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# DPW improves roads, plants

Spc. Petersi Liu, CFLCC-PAO

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** - From September to October, the local department of public works has undertaken numerous beautification projects to enrich the quality of life for servicemembers stationed here.

For example, the Army Reserve's 770th Engineer Company of Pennyan, N.Y., has put gravel on the roadsides and paved roads to improve safety for both pedestrians and drivers.

"We are paving roads and graveling roadsides to prepare for rainy days, which happen a few weeks out of a year here. On the side of the paved road (that separates Zone 1 from Zone 2), you could see that it had eroded," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Pacola, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the 770th.

Run-off water from the rains earlier this year added to the problem and passing traffic blowing unpaved roadside dust caused some of the erosion.

When water seeped underneath the road, it gouged openings underneath the road that led to cracks and cave-ins. To prevent this type of road deterioration, the 770th trucked tons of gravel to cover the roadside to hold the sand underneath in place, Pacola said.

"The gravel prevents sand from going airborne in the wind, too," said Pacola. "That will be a welcome relief to servicemembers who cross the road



Servicemembers walk pass the plants on their way to the Zone 2 dining facility. (Photo by Spc. Petersi Liu)

on windy days."

Before the 5,200-foot-by-100-foot roadside was graveled, people could see a trail of dust from passing vehicles from afar and it made visibility a problem, said Sgt. Benjamin Culver, a light construction equipment operator attached to the 770th.

"Trucks and people frequent this road. Barriers were placed at the intersection so traffic would slow down. The graveling of the roadside lessens the amount of dust clouding the pedestrian crosswalk," Culver said.

There are other projects that add to the pleasant view of pedestrians. For instance, across from the main road is the camp's main headquarters building, where sod was recently laid on the yard where the flagpoles stand.

DPW contracted Gulf Palms General Trade & Construction Company to plant grasses and trees, said Mohammad Emran Hossain, a worker of the Kuwaiti company.

Standing near the flagpoles, Hossain pointed to the trees located at the Zone 2 dining facility approximately 150 yards away.

The trees were planted in front of

the entrance and along a side of the building. Those trees will last for years to come, Hossain said.

Servicemembers were pleasantly surprised when they saw trees on their way to meals.

"It reminds me of Florida," said Sgt. Latanya Thomas, an awards administrative noncommissioned officer of the 377th Theater Support Command, a Reserve unit from New Orleans, La.

"No one told me about the project (tree planting). I arrived to work and the trees were there," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Clark, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the Zone 2 DFAC. "It improves the morale of people who come through here."



Spc. Joshua Janish, a heavy construction equipment operator of the 770th Engineer Company, uses a bulldozer to spread gravel. (Photo by Spc. Petersi Liu)



Mohammad Emran Hossain, a worker of the Gulf Palms General Trade & Construction Company, waters the sod laid in front of the headquarters building of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photo by Spc. Petersi Liu)



## Spotlight

# Holiday mailing deadlines approach

By Maj. Bobby Hart

*With the holiday season rapidly approaching, servicemembers and their families who want to send gifts through the mail should remember a few key dates to ensure letters and packages are delivered before Christmas.*

*Servicemembers should make every effort to adhere to the following deadlines and mail no later than Nov. 6 for parcel post, Nov. 13 for parcels going space available, Nov. 26 for parcel airlift mail and Dec. 4 for letters, cards or priority mail. It is also important to remind family members of the deadlines for gifts being sent from the United States to soldiers deployed overseas.*

*"We process more than a million pounds of mail into Iraq and half a million pounds into Kuwait every week," said Lt. Col. Robert Howard, Theater Postal Operations director for the 3rd PERSCOM. "We expect those numbers to either double or triple during the holidays."*

*Howard said plans are underway to handle the surge in mail. "We have already augmented postal units in order to process the additional mail," he said. "We're also planning to fly mail to some additional APO (Army Post Office) addresses instead of trucking it to speed up the process."*

*Postal officials also have some suggestions for when gifts arrive to ensure items have not been damaged during shipping.*

*Upon receipt of an insured parcel with gifts that won't be opened until Christmas, military postal officials recommend that you keep the wrapper, container and packaging material in the event, when opened, a gift has been damaged.*

*To file an indemnity claim on a damaged article, the following items must be presented as evidence to your local APO:*

- *The damaged article.*
- *The wrapper or container showing the names and addresses of the sender and the addressee and the insured endorsement or label.*
- *Packaging and mailing container.*

*Postal workers warn that if only the wrapper is presented, indemnity can be limited to \$100.*

*Being away for the holidays will be tough enough on servicemembers and their families. A little pre-planning can ensure that the separation isn't worsened by promised gifts not arriving on time.*

### Mailing Deadlines

*Nov. 6--Parcel post*

*Nov. 13--Space available mail parcels*

*Nov. 26--Parcel airlift mail*

*Dec. 4...First class letters/  
Cards/priority*



## Soldier Talk

What is the best deal you've found at the Arifjan bazaar?



*The commemorative plates will last a long time and help me to remember this place.*

**-Maj. Mark Hughes**  
377th TSC



*I got a watch, earrings, and a necklace for my wife.*

**-Pfc. Edward Beierschmitt**  
58th QM



*Definitely the music -- the band is great.*

**-Sgt. 1st-Class Alson Carter**  
377th TSC



*The watches. You can get some good copies of watches cheap.*

**-Pfc. Christopher Williams**  
104th Trans



*They have great deals on purses like a Louie Vutton for \$20.*

**-1st Lt. Earl Filmore**  
194th Trans



*I got a necklace and a bracelet for my daughter.*

**-Spc. LaTravis Glover**  
58th QM

## News Briefs



### Reserve CSM visits troops

(above) The ninth and first female command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve, Command Sergeant Major Michele S. Jones, addresses concerns of more than 40 sergeants major at a meeting in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

(right) Jones addresses concerns from soldiers of the 359th Transportation Battalion at the Kuwait Naval Base. The primary concerns were military school attendances, promotions and redeployment. (photos by Spc. Petersi Liu)



### Blackouts affect more than convoys

Some soldiers still seem confused over the tactical vehicle blackout periods that are in effect in Kuwait. Kuwaiti officials were concerned about the number of convoys and additional traffic that are on their highways during the times school children are being transported. Coalition officials responded by banning all tactical vehicle traffic between the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday. The blackout applies to individual tactical vehicles--including Humvees--as well as convoys. All entry control points will prohibit tactical vehicles from leaving a facility within 45 minutes prior to any blackout period.

### No number set for base closings

WASHINGTON - (From Military.com) The Pentagon will take a creative approach to shrinking its military base structure, but it has not yet set targets for the number of bases to be closed, a senior official said Tuesday. Larry Di Rita, chief spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said the secretary has not instructed his staff to reduce the base structure by any specific percentage, although Rumsfeld often has said studies show a 20 percent to 25 percent surplus of base capacity. Di Rita disputed a news report Tuesday that Rumsfeld plans to close at least 100 bases. "Nobody's looking at numbers of bases," he said. "We're looking at capacity, and there are a lot of different ways you can achieve capacity reductions," other than outright closures.

### Footlockers ok'd for mailing

A new CFLCC directive indicates that footlockers are now considered mailable containers. The footlockers must arrive at the post office open and ready for inspection. APOs will do a 100 percent inspection for contraband items. After being inspected, footlockers will be sealed with zip ties or locks. A lock is allowed only if the key or combination is firmly affixed and visible on the outside of the footlocker. Officials recommend the use of zip ties. All routing information must be securely taped to the outside. It is recommended to include copies of paperwork in the footlocker. Duffel bags still are NOT mailable at this time.



**ONE STAR PROMOTION** - Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan, CG of CFLCC, congratulates Brig. Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead, III, forward commander of the 143rd, in his promotion ceremony Oct. 18 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photo by Maj. Bobby Hart)



(Photo by Spc. Petersi Liu)



(Photo by Spc. Petersi Liu)



(photo by Maj. Bobby Hart)



(Photo by Spc. Petersi Liu)



(Photo by Maj. Bobby Hart)

**Zone 2 Bazaar  
weekend with  
camel rides, bands, jewelries,  
watches, clothes and all kinds  
of souvenirs**

## Bon Temps

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