

DV

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

January 16, 2008



Hail to the Chief

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On the cover

President George W. Bush waves at thousands of servicemembers as he makes his way to the stage Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Saturday. Bush thanked the servicemembers and their Families for their hard work and sacrifices. For the full story, turn to page 6.

Photo by Marine Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Contact us

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



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2008

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
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1. On 21 January 2008, the nation will honor the birthday, the memory, and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As reflected in its theme—Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off—this day of remembrance has come to be regarded as a day of action, not simply a day free from work or school. It is a day to serve our communities and our neighbors for the greater social good.
2. Dr. King dedicated his life to empowering people, no matter their circumstances; he challenged people to strengthen their neighbors and communities; he confronted traditional barriers within our society by encouraging Americans to look past their differences; and he refused to rest until our nation fulfilled its pledge of liberty and justice for all.
3. Dr. King's vision of tolerance, equality, and persistence continues to resonate today. I encourage you to participate in some of the various activities that commemorate the memory and legacy of this great American.


JAMES J. LOVELACE
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding



DV
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Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Vehicle wreckage is a common sight on the side of the road in Kuwait. Most accidents are caused by excessive speed.

Drive to survive – understand rollover crashes before they happen

Story by
Col. Will G. Merrill III
Third Army/USARCENT safety director

During the last decade the passenger vehicle fleet in the United States has shifted from the once standard “family sedan” to a majority of sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and vans that have very different handling characteristics.

Some of these characteristics are influenced by the higher center of gravity, which often contributes to rollover crashes.

The rollover crash is not a new phenomenon – vehicles have been rolling over as long as people have been driving. The increase in rollovers is due to the migration from sedans to the more popular SUVs, vans and pickup trucks.

Less likely, but more dangerous

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, rollover accidents are relatively rare.

Rollovers occur an average of once in every 40 reported crashes. However,

when they occur, they are much more likely to result in serious injury or death than most other types of crashes. In fact, one of every three passenger vehicle fatalities occurs in a rollover crash.

The “when, where and why” of rollovers

Recent Department of Transportation studies indicate that the vast majority of rollovers occur during ordinary driving. They can happen when a driver suddenly swerves to avoid an obstacle such as a stopped car or animal in the road or when a driver accidentally drifts off the pavement and onto the shoulder.

In fatal rollovers, excessive speed and alcohol are often contributing factors. Nearly three of every four fatal rollovers occurs on a rural road with a posted speed limit of 55 mph or higher. Excessive speed, either above the posted limit or too fast for road conditions or driver’s ability, is cited as a contributing factor in about 40 percent of fatal rollovers.


About half of all fatal rollovers involve alcohol – though not necessarily in excess of the legal limit. More than 80 percent are single vehicle crashes.

Rollover crashes in the AOR

Since our fleet of vehicles in the AOR has very few sedans and more Army motor vehicles, SUVs, “white assets” and high center of gravity vehicles, our risk of rollover crashes is greater than those in the U.S.

In fiscal year 2007, 44 percent of our serious motor vehicle accidents (which result in damages greater than \$20,000 or injury requiring hospitalization for more than one day) involved a rollover.

Two of those were fatal accidents and three others resulted in two permanent partial disabilities and property damage totaling greater than \$800,000. So far in fiscal year 2008, we had 11 rollovers (32 percent of our serious vehicle accidents) resulting in one fatality and nearly \$400,000 in damages.

Editor’s note: This is the first story in a two-part series about vehicle rollovers. 

Soldiers take pride in ser

Story by
1st Lt. Virginia Bax
1190th Deployment Support Bde.

BALAD, Iraq – After 15 months of work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, every Soldier within a redeploying brigade has only one thing in mind: it's time to go home. The 1190th Deployment Support Brigade is there to make that happen.

The brigade is an Army Reserve unit based out of Baton Rouge, La. It is one of several units belonging to the Surface Deployment Distribution Command that operates within U.S. Central Command.

In order to successfully meet its mission, Soldiers within the 1190th are split between Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq, 1190th Soldiers comprise the Deployment Distribution Support Team-Iraq. The DDST-Iraq is dedicated to the redeployment of each brigade where the process begins at forward operating bases.

The DDST-Iraq, consisting of 14 personnel split into two smaller teams, is based in Balad, Iraq. They receive support from another SDDC unit, the 840th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion, which provides the DDST-Iraq life support and operations assistance.

The 840th works closely with DDST-Iraq's commander, Lt. Col. Christopher "Sam" Houston, to ensure that mission schedules and flight arrangements are secured. The DDST-Iraq travels throughout Iraq on Redeployment Support Team missions to support brigade-level redeployments. The focus is the movement of major



Photo by Lt. Col. Christopher Houst

Spc. Allan Martinez and Staff Sgt. Avelardo Casias compare notes while inspecting containers for serviceability at Forward Operating Base Union III, Iraq, Jul. 17. Martinez and Casias are members of Deployment Distribution Support Team-Iraq, which assists and prepares units for redeployment at the end of their tours.

end items, specifically containers and rolling stock equipment, from Iraq to the seaport of embarkation.

Houston's goal is for every brigade in Iraq that needs assistance to be accounted for. By coordinating with the division transportation officers from each of the multinational divisions, he has ensured DDST-Iraq support for all of their respective brigades. So far, this has included 12 brigade

combat teams and three combat aviation brigades. The RST mission is only part of the assistance provided by the DDST-Iraq teams where brigade redeployments are concerned.

"We develop a relationship with each BCT that spans several months leading up to their redeployment," Houston said. "This includes initial contact with their mobility warrants, and S-4 (logistics and supply), and leads to

anding warfighters home

full-blown mobile training team refresher courses that we provide to their unit mobility officers.

By the time each BCT is ready to redeploy, the DDST-Iraq has built their automated movement plans, certified their containers for seaworthiness, trained their unit movement officers in the redeployment process, taught how to properly prepare and document hazardous materials for shipment and a variety of other redeployment-related tasks.”

When brigades are ready to redeploy, the DDST-Iraq travels to each brigade’s location to finalize the transportation coordinator’s automated information management system plans, help verify all unit equipment lists, “burn” the radio frequency identification tags for in-transit visibility and inspect all hazardous material documentation and loading. Additionally, DDST-Iraq Soldiers are qualified to assist with container-serviceability issues.

Taking care of these issues at the forward operating bases may require more work in Iraq, but it pays off when the brigade can redeploy without stranded cargo at the port.

According the Department of Defense, frustrated cargo is shipment of supplies and/or equipment which, while enroute to destination, is stopped prior to receipt and for which further disposition instructions must be obtained.

Because most brigades are still conducting their wartime missions when it is time to redeploy, a lot of redeploying Soldiers find themselves with the additional duty of battalion UMO, hazard-

ous materials noncommissioned officer or customs noncommissioned officer.

The DDST-Iraq also incorporates the U.S. Coast Guard Redeployment Assistance Inspection Detachment. Their specialties are hazardous materials and container serviceability. Their assistance has prevented hundreds of containers containing hazardous materials from being held up at the port.

The presence of Coast Guard personnel is unusual in a land consisting mostly of desert. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class James Huddleston takes it all in stride. “We get a lot of looks and many questions,” said the boat-swain’s mate. “Ours is the most unique, rewarding job anyone in the Coast Guard could have. There are very few of us in Iraq.”

The year has been busy for the DDST-Iraq teams. There are few places in Iraq that the DDST-Iraq has not visited in support of multiple missions. Team members have traversed the country from Iskandariyah to as far north as Tal Afar and Mosul.

Demand for assistance has required travel to numerous forward operating bases and patrol bases.

To the DDST-Iraq Soldiers, the amount of travel can be trying at times, with spending countless hours at passenger terminals waiting for flights, living continually out of rucksacks, and sleeping anywhere from tents to mausoleums, as at FOB Union III.

However, being a DDST-Iraq Soldier has its perks, according to Spc. Allan Martinez, a container serviceability inspector.

“We get to see more of Iraq

than most Soldiers ever do,” Martinez said. “Every mission is an adventure. I’ve made a lot of friends and learned more about my job than I ever thought possible.”


DDST-Iraq Soldiers have benefited from the unique variety of needs that each brigade brings to the table said Staff Sgt. Juanda Bryant, another team member.

“Each brigade has brought new lessons in... and all of the on-the-job training has made it easier as we go,” she said. “My motto is, ‘adapt and overcome.’ Now, I feel confident that there isn’t a redeployment issue we can’t handle.”

The commander of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Col. Mike Kershaw, spoke about a successful redeployment.

“We have had no frustrated cargo or containers and absolutely no HAZMAT problems with any of our 500 containers and rolling stock,” he said. “The fact that (DDST-Iraq Soldiers) went to some of our most austere patrol bases to check containers and HAZMAT allowed our Soldiers and UMOs to continue focusing on the fight while preparing to redeploy.”

Chief Warrant Officer Manuel Rodriguez, the brigade mobility officer for 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, praised the team at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

“Through their outstanding technical knowledge in... they ensured my brigade was thoroughly prepared to redeploy after a 15-month deployment,” he said. “I am proud and honored to have had the opportunity to serve with these fine Americans.” 

Commander-in-chief offers message

Story by
Staff Sgt. Jacob A. McDonald
Desert Voice staff writer

President George W. Bush made a stop in Kuwait Saturday during his Middle East tour to meet with key U.S. leaders and speak to servicemembers deployed to the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of operations in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Bush met with the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Gen. David Petraeus, commander, Multi-National Forces Iraq, to discuss the situation in Iraq as well as the progress made and the challenges ahead.

"We discussed the fact that whatever happens in Iraq impacts everything else in the entire region," Bush said. He then discussed the changes and improvements that came from the

troop surge and the strategy change in Iraq over the last year.

"Iraq is now a different place from one year ago," Bush said. "Much hard work remains but levels of violence are significantly reduced. Hope is returning to Baghdad and hope is returning to towns and villages throughout the country."

Bush also spoke about how the Iraqis are taking control of their own government and coming together despite religious differences to build a common future and diminish violence.

In his statement Bush spoke about U.S. forces returning home due to the changes in Iraq. He stated that any additional reduction will be based on Petraeus' recommendations, based on the conditions on the ground in Iraq.

"I have believed all along that if people are given a chance to live in a free society they will do the hard work necessary to live in a free society," he said.

He also spoke about the importance of the concerned citizen groups who are stepping up to help provide local security in addition to the Iraqi surge of 100,000 local police and Iraqi troops.

"We must do all we can to ensure 2008 brings even greater progress for Iraq's young democracy. Long-term success in Iraq is vital to our friends here in the region and to America's national security," Bush said. "In a place where Saddam Hussein once menaced the world, the new U.S., Iraqi relationship will strengthen a democracy that serves its people, fights terrorists and serves as a beacon of freedom for millions across the Middle East."

Bush then moved on to speak with several thou-

sand servicemembers gathered at the Zone 6 stage on Camp Arifjan. He encouraged the servicemembers to continue their work in supporting the mission. During his speech he thanked Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, commander, Third Army/USARCENT, and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians serving here for their hard work in completing the support and logistical mission in Kuwait.

"In the long term, the best way to defeat the ideology of hate is one with an ideology of hope and that is one with liberty at its fundamental core," Bush said. The assembled troops responded with a loud "hooah."

"It's hard work but it is necessary work," he continued. "I thank you for what you are doing. There is no doubt in my mind that when the history is written, the final page will say, 'Victory was achieved by the United States of America for the good of the world.'"

Following the speech to the troops Petraeus and Crocker spoke to media about the meeting they had with the President. They highlighted the importance of political reconciliation in Iraq.

"Reconciliation is more than national legislation," Crocker said. "It's also what we are seeing in provinces around the country. There is more cross-sectarian political activity.

As security improves and some of the tensions reduce we are seeing more political activity and more steps toward reconciliation. There is still a long way to go.

We are seeing some encouraging steps now at both the national and local levels."

Petraeus said troop withdrawals would depend on whether things get better, stay the same or decline as U.S. troops pull out and Iraqi Security Forces take over. He stated that Iraqi citizens and security forces are preparing to take on the security of their own country. He said recommendations for continued withdrawal will be based on the situation in the country. **A**

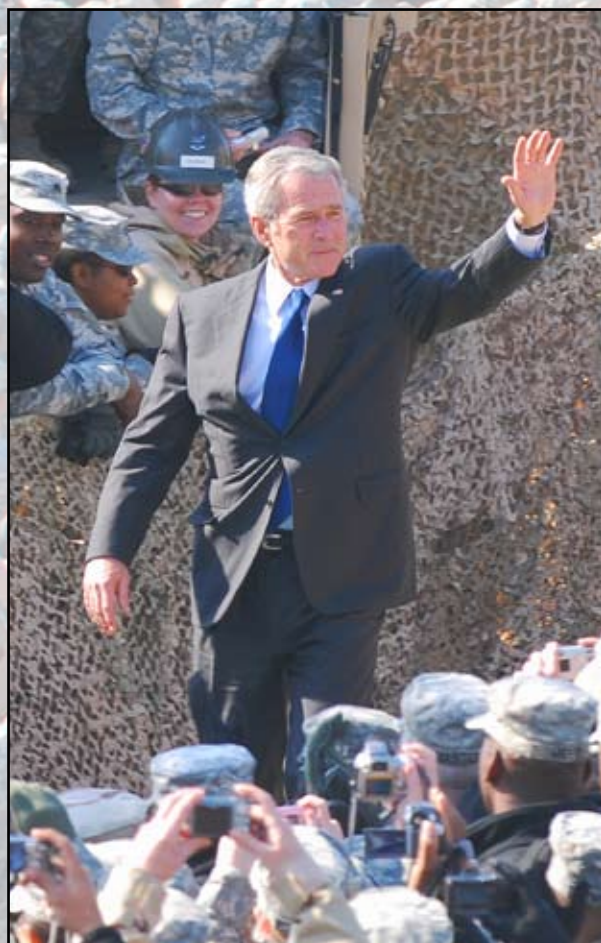


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle

President George W. Bush visits Camp Arifjan, Kuwait as a part of his tour of the Middle East.

of hope to servicemembers in Kuwait



Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

President George W. Bush shakes hands with a Soldier after his speech at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Saturday. Bush thanked the troops and their Families for their hard work and sacrifice.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle

President George W. Bush shakes the hand of Major Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, deputy commanding general of Third Army/U.S. Army Central.



Photo by Marine Sgt. Sara A. Carter

President George W. Bush addresses servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 12. Bush thanked the troops and their Families for their hard work and sacrifices.

Helping t

Story and photos
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer



Sgt. Axel Perez, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, enters information into a hand-held computer during a Biometrics training class at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Biometrics also uses fingerprints for tracking and cataloging suspected terrorists.

“In 2004, a bomb was detonated in a section of Baghdad,” Matt Eisele said. “When the U.S. patrol got there, they detained a suspect, later to release him because people came to the suspect’s defense. His personal information was taken and put into a computer.”

Eisele, an instructor for the Biometrics class at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, went on to say that six months later, at another bombing, another patrol encountered the same suspect. This time, however, there would be no release as the suspect was arrested because fingerprints taken at the scene of the crime were matched to the prints at the bombing six months prior.

“Thanks to Biometrics, this man is no longer wreaking havoc on our patrols and the people of Iraq,” Eisele said.

Biometrics is the process of identifying a person based on features on that person’s body. Soldiers familiarize themselves with the Biometrics equipment they will use on missions in Iraq. Eisele said features include iris scans, fingerprints and facial recognition.

“This is done so we can have positive identification of our enemy and also so we can identify who we can have access with,” he said.

Biometrics is a big tool that is being used today in the Global War on Terror, said Sgt. Axel Perez, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. Using Biometrics will help speed up identifying a possible suspect as a terrorist whether he is on a watch list or not. It will also help cut down on time and paperwork, Perez said.

A Sol
suspe

to keep an eye on things



Soldier gets a picture of his retina taken during a Biometrics training class at Camp Buehring. Biometrics enables Soldiers to keep track of detected terrorists and quickens the identification process.

“If that person’s already been detained and gotten a pass, this machine will help us catch them, prosecute them and put them away,” Perez said.


Biometrics systems have been in use since the war started. The Marines began using it in early 2004 while some special operations groups were using it as early as 2001. Eisele said using the system is not a new method of identification on the battlefield but Biometrics gives those who use it an edge.

Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Gilpin, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. Regt. command sergeant major, said the class gave his Soldiers the chance to interact with new equipment – equipment they will use while they serve in Iraq. Gilpin, a veteran from the initial invasion in 2003, said he wished this technology was available when they first entered Iraq.

“I remember in OIF I and III, the problems of identifying people were evident,” Gilpin said. “Being able to put it on paper and send

something forward is so inefficient. You have a system here that you can immediately identify, or at least, put in the database, those you suspect. That is a great asset.”

Eisele acknowledged there have been successes attributed to the biometrics devices.

“It demonstrates how we can identify people based on a fingerprint they leave on an initiation device, an improvised explosive device,” Eisele said. “There are hundreds of success stories that have been linked to this system.” 

Soldiers express gratitude

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

Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) who do not receive mail on a regular basis have something to look forward to weekly. The chaplain's office of the 1st TSC, in collaboration with Any Soldier, Inc., is ensuring each Soldier in the unit has the opportunity to receive personal hygiene and comfort items on a regular basis.

Any Soldier, Inc. was founded in August 2003 by a noncommissioned officer while he was deployed in the Kirkuk area of Iraq. He noticed that some of his Soldiers were not receiving mail, and through a family venture, he started receiving increased mail for not only himself, but also for troops who didn't receive any on a regular basis.

The mail he received that was addressed to "Attention Any Soldier," he gave to Soldiers who didn't receive mail. Today, Any Soldier not only helps Soldiers, but has extended to all branches of the armed forces.

Master Sgt. Ylonda M. Jackson, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of chaplain's assistants for the 1st TSC, is a contact for Any Soldier, and has been providing comfort items to Soldiers in the command since their deployment mid-June.

"I went online to the Web site when I first got here. I gave them a list of the items that the troops would need while deployed over here," said Jackson, a 37-year-old native of Detroit, Mich. "I looked at the bigger picture. I knew a lot of Soldiers didn't know about Any Soldier, so instead of focusing on an individual, I took into consideration the whole 1st TSC."

The items sent to the Soldiers not only allow them to save money here and there, but the occasional letter accompanying the care package serves as a source of encouragement.

"It made me feel good when (Master) Sergeant Jackson came and offered me some items from the wall lockers," said Sgt. Sheena M. Harris, an administrative assistant from 1st TSC, and a native of



Master Sgt. Ylonda M. Jackson (left), the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of chaplain's assistants for the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), and Spc. Tabitha Henry, a native of Chicago, go through personal hygiene and comfort items sent to the chaplain's office by Any Soldier, Inc.

Atlantic City, N.J. "That brightened my day because nobody sends me mail. I read one of the letters that was sent with the packages and it is very encouraging to know that we are in the thoughts and prayers of the people back home."

Soldiers go in and out of the chaplain's office to take advantage of the items. The packages also serve as a means to get Soldiers into the chaplain's office to sit and have a word or two with the chaplain or his assistants.

"The bottom line is we give Soldiers an excuse to come by ... and nobody thinks twice about it," said Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond E. Moore Jr., a staff chaplain for 1st TSC. "It is a nice ministry we use to draw people in. It gives Soldiers reason to come in without drawing attention to them."

"Sometimes people are dealing with issues and are afraid to come over here. We are here to provide spiritual guidance and spiritual fitness," Jackson said. "The items that are sent bring the Soldiers here to blow off steam, to get a break from work and to sometimes open up about their issues. That's the intent."

Items sent in the packages include personal hygiene products, snacks, magazines and DVDs. These items are welcomed by Soldiers, but still, many of


them are happy just to know that they are in someone's thoughts.

"I love my country and I appreciate the fact that there are people who support us and our enduring mission," said Pvt. Winfred L. Cowan, a native of Lima, Ohio. "It is a morale booster. It gives me added reason to get up and accomplish the mission daily."

Spc. Tabitha Henry, a native of Chicago, was effusive in thanking the people who took the time, effort and money to send troops care packages.

"I think that it's great that this organization is supporting Soldiers and reminding us that we are always in their thoughts, and that we are continuously being prayed for," Henry said. "We all need that extra boost to keep us going, because we all go through issues at times, especially being away from Family and friends. I appreciate all that is being done to make this deployment less stressful."

Jackson had some final thoughts about supporting the troops and the way of life of the American people.

"We are someone's mother, father, son, daughter, brother and sister. I think it goes back to the Soldier's creed. We support the way of life of the American people, so support us in trying to accomplish that mission." 

Just One Question...

“Why is it important to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr.?”

AMERICA’S ARMY: THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION

Army Family Covenant

We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.

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- **Improving Soldier and Family housing**
- **Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care**
- **Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members**



“It shows diversity is alive and well. It also shows that we, as Americans, can settle our differences.”

Chief Petty Officer Glenn Hoffman
Navy Mobile Construction Bn. Tango
Training and facilities lead chief petty officer
Seattle



“(He took) a big step in our country for civil rights. He was a great man.”

Maj. Andrew Aiello
1st Sustainment Command (Theater)
Materiel Readiness Branch chief
Bridgewater, N.J.



“To recognize everything he stood for – equality. We also recognize that without him, we wouldn’t have some of the same liberties today.”

Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Smith
Third Army/USARCENT
Supply and services NCO
Thomasville, Ga.



“Because we have diversity in our armed forces and we need to respect the different ethnic groups that compose our forces.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class Rey Arnoliga
Navy Mobile Construction Bn. 14
Equipment operator
Fort Myers, Fla.



“Because he stood for equality for all people, not just for one.”

Staff Sgt. Sonja Russell
Third Army/USARCENT G-1
Replacement operations
Hamlet, N.C.

Why I serve: Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Fuentes 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Liaison Officer



The New York-native explains why he serves in the military.

“For my guys up north in 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.”

What's happening around Kuwait ...

A 'Yellowcard' for good behavior

(Below) Ryan Key, vocalist and guitar player, and Sean Mackin, violin and vocalist, for the band 'Yellowcard' performs one of their songs at an air base in the Persian Gulf region, Jan. 12, 2008, as part of a five-day United Service Organizations' tour throughout the deployed theater.



Photo by Senior Airman Patrick Dixon

Senior Master Sgt. Russell Corner and Senior Airman Charles Howell, assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal flight, suit-up Sean Mackin, vocalist and violinist for the band 'Yellowcard,' during a tour of an air base in the Persian Gulf region, Jan. 12, 2008.



Photo by Senior Airman Patrick Dixon

I HAVE A DREAM

I DON'T WANT TO GET UP AND LIVE OUT THE TRUE MEANING OF HIS CREED: WE ARE BROTHERS

EQUAL. I HAVE A DREAM ONE DAY ON THE RED HILLS OF GEORGIA THE SONS OF

FORMER SLAVES AND FORMER SLAVEOWNERS WILL BE BROTHERHOOD. I HAVE

AM THAT ONE DAY (THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI), A DESERT STATE, SWELTERING

OF OPPRESSION, WILL BE TRANSFORMED

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL A DREAM THAT MY FOUR CHILDREN WILL

ATION WHERE THEY WILL BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF

Martin Luther King

BIRTHDAY 5K

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