

# DV The Desert Voice

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



September 24, 2008

# USARCENT



# LEADING THE WAY

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On the cover

**Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Holliday leads U.S. Army Central’s Special Troops Battalion, during USARCENT’s 5K run, Sept. 16. The run marked the end of the command’s month-long Lucky Warrior exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Brooks Fletcher)**

## 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).



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

Team,

We just want to say thanks for a successful Lucky Warrior exercise. Everyone did a great job on what has amounted to a herculean effort. You all should be extremely proud of your part in this success...no matter how big or small.

Quality training events like this don’t just happen. It takes dedicated and meticulous planning, preparation, and execution to pull something like this together. It takes leaders... at all levels, and our noncommissioned officers stepped up and ensured that the exercise went on without a hitch.

Think about how far we have come in such a short amount of time. When we said that we were going to deploy the operational command post to Kuwait, instead of Fort Gillem for this exercise, many thought it was a bridge too far. This command accepted the challenge and accomplished the mission... we are immensely proud of you for this.

We have exercised ourselves in countless ways... operationally, intellectually, and professionally. We are changing the culture of this organization; proving that we are expeditionary, capable of deploying forward “one ocean closer to the fight” to conduct full spectrum operations.

We have crossed a very important phase line on the way to our final objective. Take a knee... just long enough to refine our battle rhythm, improve our SOPs, and share our lessons learned. Then we must “ruck-up” and move out once again.

Again, we are very pleased with your great effort. The pace continues to be quick, but we’re encouraged to see we are moving together in the right direction. Thank you. We appreciate each and every one of you. It’s a privilege for us to serve with such a great group of people.

Patton’s Own!

*LTJG James J. Lovelace*

*CSM John D. Fourhman*

James J. Lovelace  
Lieutenant General  
U.S. Army Central

John D. Fourhman  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army Central

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

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## Unauthorized Power Strips

Recently, there has been major concern over the sale of uncertified electrical power strips, extension cords and plug adapters by some of our concessionaires in Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom theaters of operation.

In some instances, directive by AAFES for the removal of noncompliant electrical adapters, power strips and extension cords in concession facilities continues to be ignored.

Because of continued findings of noncompliant electrical adapters, power strips and extension cords by military safety inspectors, service branch managers and AAFES Safety and Security; it has been determined that concessionaires in the OEF and OIF theaters of operation, contracted with AAFES, will not be permitted to sell these items any longer in their facilities on military installations or camps.

In the Kuwait theater of operation, power strips, which were sold at AAFES stores, did not to meet Kuwait Ministry of Energy's standards.

Army Support Group-Kuwait Fire Prevention officials, along with individuals from the Facilities Engineering Team-South, found that the "Terminator" model TPB 914 power strip, did not meet acceptable minimum standards according to KME Regulations for Electrical Installations Standard. These power strips have been pulled off the shelves at AAFES.

AAFES has approved certified power strips to sale, marked as "CE" and "BS Std 1363" and have been fitted with 1.25 mm cabling and secondary circuit protection.

According to Paula Bradford, operations center general manager, Kuwait and Southern Iraq, AAFES has agreed to exchange the unauthorized power strips for the approved strips. If a customer has a receipt and wants a refund, they will process the refund. Those wanting a refund without a receipt will have their refund put on a merchandise card, which can be used for their next purchase.

Any future findings are to be reported to the contracting officer for appropriate action.

**Authorized power strips and electric adapters currently being sold in Zone 6 Post Exchange. Power strips will be marked as "CE" and "BS Std 1363"**



# Public Affairs Officer's life celebrated

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Howard Ketter  
Desert Voice Staff Writer

**S**ervicemembers honored the life of a fallen comrade at the Zone 1 Chapel on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 19.

The memorial service for 46-year-old Lt. Col. Ralph J. Marino, who served as a public affairs officer for U.S. Army Central, was held to honor the hard-working Soldier's life.

"No task too difficult, no sacrifice too great, mission first," said Col. Thomas Nickerson, Chief PAO, USARCENT. "It defined who he was and what he did everyday."

Marino was commissioned in the Reserve Officers Training Corps, with a degree in political science from Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Penn., in 1984.

After graduation, he served as an active duty field artillery officer until 1992. During that time, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., and deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After leaving active duty, he spent time as an assistant professor of military science at North Arizona University.

Marino was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in 2003 serving as a public affairs officer for Combined Joint Task Force 180.

After Afghanistan, he was the officer in charge of the Personnel Assistance Point at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

In March 2008, he volunteered for a one-year assignment at Camp Arifjan,

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**"No task too difficult, no sacrifice to great, mission first."**

Col. Thomas Nickerson  
Chief of Public Affairs  
U.S. Army Central

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Kuwait as a public affairs officer.

Marino is survived by his father and mother, Ralph Sr. and Janice Marino, who reside in Houston, Penn.

The service honoring Marino's life began with an invocation by Col. Craig Wiley, command chaplain, USARCENT, followed by special music and a reading of the scripture, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, by Lt. Col. Martha Brooks, PAO operations officer, USARCENT.

Lt. Col. Paula Z. Jones, deputy PAO, USARCENT, reflected on Marino's close attention to detail and persistent work ethic.

"His heart and passion lied in

strategic communications," said Jones. "Ralph truly respected and spoke highly of the USARCENT leadership and enjoyed working with colonel Nickerson and everyone on the PAO team."

She talked about how the two got to know each other and his constant reminders and checks on her equipment.

"Colonel Marino was my battle buddy," said Jones.

She also spoke about how they ate at the Zone 2 dining facility everyday and their differences in choices of food, as the two became friends.

Nickerson reflected on Marino's warm personality, though he remained a stern, hard working Soldier.

"He illuminated ground truth, and told you what you needed to hear and not what you wanted to hear, and I appreciated that," said Nickerson.

Lt. Col. Gregory McAfee, commander, Special Troops Battalion, USARCENT, gave remarks, saying that Marino was a true professional, dedicated and humble, and a warrior who went about his job with precision and commitment.

Capt. George Shaffer, chaplain, STB, USARCENT, led the attendance in a meditation, a moment of silence for the fallen Soldier and a benediction.

First Sgt. Jessie Tyson, headquarters and headquarters company, USARCENT, gave the traditional last role call for Marino, which was followed by the firing of the volleys and the playing of "Taps."

Soldiers in attendance rendered their final salutes in honor of the late Soldier as a postlude was played.

"I learned something from him everyday and even in his death I learned things that I will carry throughout my life," said Nickerson. "The most important being to celebrate each other everyday and never pass up the opportunity to treat everyone with dignity and respect because tomorrow is not promised." 



**Sgt. Maj. Brian Thomas, public affairs, U.S. Army Central, places "Airborne wings" on Lt. Col. Ralph J. Marino's memorial, at the Zone 1 Chapel as members of the USARCENT PAO staff give final honors to their fallen comrade.**

# “Band of Brothers” travel to Kuwait

Story and photo by  
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton  
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Six members from the “Band of Brothers” visited servicemembers in Kuwait, during a tour hosted by the United Services Organization Sept. 14-19.

The men, who served together in E Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division during World War II, traveled 12 hours from the U.S. to thank deployed Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines for their service to our country.

The members were “Wild Bill” Guarnere, Clancy Lyall, Amos “Buck” Taylor, Forrest Guth, Edward “Babe” Heffron and Don Malarkey.

They were scheduled to make a stop at Camp Buehring, Kuwait to meet with servicemembers before moving forward to meet with troops in Iraq.

They began their tour at the Camp Buehring stage, but when it came time to move forward, they were not able to make their trip north due to inclement weather.

However, that did not keep them from fulfilling their goal of meeting with troops to show their appreciation for their service. Instead of going into Iraq, the USO made it possible for them to make various stops around military camps in Kuwait to talk to servicemembers.

“They are happy as long as they are seeing troops,” said Dana DePaul, tour producer, USO.

“It’s an honor to come and visit,” said Lyall. “We wanted to boost the morale and show that we care.”

Although it has been over a half century since these men made their contributions to the 101st and World War II, which were made famous through the HBO mini series “Band of Brothers,” their stories and experiences are not much different from servicemembers who serve in the military today.

“I am no different from any Soldier here,” said Lyall. “We just have good P.R. people,” he added jokingly.

Much like today, each servicemember served and fought for their country during a time of war. Some volunteered for different reasons and others were drafted.

But war-fighters of both eras faced their own unique challenges.

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**“It’s an honor to come and visit ... We wanted to boost the morale and show that we care.”**

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Clancy Lyall  
World War II Veteran  
E Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment

During World War II, some of the challenges lay in the fact that the fighting conditions were different, the climate was cooler and the technology was not as advanced.

Many challenges that today’s war fighters face involve improvised explosive devices and concerns of suicide bombers who threaten the lives and safety of servicemembers and civilians.

These six men of E Company made the trip to show their appreciation for servicemembers who are involved in

the current war on terror and to let those servicemembers know they understand some of the challenges that they face.

“We had an enemy,” said Guarnere, a staff sergeant with the unit. “Here, you don’t know who the enemy is.”

He also spoke of how, although it was extremely cold when they fought at Bastogne, he was amazed that servicemembers fight in the hotter climates of the Middle East.

“The heat, the heat,” he said in an expression filled with much animation. “How you do it, I don’t know.”

During one of their final stops, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, many excited servicemembers waited in a long line to shake hands, take pictures and show their appreciation for these six men.

“I think it’s amazing getting a chance to see real life heroes in person,” said Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi, public affairs, and a Farmington Hills, Mich., native. “It’s just a tribute that they came out to see us Soldiers.”

But these men were just as excited to see the troops who are currently making the same sacrifices they made over 60 years ago. **A**



**“Wild Bill” Guarnere, Edward “Babe” Heffron, Forrest Guth, Don Malarkey, Amos “Buck” Taylor and Clancy Lyall visit servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 19 during their six day tour to visit deployed servicemembers.**

# U.S. ... COMMEMORAT



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen

**Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr., commander, 311th Sustainment Command, welcomes servicemembers to a prayer breakfast on Sept. 11 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

*Compiled by  
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher  
Desert Voice Editor*

**W**e will remember ... a sentiment that cultivated the patriotic and memorial atmosphere throughout the U.S. Embassy and military bases in Kuwait on Sept. 11.

Kuwait U.S. Ambassador Deborah K. Jones led a contingent of 500 people, including Brig. Gens. William Frink and James Walton, commander, 311th Sustainment and 335th Signal Command, who gathered at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait in a commemoration of the fateful attacks on U.S. soil seven years ago.

The commemoration took the form of a Freedom Walk, a new national tradition that honors the victims of 9/11 and reaffirms the value of freedom.

The Freedom Walk consists of a solemn and silent walk that represents,

in the words of Ambassador Jones, "The quiet resolve of the American people in the days after 9/11."

"No matter how quiet we are, as we pay our respects to those who lost their

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***"It was our privilege to recognize the efforts of the folks who lived through 9/11 and to pay tribute to the heroes of 9/11..."***

Col. Ron Stimeare  
Commander  
160th Signal Brigade

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lives, the best tribute to their memory is that freedom will ring across America today as millions join us in this commemoration and freedom will ring around the world as we lend our support to all those who strive for their own freedom from terror and freedom to design their future," said Jones.

The Freedom Walkers' contingent was bolstered by the presence of over



Photo by Marine Sgt. Edward Guevara Jr.

**Col. Ron Stimeare, 160th Signal Brigade, commander, talks to Soldiers after completing their memorial run on Sept. 11.**



**The Sept. 11 Remembrance Service at [location] with a lighting of candles, by all who are [location] "Torch of Hope and Honor."**

Kuwait

# TING 9/11 IN KUWAIT

200 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines from various units stationed in Kuwait.

Embassy staff and family members in Kuwait rounded out the participants.

With flags fluttering, the group stepped off to begin the 1.5-mile walk around the embassy's compound.

With them were the French ambassador and representatives from the Italian, British, Bangladeshi and Japanese embassies. The Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent four officials as a sign of solidarity and support.

Throughout Kuwait servicemembers attended different memorials and ceremonies to honor and pay tribute to those who lost their lives or who lost a loved one during 9/11.

On Camp Buehring, a remembrance service was held at the post chapel.

Air Force Chaplain, Mark Ingles, led the ceremony and gave a memorial speech about the events of Sept. 11 and the people who sacrificed their

lives to save the lives of others.

"On September 11, 2001, heroic Americans answered the call of duty, to save lives," said Ingles.

Capt. Lisa Northway, chaplain, attended the ceremony to pay tribute to those who have fallen and sacrificed to protect the freedoms of Americans. Although she did not give a sermon for this event, she said that Sept. 11 remembrance ceremonies are important, especially for younger Soldiers who were in school at that time, to remember the legacy in our country of being protectors and to safe guard the things we hold close.

Concurrently, the headquarters from 54th Signal Battalion, 160th Signal Brigade, a formation made up of approximately 200 Soldiers, also commemorated those who were affected during the events that took place on 9/11.

"It was our privilege to recognize the efforts of the folks who lived

through 9/11 and to pay tribute to the heroes of 9/11; who never expected to do the kinds of things they did that day," said Col. Ron Stimeare, commander, 160th Signal Brigade.

Following a torch lighting, Soldiers from the signal brigade ran throughout Camp Arifjan's Zones 1 and 2.

"You could see the Soldiers' esprit de corps," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Thompson, 160th Signal Brigade. "Their morale was high for the day's event. The way the Soldiers circled the run formation was a testament of their morale and motivation out there today."

"It's not only important to recognize what occurred, but to also recognize the results," said Stimeare, who plans on making this an annual event for the brigade. "The heroes of 9/11 had no idea they would be called to do heroic acts." <sup>A</sup>



Photo by Spc. Elyseah Woodard-Hinton

**Camp Buehring, Kuwait, concluded**



Photo by Marine Sgt. Edward Guevara Jr.

**Kuwait U.S. Ambassador Deborah K. Jones and Brig. Gens. William Frink and James Walton, commander, 311th Sustainment and 335th Signal Commands, lead over 500 participants during the Freedom Walk held at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, Sept. 11.**

# Dust storms rip through

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Howard Ketter  
Desert Voice Staff Writer

U.S. Army Central staff training in the Lucky Warrior exercise endured two dust storms at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Sept. 8 and 9.

“The dust storms occurred as a result of collapsing thunderstorms,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Harmon, Staff Weather Office, USARCENT, a Macon, Ga., native. “When a thunderstorm collapses, cold air from the upper levels of the storm race down to the surface and produce high winds that kick up the dust.”

The storm on Sept. 8 knocked over both of the command group’s portable latrines and collapsed one of the Special Troops Battalion’s tents.

Sgt. Precious Braylock, STB, said she was outside taking a break when the storm began.

“I couldn’t see anything,” said Braylock. “I went to the access control point to readjust, then made my way to my tent where I noticed one of our tents collapsed.”

There were chairs and tables tossed around the area and Soldiers from

other sections came to help clean up the mess, said the Okolona, Miss., native.

“After the storm ceased, we set our tent back up and our battalion commander and command sergeant major came to check out what happened and make sure everyone was okay,” added Braylock.

Braylock said that STB Soldiers placed additional sandbags and stakes to tether their tent in place, preparing themselves for the second storm.

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**“The dust storms occurred as a result of collapsing thunderstorms.”**

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Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Harmon  
Staff Weather Office  
U.S. Army Central

“We use a combination of things to detect dust storms,” said Harmon. “Two of the most helpful are weather observations from upstream stations and satellite images.”

“If you know there is a dust storm coming, it is important that you block any possible entries such as air ducts and tent entrances,” said Capt. Jonathan Y. Ji, field surgeon USARCENT, a



**Staff Sgt. Duncan Jefferson, a Montgomery, Ala., native, helps police up trash from around the exercise site after a dust storm.**

New York, native.

Spc. Zachariah T. Ellingson, joint network node operator, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, a Janesville, Wis., native, said he was in the 40th ESB operations tent, monitoring equipment during the first storm.

The 40th ESB operations tent started to detach from its shelter, but otherwise there was no equipment damage, said Ellingson.

“I had on goggles, gloves and a scarf around my face,” added Ellingson.

The 40th ESB Soldiers also put sandbags around their tent to keep dust out and better secure their tent in preparation for the second storm.

Servicemembers, of all ranks, dusted and swept sand from the inside of the Current Operations Information Center. The sand covered several computers, communications equipment and desks.



**A deployable rapid shelter collapsed after being struck by a dust storm during the Lucky Warrior training exercise.**

# ugh Lucky Warrior



*Maj. Todd Myers, G3, USARCENT and a Bolivar, Mo., native, uses an air compressor to clean off computers in the Current Operation Information Center.*

When the storms subsided, Soldiers from the Aid Station policed the area around the site for loose debris.

“Ideally, Soldiers should wear kevlar and individual body armor if objects are flying in the air,” said Ji. “Some sort of damp handkerchief or bandana should be worn to cover the mouth and nose. This provides an effective filter for dust.”

According to Ji, excessive inhalation of dust can lead to breathing difficulties.

Unexpected incidents such as dust storms are one of the reasons Soldiers are trained to be prepared, with the right equipment and protective gear for any situation and is another way Soldiers in USARCENT stay mission ready. <sup>A</sup>

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***“I couldn’t see anything ... I went to the access control point to readjust, then made my way back to my tent where I noticed one of our tents collapsed.”***

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Sgt. Precious Braylock  
Special Troops Battalion  
U.S. Army Central



***Soldiers secure equipment as dust fills a tent during a dust storm at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Sept. 8.***

# STB supports Lucky Warrior exercise

Story and photo by  
Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton  
Desert Voice Staff Writer

**T**he goal of Lucky Warrior's 08-01 training exercise was to test U.S. Army Central's ability to become Full-Spectrum Operations capable and rapidly deploy in response to a threat or need in Central Command's area of operation.

To accomplish a mission in the Army, whether it is real world or in training, the right people and equipment must be in place at the right time; and once in place, it is necessary for those people and equipment to be sustained. USARCENT has a group, Special Troops Battalion, which is responsible for carrying out these missions.

"We are basically a support battalion," said Lt. Col. Greg McAfee, commander.

"We deploy, support, sustain, protect and redeploy the operational command posts for the headquarters,"

added the Marietta, Ga., native.

With the support of the battalion staff, headquarters and headquarters company and augmentation company, STB carried out these responsibilities during the Lucky Warrior exercise.

Sixty-three members of the battalion arrived at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in early August to set-up life support operations at the training site for the exercise that officially began Sept. 8.

In addition to handling the set-up, they were also responsible for deploying approximately 500 servicemembers and equipment from various camps in Kuwait and posts in the U.S.

They provided support to the operational command post such as maintenance, billeting, ice and water.

Food services personnel were assigned to provide Lucky Warrior participants with breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight meals.

Any issues concerning personnel matters must still be addressed while in the field and the STB S-1 shop was on site to handle these concerns.

"My job here is to keep track of personnel and any type of issue that might come up such as emergency leave," said Spc. Brandi Rodriguez.

When environmental control units, generators and vehicles needed repairs, STB mechanics were there to trouble shoot and make repairs on site.

Once the exercise was over, STB gave out the orders for the command post to break down and begin the redeployment of servicemembers and equipment.

According to STB's Command Sgt. Maj. Charles "Doc" Holliday, orchestrating the movement and reception of people and equipment, along with putting all of these things together to make the operation work, was one of the biggest challenges in this mission. However, he and McAfee agree that they enjoy the challenge, and like knowing each day is different and will present a new challenge; but most of all they enjoy working with the Soldiers. **A**



Lt. Col Greg McAfee and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles "Doc" Holliday conduct a meeting, with Soldiers of the Special Troops Battalion, about tasks and operations required for the Lucky Warrior 08-01 exercise.

# Rabies Awareness

The mission of World Rabies Day is to raise awareness about the impact of human and animal rabies.

## What Can You Do?

\*Be a responsible pet owner and vaccinate your pets against rabies.

\*Avoid stray animals.

\*Report stray animals on post to your local command cell or the 24-hour DPW Work Order Desk.

\*If bitten or scratched by a stray animal, report to your local TMC immediately for medical care.

**Remember, rabies in humans is a 100% preventable disease.**

## Just One Question ...

“What are your plans for R&R?”



“I plan to go to Japan to explore the Harajuku District and shop in Ginza.”

Airman 1st Class Mercedes Swenson  
EMXG  
Group commander's administrator  
Sacramento, Calif.



“I am going to the Great Wolf Lodge. It's an incredible indoor water park; my daughter loves it.”

Maj. Jeff Gribschaw  
ARCENT G6  
JMND Operations Officer  
West Point, N.Y.



“I am going home to spend time with my family and spend a week in Key West, Fla.”

Master Sgt. Bud Bush  
ARCENT G6  
Communication Team NCOIC  
Simpsonville, S.C.

## Why I Serve:

Sgt. 1st Class James Tarpley  
Human Resources, R-5 APOD Operations NCOIC



The Philadelphia, Pa., native explains why he chose to join the military.

“I joined to get off the streets and to raise my family. I wanted to give them a better life.”



“I plan to go down to Qatar and do a city tour.”

PO1 Thomas Rutherford  
NAVELSG  
Tactical Operations Center  
Mt. Vernon, Ohio



“I am going to Texas to be home for my wife Leanne's birthday for the first time in five years.”

Sgt. Shiloh Holland  
539th Transportation Company  
Truck commander  
Greenville, Texas

# What's happening around USARCENT ...

## ***Air Force B-Day Run***



*Servicemembers take off from the starting line of the Air Force 5K Birthday fun run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 18. Emily Potter of the Army came in first place at 18:07, while Eric Szabo of the Navy finished second running the race in 18:52 and Dan Pearson of the Air Force finished third with a time of 19 minutes and 4 seconds.*

*Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin*

## ***DFAC Upgrade!***

*Members of the Tamimi Global Company, Area Support Group-Kuwait and the 311th Sustainment Command celebrate the dedication and opening of a 160 seat annex for the Zone 2 dining facility on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 11. The addition was named Log Warriors Annex after the 311th, which manages the DFAC.*



*Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin*

## ***Did you know ...***

***Less than a year after Operation Vigilant Warrior, U.S. Army Central's Operation Vigilant Sentinel provided command and control for a rapid deployment of a heavy brigade task force, while simultaneously conducting a major training exercise in Egypt, "Bright Star '95," which involved military forces from six other nations.***

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