

SandSPORTer

143rd Transportation Command

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143rd deputy takes over huge job

By Maj. Bobby Hart

After spending the Holidays in Kuwait last year, Brig. Gen. Jack Stultz was looking forward to a relaxed holiday season this year at home with his family, which now includes a new granddaughter.

As forward commander of the 143rd Transportation Command from Orlando, the Apopka resident was slated to end his deployment in October to return to his family and his civilian life and job in sales and distribution with Procter and Gamble.

Stultz's plans took a turn, however, when Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan, commanding general for the Combined Forces Land Component Command, asked him to remain in theater and accept even more responsibility as director of distribution and movements for the area of operation which encompasses seven countries stretching from Afghanistan through Iraq and Kuwait down to the Horn of Africa.

Accepting the general's invitation was a decision that didn't come easily for Stultz.

"When General McKiernan sat down with me and said he needed me to stay

and wanted to know if he could count on me, I went through a range of emotions," he said. "First I thought about my family and what I was missing at home with them and with my civilian job.

"At the same time I thought, 'We're still at war;' and ultimately, it is my duty to soldiers who are out there depending on us to make sure they are getting everything they need," Stultz said.

McKiernan tasked Stultz to take responsibility for getting cargo, troops and equipment where they need to be because the sustainment and rotation of forces depends so heavily on the ability to manage the complex, moving puzzle that comprises movement and distribution in a theater of war.

One of the keys that should help make the process more efficient--and one of the things McKiernan hopes will come out of Stultz's efforts--is to make distribution a joint process involving all the branches of the military.

Stultz brings extensive experience in joint logistical operations to the table.

"With the 143rd TRANSCOM, you're operationally interfacing with the active component and other services on a regu-

lar basis," said Stultz who has been a member of the 143rd since 1987. "The huge success we have had here in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) is that we've become truly a joint organization.

"We developed a joint task force at KNB (Kuwait Navy Base) for joint logistics over the shore, a joint task force at the Port of Shuaiba with the Navy and Marines and a joint task force at Tallil with the Army and Air Force," he said. "So we have operated as a joint organization, which is the direction our military forces are heading in the future."

Stultz said what the 143rd has accomplished in OIF has been remarkable and the experience has been the pinnacle of his career.

"The 143rd TRANSCOM has really established itself as the premier transportation organization within the Army--not just the Reserve--and probably in the joint force," Stultz said.

"We are looked upon over here as the experts in transportation, both in running port operations and logistics over the shore operations as well as running inland distribution and ground operations," said Stultz, who joined the 143rd downtrace in 1987, and who is in his third major deployment with the unit. He was a member of the 32nd Group during Desert Storm and commanded the 257th Trans. Bn. during its deployment to Bosnia.

Stultz said the assignment as deputy commanding general of the 143rd--ironically the first time he had actually been assigned to the headquarters--has been the premier assignment of his military career.

"There's not a lot of other organizations in the Army Reserve that offer the opportunity to be at the tip of the spear in terms of operations 365 days a year," Stultz said.

"I've been very fortunate to have been a part of it all," Stultz said. "I can't say enough about the opportunities the 143rd has given me and how much I owe to the people I have had the privilege to work with.

"I will always be a part of the 143rd, and it will always be a part of me."



Brig. Gen. Jack Stultz and Maj. Gen. David Kratzer, commander of the 377th Theater Support Command and a former member of the 143rd, shake hands in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces. (File photo)



Spotlight

On redeployment tips for commanders

From Hot Topics: Current Issues for Army Leaders (Part 2 of a 3-part series)

Deployments are difficult. They bring change, separation and loneliness. But when the anticipated reunion finally arrives, many people find themselves overwhelmed with a rush of emotions--relief, hope, anxiety and even resentment.

Here are some tips for commanders to help their soldiers make the return to their families the exciting and happy event it should be:

Be familiar with the Deployment Cycle Concept Plan. (www.armyg1.army.mil/default.asp?pageid+101f)

Psychologically prepare soldiers for redeployment. Reunion briefings are mandatory--they can lessen the shock and stress of reunion.



Keep unit and family readiness program personnel continually informed of the redeployment schedule, especially since delays are common in redeployment.

Ensure soldiers complete Deployment Cycle Support tasks prior to taking leave. These include mandatory health screenings, stress counseling, critical incident sessions, sensitive items check, etc.

Allow leisure time. Publish a schedule for family interaction with sufficient time for soldiers and families to make plans.

Make sure soldiers have easy access to support services from unit chaplains throughout deployment, redeployment and reunion.

Identify single soldiers without support systems.

Know your people and watch their behavior carefully. Encourage those who usually don't participate in support groups to seek help and comfort from others.

Make soldiers and family members aware of support services as mental-health professionals and chaplains.

Identify financial concerns and provide financial training as required.

Incidents of spouse and child abuse increase immediately before and after deployments. Monitor soldiers' behavior for signs of anxiety or tension that might lead to the physical, emotional or sexual abuse of family members. Also be open to signs that soldiers themselves are being abused.

For active duty, don't expect soldiers to return to duty as though nothing has changed. Until they talk to nondeploying personnel, soldiers may not recognize how much things have changed. Other nondeploying soldiers may not understand how deploying soldiers feel upon returning. This can leave gaps of isolation and misunderstanding. Encourage unity and esprit de corps among unit members.

Deployments may be hard on soldiers, but families also pay a huge price. A little understanding and leniency from commanders can ensure soldiers and their families have a happy reunion.

Soldier Talk

For what are you most thankful this year?



Life...all human life. It is a gift from God.

**Master Sgt.
Verona
Woolridge**
32nd Trans. Group



My wonderful family and knowing that I have their support while I'm here.

**1st Lt. Marc
Prymek**
1083rd Trans. Co.



For the people I deployed with. This would have been worse without them.

**Spc. Michelle
Merten**
419th Trans. Bn.



Everyone is in good spirits. I could be a lot worse if they weren't.

**1st Lt. Richard
Flores**
478th Trans. Co.



That God has given me a wonderful family.

**Maj. Carlos
Tirado**
143rd TRANSCOM



My family, especially my wife and my new baby girl.

**Spc. Elvin
Lugo**
32nd Trans. Group

News Briefs



Shuaiba sees stars...Brig. Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead III presented Bronze Star Medals to Staff Sgt. Heather Romero (middle) and Maj. Michael Santos in a ceremony at Shuaiba on Wednesday. (Photo by Maj. Bobby Hart)

Federal workers to get extended leave

(From DefendAmerica) WASHINGTON-- Federal employees returning from Guard and Reserve duty in the war on terror are receiving an extra five days' of "uncharged" civilian leave.

President Bush directed the move in a Nov. 14 memorandum issued to the heads of all executive departments and agencies. "As we welcome home returning federal civil servants who were called to active duty in the continuing global war on terrorism," the president wrote, "we recognize the contributions they have made in the defense of freedom.

"Whether they served with the Reserve forces or the Air and Army National Guard," he continued, "each of them has my personal gratitude and the respect and admiration of a grateful nation.

Vets' stories wanted for project

(From DefendAmerica) WASHINGTON, -- Veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, as well as any other combat operations, can share accounts of their experiences for posterity through the Veterans History Project <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>, an effort begun by Congress two years ago to preserve the stories and memories of America's war veterans.

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, project director, said the project's letters, memoirs, audiotapes and photographs speak of combat and what war was like, or of pranks and funny misfortunes that occurred while veterans were on leave. But most stories, she said, speak of the closeness and camaraderie within the military - "my

buddies, my unit, and loyalty" - adding, "Loyalty is a very big theme." Another theme often written about is love and "longing for the folks back home," she said.

McCulloch-Lovell said the project is stepping up efforts to ensure the words of thousands of veterans are told to an even greater audience. She said this month the Veterans History Project began airing a radio series called "Coming Home," which features the oral biographies of 18 war veterans who tell of their war experiences and life in the military. It's being aired via Public Radio International, which develops and supplies noncommercial programming to affiliate stations throughout the country.

The Veterans History Project also has expanded features on its Web site, to include more digitized letters, photos and individual stories, she said.

Site visitors can now "see and listen" to the stories of 23 veterans. And there is no shortage of stories to tell. In the two years since the project began, McCulloch-Lovell said, interest by veterans wanting to share their stories has increased immensely.

Legacy Project founder to visit Arifjan

(From Arifjan PAO) Andrew Carroll, founder and director of the Legacy Project, will be visiting Camp Arifjan and bases in Kuwait on Monday, Nov. 24, to chat with service members.

He will also hand out free copies of the latest two books in the Armed Services Edition series--"Wry Martinis" by Christopher Buckley and "The Man in the Arena: Selected Speeches, Letters and Essays by Theodore Roosevelt."

The Legacy Project works to honor and remember those who have served the United States in wartime by seeking and preserving their letters. Carroll assembled a number of these letters in "War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars."





Former U.S. Air Force airman Uthmaan Beecher, who converted to Islam during the first Gulf War, provided the tour of the KNB mosque.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Russell Christe, 359th Trans. Bn., asks a question about the Islamic religion during the tour of the KNB mosque.



Beecher describes different aspects of the Islamic religious practices.



The Koran is placed in prominent locations throughout the mosque.

Cultural Exchange
 Soldiers at Kuwait Navy Base had a rare chance to visit an Islamic mosque recently. Normally only Muslims enter the mosques, but the tour was arranged by officials at KNB and Chaplain (Maj.) James Betz of the 359th Trans. Bn.
 (Photos by Maj. Bobby Hart and Sgt. Maj. Larry Stevens)

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