

DV

Desert Voice Magazine

Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

October 17, 2007



***High-flyin'
lifesavers***

DV Contents

Page 4

Average Joe rucks and rides bike in honor of fallen comrades.

Page 5

Soldiers beat the heat to provide critical communications.

Page 8

Servicemembers keep honor and long-running tradition going during 10-miler.

Page 10

Good on-post driving habits decrease NTV accidents, keep driving privileges.

On the cover

Soldiers practice loading a laden litter into a UH-60 Nighthawk helicopter at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 10. For the full story turn to page 6.

Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer

Contact us

Comments, questions, suggestions story ideas? Call the Desert Voice editor at 430-6334 or e-mail at desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.

You've got questions, the CG has answers

Question: What is Third Army's mission here in Kuwait and in our area of responsibility? Question submitted by Sgt. Cherica Taylor, Third Army/USARCENT Special Troops Battalion.

Answer: Third Army/U.S. Army Central has a four-fold mission.

First, we provide a forward-based service component (i.e., Army) command to plan and, on order, conduct land operations across the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility. Second, for the Army (and for other services, as directed), we support force rotations, conduct reception, staging, and onward movement, and provide theater sustainment and other support to forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Third, we supply Army (and other service component and coalition forces, as directed) in Iraq and throughout the theater with the supplies they need to conduct operations in support of the continuing Global War on Terror. Finally, we conduct Theater Security Cooperation activities, including conducting joint and coalition exercises throughout the region, providing humanitarian assistance when needed, developing close partnerships with responsible nations, and assisting in demining efforts.

Question: If you could give one "nugget" of advice to a subordinate to help them succeed in their career, what would you tell them? Question submitted by Gunnery Sgt. Chris



Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb
Third Army Commanding General

W. Cox, Third Army/USARCENT Public Affairs.

Answer: I'll "supersize" your question with seven "nuggets," and they go like this:

- Do what is right, legally and morally, every single day.
- Treat everybody with dignity and respect.
- Be the best

you can be at whatever you do.

- Know your people and be their advocate.
- Have the discipline to follow and enforce standards.
- Have fun and keep things in perspective.

Question: As a government contractor, I'm concerned about the mission at hand and how long we'll need to be here in order to accomplish it. Can you give us your best guess on how long that will be? Question submitted by William Bradigan, Contractor, Army Prepositioned Stocks, Army Material Command.

Answer: The short answer is this: "As long as we're needed," and I don't mean to be flippant by giving you that answer.

The fact is, even if the mission in Iraq were to end tomorrow—and no one believes that to be the case—there would still be much important work to be done in Kuwait, and the vast majority of that work is currently done by units that fall under Third Army/U.S. Army Central/CFLCC. Everyone has their own estimates of the time required but a lot depends on "how fast you want it."

Patton's own!

Volume 29, Issue 20

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Third Army Public Affairs Office. This newspaper is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with Third U.S. Army. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the 50th Public Affairs Detachment.

Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.

Third Army Commanding General
Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb
Third Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe
Third Army Public Affairs Officer
Col. Thomas Nickerson
Third Army Dep. PAO (FWD)
Lt. Col. James A. Sams

50th Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Capt. Jeffrey Pray
50th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC
Sgt. Jacob McDonald
Desert Voice Editor
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice Staff Writers
Spc. Jennifer McFadden
Spc. Wes D. Landrum
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer



DV
Desert Voice
Magazine



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-9999

Farewell Message to the US Armed Forces

As my time as Chairman comes to an end, I am filled with pride in the accomplishments of the incredible men and women of our Armed Forces, and humility in having had the opportunity to serve with each of you. It has been a privilege to represent you for the past six years as the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Please accept my sincere thanks for all you have done for our country. From full combat operations to critical relief missions, your efforts around the world have brought stability to troubled regions, hope to those in need, and honor to America's citizens. During this challenging time in our Nation's history, you have contributed immeasurably by defending the homeland and fighting terrorists who threaten the values we hold so dear. You stepped forward, when safer, easier options were readily available. Your actions have demonstrated a thorough understanding of risk, and the honor in being part of something bigger than yourself. Your courage and selfless service will ensure your children – and their children – will enjoy the same freedoms that all Americans have enjoyed for generations.

It takes great courage to fight a war, but it also takes great courage and patriotism to stand proudly by and allow a loved one to go into harm's way. Our families face the enormous challenges of long deployments and frequent moves with great strength and resolve. When we are away, you hold our families together. You define us and sustain us with your quiet devotion, and untold strength. You represent all that is good and worthy of our sacrifices. No words can adequately express my gratitude for your unwavering support, but I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to those who love us, and who sacrifice so much to secure our peace.

As I look back over 40 years of service, I am grateful for the countless brave men and women in uniform who have enriched my life personally and professionally. Lynne joins me in thanking each of you for your support and inspiration!

With greatest respect and admiration,

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Average Joe rucks Miles of Honor

Story by
Carlotta Maneice
160th Signal Bde. Public Affairs

How does a fellow warfighter honor his fallen comrades and increase his physical fitness? By rucking and biking one mile for each servicemember killed in action during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

That is how Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dawson Jr., an Information Systems Specialist with the 580th Signal Company in Bagram, Afghanistan, chooses to honor all fallen U.S. Servicemembers.

The 580th Signal Company supports Third Army/U.S. Army Central signal operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Dawson's friend Sgt. 1st Class Gregory "Beau" Hicks was killed in Fallujah, Iraq, in January 2004.

"We served together as staff sergeants in the infantry at Fort Lewis, Washington," Dawson said. "We later served at Fort Hood, Texas, and our families used to take trips together around the state."

Two months later, Dawson lost another friend, Sgt. Michael J. Esposito, in Dehrawood, Afghanistan.

"In March 2004, my friend from New York was killed. We served in the same platoon and at one time he was my Soldier," he said. "We would go on weekly road marches constantly trying to out perform each other."

In December 2006, Dawson started road marching at Bagram Airfield in order to improve his physical readiness state. He then decided to apply the miles towards his self titled "Miles of Honor" tribute. He rucks one mile for each U.S. Servicemember killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom.

He is also bike riding 200-250



Courtesy photo

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dawson Jr., ruck marches with fellow Soldiers.
(Left) Dawson geared up to ride for his fallen comrades.

miles a week for U.S. Servicemembers missing and killed in action during OIF.

On Memorial Day 2007, Dawson reached his ruck march goal of honoring his fallen comrades by marching 440 miles and he has currently ridden 2,580 miles towards the total OIF KIA.

"Sometimes (other) Soldiers and

civilians accompany me during my bike ride or road march, but I only count the miles that I do," Dawson said. "For me, it gives me a sense of honoring them. I am not trying to get any self-recognition. I lost a buddy from each Operation so this became my own personal mission and they are my driving force to continue doing it. I am just trying to keep all of them in remembrance for their sacrifice to our nation. This project will never be complete. I'll keep riding and rucking as long as servicemembers continue to die in combat." 

~~~~~ of wires and fiber optics ~~~~~

Soldiers beat heat to providing critical communications

Story by
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Stroh
67th Sig. Bn. CSM

It is 7 a.m. and the heat is already teetering in the low hundreds as the 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company of the 67th Signal Battalion prepare for another long fiber optic cable run across Camp Victory, Iraq, Sept. 17.

Miserable weather, back breaking work and rapid requirements are nothing new for the Soldiers of the 518th TIN Company, based out of Fort Gordon, Ga. They have been performing missions like this everyday all across Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan for the past ten months. The 67th Sig. Bn. provides signal and communications support for

Third Army/U.S. Army Central assets in the theater of responsibility.

"My Soldiers' commitment to provide a reliable cable backbone for the communication network in theater has been a tremendous success. Since our arrival in October 2006, we have installed over 700,000 feet of fiber optic cable and copper wire," said 1st Sgt. LaShawn Brown, 518th TIN Company, first sergeant.

The cable that the 518th installs provides fiber optic connections that allow computers, phones and digital equipment in theater to access the networks. This cable runs through a maze of underground manholes, overhead spans and inside conduit to reach its locations.

"I imagine that most of our users

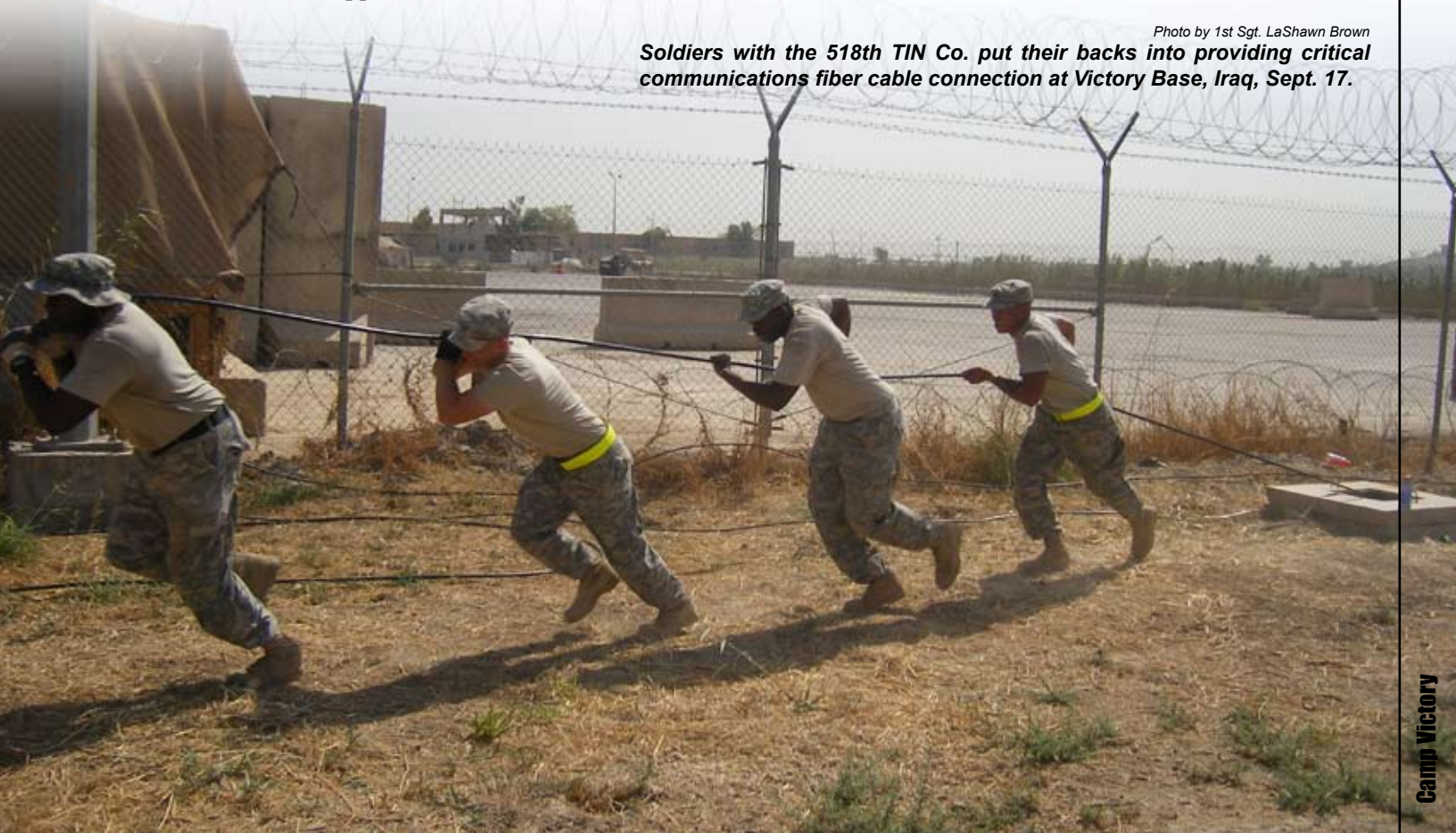
never take time to really think about how their computers or phone cables reach them or what work went into getting that fiber routed to their location," said Capt. Julian Stamps, 518th TIN Company commander. "I can tell you that it is a team effort that takes strength and preparation. I could not be prouder of the work my Soldiers have provided in this tremendous task."

At the day's end, the tired and sweaty Soldiers of the 518th TIN Company complete their mission for the day.

Their work is never glamorous and rarely even noticed, but the information that is carried across the fiber that they provide is paramount to the success in every aspect of the Global War on Terror. 

Photo by 1st Sgt. LaShawn Brown

Soldiers with the 518th TIN Co. put their backs into providing critical communications fiber cable connection at Victory Base, Iraq, Sept. 17.



Island Knights take to the skies

Story and photos by
Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer
Desert Voice staff writer

The familiar sounds of sirens and flashing lights usually associated with ambulances are unnecessary on a UH-60 Nighthawk helicopter, which needs no introduction.

The "Island Knights" of the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment has completed more than 400 MEDEVAC missions in Kuwait and Iraq since its inception in support Third Army/U.S. Army Central.

The unit name "2515th" comes from the original two squadrons, the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 15, said Lt. J.G. Sarah Hester.

For nearly six months the 2515th NAAD conducted various training prior to deployment. The pilots and

aircrew conducted Combat Rifle Marksmanship training in San Diego last winter. In Yuma, Arizona they participated in two weeks of MEDEVAC scenarios and brown-out training. After being joined by six corpsmen from around the country their training culminated with the Helicopter Advanced Readiness Program, which is an exercise that tests the abilities of the personnel in a deployed environment, said Hester.

"The Wing Weapons School puts these on often," said Hester. "But we were the first HSC squadron to do a HARP exercise."

Based out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait the 2515th provide MEDEVAC service for all of Kuwait and southern Iraq. At all times there are two Nighthawk helicopters and crew on 15 minute alert and two more on one-hour alert. When a nine-line is called the teams on 15 minute alert have to have the bird in the air within that time, the same is true for those on

one-hour alert. A team is made up of five personnel including a pilot, crew chief, second crewman, co-pilot and a corpsman.

"It's a lot different medicine than back in the states flying search and rescue," said Bradley Reinalda, a corpsmen who flew search and rescue prior to deployment to Kuwait.

Before the Nighthawk and its team are ready to take off they must perform pre-flights, which are inspections of

the aircraft in its entirety. The aircraft is checked for any corrosion, foreign objects and whether the aircraft had been properly serviced, Hester said.

The crew must be briefed on the mission and any threat areas they may fly through, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Onion. These preparations allow the 2515th to get to patients quicker whilst avoiding complications en-route.



Soldiers practice loading and unloading litters from a UH-60 Nighthawk helicopter at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 10.

The stories told by the 2515th of troops they've picked up from combat zones that got home safe, shows their dedication to their jobs and their love for saving the lives of Americas warfighters.

"I love my job," said Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Royer, the leading petty officer for the detachment. "There's nowhere I'd rather be right now." 

(Background) A Nighthawk crewmember prepares the aircraft for take off from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 10.



A UH-60 Nighthawk helicopter is run through preflight checks at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 10.

1 MILE...NO SWEAT

Runners brave desert heat to run in Army Ten-Miler

*Story and photos by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice Staff Writer*

The crowd moved to the starting line in anticipation of the race's start. Some took the time to work in some last-minute stretching. The sun had yet to break the landscape when the horn went off. No matter. The Army Ten-Miler had begun.

More than 800 servicemembers and civilians from Third Army/U.S. Army Central camps gathered to run in the Army Ten-Miler at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 7. While the race has been run for 23 years in the U.S., the race was being run for the fourth consecutive year at the desert camp.

The race is the highlight of autumn, said Ebon Morris, Camp Buehring's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation coordinator. He said a lot of work went into making the race happen.

"We had to get everyone on the same page," Morris said. "Everyone, from the commanders down to the dining facility managers, was in on the planning of this race."

The course started on Eisenhower Road and took runners along the perimeter of the camp. Runners were placed into run categories

based on age. Each age bracket had three top finishers. There was also an overall male and female winner of the race. Sergeant First Class Thomas Kunnmann, 101st Airborne Division, won the men's title with a time of 1:01:09. He said the physical fitness program at Fort Campbell, Ky., helped prepare him for the race.

"We do a lot of cardio at Fort Campbell," Kunnmann said. "All that running got me ready to compete in the ten-miler."

As a first-time participant, Lt. Cmdr. Paul Allen, Emergency Medical Facility – Kuwait, did fairly well. Allen placed first in the male 30-39 age bracket with a time of 1:06:09. He said running the race is a moment he will treasure forever.

"It is an accomplishment," Allen said. "My goal was to make it to the finish line in under an hour and seven minutes and I made it."

The top female finisher in the 30-39 age group was Maj. Chandra Roberts, Multi-National Corps – Kuwait, after posting a time of just under an hour and 22 minutes.

She said just competing in an event as prestigious as the Army Ten-Miler was good enough for her. To win her age group was icing on the cake.

"The Army Ten-Miler is known worldwide," Roberts said. "It's something I will not soon forget."

The annual Army Ten-Miler race began in 1985. 1,600 runners started and crossed the finish line in the inaugural race in Washington, D.C. At the 23rd running, 17,600 runners crossed the finish line at the Pentagon. In 2006, the Army Ten-Miler was ranked the largest 10-mile race in the U.S. More than 15,000 runners crossed the finish line that day.

Kunnmann, Allen, and Roberts all said the preparation time is essential to compete in an event like this. Allen said he logged over 40 miles a week just to be ready. Roberts said she ran everyday, sometimes as far as nine miles a day to get in condition to run.

"This is not something you can

10 MILES...BETTER YET!



do on a whim,” Allen said. “You have to be physically ready to run that long distance or you’re in for a world of hurt.”

“It’s about endurance,” Roberts said. “By mile three, you’re tired. By mile five, you’re worn out. You have got to get your body ready to absorb the beating it will take.”

Whether they walked or ran, every person who started the race finished it. Allen said the 10-miler was a great test of his endurance and agility.

“Running the Army Ten-Miler will always be special to me,” he said. “It brought out the best in me and everyone who ran it today.” 



Runners cross the finish line at the fourth annual Army Ten-Miler held at Camp Buehring Oct. 7. More than 800 runners gathered at the desert camp in the early morning hours to compete in the race.

Good driving habits decrease NTV accidents

Story by
Lt. Col. Ingrid Moertl
1st TSC safety office

Good driving habits can make a big difference in decreasing the recent upsurge of on-post non-tactical vehicle accidents in the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of operations. Fender benders increase the cost of NTVs and create an unpleasant situation for all involved. Several simple things can be done by you as you drive your NTV on post.

Start with the proper frame of mind: Do you really have a mission that requires you to use an NTV? Can your trip be accomplished by walking or by riding a bus or a bike? Can the mission be combined with another so that there are fewer vehicles on the road? Have you planned the trip and allowed enough time? Speeding doesn't get you there faster; often it is nothing more than a risk-taking experience that encourages accidents. Be aware of other vehicles as you drive, especially those trying to enter the main road or pulling out of parking areas. Those drivers

can be your worst enemies. Maintain good situational awareness, including runners or pedestrians who may be in the area. At night, it can be especially difficult to see them.

Use a ground guide: Non-negotiable. It is not only policy, it's smart. If you are in an accident, either as the driver or the TC and you did not use a ground guide, both of you could get a letter of reprimand and have to pay for the damages to government vehicles.

Consider your body position: Can you see out the windows and see all mirrors? If not, make an adjustment. Ensure you have good visibility. Sit with your back straight and your hands at the "2 and 10 o'clock" positions on the steering wheel. This lessens fatigue and makes it easier to respond to the unexpected. Always wear your seat-belt.

Evaluate your driving habits: Stay at or under the speed limits. Driving at 10 kph allows you sufficient time to respond to the unexpected.

Remain aware of your adjacent areas. When coming to a stop sign, stop all the way. Rolling stops are not

allowed. Your car should rock back before you begin driving from a stop. Talking on a cell phone while driving is forbidden; it has been proven to be extremely dangerous.

Keep parking safe: When parking or moving through a congested area, even in an NTV, use a ground guide. Make sure the ground guide can see you at all times and follow their guidance. Back into a parking space using your ground guide. When you combat park, you are giving yourself the advantage of seeing on-coming traffic before leaving the parking spot. It is also easier to negotiate out of tight areas and avoid collisions when pulling forward.

Senior Occupants: Act and think responsibly. You are accountable for any traffic incidents, just as is the driver. The senior occupant is responsible for ensuring enforcement of all driving laws. If the senior occupant cannot be determined, as in the case of civilian occupants, the driver is responsible for enforcement of safe driving.

Driving an NTV is a privilege. Like all privileges, it can be suspended or revoked because of bad driving habits. **A**



Courtesy photo

Bad driving habits while in theater could reinforce bad driving habits while on R&R leave or after redeployment.

**Camp Arifjan's
Breast Health and Sexuality
Education Health Fair**

20 OCTOBER 2007 1130-1330

Zone 1- Outside Eating Area
(behind Taco Bell)

EDUCATIONAL TOPICS:

STDs- MAJ Leazenby

PAP Smears/HPV/Vaccine- LCDR Ehle

Breast Health- LCDR Jackson

Breast Self Exam (BSE)- CDR Jensen

POC: LT Ulmer 430-1814



**Why I
serve:** Seaman Alain Nguyen
Construction worker
Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 40



The Seminole, Fla. native explains why he chose to join the military.

"I joined for the college money and to broaden my horizons. I also knew it was a great opportunity for better employment afterward."

Just One Question...

"What improvements would you like to see made in the gyms?"



"A rock climbing wall."

Spc. Clinton Carroll
Fayetteville, N.C.
Broadcast Journalist
50th PAD



"Additional fitness trainers to help those Soldiers who have problems with PT get better."

1st Lt. Shannon Bibbee
Columbus, Ohio
Logistics Officer
HHC 384th MP Battalion



"More free weights."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Osvaldo Burgos
Rockville, Md.
Battalion Orthopedics Technician
Emergency Medical Facility-Kuwait



"Elliptical machines, because the ones we have are dated."

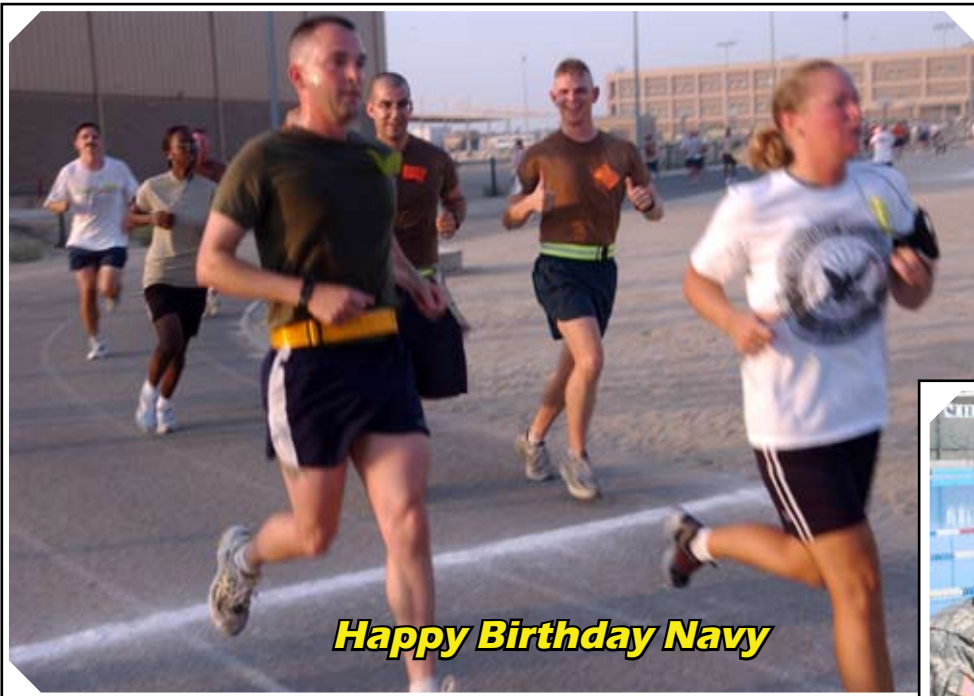
Master Sgt. Norman Leal
San Diego
Noncommissioned officer
5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron



"A T-bar for working out my back."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Thomas
The Woodlands, Texas
Construction worker
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40

What's happening around Kuwait ...



Happy Birthday Navy

Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Servicemembers cross the finish line during the 232nd Navy Birthday 5K Fun Run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 13.



Channel surfing

Photo by Master Sgt. Michele Hammonds

Maj. Frederick Barber, 35, of Columbus, Ga., Capt. Rabi Singh, 35 of Fayetteville N.C., Capt. Charles J. Taylor, 37, Lancaster, Calif., back row, Capt. Mark Milhiser, 33, Atlanta Ga., and Capt. Adam Storms, 26, of Mahwah, N.J., (from left to right) participated in the English Channel Swim competition held at Camp Arifjan Kuwait. The 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and Third Army/U.S. Army Central Soldiers each swam the length of the English Channel in the base pool. Storms placed third overall in the competition and second place for his age group, 29 and under, by swimming 93 total miles. Taylor placed second for his age group, 30-39.



A fond farewell

Photo by Master Sgt. Michele Hammonds

Soldiers of the Joint Logistics Task Force 1144th Transportation Motor Transport Battalion, stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, gather to send a shout out to their hometown, Delavan, Ill. These Illinois National Guard Soldiers thanked their community for their continued support while they were mobilized.

Airman 1st Class Joyce McCormick (left), from Apple Hill, Calif., and Sgt. Shannon Hernandez, from Monument, Colo., stand in front of their trucks at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 9. Both servicemembers are from 1144th Joint Logistics Task Force and are deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Roll on

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle