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Desert Voice Magazine

Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

November 28, 2007



Jumping into Bright Star

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As the cooler months approach, learn to adjust to different weather concerns.

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Third Army/USARCENT Soldier serves with diabetes in war zone.

On the cover

A U.S. Army paratrooper from the 20th Engineering Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., and an Egyptian paratrooper aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft prepare for an air drop into Cairo, Egypt, Nov. 10, as part of exercise Bright Star 2007.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

Contact us

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

Safe driving is force protection, saves lives

One of our most potentially lethal enemies doesn't even carry a rifle. It doesn't plant improvised explosive devices and cower nearby. It doesn't fire poorly-aimed mortar rounds at our general vicinity.

It strikes unexpectedly, killing at an alarming rate. It prefers head-on confrontation, sometimes collision. This enemy is deadliest when we leave

ourselves vulnerable by speeding, not wearing safety belts or driving under the influence of alcohol.

Though we are a nation at war, more servicemembers are dying in the military from vehicle accidents than from combat. Many of these accidents occur in privately owned vehicles and on motorcycles where there's usually not a leader sitting next to you, urging you to do the right thing.

You've got to show integrity and do it on your own. You've got to do the right thing simply because it's the right thing to do and the safe thing to do. These losses can be reduced if we make a conscious decision to do so. It's up to the individual Soldier to make that decision.

No matter how small a mission may be, all the right measures must be followed. Safety starts before you even get behind the wheel of a vehicle. By conducting preventive maintenance checks and pre-combat inspections, troops ensure their vehicles are serviceable and equipped to handle the operation. Safety briefings before the movement instill safety at the forefront of the servicemember's mind.

There have been many servicemembers who have died because they weren't wearing seatbelts. Some of these troops were under the impression that they wouldn't be able to get out of the vehicle fast enough to protect themselves if they came under attack from the enemy.

The deaths caused by many of these accidents had nothing to do with the enemy. They came about because of circumstances and judgment lapses that could have been avoided.

If you see a servicemember driving without a seatbelt, don't let them get away with it. Initiate an on-the-spot correction and ensure the



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

servicemember knows the importance of wearing protective equipment.

We're not totally defenseless as we combat this enemy. Training devices like the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer teach us tactics we can employ to raise our chances of survival. I know this trainer saves lives because I've witnessed first-hand how it raises the awareness of servicemembers who use it.

Most troops come out of the trainer and say, "wow, we really should slow down, rolling over isn't fun." The HEAT trainer helps servicemembers think more about safety measures in tactical vehicles and in their POVs, as well.

You don't have to have egress training to realize the importance of vehicle safety. HEAT techniques are reactive measures. These techniques are used after an accident has already taken place. Servicemembers need to be proactive in their approach.

Reduce your speed. There's no event so important that you have to drive recklessly to get there. When you speed you're not only endangering your life, but the life of others as well. Speeding is an unnecessary risk. If you speed and arrive at your destination, you've only saved yourself a few minutes. Is risking your life worth a few minutes?

While most deployed troops can't consume alcohol because of General Order Number 1, it's never good to drink and drive.

There are more than enough hazards on the road without drivers whose motor skills have been crippled by alcohol. If you're going to drink, find a designated driver.

Know your local accident procedures. Being familiar with these steps could mean the difference between life and death. Know emergency numbers for your area and always have some medium of communication with you.

Yes, the enemy is out there, and the threat he presents should never be overlooked or underestimated. Don't forget that underestimating the importance of safety precautions when operating vehicles can be just as deadly.

"Third ... Always First."

Volume 29, Issue 26

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DV
Desert Voice
Magazine

Weather safety top priority

Story by
Maj. Greg Majewski
335th Theater Signal Command

Weather safety may seem like a subject of little interest to most servicemembers, but for this weatherman it's the centerpiece of everything I do.

When not serving as a citizen Soldier with the 335th Theater Signal Command here on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, I work as a meteorologist at a television station in Atlanta.

Weather safety is not just small-talk for what I do for a living, but an issue of extreme importance, keeping people safe from the dangers of extreme weather.

In the military, we have to deal with a variety of weather safety issues, none more important here in Kuwait than staying hydrated in a desert climate.

Remember that just because the temperatures are getting cooler, you are still losing water, so keep a water bottle handy at all times.

Last year, I gave talks to dozens of schools and community events in Atlanta stressing the importance of having a proper emergency plan to react to any weather condition.

Servicemembers and leaders must also keep this same mind set and never

underestimate the impact weather plays on our operations.

The success and failure of any mission may depend on how we react to the elements.

If this is your first time in theater, believe it or not, the weather does change.

We are moving into the time of year where the weather becomes more and more unpredictable.

The first rains will be the most dangerous.

Kuwait has not seen rain in months, so that means the roads have accumulated layers of dried oil.

When the first rains fall, roads will become as slick as ice resulting in greater chances for rear end collisions and hydroplaning.

Remind your servicemembers when they are behind the wheel to slow down when it is raining, and triple their distance from the vehicle traveling in front of them.

Thunderstorms also occur in Kuwait, raising the chances of lightning strikes and flooding.

In March 2007, Kuwait was hit with some of the worst series of thunderstorms in years, causing flooding on many of the camps and damage from lightning.

Those of you who perhaps were here in March 2003 may remember

the historical dust storm (Shamal) that blasted the area with hurricane force winds and blinding sand.

Low pressures swinging through the southern Mediterranean can sometimes explode into monster storm systems and gather a great deal of dust out of the deserts of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

If you get the alert that a major dust storm is approaching, ensure your troops have the proper protective gear.

If driving, pull over and try to wait for a lull or slow your speed drastically.

If you ever have any questions on weather impacting any mission, check with your chief of operations or the staff weather officer in the Command Center for the latest forecast or check online.

Also, remember to include weather in your safety risk assessments.

A stormy, rainy day obviously will have a higher risk on a mission than a sunny, clear day.

It is important for every Soldier to remain situationally aware of their surroundings. This includes the weather.

As long as we treat Mother Nature with the proper respect, weather safety will be less of an issue on anything we do.

Be safe and stay weather aware! 

Buehring remembers fallen servicemember

Story and photo by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer

Chief Master Sgt. John De Castro stood up and faced the crowd.

"Roll Call," he said to the audience. "Airman Farris."

"Here chief," came the reply

"Staff Sergeant Landrum," the chief said

"Here, chief," was uttered once again.

"Tech. Sergeant Ayala," the senior enlisted leader said. No reply.

"Technical Sergeant Alejandro Ayala," the chief said again. No reply once again. DeCastro, tears in his eyes, looked at the crowd and returned to his seat.

A standing-room only crowd filled Camp Buehring's Post Chapel Nov. 21 to pay their last respects to a fallen comrade in a memorial service there.

On Nov. 18, Tech. Sgt. Alejandro Ayala, a ground movement noncommissioned officer assigned to the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and working for the Support Operations Cell, 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (Augmentation), Multi-National Corps Iraq – Kuwait, died from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident while traveling near Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

Ayala touched the lives of everyone in the unit and in the office, said Col. Larry Rogers, Multi-National Corps Iraq – Kuwait commander. He said Ayala, day-in and day-out, gave his all to ensure servicemembers were taken care of.

"Tech. Sergeant Ayala performed his tasks in an exemplary and enthusiastic manner," Rogers said. "His dedication to duty and attention to detail were of the highest caliber. In over 32 years of service, he is one of the top five E-6s I've had the pleasure to work with."

Lt. Col. Kevin Sampels, commander of the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, said "Tech. Sergeant Ayala was an exceptional logisti-



Air Force Master Sgt. Laura Hoy (left) and Airman 1st Class Michelle Farris, both from 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Multinational Corps Iraq – Kuwait, remember Tech. Sgt. Alejandro Ayala during a memorial service at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 21. Ayala passed away from non-combat related injuries Nov. 18.

cian with a very bright future ahead of him.

"He was making a positive difference here in Kuwait, and we will miss him very much," Sampels said.

Air Force Master Sgt. Laura Hoy said her fellow colleague cared about others and their well-being, not about himself. She said Ayala was the poster child of the Air Force.

"He knew his job and he took care of those beneath him," Hoy said fighting back tears. "As an NCO I could not ask for anyone else to work with."

Ayala, a native of Riverside, Calif., joined the military in 1999 as a traffic management trainee. He completed basic and advanced individual training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. While in training, Ayala won the Commander's Award as the top student in his class.

After graduation, Ayala was first stationed at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., as a member of the cargo movement section. In June 2007, he

was notified of his selection to technical sergeant.

With a desire to help mold and shape future Air Force leaders, he applied for an instructor's position at the Airman Leadership School at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

Staff Sgt. Ayala was posthumously promoted to technical sergeant Nov. 18. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Senior Transportation Badge.

Ayala was also recognized as a distinguished graduate for demonstrated superior leadership and academic performance while attending the Airman Leadership School at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base.

Ayala is survived by his wife, Megan, their daughter Alexandria, 4, a son, Matthew, 2, his parents and his two brothers. 

Third Army conducts world's largest exercise

Story by
Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg
42nd Inf. Div. headquarters

CAIRO, Egypt – A large-scale command post exercise was conducted jointly this month with coalition army staff officers as part of Bright Star 2007.

In the lead was Third Army/U.S. Army Central as the organization incorporated servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps as part of the world's largest exercise. Bright Star is a biennial multi-national exercise that involves more than a dozen allied, coalition or partner nations in Egypt.

"For more than 23 years, since 1983, the success of Bright Star demonstrates to enemies around the world, as well as allies, that we can deploy a division headquarters, deploy an Army headquarters, conduct an airborne operation from halfway around the world, and insert an infantry company on the ground," said Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third Army/USARCENT commander. "And you can interface and interact with conventional forces almost routinely."

This year's exercise included a large-scale battle simulation exercise meant to challenge senior leaders and staff in the command and control of combat forces operating jointly.

"All of us know that a command post exercise exerts pressure on the generals, colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors because it is a brain exercise," Whitcomb said to the combined American and coalition staff. "So challenge each other, learn from each other."

The computer-generated battlefield is based on fictitious nations in conflict and a coalition of nations responding to restore security and an internationally recognized border.

About 200 members of the 42nd Infantry Division, New York National Guard, controlled a fictitious force of more than 110,000 troops for the command post exercise.



Courtesy photo

Servicemembers from the U.S. and Egyptian armies discuss plans and strategies during Bright Star 2007 in Egypt in November. The exercise is aimed at promoting partnership between U.S. and other multi-national forces in the area.

"There is no better expert on warfare in this maneuver box that we are conducting operations in than the Egyptians. This is their territory, they know how to fight this fight and we ought to learn from them," Whitcomb said.

Nearly three dozen officers from the Egyptian army's 9th Armored Div. complemented the 42nd Inf. Div. staff for the exercise. The goal was to replicate a multinational senior headquarters during the battle simulation exercise. Joint training began almost immediately after the division's deployment as members of the Egyptian staff learned about the Army's military decision-making process and techniques for the command and control of combat forces.

"We came with a plan," said Col. Carl Pfeiffer, 42nd Inf. Div. chief of staff. "We are here to demonstrate to the Egyptians that we are willing to work, partner and listen to them as we work through the (training) scenario."

"Our report card here is when our Egyptian partners write a letter to Lieutenant General Whitcomb," Pfeiffer

continued, "and tell him that they enjoyed working with the 42nd Infantry Division."

Part of the cooperative training included discussion and comparison of the two unit's capabilities and techniques for battle command. The two division commanders, Maj. Gen. El Araby El Suray, from the Egyptian 9th Armored Div. and Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux from the 42nd Inf. Div., both led discussions among the joint staff.

"I can not be more pleased in the cooperative effort I'm seeing between our two staffs," Genereux said. "My goals for this mission were to safely deploy our command post and train alongside the Egyptian 9th Armored, achieving real unity in our two organizations for the exercise. Ninety percent of what I wanted to achieve in Bright Star, we have already done."

"We question each other and learn from each other," Whitcomb said, "and that is the real value of Bright Star."

Editor's note: Bright Star coverage continued on next page. 

Falling for Egypt

Friendship jump brings together coalition forces

Story by
Shauna Heathman
437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs
and Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley
Third Army/USARCENT Public Affairs

CAIRO, Egypt – It's Nov. 11 and on Koum Asheem drop zone located south of Cairo, Egypt, coalition military personnel conducted a strategic airborne operation that included

jumping from two C-17 Globemasters inbound from a 15-hour flight from Fort Campbell, Ky.

The 107 American, 103 Egyptian, nine Yemeni, eight Kuwaiti and six German paratroopers departed from Cairo East on board the airplanes. It took two lifts to deliver all of the jumpers to the Koum Osheem drop zone.

Here in support of the Bright Star

exercise, the coalition troops took the opportunity to make new friends by helping each other with the pre-jump preparations, in-flight checks and with assistance after they landed.

"Bright Star is aimed to enhance the interoperability between the United States, Egyptian and coalition forces," said Staff Maj. Gen. Esmat Morad, commander of Egyptian paratroopers, who was at the drop zone site to watch his troops perform the strategic jump.

The strategic airborne operation demonstrated the coalition paratrooper's commitment to regional stability by being able to respond to a crisis anywhere in the world.

"This was a great experience and a once in a life-time opportunity," said Sgt. Donovan M. Burson, a 101st Airborne Division Soldier from Morgan Town, Ky., and a participant in the friendship jump. "I was glad to be a part of exercise Bright Star and to be here with our coalition partners and be part of something that is a true joint operation."

Bright Star 2007, hosted by Egypt and Third Army/U.S. Army Central Command, was held in Cairo from Nov. 3 to 19 involving troops from 13 countries such as Egypt, France, Greece, Germany, Jordan and Kuwait.

The exercise is designed to strengthen military cooperation, readiness and interoperability among Egypt, the United States, and other



Photo by Fathi Hissan

A U.S. jump master inspects an Egyptian paratrooper prior to a friendly jump during the Bright Star exercise in Egypt.

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Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

Army paratroopers from the 20th Engineering Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., and Egyptian paratroopers aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft prepare for an air drop in Cairo, Egypt, Nov. 10, 2007, as part of exercise Bright Star 2007. Bright Star is a joint/command post and tactical field exercise designed to improve readiness and interoperability between U.S., Egyptian and other coalition forces.

coalition countries. While Bright Star is primarily a command post exercise, it is also an airborne and special operations forces field training exercise.

The 233 jumpers from the four branches of the U.S. military and their coalition counterparts dropped from the Charleston C-17s during the friendship drops. Following the drops, the formation flew a low-level route for additional training.

“Our involvement in Bright Star was an incredible team effort from

our talented active duty and reserve operators, maintenance, security and medical folks at Charleston (South Carolina),” said Lt. Col. Norman Czubaj, the 14th Airlift Squadron commander and C-17 mission commander for the jump. “They made this complicated, extremely demanding, intricate mission appear easy – a testament to their talent and professionalism.”

Army Maj. Gen. Gerald Minetti, the Bright Star exercise co-director, echoed his sentiments.

“Successful airborne operations go beyond those who parachute out of the plane. It took a great team all working together to execute these airdrops,” Minetti said. “Airmen from Charleston as well as those from bases who provided in-flight refueling were a very important part of our Bright Star team. All should be proud of their role in the exercise and know the support they provided was outstanding.”

The friendship jump concluded with a wing exchange between the participating nations. The ceremony started with each of the airborne commanders thanking their Egyptian hosts for participating in the Bright Star exercise and specifically the friendship jump a great experience for all the participating nations.

Each of the airborne commanders were very pleased with how everything went with both the strategic and friendship jumps and stated they were eager to participate in the next Bright Star airborne operation.

Editor’s note: Bright Star coverage continued on next page. 



Black smoke rises after a controlled detonation during the Bright Star 2007 exercise in Egypt in November.

A booming friendship

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley



Courtesy photo

An Egyptian explosive ordnance trainer gives hands-on training to a Pakistani officer at Mubarak Military City during the Bright Star 2007 exercise in Egypt.

Troops blow up barriers during Bright Star

Story by
Maj. Tom Alexander Jr.
Third Army/USARCENT Public Affairs

CAIRO, Egypt – Demolitions is a common task for any explosive ordnance disposal unit. During Third Army/U.S. Army Central's biennial Bright Star exercise, soldiers from Egypt, Kuwait, Yemen, Pakistan and France conducted that common task while sharing tactics,

techniques and procedures used to ensure the task was accomplished to standard.

"This has definitely been an eye-opening experience," said Paco, a combat engineer with the French air force.

The overall eagerness and the willingness to share ideas were apparent in the eyes of the participants and the Egyptian training officers.

During the exercise, coalition partnership building was evident as the Egyptian trainers took the special operations soldiers from each nation through weapons training, day and night land navigation and explosives training.

As the training took place each coalition partner had the opportunity to share the different tactics, techniques and procedures that were unique to their nation. 

U.S., Egypt practice MEDEVAC procedures

Story by

Lt. Col. Gordon Mays

Third Army/USARCENT Surgeons Office

CAIRO, EGYPT – At the biennial Bright Star exercise, U.S. and coalition partners conducted a simulated mass casualty medical evacuation that began with two days of medical training and rehearsals in preparation with Dar Al Fouad Hospital in Egypt.

The rehearsal prepared U.S. and coalition medical personnel for the evacuation of ambulatory patients and strapping and loading litter patients onto aircraft while also providing in-flight medical care.

The training also consisted of evaluating and treating patients prior to and during the MASCAL. A medical team from Third Army/U.S. Army Central and 3rd Medical Command provided aircraft safety procedures, litter team training, loading and unloading ground and air ambulances, medical equipment and tactics techniques and procedures used as part of in-flight care of patients. Tracking of patient care was exercised by Third Army's patient administration. An Egyptian aircrew provided valuable training on their medical and aircraft procedures.

The medical evacuation training



Courtesy photo

Egyptian and U.S. servicemembers practice loading patients onto a helicopter as part of the Bright Star 2007 exercise in November.

conducted during the two-day rehearsal included air evacuation via helicopter courtesy of an Air Force squadron out of Koum Asheem Air Base, ground ambulance support from Third Army's 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Maadi Military Hospital and Dar Al Fouad Hospital.

As part of the MASCAL, a flight evacuation team consisting of Egyptians and U.S. Soldiers trained as a team to provide crucial and vital

patient care.

On the day of the MASCAL a helicopter landed on the helipad where litter teams transferred patients to Dar Al Fouad's ambulances. Under the supervision of Dr. Sherif H. Abdel Fatih, hospital emergency coordinator, 16 patients were physically transported to Dar Al Fouad Hospital and were admitted, processed into their emergency room, examined and treated for injuries. **A**



Fighting the good fight . . .



Capt. Brian Courter

Daily blood checks are vital to keeping blood sugar levels in check. Some diabetics may check their sugar levels three or four times a day. Diabetics normally check their blood sugar when they get up in the morning and after meals.

Soldier serves in Kuwait, deals with diabetes daily

*Story and photos by
SpC. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer*

Capt. Brian Courter thought it was nothing. The pain he had been experiencing would go away in time. A trip to the hospital confirmed that he had a kidney stone. However, something else worried the doctors even more – elevated sugar levels in Courter's urine samples. Further tests confirmed his worst fears. Courter had diabetes.

"Shock," Courter, the Third Army/U.S. Army Central G-4 battle captain, said of his initial reaction to the news. "My dad has diabetes so I kind of knew it could happen to me but, at the age of 28, I did not think it would happen that soon."

Diabetes is a disease that attacks the human pancreas. Diabetes prevents insulin, the hormone secreted by the pancreas to break down glucose produced by food in the body.

Currently in the United States, there are more than 20 million people with diabetes. While the number of diabetes cases are high, more than 6 million people, one-third of that total, do not know they have the disease.

According to the Web site www.diabetes.org, the cause of the disease is a mystery.

Many factors such as genetics and environmental factors contribute to the onset of diabetes. Diabetes is associated with older age, obesity, family history of diabetes, history of gestational diabetes, impaired glucose metabolism, physical inactivity and race/ethnicity.

"Diabetes is a disease where your body is not producing enough insulin or the insulin that is being produced is not being used properly," said Lt. Betty Ulmer, health promotion and wellness nurse for the Navy's Expeditionary Medical Facility – Kuwait serving in the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of operations at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

After the initial shock wore off, his life changed, Courter said.

"Initially it was a complete 180 degree turnaround. I was used to eating whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted," said the Oscoda, Mich. "Because my dad was a diabetic, I kind of had an idea of the things I needed to do and not do."

A trip to Walter Reed Medical Center, Md., got Courter on the right track. He received information on things he could do and could not do.

"For instance, at the time, I thought I had to cut out sweets all together. So I did that. I tried to stay away from the carbohydrates as much as possible," he said. "After the visit to Walter Reed's Diabetes Institute, I got some education on dieting and how to take better care of myself. After that, the initial fear went away."

Being deployed, Courter said that his control of his disease has gotten better.

"I'm regimented and a lot of control is regimentation – taking your medications at the same time, eating at approximately the same time," he said. "I became more focused on physical training, running, cardiovascular exercise, because they truly do help control your blood sugar."

Courter said if you show any of the symptoms, it is best if you go ahead and get checked out.

"(Diabetes) will kill you if it goes unchecked," Courter said. "It's best to know you do have diabetes than to not know. In this case, ignorance is not bliss."

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series on Diabetes in November which is Diabetes Awareness Month. 

Come meet and listen to Dave Roever



This Thursday, Roever will speak with servicemembers at the following locations:

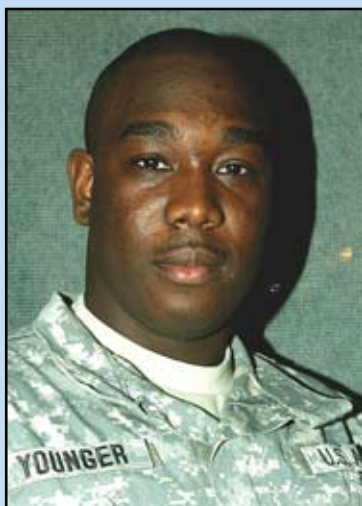
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., U.S. Navy Warrior Transition Tent 1901,
Zone 6, Camp Arifjan

3:30 p.m., Zone 1 Chapel, Camp Arifjan

Holiday Mailing **Deadlines!**

Parcel Airlift Mail	Dec. 1
Priority Mail	Dec. 4
First-Class (letters, cards)	Dec. 4

Why I **serve:** Pvt. 1st Class Tyrone Younger 429th Transportation Company Truck driver



The Brooklyn, N.Y. native explains why he chose to join the military.

"I wanted to do something better with myself. I'm from Brooklyn so it's rough out there. I figured I wanted to make a change and it's worked out for me."

Just One Question...

"What will you be sending home this holiday season?"



"I will be sending home children's burqas and scarves."

Tech. Sgt. Joanne Vega
Defense Logistics Agency
Class 9 expeditor
Bridgeport, Conn.



"Unfortunately, nothing."

Staff Sgt. Teawine Wineglass
25th Signal Battalion
Signal NCO
Hampton, Va.



"Myself. I get to go home for the holidays."

Master Sgt. Sabrina Shaw
640th Sustainment Brigade
Food service supervisor
Clarksville, Tenn.



"I will be mailing my kids some video games that I just bought from the PX."

Chief Petty Officer Larry Lising
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40
MWR building manager
San Antonio



"I hope myself. I'm getting ready to go home."

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Rassmussen
586th Air Expeditionary Group
Computer Specialist
Omaha, Neb.

Gobble gobble Kuwait gobble ...

Happy Thanksgiving



Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

1st Sgt. Melvin Evans, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), a native of Wilmington, N.C., leads the "Sons of Arifjan" men's choir at a Thanksgiving prayer breakfast at a dining facility on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 21.



Photo by Master Sgt. Michele Hammonds

(Above) Col. Lawrence Moreland, of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), right, is all smiles as he serves food to Maj. Luis O. Remigio in a dining facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22.



(Left) Servicemembers and hotel employees play a game of beach volleyball during a Thanksgiving day celebration in Fahheel, Kuwait, Nov. 22. The event was sponsored by the Association of the United States Army and Middle Eastern Business Solutions International and coordinated by the MWR.



Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Sgt. Valerie Christian, Joint Logistics Task Force 10, a native of Princeton, W. Va., rides a camel during a Thanksgiving day celebration at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 22.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anishka Calder

Members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and prospective candidates run as a group at the Turkey Trot Thanksgiving Day Run on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 22. Over 930 servicemembers and civilians participated in the five-kilometer run around the camp.