also participating with the coaches are former Saint John’s University head coach Fran Fraschilla, now an ESPN basketball analyst, and Reggie Minton, former U.S. Air Force Academy coach and current deputy executive director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. **A**

6-17 Cavalry Regiment

Alaskan unit trains on crew served



Photo by Pfc. Howard Ketter

Soldiers of F Troop, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, practice close quarter marksmanship during a training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4.



Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Vargas corrects a malfunction on a .50 cal. during a training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4.

Story and photos by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton and Pfc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice staff writers

Members of Task Force Sabre from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, conducted training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4, in preparation for their onward movement in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Soldiers of F Troop, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, who are in the process of adjusting to the hot climate, focused on close-quarter marksmanship and crew served weapons familiarization with the Mk 19 grenade launcher and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun.

"The training is to make sure we're comfortable with the weapons and to make sure the weapons are functioning properly before we go forward into Iraq," said Chief Warrant Officer James Arwine, a native of Goodyear, Ariz.

The Alaska-based Soldiers, who are referred to as "Arctic Warriors," have

spent much of their time, before and since their arrival in country, training to become proficient in warrior tasks. The unit, which is primarily comprised of fuelers, mechanics and supply personnel, will provide combat logistics patrols for their area of responsibility.

"So far we've done [Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer] and convoy training, while finding out everything that's going on in Iraq," said Spc. Nikita Hall, a native of Fitzgerald, Ga.

"Today was just getting a feel for the .50 cal.," said Hall.

The unit was not there to qualify, instead to learn about head-space and timing, along with basic functions of the weapon, added Hall.

Before firing rounds at different types of targets on the training site, the Soldiers walked through the process of loading, unloading and correcting weapons malfunctions, to build familiarization and confidence in using the weapons.

Soldiers then continued their training with CQM.

Soldiers went through a dry run

ent prepares for Iraq

erved weapons, close quarter combat

Spc. Nikita Hall fires an M2 .50 caliber machine gun during training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4.



Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton

of close quarter firing without body armor or ammunition.

They did a second run in body armor with no ammunition before firing in full combat gear with live rounds during the final run.

During each run the Soldiers advanced in a linear formation toward their targets firing one or two rounds with each advancement.

“I think that confidence is always going to be the key, because ultimately you want to ensure that the Soldier is confident when he walks out the door and gets on the road,” said Capt. Damien Boffardi, a native of Williamsburg, Va.

While weapons familiarization was the agenda for the day, the Soldiers continuously work toward getting acclimated to the change in climate, which is much different from the cold climate of Fairbanks, Alaska.

According to Boffardi, the temperature in Alaska was 62 degrees when they left, compared to the 122 degrees they experienced when they arrived in country.

Staff Sgt. Ruby Vega, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., said it has been an adjustment coming from an extremely cold environment to an extremely hot one.

In order to adapt to the new environment, they hydrate regularly and conduct training early in the morning and in the evening when it’s cooler. They also conduct exercises that are aimed at living and working in the heat.

“We do a lot of force-marches to get acclimated to the weather while wearing full gear so we get use to having it on in the heat,” said Arwine.

In support of OIF, 6-17 Cav. Regt., will soon be in Iraq putting all of their training to work.

“There is a huge mission ahead of us and we have a great bunch of Soldiers,” said Boffardi, who also said that he hopes the deployment to Iraq goes well. **A**



Photo by Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton

A Soldier from F Troop looks downrange in preparation to engage his targets during a training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4.

DIY CHANNEL INVADES USO, CAMP VIRGINIA

Story and photo by
Petty Officer 2nd Class John Hulle
NMCB 74

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait—Everyone needs a space to call their own, at least according to the Do It Yourself television show “Man Caves”.

Hosts, Tony “The Goose” Siragusa, former National Football League defensive lineman, and television personality, Jason Cameron, transformed the United Service Organizations at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, into a place for servicemembers to truly call their own, July 28-31.

The renovation included a gaming area with 15 video gaming systems and flat panel televisions, a brand new movie room and more than \$100,000 in donated furniture.

After contacting the DIY channel, the project “snowballed from a gaming area to the entire center,” said Jonathan Matthews, USO center director, Camp Virginia.

Matthews said he has seen 150,000 servicemembers pass through Camp Virginia during the last year and the USO gives them a home away from home.

“They need time to decompress, to get their thoughts in order, to get their financial affairs in order or just to unwind,” said the Liverpool, U.K., native. “It gives that extra buffer to a Soldier readjusting to regular life.”

The project also included two sound-proof rooms for servicemembers to participate in United Through Reading, a program that allows parents to record reading a book, then mail the recording home. There is also a third sound-proof room filled with musical instruments and a 16-track recorder.

Matthews said military members

can now have the opportunity to “perform their own mini-concerts,” which they can record.

“This is going to be the closest thing to home for troops coming through here,” said Siragusa. “We decided we have to go up and beyond to make this by far the best one.”

While “Man Caves” usually focuses on amenities for men, “a place where boys can be boys,” according to the DIY website, Siragusa said this show is for all servicemembers, men and women alike.

“This is a troop cave, not a man cave,” said Siragusa. “The women out here are a lot tougher than a lot of the men back home.”

When Siragusa was not applying joint compound to dry wall or paint-

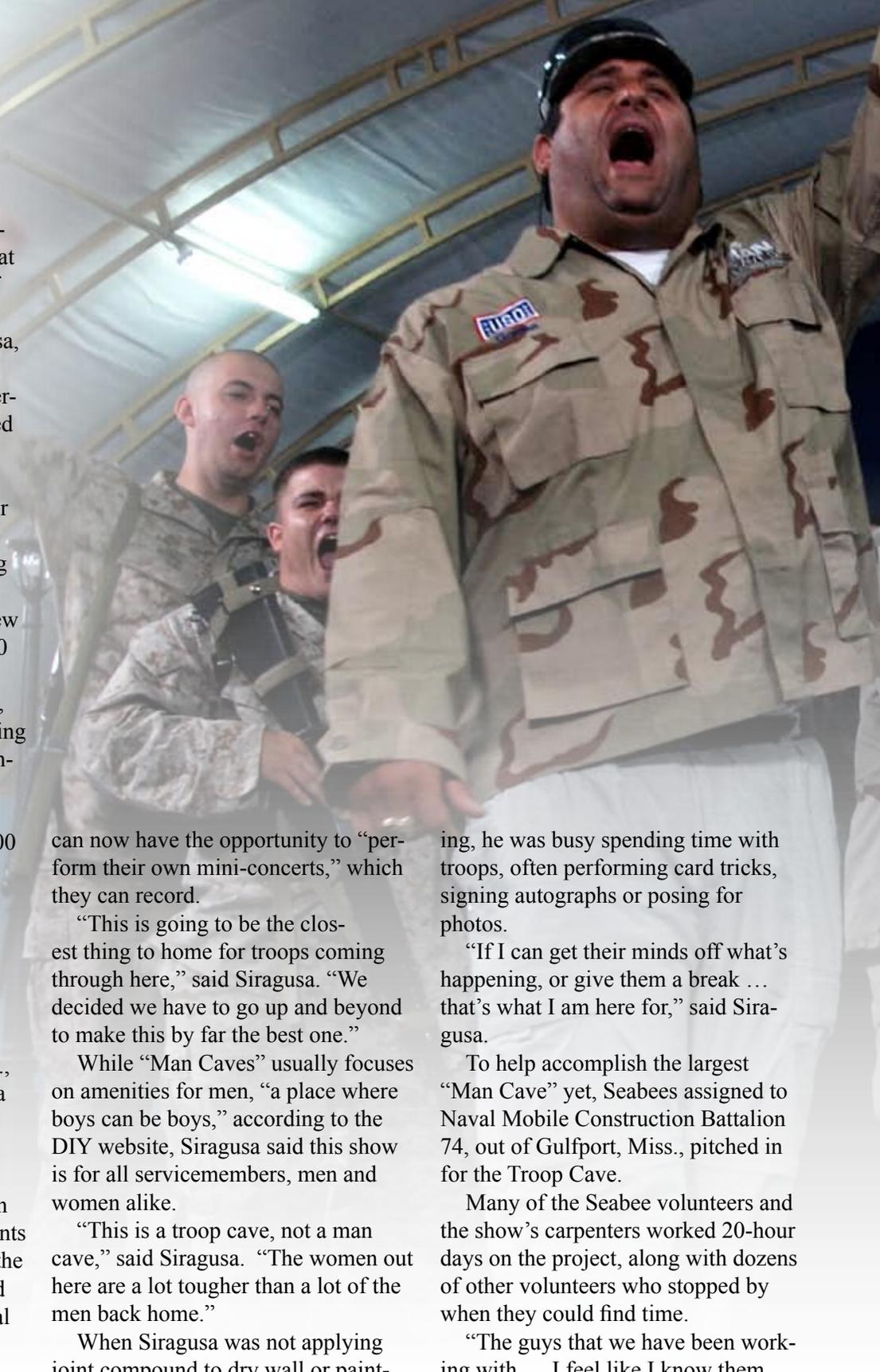
ing, he was busy spending time with troops, often performing card tricks, signing autographs or posing for photos.

“If I can get their minds off what’s happening, or give them a break ... that’s what I am here for,” said Siragusa.

To help accomplish the largest “Man Cave” yet, Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, out of Gulfport, Miss., pitched in for the Troop Cave.

Many of the Seabee volunteers and the show’s carpenters worked 20-hour days on the project, along with dozens of other volunteers who stopped by when they could find time.

“The guys that we have been working with ... I feel like I know them

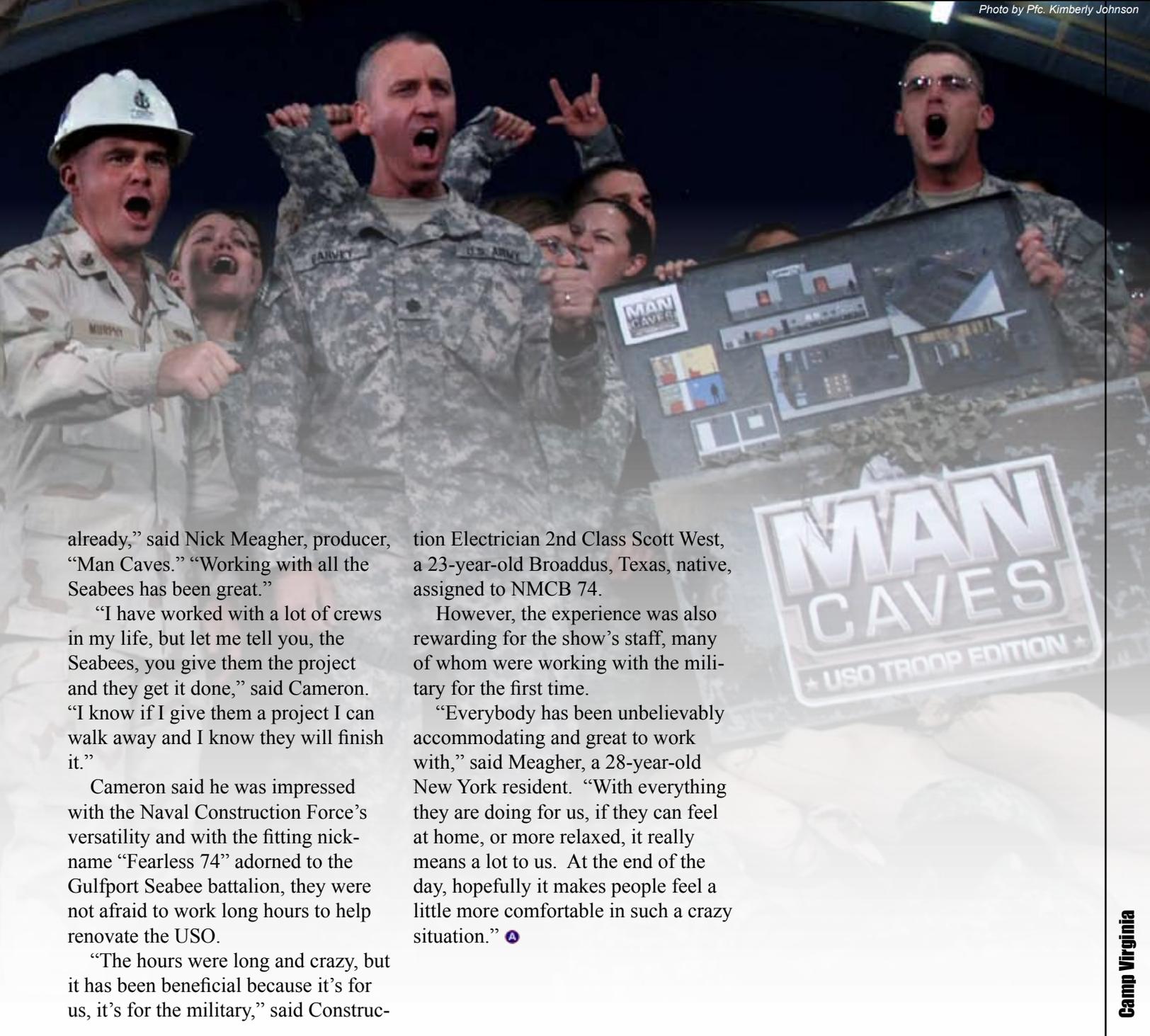




The newly-renovated USO center includes a gaming area, a brand new movie room, dining area, and more than \$100,000 in donated furniture.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Johnson



already,” said Nick Meagher, producer, “Man Caves.” “Working with all the Seabees has been great.”

“I have worked with a lot of crews in my life, but let me tell you, the Seabees, you give them the project and they get it done,” said Cameron. “I know if I give them a project I can walk away and I know they will finish it.”

Cameron said he was impressed with the Naval Construction Force’s versatility and with the fitting nickname “Fearless 74” adorned to the Gulfport Seabee battalion, they were not afraid to work long hours to help renovate the USO.

“The hours were long and crazy, but it has been beneficial because it’s for us, it’s for the military,” said Construc-

tion Electrician 2nd Class Scott West, a 23-year-old Broadus, Texas, native, assigned to NMCB 74.

However, the experience was also rewarding for the show’s staff, many of whom were working with the military for the first time.

“Everybody has been unbelievably accommodating and great to work with,” said Meagher, a 28-year-old New York resident. “With everything they are doing for us, if they can feel at home, or more relaxed, it really means a lot to us. At the end of the day, hopefully it makes people feel a little more comfortable in such a crazy situation.” **A**

U.S. Soldier reunites with Iraqi "Brother"

Story and photo by
Maj. Carol McClelland
1st TSC PAO

They do not look alike or share the same family roots, but try telling this U.S. Soldier and Iraqi mayor they are not brothers and you are liable to hear both men disagree.

Maj. Jack McLaughlin, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, civil affairs officer and Najim Abdullah Al-Jibouri, mayor of Tal Afar, Iraq, met three years ago in Tal Afar, a city about 30 miles west of Mosul. McLaughlin met Najim at the start of his one-year tour when he was assigned to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

McLaughlin's unit was responsible for conducting counter insurgency operations, helping reestablish the government and beginning reconstruction efforts in the city. The two men worked and lived together during this joint effort.

At night they would sit and drink Chai tea, and smoke cigarettes for hours.

"The relationship between me and major Jack was a commitment in very difficult circumstances because we were fighting terrorism," said Najim. "We were going through mortars and had been successful to defeat a lot of insurgents and our relationship elevated to become a stronger bond; like a brotherhood."

Najim said the look in McLaughlin's eyes would help in his understanding and their exchanges. They spoke on many subjects and had much in common with military backgrounds and their interests in world politics and Middle Eastern culture.

Najim is complimentary of McLaughlin, but McLaughlin downplays his importance and insists Najim is the one who deserves the compliments. Najim went from being the chief of police to the city mayor.

"He is an Iraqi hero. His life has been in danger to varying degrees ever since he took that job," said



Courtesy Photo

Najim Abdullah Al-Jibouri, mayor, Tal Afar, Iraq and Maj. Jack McLaughlin, civil affairs officer, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, pose with the Iraq flag, autographed by Najim. The two have been friends since 2005. They recently reunited when McLaughlin deployed.

McLaughlin.

The end of the deployment in February 2006 brought an emotional farewell to the two men who had become close friends with both saying they would see each other again one day.

"The last thing I told him was to be careful, because if something were to happen to him it would be like losing a brother," said McLaughlin.

Their reunion came only a few months later when the Secretary of the Army invited the mayor, his wife and oldest son to participate in a unit's memorial ceremony and talk to officials at the Pentagon. McLaughlin, who went to high school in the D.C. area, was the family's escort.

Through the years the two kept in contact with e-mails and occasional phone calls, but McLaughlin surprised Najim, July 14, when his work with the 1st TSC brought him to a nearby forward operating base.

McLaughlin and his colleague, Master Sgt. James Rodriguez, brought word of humanitarian assistance from the Humanitarian Operations Center in Kuwait, a cooperative effort between the Kuwaiti Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Army. As part of their civil affairs job, they procure and receive, cross-load and transport items such as school and medical supplies, clothing, shoes and food to U.S. and Iraqi units for distribution.

The unannounced visit came as a shock to Najim, Rodriguez said. "Najim kept saying 'Major Jack, Major Jack, hello, hello. I can't believe you're here. I'm so happy you're here.' Their hands never let go the entire time until we got into the truck."

"He gave me a big hug and plentiful man kisses," McLaughlin laughed.

The two sat and talked for several hours, even making a phone call to Najim's oldest son to share the excitement. **A**

Army ROTC Green-To-Gold Scholarships Available!

**Who:
Soldiers**

**What:
Informational Briefing**

**When:
August, 17 2008, 10:00 a.m.**

**Where:
Camp Arifjan Education Center
Building 159**

**Additional Information:
Lt. Col. John Bautch at 430-5162
Mary Newkirk at 430-1382**

Just One Question ...

“How do you keep in touch with friends and family at home?”



“I usually call and talk to my wife every other night.”

Sgt. 1st Class David Long
160th HHC
Brigade S-3 Engineering
Gig Harbor, Wash.



“Once a week I call my family.”

Capt. Luke Robertson
Australian Force Extraction Team
Contracts Manager
Brisbane, Australia



“I use Skype and a webcam on my personal laptop to talk to my son daily.”

Staff Sgt. Shannon Perron
CD DOC
Information Management Officer
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Why I serve:

**Lt. Col. Scott Allbutt
Defense Material Operations
Liaison Officer to USARCENT Forward**



The Melbourne, Australia native explains why he chose to join the military.

“To serve the country is a very rewarding experience. When I was younger it was for curiosity.”



“Almost on a daily basis via email and by phone.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Brook Borden
Expeditionary Medical Facility
Clinical Services
Golden, Colo.



“I use e-mail, chat and Yahoo voice to talk to my wife, kids and a few friends.”

Staff Sgt. Arthur Hawkins
510th Human Resources Company
Deployment Support Cycle NCOIC
Galveston, Texas

What's happening around USARCENT ...

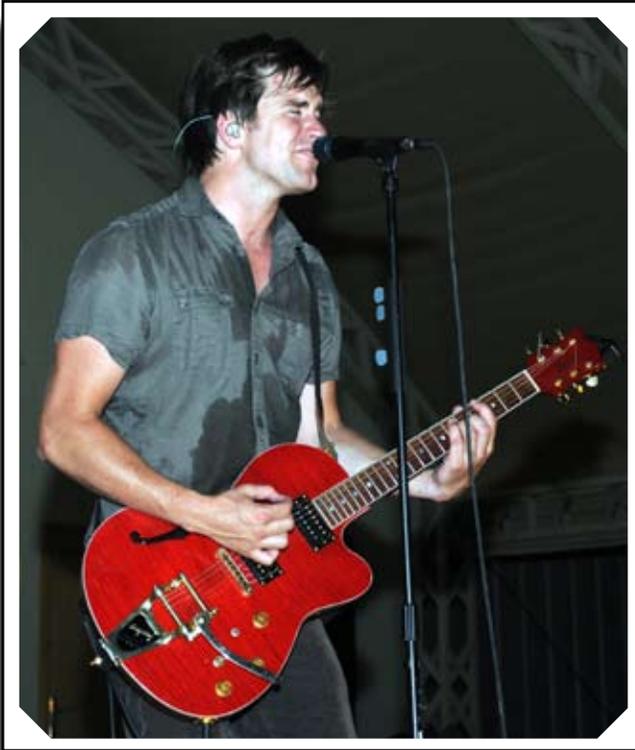


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lee Travis

Catch Penny

Christian Shauf, lead singer and guitarist of Catch Penny, performs at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 5. This was the first show of their Middle Eastern tour for Armed Forces Entertainment.



Photo by Sgt. Brooks Fletcher

Change of Command

Col. Ronald R. Stimeare, commander, 160th Signal Brigade, passes the 54th Signal Battalion colors to Lt. Col. Ricardo C. Bullock, incoming commander, who assumed command from Lt. Col. Keith R. Harris during a change of command ceremony held at the Zone 1 Gym, Aug. 8.

Did you know ...

On December 12, 1918 Field Order No. 11 was issued, which directed the Third Army to occupy the northern sector of the Mayen bridgehead for the advance across the Rhine River. On December 15, 1918 Third Army opened its headquarters in the Mayen-Coblenz district, Germany.

1918-2008 **"Patton's Own"**
Celebrating 90 Years of Service to the Nation