

# *Desert Voice*

**"A line has been drawn in the sand...  
Withdraw from Kuwait  
unconditionally and immediately,  
or face the terrible consequences."**

**-- President George Bush, Sr.  
Gulf War Remarks  
January 5, 1991**



**Kuwait Liberation Day  
13 years later**

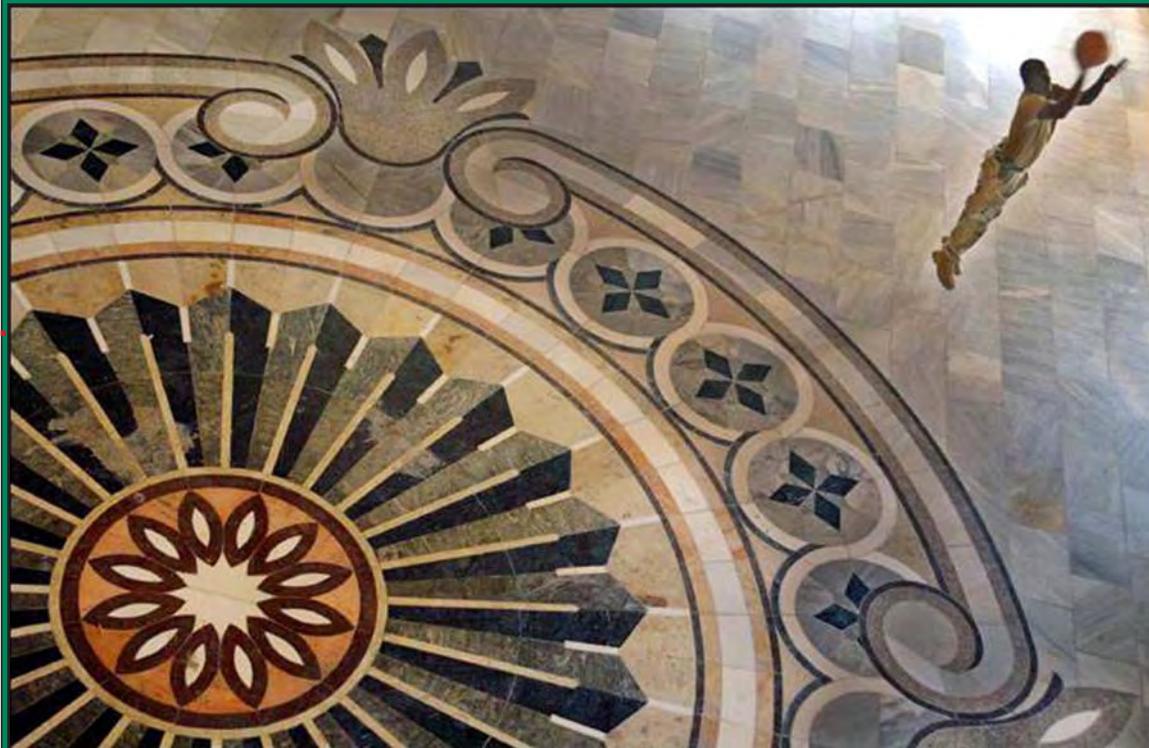
**FREE CALENDAR**

## INSPIRATION

*“Truly God commands you to give back trusts to those to whom they are due; and when you judge between people, to judge with justice ...”*  
-- Qur'an, 4:58



*Just having a ball...*



AP photo

*A U.S. servicemember takes a moment to 'shoot some hoops' in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces. Though they work to ensure the road to a new government in Iraq is a smooth one, servicemembers also have the chance to do something others don't get a chance to -- playing in a palace.*

**Third Army/U.S. ARCENT/  
CFLCC commanding general**

Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan

**Third U.S. Army/U.S. ARCENT/CFLCC  
command sergeant major**

Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Sparks

**ARCENT-KU commander**

Col. Ulysses S. Brown Jr.

**ARENT-KU command sergeant major**

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold L. Gill

**Commander 13th PAD/CI chief**

Maj. John Clearwater

john.clearwater@kuwait.army.mil

**Managing editor**

Staff Sgt. Eric Brown

eric.brown2@kuwait.army.mil

**Editor**

Spc. Marc Loi

marc.loi@kuwait.army.mil

**Journalists**

Spc. Karima L. Mares

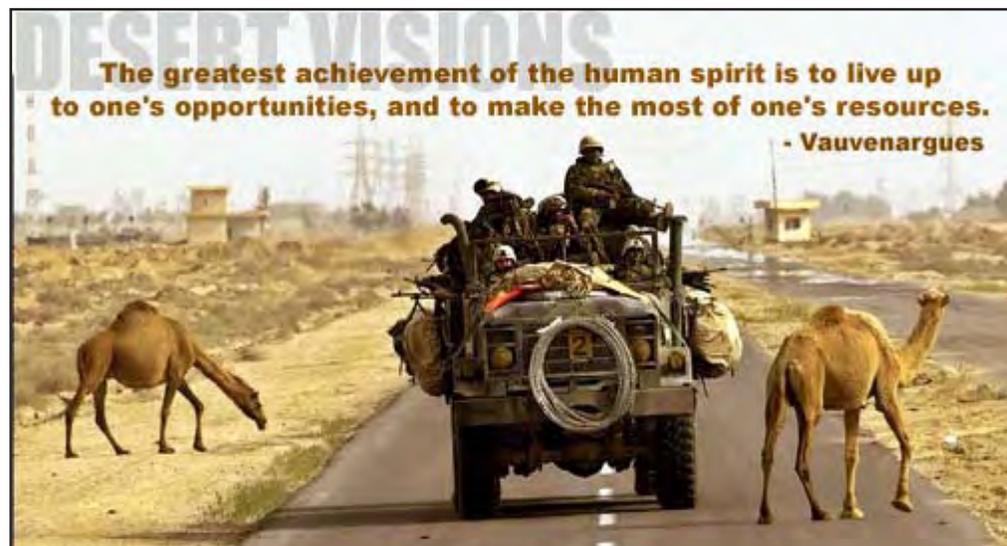
karima.mares@kuwait.army.mil

Spc. Blake Deimund

blake.deimund@kuwait.army.mil

**The Desert Voice staff welcomes your  
story suggestions and photos.**

**E-mail them to us at the above e-mail  
addresses or call us at 438-6256.**



**The greatest achievement of the human spirit is to live up  
to one's opportunities, and to make the most of one's resources.**

**- Vauvenargues**

*Want your name in the paper?  
Submit for the photo of the  
week and you might be!  
E-mail all photos to  
marc.loi@kuwait.army.mil for  
consideration.*

### Correction

*The Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Desert Voice, article, "MOUT trains servicemembers for door to door ..." erroneously identified MOUT system operator as Bob Owens. His name is David Smith. The DV staff apologizes for this error.*

### Humor goes a long way...

**Jerry Sienfeld tells this story  
about his father, Kal, a salesman:**

**"I used to go with him on his sales  
calls and watch him make the customers  
laugh. If he could makethem laugh, they  
would always buyfrom him. So I learned  
you can makepeople do what you want if  
you're funny."**

*Camel Tracks*

Photo by Maj. John Clearwater, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

**Thirteen years later, destroyed Iraq armor continues to rust away  
while slowly being buried beneath the drifting sands of Kuwait..**

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Volume 25, Number 15

# Kuwait's Big Apple is back!

Story by Spc. Marc Loi

Photo by. Maj. John Clearwater

13th Public Affairs Detachment

**A**fter three months of not having any visitors, New York is starting to fill its vacancy again.

But don't come here to look for the Statue of Liberty or Madison Avenue; the only symbols of America here are men and women in military uniforms and a post office; the only place to shop here is the Post Exchange.

Camp New York, Kuwait, was rebuilt in early December to provide support, services and lodgings for servicemembers coming through the Kuwait Theater of Operation during the rotation of troops, which began in January and will last through May.

The camp also served the same purpose prior to the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After the end of major conflicts was announced, Army officials shut down the camp because it was no longer mission essential.

Though situated in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert, the camp boasts all the amenities a person would need to live in New York City, including a 1,000-seat dining facility, 9,500 beds, 21 shower trailers, 318 portable restrooms and 110 trash dumpsters. Heaters and air conditioners are also available and are run by power generators.

The camp also has a mayor, and though he's no Michael Bloomberg, mayor Raul Ramirez, a U.S. Army major, said the pride in the camp's name is just the same.

"We take great pride in knowing that we represent both New York City and the people of the state. It brings a lot of pride to the people working here in this camp," said Ramirez, of Corpus Christi, Texas. "This is a small town, with a post office, medical facilities, finance. Almost everything the Soldier needs is here."

Just like running New York City, or perhaps even any other small towns, the challenge in running Camp New York is

getting the support of different leadership, Ramirez said.

"The biggest challenge is interfacing with the leadership of our customer units – getting the leadership on our side so the camp (properly) functions. It has to be a mutually supporting relationship," he said.

This includes getting the support from smaller communities to pitch in to events that involved Morale, Welfare and Recreation, keeping Camp New York clean and protecting its residents.

"We have to ask the tenant units to chip in with manpower for a number of 'self-help' activities," he said. "They contribute people for such services as force protection, the DFAC, enforcing field sanitation, even bagging at AAFES when the lines get long."

But to run a city is one thing, and to build a city is another. Like Rome and New York City, Camp New York wasn't built in one day – but compared to the mentioned cities, Camp New York was built in much quicker time – 1.5 months.

Most of the time spent wasn't to rebuild the city, but to coordinate with different contractors to bring in tents and other equipment to provide comfort to the Soldiers, said Maj. David Arellano, project engineer for the facility engineering team here.

Just as quickly as Camp New York sprung up, it will also disappear just as quickly. By May, the camp will no longer be needed and will be shut down again, Arellano said. Should there come a need to use Camp New York again, the Big Apple of Kuwait will be brought back up.

But for now, Camp New York is up and running. Much like the citizens of New York City, the servicemembers of Camp New York will persist and endure.

"We think of ourselves as a flag ship camp, with a connection to the attacks of 9-11," Ramirez said.

"Our feeling is you can take us down, but you can't keep us down." 



## From the desk of New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

*Dear Maj. Ramirez and the  
soldiers of Camp New York:*

*Congratulations to Maj. Raul  
Ramirez and his staff on the reopening  
of Camp New York.*

*You have worked hard to provide a  
safe and welcoming environment for the  
thousands of troops deploying in Iraq.*

*Your efforts, as well as the efforts  
of Soldiers in the other camps through-  
out Kuwait, have a tremendous impact  
on Operation Iraqi Freedom by the  
essential services you provide our  
young men and women serving so far  
away from home.*

*America is proud of you, and I am  
truly grateful for all your efforts and  
sacrifices you have made on behalf of  
our great nation.*

*I take great pride in our troops –  
they are the best that the world has ever  
seen. Thank you for your dedication to  
duty. You are in our thoughts and  
prayers.*

*Hillary Rodham Clinton*

**Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator**



**"Much Obligated, America & Allies  
GOD Bless You ALL.."  
From The People Of Kuwait**



"I was a child when the Iraqis invaded Kuwait, but what my parents tell me is that the United States was the first to come and free Kuwait. The Americans are helpful people."

-- Hisham Khalid  
Student



"What I see is that American soldiers are very polite, and seem to care for others. I think the U.S. Army is very good and has much respect for other cultures."

-- Ahmad Al Dhafari  
Kuwaiti media



"I think Americans are good people, and special friends of Kuwait. Especially for helping liberate us in 1991. I think they are helping people in Iraq and Muslims everywhere."

-- Mashal Al Anzi  
Kuwaiti Land Forces



"American people in Kuwait are good. If U.S. soldiers were not here, I would die here because otherwise Iraq would have attacked us again."

-- Adhil Al Fareh  
Sabah Student



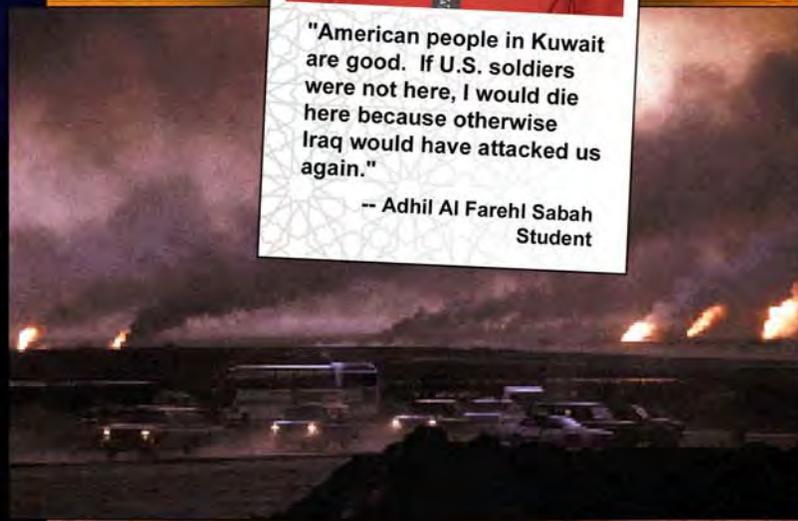
"I think without the American people we could not take back control of our country. We like the Americans very much for their help here."

-- Ahmad Al Yagout  
Grocery store manager



**KUWAIT CITY**

**Satellite Imagery of over 200 oil wells set ablaze by Iraqi forces**



# Ten things you've always wanted to know about Kuwait, but were afraid to ask ...

**1 Kind of Like the Garden State:** Kuwait is slightly smaller than New Jersey. About two million people live here, but only about 800,000 are actual Kuwaitis. The rest are Third Country Nationals who fill most of the service-oriented jobs. The government employs 92 percent of Kuwaiti citizens, which, in effect, guarantees employment for all Kuwaiti citizens. It also provides a generous housing subsidy for all citizens.

**2 Saving for the Future:** With more than 10% of the world's estimated oil reserves, about 96.5 billion barrels, Kuwait is a leading exporter. However, knowing all good things must end, Kuwait has set up the "Fund for Future Generations" in which 10% of its oil income every year goes into savings. In 2000, that savings account was worth about \$50 billion.

**3 Most Kuwaitis are Sunni Muslims.** About 25% of citizens are Shia Muslims. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by law and foreigners practice Islam and Christianity and other religions. There are several Christian churches in Kuwait.

**4 Sheikhs Rule:** Settled by Arab tribes in the early 18th cent., Kuwait has been ruled since its inception by the Al-Sabah dynasty. Since gaining independence from Great Britain in 1961, it has used some of Kuwaitis enormous profits for social improvements. For example, some of world's largest and most sophisticated desalination plants provide much of the water for Kuwait. The emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah, in power since 1977, is the head of the government.

**5 Family Matters:** Kuwaitis keep very close family ties. Kuwaiti families are usually quite large, with very close ties. Almost everybody knows each other within a few degrees of separation, and traceable by their names. An Arab person's given name is followed by the names of his father and grandfather and then the family name. Unlike other Gulf Arabs, who use bin or ibn ("son of") in their names to denote blood relationships, Kuwaitis use the article al ("the"). Take, for example, the name of the current Emir: Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Which says: Jaber, son of Ahmed, grandson of Jaber, of the Sabah family.

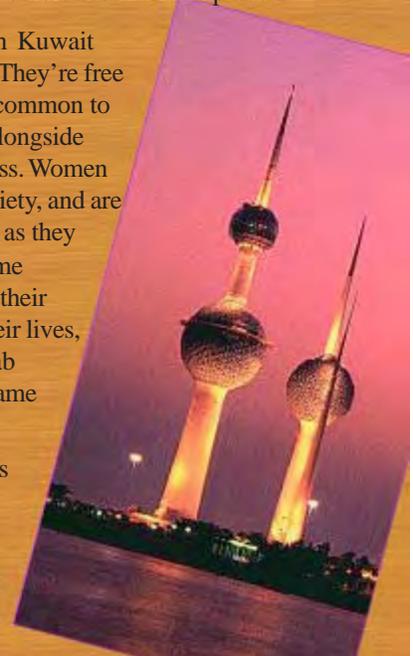
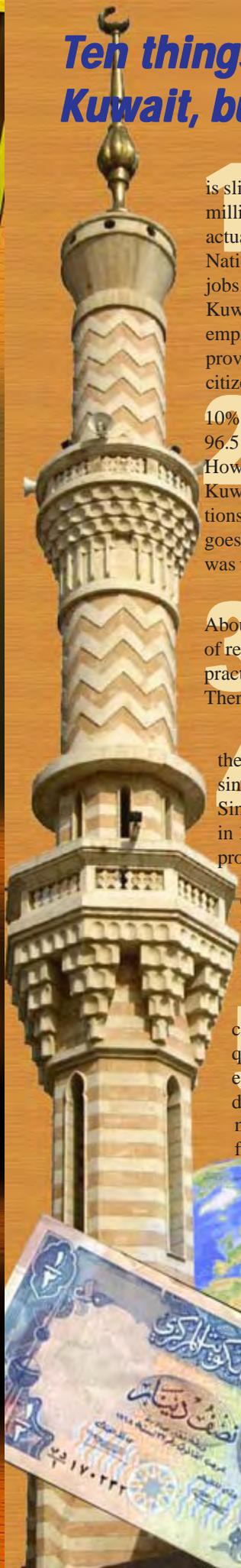
**6 Out & About:** Kuwait is expensive; a typical day here could cost you \$65 for food and beverages. With the exception of fish, Kuwait has to import all of its food. The locals are big shoppers and smart shoppers; they tend to shop everyday in the evenings after the temperature drops. Kuwait Towers have become the most famous landmark in the country. These three unique towers have a dual function as both entertainment facilities and water reservoirs. The upper sphere of the main tower has a revolving observation deck with a cafeteria that gives a panoramic view of Kuwait City and the Arabian Gulf. The top half of the lower sphere houses three excellent restaurants, while the bottom section is a one million gallon water reservoir.

**7 Weekend Getaways:** Driving around Kuwait, you'll see a lot of desert tents. Kuwaitis like to spend time outdoors, and enjoy spending weekends and holidays, especially in the cooler months, camping with their families. By the way, Thursday and Friday are the official weekdays here in the Arab world. Traditional food is based on rice. Each family has their own way of making traditional meals. One of the most common, and most Kuwaiti, is machbous, which is saffron rice topped with either chicken or lamb, and served with a tomato sauce.

**8 Loose Is Cool:** The dishdasha is the traditional long-sleeved garment that goes to the ankles, with a loose pair of pants underneath. The men usually wear white cotton dishdasha's in the summer, and darker, more woolen ones in the winter. The head apparel is the kahfiya, a small, round knit head covering, that goes on the head first. Next comes the khitra, which is a large piece of cloth, either white (for summer), or red and white checkered (for winter), which is folded diagonally and placed over the kahfiya. Finally, a firm circular piece called the igal, is placed on the head to hold the khitra in place.

**9 Good Drivers, Too.** Women in Kuwait have many of the same rights as men. They're free to drive and dress as they please. It's common to see women dressed in western attire alongside women wearing traditional Islamic dress. Women are active in all aspects of Kuwaiti society, and are free to go out and travel on their own, as they please. Women's names follow the same pattern as men's, and women maintain their given and family names throughout their lives, regardless of marital status (i.e., an Arab woman does not take her husband's name upon marriage).

**10 Happy You're Here.** Kuwaitis think of Americans as great friends, and have a deep appreciation for the coalition who helped liberate them from Iraqi forces in 1991.



# A Desert Sol

*Here in the desert sand  
God Bless the corners of this tent  
And Bless each Soldier here  
And Bless the cots and Bless the plots  
And Bless each mission clear.*

*And Bless each tent flap that opens wide  
to soldiers one and all.*

*And Bless each plastic window pane  
That fills the tent with light  
And Bless the tent top overhead,  
And Bless every cotton wall  
And Bless the floor and Bless the door  
And Bless the boots that march to war.*

MARCH, 2004

1	2	3	4	5	6 Full Moon ○ "Remember the Alamo," 1836	7	8 Purim	9
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 New Moon ● Spring Begins	21	22	23	24

# *Soldier's Prayer*

*And Bless the prayer the soldiers say  
Bring Peace from God to us who dwell  
Here in the Middle East  
Give us the strength and might to fight  
the Evils of this world.*

*And Bless each soldier stationed here  
Give him the courage to stand tall  
And give him the faith that victory is near  
And give him the comfort and peace that is dear  
Help him to feel the Power of God's Love  
Here in the desert sand.*

*— By Major Sharon K. Simpson, Camp Wolverine*

10	11	12	13	14	15
					Andrew Jackson, 1767

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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We will not falter.  
We will not fail.





# CAMP KUWAIT LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

## Upcoming events

### Camp Arifjan

**Wednesday**

**Country Night, 7 p.m.,**  
Community Center

**Thursday**

**Bid Whist tournament, 7 p.m.,**  
Community Center

**Friday**

**Volleyball League sign-up cutoff.**  
**Roots Television Mini-series, Part V, 7**  
p.m. Community Center

**Saturday**

**Country Night with hot dog eating**  
contest,

1 p.m., Community Center

**Softball tournament, 6 p.m., gym**

**Monday**

**Women History Month display, all day,**  
library

**Unit Level Volleyball, 6 p.m., gym.**

**Tuesday**

**Unit Level Volleyball, 6 p.m., gym.**

### Camp Doha

**Wednesday**

**Mardi Gras, games, food and dancing**  
7 p.m., Uncle Frosty's.

**Thursday**

**Remember to sign up for the volleyball**  
tournament at the Marble Palace.

**Play videos games and watch movies at**  
Frosty's,

facility opens 2 p.m., Uncle Frosty's

**Saturday**

**Darts tournament, 7 p.m., Uncle Frosty's**

**Black History Month Program and**  
**Dinner, 7 p.m., Marble Palace**

**Sunday**

**Spa Day, get manicures, pedicures and**  
massages for minimal prices

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Marble Palace

**Monday**

**Play videos games, Table Tennis, darts**  
and watch movies at Frosty's,

facility opens 2 p.m., Uncle Frosty's

**Volleyball tournaments begin.**

**Tuesday**

**Bingo night, 7 p.m., Uncle Frosty's.**

## Camp Doha Movies

Wednesday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Intolerable Cruelty Human Stain Honey
Thursday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Master and Commander Last Samurai Out of Time
Friday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Stuck on You Stuck on You Gothika
Saturday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Gothika Gothika Time Line
Sunday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Tupac Resurrection Last Samurai Love Don't Cost a Thing
Monday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Cat in a Hat Finding Nemo Human Stain
Tuesday	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Underworld The Missing Timeline Elf

## CAMP ARIFJAN MOVIES

Wednesday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	The Formula Bringing Down ...
Thursday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Snake Island Basic
Friday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Deuce Bigalow Rhapsody
Saturday	1 p.m. 6 p.m.	Picking Up Pieces Gold Coast
Sunday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Liberty Heights Windfall
Monday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Bad Company Three Strikes
Tuesday	6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Remember the Titans Reservoir Dogs



## CAMP ARIFJAN FACILITY

### ZONE I

**Red Cross**  
24 hours  
**Post Office**  
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**AAFES PX & shops**  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Food**  
**Concessions**  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Green Beans**  
**Café**  
7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### ZONE II

**Dry Cleaner**  
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Food**  
**Concessions**  
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Hol-N-One**  
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Club Mirage**  
1 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 12 p.m.;  
Fri., Sat.

### Self-Service Center

7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
& 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.;

### ZONE I & II

**Laundry**  
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.,  
closed Fri.  
**Gym**  
24 hours  
**Pool**  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Community Club**  
1 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Theater**  
5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

*This week's entertainment:  
Sightseeing in Kuwait ...*



Want to make the most of your time in Kuwait? Now you can. Local shopping malls and water parks are just two of the places CFLCC Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Department will take servicemembers stationed at Camp Doha and surrounding desert camps.

The catch? You need to have at least nine other people traveling with you and the MWR at your camp needs at least four days notice to properly coordinate for transportation.

Trips take place every day except Fridays, and the best day to schedule the trips is Thursday, when Kuwait is less busy than most other days, said Nicholas Turner, CFLCC MWR representative.

The best experiences in Kuwait, according

Turner, are probably the gold – which are often sold at cheaper prices than in the United States.

If shiny objects don't excite you, perhaps a refreshing swim at local water parks will. Judging from last summer's turn out, Turner said swimming facilities will also be hot spots.

"It was big last year," said Turner. "It was hard for units to book trips to these places."

Aside from serving as a cool getaway, especially during the hot months in Kuwait, the trips also raises morale, according to one Soldier.

Beverley Craft, a senior noncommissioned officer attached to CFLCC, said such trips allow Soldiers to get away from the daily monotony of deployments, and if given the opportunities, Soldiers should take the trips.

Convinced? Want to go on the trip? Excited about seeing Kuwait?

Call your local camp MWR offices for more details.

(Story by Spc. Marc Loi, 13th Public Affairs Detachment)



## This week's contributor



Maj. Sharon K. Simpson wrote the poem, "A Desert Soldier's Prayer." An Air Force nurse, 934<sup>th</sup> Air Reserve Squadron, Simpson is just finishing one-year of service in Southwest Asia. A resident of Chicago, Simpson is a civilian nurse, and freelance writer.



# Women's Cultural Day promotes diversity

*Kuwaiti, American women bond through cultural understanding, similiaries when the former visit counterparts at Arifjan*

Story and photo by Sgt. Vanessa M. Bagley  
348<sup>th</sup> Personnel Group

**I**n an effort to extend cultural understanding between female American Soldiers and their Kuwait hosts more than 200 Kuwaiti visited Camp Arifjan on Jan. 28.

The teachers and high school girls came from an activity camp to meet American female Soldiers for a career day coordinated through the Kuwait Scientific Center.

"We were told (the Kuwaiti girls) would be shy and reserved," said Maj. Karen Magruder, one of the key American organizers for the day's events.

"There was nothing reserved about that bunch!" she said with a laugh. "They drove up singing and waving flags."

The Kuwaiti girls traveled by bus to different sites on Camp Arifjan where Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians made presentations on military occupations for females.

"My first thought when I saw them getting off the bus was that they were so beautiful. They had great makeup, and

Al-Ajmi. "Because of the American military action movies I've seen, I expected the Soldiers wouldn't be so friendly."

The Kuwaiti and American women found much more to talk about than their careers.

"They learned about our country and we learned about theirs," said Spc. Ismenia M.

Abreu, administrative specialist, 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command civil affairs section.

"They've probably seen mostly negative stuff from their media about American Soldiers, and this was a chance for us to show them the positive," she said.

The Kuwaiti and American women ate lunch at the Zone 2 dining facility after finishing their tour of the camp.

They exchanged autographs and e-mail addresses between bites.

"We discovered that we were different, but we had a lot in common," said Magruder, who's attached to the 377<sup>th</sup> TSC. "Teenagers are still teenagers all over the world."

Everyone gathered back at the movie theater for final goodbyes, and the director of the Kuwaiti girls' activity camp awarded gifts to the American units who participated in the day's events.

"I don't know if we gave more or received more in our cultural exchange,"

Jordan said. "I respect their culture much more than I did before."

The day appeared to end much the same as it had begun, with the Kuwaiti girls singing and waving flags from their

buses.

It appeared much the same, but many people's perceptions of each other had changed.

The American and Kuwaiti women had reached a cultural understanding that was no longer based on impersonal television images, but in the friendships they had made that day. 



**DCUs and 'Westernized clothes with a Kuwaiti flair, yes, but Kuwaiti and American also found a common bond - sharing a laugh, during the Kuwaitis' visit to Camp Arifjan Jan. 28.**



**"Americans are nice people. They treat people here in Kuwait nicely, and appear to like Kuwait."**

**-- Rahma Khaleel  
Store clerk**

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***"We discovered that we were different, but we also had a lot in common."***

***-- Maj. Karen Magruder***

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they wore Westernized clothes with a Kuwaiti flair," said Pvt. Carol E. Jordan, 348<sup>th</sup> Personnel Group from New Orleans.

Sites were set up in Truckville, at the Army Materiel Command, in the medical clinic and at the airfield. Vehicles and equipment were on display at every stop.

"Everyone was so friendly," said visiting 15-year old Falemah Mohammed

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# THE KUWAITI MILITARY

## Branches of their military:

Army, Navy, Air Force (including Air Defense Force), National Police Force, National Guard, Coast Guard

## Major branches of the army are:

artillery, armor, infantry but also includes military police and special forces

## Military age:

volunteers 18 years of age (2003 est.), sign-up for 5 year tours

## Males fit for military service:

ages 15-49: 508,399 (2003 est.)

## Land Strength:

approximately 30,000

## Officers attend military

academy for 3 years before commissioned as a 2nd Lt.



## American Values...

### How a few words defined America during Operation Desert Storm

The morning of Feb. 28, 1991, about 30 minutes prior to the cease-fire, we had a T-55 tank in front of us and we were getting ready to engage it with a TOW. We had the TOW up and we were tracking him and my wingman saw him just stop and a head pop up out of it. And Neil started calling me saying, "Don't shoot, don't shoot! I think they're getting out of the tanks." And they did.

Three of them jumped off the tank and ran around a sand dune. The told my wingman, "I'll cover the tank, you go on down and check around the back side and see what's down there." He went down and found about 150 prisoners of war.

The only way we could handle that many was just to line them up and run them through a little gauntlet. We had to check them for weapons and stuff and we lined them up and called for the PW handlers to pick them up. It was just amazing.

We had to blow the tank up. My instructions were to destroy the tank, so I told them to go ahead and move it around the backside of the berm a little bit to safeguard us, so we wouldn't catch any shrapnel or ammunition coming off. When the tank blew up, these guys started yelling and screaming at my Soldiers, "Don't shoot us, don't shoot us," and one of my Soldiers said, "Hey, we're from America; we don't shoot our prisoners." That sort of stuck with me.



"We appreciate what the American people have done for us. They came for the Defense of Kuwait. The American people came to Kuwait to help."

-- Ahmad Al Hamam  
Flour mill supervisor

## Ten Phrases you should know in Arabic

1. **Asalamu a lay kum**  
Peace be upon you.
2. **Ma howa ismuk**  
What's your name?
3. **Ma howa al waqht**  
What time is it?
4. **Ma howa al Se'er**  
How much does it cost?
5. **Shes Salfa**  
What's going on or what's happening?
6. **Sabah al K'hair**  
Good morning!
7. **Matha Tal'emal**  
What are you doing?
8. **Kul am wa anta bek'hair**  
A Holiday greeting for all holidays.
9. **Wayne Al Ha'mam**  
Where's the restroom?
10. **Low sa' mah't**  
Please.



# DESERT STORM:

On July 17, 1990, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of flooding the world oil market. Specifically, he accused Kuwait for stealing oil from a disputed supply, the Rumaila oil field which ran beneath both countries, and thus waging "economic war" against Iraq. On August 2, 1990, Iraqi military forces invaded and occupied Kuwait.

U.S. involvement in the situation was immediate, as Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, met with then-Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney to request U.S. military assistance, and President George Bush condemned Iraq's actions. The United Nations passed a resolution calling for military action if Hussein did not withdraw his forces by January 15, 1991.

Iraq ignored all demands, and in response, a coalition of UN forces began immediately to build in Saudi Arabia. It would ultimately number 450,000 troops mainly from the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, France, Egypt and Syria.

On January 12, Congress granted President Bush the authority to wage war. Hostilities commenced on January 17, as the 36 members of the coalition forces, under the direction of American General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, initiated an air campaign to disable Iraq's communications, air defenses, and early warning radar installations.

At the start of the war, Iraq was the most effective military power in the

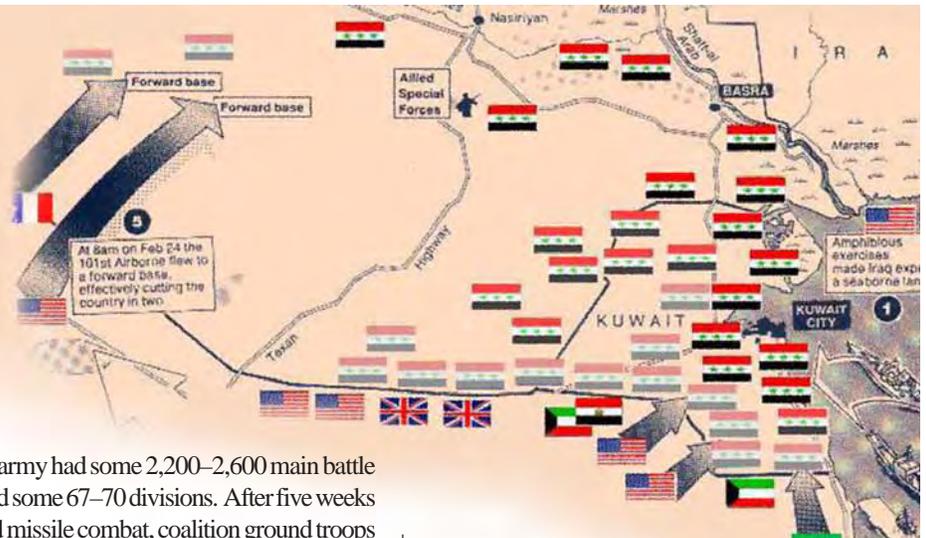
Gulf. Its army had some 2,200–2,600 main battle tanks, and some 67–70 divisions. After five weeks of air and missile combat, coalition ground troops began their campaign in Kuwait.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf's Central Command staff designed a ground-war strategy that caught Iraqi forces completely by surprise; a feinted assault up the middle, a simultaneous sweep of armored forces upon the Iraqi army's western flank, and multiple thrusts that surrounded the Iraqis from all sides. On February 27, coalition forces entered Kuwait City.

As coalition forces moved to completely cut off their last avenues of retreat, Allied leaders, including George Bush and Collin Powell determined that the Allied objective had been all but accomplished. The Iraqis had been turned out of their Kuwaiti conquest. On 28 February President Bush ordered the cessation of offensive military operations before the "Highway of Death" could be completely closed off. While the Iraqis and the Allies negotiated, the remaining Iraqi forces, including intact units of the elite Iraqi Republican Guard

streamed out of Kuwait.

The Gulf War reunited the American people and the military, helping to mend the wounds from the Vietnam War. Returning service members were welcomed back and faith in the military's effectiveness was restored. Still, the war was not without controversy — friendly fire accounted for almost a third of the over 200 Americans killed. (Source: Military.com)



## A LINE IN THE SAND



The Persian Gulf War was the largest ever deployment of women in uniform. Women made up 7 percent of the total force, with some 35,000 in the area. 15 women were killed, five by enemy fire; two women were captured.

One of those women was Maj. Rhonda Cornum, a U.S. Army flight surgeon on a search-and-rescue helicopter looking for a downed F-16 pilot on the last day of the war over the Iraqi desert when her Black Hawk 214 helicopter was shot down. She said, "I looked up and I saw five Iraqi guys with their rifles pointed at me. So then I knew I wasn't dead and I knew I was captured."

But with Rhonda having two broken arms and realizing that women are viewed in a different light in this part of the world, it made for a very scary as well as painful situation.

"...They realized I was a woman when they stood me up, and they started taking off my flak jacket on and my survival vest. Then they took off my helmet and all this long brown hair came out. I don't know what they said, but they were surprised."

Then they put her into a truck for a 30-minute ride in the dark, to Basra. She was molested on this trip. Even though she had a cut above her eye soaked with blood one of her captors unzipped her flight suit, fondled, and kissed her. "She said that, "a lot of people make a big deal about getting molested... and it is a big deal. ...But in the hierarchy of things that were going wrong, that was pretty low on my list. There was no way to fight, I couldn't move anything anyway." She said, she "felt confident he knew he shouldn't be doing what he was doing. Because every time I'd scream, he'd quit. I was grateful that it had been a shorter trip."

Her feelings about women in the military, "Most guys I know discover, once they have worked with women, that women are just like everybody else. There are some that are just awesome, some absolutely worthless, and most of 'em are just in between. And I think the percentage of males who are that way is the same as the percentage of females who are that way."

1990-91

# FORCE PLAN FOR THE LIBERATION OF KUWAIT

