

DV

Desert Voice Magazine
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

September 13, 2006

SENDING THEM HOME

U.S. ARMY CENTRAL REDEPLOYING COMBAT-TESTED
HELICOPTERS AND THEIR CREWS BACK TO THE STATES

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On the cover

Justin Kallner, a L-3 Vertex Aerospace company employee, prepares a 101st Airborne helicopter to be loaded onto a U.S. Navy ship.

Photo by Sgt. Thomas L. Day

Suicide awareness and prevention: It's everyone's responsibility

September 10-16 is National Suicide Awareness Week. The Army's mission: Minimize suicidal behavior by encouraging help-seeking and providing "buddy care."

Eighty-eight deaths in the 2005 calendar year in the U.S. Army were confirmed as suicides, according to the Army Suicide Prevention Program. This year, as of August 2, the sum is 46.

Know the facts.

Fact: 80 percent of completed suicides had given definite indications of their intention

Fact: Suicidal people already have the idea. Talking about it may invite them to ask for help.

Fact: 95% are undecided about it. They call for help before or after the attempt.

Fact: Most suicides are carefully planned and thought about for weeks.

Fact: Most are suicidal for only a brief period. Timely intervention may save their life.

Fact: Most suicidal persons are not mentally ill. Severe emotional distress is not the same as mental illness.

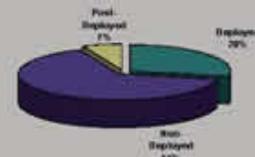
Fact: December has one of the lowest rates. Spring months have the highest.

Fact: Only 1 in 4 suicides leave suicide notes.

Know the warning signs.

- The breakup of a close relationship,
- Witnessing death
- Financial stressors
- A bad evaluation
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Reunion from a long field training or isolated tour
- Leaving old friends and family
- Being alone with concerns about self or family
- New military assignment/deployment
- Recent interpersonal losses

Calendar Year 2006 Suicides by Deployment Status



A third of all confirmed suicides in the Army have come from Soldiers either deployed or coming back from deployment.

- Loss of self-esteem/status
- Humiliation and ridicule
- Rejection (e.g., job, promotion, significant other)
- Disciplinary or legal difficulty
- Exposure to suicide of friend or family member
- Discharge from treatment or from service
- Retirement

Know what to do.

1. Stay calm.
2. Send someone for help.
3. Do not leave the person alone.
4. "Buy time" (i.e. identify stressor and reasons for living)

Suicide prevention is everybody's business, and without your support, we cannot be successful in our efforts to further the Army's suicide prevention efforts.

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Ashe
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Questions? Comments? E-mail the editor at desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil

40th Public Affairs Detachment
Commander
Maj. April N. Olsen
40th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Sharon G. McBride
Desert Voice Editor
Sgt. Patrick N. Moes
Desert Voice Assistant Editor
Spc. Chris Jones
Desert Voice Staff Writers
Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II
Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Spc. Debrah A. Robertson



12 HOURS WITH TASK FORCE READY

Story and Photo by

Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II
Desert Voice Staff Writer

"We're not worried about not going home, that idea is not even an option to us. We're well trained and we're the best," said Pfc. Chris Tucker, an infantryman with Company H, 121st Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ready.

The task force, comprised of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, the 502nd MI Battalion from Fort Lewis, Wash., the Miami-based 260th MI Battalion from the Florida National Guard, and the Fort Gillem-based Company H, 121st Infantry Regiment from the Georgia National Guard, will be sent all over Iraq to conduct various intelligence missions.

"Task Force Ready will provide the Multi-National Corps Iraq commander with human, signal and imagery intelligence across the Iraqi area of responsibility," said Col. Keith G. Geiger, the task force commander.

"I'm very confident in your ability to

accomplish the mission," said Geiger to his Soldiers before they rolled forward.

"We're here for 365 days and we're going to give it 110 percent the whole time."

Geiger, a veteran of Desert Storm and the first Iraq troop rotation, said he is much more grateful to be a commander of troops this time around.

"We have young Soldiers and many leaders with previous OIF experience. I know they're up to the task. They're fully capable and motivated," he said. For many of the Soldiers this is their first deployment.

"I'm excited and not too nervous about going there," said Pfc. Joshua D. Baker, an intelligence Soldier. "You don't know what to expect, but I feel prepared because I have good leadership and a great team."

While many of the Soldiers are mentally ready, it will be the noncommissioned officers and officers that guide them. Most of leaders of Soldiers have previous combat experience...

"Once you have a basis for leading troops in combat, it's something you don't forget

about," said Staff Sgt. Adam Champion, a human intelligence collector.

The Soldiers give credit to the training they received at their home stations and at Camp Buehring, which included convoy training, Improvised Explosive Device training, and weapons training.

"Our IED training went really well. I'm more confident about going forward now. The training was really efficient," said Pfc. Heather N. Hodges, an automated logistical specialist.

The Soldiers of TF Ready had once last formation early on Aug. 28, and as the chaplain gave his invocation, some of the Soldier's expressions changed. Geiger then addressed his unit, saying that although this would be the only time the whole task force would be together, he was proud of each one of them and he would personally come visit each unit, regardless of where they were. He then dismissed the task force and the Soldiers dispersed to continue with preparations for the days ahead.





A V-3 Vertex Aerospace team prepares a 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to be loaded onto a U.S. Navy ship at the Kuwait Sea Port of Debarkation.



(From left to right, above) Spc. Christopher Ashley of the 101st Airborne Division's 101st Aviation Regiment guides a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter into the Kuwait Sea Port of Debarkation; Soldiers from the 101st Aviation Regiment unload their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter as the L-3 Vertex Aerospace crew prepares the helicopter to load onto a U.S. Navy ship to redeploy back to the United States; The 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" wait to fly home.

MOVIN' ON OUT

BY LAND AND BY SEA, ARCENT SENDING HELICOPTERS HOME FROM IRAQ

Story and Photos by

Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice Staff Writer

For the USARCENT Soldiers charged with supporting the deployment and redeployment of helicopters in and out of theater, work can be fast or slow but never in between.

This fall is one of the fast times.

Two 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" aviation brigades have started collecting their helicopters at the Sea Port of Debarkation, landing side by side to be prepared for movement. More units will follow in their tracks in the coming months.

"All this takes place in something called, 'The Surge,'" said aviation operations officer Lt. Col. Aquiles Ramirez. He said

they have continually been working near their maximum density.

"In the month of August, between deployment and redeployment units, we had 200 aircrafts (a day)," said Ramirez.

The 101st sea movement operation, according to Capt. Kenic Smith of the 6-101st Aviation Regiment, will continue throughout through September. That will include the division's arsenal of UH-60 Blackhawk, AH-64 Apache, CH-47 Chinook and OH-58D Kiowa helicopters.

The process includes folding rotors and tied together, the antennas are removed and the aircrafts are sprayed with a corrosion prevention compound.

"The basic thing is to get them as small as possible, so they can fit through the ship," Smith said.

For the Screaming Eagles, this

redeployment follows lessons learned from the previous redeployment.

Following the 101st's 2003-2004 Iraq tour, the redeployment process included "shrink wrapping" the helicopters in plastic to protect them from rusting.

That practice was scrapped, according to Smith, after it became apparent that the wrapping only served to collect sea water condensation inside the plastic, thus causing more rusting than would have been incurred without the cover.

Without the shrink wrapping, the process of preparing the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters now takes less than 45 minutes he said, and most of the work is provided by the civilian-contracted, Mississippi-based L-3 Aerospace Vertex Corporation, as well as ARCENT personnel in the area.

Soldiers and Citizens



31 servicemembers take oath and become

Story and Photos by

Spc. Chris Jones

Desert Voice Assistant Editor

"I love arguing about politics," said Spc. Everlyne Alfred. "Now I have more of a say in things."

One of the many new rights attained by Alfred was the right to vote, giving her a voice in the government, in a naturalization ceremony on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on Aug. 31.

Alfred, who is stationed at Camp Buehring, as an administrative assistant with the 721st Adjutant General Company,

said she was "elated when they called my name. I knew that I had already gotten [my citizenship], but when they called my name and I went up to receive my certificate, that was a moment I will never forget. It finally dawned on me that this is it. I am now an American citizen."

Speaking during the ceremony was a naturalized citizen himself – Sonny Busa, a consul at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

"America is not the infrastructure," Busa said to the soon-to-be citizens. "It's not the skyscrapers. It's not the New York Yankees – it's definitely not the New York Yankees. No, America is an idea – an idea that you are somebody. That you can be a better

person. That you can improve."

In addition to having been a naturalized citizen, Busa had another thing in common with the graduates – the military. Previously an infantry officer, Busa said, "You are about to join the greatest group in the world – the group called 'American citizens.'"

"Well, you're already a part of a pretty great group," he continued, "called the U.S. military. And that's as good as it gets as far as I'm concerned."

Most of the new citizens agreed on one thing – American citizenship opens up many new doors of opportunity, from voting to job openings. Alfred said she is



USARCENT area of responsibility, to give their Oath of Allegiance.

The new citizens represent 22 different nations, on five different continents – South America, North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

One of the African natives was Spc. Alkali Yaffa, a human resources specialist with the Minnesota National Guard. He was also among those who made the trip down from Iraq to become a U.S. citizen.

“I’m really proud,” said Yaffa. “It’s one of the biggest accomplishments of my life.”

Yaffa was born in Gambia, Africa, and moved to St. Paul, Minn., in 1997. He said becoming a citizen only fortifies the values instilled in him as a Soldier.

“My ideologies are the same,” he said, “but [becoming a citizen] just reinforces them.”

Major Gen. Dennis Hardy, USARCENT deputy commander focused on the rights, responsibilities and ideals of every American, while addressing the new citizens.

“A few things have stuck with me since I was a little boy,” he said. “Ideas of hope, of opportunity, the rights and responsibilities that we all have as Americans.”

“We really are a nation of immigrants,” he continued. “You all today represent a legacy – a legacy of people from other places. You all join that legacy which was built on the broad shoulders of many people from many nations.”

Top left: Staff Sgt. Alejandro Garay, a native of Mexico, gives his Oath of Allegiance before receiving his citizenship certificate in a ceremony on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Bottom right: Servicemembers applaud their comrades before they receive their certificates of citizenship in the naturalization ceremony.

ome Americans

looking forward to contributing in new ways.

“As in the military, this will open doors for me in the civilian world too,” she said. “There are certain jobs that I wouldn’t be able to get without it. I love America and what it stands for. I am proud to be an American.”

Alfred, who is planning on returning to her home of Boston, Mass., after the deployment, said there was another simple benefit of being a citizen.

“I won’t have to carry that alien residency card around anymore,” she said.

Along with Alfred, 30 others travelled to Arifjan from other areas in the



Camp Arifjan

HUNTING FOR PARTS

DEPOT DIVING WITH TACOM

Story and Photos by
Chuck Sprague
 PAO, Army Field Support Brigade

Out on the sandy "south-forty" of Camp Arifjan, there are hundreds of large open-ended boxes, continually moving through different yards full of what looks like junk. But to the Tank Armaments (Automotive) Command's Integrated Readiness and Management Team, it looks like treasure.

This cargo, usually in large cardboard boxes, approximately 4-foot by 4-foot, arrives around the clock from Iraq. The contractor, CSI, is responsible for it and must ensure the cargo keeps moving.

The team captures parts that would go un-noticed and end up in the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office yard, or wait in the desert for a longer period of time for disposition.

The Integrate Readiness Management Team takes the best of the equipment and reports it to TACOM, which is responsible for about 90 percent of what the Soldiers touch, said team leader Rick Stanley, deployed from the TACOM headquarters in Warren, Mich.

The team supports TACOM's main item managers, the personnel responsible for TACOM's spare parts inventory worldwide.

"We work from a 30-page line item spread sheet; between 1300 and 1400 parts - a list that is updated as needed and pull parts from this list. We work closely with other teams such as the Aviation Missile Command (AMCOM) and Communications Electronics Command (CECOM) as one team. We alert them when we find their items and visa-versa," said team member Ron Cross, deployed from Fort Eustis, Va.

We receive the list monthly that have requirements from various Army depots in the states. We find the parts from the list, clean them, grade them and send them to the various depots, said Stanley.

Stanley said the team recently received a critical request for specific parts for an assembly line at Fort Lewis, Wash.

"We provided them at least \$750,000 worth of parts in the last three days and have another two boxes of parts we'll ship out next week," said Stanley. "On top of that, we've retrieved another \$3 million worth of other needed Abrams parts, to send up to Balad."

We even find suspicious parts that aren't on our lists. We identify them and figure out whom to get the parts to. They are sent to where they can be used right now, rather than send them to a depot and have the local site order them, said Cross.



A view of boxes of spare parts and accessories shipped from Iraq to Camp Arifjan for possible repairs.

Camp Arifjan

WHY SO MANY PARTS?

Stanley said almost everything sent to Iraq, will at some point, leave Iraq in various states of condition. Parts are ordered by a unit at a certain location, then the unit moves to another location and the parts never catch up to them. Parts lose their shipping documents, and are then loaded to the boxes to come back to Kuwait as "frustrated cargo." Parts are also replaced at repair sites in Iraq and the used or faulty part are put on a junk shelf, or in a junk pile. Many of the parts arriving back in Kuwait fall into that category.

Stanley likens the process to the airlines industry as an example of IRMT's mission.

Imagine in your mind a giant stateside international airport, with thousands of suitcases traveling on rubber conveyor belts moving to different locations where they are dumped in a holding area for a specific flight. Most of the luggage makes the intended flight; however, some luggage didn't get on the conveyor in time and missed the flight.

Other bags may have lost their tags and there's human error. Maybe the clerk mislabeled the luggage tag, or the suitcase was damaged as it traveled through the system. The luggage that ends up where it shouldn't be is then sent



Ron Cross (right), a DoD contractor, shows a list of needed parts during a TACOM inventory, as Rick Stanley looks on.

to a central area, where each airline will go through this luggage as their passengers report missing bags. They'll look for identifying marks, name tags or luggage tags trying to resolve the "frustrated" luggage.

"Consider our team one of the airlines. We have clients here that have specific parts they want back. CECOM and AMCOM would be other airlines looking for their client's cargo," said Stanley.



Ron Cross (right) and Sam Hickerson, DoD contractors, inspect a power junction box to an Abrams tank, to see if it can be repaired and reused.

Camp Arifjan

ARMY EQUIPMENT DETECTIVES

THE TEAM THAT KEEPS ACCOUNTABILITY OF THEATER PROVIDED EQUIPMENT

Story and Photos by

Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II
Desert Voice Staff Writer

In the early stages of the Global War on Terrorism, the Army Reserve left behind equipment for follow-on units to use in an effort to cut down on deployment time and shipping costs. This equipment came to be known as Stay Behind Equipment, and later Theater Provided Equipment.

As the war continued, active units and units from other services and agencies began to utilize this equipment as well. The paperwork trails that accompanied the equipment transfers were either misplaced or not completed at all. So many units used TPE that it got to the point where the exact origin of the equipment became unclear or unknown. Who became responsible for equipment that no one owned?

That's where Lt. Col. Andrea A. Breyton and her team come in.

For the past three years, the Army Reserve has deployed a Redeployment, Reconstitution, and Asset Visibility Team to capture and document all USAR-owned equipment and to provide greater asset visibility of their equipment in the AOR, she said.

The current team, led by Breyton, arrived in November 2005 and is a six-member team that has split-duty at Camp Arifjan and the Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.

"Our team works in conjunction with (ARCENT) C-3 and C-4. C-4 helps us with tracking the equipment and we work C-3 with Mission Essential Equipment List (MEEL) issues," said Breyton, a Vancouver, Wash., resident. C-3 and C-4 then advise the Department of the Army on how to better direct unit transfers, she added.

The team has several missions. First, they start by establishing communications with deploying units and securing a list of equipment they will bring to theater. Second, when a unit is preparing to redeploy, the team ensures that the unit has either their original equipment which was



Maj. Peter Mueller and Sgt. Maj. Craig Black investigate files in search of equipment transfers. The six-member team has split-duty at Camp Arifjan and Victory Base in Baghdad.

brought into theater, or the paperwork showing a transfer of TPE to the Army Materiel Command, which maintains accountability of the equipment when no unit is using it. And third, they research undocumented equipment transfers from the first two OIF rotations. Finally, the team also educates units in property accountability and managing property books while in theater, said Sgt. Major Jonna Pittman, the U.S. Army Reserve Command G4 sergeant major, in Atlanta, Ga.

Since the team was established, they have tracked and provided accountability for more than \$1 billion worth of equipment, including fuel distribution systems, trucks, tractors, trailers, water purification systems, laundry and bath equipment, graders and a wide variety of medical, engineering and transportation equipment, Breyton said.

In addition to saving the Army money, Breyton said she enjoys her time as chief of the team.

"This job is like cold case files; we use the Army's resources to find out about these undocumented transfers. It's been fun. I work with reserve units while deployed and have a better understanding of how the Army manages its equipment," she said.

By capturing and documenting TPE, Breyton and the six-person team provides valuable information that directly feeds into the DA management system.

This ensures that the Reserve units will receive equipment for the equipment transferred to other components, services or agencies. Breyton will be the first to say that this is a mission that is ongoing.

"Any units that have questions about the origin of their TPE or about property accountability should contact us," she said.

If your unit has a question for the RRAV team, please contact Lt. Col. Andrea A. Breyton at andrea.breyton@arifjan.arcent.army.mil or call 318-430-6157.

60 candles for National Guardsman

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW PAO

Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State, and Kuwait has a true example as to why.

When the state's Army National Guard unit was tasked to mobilize in February, Army Chief Warrant Officer-5 Ricky Goodrich raised his hand and said he would go if they needed him.

"They came up short one body, so I volunteered to come," said Goodrich, now stationed at an Air Force base in Kuwait. "I really wanted to get over here and be part of the fight. My commander said with all of my experience that I could be a big help to them, so here I am."

The 38-year military veteran is here serving with the U.S. Army Aviation Task Force C-12 Detachment, working alongside USARCENT. Now halfway done with his six-month tour, Chief Goodrich will celebrate his 60th birthday June 26.

"I thought it would be neat to turn 21 in Vietnam and turn 60 here," he said. "And I've really enjoyed my time here. The leadership here is great and it's been nice to work

Chief Goodrich even found time

to referee a basketball game at the Rock Fitness Center on the base recently, and he helps train more than 25 boxers for base Fight Night boxing matches.

"I'm an old prize fighter and I love working with those kids," he said. "They beat up on me pretty good."

In Tennessee Chief Goodrich is the command chief warrant officer for the Tennessee Army National Guard headquarters. He is the primary advisor to the adjutant general on all warrant officer issues and technical systems.

"I have a real rewarding job back home," he said. "We have 300 warrant officers and we cover every career field in the Army."

Throughout this 38-year career, Chief Goodrich has served in the infantry, logistics, maintenance and medical career fields.

Chief Goodrich was originally drafted in 1968 to serve in Vietnam. After returning to the states he went back and finished college and then took a part-time job with the National Guard.

"I went to the guard part-time and never left," he said. "And I'm still here."



Hometown Hero

Spc. Melissa Stauffer
449th Aviation Supply Brigade
CH-47 Chinook mechanic

Stauffer is with the Ohio National Guard, attached to the Texas National Guard for her current deployment. She repairs and maintains CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

Talks about what she misses about her hometown, Hudson, Ohio

"I love jogging and there's a nice little lake around (Hudson) I jog around. It's cool in the summertime."

Just One Question...

What quality should every good leader have?



"Confidence."

Spc. Joshua Agee
2-135 General Support
Aviation Battalion
Denver, Colo.



"They need to be decisive and have good judgement."

Maj. Javid Heravi
105th Engineering Group
Winston-Salem, N.C.



"You should be able to take care of your troops without a lot of hassle."

Staff Sgt. Jerome Jenkins
1-7th Artillery Regiment
Talladega, Ala.



"Good morale values."

Spc. Hector Reyes
1-7th Artillery Regiment
Dade City, Fla.



"Efficient. No matter what the task, he should be able to get the job done."

Staff Sgt. Willie Thomas
1-131st Aviation Battalion
Montgomery, Ala.

Camp Buehring

Announcement

PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Today, more than ever, Americans are facing constant attacks on their personal and financial information due to upgraded technology. Protecting your private information without risk of being compromised may seem impossible.

10 simple steps TO DETER IDENTIFY THEFT

- 1. Destroy private records and statements.** Shred or tear up all credit card statements and other documents that contain personal and financial information.
- 2. Secure your mail.** Ensure you check your mailbox everyday, install a lock or purchase a P.O. Box in order to avoid theft of personal information.
- 3. Safeguard your social security number.** Never carry your social security card with you, or any identification that contains your social security number. Whenever possible, request your social security number not be displayed on your driver's license, bank cards or checks.
- 4. Never leave a paper trail.** Don't leave ATM, credit card or gas station receipts behind.
- 5. Never let your credit card out of your sight.** Always keep an eye on your card or when possible, pay cash. If your card is lost or stolen, report it immediately.
- 6. Know who you are dealing with.** If anyone asks you for your private identity or financial information, ask for the company information and tell them you will contact them.
- 7. Take your name off marketers' lists.** Contact the Do-Not-Call registry (1-888-382-1222) to immediately cut back on junk mail and opt out of credit card solicitations.
- 8. Be more defensive with your personal information.** When dealing with companies who require social security and/or driver's license numbers, arrange for the organization not to share your personal information.
- 9. Monitor your credit report.** Obtain and review your report regularly.
- 10. Review your credit card statement carefully.** Make sure you recognize the merchants, locations and purchase list prior to paying your bill. Consider closing credit card accounts that you don't frequently use.

THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES CAN ASSIST YOU IN PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT, CLOSING ACCOUNTS AND REQUESTING ALERTS.

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PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

EXPERIAN

To report fraud: 1-88-EXPERIAN (397-3742)
PO Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013

TRANSUNION

To report fraud: 1-800-680-7289
Fraud Victim Assistance Divisions,
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