

A photograph of a soldier in a tan t-shirt and camouflage pants working on a helicopter engine. The soldier is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the interior of a hangar with various mechanical parts and tools.

DV

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

October 4, 2006

Chopper Chores

National Guard team working overtime to keep helicopters over Afghanistan

Third Army hero marks
40 years of service

Eyes on the battlefield:
Taking a view of the battle to
commanders

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On the cover

A 10th Mountain Division Soldier works on a CH-47 Chinook with the help of a AVCRAD helicopter repair team.

Photo by Sgt. Thomas L. Day

Third Army CSM

Keeping it in perspective: we're all in this fight together

As the Third Army Command Sergeant Major I'm constantly striving to keep things in perspective. Here in Kuwait, we as leaders can forget what's important, because at times it can seem as though we are so far removed from the fight.

Whether or not we have ice in the dining facility or air conditioning where we sleep is not what's important. Taking care of Soldiers is the most important thing. The junior Soldiers and officers that we groom and influence now will go forward to continue this war on terrorism long after we, as leaders, have stopped soldiering.

There are such a small number of

junior Soldiers and officers that serve in Third Army that it just jumps out at me when I see one. But, just because they are outnumbered, that doesn't give us a license to ignore them.

What I want to know from all Third Army leaders, from every service, in the daily grind of accomplishing the mission, when was the last time you worked alongside a junior Soldier or officer?

If you asked them to take out the trash, or haul in bottled water, did you help them do it? And as you took out the trash or hauled in water, did you talk to them about their duty performance, what you expect of them, their potential for promotion or even their future?

Higher HQ Third Army is so busy, I'm reminding you to take a second and don't forget that everything is about the Soldier, especially those who work for us.

They can easily get run over in such a top-heavy organization such as ours. They have to know that we care about them, that they are part of the team.

You can do this by asking them how are things going? In my experience they'll tell you. And let me tell you now some good ideas come from privates.

As leaders we need to be flexible. Don't get so caught up in accomplishing the mission that you forget to take care of your Soldiers. Part of being a successful leader is remembering where you come from, where you got started. Keep this in mind; it enables you to take care of Soldiers properly.

And just because there's a shortage of privates and lieutenants in Third Army doesn't mean we should treat our field grade officers and our senior



Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe
Third Army Command Sergeant Major

NCOs like junior officers and lower enlisted.

From colonels to sergeants major alike, you did not make it to that level by yourself. Your performance was based on the Soldiers and officers at all levels who worked for you on the way up the ladder. Lt. Gen. Whitcomb and I never forget that, neither should you.

Show them by participating in your subordinates lives, on and off duty. As a leader you have to work hand in hand with subordinates to create a positive environment where

they seek and get feed back. Let them be involved in the decision making

processes of the day to day mission.

But they can't be afraid to make a mistake, that's how they learn and grow. Don't rob them of that chance. They're going to need it in the future. Growth that they make today, might save them a hardship in the future. The war on terrorism isn't going to be ending any time soon.

Soldiers have enough to deal with; they don't need their issues to be compounded by negative leaders. Negativity destroys Soldiers, it makes them ineffective.

But I am not talking about making unpopular decisions. You know the difference between that and negativity. As a leader you have to make some unpopular decisions to accomplish the mission and to take care of Soldiers. Leadership is not a popularity contest. But never ask a subordinate to do something that you yourself aren't willing to do.

The most important personal attribute a leader can have is sincerity -- a genuine concern for the men and women who serve in our armed forces.

Soldiers can tell if you are genuine or not. They will see right through your insincerity. You need their trust. We are in Kuwait today, but anyone of us can end up in Iraq or Afghanistan any time in the future.

You need to build their trust now, because believe me you're going to need that trust when the time comes to cross the berm.

Remember it's 'not about me,' it's about we.

Third Army, Always First.

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JOINT SYSTEM TRAINING ENHANCES SITUATIONAL AWARENESS IN COMBAT

Spc. Chris Jones
Desert Voice Staff writer

There have been many great pictures taken of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the one commanders want – and need – can't be found in magazines or newspapers.

The Global Command and Control System is what the military uses to see the battlefield – via satellite, the GCCS offers a visual map of the battlefield, which tells commanders where servicemembers are and what they are doing, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Harvell, an instructor for the system.

"Basically, you can view everything in the [area of responsibility]," Harvell said. "You could actually see the entire world, but you wouldn't want to do that – it would be too much information."

Currently, Harvell and a team of more than 20 GCCS instructors are deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, to teach servicemembers and civilians on the GCCS.

The instructors are members of the 333rd Training Squadron, based out of Keesler Air Base, Miss. The team of instructors also includes contractors and Department of Defense civilians. Although they are based in Mississippi, they travel all over the world for training. In the last few years, Harvell and his team have been to Colorado, Florida and Hawaii, as well as Germany, Japan and South Korea, on training missions.

"This will be used by the entire military as their command and control system," Harvell said.

Harvell and Master Sgt. Steve Foley are members of the 333rd Training Squadron, and have worked together for more than four years. Both said they have enjoyed being able to work with USARCENT in Kuwait.

"Before we got here, we only had one



Photo by Sgt. Thomas Day

Air Force Master Sgt. Steve Foley guides GCCS students through a lesson Tuesday afternoon on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Army guy and one Marine in our class," said Harvell. "I like working with other services, and it's good because we're all using this system."

Classes are divided into two levels. Both are two weeks long, but Level Two teaches students how to set up the GCCS system.

Because Air Force instructors are required to have at least an associate's degree, and because GCCS courses are accredited by the Community College of the Air Force, college credits are awarded to graduates, said

Harvell. The GCCS works with the Blue Force Tracker to allow commanders to be constantly aware of where their troops and valuable assets are on the battlefield.

Blue Force Tracker is essentially the forward element of the system, allowing GCCS operators to manage from a distance, said Harvell. Vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan are now equipped with BFT, making GCCS the perfect tool for staying connected with the troops in these vehicles.

With GCCS, the military can track valuable military assets, provide emergency communication, and allow search and rescue forces to quickly locate, identify and communicate with at-risk personnel.

"If you were in charge of running a war," said Harvell, "you would want the latest and greatest information as to where your assets are on the battlefield, and this gives you that."



Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Harvell speaks to students Tuesday afternoon on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Photo by Sgt. Thomas Day

Camp Arifjan

A close-up portrait of Staff Sgt. Alex Licea, a middle-aged man with thinning brown hair, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a light-colored collared shirt under a grey sweater. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an American flag.

Lifetime achievement

Third Army official marks 40 years serving Army

Photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Licea, Third Army PAO

Staff Sgt. Alex Licea Third Army Public Affairs

Many would think that a man who was forced into the Army and sent to a controversial war would be bitter about working and serving the country.

But for Michael Ferrara that is not the case. In fact, he has made it a career. His hair may be thinner with shades of gray, and his waistline may have put on some pounds, but the love to serve has never been higher.

Ferrara reflected recently on his 40 years as a military employee. From Soldier to civilian worker, this tale is of a humble man rather than a selfish one.

Today Ferrara is the executive officer in the logistics office for the Atlanta-

As a platoon leader Michael Ferrara led his Soldiers to some gruesome battles in Vietnam and suffered a serious injury. Now, he's entering his 41st year of service for the U.S. Army as a Third Army logistics officer.

based U.S Third Army. With this comes the responsibility of assisting the unit's chief of staff and other senior leaders by providing guidance and assistance to a staff of more than 200 military, civilians and contractor personnel.

Working with his office in the Atlanta headquarters and the forward deployed command in Kuwait, his unit supports logistics and troop movement operations in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Being responsible for the thousands of pieces of equipment and Soldiers in and out of the war zone can be a demanding job, but for this man it's the norm working at Third Army.

Growing up in the greater-Chicago area and coming from a working class

family, Ferrara, like many young people, was undecided about his future after high school. However, the future, at least for the next two years, was decided for him in the summer of 1966 when the skinny 5-foot-6-inch, 19-year-old was drafted in the U.S. Army.

As a draftee, he was quickly shipped out to Army basic training and advanced training as an infantryman. He was soon commissioned as an infantry officer through the Officer Candidate Program in 1967.

Like many Soldiers during that era, Ferrara was quickly deployed to Vietnam where he would serve as a platoon leader for the 4th Infantry Division. This would be the first of two one-year war tours in

the region.

A lasting war memory for him came on the day the young infantry officer was wounded during a fire fight in a little town called Plei Mrong, South Vietnam- a town outside of Pleiku located north of Saigon. Ferrara and his platoon were the first platoon to enter the hostile environment where they were quickly attacked by North Vietnamese forces.

After surviving a cold night on a mountain filled with uncertainty and a dwindling platoon, the fierce battle continued in the morning. It was there Ferrara suffered a wound to his left thigh after a round ricocheted off the ground. Despite the indescribable pain of being wounded by an AK-47 bullet, his adrenaline was so high; he did not realize he was wounded until later on in the conflict.

"I will never forget it! I really did not realize I was wounded until I rubbed my hand against my trousers and noticed the blood coming out," said Ferrara. "It was not funny after that; it hurt!

"But I never really panicked; I was just a bit concerned because we did not know at the time if we would be able to get helicopters in for medical attention."

His concerns would soon be answered when the North Vietnamese were suppressed by his unit, ending the skirmish. The lieutenant and several other Soldiers were evacuated back to their base camp for treatment.

Ferrara suffered a serious wound to the

thigh, but luckily the round did not hit a major bone or artery. He would however be sent to Japan for two months to recuperate from his injuries.

But his story of pain would soon become



Photo provided by Michael Ferrara

Whether it is fighting the Viet Cong or supporting deployed Soldiers in Iraq, the retired military officer continues to serve his nation.

a story of love.

After a year of rest in the U.S., Ferrara went back to Vietnam for a second tour. This time he served as a supply and logistics advisor and a regimental combat team advisor to the 9th Army Republic Vietnam Division in the city of Sadec, South Vietnam.

It was there where he met his wife Lang, who worked as a waitress in the military compound's officer club.

After only knowing each other for six months, Ferrara took Lang to a local courthouse and got married.

Despite the differences in culture and getting married during a serious conflict, the couple has now been married for 35 years and have four children.

As a young officer, Ferrara remained on active duty until 1974 when he was released due to a reduction of forces but stayed in as an Army Reserve officer until his retirement.

After nearly a 30-year military career of active and Reserve duty, serving in a range of various positions from commanding an infantry company at Fort Bliss, Texas, or a logistics coordinator at Fort Ord, Calif., Ferrara retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1995. However his involvement with the military continued as he worked for the Army as a civilian.

Now living in the greater Atlanta area, the 59-year-old "baby boomer" prepares to enter his 41st year of service to the nation.

For a man who never intended to make the Army a career, the Army has been his life.

"I love the unity of being in the military, everyone is a family," said Ferrara. "I have always enjoyed working for our nation."

The retired Soldier is now battling the task of keeping up with his favorite sports teams and playing with his five grandchildren. Ferrara plans on working for a few more years before retiring as an Army civilian. And he said he would just have to look for a new routine.



Command Sgt. Maj.
Dennis Taylor



Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Rex Heidemann

AVCRAD in Afghanistan

"Contact teams" become "fixed" at Bagram Air Base

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice Staff Writer

In November of 2005, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor came to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, intending to use small teams of his helicopter maintenance task force as response forces, deployable when helicopters in Iraq and Afghanistan needed urgent repair in order to return to battle. Two weeks later, those teams were off to Bagram Air Base outside of Kabul, with no arrangements to come back to Kuwait any time soon.

The original plan – to deploy teams to Afghanistan from Kuwait as needed

– was quickly scrapped. Taylor's Task Force AVCRAD (for Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot) had to permanently embed teams alongside the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) to keep their helicopters able to negotiate the Hindu Kush mountain range that surrounds the Bagram Air Base.

The 10th Mountain and their aviation support assets have needed their help.

"We're doing things by the seat of our pants because we need to be doing them," Taylor said. "We're rewriting doctrine here."

The obstacles that Taylor and the 10th Mountain crews have had to climb have been taller than anticipated – both literally and figuratively speaking.

"It's a totally different environment here

than Iraq," said Capt. Michael Dunaway, a company commander with the 277th Aviation Support Battalion, who was with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Tall Afar in 2003 and early 2004. "We're flying at a lot higher altitudes with these helicopters.

"Without (TF AVCRAD), it would have been a much more difficult road to have these aircrafts flying the missions they're doing," Dunaway said.

The 10th Mountain Division flies CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters – and they can take the brunt of the Afghanistan dust "even just sitting on the flight line," Dunaway noted.

What the 10th Mountain crews cannot fix

Staff Sgt. Joseph Sykes of the Missouri National Guard (left) and Sgt. Gregory Harrell of the Mississippi National Guard work on sheet metal that would patch up a damaged door on a 10th Mountain Division helicopter.





An AVCRAD Soldier get his hands dirty, working on a rotor of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. In Afghanistan, AVCRAD Soldiers like Heidemann have worked side-by-side with 10th Mountain Division crews to combat attrition.

– the high-level technical breakdowns that the Army calls depot level repairs – the AVCRAD can and must if the helicopters are to return to the skies. “If its depot level repair, it will be ‘deadlined’ until we can get it fixed,” said Taylor.

While the AVCRAD has covered the depot level maintenance, it has also assisted lower-level repairs that would primarily be handled by the units. With necessary maintenance checks – required

every 50, 100, 150, 250 and 400 flight hours – coming so frequently, the AVCRAD has helped wherever they can offer a hand.

“Every time (the helicopters) come back from missions, we have to do some kind of maintenance on them to get them ready for the next day,” said Dunaway.

The AVCRAD task force is a combination of two AVCRAD teams; one from Mississippi and another from the Missouri National Guard.

Original deployment plans to Kuwait only included the Mississippi team. However, that changed when Hurricane Katrina hit the

months to prepare to deploy.

“Every one else here from Mississippi is a volunteer,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Blair Albrecht.

In early November, both the Missouri and Mississippi teams are scheduled to redeploy

and return to their civilian jobs. Taylor, a 36-year veteran and former sergeant major for the entire Missouri National Guard, continues

“Every aircraft we put in the air, we’re keeping a Soldier off the road.”

— Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor, Task Force

Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot

Mississippi Gulf Coast. In the aftermath of Katrina, every Soldier in the Mississippi Guard team was given the option of staying home or going to Kuwait; about half of the unit took the Army up on offer to help out at home. In their place came more than 100 Soldiers from the Missouri Guard, who were given just two

to rally his Soldiers as they enter their final month of a year-long deployment.

“Every aircraft we put in the air, we’re keeping a Soldier off the road,” Taylor told his Soldiers during a September 15 dinner with the entire Afghanistan AVCRAD team. “I’m proud of you.”

Keepin' it rollin' with the 594

Story and photos

Sgt. Patrick N. Moes
Desert Voice Editor

Part II of II

Editor's note: All supply routes and call signs have been changed for security reasons. The 594th Transportation Company, 101st Airborne Division, is deployed to Kuwait, conducting convoy missions throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

With a broken air line halting the convoy in the middle of Main Supply Route Gopher, Convoy Commander, Staff. Sgt. Daniel Akins adjusted his plan and pushed forward to Camp Cedar II to make repairs to the vehicle and refuel the convoy.

Spc. Jermain Jackson, a cook with the Deuce Wild 2nd Platoon, who volunteered to deploy with the medium truck company as a truck driver and maintenance technician instead of working as the cook the Army trained him to be, worked into the early morning hours repairing the vehicle to continue the mission.

As the sun rose above the horizon bringing the Iraqi landscape into focus, the Soldiers received the guard duty roster before making their way to the tents to rest for the mission that would continue later in the day.

Sept. 9

After rotating guard shifts throughout the day, the Professionals of the 101st Airborne Division's 594th Transportation Company gathered for the evening convoy brief shortly after sunset.

Driving on MSR Gopher again, Sgt. Keith Kaminski began singing a comical rendition of Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again." As the laughter of Kaminski's singing subsided, the convoy passed the Euphrates River toward their next destination. With minimal chatter on the radios of enemy activity, the convoy rolled into CSC Scania

a little after midnight. Again the ritual repeated itself by refuelling the vehicles, lining them as close together as possible with 594th trucks on one side and IAP's contractor trucks next to them. The trucks were so close that it was virtually impossible to walk between them.

After receiving the departure time for the next leg of the mission by the convoy commander, the Soldiers made the 5-minute trek to their tents where some of the Professionals slept as others ventured toward the MWR tent. College football scores were the highlight of the day's journey to the MWR tent with my realization that it was the little things that mattered most to these Soldiers.

Sept. 10

The Professionals continued with their daily routine as they prepared for the last leg to Baghdad International Airport. A short trip would be all that was required of the Soldiers today. But the reality of driving at night meant that this mission, this day, would be a little different from the others. The convoy would be rolling into Baghdad shortly after midnight, which meant it was the five-year memorial of 9/11.

Instead of dwelling on the uncertainty, the Deuce Wild Soldiers started throwing around a football as they joked about the talents of Spc. Sophia Gore's catching ability. The Soldiers finished throwing the ball around as the sunlight faded into darkness.

The Professionals were on high alert considering the significance of the anniversary and their current location. Intelligence reports echoed their concerns but the convoy rolled on unscathed into BIAP. They moved into the staging area where they received orders to unload three of the tractor trailer systems immediately and were told the rest would be done first thing in the morning.

Sept. 11

The Soldiers woke from what sleep they could muster in their trucks and began the task of unloading their equipment as the sun broke across the horizon, silhouetting one of Saddam Hussein's



Sgt. Christopher Beckel checks for messages on his Maneuver Control System shortly before leaving on a convoy mission. Beckel is an assistant convoy commander with 594th Transportation Company's "Deuce Wild" 2nd Platoon.

former palaces. Moving the vehicles into two lines, they slowly crept forward as their loads were lifted from their trailers.

Once every tractor trailer system had been unloaded, they began the process of loading equipment for the back haul. This mission would be moving equipment from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division to a sea port in Southwest Asia.

The loading began with the fluid movement of containers and rolling stock including satellites. As the loading process continued, three large explosions could be heard off into the distance. The explosions were close enough to feel them in your chest but the Deuce Wild Soldiers were not fazed. They paused momentarily to look around before continuing with their mission.

Sgt. Christopher Beckel, the assistant convoy commander, recalled when Akins and he were loading vehicles at camp in Iraq as explosions landed relatively close to them. Beckel joked about how he ducked for cover under the trucks. As he was talking about it, he patted himself down similar to what he said he did after the attack to ensure he still had all his limbs in tact.

Beckel later said his truck was shot at with a rocket propelled grenade on one of his two previous tours in the theater with the 594th. Beckel said he was just south of BIAP with a month to go on his tour when the incident happened. He said you don't have time to think when it happens. Everything goes naturally and you begin your assessments once you're out of the danger area.

The danger area for these Soldiers was surrounding them on this day as gun fire could be heard the entire time they were in Baghdad. The firefights repeated themselves as an occasional "controlled blast" would be heard from the distance.

Once the vehicles were reloaded for their trip home and put on line, the 594th Soldiers made their way to Camp Striker. A well deserved rest was in order for the truckers as they thought about their upcoming mission to return home. Beckel said he always hopes for no issues before any mission.

Kiminski said although it's dangerous on the roads, "you have to take the pros and cons together. We're out here doing our job, that's what we want to do."

This willingness to do their job in the midst of danger was made clear when Kaminski said Akins had asked for a volunteer to stay behind to make space for me to travel with the convoy. I was amazed to hear that not a single Soldier among them volunteered to stay behind. They had to draw names from a hat to determine who would stay in Kuwait and not go forward with the unit to Iraq.

Sept. 12

A little after midnight the convoy received their orders to begin their trip home from BIAP. The engines rumbled as Soldier after Soldier started their Freightliner's Detroit 60 engine. "Tango wun two. Radio check over." These words sang from the green speaker box mounted at the rear of the cab.

The convoy was ready to roll when they heard the ASR they were to travel on was under small arms fire. The roads were no longer safe for travel; the convoy would have to wait until they received the "all clear" call. That call came shortly thereafter. And the convoy proceeded through the gates down the ASR with caution.

The convoy turned south on MSR Gopher and began their journey home after making it safely through the congested ASR. All was going well until a convoy directly ahead of the Professionals stopped. The cause soon became apparent. An IED had exploded less than a



Sgt. Austin Berry, a Kansas City, Kan. native, prepares his trailer for a convoy movement short before leaving BIAP Sept. 11. Berry is a truck driver with the 594th.

few miles away and struck one of the northbound convoys.

Orange and green flares could be seen shooting into the midnight sky as perimeter security was radioed back to the convoy commander.

"I hope they're OK," said Jackson about the incident. "One thought every [Soldier] has in common is I have a family to get back to."

Jackson said this deployment is a lot more complex than his previous deployment with the 594th but he was confident knowing some of the same people from his first deployment because he knows how they react under pressure. He said he knows what to expect from his peers because he has been in this situation with them before. Jackson continued by saying there was a lot of family cohesion and professionalism among them. "We all look out for each other."

See 594th: Page 11

Fighting back against sexual assaultants

Know how to protect yourself

Spc. Debrah Robertson
Desert Voice Staff Writer

It's just past dusk and the temperatures begin to drop. "Now's a good time for a run," you think. As you head out the door, you grab a bottle of water. The gym is down the street, but the perimeter of the camp has its appeal. It's secluded. It's quiet. You don't have to worry about the traffic as much. Then, you feel this eerie sensation as you round a curve along the dark road. "Am I being watched?" Perhaps so.

Although many servicemembers are instilled with military values, "there are always a few bad apples," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michele Steyh, a Master-At-Arms with the Navy Law and Order Detachment.

Assault prevention is a very important issue, whether you are a civilian or a deployed servicemember, she said.

Assault can be anything from an unwanted touch or "peeping tom" to a violent attack on another person, whether male or female, said Steyh. Being a male does not make you immune to someone else's aggression.

Even pushing or shoving another individual is considered assault, said Staff Sgt.

Timothy Paradis, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Provost Marshal Office. "This is an assault (followed) by a battery and it goes unreported most of time."

Fortunately, many attacks can be prevented by using a few precautions.

"Empower yourself with knowledge," said Steyh.

Assault can be curbed by simply knowing your surroundings, she continued. "If you see something unusual like someone loitering around the latrines or showers at night, don't be afraid to report (them)."

When you go out, don't go alone. "Have a battle buddy if at all possible," said Steyh. Predators are less likely to attack a group of people.

Also, "make sure someone has a cell phone," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Martinez, an operations specialist, also with Navy Law and Order. If there is an issue, you can call someone.

When you do have to go out alone, letting your chain of command know where you are going and when you are to arrive helps keep you safe as well. If they know when to expect you, then they will know if you are late and that there might be a problem, said Steyh.

When you are out there, "you have to al-

ways be alert. Be on your toes," said Steyh. "We get complacent. 'Oh, nothing will happen to me.' There are a lot of people here."

If something does happen, it's important to be ready.

"Keep yourself physically fit," advised Steyh. Predators are also less likely to choose you if you are self-confident.

In a prison group that Steyh worked with as a civilian corrections officer, the inmates told her that they chose their victims based on how confident they appeared.

"I picked her because she looked weak. (She) looked antisocial. (She had) low self-esteem," said one inmate to Steyh. He knew she would be less likely to fight back.

If something does happen, your main objective is to fight to get away, said Steyh.

Carry a whistle, advised Martinez. If you are attacked, use it to draw attention. Scream and shout.

Then fight back, said Steyh. "If that means kicking, scratching and biting, do it to get away."

After an assault, contact the Provost Marshals Office immediately. It is important to contact someone to protect not only yourself, but the next potential victim, said Steyh. The victim will receive medical help if he or she needs it, and a chaplain will be notified.



Photo illustration by Spc. Chris Jones

594th: Continued from page 9

The 594th Soldiers, some of whom have been with the unit for more than six years, arrived safely back at CSC Scania as the sun was starting to rise. They had only a few hours to sleep and prepare for the next leg of the mission before they would be back on the road.

Those few hours passed quickly as the Soldiers began falling in on their trucks with the sun still shining. Convoy briefings, radio checks, PMCS complete, the Soldiers were on the road again heading back to Kuwait.

Crossing the Kuwaiti boarder shortly after midnight, the convoy made its final push to Camp Navistar and refueled before resting a few hours after their latest leg was completed without incident. The 594th Soldiers were living up to their unit motto by getting the job done and never straying from the path, according to Austin Berry.

Berry is on his second deployment to the theater. His first tour was with the 129th Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Kansas City, Kan. Berry said he decided to join the active duty ranks because he wanted to find more direction for his life and was looking for the structure and adventure the active duty would offer him.

Sept. 13

The morning approached quickly as Soldiers realized this was the day they would be going home, or at least their home away from home. With safety guidelines issued by Akins, a majority of the Soldiers headed out toward Camp Arifjan where they would download the equipment destined for the camp, wash their trucks and begin the maintenance necessary to be ready for their next mission.

For the Soldiers still at Camp Navistar, the day would become a long one in the hot sun as they delivered the remaining equipment to the port.

Akins continually paced up and down the rows ensuring everything was running as smoothly as possible as he and the rest of the Deuce Wild Soldiers waited for the 101st's equipment to be downloaded. The Soldiers would be able to call the mission complete with the final piece of equipment being downloaded shortly before 7 p.m. All that was left for the Professionals was to escort the IAP drivers to their headquarters, refuel and park the trucks on line in their motor pool.

Maintenance would be at the forefront for the next morning's mission as the Soldiers took time to conduct personal maintenance as well as vehicle maintenance. They had to be ready to go on the road for their next mission as supplies and equipment continue to be required from the Soldiers in and around Kuwait and Iraq.

Kiminski said it best when asked what the 594th does. "We [594th] run from Kuwait to northern Iraq, it doesn't matter where, we roll."



Hometown Hero

Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Harris, Jr.
Third Army Staff Judge Advocate
Paralegal

Harris assists the USARCENT staff judge advocate and subordinate attorneys.

Talks about what he misses about his hometown, Newport News, Virginia

"Football games; seeing the future stars play."

Just One Question...

What is your favorite movie and why?



Gladiator: "Because he was the image of how a leader should be."

Staff Sgt. Mike Agustin
Medical Logistician
386th Expeditionary Medical Group
San Fernando, Calif.



Out of Time: "Because of Denzel [Washington]'s versatility in the movie."

Sgt. Joseph Burley
Information System Analyst
HHC 2/10 Brigade Support Battalion
Baltimore, Md.



Legends of the Fall: "There is a lot of levels to it. It has something for everybody."

1st Lt. Kelli Webb
Executive Officer
842 Signal Company
Queens, N.Y.



Dirty Dancing: "Because it inspired me to want to be a dancer."

Senior Airman Latresia Pugh
Medical Technician
386th Expeditionary Medical Group
Wetumpka, Ala.



Goodfellas: "Joe Pesci's improv scene was awesome."

1st Lt. Steve Shea
Platoon Leader
842 Signal Company
Pensacola, Fla.

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