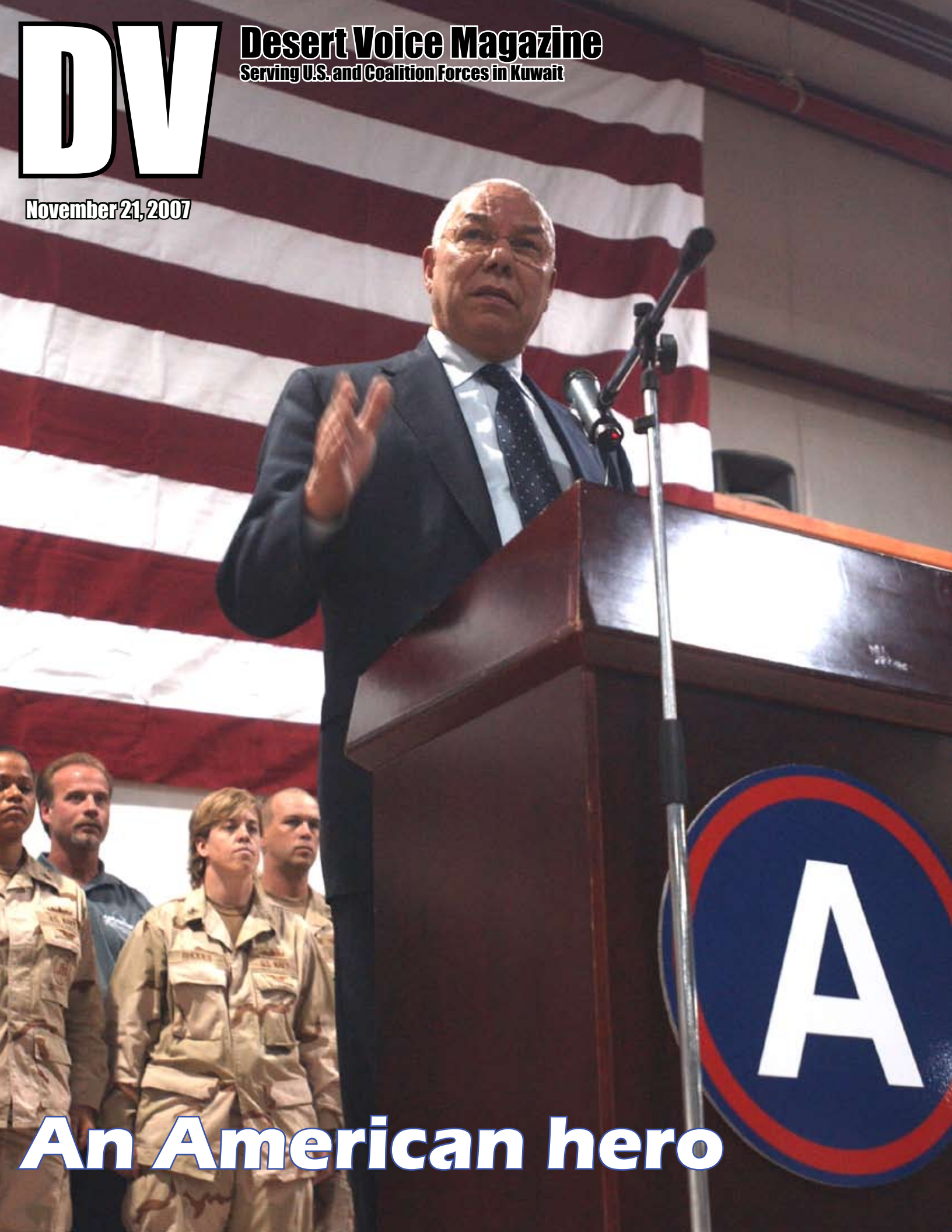


DV

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

November 21, 2007



An American hero

DV Contents

Page 4

Servicemembers honor veterans and Marine birthday during fun-run.

Page 5

Navajo Codetalkers were instrumental to U.S. during times of war.

Page 8

15 servicemembers take the oath to become newest U.S. citizens.

Page 10

New PCS claims procedures and regulations benefit Soldiers.

On the cover

Gen. (Ret.) Colin Powell speaks to servicemembers on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sunday. For the full story turn to page 6.

Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Contact us

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

Soldiers give back through CFC

It speaks well of our Army and our Nation that, even as we are deployed, we have the opportunity to help others who may be thousands of miles away by giving to organizations that are in the business of helping others.

Each year federal employees and

military personnel raise millions of dollars through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), dollars that benefit thousands of non-profit charities. Troops and Department of Defense employees have a unique opportunity to make a difference – to really know our donated dollars are going to a worthy cause.

Through the Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas (CFC-O), we are able to select and support the charities we believe in. Over 2,000 organizations must demonstrate they meet eligibility and public accountability standards, also disclosing how much of each dollar donated is spent on administrative and fundraising costs. Through the CFC, you are able to make an informed decision, not just go down the line and toss a dollar in a bucket.

The CFC-O campaign brings the annual charitable drive to servicemembers and civilians



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

serving overseas. CFC has a solid history of successfully contributing to thousands of organizations, both at the national level and in our local communities. Last year the CFC-O raised more than \$11.2

million for the numerous participating charitable

organizations and local installation Family Support and Youth Programs.

CFC doesn't try to force you to contribute; it simply gives you a way to make an informed decision on whether you want to donate and to whom. Read over the material you'll be given, and make your decision.

Our Third Army CFC mission for 2007 is to have 100 percent of our troops and DoD civilians personally contacted, informed and given the opportunity to contribute so we can make a difference for others. My experience is if we leaders take the time to inform, then the generosity of our troops to their fellows will shine.

Please consider giving to CFC. You choose the organization, you choose the amount, you choose how your resources will make a difference. Your voluntary support is appreciated and can help to make this world a better place.

Patton's Own!

Volume 29, Issue 25

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DV
Desert Voice
Magazine

Winter safety – space heaters, a fire safety issue

Story by

Charles A. Coffman

ASG–Kuwait Fire Prevention Office

As it starts to get cooler here in Kuwait, many work centers might find that it just gets a little too nippy in those early mornings or evening hours.

Personnel often resort to using a space heater for additional warmth. Unfortunately, many space heaters cause serious fire hazards because they are either used incorrectly or are not approved for Area Support Group–Kuwait installation use.

If your work or living area has an HVAC system that can be switched to heat during these cooler months, please make full use of these systems first.

HVAC systems not working properly should be called in for a work order through your facility manager or respective mayor's cell phone.

If your circumstances or the

temperatures dictate that you the ASG Fire Prevention office offers these important space heater fire safety requirements:

- First off, all space heaters must have written approval from ASG Fire Prevention office prior to use. Approval will be for the make and model of the space heater and for the location where used.

- All prospective space heaters must be taken to the ASG Fire Prevention Office located at Building 316 for evaluation

before an approval letter can be issued.

- “Salamander” type and any other kind of fuel-fed space heaters such as portable propane or kerosene forced air heaters are prohibited from use in any area on ASG installations.

- Space heaters must be 220-240 volts with built in tip over protection and have a CE approval rating.

- 110-volt space heaters are prohibited from use on ASG installations.

- Space heaters cannot be plugged into surge protectors and must be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

- Space heaters cannot be placed near combustible materials and should never be placed in the means of egress or any other high traffic area.

If you have any questions concerning space heater fire safety, please contact the ASG Fire Prevention Office at DSN: 430-3154. **A**





Servicemembers and civilians run in a large group during the Marine Corps birthday and Veterans Day run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 10. The Marine Corps celebrated its 232nd birthday Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day.

(Below) Onlookers cheer Army Sgt. Christopher McDermott, a machinist from the Task Force Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot out of Gulfport, Miss., as he crosses the finish line during the Marine Corps birthday and Veterans Day run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 10. McDermott, a native of Chicago, came in first place with 17 minutes, 17 seconds in the five-kilometer run.



Servicemembers celebrate Marine Corps birthday, Veterans Day

*Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Anishka Calder
1st TSC Public Affairs*

Servicemembers and civilians on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, kicked off the Veterans Day weekend with a run, Nov. 10, commemorating those who served and are serving in the Armed Forces, and the 232nd birthday of the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps birthday is celebrated each year on Nov. 10, because it was on this date in 1775, that the Continental Congress made a resolution that two battalions of Marines were to be raised.

Veterans Day, fittingly, is celebrated each year on Nov. 11, marking the day that the Germans signed the Armistice ending World War I in 1918.

Over 700 personnel from the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of responsibility participated in the five-kilometer, or 3.1-mile run.

The first place winner, Army Sgt.

Christopher McDermott, a machinist assigned to the Task Force Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot out of Gulfport, Miss., came in ahead of the pack with 17 minutes and 17 seconds.

"It's an honor to be running with all these great people," said McDermott, a native of Chicago. "It was a great race. It's fortunate that I came out here and did what I wanted to do as far as racing is concerned. This run was a 15-or 16-second improvement from my last ... as long as I keep making improvements, I'm happy with it."

For Army Master Sgt. Pamela Gaines, an automated logistics supervisor from the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), the run meant more to her than just another competition.

"The weather was great, and we had a lot of camaraderie and teamwork," said Gaines, a native of Philadelphia. "It was just good to see all the different branches of service

participating in the run and having a good time this morning, especially for this occasion."

At the conclusion of the run, medals were awarded to winners and to the first and second runners-up for each age group that participated.

One of the recipients, Sgt. 1st Class James Robinson Sr., 36, an ammunitions sergeant from the 1st TSC, and a native of Clinton, N.C., was a recipient of one of those medals. He expressed his excitement at being able to acquire a medal during the event for more than one reason.

"Today is my birthday and tomorrow is Veterans Day," Robinson said. "I am thrilled to be participating in an event that serves to remind us of the price that was paid by our forefathers, and that celebrates the birth of one of the branches of our military. Winning a medal on my birthday and for this event ... I couldn't have asked for a better birthday gift." 

"Codetalkers" honored at Native American observance

Story by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer

More than 100 personnel from the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of responsibility gathered at the Zone I Chapel as Native American Month was honored with a program at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 6.

The program, entitled "The Codetalkers and Native American Leadership" told the story of how Native Americans, in particular the Navajo tribe, played a key role in World War II.

Native Americans were prominent in the war and without them, the war might have turned out differently, said Lt. Col. Keith R. Harris, 54th Signal Battalion commander.

"Men like Ira Hayes and the Codetalkers gave their all so future generations of Americans could live their lives free from tyranny and evil," he said.

The Codetalkers were instrumental in the United States' war with Japan in the Pacific Theater of Operations, Harris said. The Codetalkers served in every major engagement the Marines conducted from 1942 to 1945. They fought in battles such as Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Iwo Jima. In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. As of 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines, 420 of them were trained as codetalkers. Harris said the reason the Navajos were used in this important capacity was because their language was not written down. It was in spoken form only.

"This made the language hard for the Japanese to decode," he said. "No one knew what it meant except those Codetalkers."

Harris said this was not the first time a Native American language had been used on the radio waves. He said the idea came from Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajos and one of the few non-Navajos who



Courtesy photo

Marine Navajo Codetalkers in action during World War II.

spoke their language fluently. The son of a missionary, Johnston was reared on the Navajo reservation. He was also a World War I veteran and had been present when the Choctaw language was used to transmit messages in 1917. He also knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it.

"So a precedent had been set for the Navajos and the Codetalkers," Harris said.

Some people needed convincing before allowing the Codetalkers to perform their duties. Early in 1942, Johnston met with Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and his staff to convince them of the Navajo language's value as code.

Harris said Johnston staged tests under simulated combat conditions, demonstrating that Navajos could encode, transmit and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds.

Machines of the time required 30 minutes to perform the same job. Convinced of the Navajos' capabilities, Vogel recommended to the Commandant of the Marine Corps that the Marines recruit 200 Navajos.

Tulsa, Okla., native Sgt. Jeril Billy, 164th Quartermaster Group and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, said the

ceremony honoring the different Native American cultures was great. He said even though the Native American population in the U.S. is small in numbers, remembering their commitment and sacrifices in the military is honorable.

"It's really important to the people," Billy said. "It makes others aware of contributions from other cultures and that there is a lot of history in serving as well."

Harris read an account of the Battle of Iwo Jima to the audience. The account came from Maj. Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer. Connor described the battle as fierce and bloody. During the first two days of the famed battle, Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock sending and receiving messages. Those six Marines sent and received over 800 messages during that time, all without error.

Their skill prompted Connor to declare, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."

"Their contribution helped the U. S. drive out a determined force," Harris said. "The Native Americans who served answered the call to duty and served honorably. We must never forget the deeds and heroism they displayed." 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob McDonald

Gen. (Ret.) Colin Powell shakes hands with servicemembers on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 18 during a brief visit there. Powell took time during a business trip to the country to speak to the troops, calling them a great generation.

Colin Powell visits servicemembers in Kuwait

Story by

Maj. Michele Satak

Third Army/USARCENT Public Affairs

General (Ret.) Colin L. Powell, the 65th United States Secretary of State, made a surprise visit to servicemembers stationed in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sunday.

Powell, escorted by Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, Third Army/United States Army Central deputy commanding general, was greeted by the thunderous applause of hundreds of servicemembers.

In his remarks, Powell told servicemembers that he was proud to have served as a Soldier and that in June he would be celebrating 50 years from when he began his service

in the military as a second lieutenant.

He also referred to his time in the service as some of the best years of his life.

Powell ended his motivational speech by telling those in the room, "There is no generation greater than the one I'm looking at now. Keep doing what you are doing, God bless you, thank you for all that you do."

After addressing servicemembers, Powell stepped over a barrier separating the crowd from the stage so he could stand side-by-side with the servicemembers and posed for pictures and shook hands.

The servicemembers reached out to greet him and he reached out to meet and greet everyone that he could.

Powell was in Kuwait on a speaking engagement.

As a general in the United States Army, Powell also served as national security advisor and as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, holding the latter position during the Gulf War which liberated Kuwait.

Powell became Ronald Reagan's national security advisor. After his tenure with the National Security Council, Powell received his fourth star under President George H.W. Bush and served as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army's Forces Command, overseeing all Army, Army Reserve and National Guard units in the Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. 

Infantry **blue** meets transportation **red**

Story and photo by
Capt. Sara Shipley
1144th JLTF Public Affairs

In today's ever-changing battlefield there are many units serving in lieu of missions. Field artillery Soldiers serve as military police; signal Soldiers serve as electronic warfare officers; and infantrymen serve as truck drivers.

One of these units is C Company, 167th Infantry Regiment. These Alabama Army National Guard members are giving their combat boots a rest and providing convoy security using up-armored gun trucks.

The C Company "Death Dealers" are part of the Joint Logistics Task Force 1144 stationed in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, inside Third Army/U.S. Army Central's area of responsibility. The task force consists of Air Force units, active Army units and Army National Guard units from all over the world. These Soldiers and Airmen run convoys that supply nearly all of the war material for combat units in Iraq.

"Everyone has more responsibility. The fire superiority and maneuverability of the unit has increased 10-fold," said Cpt. Eric Hare, C Company commander, a native of Columbus, Ga.

This mission is a big change for this



Photo by 1st Lt. Jonathon Hard

Spc. Cody Thom of C Company, 167th Infantry Regiment, trains at the M-4 rifle qualification range at Camp Shelby, Miss. The unit spent over 100 days preparing for their in lieu of gun truck mission.

4th Alabama unit who is used to squad movement techniques and dismounted patrols.

"You have to rely on your team leaders to make important decisions. Basically, it's harder. The guys need to know how to do PMCS (Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services) on the equipment, operate the vehicle's radios, the MTS (Movement Tracking

System), the Humvees and all the other equipment used during a convoy," said 1st Lt. Stanislav Lozovsky, the company executive officer and a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"Adventure and Action" is part of the 4th Alabama Creed and these men live up to it. They are chomping at the bit to go over the berm and have a chance to earn the coveted Combat Infantry Badge.

"We, the infantry, stand next to our transportation brothers and sisters – to protect them at all costs," said 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Hartsfield of

Auburn, Ala.

All of the infantrymen have had to adjust to a new way of life. Although most would rather be kicking in doors and engaging the enemy through constant small arms fire, they have admitted there are some perks to having this mission.

"We have been able to see the whole country," said 1st Sgt. John Black of Cullman, Ala.

"Running into the other members of the task force on the road; there are always convoys running both north and south all over the country," Lozovsky said.

Within the first few weeks of being at Camp Arifjan, C Company announced their presence by showing their unit pride. The door to their battalion commander's tent, that used to be transportation red, is now bright infantry blue and surrounded by sandbags.

"We wanted to take (the battalion commander) back to his early days – to an MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) he always wants to be," stated an anonymous member of the unit. "(We) let everyone know we're on the ground. We wanted to become part of the team right off the bat." 



C Company 167th Infantry Regiment of the Alabama Army National Guard used sandbags and traditional Infantry Blue to announce their presence at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Servicemembers raise right hand for citizenship

Story and photo by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice editor

They have all raised their hand before to swear an oath. They swore to protect the very nation they lived in, yet were not citizens of. That changed after they were all naturalized.

Servicemembers from Third Army/U.S. Army Central and its subordinate units became the newest U.S. citizens after a naturalization ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 13.

"This is a special day," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, Third Army/USARCENT deputy commanding general. "This is what America is all about. America is a nation of immigrants."

Hardy talked to the 15 newly-naturalized servicemembers about

the importance of their decision to join the military and their decision to become U.S. citizens.

"You are already doing something that most Americans have never done, and that is to serve the country," Hardy said. "Most Americans will never serve their country. You already understand the most essential element of citizenship, and that is the essence of service."

Hardy also told them not to take their citizenship for granted.

"Quite a few of us take it for granted; we forget sometimes, what it truly means to be a citizen," he said.

Sonny Busa, the consul for the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, praised the new citizens for defending America, despite the fact they were not citizens. He also reminded them not to lose their sense of pride of their heritage and to continue assimilating,

not just themselves, but other cultures as well.

After Busa's speech, the servicemembers raised their right hand, just as they did when they took the oath of enlistment. For some of them, they said it felt as if becoming a citizen made things "official."

After their oath, each servicemember stated their name and rank and the country of their former citizenship.

At the end of the ceremony, the servicemembers' peers congratulated them and welcomed them as new citizens.

For Sgt. Horrington Cross, 429th Transportation Company, becoming a citizen was a long time coming.

"My parents have lived here for a while, I lived four years in New York, and four years in Miami," said Cross, originally of Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Cross said he was proud of serving in the military before he became a citizen and viewed his service to the military as an obligation.

"I feel proud, being an American is nothing to be ashamed of, I'm proud I did this, I have no regrets," he said. "I feel like it is an obligation, something I have to do to serve my country and I'm glad I did."

Cross said he was excited to call his parents and tell them of his citizenship.

As a citizen, Spc. Lucke De La Cruz, 1113th Transportation Company, said he was looking forward to finally being able to vote.

"I can do a lot more being an American citizen, not just defending my country," said the Baguio City, Philippines-native who now resides in Sacramento, Calif. "I feel like I can give back to my country, now I can vote."

Busa reminded the new citizens of the importance of their right to vote.

"You now have that greatest right, that is the right to complain," Busa said. "But if you don't vote, you might as well not be a citizen." 



Photo by Master Sgt. Michele Hammonds

Newly-naturalized citizen Spc. Vahona Clouden, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), originally from Grenada, poses with Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, Third Army/U.S. Army Central deputy commanding general (left) and Sonny Busa, the consul for the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, during a naturalization ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 13.

Soldiers mourn one of their own

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Michele Hammonds
1st TSC Public Affairs

More than 500 Soldiers from the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and other units came out to honor a fallen comrade in a memorial service at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 16.

On Nov. 12, Spc. Ashley Sietsema, an Illinois National Guard combat medic from River Grove, Ill., died from injuries sustained in a single vehicle accident while conducting a routine medical transfer of a patient from Camp Buehring to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. She was promoted to specialist posthumously.

Sietsema touched all of everyone in her unit's lives and they were blessed to have known her and she will be missed, said Capt. James Dodd, 708th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) commander.

"We are a family at the 708th and losing a family member is never easy," Dodd said. "But Ashley has left her hand print on our hearts and she touched each and every one of our lives. Even though today she is not physically with us, she will never leave our hearts or our minds. Ashley will not be forgotten and we will keep her spirit with us forever."

Close friend, Spc. Jessica Bibeau, shared a special bond with Ashley. Bibeau and Sietsema deployed together with the 708th Medical Company to Kuwait, Sept. 3. Bibeau said they often laughed and cried together as she spoke about Ashley and her husband, Max at the memorial service.

"Those two were so head over heels in love, you could see it shining through them. Upon returning home, she planned to continue school, remarry in Mexico to include her family, and start a family of her own. She had so many goals,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anishka Calder

A member of the 708th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance), 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), and Illinois National Guard, pays her final respect to a fallen comrade and friend, Spc. Ashley Sietsema, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 16. Sietsema died from injuries sustained in a single vehicle accident while conducting a routine medical transfer of a patient from Camp Buehring to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Nov. 12. She was promoted to specialist posthumously.

and just barely got started," said Bibeau, of Midlothian, Ill.

Before closing, Bibeau asked the audience at the service, "How do you say good-bye to your best friend? 'Just as she would say, 'You can't.' She wouldn't want us to mourn, she would want us to celebrate her life. Carry her memories and spirit always. She would never forget any of us, so let's never forget her," said Bibeau as her eyes filled with tears.

Sietsema was assigned to the 708th Medical Company, North Riverside, Ill. The 20-year-old Soldier was only a few months into her deployment, and leaves behind a new husband. Ashley met and married her husband, Max William Sietsema, April 27, in Chicago.

Ashley was attending Northern Illinois University studying to become a nurse. She deployed

to Kuwait as a Soldier with the Illinois National Guard. Sietsema joined the Army in December 2004, completed her basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and her advance individual training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

After the service as 708th members filed outside the chapel, many talked about Sietsema and the impact she had made on their lives. "Ashley was probably the best person you could ever meet," Bibeau said. 

FRV means servicemembers get more \$\$\$ for damaged goods

Story by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice editor

Effective in fall 2007, servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians will be eligible for Full Replacement Value protection on most DoD funded personal property shipments.

FRV coverage will apply to personal property shipments with a pickup date on or after:

- Oct. 1, 2007 for international shipments (to/from OCONUS).
- Nov. 1, 2007 for domestic shipments (within CONUS).
- March 1, 2008 for non-temporary storage shipments.
- March 1, 2008 for local move/direct procurement method shipments.

Under the FRV program, the transportation service provider/carrier is liable for the greater of \$5,000 per shipment or \$4 times the net weight of the shipment (in pounds), up to \$50,000.

"The carrier is liable for the full, undepreciated replacement value on all lost or destroyed items if the claim is filed within nine months of the delivery date," said Roosevelt Childs, Third Army/U.S. Army Central claim examiner. Childs explained the difference between the new and old program. "Under the old program, the claimant had to purchase the full replacement protection insurance to insure lost or destroyed items.

They had two years from the date of delivery to file their claim with the moving carrier."

Providing prompt notice of loss and damage will still be an essential part of the process. The customer must submit the DD Form 1840, which lists all damage discovered at delivery, or the DD Form 1840R, which lists all damage discovered after delivery, to the TSP within 75 days of delivery. The TSP has the right to inspect the damaged items once the notice forms are received.

"The moving carrier is responsible for obtaining any repair estimates or replacement estimates they may need to settle the claim and any costs associated with obtaining the estimates," Roosevelt said.

Under the old program, the claimant was responsible for obtaining the repair and replacement estimates and had to incur the estimate costs prior to filing their claim.

There is no additional cost to the customer for FRV coverage, but the customer must file the claim directly with the TSP within nine months of delivery by using the DD Form 1844 to receive FRV. The TSP will settle the claim by repairing or paying to repair damaged items.

The TSP will pay FRV

cost on items that need replacing or have been lost or destroyed. When the claim is filed directly with the TSP, the TSP will be responsible for obtaining all repair and replacement costs. If the TSP denies the customer's full claim, makes an offer on the claim that is not acceptable, or does not respond within 30 days, the customer may transfer the claim to the Military Claims Office. If a customer files a claim with the TSP after nine months, but before the two-year time limit for filing the claim, the TSP is only liable for depreciated value of lost or damaged items.

If the TSP does not respond to the claim within 30 days, or makes an offer that the customer does not accept, the customer may transfer the claim to the MCO within nine months of delivery. If the customer transfers the claim, the MCO will only be responsible for depreciated replacement cost on the claims. The MCO will then attempt to recover FRV from the TSP. If the MCO recovers FRV, the MCO will then pay the member the difference between the depreciated cost already paid and the FRV cost.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command has published a detailed set of guidelines that governs FRV coverage on its Web site. Department of Defense customers can find the Web site at www.sddc.army.mil, click "Full Replacement Value Protection." 



Thanksgiving schedule for Kuwait



- Continental Breakfast – 5 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Thanksgiving Day meal – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Dinner – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Holiday Mailing Deadlines!

Space Available (SAM)	Nov. 27
Parcel Airlift Mail	Dec. 1
Priority Mail	Dec. 4
First-Class (letters, cards)	Dec. 4

Why I serve:

Air Force Staff Sgt. Randy Moorhouse
424th Medium Truck Detachment
Truck controller



The Queens City, Texas, native explains why he chose to join the military.

“I had just graduated from high school and had nothing to do so I enlisted in the Air Force. I recently just re-enlisted.”

Just One Question...

“What are you looking forward to most this holiday season?”



“I’m just looking forward to going home and being with my loved ones for the holiday season.”

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Johnson
408th Contracting Command
Contracting NCOIC
Washington, D.C.



“Going home, I’ll be on leave from December 19 to January 6.”

Capt. Ramel Jackson
54th Signal Battalion
S-3 Plans and operations
New York



“One more milestone off the board until I get home.”

Master Sgt. Brian McGee
424th Medium Truck Detachment
Truck master
Parker’s Grove, W. Va.



“Time going by.”

Chief Petty Officer Patrick Patten
Customs Battalion Tango
Quality Insurance Dept.
Longview, Wash.



“Spending time with my Family.”

Staff Sgt. Marie Normandie
1173rd Transportation Terminal Battalion
Battalion training NCO
Westerly, R.I.

What's happening around Kuwait ...

Happy birthday Marines



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox

Col. Phil Vanetton, Marine Central Coordination Element – Kuwait officer-in-charge, cuts a piece of Marine Corps birthday cake for the oldest and youngest Marines at a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 10.

A star-filled night



Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Country music superstar Aaron Tippin claps to the music as his bandmates perform during his concert at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Monday. Tippin and his band are currently touring the Middle East as part of a Stars for Stripes Tour.

Never forgotten



Photo by Capt. Walter Lewis

Servicemembers deployed with Third Army/U.S. Army Central lower the American flag during Retreat after a short ceremony in honor of Veterans Day in front of the Area Support Group – Kuwait headquarters building at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 12.

Singing his glory



Photo by Master Sgt. Michele Hammonds

One of several singing groups and choirs perform during the Gospel Festival at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 27. A packed crowd of more than 400 servicemembers and civilians filled the TAC Facility to attend the Gospel Festival. Some of those singing groups and choirs included Camp Patriot Gospel Service; Life Support Area Gospel Service; Camp Virginia Gospel Service and Camp Arifjan Gospel Service.