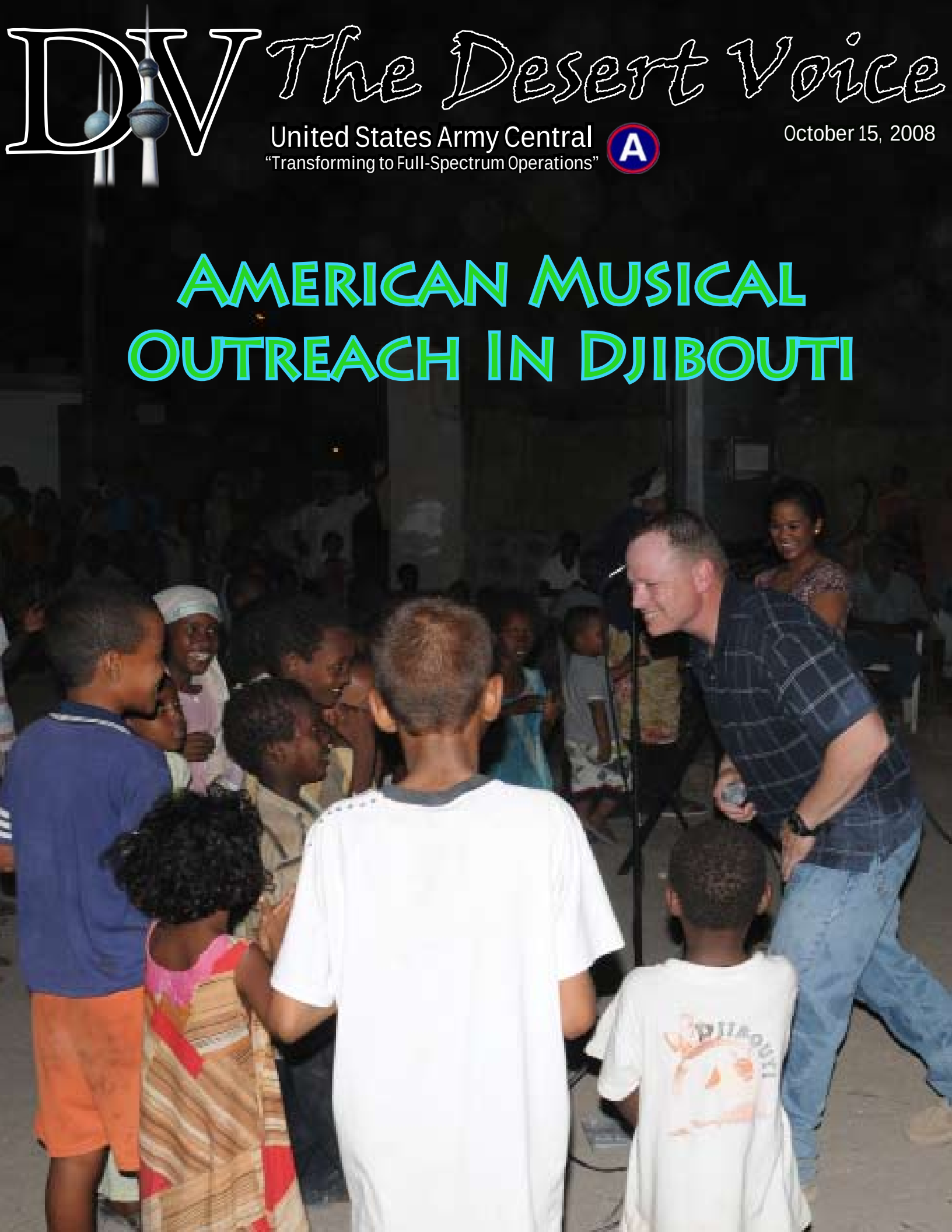
DV The Desert Voice
United States Army Central
"Transforming to Full-Spectrum Operations"
October 15, 2008

American Musical Outreach In Djibouti



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On the cover

Master Sgt. Trey Chisolm interacts with local kids during a concert in Djibouti. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi) For the full story, see page 8.

Contact us

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

COMMANDING GENERAL
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306

Team,

October 9, 2008

In the 21st Century, we face unique challenges both at home and abroad. These challenges range from an enemy using asymmetric tactics to unforgiving natural disasters that ravage our homeland. The focus of our command continues to be... *Do the mission; protect the force.* A critical element of protecting the force is taking care of our service members, civilians, and Family members.

The Army recently launched a community awareness campaign aimed to empower Soldiers, civilians and their Families to prepare for a wide variety of natural and manmade disasters. The Ready Army campaign is in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security's national preparedness initiatives and provides targeted information to support the needs of our Army Community stationed around the world.

The Ready Army campaign provides education and outreach materials on natural and manmade threats, mass warning and notification systems, and accountability procedures. It includes a range of templates, checklists, and guidance for Family emergency planning and preparedness. Check out the Ready Army website for the details at http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/.

The USARCENT headquarters and Family Readiness Group are supporting this Army-wide campaign with our own initiatives. You can find emergency preparedness resources on the command's website and in both the Desert Voice and Yellow Ribbon magazines. We have also invited FEMA-Atlanta to speak on Seasonal Emergency Preparedness in the home, neighborhoods, and schools at the next quarterly FRG VTC. In addition, USARCENT will purchase and assemble a limited number of emergency kits to distribute to selected young families around Thanksgiving.

I encourage you to use these resources to become more aware of potential hazards and increase your level of individual and Family emergency preparedness.

Patton's Own!

James J. Lovelace
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General

The Desert Voice

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Walking Away

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ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG

Did you know the risk of becoming a fatality in a HMMWV accident is six times greater for those not wearing a seat belt?

94 percent of those who used their seat belt survived a rollover incident.

Kuwait

Officer programs offered to Reserve Soldiers

Story by
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice Detachment Sgt.

The Reserve Officer Direct Commissioning Program and Warrant Officer Accessions Program are aimed at Soldiers, in the Troop Program Unit and Active Guard Reserve, interested in continuing their career and transitioning from the enlisted to the officer corps.

There is currently a $10,000 officer accession bonus for those who are commissioned as an officer or warrant officer and commit for six years in selected career fields.

While the programs have different minimum non-waiverable requirements, both require Soldiers to complete and submit commissioning packets for review by Department of the Army selection boards. The selection process is based upon vacant positions and the pool of qualified applicants.

ODC applicants must also attend a local interview board, where they go before a group of officers.

"It was hard getting ready before the [initial selection board] because there was nothing to study," said 2nd Lt. Troy M. Froistad, 372nd Engineering Battalion. "They are grading you on your demeanor, personality and potential as opposed to your military knowledge."

Froistad spent 13 years as an enlisted Soldier and achieved the rank of sergeant first class. He has worked many different military occupational specialties to include, retention and transitions non-commissioned officer. In this role, he helped others take advantage of the direct commissioning program.

"It was a tough decision to leave the enlisted side, but once I decided that the Army was [going] to be my full-time career, I wanted to be able to achieve as much as possible," said Froistad, an Ashland, Neb., native. "For me, that meant crossing over to the officer side of the house."

2nd Lt. Daine M. Trammell also took advantage of the ODC program after serving 13 years in the enlisted corps.

"I decided it was the most suitable option for what I wanted to accomplish with my military career," said the Philadelphia native.

Trammell offered some advice for those looking to take advantage of either program.

"Decide in advance which selection board you want to submit your packet to and start compiling in all the necessary documentation to reduce the stress of putting the packet together under the crunch of meeting the board's deadline," said Trammell.

The basic non-waiverable requirements for both programs are, Soldier must be a U.S. citizen; have a GT score of 110 or higher; a secret security clearance; be able to pass a standard three event Army Physical Fitness Test and meet height and weight standards.

The ODC is designed to identify and produce officers to fill second lieutenant to captain vacancies in most areas of concentration.

Some of the additional minimum prerequisites for ODC are, a bachelor's degree or an ACT score of 19, or SAT score of 850 and pass a Chapter 2 Appointment Physical.

The WOA looks to identify Soldiers who have exhibited expertise and leadership skills in a specific MOS to become technical and tactical experts in their field of concentration.

Additional minimum prerequisites for WOA are, a high school graduate or equivalent; if applicant does not posses a security clearance, they must be eligible with limited derogatory information on Electronic Personnel Security Questionnaire; and pass a Chapter 2 Appointment Physical for Technician. A Chapter 1A Flight Physical must be completed for Warrant Officer Flight Training.

Army Reserve Soldiers looking for more information or assistance can contact the theater retention team, which provides support throughout the theater of operation.

Information on both programs can also be found on the team's AKO website at https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/554436 or email the retention office at cflccararetention@kuwait.swa.army.mil.

Courtesy Photo

Gen. William S. Wallace presides over a ceremony giving direct commission to second lieutenant for Sgt. 1st Class Faith Riffle of the 11th Military Intelligence Battalion.

EMS personnel train hands-on

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Emergency services personnel with Area Support Group-Kuwait conducted hands-on fire fighting training at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 4.

Training is conducted every quarter to test the capabilities of ASG-KU firefighters to respond to a situation, said Stanley James, battalion chief, ASG-KU.

"We gave some of our new personnel the experience of how to go in and fight a live fire," said James, a Tampa, Fla., native.

The training involved all aspects of the emergency response team, including dispatch and firefighters. Emergency medical personnel were on hand to ensure the safety of all personnel involved.

In the first scenario, dispatch announced a fire and its location, prompting all involved personnel to react. Responders quickly geared up, got in their truck and were enroute to the site.

"A live-fire gives you a real feel and expectations of what you can encounter when you go into a fire."

Stanley James
Area Support Group-Kuwait
Battalion Chief

The second scenario involved firefighters entering a smoke-filled room wearing all of their equipment and carrying a fire hose.

Their equipment included protective clothing, a self-contained breathing apparatus, an oxygen tank and a hallagan tool, a versatile tool used for multiple tasks.

The smoke was produced by a fog machine and simulated the visibility conditions that would be present in the event of an actual fire.

In the final scenario, instructors set fire to a building to provide realistic training for personnel. The team had to enter the burning building, put out the fire and inspect for further hazards.

"It is always good to train on live incidents versus going out and giving scenarios that are generic," said James. "A live-fire gives you a real feel and expectations of what you can encounter when you go into a fire."

The quarterly training gives emergency response personnel an opportunity to practice their jobs in a controlled environment and provides them with experience for real life situations.

ASG-KU firefighters enter a burning trailer during a realistic training exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 4. The quarterly training provides real scenarios for emergency service personnel.

Camp Arifjan

ARMY TEN-MILER BRINGS RU

Story by
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
Desert Voice Editor
& Sgt. Beth Lake
USARCENT Public Affairs

Servicemembers and civilians participated in the 2008 Army 10-mile race, held in Washington, D.C., and Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 5.

The event, which is the largest race of its kind in the U.S. and the second largest in the world, promotes the Army, builds esprit de corps, supports fitness goals, and enhances community relations.

USARCENT and Ft. McPherson participants, in the D.C. race, formed three teams of competitors from various commands.

In preparation for the event, USARCENT held tryouts for anyone interested in joining their team and trained 27 weeks leading up to the 10-miler.

"In order to run on the USARCENT team, I had to try out," said Sgt. 1st Class Margaretta Watkins, G-4 Platoon Sergeant. "Once I made the team, our coach published a training schedule."

Much time and planning also went into the Camp Buehring, Kuwait race, held in conjunction with the D.C. event.

"Coordination for the Army 10-mile race started a month and a half ago," said Robert Dees, sport coordinator, Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "We wanted to ensure everything went just right."

Participants, came from all regions of Kuwait to partake in this year's race.

Utah National Guardsman, Sgt. Chris Odekirk of the 211th Aviation Battalion out of Salt Lake City , crosses the finishline in 57 minutes, 25 seconds, winning the annual Army Ten-Miler at Camp Buerhing, Kuwait, Oct. 5. The event included over 1,000 servicemembers from all branches of the military as well as some coalition members. (Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin, 311th Sustainment Command)

USARCENT

IN-FEVER TO USARCENT

"There is constant growth," said Ebon Morris, event coordinator, MWR. "We've had people come from as far as Qatar, Bahrain and all other camps in the Kuwait area."

The Kuwait-based race continues to be a success. The event, first held at Camp Beuhring in 2005, is growing in number of participants.

"The first race started off with 200 participants, since then, it has grown to over 800 last year," said Morris. "I think we will get about a thousand this year."

The race, which is spearheaded by MWR, provided Soldiers with not only a challenge, through its various terrains, but a sense of comradery among the participants.

"It is quite a challenge running up and down [small inclines] and through the gravel," said Morris. "But, we made sure areas are marked so no injuries occur."

Chris Odekirk, of the 211th Aviation Battalion out of Salt Lake City, Utah, who is currently stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, came in with a time of 57 minutes, 25 seconds.

Odekirk, a regular 5K runner, commented on the race.

"I have not raced [in an Army 10-mile race] in seven years," said Odekirk, who did not seem to be phased by the race. "It was good to have some gravel and hardball."

Minutes later, the first female participant passed the finishline

"I thought it was rough and kind of hilly," said Alicia Adkins, 4th Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Hood,Texas, also stationed at Camp Arifjan. "Although it was very challenging, it was awesome."

Adkins came in with a time of 1 hour, 8 minutes, beating her previous time of around 70 minutes, which she ran during an Army 10-mile race in 1991.

"I think that everyone should stay in shape and stay fit," added Adkins. "It's a way of life."

Photo by Sgt. Beth Lake

Runners from U.S. Army Central and Ft. McPherson pose for a group photo after completing the Army Ten-Miler race in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5. USARCENT's team placed second in the All Corner's Division, which consisted of runners of any age and affiliation. Ft. McPherson's team placed second in the Mixed Masters Division.

Servicemembers bring joy to

American Musical Outreach plays a musical set for locals at the Community Development Center, District Four, Djibouti, Aug. 13. There are currently 12 CDCs in Djibouti, each with a set date for the band to play.

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice Detachment Sgt.

For several servicemembers stationed at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Wednesday nights are a unique opportunity to share their love of music.

Originally asked to play at the U.S. Embassy, the band, American Musical Outreach, has now performed at eight different Community Development Centers around the city of Djibouti.

"The band approached me back in June to set up concerts for them on a rotating basis," said Niles Cole, public affairs officer, U.S. Embassy.

Concerts are held in areas of the city where a CDC is located. There are currently 12 CDCs in Djibouti, each with a scheduled date for the band to play.

"They get to play for appreciative crowds and they have really good turn outs," added Cole, a Luray, Va., native.

Besides their love of music, the members of the band all say that the most rewarding part of the experience is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces.

"It's all about the children; they're the future of this country," said Master Sgt. Trey Chisolm, headquarters and headquarter's battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment. "You can show them, 'hey we're not bad guys.'"

"The entertainment we derive, watching the kids dance, is second to none," added Lt. Col. John Mahinis, a Wellsville, N.Y., native and one of the two original band members.

The band got its start in February when Mahinis and Maj. Huey Haymon were playing for their own enjoyment and were approached with a request to play at the embassy. Realizing they needed more members, they set out to find talent on the base.

The band's current roster is: Mahinis; Haymon, from Albertville, Ala.; Navy Cmdr. Janette Jose, from Montgomery Village, Md.; Chisolm, a Dallas native; Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Ferguson, a Lawton, Okla., native; Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Britt Ripley, an Indianapolis native; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Reid Davis, from Sunol, Calif.; Marine Lance Cpl. Robert Rice, from Phoenix; and newcomer, George Baker, a Columbia S.C., native.

o Djibouti through music

The Aug. 13 concert was located at the District Four CDC.

Upon the band's arrival, 20 people were already waiting for the concert to start. The band began to set-up their equipment, where only two street lights in an alleyway provided illumination. Determined to make due with what they had, the band used flashlights to see while they linked up all the cords needed to conduct sound checks in preparation for the concert. Bringing all their own equipment, the band placed key pieces of equipment on rugs so it would not to be buried in the sandy ground.

After 15 minutes of work, the band was ready to perform their set, which included cover songs like: *Walk This Way* by Aerosmith, *Reminiscing* by Little River Band, *Mustang Sally* by Wilson Pickett and *Kryptonite* by 3 Doors Down.

Before beginning the concert, the band was introduced by Cole, speaking in French, who welcomed everyone to the show.

Most of the locals attended for the experience and sound of music, rather than the lyrics to the songs, sitting only a few feet away from the stage nodding their heads to the music.

Despite temperatures around 120 degrees and high humidity, the band did not allow the weather to slow them down as they transitioned fluidly from one song to the next, each time gaining more fans in the crowd.

Midway through the set, Cole introduced the members of the band. Cole also gave the members of the band a chance to speak to the crowd.

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, we are thankful that you invited us into your city tonight to play," said Mahinis. "We come to you as musicians, as Americans, as friends. We'd like to extend to you, through our music, not only our friendship but a message of everlasting peace."

Army Sgt. 1st. Class Doug Ferguson dances with kids while members of American Musical Outreach play during a concert in District Four, Djibouti, Aug. 13.

Near the end of the concert, exhausted and drenched in sweat, the band encouraged the young kids in the crowd to come up and dance.

Ferguson, sound manager of the band, came out from behind the band to begin dancing with some of the kids. As expected, there was nothing but smiles across the kids faces as they danced into the night.

With only four more concerts scheduled, the band is looking to expand their concerts not only in Djibouti but also into other areas in Africa.

"We'd love to go to other countries, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, wherever," said Chisolm.

For the group of servicemembers stationed in the Horn of Africa, using their passion for music and a desire to expand their own horizons, Wednesday nights have become something very special to them and the local community.

Army Master Sgt. Terry Chisolm, lead singer of American Musical Outreach, sings during a concert in District Four, Djibouti, Aug. 13.

Supporting the fight, celebrating the survivors

Servicemembers share their breast cancer stories

Story by
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice Staff Writer

"Early detection is key," said Sgt. 1st Class Shana Markey, 469th Financial Management Company and breast cancer survivor.

Breast cancer is a disease that will affect approximately two million women in the U.S. this year alone, according to the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade.

Sgt. 1st Class Danita Daniels, 311th Sustainment Command, found a lump in her breast during a self-breast exam in June 2004 and was diagnosed with breast cancer in September 2004.

"Breast cancer is the only thing that took me down," said Daniels, a Huntington Beach, Calif., native.

Daniels explained she was sick while she was undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Typical side-effects of the treatment include pain, hair-loss, nausea and vomiting.

"When I first found out, I kind of felt like I was going to die," said Markey, a Boutte, La., native. "I exercised. I ate right. I did what I was supposed to do. This wasn't supposed to happen to me."

Less than 5 percent of all breast cancer cases occurr in women under the age of 40 according to the American Cancer Society.

A family history greatly increases a person's chances of developing the disease, said Markey.

Markey, who has a family history of the disease, was 26 years old and a specialist in the Army when she got the diagnosis.

According to the Avon Foundation, a first-degree relative, such as a mom or sister with breast cancer at any age, can double a person's risk of having breast cancer.

Daniels said that she had no family history of the disease and was the first person to be diagnosed in her family. Since her diagnosis, two others in her family have been diagnosed.

According to the ACS, the five-year survival rate for all women diagnosed with breast cancer is 89 percent. Early detection increases the chances of survival.

Markey underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment to fight the cancer. She has been in remission for 12 years.

Daniels had a mastectomy and underwent the strongest chemotherapy treatment available and has been in remission for almost four years.

"When I first found out, I kind of felt like I was going to die. This wasn't supposed to happen to me."

Sgt. 1st Class Shana Markey
469th Financial Management Company
Breast Cancer Survivor

According to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, getting tested regularly is the best way for women to lower their risk of dying from breast cancer.

Regular screening by a health care professional and performing self breast exams can increase a woman's chance of detecting and surviving breast cancer.

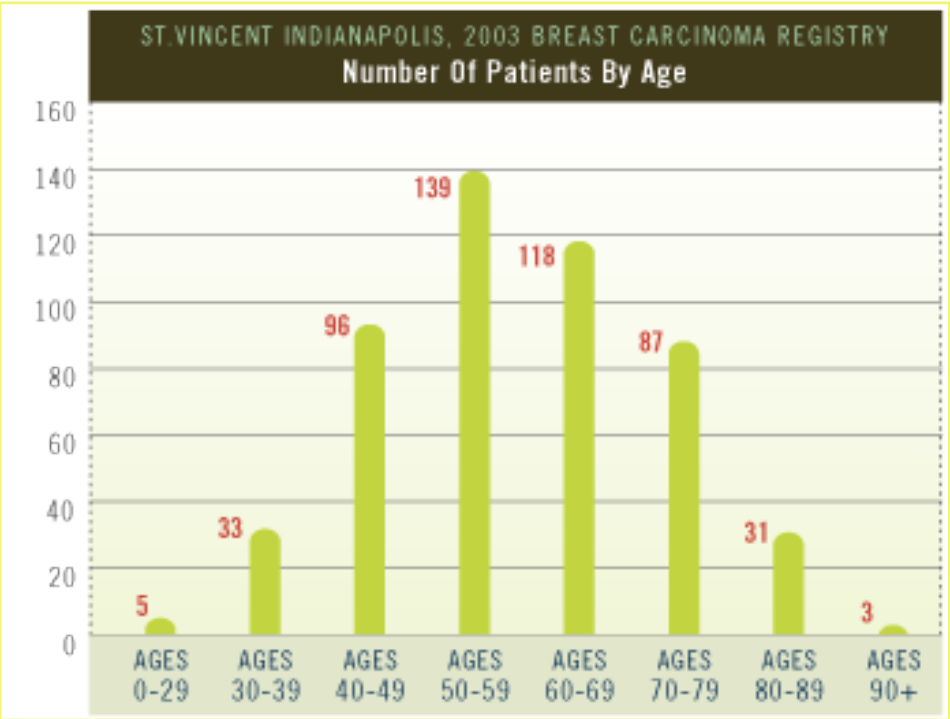
Markey and Daniels encourage women to do self breast exams and get a regular mammogram in order to learn what is normal and what should be checked by a medical professional.

"Your life is too important not to do self-exams," said Daniels.

October has been designated as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

NBCAM is organized by multiple organizations to bring breast cancer awareness and it's importance to the public.

According to AstraZeneca Health-Care Foundation, the first NBCAM program took place in October 1985. The week-long event was a push by public service organizations, government agencies and professional medical associations to communicate to the public the need for early detection.



USARCENT

Telephone Dialing Changes

On 17 October, all telephone numbers in Kuwait will be changed to eight-digit telephone numbers. This is to alleviate the pending shortage of available telephone numbers in the country.

When dialing to...	Add	Example
Kuwaiti Landline	2	2 287 4444
Wataniya Cell Phone	6	6 502 6801
Zain Cell Phone	9	9 702 4444
Kuwaiti Commercial	1	1 807 4444
DSN from off-post	2	2 389 6141
DSN from cell phone	2	2 389 6141

The service provider of a cell phone can be determined by the number:

Wataniya *(Prefix with 6)*	**Zain** *(Prefix with 9)*
501-0000 - 502 9999	400-0000 - 409 9999
505-0000 - 509 9999	440-0000 - 449 9999
510-0000 - 519 9999	702-0000 - 702 9999
550-0000 - 550 9999	710-0000 - 769 9999
554-0000 - 559 9999	780-0000 - 799 9999
570-0000 - 570 9999	900-0000 - 999 9999
578-0000 - 701 9999	**Note: All government*
703-0000 - 709 9999	*issued cell phones use*
770-0000 - 779 9999	*the zain service.*

Kuwait's country code will remain 965. Kuwait's three-digit numbers also remain unchanged: Directory assistance=101, Emergency=777.

Why I Serve:

Maj. Kerry LeFrancis
USARCENT Surgeon; Force Health Protection Officer

The Chester, N.J., native explains why she chose to join the military.

"My reasons have changed over the years, but why I serve is because I love what I do."

Just One Question ...

"What sport are you most excited about and why?"

"I am a football fan; I work at the University of Southern California and the Trojans are doing well, as expected. "

Sgt. Maj. Jeanette Evans
311th ESC
SPO Plans
Stanton, Calif.

"Soccer, because its widely known in the Latin world and it is an exciting sport. "

Master Sgt. Marjorie Ulloa
USARCENT Command Group
Command Group NCOIC
Patterson, N.J.

"I'm excited about hockey because the Detroit Redwings are due to win back-to-back Stanley Cups."

Master Sgt. Charles Gloden
1st Army
Senior Liaison NCO
Crystal, Mich.

"I'm excited about baseball because it's the post season and the World Series is coming up."

Staff Sgt. Keith Garber
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit
Motor Transportation Chief
Philadelphia, Pa.

"NASCAR because it is in the final stretch before the Sprint Cup Championship. "

Maj. Mike Stinchomb
USARCENT Operational Protection
PLEX Operations Officer
Griffin, Ga.

What's happening around USARCENT

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Michelle Smith

EMFK Ceremony

Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, commander, 311th Sustainment Command, presents a plaque to Navy Capt. Elaine Wagner, commanding officer, Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait, during the MTFK/311th ESC closeout ceremony held at EMFK on Sept. 30, 2008. Frink, along with other Army personnel, toured EMFK and thanked the Sailors of the command for their continued superior service.

Bone Marrow Drive

Petty Officer 3rd Class Erica Monk, Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait, collects cells lining the inside cheek of Pvt. Brad O'Neil as part of EMFK's C.W. Bill Young/DoD Bone Marrow Registration Drive. Once registration is completed the samples are screened to see if they match someone needing bone marrow. If a match is found the potential donor is contacted to see if they would like to donate. The drive concluded on Oct. 13.

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Michelle Smith

Did you know ...

Operation Desert Thunder I established Coalition and Joint Task Force in Kuwait, playing a key role in the rapid deployment, reception, staging, onward movement and integration of forces. In Operation Desert Thunder II, negotiations led to Saddam Hussein agreeing to allow uninterrupted resumption of United Nations weapons inspections.