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DESERT VOICE

U.S. vs. KUWAIT B-BALL GAME

PAGE 4

CONTENTS

DESERT VOICE

Volume 26, Issue 47
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47

Page 3 Ironclad warriors

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, known as the Iron Brigade, will soon move north to take over operations in Iraq's largest province.

Page 4 Anyone's game

U.S. military women faced off against Kuwait's only national female basketball team June 30 in a goodwill game aimed at bringing the countries closer together.

Page 5 New STB commander Q&A

The Coalition Forces Land Component Command's Special Troops Battalion has a new commander, Lt. Col. Robert M. Cassidy, who has a new vision for the unit.

Pages 6&7 Show us what you got

A talent show at Camp Arifjan June 2 showcased more than 20 different acts, mostly musical, and proved that American troops are much more than trigger pullers.

Page 8 Golly, you really do care!

Support for the war in Iraq may be waning, but support for the troops remains strong as thousands of care packages, often sent by people who don't even know the troops they aim to help, continue to arrive for troops involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Page 9 A bit more than 8-minute abs

Having trouble with your sit-ups? Don't fret. Mayette Losa Sarte, a sports specialist at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 gym, has the recipe for sit-up success.

Page 10 I got it at the PX

Having trouble finding the right tools to fight the war on terror? The PX has your solution with an Army shot glass, bloody mary mix, baby food and mini tennis balls for your cat.

Page 11 Community Events

Mexican, Hip Hop, Country and R&B music nights, **Poker tournament**, Walking Club, Tae Kwan Do and much more.

Back page Troop submissions

CFLCC Commanding General
Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

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Command Sgt. Maj. Julian Kellman

CFLCC Public Affairs Officer
Col. Michael Phillips

Commander 14th PAD
Maj. Thomas E. Johnson

NCOIC 14th PAD
Sgt. Scott White

Desert Voice Editor
Sgt. Matt Millham

Desert Voice Assistant Editor
Spc. Aimee Felix

Desert Voice Staff Writers
Spc. Curt Cashour
Spc. Brian Trapp

14th PAD Broadcaster
Spc. Charles Spears

14th PAD Graphic Artist
Sgt. Sergio Exposito

On the cover
U.S. and American women basketball players faced off in a goodwill game at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 Gym June 30.
Photo by Spc. Aimee Felix

Iron Brigade preps for Iraq

Story by Spc. Brian Trapp

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, will soon begin to move north to take over U.S. military operations in Iraq's Al Anbar Province.

The 2nd Brigade's troops seem anxious to move out and start their mission. Since the main body of the brigade began arriving at Camp Buehring a few weeks ago, its Soldiers reinforced their training, staged equipment and tried to acclimate to the desert heat as they prepared to take over a difficult mission in Iraq's largest province.

The brigade is made up of about 4,000 National Guard Soldiers from across the United States. About half of the Soldiers are from Pennsylvania, and half come from more than 25 other states and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The patchwork of troops came together quickly and are ready for their mission, said Command Sgt. Maj. Horace Pysher, 2nd Brigade command sergeant major.

The integration of so many different troops has gone "a lot smoother than I originally thought," said Col. Regis Cardiff, the brigade's deputy commander. "It didn't take long to build a team. I don't care where they're from, now they consider they're part of the 2nd BCT."

The 2nd BCT, also known as, the Iron Brigade, spent six months training in the United States. The Soldiers started with immersion training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and applied what they learned there to a monthlong rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"NTC was our chance to shake it out and bring the brigade together," said Cardiff. We're trained, motivated. I think every Soldier will go up [to Iraq] and do their best."

"We found the resources and the time to do additional training ourselves," said Spc. Matt Totsch, with the 1st Tank Battalion, 172nd Armored Regiment. The Soldiers shot thousands of rounds during their extra training and also worked in Combat Life Saver training to better prepare them for what they will face in Iraq. About a quarter of the Iron Brigade is CLS qualified.

Even with the copious amount of training, the troops are still learning to cope with the desert's soaring temperatures.

Cardiff's first job out of high school was working at a steel mill where he had to stand next to an open furnace that melted metal. "It was nothing like this," he said. "[The Soldiers] are going into a harsh environment, but where we are going, at least it will be about 10 degrees cooler. We've been making sure everyone is drinking a lot of water, eating, getting rest and getting prepared."

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

Spc. Melissa Lusi, a member of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, steps off the plane in Kuwait June 26. Temperatures around 115 degrees Fahrenheit greeted the troops. "It feels like a blow-dryer is blowing hot air at your face all the time," said Lusi.

The Iron Brigade might not be too concerned with the heat once they get to their area of operations, which covers part of the Sunni Triangle and includes Fallujah.

"I think the time will definitely go fast," Pysher said. "We'll be busy and it will help keep the Soldiers focused."

> "If I can go into a school and help a child, hopefully they'll remember that."
>
> – **Spc. Emily Voorhees**

The brigade's Soldiers will certainly be busy protecting their own forces, working to defeat the insurgency, training Iraqi security forces and integrating those forces into the fight, as they help the Iraqi people rebuild their country.

"Everyone is going [to Iraq] to do some good," Cardiff said. "I don't think anyone wants to go there, spend a year and not make a difference. No one is going to go there and waste a year."

Spc. Emily Voorhees, a personnel service specialist with the brigade's personnel office, hopes to make a difference.

"Personally I have a lot of experience to gain, and I hope to be an asset to my company and the brigade," said Voorhees, a college student who hopes to have the chance to work with civil affairs during her deployment.

"Granted, there's a lot of danger; there's a lot of innocent people that do need help," said Voorhees. "If I can go into a school and help a child, hopefully they'll remember that." The good impressions the Soldiers make will help America and Iraq have a good relationship in the future, she said.

Before helping the Iraqi people rebuild their country, the Soldiers have to cross the berm into Iraq — a move that is met with mixed feelings for Pfc. Justin Pillion, a member of 1st Tank Battalion, 172nd Armored Regiment.

"I'm a little nervous, but I'm a little excited too," said Pillion, who celebrates his 21st birthday this week. "I want to do the best I can for my unit and for the security and stability operations."

"There's a lot that's beyond my level, but I trust my [noncommissioned officers] and commander; you have to be able to trust them in a war," he said.

Kuwait/U.S. goodwill game

Story and photos by Spc. Aimee Felix

At 10 a.m. June 30, 10 Kuwaiti basketball players – some dressed in long sleeves and traditional headdress, some in short sleeves and shorts – arrived to a gym full of curious spectators.

In a first ever Kuwait/U.S. military women's basketball game, female U.S. troops deployed to Kuwait pulled out a last-minute 38-37 victory against the only national female basketball team in Kuwait.

The game, which took place at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 gym, was a way to bring Kuwaiti and American cultures together through sports, said Mona A. Al-Hajjaj, cultural affairs assistant at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

The section of cultural affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, a department designed to bring American culture to Kuwait, began the initiative after the Kuwait basketball team contacted the embassy requesting to play a basketball game with U.S. troops.

The Kuwait team belongs to the Al-Fatat Sports Club, a sports club known for campaigning for women's rights. In August 2004, Al-Fatat sent Kuwait's first female competitor to the Olympics since Kuwait's Olympic participation began in 1968.

"Maybe some day you'll see us in the Olympics," said Fatima Al-Hamed, one of the Kuwaiti basketball team's star players. Al-Hamed has been playing on the Al-Fatat team for six years, and she played basketball all through high school. She was looking for a challenge – the Al-Fatat team has played against and beat every local female basketball team in Kuwait – and she found it. "Whew, they were good," said Al-Hamed.

Altaf Al-Saqabi, left, and Fatima Al-Hamed, right, swarm Baltimore native Cornelia Baines, a member of the 377th Finance Battalion. Al-Hamed has played basketball for Al-Fatat for six years. She also played basketball all through high school, she said.

Matthew H. Tueller, the charge d'affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, gives out medals and presents to all the American and Kuwaiti basketball players at the end of the game.

The American team was made up of Soldiers and Sailors from different units in Kuwait. It had only been together, as a whole, for a week. But, it had some great key players who "just love to play ball," said player Michelle Hall, a Soldier with Area Support Group – Kuwait. But, the challenge they presented the Kuwaiti girls did not go unmatched.

The Kuwaitis scored seven points in the first two minutes of play and were in the lead for most of the game. At 28-29, with Kuwait in the lead, the U.S. team had not yet taken the lead once in the entire game. And, it wasn't until the last minute of the game when the U.S. team made two foul shots and scored a two-pointer, that the U.S. team had only its third lead of the entire game – the lead that brought them to victory.

Al-Hajjaj was surprised to see how well the Kuwaiti girls played because while she had seen them play against other local Kuwaiti teams and she knew they were good in that setting, she knew playing an American sport against an American team could be a different story. But, it wasn't.

Al-Hamed attributed the success of the game to the sisterhood of the team. The team practices four to five times a week and they "play as one person," said Al-Hamed.

"They were great players," said Hall who added that the uniqueness of the experience added to the fun of the challenge.

While the event was unique in some respects, it was quite normal in others. On their way to the game, the Kuwaiti girls pumped themselves up by blasting music from an Apple iPod through the soundsystem on the team bus. After arriving at the gym, the Kuwaiti girls ran shooting and passing drills and half-court sprints. Then, as the team was introduced, the Kuwaiti girls high-fived each other and then their American counterparts.

One thing that was different, though, was the amount of gifts and medals all of the Kuwaiti and American players walked away with.

After the game, Charge D'Affairs Matthew H. Tueller, from the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, gave out medals and T-shirts for all the players.

Q&A with the new STB commander

Interview by Spc. Aimee Felix

Lt. Col. Robert M. Cassidy took command of the Special Troops Battalion June 3. He arrived to Camp Arifjan June 27 and Desert Voice took a moment to get to know him and his vision.

Cassidy's experience and education speak for themselves. Prior to his assignment to Third Army, he was a member of the U.S. Army Europe Commanding General's Initiatives Group – essentially the CG's think tank – in Heidelberg, Germany. He received a bachelor of arts in history from Fitchburg State College, a master of arts in international relations from Boston University, and a master of arts in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He has served in various command and staff positions, including plans and operations officer of the 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) during Operation Iraqi Freedom; squadron executive officer for the 1-10 Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division and troop commander of the 1-17 Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division. He was originally an enlisted Soldier, and after his four-year commitment, he went through ROTC to begin his officer career as an attack aviator in Germany.

Lt. Col. Robert M. Cassidy took command of Special Troops Battalion June 3.

Why'd you join the Army?

I was almost out of high school and I liked doing sports. The Army looked like a challenging physical thing, and I had some language skills and wanted to be an interrogator. Someone told me about the defense language institute, so I thought there was kind of a good mix between mental rigor and physical rigor, and it still is, and that's what's kept me in.

What is your initial assessment of STB?

It's a transition period [for STB]. It's a different and unique organization. There's some things we need to fix, but we have good people and we have some good people coming in. I have an outstanding sergeant major [Command Sgt. Maj. Marlon Phipps]. He's the best one I've worked with – the best one I've served with in my 22 years of service. That's a true statement.

What things will change at STB?

I have some very distinct ideas on how to make individual task training both better and more feasible. That's a big challenge because STB has to make sure all of CFLCC staff has their individual training done, but we don't have positive control over all of CFLCC. We've got a new concept for individual task training that will better enable all of CFLCC staff to accomplish its individual training requirements consistent with OIF requirements. The security landscape is changing, the Army is changing, and we're going to change with it for the better. The only constant is change; somebody smart said that.

What lessons from your past command experience will you be able to apply here?

I'm going to be able to apply the lessons I learned from OIF 1 as a brigade S3 running FOB security because I had a lot of different folks that weren't under my brigade working together. We kind of co-opted a bunch of different brigades and battalions around FOB Speicher to step up and be one team to help secure that place. As an S3 major I was responsible for the security of more than 18 different units with over 10,000 people, and that's something that may be beneficial in dealing with all these staff sections where all the principals are full colonels and I'm a lieutenant colonel.

What's your favorite part about being in a command position?

Working with people, and coaching and mentoring.

What will you do to maintain the morale of your troops?

Me and the sergeant major both have key roles, because the command climate we set has a direct impact on whether morale is good or not, and it's a tough mission. STB doesn't have a lot of people, but it has a lot of things to do all over the place. So it's very important that the sergeant major and the commander keep people pumped up and make sure they're OK. The role of the commander and the leader is to make sure that he's inspiring his folks no matter what the mission is, no matter where they are. You do that by being enthusiastic, making sure you're taking care of any problems or needs they may have and knowing your troops. You know them by talking to them. I also need to know the C-staff sections. My intention is to always be on the go, on the move, getting to know people within the headquarters.

What will you do to maintain your own morale?

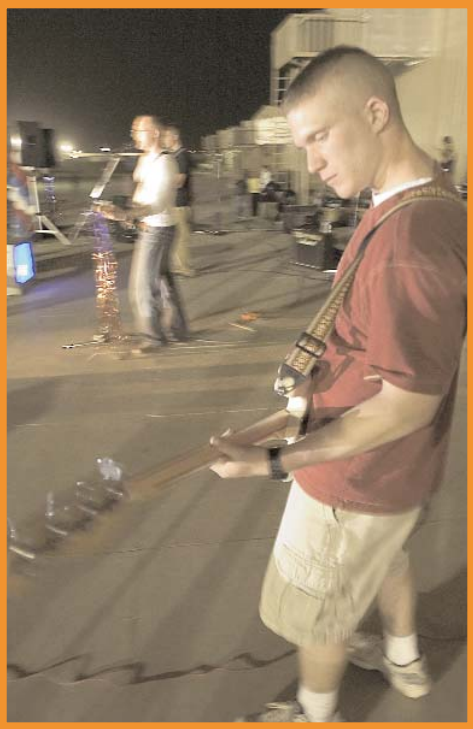
Physical training and reading military history makes me happy. That's what I do with my spare time.

BEWARE OF DUST

Particulate matter, particles found in the air including dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets, combined with the high winds of these summer months can be an obnoxious combination. While it takes years of exposure to particulate matter to experience adverse long term effects, Lt. Cdr. Albert Wong, the executive officer of Forward Deployed Preventive Medicine Unit-East, suggests taking certain precautions to prevent irritating short term effects like coughing, allergic sinus reactions and flu-like symptoms.

*Don't exercise strenuously when it's windy.
*Wear a neck gaiter or a face mask.
*Don't ignore feelings of illness.
*Go to the troop medical clinic if you feel sick.

SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT



Musical performances dominated the talent show at Camp Arifjan July 2.

Photos by Sgt. Matt Millham

Clockwise from top left: James Goodman, from Tucson, Ariz., played surf-style guitar during the talent show at Camp Arifjan's Zone 6. Goodman, who likes to collect and renovate antique guitars, is a member of the 158th Corps Support Battalion.

The band Rufus' Friends, made up of 374th Finance Battalion members Sean Bolton, John Chevalley, Chris Slininger and Vernon James, played a rendition of Eagle Eye Cherry's "Save Tonight" and won in the Group category for their effort. They were the only band to perform at the talent show.

Amanda Sweat, a member of the 358th Automated Cargo Distribution Detachment, performed the first verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner" to show off her singing talent. Following Sweat, Jeff Long, from Seattle, sang the second verse of the national anthem.

Nick Williams, from Big Flat, Ark., performed two songs that he composed. He won for the category Solo Accompaniment. The first song was "for all those who know what it's like to lose someone," said Williams, who lost his parents 10 years ago.

After saying to the crowd, "Y'all don't mind if we have a little church here now, do you?" Aqueel LaFleur and Jereaud Egans performed the church hymn "Eye is on the Sparrow."

The bio for Laura Snyder, from Scottsdale, Ariz., said she doesn't consider herself very exciting. That didn't keep the 915th Transportation Company Soldier from winning for overall best performance at the talent show with her rendition of the Evanescence song "My Immortal." She also opened the show by singing the national anthem.

Curt Cashour, a member of the 14th Public Affairs Detachment and self-proclaimed fashion buff, played a guitar medley of Jimi Hendrix, Phish and improvisation to win in the Solo Instrumental category.

Jaret Bryan, a member of the 1864th Transportation Company, performed a drum solo that ran just under two minutes long. Bryan is a member of the band Fiasco, which lost one of its members, Anthony S. Cometa, in a vehicle accident in Iraq June 16. Bryan and Cometa were best friends.

Other winners include: Jason Fuller, a member of the 263rd Personnel Services Group, in the Solo Singer category for his rendition of Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American," and Thomas Troung in the Other category for his display of Kung Fu form. The winners received $50 AAFES gift certificates. All talent show participants were given T-shirts and certificates of appreciation.

Golly, you really do care!

Story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

Soldiers deployed to Kuwait and Iraq may get the impression that America's support is waning from reports on international news channels. That's not the case. Gauging by the thousands of packages and letters sent to troops from strangers, veterans and patriots across the United States, troops here have the support of a nation that considers all its servicemembers heroes.

From small towns in New York and the middle of Montana to thousands-strong volunteer organizations in California, Americans are rallying together and garnering the support of their communities to raise awareness, and show support and appreciation by sending care packages to overseas troops they've never met.

Bill and Anna Grant from Lake Luzerne, N.Y., a town of about 3,100 people, have been sending care packages to about 50 troops for the last seven months. The Grants have been sending boxes full of candy, toiletries, socks, lotion and other 'goodies' to Soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division and about a dozen other troops from the area.

"We're 100 percent behind the troops," said Bill, a longtime member of the American Legion. "We don't forget our boys over there or our girls. You people are doing super work over there. We don't get the good side of what [troops] do over there except from the letters sent back."

The Grants collect donated items to put into the care packages and money to pay for postage. Then they make their monthly trip down to the post office.

"We try our best at this end to get out as much as we can get out," Grant said. "Right now I got a system, so I can put together a box pretty quick."

Grant hopes his packages help out the troops, and let them know that they have support from back home, he said.

"I know how it is ... when you don't get a letter from home and then you get down in the dumps. " said Grant, who was in the military during the Korean War."

The Grants started the project when a neighbor, whose son was deployed, came to him with his son's address. The Grants started collecting donations from the community and eventually started adopting more Soldiers. They've sent out about 400 boxes so far and are keeping the project going.

"[Donations] come from all over, from every walk of life you can think of — businesses, churches, families that probably were in the service in one time or another," Bill said. The local senior citizens group and Methodist church are some of his most consistent donators. During the Christmas season, the women at the Methodist church got together, baked dozens of cookies and packed up boxes of their homemade cookies to send out to the Soldiers.

Sgt. Natasha Wortman, a member of the 494th Adjutant General Company (Postal) who works at the Camp Arifjan Post Office, moves boxes during mail call Saturday. Wortman has seen hundreds of care packages pass through Arifjan's post office.

"We're very lucky," Grant said. "We've had a lot of donations, so no one's getting hurt out of pocket."

The Grants' experience of having a community pull together in support of the military isn't an isolated story.

In November of 2003, when Dorothy Swanson of Lewistown, Mont., said goodbye to her Iraq-bound son, she started Soldiers Over Seas Inc. In two years, the organization has grown from Swanson sending her son packages, to an incorporated organization with a board of directors.

"I have never seen such patriotism as in this town. The flag goes by and I have yet to see someone not stand up," Swanson said. "There are only 7,500 people here. We're a small farming community. I can speak for Lewistown, Mont.; we are 100 percent behind our troops and their safe return home."

Soldiers Over Seas mails packages and letters to six platoons and 75 individual Soldiers. They've sent socks, kid-sized swimming pools, horseshoes, slingshots, marbles, candy, teddy bears, personal hygiene products, pillows and blankets; "anything they ask for I'll get it for them," Swanson said.

The group also works to help Soldiers' families. They are constantly making an effort to raise awareness of troops deployed to fight, selling ribbons and magnets to seemingly everyone in town.

"I'm busy all the time, but it's the most wonderful volunteer job I've ever done," said Swanson who regularly clocks 12-hour days working alongside co-founder Becky Jenkins.

Swanson, who's on disability, and Jenkins, a rancher's wife, are by Swanson's admission not rich people, especially when they pour their time into a cause that doesn't earn them monetary benefits. "But the e-mails and getting thank yous are worth a million dollars," Swanson said.

"From sun-up to sun-down and sometimes in the middle of the night I'm working on this. It has given me such drive, and I've been so on the go, that since we started I lost 100 pounds," Swanson said.

Swanson's commitment to the troops goes beyond normal business hours too. There are times she sleeps with her computer on, because she's given some Soldiers her personal instant messenger account. "It's nothing for me to wake up at 4 a.m. and talk to a Soldier just because they're lonely and need someone to talk to," she said.

One of the units that Swanson spent much of her time supporting invited her to their redeployment, and she drove 12 hours

See ***Packages***, Page 10

A bit more than 8-minute abs

By Spc. Aimee Felix

Sitting Oblique Twist

What it works: the oblique muscles.
How to: 1 Sit with your back at a 45-degree angle and your legs at a 45-degree angle. 2 Twist your torso from side to side stopping in the middle. Do this for 12–16 reps. Repeat for up to three sets.

Pelvic Lift

What it works: the middle and lower abdominal muscles and the gluteus muscles.
How to: 3 Lie flat on your back with both hands resting by either side of your head and your feet flat on the floor shoulder width apart. 4 Contract your abdominal, lower back and gluteus muscles and slowly lift your midsection and point your toes upward. Focus on a slow, upward and downward movement, and do 8–12 reps. Repeat for up to three sets.

Elbow–to-Knee Oblique Twist

What it works: the oblique muscles.
How to: 5 Lay on your back with your hands behind your head and frog-legged. 6 Bring your right knee to your left elbow until they meet, then separate them until they are about 10 inches apart, then have them meet again. Do this for 8–12 reps, and then switch sides and repeat. Repeat for up to three sets.

Sitting Crunch

What it works: the upper abdominal muscles.
How to: 7 Sit up with your back straight and your legs at a 45-degree angle and your arms held up in front of you. 8 Lean back to a slight degree, and then further back. 9 Come back up the same way. Do this for 8–12 reps. Repeat for up to three sets.

The trainer featured here is Mayette Losa Sarte, a sports specialist at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 gym.

Note: Ensure that during all workouts you are contracting your abdominal muscles and keeping them tight. And stay hydrated!

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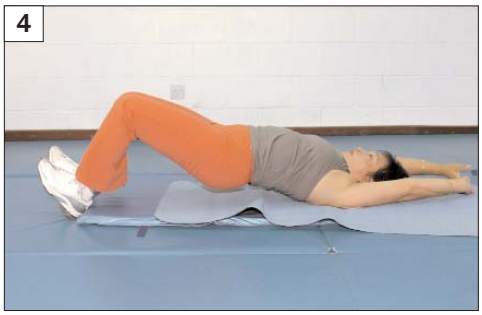
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I got it at the PX

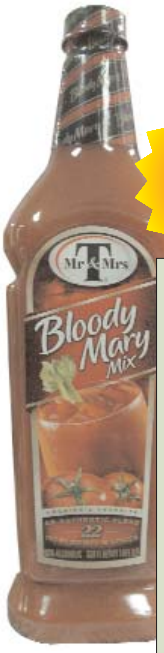
Deals so hot, you'll forget about the weather

By Spc. Curt Cashour

Army Shot Glass

In Kuwait, you have about as much chance of getting drunk as you do earning the Combat Action Badge. But that doesn't mean you can't prepare for the drunken debauchery of your coming-home party while deployed. Get drunk the Army way with this official U.S. Army shot glass.

$6.95



$4.95

Mr. and Mrs. T Bloody Mary Mix

Remember the Mohawked, gold-chain toting star of the 80s television show "The A-Team?" Well, he's back with a new life partner and a heck of a Bloody Mary mix. The package even includes a recipe for making the perfect bloody blend:

Four parts Mr. and Mrs. T Bloody Mary Mix
One part Vodka, Gin, Rum, or Tequilla
Ice cubes

Although T was great in Rocky III, all those punches to the face seem to have affected his marketing skills. Maybe he should try pitching his alcoholic drink mixes in countries where booze is actually legal.

$.45

Gerber Baby Food

Picture it: You're about to start an important mission in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. You meticulously check your weapon, ammo, and gear to ensure it will function when you need it most. Then it hits you. You forgot to feed your baby, and he's a finicky eater. No problem. Pass along assorted varieties of baby food to your baby sitter and leave him in the tent with your bundle of joy.

$1.99

Ultra Bounce-and-Pounce catnip infused mini tennis balls

Finally something everyone can use: a set of catnip-filled tennis balls small enough for cats to play with. Now maybe that guy at the Desert Voice will lay off the PX for a while. Wait a minute. I was having hallucinations from all the catnip, but I'm starting to regain consciousness. I am that guy at the Desert Voice, and this product will only be useful to those of you hiding feline friends in your foot lockers.

***Packages* continued from Page 8**

from the middle of Montana to Fort Lewis, Wash., to meet the Soldiers and see the faces of the people who she had been talking to for months.

"All my kids are gone; all of them are with the military. The military is my family now," she said.

The organization's dedication to deployed troops was even recognized by the Pentagon when they were sent a coin from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The coin was presented to her by her brother, who is currently deployed to Kuwait.

"I don't do it for recognition; I do it for the recognition of the Soldier. I never want what happened to my brothers to happen again," Swanson said.

When Swanson was eight years old, her brothers were redeploying from Vietnam, and they were told not to wear their uniforms. "It made me so mad; I vowed that it would never happen again. That's when my patriotic pride started," she said.

The patriotism for Patti Patton-Bader, the founder of Soldiers' Angels is in her genes. She's the grand-niece of the famous Lt. Gen. George Patton. She is also the mother of a Soldier who deployed to Iraq in 2003.

She was sending her son huge care packages only to find he was quickly running out because he was passing them out, to his buddies. She decided to expand her endeavors. Through a blog she was writing while her son was deployed, she started an Internet community of volunteers and supporters to adopt Soldiers and send them care packages and letters. They are adopting troops at a rate of about 50 a day now, she said.

The Soldiers' Angels mission is "providing aid and comfort to the military and its families, and may no Soldier go unloved and may no Soldier walk alone until they all go home," Patton-Bader said.

Since it started, tens of thousands of people joined the Internet community from several countries including Canada, England and Germany. Patton-Bader said the success of Soldiers' Angels is "because I bring the Soldiers to the people. Most of our people get right in there and help me by adopting Soldiers, writing letters or sewing blankets. There are a lot of Americans out there that do things for the Soldiers, so many people care."

Patton-Bader said she just has to ask for things — from Kevlar blankets for the troops to a car for a family that had theirs stolen while their Soldier was deployed — and people find a way to get the things that people need. "I can list miracle after miracle. So many people want to help," she said.

"A supported Soldier comes back in a better frame of mind, and all these little touches help us bring home healthy Soldiers," she said.

Community happenings for July 6 through July 13

Arifjan

Wednesday
Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Stage
Thursday
Country Western Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
R&B/Old School Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex, 8 a.m. Circuit weight training 3 p.m., Zone 2 gym
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool
Friday
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
R&B Night/Old School, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Hip Hop Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool
Interval training, 5:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Zone 1 gym
Saturday
R&B/Old School, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Chess Tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Audie Murphy Club study sessions, 3 p.m., Building 508 Room 25B
Circuit weight training, 5:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool
Sunday
Mexica Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Hip Hop Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8 a.m., Circuit weight training, 1 p.m., Step Aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
Monday
Karaoke Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool
Legs, butts and guts, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex 8 a.m., Step aerobics, 1 p.m., Circuit weight training, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
Tuesday
Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex, 8 a.m., Circuit weight training, 1 p.m., Step aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
Wednesday
USO/AFE Gina Notrica, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

For more information call 430-1202

Buehring

Wednesday
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4
Thursday
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Tae-Kwon-Do class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1
Friday
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Saturday
Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1
Sunday
Walking Club (10 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Monday
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4
Tuesday
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Tae-Kwon-Do class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1
Wednesday
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

For more information call 828-1340

Kuwaiti Naval Base

Friday
Push-up/Sit-up Competition, 6 p.m., MWR gym
Saturday
Talent show, 6 p.m., MWR gym

For more information call 839-1063

Navistar

Wednesday
Poker Tournament practice, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MWR center
Thursday
Karate class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball court
Poker Tournament practice, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MWR center
Friday
MWR rep. meeting, 1 - 2 p.m., MWR office
Poker Tournament practice, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., MWR center
Saturday
Poker Tournament, 6 to 10 p.m.
Sunday
Poker Tournament, 6 to 10 p.m.
Tuesday
Smoking cessation classes, 10 a.m., Rec. tent
Education/Awareness/Prevention, 1 p.m., Rec. tent

For more information call 844-1137

Spearhead/SPOD

For more information call 825-1302

Victory

Friday
Weigh-in for Olympics, 4 p.m., gym
3-on-3 Olympic Tournament, 6 p.m., basketball court
Saturday
Camp Victory Summer Olympics Game, 5 a.m., Gym
Concert Edison, 7 p.m., MWR stage
Wednesday
Poker Tournament, 7 p.m., MFT

For more information call 823-1033

Virginia

Wednesday
100m, 1 Mile Relay and 5K run, (Call for info)
Thursday
Horseshoes, 4 p.m., Horseshoe pits
Friday
Foosball Tournament, 7 p.m., MWR
Saturday
Hip Hop Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room
Sunday
Billiards Tournament, 7 p.m., Sports Lounge
Monday
Spa Day, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., MWR
Tuesday
Unit Fued, 7 p.m., Dusty Room
Wednesday

Arifjan Education Center

Earn 1 semester hour in one week for FREE!! Each credit earned can be used toward a Military Science Degree with Central Texas College (CTC), as transfer elective credits and promotion points.

CTC is offering the following Advanced Skills Education Program (ASEP) classes in support of NCO Professional Development. Each class is held at the Camp Arifjan Education Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

* July 10-15: Managerial Planning
* July 17-22: Performance Orientated Training
* July 24-29: Counseling Techniques

In addition, CTC will also offer Functional Aptitude Skills Training (FAST) classes to help troops improve their GT scores. You may chose between the morning or afternoon session. The ASVAB test will be given upon class completion. July 10-28, Su-Th, 8 a.m. -Noon or 1 p.m. -5 p.m.

New schedules are posted regularly. Visit the Camp Arifjan Education Center for more details or call 430-1381/1373. Please direct all email inquiries to karen.elizabeth.rhodes@us.army.mil.

Doha/Arifjan Shuttle Schedule

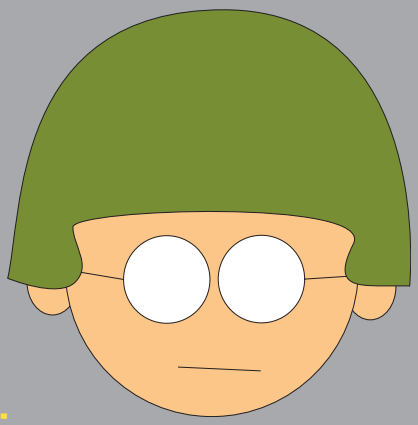
Departs Doha Stop 1*	Arrives Doha Stop 2*	Departs Doha Stop 2*	Arrives Arifjan	Departs Arifjan	Arrives Doha
				0545	
	0700	0715	0830	0845	1000
1015	1025	1040	1200	1300	1430
1445	1450	1505	1615	1630	1745
1900	1910	1925	2045		

* Stop 1 is behind the Building 6 PAX Tent
Stop 2 is between Buildings 28 and 31

Send your event and activity listings to the Desert Voice editor at the e-mail address listed on the back page.

BUSTER'S Baghdad

By Maj. James D. Crabtree
Multinational Corps-Iraq Public Affairs Office



Send your submissions to:

DESERT VOICE

Editor
CFLCC PAO/Desert Voice
Camp Arifjan
APO AE 09306
matthew.millham@arifjan.arcent.army.mil

Find us online at
www.dvidshub.net

Soldiers are there

Poem by Abbey Warren, age 15, Marietta, Ga.

Soldiers are there,
For America
For her freedom
For everyone
For every race
For every religion

Soldiers are there,
They are there giving up precious memories
Giving up friends and family
Giving up children's first walks, talks, and games

Soldiers are there,
Not 95% of the time
And not 99.9%
They are there 100% of the time
Putting their lives on the line

Soldiers are there,
And they care
And I want all those soldiers to know
That I too care and want to share
How much I love those
Soldiers are always, always there