

# DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central  
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



February 13, 2008



**Marines  
get non-lethal**



**Third Army  
is now  
USARCENT**  
See page 4

**Special insert  
inside:  
Read the CG's  
full interview**

# DV Table of Contents

Page 3

**Be prepared for the worst – know what to have in a non-tactical vehicle.**

Page 4

**What's in a name – U.S. Army Central or Third Army? Why not both?**

Page 8

**The “Thunderbirds” of the 45th BCT have landed at Camp Buehring.**

Page 9

**Valentine's Day bridges couples together during deployments.**

On the cover

**Marines with G Battery, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, practice baton strikes during a non-lethal weapons training course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 27. For the full story turn to page 6.**

*Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez*

## Contact us

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

# A message from the President

During National African American History Month, we honor the achievements and celebrate the rich heritage of African Americans.

Throughout our Nation's history, African Americans from all walks of life have offered their talents to the betterment of American society. Scholars such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois were early leaders who placed great importance on educating all people about the need for justice and racial equality.

Athletes such as Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson persevered while breaking the color barrier and competing at the highest levels of sports.

Musicians like Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday lifted the American spirit with their creativity and musical gifts. Through their extraordinary accomplishments, these leaders helped bring our Nation closer to fulfilling its founding ideals.

This year's theme, “Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism,” honors an educator who taught his fellow citizens about the traditions and contributions of African Americans.

His dedication to educating Americans about cultural diversity initiated this celebration of African-American history.



**George W. Bush  
President of the United States**

Our Nation is now stronger and more hopeful because generations of leaders like him have worked to help America live up to its promise of equality and the great truth that all of God's children are created equal.

Throughout African American History Month, we celebrate the many contributions African Americans have made to our Nation, and

we are reminded of their courage in their struggle to change the hearts and minds of our citizens.

While much progress has been made, we must continue to work together to achieve the promise and vision of our great Nation.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2008 as National African American History Month.*

*I call upon public officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.*

– GEORGE W. BUSH

Volume 29, Issue 37

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 newspaper 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 50th Public Affairs Detachment.

Find us online at [www.arcent.army.mil](http://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. Norman Johnson

50th Public Affairs Detachment Commander  
Maj. Jeffrey Pray  
50th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC  
Staff Sgt. Jacob McDonald  
Desert Voice Editor  
Spc. Giancarlo Casem  
Desert Voice Staff Writers  
Spc. Wes D. Landrum  
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer



**DV**  
The  
Desert  
Voice

# Know what your vehicle should have:

*In Case of Emergency*

Story by  
Master Sgt. Darryl Tutt  
USARCENT Safety Office

We must remain safety conscious as we enter a new year when operating an NTV on or off post. Let's make the necessary preparations when planning off-post travel.

Below are recommended items to have on hand in NTVs for off-post travel.

1. Water
2. MREs

3. Blankets
4. Flashlight (with extra batteries)
5. Warning triangle
6. Strip maps
7. Dispatch log
8. Risk assessment
9. First aid kit
10. Fire extinguisher

Leaders must take the time to ensure these items are readily available. Take the necessary time and engage Soldiers to ensure operations are safe. Recon standard routes to most used destinations without

violating OPSEC. Continue to enforce Drivers Training.

Effective immediately, the battalion commander will accept a memo in lieu of a POV risk assessment, which annotates that it is the individual's intent not to drive a POV during leave. If there is a need to drive a POV during leave, Soldiers are required to complete the POV risk assessment on the Combat Readiness Center Web site when traveling 250 miles or more.

Let's continue to enforce safety and minimize accidents and fatalities. **A**

## Log Book

- Includes: Off-post memo  
Strip maps  
Risk assessment  
Dispatch log  
Emergency contact phone numbers

Triangle

First aid kit

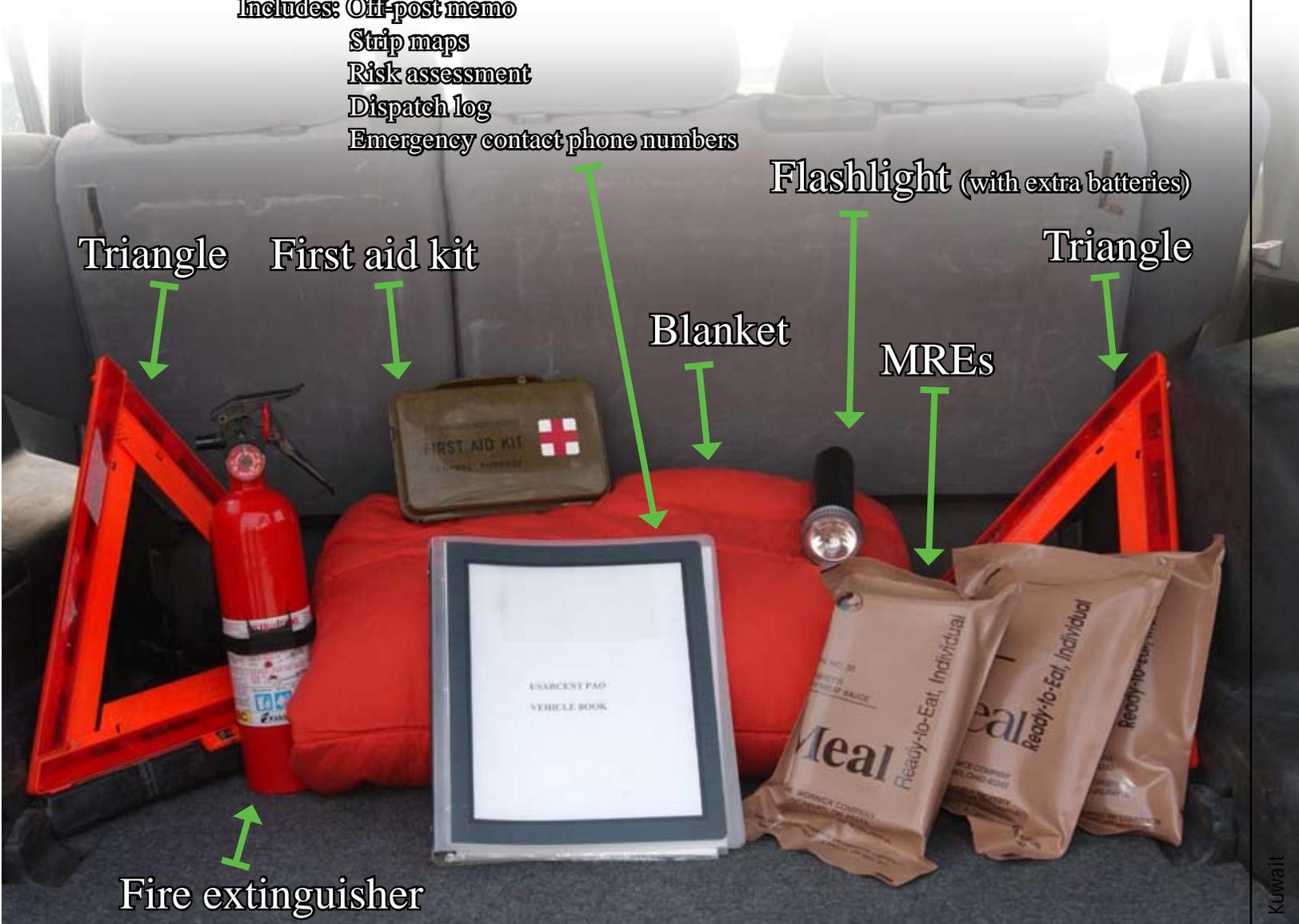
Blanket

Flashlight (with extra batteries)

Triangle

MREs

Fire extinguisher



*Who we are ...*

## Third Army's name changes to U.S. Army Central

Story by  
Maj. Elton Roberts  
USARCENT Public Affairs

Since the end of World War I, nearly 90 years ago, the circle A shoulder patch has been associated with Third Army.

The proud heritage of the famous unit continues on today, but under a new name and with an expanded role for the 21st century.

No longer designated as Third Army, the unit nicknamed 'Patton's Own' is now U.S. Army Central.

Although he has a sense of sadness that the Third Army name has passed into the rolls of history, USARCENT Commander Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace expressed satisfaction that its lineage and honors would continue under the USARCENT banner.

"It is an honor to our lineage and our current configuration that we retain the patch of the Soldiers who have served so valiantly in the Nation's major conflicts since 1918," he said. "USARCENT is a new name for a new mission, but the Soldiers of this command have the same drive and fighting spirit that have carried this unit around the world for nearly a century."

In 2006, the Department of the Army decided that numbered Armies

would be redesignated as Army Service Component Commands (ASCC) and would carry names associating them with the combatant commands they support. Third Army was the first of these, becoming U.S. Army Central, to highlight its ties with Central Command. The unit's motto, "Third ... Always First," is particularly apt, as it is breaking trail for other ASCCs to follow, Lovelace said.

Becoming a regional ASCC reflects the nature of the modern battlefield in that USARCENT is an operational-level Army force; which can conduct missions and operations across the entire spectrum of conflict in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility. This includes the capability of commanding and controlling joint and/or coalition forces engaged in sustained military actions.

According to Lovelace USARCENT has three roles. "First, we will provide a command-and-control headquarters able to handle the full spectrum of operations," he said. "Second, we conduct theater security cooperation engagements and events, maintaining relationships and continuing to build trust with people in this region. And third, we sustain the warfighting force in the CENTCOM area of operation. And we do all of this while continuing to take care of

Families."

The roots of U.S. Army Central began in November, 1918, when Third Army was activated to enforce the terms of the armistice bringing World War I to an end. The shoulder patch reflects that mission, with the A inside an O referring to Army of Occupation.

World War II brought enduring fame to the unit under the command of the colorful Lt. Gen. George Patton as Third Army tanks raced across France and Germany, finishing the war at a point further east than any other American force. After the war its heritage continued, again serving as an occupational army in post-war Germany.

Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm were brought to successful conclusions under Third Army's management, with the largest armored battle in the history of warfare. The next 12 years of uneasy tensions, aggressive moves and counter-moves in the Middle East culminated with Operation Iraqi Freedom, again under the command of Coalition Forces Land Component Command Third Army. When the conflict ended, CFLCC/Third Army remained in Iraq until June 2003 when it redeployed to Kuwait and assumed its current mission. 

# The impossible becomes the inevitable

Story by  
Spc. Wes Landrum  
Desert Voice staff writer

History was made at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 31, as three officer branches – transportation, quartermaster and ordnance – were merged into one branch – logistics.

A ceremony at Zone One Chapel recognized an officer in each field as they exchanged their current branch insignia for the new logistics branch insignia.

The Commanding General of Army Materiel Command – Southwest Asia Brig. Gen. Jim Hodge told an audience of more than 200 people that even though most of the attendees were from the small desert camp, they represented everyone who called themselves logisticians. Hodge estimated there were more than 10,000 such officers in the U.S. Army Central area of operations.

“This afternoon, we symbolically unite the transportation, ordnance and quartermaster captains through colonel under one branch to ensure that we meet the sustainment challenges of the 21st century warfighter,” Hodge said. “We publicly declare that as Army logisticians, we are focused on the future, and we are ready to change with the needs of the Army while never forgetting our past.”

Hodge said the journey toward a single logistics branch was a long one. The single branch had been debated for many years and was a discussion that evoked passion among logisticians around the globe.

“But the time has finally arrived,” Hodge said to the crowd.

The reason for the merger is because the time has come for logisticians to be multi-functional, Hodge said. He said one only has to look at Afghanistan as

an example of the merger.

“In a country where [Forward Operating Bases] are located in isolated areas, anticipation and flexibility are key,” Hodge said. “You’ve got to be knowledgeable and proficient in all areas of logistics (to include unit resupply by donkeys and low altitude parachutes), if the FOB you’re responsible for is to be well maintained and sustained. Make no mistake about it, we need multi-functional logistics officers who are competent across the full spectrum of logistics.”

Hodge said the change will benefit the Army because it will expand and broaden the knowledge, experience and abilities of the officers selected for the Logistics Corps.

Major Fredericka Harris, deputy chief of operations, G4, USARCENT, said as the Army continues its transition into the 21st century, the requirement for logisticians has to change with it.

“As a Logistics Branch Officer, I am now required to become more proficient in other tasks not associated with quartermaster – my initial branch,” the New Orleans native said. “Tasks outside of this field will be a challenge, however, with time and exposure, I welcome the challenge.”

Major Demetrius Jackson, USARCENT Petroleum and Water Branch Chief, said the merge is a good thing because it will broaden the opportunities for young officers. The new branch he said, will be an integral part in major operations and will also

provide seamless logistical support to the warfighter to accomplish their mission.

“Merging all logistical officers as one entity can only, in the long term, provide a

much stronger logistical foundation and structure for our Army,” said Jackson, who hails from Tuskegee, Ala., .

Jackson said the transition for him



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle

**Brig. Gen. Jim Hodge, Army Materiel Command – Southwest Asia commander, pins the new Logistics Branch insignia on the lapel of Maj. Luis Barraza, G-4 Transportation, during a ceremony commemorating the birth of the newest officer branch.**

will be flawless and seamless. He said through coordination and understanding of the mission, he will continue on with what he is trained to do – support the Soldier in the field.

“The change will open up more opportunities for battalion command and key developmental jobs for captains and majors in the near future,” Jackson said.

Hodge told the crowd they were playing a major role in a key moment for the Logistics Corps.

“To me, the Logistics Branch is a win-win situation for both the Army and the logistics officer,” he said. “It will require all logistics officers to be multi-skilled, while at the same time requiring that all officers maintain proficiency in a specific area of logistics expertise.

“This ceremony and the new insignia is a tangible symbol of our transformation, our unity and our commitment to sustainment excellence,” Hodge continued. “So, for those of us here on Camp Arifjan, let’s begin this new day for logisticians.” **A**

---

*“The change will open up more opportunities for battalion command and key developmental jobs ... in the near future.”*

**Maj. Demetrius Jackson**  
Petroleum and Water Branch chief

---

# Marines learn new ways to

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez  
11th MEU Public Affairs

Riots and civil disturbances don't just happen out of thin air. The anatomy of a riot is much like that of a Molotov cocktail. Both are created by instigators who add fuel and fire to combustible materials to provoke mayhem. Take one of these elements away and a riot dies.

How to remove one of these elements to diffuse a riot is one of the biggest lessons Marines and Sailors from G Battery, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, learned during an intensive 54-hour non-lethal weapons training course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 27.

The 11th MEU, from Camp Pendleton, Calif., is training in Kuwait as part of their scheduled six-month deployment through the Western Pacific

and Arabian Gulf region.

"The decision to use force and how much force to use is always a tough one," said Cpl. William H. Anderson, a fire direction control man from Sonora, Calif. "It's by far the best non-lethal weapons training I have ever seen."

The training was provided by The Densus Group, an American company that uses British Army veterans who have extensive experience in dealing with public order, crowd control and riots gained in tours in Northern Ireland.

"Our aim was to give the Marines realistic training and give them the skills and knowledge to handle all types of disorder up to lethal force," said Adam Leggat, senior instructor.

The Marines were told to be as physical and aggressive as possible while staying within safety standards. They were more than happy to oblige.

During one exercise, Marines in

full-riot gear moved through a gauntlet of stations in which they had to defend themselves against other Marines who were acting as rioters. The mock rioters hid inside and behind buildings and attacked the Marine or group of Marines who had to repel the attack by employing self-defense techniques they were previously taught.

"We weren't holding back," said Sgt. Joshua A. Draveling, section chief, from Milwaukee, Wis. "A few Marines got some scrapes and bruises, but it was nothing a little peroxide and Band-Aids couldn't fix."

Marines train like they fight, so making it as real as possible was important, said Gunnery Sgt. John D. Vest, battery gunnery sergeant, G Battery, from Houston.

All of the instructors from Densus have stood "the line" and have used these tactics and techniques in real riots. Their system works and has been battle-tested.

Team members Andy Hinchincliffe, John Crawford, David Bruce and Leggat, all from the United Kingdom, embedded with G Battery in order to provide them with unprecedented level of access, Kohler said.

During classroom and field exercises Marines like Lance Cpl. Adam J. Jill, radio operator, G Battery, from Bay City, Mich., learned about crowd dynamics, negotiating, media handling and how to move and work as a team to control a crowd's behavior.

A crowd in a combat environment is like a powder keg that can be set off with the tiniest of sparks. An angry group of individuals can quickly turn a mob into a riot, Jill said. "You have to know when to negotiate and when to be aggressive."

Jill, who prior to the training, felt more at ease sending radio transmissions, said he now feels just as confident in his ability to analyze a situation and spot the signs that things are headed for the worse.

"Reading individual behavior and knowing the dynamics of a crowd is



**A Marine with G Battery, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, practice baton strikes during a non-lethal weapons training course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.**

# be 'non-lethal'

vital to successful crowd control,” said Capt. Christopher G. Blalock, commanding officer, G Battery.

The key is finding a balance between using a stick to deal with the hardcore rioters and offering a carrot in negotiations with bystanders and those sitting on the fence who make up the majority, Blalock said.

When negotiations don't work, Marines have to be prepared to escalate their use of force to establish order and prevent the injury or death of Marines and civilians, Leggat said.

During the week-long training in the desert and at Camp Buehring, the Marines spent countless hours learning proper striking and control techniques, striking points, and how to defend themselves against petrol-bombs. They practiced on each other so that they could know what it feels like to strike and be struck by a baton, debris or kicked by a rioter, said Lance Cpl. Jared M. Frost, cannoneer, from Seattle.

The training culminated with a final exercise that involved three elaborate scenarios. In one, the Marines had to fly into a war-torn nation to defend the

American Embassy and evacuate American citizens and other third-country nationals. A second involved returning to a hostile area to retrieve a Family who did not make it to the evacuation site.

**Marines with G Battery, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, practice self defense techniques during a non-lethal weapons training course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 27. The 11th MEU, out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., is taking part of sustainment training here during their scheduled six-month deployment through the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf region.**

The third involved restoring order to an area occupied by two groups at odds with each other.

Instructors controlled the crowd to test the Marines' ability to apply the appropriate level of force in each scenario. They gradually turned up the pressure on the Marine force.

At the conclusion of the final exercise, the Marines huddled to discuss what they had learned.

Draveling said the biggest take-away for him was the reaffirmation of what he already knew, that small unit leadership and teamwork is vital during these types of missions.

Regardless of what team they were on, each Marine had to protect the man to his left and right, Draveling said.

“We had to be quick on our feet to

move our team to cover other teams who were in danger,” Draveling said. “In a real riot, if we don't watch out for each other, some of us may not make it back.”



**Marines with the 11th MEU practice self defense techniques during a non-lethal weapons training course.**





Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

**A Soldier with C Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Brigade Combat Team, fires an M2 .50 caliber machine gun at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 5. The brigade conducted a functions check prior to movement to Iraq. The 45th BCT, from the Oklahoma National Guard, has been tapped to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and relieve some of the strain on the active duty Army.**

## 'Thunderbirds' prepare to swoop down into Iraq

Story by  
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer  
*Desert Voice* staff writer

Since its formation in 1890 as the militia of the territory of Oklahoma, the 45th Brigade Combat Team has fought in the Spanish American War, two World Wars and the Korean Conflict.

Since 2000, elements of the 45th BCT have added deployments to Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Egypt to their résumé.

Recently the 45th BCT has received the call to duty yet again to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Before heading up north to Iraq however, they passed through Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to receive training critical to mission success.

At the training ranges outside Camp Buehring, the 45th BCT fired

every weapon in their arsenal to ensure that their weapons systems are ready prior to entering the battlefield.

"(A functions check) ensures that our weapons systems work and gives the Soldiers confidence in their weapons systems," said Cpl. Anthony Bray, a team leader from Chickasha, Okla.

The M2 .50 caliber machine gun, M240 Bravo and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon were among the various arms used during the functions check.

Staff Sgt. Sheldon Hoyt, a squad leader with C Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment is a native of Lawton, Okla. and has been an infantryman his entire military career. This will be Hoyt's third deployment with the 45th BCT since he joined the unit in October 2002, but his first time in Iraq, Hoyt said.

Showing confidence in the abilities of his fellow Soldiers, Hoyt has nothing but good things to say about the 45th BCT's readiness to move north.

"I've got a good strong group of leaders which is a good thing when you've been with these guys for so long," Hoyt said.

The role of the National Guard in OIF has become increasingly important with the Army's active duty components stretched too thin, Bray said.

The ranks of the 45th BCT are rife with Soldiers seemingly eager to prove their mettle on the battlefield and establish themselves as warfighters.

"Charlie Company has a good noncommissioned officer corps and we have confident Soldiers willing to do whatever it takes to make us the best," Bray said. **A**



*Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer*

**A 45th BCT Soldier loads ammunition in his M249 SAW during a functions check of the units various weapons systems.**



*Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem*

**An M2 .50 caliber machine gun is disassembled after a functions check at Camp Buehring. The 45th BCT tested all their weapons.**



*“Charlie Company has a good noncommissioned officer corps and we have confident Soldiers willing to do whatever it takes to make us the best.”*

**Cpl. Anthony Bray**

*1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment*



*Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem*

**Soldiers of the 45th BCT pack up their M249 Squad Automatic Weapons after performing a functions check at Camp Buehring.**



*Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem*

**Soldiers from the 45th BCT of the Oklahoma National Guard performs a functions check on their weapons at Camp Buehring.**

# Valentine's Day helps keep servicemembers and Family connected

Story by  
Spc. Giancarlo Casem  
Desert Voice editor

As the Valentine's Day approaches, servicemembers are taking time out to acknowledge their love for a significant other. However, for some deployed servicemembers, Valentine's Day may accentuate an already tough time.

In a forward-deployed environment, servicemembers may get caught up in their current task at hand, but it's important not to get disconnected with our loved ones.

"It shouldn't take a special day, but I love Valentine's Day," said Brig. Gen. Jim Hodge, U.S. Army Central supply and logistics chief and Army Materiel Command – Southwest Asia commanding general. "It helps me to stop and focus my attention on that special person who means everything to me."

While technology has truly made the world a smaller place, it can never truly replace a loved one.

For Spc. Derrick Howard, 515th Military Intelligence Detachment, his free time is spent conversing with his fiancée Brenda. He said modern technology has helped them stay connected.

"I think about her a lot," said Howard, a native of Pasadena, Texas. "It makes it easier because we have this [Internet voice chat], I can pretty much call her when ever I want."

However, the time difference between Kuwait and back home adds some strain.

"The only difficult thing is time management," he said. "When I wake up, she's going to bed, when I get off work, she's getting to work."

For other couples, even though they have spent time apart, being away still hurts.

"When we are apart, my heart is broken," said Capt. Stacia Hayes,

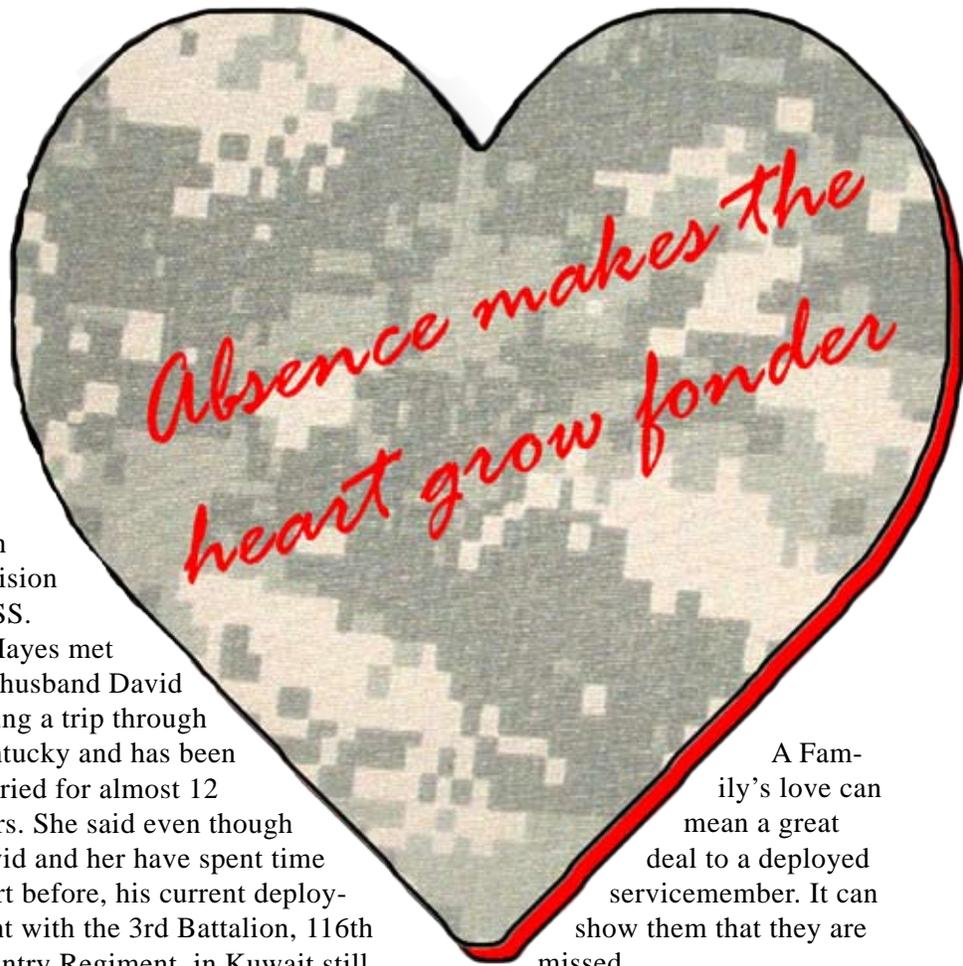
80th  
Division  
TASS.

Hayes met her husband David during a trip through Kentucky and has been married for almost 12 years. She said even though David and her have spent time apart before, his current deployment with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, in Kuwait still proves to be challenging.

"It feels as if my heart has been ripped from my chest. I also do not feel whole," said Stacia, a native of Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. "Though e-mail is instant, it does not replace the physical presence of a loved on. Neither does a picture. We have spent several blocks of time apart, but this deployment has been emotionally harder on me than other times apart."

Parents can also use the day to let their children know how much they love they love them.

"Valentine's Day isn't just for spouses," Hodge said. "It also provides an opportunity for me to give my kids a hug and a kiss. And to let them know they are loved and that they too, hold a special place in my heart."



A Family's love can mean a great deal to a deployed servicemember. It can show them that they are missed.

"I love David more today than ever," Stacia said. "He is a wonderful husband and father. We have been blessed with four children, all who think their dad is the best man in the U.S. Navy, me too. Our children also miss their dad greatly, but they know he will be home soon as he has so many times. The children are an amazing comfort to me and each other. I could not have asked for more understanding children."

While Howard waits for his flight home in a few months, he has been planning for his and Brenda's wedding day in 2009. It also helps him stay focused through his deployment.

"I miss her a lot," he said. "I can't see her, but I guess me wanting to see her is helping me with my motivation." 

# Just One Question ...

“Why is Valentine’s Day so important to you?”

**A** *The Inspector General Bulletin (Feb 08)*  
**DIRECT LEADERSHIP**  
 FM 6-22  
 Leaders ask yourself, “Am I a Leader?”

**NCOIC**  
 Check yourself against this definition : **SECTION SGT**  
 “An Army leader is anyone who by virtue of assumed role or assigned responsibility inspires and influences people to accomplish organizational goals. Army leaders motivate people both inside and outside the chain of command to pursue actions, focus thinking, and shape decisions for the greater good of the organization.”

**PLT SGT** **DIRECTION** **PLT LDR**  
 What Army leaders do:  
 Army leaders of character lead by personal example and consistently act as good role models through a dedicated lifelong effort to learn and develop. They achieve excellence for their organizations when followers are disciplined to do their duty, committed to the Army Values, and feel empowered to accomplish any mission, while simultaneously improving their organizations with focus towards the future.

**PURPOSE** **VISION**  
 “Direct Leadership”  
**SQUAD LDR**

- Face-to-face or first-line leadership
- Daily interaction with subordinates
- Span of influence from a handful to several hundred people
- NCOs in direct leadership positions more often than officer/ civilian counterparts
- Develops subordinates one-on-one and influence the organization indirectly through their subordinates
- Experience more certainty and less complexity than organizational and strategic leaders. Mainly, they are close enough to the action to determine or address problems

**MOTIVATION**

FM 6-22, Chap. 1-3

ATLANTA  
 Cmid IG 404-464-2934  
 IG SCM 404- 464-1728  
 IG Assistance 404-464-4643

KUWAIT  
 Bldg 216Rm 150  
 IG FWD 318-430-6119  
 Assistance 218-420-6230



“It symbolizes the unity and affection that people have for each other as a group or couples.”

Lt. Col. James Wilkins  
 USARCENT G-4  
 Plans officer  
 Tuscaloosa, Ala.



“It’s a day that I can tell all of the people I care about that ‘I love you.’”

Petty Officer 1st Class Tina Pierce  
 EMF-KU  
 Hospital Corpsman  
 Auburndale, Fla.



“It’s expressing the love that you feel for Family and friends.”

Chief Master Sgt. Valise Godley  
 Multi National Corps - Kuwait  
 Senior enlisted leader  
 Chicago

## Why I serve: Spc. Ian Hamza 4th Infantry Division Liaison officer



The Erie, Penn., native explains why he joined the military.

“It was from inspiration from the people I consider patriotic. Leaders I felt prompted me to join up.”



“Appreciation of love.”

Sgt. Miguel Rivera  
 1st Sustainment Command (Theater)  
 Aviation Readiness  
 Killeen, Texas



“Showing the one you love how much you appreciate them.”

Sgt. Martin Pinheiro  
 12th UK Logistics Battalion  
 Supply specialist  
 Newcastle, England

# What's happening around Kuwait ...

## Motor Pool of the month



U.S. Army photo

This month's Motor Pool of the Month is the 429th Transportation Company. The winners were presented with a coin from the Zone 6 Commander Col. Darlette Stowers. They also get to house the roving trophy for the month. For more information about the Motor Pool of the Month, call Chief Warrant Officer M. Shawn Pearce at 430-2684.



Photo by Marine Sgt. Sara Carter

## Attention!

Lt. Gen. Ronald Coleman, deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, speaks to Marines currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during his visit to the U.S. Central Command Area of Operation Feb. 9 and 10. Manpower and Reserve Affairs assists the commandant by planning, directing, coordinating and supervising both active and Reserve forces.

## Safety pays



U.S. Army photo

Bob East of Area Support Group – Qatar receives the Commanding General's Safety Excellence Award from Col. Will Merrill, U.S. Army Central safety director. The award honors East's work in reducing the ASG-Qatar's number of serious accidents by 20 percent in the 2006 fiscal year.

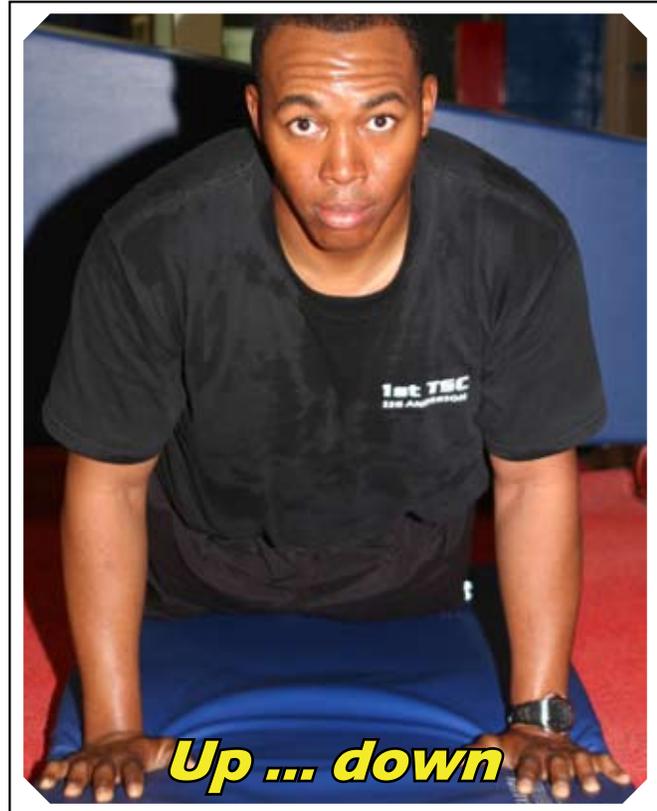


Photo by Master Sgt. Michele R. Hammonds

Staff Sgt. Jamal Anderson works up a sweat as he cranks out pushups as part of his daily fitness routine at Zone 1 gym at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Anderson who hails from Virginia Beach, Va., is the staff movement's noncommissioned officer for Distribution Management Center (Mobility), 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

# DV Special Supplemental Insert

# The Desert Voice

February 13, 2008

United States Army Central  
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



## A conversation with Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace

The U.S. Army Central commander, Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, discusses his vision for the future of USARCENT, leadership and the importance of Families.

**Q: As the commander of USARCENT what do you see as our role and mission in U.S. Central Command area of responsibility?**

**A:** We have a great command. We have great leaders. We have a great mission, and what an opportunity to serve at this time. This is a dynamic region and this command is the Army's service component command for Central Command.

Our role is to do three things. First, we're to provide a command and control headquarters that's able to handle a full spectrum of operations. We're also able to handle theater engagements and theater security cooperation events, where we are able to build partnerships and relationships with people in this region. And lastly, we provide the sustainment for the warfighting force in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places in the CENTCOM area of operation. That's a heavy-duty mission statement.

**Q: Based on our current mission, what is your vision for the future of USARCENT?**

**A:** Basically, we provide a command and control headquarters that can, in the event that something else happens in this theater, provide a combined forces land component headquarters, a joint task force head-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Reeba Critser

**Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commander, discusses topical issues from his office at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

quarters for this theater, and be able to do it in a high intensity environment or in a counter insurgency. We're going to do the mission, but we're going to protect the force. And in protecting the force, the critical task is to take care of Families.

**Q: There's been a lot of talk about USARCENT offering full spectrum operations capability; can you share with me what that means and why it is important to us?**

**A:** The Army, as a whole, was focused on just being high intensity. The

leadership has built the capability of a command and control headquarters that's not only able to do high intensity but is able to do a fight no different than what you see in Iraq and Afghanistan. So it has a full spectrum within which it can conduct defense, offense and stability operations.

The Army has put USARCENT on this course of transformation. We're the first numbered Army to go through this so were out in front transforming. We're breaking trail for others to follow.

**Q&A continued on reverse...**



*Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum*

**Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, U.S. Army Central commander, shakes hands with service-members at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

**...Q&A continued from reverse**

**Q:** *Recently you said that now is the opportunity for USARCENT to “break trail;” what exactly do you mean by that and how does that relate to full spectrum operations?*

**A:** Breaking trail is a term that I brought with me from Alaska. It has to do with the Iditarod and being the first one out, and that’s what we are. We’re out in front, so we’re breaking trail for others to follow.

**Q:** *Based on what you’ve just told me, what are your priorities for the command?*

**A:** One, we want to continue with

transformation – we want to provide a headquarters by this summer which can be full spectrum capable. Also we want to take care of Families. Clearly, it’s one of the priorities for myself as I come into command.

**Q:** *What is needed to complete the transformation of USARCENT to full spectrum operations capable?*

**A:** Time and a certain amount of resources. When I say time, it’s just going to take us about six months; the arrival of certain pieces of equipment, basically command and control equipment that we need, and also some command post elements.

**Q:** *Recently you said everybody is a leader. Can you share with me your philosophy on leadership?*

**A:** No matter how junior you are, you’re going to be a leader in this organization. What makes every organization is the noncommissioned officer corps. I truly believe this. None more professional – the NCO creed is less than 300 words, yet it epitomizes the strength of what the noncommissioned officer corps is. I want to unleash them; I want them to take charge; I want them to be the backbone of U.S. Army Central.

**Q:** *What is your message to the USARCENT’s servicemembers and their Families and how do Families contribute to the strength of our servicemembers?*

**A:** Families are primarily important. They really give us purpose, they motivate us, they give us extreme joy, but they are also the ones who probably sacrifice the most. So bottom line: when we talk about doing the mission, right there with doing the mission is taking care of the Families – protecting the force.

**Q:** *Is there anything else you would like to tell the USARCENT team?*

**A:** I’m excited about being here. There was not another position that I wanted to come to than being the commanding general of what is the only deployed Army Service Component Command. We’re at the point of the spear. I just want to tell everybody thanks. And lastly, to the Families, thanks for their sacrifices and they’re not going to be forgotten.

