

# DV The Desert Voice

United States Army Central  
"Transforming to Full-Spectrum Operations"



May 14, 2008

## A Knight's Tale



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## On the cover

**A Bradley Fighting Vehicle, from the 1st Armored Division and its crew await their turn to fire at a Tank Table VIII firing exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in April. For the full story, see page 7.**

*Photo by Pfc. Christopher T. Grammer*

### Contact us

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## On Leadership: Living the Warrior Ethos

*Editor's note: This is the eight in a series of articles on leadership.*

First of all thank you all for the warm welcome to U.S. Army Central at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. I'm absolutely honored to be assigned as the DCG of the only forward deployed Army Service Component Command. In my first few weeks here I have witnessed the magnificent work you do for your Army and country. The passion you have for service to this noble cause is recognized around the world. To

maintain consistency with the trend of articles published in the "Desert Voice" on leadership, let me use this forum, as a means of introduction, to offer some thoughts on leadership that you may find helpful.

When I look back 10 to 20 years, there have been changes in our Army. Some changes were influenced the Army's equipment purchases, changes in tactics and even personnel management, but the most important changes are those impacting our culture.

As an Army at war, our Army Values and the Warrior Ethos have established the climate in which our Army operates. The seven values – Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are built into the fabric of our Soldiers. Again, these values characterize the service and quality of the people who are our Army. In my opinion, there is only one way to inculcate these values in our Soldiers and that is by the example of leaders, and the consistency that exists between your thoughts, words, and your actions.

When these values are shared, believed in, the people in the organization will try, on their own, to do the things right. Most importantly, they will also try to do the right things. Our Army Values are powerful, they are clear, not from a clever pen of a wordsmith, but simple and to the point. Indeed, our values have shaped our culture and have made us a respected institution.

My son is 12 and is a wrestler. He sincerely enjoys the sport. When I talk to him before a match, I routinely use the Warrior Ethos. Interestingly, those words apply to so much of what we face in life. Indeed, the Warrior Ethos has also shaped our culture especially as we fight in this persistent conflict. Those powerful four sentences are more than words etched on dog tags, coins or on a poster framed and placed on a headquarters wall. They define the essence of being a Soldier, on a team with the same values, aimed at a common purpose. They echo the mission first, never quitting and never



**Maj. Gen. Chuck A. Anderson**  
**USARCENT deputy commanding general**

accepting defeat. All combined with the last sentence of "never leaving a fallen comrade" is why we are all considered a "Band of Brothers." What you do here everyday in this region is embraced by the Warrior Ethos. Even when you have redeployed home, you stand by your comrades and you take care of each other.

Needless to say, the Warrior Ethos applies in the war zone as well at home and the tenets it purports must be embedded in our actions, regardless

of location and time. As for my 12-year-old wrestler, he interprets the Warrior Ethos as meaning he never quits, even on the wrestling mat.

My last rambling thoughts on leadership are aimed at the senior leader, more specifically our sergeants major and colonels. I will offer two suggestions in solving the tough issues. The first one is context. Your ability to view an issue from different perspectives provides you the context necessary to resolve those complex and sophisticated issues that make their way to your desk.

There are multiple frames of reference that the senior leader should consider and until then, he or she may not have sufficient information to render a viable or timely decision. I also believe the senior leader must drill down to the core of the problem. Complex issues can be deceiving, often surrounded by fog, preventing you to see the issue clear and in the open. So having perspective and working to understand the core of the problem is instrumental in senior leader problem-solving. In closing, you don't have to go far to read inspiring words on leadership and appropriately so, I will offer the most powerful words on leadership can be found in the NCO Creed.

"All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership. I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers, and will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed." Simply put, this paragraph illuminates the enduring adage of "taking care of Soldiers." To "care for Soldiers," you must know your Soldiers, as the NCO Creed suggests, listen to them, look out for their welfare and prepare them for tomorrow's challenges. Nothing less is acceptable.

Well, again thank you for the warm, USARCENT welcome. I sincerely look forward to serving on your team.

Patton's Own!

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**DV**  
The  
Desert  
Voice





**COMMANDING GENERAL  
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL  
COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND  
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT  
APO AE 09306**

**5 May 2008**



Team,

I'm sending this message to remind us where we've been and to remind us where we need to go.

USARCENT has been transforming now just short of two years... and that means we should have changed the way we do business by now. In some ways, we have... and in some other and important ways, we have not.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006, USARCENT officially became a separate-reporting Army Service Component Command... still the ASCC to Central Command, but no longer falling under FORSCOM and, partly because of this, accepting a number of Title 10 authorities and responsibilities. Among the most important specified tasks we have is to become Full-Spectrum-Operations-capable. This directive was reinforced to me by the Chief of Staff of the Army when, on 18 December 2007, I assumed command of USARCENT.

A transformed USARCENT is expeditionary... it is capable of operating as a combined/joint land forces component command or combined/joint task force along a spectrum of missions from stability operations to major combat operations... and it will continue to exercise—and empower subordinate units to execute—Title 10 responsibilities, even as it hones its warfighting skills or executes missions for which those skills have been honed.

Transformation is not a “glide-path” for USARCENT. It is an uphill climb, with a “full rucksack,” up slopes that vary between gentle and steep. In addition, we are not simply following a well-worn path... we continue to lead the way—to break trail—for the rest of the Army, as we're the first Army Service Component Command to transform... and we're doing it on a deadline. If you're not feeling the pace, the rucksack, or the incline, then perhaps we need to get you on the same trail as the rest of us.

We're not going to be perfect... and that's okay. When you're breaking trail, and when you know you're heading in the right direction, the important thing is to keep moving... because when you stop moving, you not only lose time, but it makes it that much harder to start moving again... the slopes seem steeper and your rucksack seems heavier. You all have the visual and understand my point.

We *are* headed in the right direction... and when I look to my left and right, I'm encouraged to see so many of you with me, moving up the incline toward the objective and bearing your rucksack with fortitude, purpose, and diligence. Thanks for that... your hard work is indeed appreciated.

I'm looking forward to seeing *all* of you on that “objective,” where we'll share kind words and cool water... and plot our course to next peak.

Patton's Own!

*Thanks for all you do!*

James J. Lovelace  
Lieutenant General, United States Army  
Commanding

# History comes full circle

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

**J**une 6, 1944 dawned early for the men of the 116th Infantry Regiment as they led the first wave ashore on Omaha Beach in the largest seaborne landing ever – D-Day. According to the unit's history, the regiment was the only National Guard regiment to participate in the first wave during that historic day.

The 116th, a subordinate unit of the 29th Infantry Division, was responsible for a section 3,000 yards long that contained two passages inland. Their job was to open the routes for other units to drive inland.

More than 60 years later, the past met the present at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 28, as Soldiers of the battalion received a farewell gift from their Navy brethren – a World War II helmet with the 29th ID logo on it. Chief Petty Officer Michael A. Estok, Area Support Group – Kuwait Security Force, said the 116th Inf. Regt., and the Navy worked together on that fateful day in 1944 and, 64 years later, joined forces once again to combat a

common enemy.

"The U.S. Navy delivered the 29th Infantry Division, Virginia National Guard, to the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The Soldiers of Virginia and the 3rd of the 116th are once again on the beaches, this time in Kuwait providing a vital effort in the Global War on Terrorism in Operation Iraqi Freedom," Estok said.

Estok said the Soldiers were responsible for providing security at a seaport in Kuwait and securing assets leaving the port to destinations throughout the U.S. Army Central area of operations.

Lt. Col. John M. Epperly, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Regt., commanding officer, said the two branches of service worked closely together to reach a common goal – port security.

"I told you guys, from week one, that we are the closest joint team in Kuwait," Epperly said. "The last time we were together that close was when helmets like this were worn and we had our patch on the front of our helmet."

The helmet was donated by Gary Underhill from Reno, Nev. Underhill also preserved and restored the piece before giving it to the Navy, said Petty Officer 1st Class David Hayes, an individual augmentee to the battalion.

The Soldiers of Company D, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Regt., were the first to see the helmet. Capt. Jim Tierney, the company commander, said the presentation was humbling.

"It really is a great representation of the time when the 116th and the Navy worked closely together back in the




1940s during the D-Day invasion," the Charlottesville, Va., native said. "We have not worked this closely in a long time, so it will be proudly displayed and capture the memories of what we did here in Kuwait."

Tierney said the presentation caught everyone by surprise and it would be a big hit at the unit's veterans reunion in November.

"We are able to have a regimental muster every year," he said. "Unfortunately, the group is getting smaller but we get a group of D-Day veterans who were there in the first wave. It's a humbling experience to talk to them and to have this back in the company's possession is great."

Epperly told the Soldiers present that history had a way of repeating itself. He said the unit is playing a major role in fighting the Global War on Terrorism just like they played a key role during the D-Day invasion that June day.

"You guys are a part of history. You look back at our regimental colors, you see 42 battle streamers. You guys will add a streamer to it," Epperly told the Soldiers in attendance. "What you've done here is special and it's generational. This is really evident of that," he said pointing to the helmet. 



**The unit's identification information is proudly displayed inside a World War II helmet given to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, during a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 28.**



**Chief Petty Officer Michael Estok (left), Lt. Col. John Epperly (center) and Capt. Jim Tierney (right) look at the World War II helmet that was presented to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, during a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 28.**



# Logisticians converge on Kuwait to map out future

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin  
311 ESC Public Affairs

**U**S. military logisticians have come together to discuss how to improve shipment of supplies to troops operating from the mountains of Afghanistan to the varied terrains of Iraq and Africa as well as the many other countries throughout the region.

“We all know what’s at stake here, we can’t fail the warfighter,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Leonard, commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), who hosted the conference. “Our mission is to keep the Soldier in the fight supplied with whatever he needs to accomplish his mission. Whatever he needs, wherever he is. This is one way to make sure we all know the game plan and the way ahead.”

“We are not here to critique, but to observe how the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) – U.S. Army Central’s enduring logistical command – is going to sync the log efforts throughout the 27-country theater,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tim Bryant, who traveled to the conference with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, Central Command director of logistics, engineering and security assistance. “It

is a good thing to have this conference so all the services can gain a better appreciation for the scope of operations we face.”

Military personnel are not only faced with the day-to-day operations of loading, transporting and tracking the movement of supplies by trains, planes, ships and trucks, but its planners must also take into consideration weather, distance, existing inventories and geopolitical impacts on its operations. Each country’s customs and regulations differ; some borders are harder to move supplies across than others, Bryant said.

“If the conference helps smooth out the hiccups in the logistics system then it’s well worth it,” said Lt. Col. Randell Torno, assistant to support operations of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq.

“In the Army Reserve we have seven out of the nine deployable ESCs, therefore, what happens in the theater is very important to me for training and development,” said Maj. Gen. Harry “Skip” Philips, commander of the 377th Sustainment Command (Theater), U.S. Army Reserve Command. “It is good if you know what you’re getting into in advance. No one likes surprises.”

Sgt. Kendall Graves, a 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) liaison to the 101st main contingent in Afghanistan, said servicemembers should leave the conference with a better understanding of how resources work and how much of a resource is needed to maintain certain areas of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Our partnership with the U.S. Air Force is essential to our operations in Afghanistan due to the movement of our supplies, so it is good to see that we are all here to refine our methods,” Graves said.

“To support the warfighters we need to understand how [all the services] operate so we can provide them with necessary strategic distribution of supplies and to help them sustain the fight,” said U.S. Army Col. Mark Akin, director for Joint Logistics (Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate), U.S. Joint Forces Command, Camp Victory, Iraq.

More than a simple rock drill, the detail of support in this conference focused on the collaborative relationships between the continental U.S. and forward deployed logistics planners.

“The bringing together of so many professional logisticians at once by the 1st TSC has provided us with the forum to do just that,” Akin said. **A**

***U.S. military logisticians come together to discuss how to improve shipment of supplies to troops operating in the mountains of Afghanistan to the varied terrains of Iraq and Africa as well as the many other countries throughout the region.***



# From 'lean' concept to ribbon cutting – in 18 months

Story by  
Jim Hinnant  
401st AFSB Public Affairs

**CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar –** At a ceremony in April, the newest maintenance facility in the Southwest Asia area of operations opened giving 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, maintainers doing Humvee body repair work a permanent home.

Until now, when the maintenance team of Soldiers, Army civilians and contractors needed to work on battle-damaged or battle-worn Humvees, the vehicles were taken into already cramped shop facilities that had been primarily designed for other purposes.

Often, space was at such a premium, the vehicles had to be wedged into and worked on in any available area, frequently outdoors.

The problem was tackled and beaten thanks to a Lean Six Sigma initiative developed here in late 2006, and the work of the brigade and Army Sustainment Command staffs in obtaining necessary funding for the project, combined with the help of Area Support Group - Qatar Directorate of Public Works.

Built at a total cost of \$652,000, the new 6,000-square foot Auto Body Repair Facility can handle as many as 16 vehicles at any given time in a climate-controlled environment that should lead to increased productivity.

The insulated building is equipped with four oversized, roll-up bay doors, is fully air-conditioned with bright industrial shop lighting, pneumatic air lines and heavy duty air compressor capability.

Another key feature is the

ventilation system which will safely remove exhaust fumes created during metal cutting and welding activities.

"This facility takes our workers out of the heat, wind and dust and gives them a tailored place to work on these vehicles," said Lt. Col. Maxine Girard, 1st Battalion commander. "This should increase our capacity and throughput back to the warfighter."

The facility won't just increase production, but is a real morale booster, she said. "They [the Humvee repair team] don't have to fight for space, and now have a place they can call their own."

The problem and solution highlight one of the successes of the Army's recent push at business process improvement through the LSS program, according to Lewis Strickland, maintenance manager for ITT Corporation, which is under contract to perform the repair work.

As the battalion's mission expanded to meet the growing repair demands resulting from combat in Iraq, the need for more and improved shop space became increasingly apparent, Strickland said.

"A Lean Six Sigma project team made up of folks from ITT and the battalion determined that to obtain the needed enhanced throughput,

put, a new facility would have to be built," Strickland said. "They wanted to be sure we were able to accomplish the mission of getting these vehicles fixed and back where they belong – in the hands of the warfighter."

At the ceremony, Col. Dennis M. Thompson, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, echoed those sentiments. "In the past you had to make do and move into other, much needed space. That is not the desired solution," he said.

"At the end of the day, this facility will increase maneuverability and capability in the battlespace," Thompson said. "This is another arrow in the battalion's quiver, and thousands of miles up the road, your work translates into better capability for the warfighter."

The building is ready, but a bit more needs to be done, Strickland said. All the needed repair and safety equipment must be brought in.

Once that is accomplished in the next few days, the first vehicle should be brought in and the real work can begin. **A**

*Photo by Dustin Senger*

**A Humvee is transported outside a new 6,000-square foot auto body repair facility at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar, April 17.**





# 'Iron Knights' mount up, ride to battle

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

In a war where most casualties are caused by improvised explosive devices rather than direct enemy contact, having a good balance

of armor and mobility is key to survival.

For this reason the Army called up the Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor, to bring their skills to the battlefield.

The "Iron Knights" of Co. C operate M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Before entering Iraq they stopped at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in April, to train up for the mission ahead

**Bradley Fighting Vehicle crews conduct a live-fire exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in April.**

of them.

"We've been doing military operations in urban terrain training, urban ops, ground patrols, Bradley gunnery training and learning what to do if a Bradley breaks down," said Pfc. Zachary Welch, a Bradley gunner with the Iron Knights.

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*"Our guys have been trained quite well and are at this time, in my opinion, fully capable of performing any mission given to them."*

**Sgt. 1st Class Derryl Haidek**  
Platoon sergeant  
Charlie Company 1st Bn., 135th Armor

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The Bradley's main weapon is a M252 25 millimeter gun system that can fire 25 millimeter rounds at a rate of 1,200 rounds per minute. It is also equipped with a M240B Coaxial machine gun and TOW missiles, said Welch.

To get it where it needs to go on the battlefield, the Bradley has a 600 horsepower engine as well as explosive reactive armor to protect the crew.

The Soldiers of 1st Bn., 35th Armor Regt. train not only to operate a Bradley, but to perform dismounted operations as well. If the Bradley becomes immobile the Iron Knights are ready to dismount and complete the mission.

"Our guys have been trained quite well and are at this time, in my opinion, fully capable of performing any mission given to them," said Sgt. 1st Class Derryl Haidek, a platoon sergeant with the Iron Knights.

One of the Iron Knight's Bradleys holds nine Soldiers, three of which operate the vehicle and six fully equipped troops.

Like the Paladin and Abrams vehicles the crew consists of a gunner, driver and vehicle commander.

"Most of our Soldiers have had combat experience so we're not coming in with a whole bunch of new guys," Haidek said.

Bringing their skills, experience and confident swagger to the battlefield the Iron Knights expect nothing less than the accomplishment of the mission. **A**



Camp Buehring



# Qatari hospitality



**Qatar Army  
hosts more  
servicemembers  
exclusive**

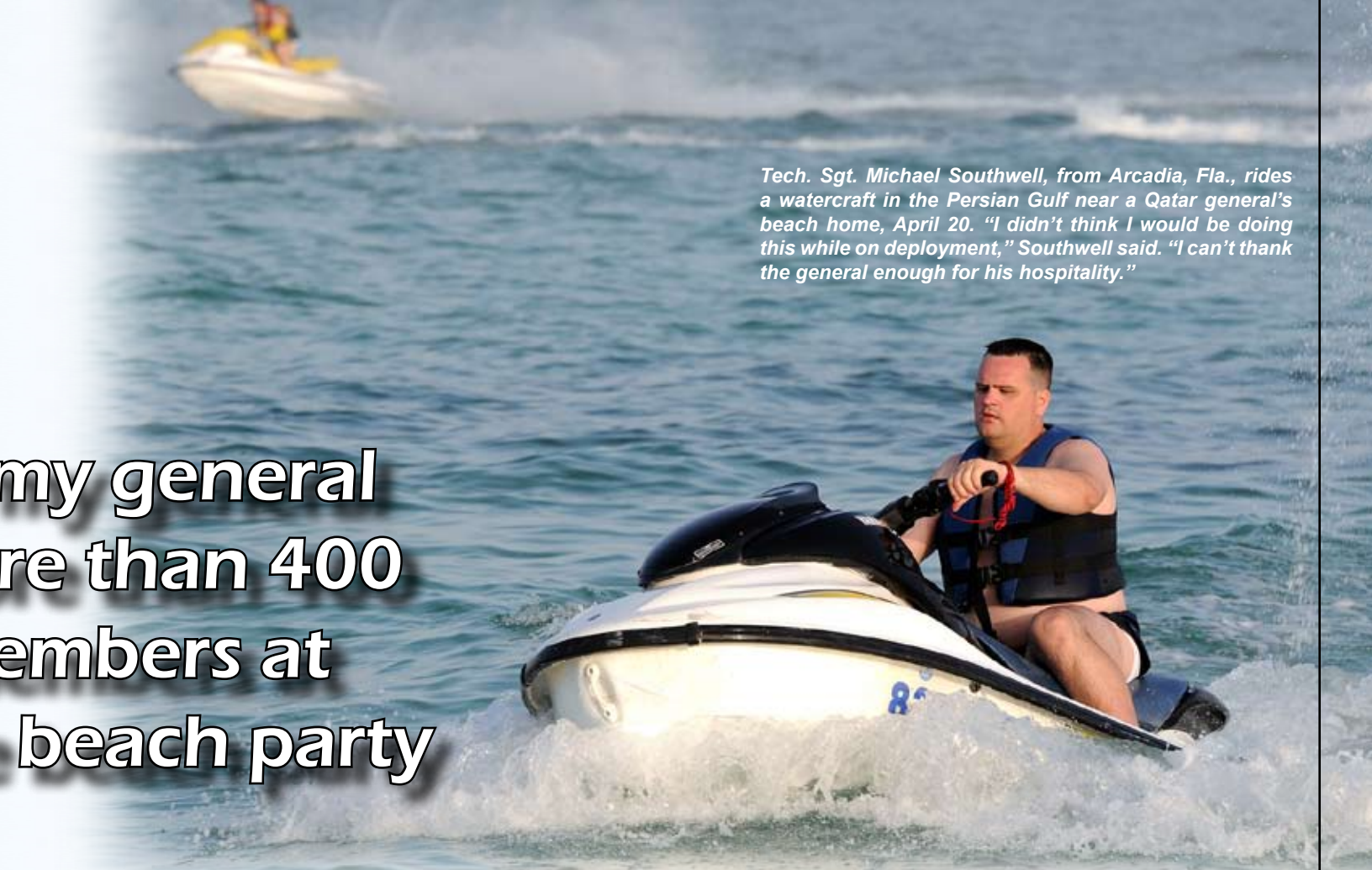
*Lt. Col. John A. Kizler, from Louisville, Ky., is greeted by Qatar Army Maj. Gen. Hamad bin Ali Al Attiyah, at the general's beach home in Qatar, April 20. Attiyah, Qatar armed forces chief of staff, invited over 400 servicemembers to enjoy beach activities, water crafts, falcon exhibitions, camel rides, all-terrain vehicles and Arabic cuisine. Most of the servicemembers were participating in the U.S. Central Command rest and recuperation pass program at Camp As Sayliyah, a U.S. military installation in Qatar. Since its inception in 2004, the program has provided over 155,000 warfighters, serving in Southwest Asia, a brief respite from combat operations.*

*Photos by  
Dustin Senger  
ASG – Qatar Public Affairs*



*Senior Airman Tory Grodstein, from Muskegon, Mi., pulls ahead of Senior Airman Wesley King, from Georgetown, Texas, while riding all-terrain vehicles outside a Qatar general's beach home, April 20.*





Tech. Sgt. Michael Southwell, from Arcadia, Fla., rides a watercraft in the Persian Gulf near a Qatar general's beach home, April 20. "I didn't think I would be doing this while on deployment," Southwell said. "I can't thank the general enough for his hospitality."

my general  
re than 400  
embers at  
beach party



Airman 1st Class Melissa Moore, from Bryan, Texas, holds a falcon at a Qatar general's beach home, April 20. "This is a once in lifetime opportunity!" Moore said. "We appreciate the general welcoming us to his country and beach home."



# 4th Sustainment Brigade mom becomes semi-finalist in competition

Story by

Spc. John Ortiz

4th Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

In celebration of the century-old tradition of Mother's Day, a mom with the 4th Sustainment Brigade is a semi-finalist in NBC's America's Favorite Mom competition.

Staff Sgt. Melinda Gintilas, a native of Sweetwater, Texas, stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., is a top-three finalist in the category of "Military Mom" in the competition.

Nominated by her husband, Adam, the primary care-taker of the couple's three children wrote that his wife has "the courage of a lion, the meekness of a dove, the tenacity of a wolverine, and the dreams of an angel."

"She is the essence of today's mom," he said. "The most intoxicating thing about her is her unbreakable commitment to so many things, while still being the best wife and mother I could ever dream of."

After five months of competition, Gintilas has beat out more than 9,000 of America's moms to take her place among the top-15, who will compete against each other to be announced as America's Favorite Mom on Mother's Day.

"The best part about being a mom is somebody loving you no matter what," Gintilas said, "through thick and thin, you're always going to have that bond [with your children]."

Gintilas has been deployed twice, both times serving as a truck driver, delivering supplies and equipment throughout Iraq and Kuwait.

"The hardest part about being [deployed] is being away and missing out on the small things in life with your children," she said, "everything is important to a mother."

"It's hard because you're missing out on the crawling phase and the cooing," she said. "I have my webcams and pictures, I see my kids everyday but I can't be there, I can't touch them."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Ritterby

**Staff Sgt. Melinda Gintilas prepares to do a live interview from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait with NBC's Today Show. Gintilas, a heavy equipment transport driver in the 2nd Transportation Company, 4th Sustainment Brigade, is a finalist in the show's "America's Favorite Mom" contest. She was nominated for the title by her husband Adam. The couple lives in Fountain, Colo., with their three children.**

Getting through her deployments, Gintilas looks toward her Family, especially her children for a steady foundation and encouragement.

"The inspiration that I find in my Family and in my kids are my support, they are my motivation and inspiration," she said.

Gintilas said that her son's classmates, who are learning how to write, send her mail, "I have all the letters they've written me stashed in my wall locker."

Being a mom and a Soldier often intermix with Gintilas.

"For me, I have to be strong because I know others are hurting. And for myself, I have to treat others like they are my children," Gintilas said.

"I want to be that backbone for everybody, even though I may be weak inside, I have to be strong because someone may be depending on me," she said.

A little known fact about Gintilas is her bout with breast cancer.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer during an exam four years ago," she

said. "It was operated on and I haven't had any problems since."

During that time, she relied heavily on her husband for support.

"He keeps me strong, he's the one that keeps me going," Gintilas said.

Through her two back-to-back deployments, Gintilas says that her children are the main reason she never slows down.

"[My kids] say, 'Mom I know you're coming home and when you do, we are going to do fun things.' They already have a list; they have my summer clothes ready because we're going to the park," she says.

The winner of the competition will have a rose named in her honor and will receive thousands of dollars in cash and prizes, including an 18-carat, gold heart-shaped America's Favorite Mom pendant trimmed with diamonds.

"I plan on giving [the money] to charity," she says, "I want to help injured Soldiers, cancer patients, and help Soldiers whose funds are limited." **A**

*Editor's note: Gintilas did not win the competition.*



# Mother's Day – more than flowers

Commentary by  
Spc. Giancarlo Casem  
Desert Voice editor

Mother's Day comes once a year, around the same time of the year, yet during this time we all run trying to find that perfect gift, which most typically involve flowers of some kind.

Most of us, for the most part see it as the minimum of our token of appreciation for our mothers. Personally, I didn't get flowers for my mother this year – I've bought her flowers and orchids (her favorite) before. This year, I decided to do something different, I decided to tell all my readers that I do love my mother and appreciate all she's done for me – both of them.

I have been blessed to have had two mothers. My real mother passed away May 10, 1990. My brothers and I were lucky enough, however, to be adopted by our aunt, her sister. I will always remember my real mother, but each year, those memories seem to



become cloudier and more like dreams. I may not remember everything

about her, but I do remember a personal commitment and promise that I made all those years ago to try and make her proud, to ensure her sacrifice was not in vain.

I try to make the same commitment to my adoptive mother, to try and make her sacrifice worthwhile. I know it wasn't easy for her and her husband to go from having no children to having an eight year-old and two preteens.

Now that I have a family of my own, I see the hard work that my wife puts in, day in, day out, to raise our beautiful children. Every now and then, I stop and think about my real mother and thank her, where ever she is, I know she's had a hand in my life and hopefully, I've made her proud.

## Just One Question ...

**'What is the best Mother's Day present you ever gave or received?'**



**"I gave my wife a four-sided cartouche with mine, her's and our kids names on it."**

Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Newhardt  
NAVELSG  
TOC supervisor  
Deltona, Fla.



**"I usually just give her flowers, but being in the military just coming home has been the biggest surprise."**

Capt. David Smith  
U.S. Army Central  
Air mobility officer  
Boston



**"My fiancée and his children made me a DVD called 'Mommy Boot Camp.'"**

Maj. Laura Corporon  
Marine Corps Logistics Command (Fwd)  
Commander  
Cedar Falls, Iowa



**"My oldest [child] sent me an email describing her best memory of us together."**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Lisa Smith  
Navy Coastal Warfare Squadron 21  
Hospital corpsman  
Simsburg, Conn.



**"Well this year I bought her some flowers."**

Pvt. Isai Burgiaga  
257th Transportation Company  
Vehicle operator  
Phoenix

## Why I serve:

Seaman Jawon Newsome  
Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 74  
Command element yeoman



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

**"For education, but more importantly to provide for my family. The main reason I joined was for them."**

# What's happening around USARCENT ...

## The Unit

## Follow me



Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

U.S. Army Central servicemembers pose for pictures with members of the hit TV show "The Unit" at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 9. Cast members Robert Patrick, Michael Irby, Dennis Haysbert and Max Martini traveled to the Middle East as part of a USO tour of the area.

(Left) Col. Katherine Perkuchin, U.S. Army Central, staff judge advocate, and Maj. Gen. Charles Anderson, USARCENT deputy commanding general, conduct Patton PT at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 10. Patton PT is an initiative started by Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace, the USARCENT commanding general, to foster teamwork, build esprit de corps and increase physical fitness among USARCENT's staff officers.

Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem



Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin

## Welcome

Incoming 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commander, Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr. (right), and outgoing 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) commander, BG Kevin Leonard, cut a ceremonial cake marking a historic event. The 311th ESC assumes the mission from the 1st TSC.



Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

## Show and tell

Capt. Todd Lamers, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Missile Defense Regiment describes a Patriot missile system to the Ambassador to Kuwait, Debrah Jones, at Camp Arifjan, April 3.